

3080 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
July 16, 1991

Ms. Bonnie Fetterman
Schocken Books
201 East 50th Street
New York, NY 10022

Dear Bonnie,

I'm afraid I sold the birthright. You can always argue that I was never authorized to do so; that since Werman is by no means the sole translator, it violates morality to privilege her above all the others; that all books in the series must follow a single format; or whatever else comes to mind. The whole "agreement" really isn't worth the paper it's written on, since Golda never got herself a literary agent and never had a hope of getting subsidiary rights. The project gave her illusions of grandeur which I was too lilly-livered to dispel.

I read through Zucker's proposal. The translations by Seymour Levitan read very well; the translations by Zucker are awful. Some of these poets (Dropkin, Korn) are first rate; others (Molodowsky) are uneven; and others get thrown in by virtue of being women. A proposal that mixes apples and oranges does not commend Lipsky & Zucker as very discriminating, and certainly not as translators.

Yours,

David