

12 September 1988

Mr. Alan Mintz,
PROOFTEXTS
Meyerhoff Centre for Jewish Studies
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742
USA

Dear Mr. Mintz,

I was very glad to receive your answer on my letter. Many thanks for your cordial words to me and for the copy of "Modern Judaism". Your journals are very useful and interesting for us, though the circle of their readers is not wide. To your questions I can tell, that I am 31, have made my degree at Moscow University at mathematical department in history and philosophy of mathematics in ancient Greece. At present I am working as computer programmer at one economical institute and as free-lanced translator of technical literature from and into German. I publish also sometimes essays and reviews in "Sovjetish Heymland" which appears in Yiddish. I can recommend you to pay attention to Nrs. 7 of this journal for 1986, 87 and 88 which are composed mainly by young contributors. By this way you can form a conception of a circle of people who are concerned with Jewish culture in the Soviet Union, though it does not represent all sides of Jewish activity here.

Yiddish is the only possible language in which one may write here on Jewish literature, and this fact limits our audience because the overwhelming majority of Soviet Jews do not know it. Another difficulty is the unpopularity and very low level of this journal.

I began to concern with Jewish culture and religion about ten years ago and during some years I was studying Hebrew in informal way. The circle of people who have interest in Jewish culture is not stable due to their mobility. However there are some men who by various reasons prefer not to yield to that kind of mobility and stay here.

I think that "Modern Judaism" can have more wide audience than "Prooftexts" and so I recommend you to send it also to the address: Michael Chlenov, Klinskaya ul. 16 kv. 102, Moscow, 125475 USSR. Due to the last changes in this country it became possible for me to visit my friends in the US. I hope that I shall arrive at Boston 10 October and shall stay there till end of November. I have also strong desire to spent some time at Harvard University and in New-York where I want to establish contacts with Jewish scholars. It would be wonderful to meet with you personally there though I do not know if I can arrange that. At any rate I shall try to connect with you by phone. You can get to know about me by phone number (617) 738 6358, Yosef or Lena Bernstein.

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I am very grateful for your proposal to send me former issues of the "Prooftexts". It would be very important for me to have Nr. 1 (vol. 7) 1987 which is devoted, if I do not mistake, to S.Y. Agnon. I hope that I can hear or see you and tell more than I can write in a letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M. Kroutikov', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Kroutikov