

17 January, 1990

Dear David,

A real record has been beaten! Your letter travelled for nearly two months and finally has reached me. I suspect it went via Alaska and Kiev. By the way, are you back from the country of ghosts and perestroika? Have you experienced both of them on your own? Was it a difficult or wonderful experience? I suspect both. I'm dying to learn something about you visit there.

It would be very disappointing for all of us if you could not come to Poland. All the formalities are over and the director is ready to send you an official invitation, but we must know when more or less you could come. I hope Aryeh had a wonderful time with his grandmother and they'll be eager to stay together when you come. It would be great if you could come with Shana. I can't see why we couldn't go to the Dublin Hilton-Intercontinental together. This is a very good dancer and he would like to book the first polonaise with Shana if she doesn't mind.

The university wouldn't be able to cover Stana's expenses but of course they would reserve the university accommodation for both of you.

It's a pity our apartment isn't bigger, then you wouldn't have to stay at the univ. hotel. One of our aims of going to Canada for 2-3 years is to save money so be able to buy a large apartment. By the way, I hope that in several years you will come together with Anyel.

May is much nicer time to visit Poland, especially if you wish to travel.* It's maybe not the most suitable time for the Department but it can be arranged.

The problem is that around the 10th of May some exams start and everybody is very busy. That's why it would be best if you could come towards the end of April at the latest. Please, let me know as soon as possible when exactly you could come. Luckily, Christmas is over and mail should work better.

Our Christmas was marked with the events in Romania. So much bloodshed but, on the other hand, it was probably the only way to get rid of the dictator. I disapprove of the way the execution was performed (barbarian end of the barbarian man)

* In my review of your book I mentioned that it's surprising you were both in post-war Clouthead & not pre-war Tysowice. You knowledge of that time is so truly & profound.

② but maybe it was the only solution at that time.

I hope you can decipher my handwriting. I could write this letter on the computer but then I'm very careful not to make any mistakes and reread what I write many times which makes the whole process less spontaneous.

I was surprised to learn about prof. Skimble's marriage, although someone had mentioned that to me before. I met him three times in Warsaw and we had lunch together once but he didn't confide in me. How surprising! I wonder what his wife's name is, there are very few women film directors in Poland. I hope his co-workers have already recovered from the shock. Anyway, he doesn't follow the singer pattern. If he did, he would have married a peasant girl.

(more and more difficult to find)

David, I wonder whether you've seen Paul Mazursky's Enemies. As for as I know the premiere took place

on 13 December. If you have a chance, please see it. I'm in touch

with the Polish actress who plays Yashmina
and she was very excited about the
whole affair. I wonder whether this
attempt resulted in a better film
than Yentl or The Magician.

I'll resume working at the University
this semester. I have to, for financial
reasons among other things, plus I am
exhausted staying with Christian most
of the day. He's so strong and energetic
that sometimes I have problems coping
with him. Unfortunately, we have
very little snow now; he was the
happiest when he could go every
in the snow and get rid of some
of his energy. Fortunately, he's never
been sick so far, but sometimes I wish
he were less of a shag. Recently he has
been a wolf and a Captain Hook - Semjany
combination! I remember Anyek playing

the wolf too.

I remembered you date of birth because
I met you on March 2 at YIVO and
March 2 is my mother's & my
grandmother's birthday. Prof. Szymanski
left Poland after Christmas. Besides, I don't
see why he should mind your lecturing in
Cracow. Love & best wishes to all
free of you though