

100 Ivyhurst Road
Buffalo, New York 14226
December 24, 1970

Dear Friends:

We have been snowed under with work and are sorry that our annual letter will reach you so late this year.

To bring you up to date: Jeremy is back at Carleton College for his sophomore year, likes it quite a bit now, and has just decided to take an interdepartmental major in political philosophy. This spring he is going to France for a ten-week seminar sponsored by Carleton at the University of Caen on the French student revolt of 1968. Danny, who like many of his friends became increasingly critical of the routine and curriculum of high school, in spring after completing eleventh grade decided fairly much on the spur of the moment to finish high school in the summer and thus in September found himself at Canisius College instead of twelfth grade. Although he finds the work at Canisius more stimulating than at Amherst High School, he still complains that the curriculum is restrictive and hopes this spring in addition to his more conventional courses at Canisius to take one or two freshmen seminars at the University. Jonathan, who just turned fifteen, has become a giant. He is over 6 feet 1 and weighs well over 200 pounds. For the first time in Buffalo he has found a circle of friends and managed to win an election to the student council.

Wilma and my life have continued in our established routines, punctuated at times by the excitement which has surrounded us. Wilma is quite busy at Canisius, particularly with her literature courses. I have been unusually busy because in addition to my courses here, I have since last spring also taught a seminar once a week at the University of Rochester so that we shall be able to afford taking the whole year off when both Wilma and I go on sabbatical next year.

The spring semester was an extremely tense one at the university; you may have read something about it in the press. Various tensions had been building up over the past few years involving defense research, ROTC, the absorption of minority group students, curriculum reforms and other issues. Relations between the community and the campus had worsened as the private University of Buffalo, which had primarily served the local community, was transformed into a state university which attracted a more articulate student body and community. The tensions came to a head when a handful of students threw stones through the windows of the president's office. The police responded not by seeking to apprehend the culprits but by raiding the student union, which in the eyes of the conservative community had become the symbol of youth culture and radicalism, and indiscriminately beating students. This action provoked a major clash with 2000 students in the near zero temperatures. Instead of taking disciplinary actions against both campus police and students--a study commission appointed by the president described the police raid on the union as a police riot--the administration, under pressure from the community, fully endorsed the police action. The students responded with a strike to which the administration reacted by stationing four hundred city police on campus, an

action which soon led to an even bloodier clash between police and students, after the administration had refused to follow the request of the faculty senate that the police be withdrawn from campus.

I, like many of my colleagues, found myself in a very difficult position. I sympathized with many of the specific grievances of the radical students, ~~and~~ fully shared their opposition to the war and to the involvement of the university with the military, I believed that the arbitrary use of police power by the administration and its refusal to listen to the majority decision of the faculty needed to be protested, ~~On~~ the other hand I also was deeply convinced that the rhetoric and tactics of violence used by the strike committee was both morally wrong and politically counterproductive. In order to resume some sort of dialogue with the administration which had refused to negotiate with us, to head off further violence, and to assume some sort of responsible leadership in a situation in which by default leadership had fallen exclusively into the hands of a small, totally alienated radical minority, a group of us, consisting of about fifty professors, decided to sit in the conference room of the presidential suite on the following Sunday afternoon. We expected the president to talk with us, instead he ordered us arrested. Forty-five of us, not including myself, were actually taken to the station house, locked up, and charged with both criminal and civil contempt of an injunction which forbade blocking ingress and egress into buildings and disruption of the normal functioning of the university, which by the peaceful nature of our sit in we had not violated, and with criminal trespass. In the atmosphere of hysteria which existed in Buffalo, a local judge promptly sentenced the forty-five to thirty days in jail, on the civil contempt charge which required no jury trial, a sentence which was stayed on appeal. The local newspapers and politicians strongly approved but the university was further polarized, the possibility of a middle which could speak with both sides was gone, and the atmosphere remained tense and violent until the end of the semester. A three judge appeal court in Rochester this November threw out the conviction and sharply rebuked the local court for its handling of the case. The two remaining charges have not been dropped yet and are scheduled for trial. Although the forty-five will doubtless be exonerated, this has been an extreme trial for them nervously as well as financially. Contributions for their defense are still needed and may be made out to the AAUP (SUNY/Buffalo), earmarked for the "Buffalo 45 Defense Fund" and sent to Prof. Norman Hollander, 131 High Park Blvd., Buffalo, N.Y., 14226.

The rest of the year was less eventful. Wilma was quite busy in March and April with the preparations for the meeting of the North East Modern Languages Association of which she was president and which met at Canisius. Jeremy was busy with his application for conscientious objector status, came home briefly in April for a discretionary interview with his board which turned him down despite what we thought was an excellent case, but did succeed in obtaining his conscientious objector status at this personal appearance in June. Danny, too, will file for CO status when he turns eighteen this coming spring. We spent a relatively quiet summer at home, leaving only once for a few days to go to the Shakespeare Festival in Stratford and once more to spend a week in Alleghany State Park. Danny and Jonathan were in school a good part of the summer. Jeremy unable to find a job in Buffalo organized a painting company with a friend and spent the major part of the summer painting houses. With part of the money, he and some friends were going to go to Montana to work on the farm of a friend of theirs in August but then when they were already in Montana on their way there were involved in a head-

on crash. The three other kids in the car all received nasty fractures, from which they fortunately have now recovered, but Jeremy almost miraculously escaped injury when he was thrown out of the car and landed on his feet.

The university began again in September amidst ominous rumors of new disruptions but has remained amazingly calm. During the summer a new president was appointed from within the university, a long-time administrator who was apparently the choice of the local businessmen who control the University Council in Buffalo and who won out against some hesitations in Albany. The faculty was not seriously consulted on the appointment. The Meyerson period with its experimentation and its desire to make the university into a major state university, "the Berkeley of the East," seems to have ended and a period of academic retrenchment have set in for the immediate future.

Our community involvements have remained basically the same, although the emphases have changed somewhat. Wilma has continued as faculty moderator of the Students for Peace and Involvement at Canisius College, a position which has become increasingly difficult as students become increasingly radicalized in directions which challenged the basically pacifist orientation around which the group was organized. I spent considerably more time counseling for the Draft Counseling Center of Greater Buffalo than I did last year. The center itself, which is located at the Friends Meeting House, has changed considerably as a young Quaker, Larry Scott, devoted himself fulltime to the reorganization of the center, retaining old and training new counselors, and bringing an air of professionalism, but a very humane one, into the center. The Center now counsels about a hundred kids a week, most of whom are determined not to enter the armed forces and almost all of whom succeed in obtaining conscientious objector status or other deferments. The Center has thus contributed to keeping many kids in this country who otherwise might have fled to Canada, where conditions are relatively hopeless for many draft refugees. I continue to be involved in the local NAACP as co-chairman of the education committee. On the old fashioned level, reminding me of our days in the South, of litigation we continue to be successful. The Buffalo branch succeeded in having the 1969 New York anti-bussing law declared unconstitutional. We are making much less headway in our negotiations with the Buffalo Board of Education on implementing a meaningful plan of desegregation and none in the suburbs. A very limited program which was to be initiated by the boards in one of the suburbs was unfortunately defeated by irate opposition in the suburb. We have had a small but quite successful tutoring program of 5th to 8th graders at Canisius College in which Danny and Wilma have also been involved. Danny has been particularly successful in recruiting high school kids as tutors for the program. The co-operative program between Buffalo and Philander Smith College has officially come to an end after four and a half years, although I hope some informal co-operation will continue.

We are now in the midst of completing our plans for the sabbatical. We expect to be in Buffalo until the middle of August so that Jonathan can take some of the work in the summer which he will miss next year. The major part of the academic year we expect to spend in Germany, preferably, if we can make satisfactory school arrangements there for Jonathan, again in Göttingen. Jeremy will probably stay at Carleton, Danny's plans are not yet quite clear. Wilma plans to continue her studies of Jewish themes in German and Czech literature. I shall continue my work on trends in contemporary historical thought, continuing to explore some of the problems with which I dealt in my

book on German historiography but in a broader international setting. We expect to spend about three months in Paris in connection with my work and shorter periods in Poland, Amsterdam, East Germany and Czechoslovakia in connection with Wilma's or my work. Our charter plane will land in London, which will give us an opportunity to see relatives and friends again, and if time and money permits we would very much like to go to Israel for a short while.

With our best wishes to you for the holiday season and the New Year.

Georg and Wilma

Georg and Wilma Iggers

3401 Rauschenwasser über Göttingen
Im Bökeler 2
West Germany
November 21, 1971

Dear Friends:

It is cold and blowing outside, the first snow storm of the season, a good day to write this letter. We have been here in Rauschenwasser since the end of August, a beautiful small spot located idyllically below the ruin of a medieval castle about five miles north of Göttingen. Our landlady, who lost her husband in the war, built this house in the 1950s for her nine children and began filling it up with students and visiting scholars as her own children moved away. She herself is very much of a religious pacifist and socialist and her personality gives the whole house, which she regards as a community, a very definite atmosphere. At present there are German, French, and Latin American students living here and an interesting Moroccan couple, both historians of mathematics, just moved away.

We are very much enjoying Göttingen. We still have many friends here from our previous stay and visits to Göttingen -- even Jonathan does -- and enjoy the city which even now after considerable growth is small enough to be relaxing yet has the intellectual and cultural advantages of a major university town. We are actually quite busy, yet after the pressures of Buffalo this seems like a vacation, even if a working vacation. The last year was particularly busy for all of us. In addition, Georg also taught a seminar at the University of Rochester in preparation for our sabbatical and found his load of persons whom ~~chens~~ counselled on conscientious objection and the draft steadily increasing. He is now counseling American CO's in the military in Germany but the demands on his time are not as large as in Buffalo. Six days a week, he and Jonathan leave the house at 6:10 in the morning to meet the school bus in Göttingen which takes Jonathan to his school in Kassel. Georg then drinks coffee in town and reads until the library opens and then has a fairly uninterrupted day to do his research. Wilma partly works at home, partly in town and finds the demands of the household cutting into her time for reading and study. That's what you call women's lib. Jonathan has made a surprisingly smooth adjustment to the Freie Waldorf-Schule in Kassel. He is relearning German rapidly, now is beginning to understand well what goes on, and seems to feel fairly much at home in his school. Four days a week he is back in Göttingen by 2 p.m. but on Tuesdays and Fridays, he has school until 6 p.m. and then has to take the train back.

Daniel came with us in August and then went back in time for the beginning of school. This past year he was a freshman at Canisius but also took some freshman seminars at SUNY/Buffalo and now is a second year student in political science at York University in Toronto. Jeremy is back at Carleton College for his junior year as a philosophy major. He spent the Spring term with a group of Carleton students at the University of Caen in Normandy, then in July instead of returning straight home to the United States joined two other young people who were driving across Asia. He left the group in West Pakistan, proceeded by train through India to Nepal, and then made his way back via Bangkok, Hongkong, and Japan where he spent two weeks with friends in Kyoto. We unfortunately did not get to see him this way but we received a large number of extremely interesting letters from him with his impressions particularly of India, Thailand, and Japan.

It is interesting now to compare our impressions of Germany with those which we gathered when we last spent a year in Göttingen ten years ago. Then, in May 1961, we arrived at the time the Eichmann trial started in Jerusalem and intensified the reexamination of the past here in Germany. Even then we were optimistic about the future of German democracy even if guardedly so although many traditional thought patterns which disturbed us persisted.

The changes are striking. A generation is now beginning to take over the positions of responsibility which had not yet grown to maturity when the Nazi regime collapsed. An even younger generation has now grown to maturity which had not even been born in 1945. The result has been a marked democratization of political attitudes and more slowly of the social structure as well. The young people seem very similar to their counterparts in the U.S. in their attitudes and values, and appearance. Having grown up in a society of economic affluence, they look critically at the irrational aspects of this society. The rejection of the military and of arbitrary authority is even more pronounced than in the U.S. and the proportion of young men applying for conscientious objector status considerably higher even without the Viet Nam war. The apathetic atmosphere among the students ten years ago has been replaced by a high degree of political consciousness. At last under student pressure, the various state governments have carried through long needed reforms of the university. The atmosphere in seminars has changed with greater openness in discussion between students and professors. Ten years ago we were struck how many Germans, including Social Democrats, were willing to admit Germany's responsibility for the crimes of the past, yet unwilling to recognize the consequences which resulted from these crimes, such as the division of Germany and the loss of the Eastern territories. Today these issues raise emotions to a much lesser extent and a majority of Germans appear to support Willy Brandt in his attempt to normalize relations with the East. Not all is necessarily well in Germany. Many of the problems of a consumer oriented highly technological society which have troubled the US have also been apparent here although perhaps less severely, pollution, rising crime, narcotics, etc., although West German society seems to be much less coming apart at the seams than ours and fascistoid attitudes less common in this country which has experienced fascism. The Neo-Nazis have collapsed but the Christian Democratic Party, now in opposition, has moved sharply to the right and in parliament and in the mass press is appealing to nationalist sentiment and red baiting. On the left the radical anti-authoritarian organizations of the late '60's have given way on the campus to the highly authoritarian, East German oriented Spartakus. The Bremen state elections last month which resulted in an absolute majority for the Social Democrats, revealed quite clearly that a very large number of Germans repudiate both the nationalism and the anti-studentism of the right (the Christian Democrats had fought the elections on the issues of the treaties with Poland and Russia recognizing the Oder-Neisse line and of university reform) and the authoritarianism of the German Communist Party which for the first time entered the election.

As far as our work is concerned, Wilma has been catching up on her reading until now and is ready to start on her project on Jewish literature in Bohemia. Georg is working on a comparative study of trends in contemporary historical science. In this connection we have already had an opportunity to go to France where in addition to speaking with historians we also saw many old friends again and later this week on the invitation of Polish historians shall go to Poznan, Cracow, and Warsaw. Georg's book on German historiography appeared in paperback in Germany shortly before we arrived here and has led to a fair amount of discussion here. It is a critique of ^{the} traditional establishment way of writing history here from which the younger generation of historians is now, however, rapidly moving away.

We would like again to thank those of you who wrote letters in support of Daniel's CO application. We believe that he has a very strong case. His application was turned down, however, without his being invited to a pre-classification interview. He has asked for a personal appearance with his draft board but under the new regulations will not have it until he has received his lottery number next year.

We shall be back in Buffalo on August 16. With the best wishes for the holiday season and a more peaceful and humane 1972,

the Iggers

Dec. 10, 1971. We are back from Poland. The trip was very interesting and the hospitality wonderful. In many ways the country was very different from what we had expected in terms of our readings and very different from Czechoslovakia and East Germany.

We arrived in Poznań by train from Berlin on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 28. Prof. Topolski, our host, met us at the station and took us to his home where we were served a fantastic meal and later an equally excellent supper. Polish gastronomy is first rate anyway, we discovered. Prof. Topolski, in his early forties, is a leading member of a very interesting group of Polish economic and social historians and perhaps the most important theoretician and methodologist of history in Poland. His wife, too, is a historian. He talked with me extensively about his efforts and those of his colleagues to revise the positivistic and deterministic interpretations of Marx which have plagued Marxist thought in the past. The conclusions about the methodology of Marx in Das Kapital which he expressed in various articles he showed me were remarkably similar to the interpretation which I had presented in a lecture in West Berlin the previous Friday and which had been sharply criticized by some of the orthodox Marxist students there. Before very long it was time to take the night train to Cracow for the annual business meeting of the Polish Historical Association.

I did not attend any of the sessions in Cracow since these were all in Polish but Prof. Topolski had suggested that this would be a good place to meet Polish historians and so it was. Wilma and Jonathan went to Auschwitz for the day, about 40 minutes from Cracow. I spent most of the morning walking through the city with one of the historians from Cracow, talking about Polish historiography but also about conditions generally. Cracow, the medieval capital of Poland almost unscathed by the war, is one immense museum. I was interested in the street scene which seemed much less proletarianized than in the Czech or East German cities we know. There are few automobiles, but otherwise an outward air of prosperity. People are well dressed, there seems to be no shortage of food, and the shop windows, already decorated for Christmas, are full of commodities. I was struck by the number of elegant cafes. In the cafe at the old market square renovated in the Jugendstil of the turn of the century one saw a public and felt an atmosphere which reminded much more of the Austria of Franz Joseph, of which Cracow once was a part, than any cafe in present day Vienna. The prosperity may, however, be misleading. As my guide pointed out, housing is still extremely scarce and the prices of textiles and consumers goods are quite high in relation to the wages. As in East Germany and much more so than in Czechoslovakia there is a wide span in incomes. The intellectuals constitute very much of a privileged class. While some workers earn as little as 1,500 zlotys, many of the professors earn 6,000 or more a month. The latter can generally afford an automobile, often weekend cottages, trips abroad, and maids, the former even with both husbands and wives working -- as generally is the case -- only a modest existence. Poverty, which afflicted pre-war Poland, seems to have ^{virtually} disappeared, however. Every day life seems much more normal than in Czechoslovakia and working morale, at least since the reforms which followed last winter's unrests, much higher.

In Cracow, as in Poznań and Warsaw, but perhaps even more so in Cracow, one is very aware of the links with the past. There is little on the surface to remind one in Cracow that one is in a communist country but one is constantly aware of being in a Catholic country. There are nuns, churches -- incidentally well attended on Sundays by young as well as old -- and religious bookstores. In Poznań and Warsaw the attempt has been made ^{successfully} to rebuild the old sections which were destroyed during the war stone by stone and to recapture the atmosphere of medieval Poland. There is an intense consciousness of the national past, hence also very much historical work and excellent historical museums. In no country in Europe in the seventeenth, eighteenth and even under partition in the nineteenth century did the nobility play as central a role in

life and thought style of the cultured Polish nobility has maintained itself in Polish public consciousness until today. Tuesday evening and Wednesday afternoon we were taken by Polish colleagues to restaurants which cannot be matched in Buffalo. In talking with Polish historians, the strong continuities with the pre-war past, not only as regards historical scholarship but also the composition of the historical profession became apparent. In contrast to East Germany, where the historians represent parts of a new elite of whom the older ones have been often old-time activists persecuted by the Nazis and the younger ones often have come from working class backgrounds, many of the Polish historians come from old scholarly families. They live well but free of the nouveau riche manners of many of their East German colleagues. They are also much more cosmopolitan. The close scholarly ties with France, and to a lesser extent with the U.S., continue. There was no purge of "bourgeois" historians comparable to what occurred in other Communist countries. Topolski and others were trained after the war by historians like Bujak and Rutkowski ^{before the war} who laid the foundations for modern Polish social history. Since 1956 research has been quite free of Marxism in its dogmatic form. Some highly interesting and original work is being done by Polish social historians using highly modern methods and collaborating closely with the social science oriented historians of the Paris Annales circle. Indeed many of the historians I spoke with had been in residence as students or visiting scholars in Paris.

Tuesday morning we were taken on a tour of Wawel, the residence of the Polish kings with its museums, Tuesday afternoon we returned to Poznan by train with a group of professors. Wednesday Prof. Topolski took us on a ride through the Polish countryside around Poznan. There was less mechanization than in the West but the farms, almost all privately owned, seemed prosperous. Tuesday evening we went to the Opera. The opera, Offenbach's Orpheus in the ~~Nether~~ world, was fun - even if I did not understand the Polish -- and well done. It was interesting to watch the audience which was much more democratic than in the West -- many persons who were obviously workers, students, soldiers, etc. The seats were amazingly inexpensive. Thursday I spent most of the day at the university, visiting the history department and library, talking with students, ^{and} sitting in on a class Prof. Topolski teaches in English for the American exchange students. Poznan has a two way exchange program with the University of Kansas. Many of the American students are graduates from Catholic high schools, most of them of Polish descent, including a nun from Buffalo. In the evening I gave my lecture, on trends in most recent German historiography. The atmosphere at the discussion was much less ideologically charged than in West Berlin. Over dinner a group of us then continued the discussion until about midnight.

At 5:40 Friday morning, Prof. Topolski and I took the train to Warsaw. Wilma and Jonathan followed later. Prof. Wyczanski met us at the station and then took me on a tour of Warsaw. Warsaw had been almost totally destroyed by the Nazis after the 1944 uprising. Miles and miles of new building along broad avenues have been erected, some in the somewhat grotesque style of the Stalin period, much among more modern lines. Warsaw makes an elegant impression. We then drove to the monument for the dead of the Jewish Ghetto, an impressive monument to the martyrs in Polish, Yiddish, and Hebrew inscription. This was in sharp contrast to Auschwitz where Wilma told me almost all the commemorative tablets contained Polish names and there was almost no mention of the fact that the vast majority of those murdered were Jews. Jewish life in a country, where once more than three million Jews lived, has disappeared with almost no trace, even more completely than in West Germany or in Czechoslovakia where a very conscious effort has been made to keep alive the memory of Jewish culture. Prof. Wyczanski stressed that it is impossible to study Polish history without considering the role of the Jews and that yet today there are virtually no Polish scholars who know Yiddish or have an understanding of Jewish traditions. Of the 50,000 Jews

who still remained in Poland in 1968, many left after the anti-Semitic acts by the government which accompanied the repression of the student unrest of the year. From the Ghetto we drove to the beautifully reconstructed old city and the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences. Here I spent the rest of the morning talking with Wyczanski, who is one of the very interesting Polish historians who have worked closely with the Paris Annales school, about his work. I then had an opportunity to talk briefly with some of the students at the English and American Studies institute of the University. It was much easier linguistically, of course, to communicate with these students than with those in Poznań. Nevertheless a very similar picture emerged. As in Czechoslovakia, the students are surprisingly well informed and have been little effected by the indoctrination of the school system. They are very critical of the university system, which they consider antiquated and unimaginative, too much lecturing, too few discussions, are very critical of the governmental restrictions of free expression, and critical of the government's economic policies, although the gap between the students and the government has probably narrowed since the workers' riots last winter toppled Gomulka. To us it appears that they too uncritically admire the life style of the West. Nevertheless one does not have the same feeling of the total alienation of students and intellectuals from the state as in Czechoslovakia. There is a strong feeling of Polish national consciousness which seems to hold the country together, a consciousness deeply rooted in the past.

In the evening we were at the Wyczanskis. Jonathan enjoyed himself talking with their twenty year old son, who speaks English fairly well, a university student who managed to convince the government that he is a conscientious objector -- something extremely difficult in Poland -- and is doing some sort of alternate service. Wilma got into a long conversation with their fourteen year old son in a mixture of Czech and Polish. Wilma managed to learn quite a bit of Polish before our trip -- there are many similarities between Polish and Czech -- and to make herself quite well understood in Poland. Saturday morning Mrs. Wyczanski picked up Wilma and Jonathan and Wilma in this way was able to get some insight into Polish everyday life. I went back to the Institute to continue my conversations. I had had a very informative conversation on Friday afternoon ~~with~~ Prof. Ryzska, one of the leading Polish scholars of modern Germany, and on Saturday Dr. Grabski, a leading Polish historiographer, came from Lodz to see me. All of this was very helpful and revealed a historical profession and scholarship which is open, undogmatic, and critical.

We had planned to take the night train from Warsaw to Berlin. The Topolskis, however, urged us to stop in Poznań for a party that evening. I am glad we did. There were about twenty-five people there to celebrate Mrs. Topolski's nameday, many of these people non-university people, although all fairly much persons in positions of responsibility. I wish we had had more opportunity to talk with workers. Wilma did on the train from Poznan to Warsaw when she interpreted between a French communist who praised the regime to the sky and the Polish passengers who were very critical. The discussion at the party, like all discussions we had in Poland, was very free. All the persons there, including the secretary of the union at the university (presumably therefore a party functionary) stressed the need for political liberalization and more pragmatic economic planning. There was a complaint about what one person called unemployment in Poland -- everyone gets a job but often busywork because for many skilled people there are no jobs open in which they can use their skill. People seemed to enjoy themselves as at few American parties. There were folk songs, songs parodying Russian songs and making fun of the Russians ~~and~~ excellent food and drink. We had a long talk with a chemist, trained in the Soviet Union, who still often travels to scientific institutes there, and who incidentally has also worked in Canada, who said that while the general at-

mosphere was much more conservative in the Soviet Union than in Poland, even there many of the younger scientists are very undogmatic in their outlook and speak of the need of greater liberalization.

We left on Sunday for West Berlin with many impressions, often superficial, which we find ~~it~~ difficult to integrate into a coherent picture. Nevertheless we had the feeling that Poland is a country very much alive. The years since 1945 have seen the ^{v'rbol}disappearance of poverty and many social inequalities. We were impressed by the tremendous reconstruction of a devastated country without the basis of industrial capacity and skill which Germany had. The year 1968 with its governmentally sponsored anti-intellectualism and anti-Semitism again clearly demonstrated the limits of freedom in Poland. On the other hand, Polish thought and much of Polish life has developed relatively independently of governmental intervention. The years since 1956 have been extreme creative years in Polish culture and scholarship. Polish history appears to have been more powerful than any political doctrines or parties. This has probably had both its good and its bad sides. A class system seems to reassert itself which has many similarities with the past. On the other hand, the creative sources of Polish culture remain very much intact.

We arrived in West Berlin shortly after the police had broken up with tear gas a demonstration protesting the death the night before of a militant anarchist, in what the police described as a shoot out. From this morning's newspaper, however, it appears that the anarchist was unarmed and that there was no shoot out.

Please don't be surprised at the US stamp on the envelope. We are sending this letter to Buffalo for distribution.

100 Ivyhurst Road
Buffalo, NY 14226
December 16, 1972

Dear Friends:

Our letter to you last year came from our sabbatical in Germany. The remainder of our stay in Göttingen was both very pleasant and very busy. We very much enjoyed the community in which we lived in Rauschenwasser a few miles outside of Göttingen which we described in our letter last year, a large house, owned by Mrs. Bokemeyer, a very dynamic Christian pacifist and socialist, who, after her nine children had married and moved away, filled her house with students and visiting scholars. The house, beautifully located in the rolling countryside, was full of persons and activity, of children and grandchildren of Mrs. Bokemeyer who came to visit, friends, former residents, pacifists, persons requiring care whom Mrs. Bokemeyer took in temporarily or permanently, and we had the benefits of the relative privacy of our corner of the house as well as the feeling of being part of a larger family.

Our days were very full. Six days a week Jonathan and Georg left the house a few minutes after 6 a.m. to deposit Jonathan at the station in Göttingen from where a school bus took Jonathan to the Waldorfschule in Kassel. Georg then stayed in town, drinking coffee until the libraries opened. Wilma preferred to carry dozens of library and inter-library loan books to the relative quiet of Rauschenwasser. She has been studying the Jewish literary and cultural life in mid-nineteenth century Bohemia. Our travel after the trip to Poland which we described in our last letter was restricted to a number of overnight trips to various west German universities, an extended weekend trip to East Germany to see friends and historians in Leipzig, Halle, and Erfurt and a very nice ten days which the three of us spent in Southern Italy during Jonathan's Easter vacation and which Georg combined with visiting various Italian historians. Wilma, who after all had born the burden of the work involved in the daily routine of life, went on a much deserved two week vacation to Greece with a German study group in May.

1971-1972 was a particularly interesting year to spend in West Germany. The universities still have somewhat of the atmosphere of the American universities in the late sixties. The last five years which saw the emergence of the student movement in West Germany also had finally brought the beginnings of reforms in the universities which until then had been governed quite autocratically by the full professors (Ordinarien). The reforms had brought pressures for further extension of student participation and for a more "radical" curriculum but also stiffened resistance by the old guard. The conservative media sought to create the impression that the universities had largely collapsed as centers of serious study and had become centers for the training of Marxist cadres. But except perhaps in a handful of isolated departments, e.g. in Berlin, this ^{was} hardly the case. The staid academic climate which we found in Göttingen ten years ago had dissolved. The old respect for the authority of the professor had been replaced by a very lively give and take which made for much more serious discussion and examination than in the past, even if at times these discussions were marred by an unfortunate penchant for dogmatism and clichés among some of the participants. The political scene was dominated by the heated national debate about the ratification of the treaties with Poland and the Soviet Union. The

issues were much more charged with emotions than most Americans realized. They involved not only the final renunciation of the Eastern territories and the acceptance of the political division of Germany but also in a very fundamental way a conscious confrontation with long treasured national traditions and illusions which still after 1945 had prevented many Germans from honestly facing the consequences of the Third Reich. In their bitter attacks against the Eastern Treaties, the opposition parties laid the basis for their campaign against the Brandt government. They combined an appeal to nationalist sentiments with an attempt, not unfamiliar to us in this country, to mobilize fears about the supposed breakdown of law and order, political radicalization, the students, etc. They succeeded in bringing about a parliamentary crisis which forced Brandt to call early elections. We left Germany before the election campaign began. We are very much reassured by the extent of Brandt's victory which we think reflects the basically democratic orientation of particularly the younger German voters.

Daniel, who had hoped to work in Buffalo for a few weeks before joining us in Göttingen for the summer, decided in view of the difficult job situation in Buffalo to come to Germany already in mid-May. The German economy is still booming and glad to absorb foreign labor and two days after his arrival in Göttingen Daniel was at work at a well paying but somewhat tedious night shift job on a production line which he soon exchanged for more pleasant outdoor work on the construction of the new Göttingen campus. Both Daniel and Jonathan left in mid-July, Daniel for Buffalo, Jonathan for an archeological dig in England, which he very much enjoyed, and a hosteling trip to Scotland and the Orkneys afterward. The two of us spent our final week in Germany in early August as resource persons at a conference on racism sponsored jointly by the British and West German Councils of Christians and Jews. The conference was an interesting dialogue, involving students, young teachers and social workers from several countries, but above all Jewish kids from London and a very articulate group of young Germans of the democratic Left. After a brief stay in London, where we visited relatives and friends and met up with Jonathan, we flew back to New York on August 15.

Since our return we have been very busy with teaching with relatively little time for research and writing. Jonathan is back in high school; he is a junior now. Jeremy, who is home at present for the holidays, will receive his B.A. this spring from Carleton, is seriously thinking of getting an A.M. in creative writing, where his interests lie, but also considering working for a year. The big news in our lives is that Daniel got engaged. We like Maggie, his fiancée, whom he met at York University very much and see them fairly often. Daniel, who accelerated his college work, expects his B.A. from York in Toronto this May and is seriously considering working for a year or two before going back to school. Georg's father in Richmond, Va., is in good health and is now at age 78 for the first time seriously thinking of retiring and moving to Buffalo.

How does it feel to be back in the U.S. after a year abroad? Life seems a good deal more normal than it is described in the European press. Many of the pressures of a highly commercialized, technological society are certainly similar here and in West Germany, even if the historical background is different. Nevertheless, this is undoubtedly a much more disturbed society than West Germany today. There is also much more disillusionment here today about the possibilities of dealing with the irrationalities of a modern society than there is in Germany at this point, as the very different election results in the two countries reflect. Coming back to the U.S. we are struck by the growing apathy about the war in Viet Nam, even among ^{some of} our students no longer

faced with the draft, and by the complacent assertions that the war is fading away in a year in which it has actually been escalated by both sides and possibly more human beings have been killed, maimed and displaced in Indochina than in any other year, including 1968, the year of the Tet Offensive. We are, of course, particularly disturbed by the hardening of racial barriers, the increasing resistance to attempts to overcome racial inequities, and the sharpening line between ghetto and suburb. Our own concerns have remained the same even if our activities have changed. Georg is still active in the NAACP but what can be done in Buffalo seems much more complex and what we can do as individuals much more limited. We are less active in the organized peace movement than before; on the other hand, Georg at least is as involved in peace activities as before but more on a person to person level through the Draft Counseling Center in Buffalo. He does less draft counseling now and counsels more men in the military, as he did already during his sabbatical in Germany.

The news from Paris today ^(Dec 16) is that peace is not "in sight". May we nevertheless hope and strive that 1973 will bring greater peace and ~~humane~~ humane world.

With all best wishes for the Holiday Season and the New Year,

*Georg and Wilma
Foggers*

100 Ivyhurst Road
Amherst, New York 14226
December 2, 1973

Dear Friends:

When we wrote you last year, we had only recently returned from our sabbatical leave in Germany. In contrast this year was very quiet, even if busy, and this letter will concentrate more on family news than have previous ones.

Of the children only Jonathan, now eighteen and a senior in high school, remains at home. And he is now making plans for school for next year. He is not yet certain on what he wants to study and for the time being wants to take a fairly broad general course. Jeremy and Daniel both received their BA's in June, Jeremy from Carleton College where he majored in philosophy, Dan from York University in political science. Jeremy took off a year to work, partly to have time to think in which direction he wants to go on. He has a strong interest in writing and spent the summer at the University of Iowa's creative writing workshop but decided that writing is something which cannot be taught. He is working at present at Sears in Seattle, in a geographic region which he loves, and has now decided to apply for admission to graduate philosophy departments in September despite the somewhat discouraging employment prospects. Dan and Maggie have been married since August. They stayed with us in Buffalo for several weeks in September and then went back to Toronto in time for Maggie to return to York University to complete her final year for the B.A. Dan enjoys his job as an assistant and manager at an A&W drive-in in Toronto where he does a variety of supervisory and clerical jobs and makes huge quantities of root beer. Maggie and Dan were lucky to find a married students' apartment right on the York campus. Dan still hopes to go to law school in September.

Wilma and I have been busy with our usual activities. Wilma has had a very heavy teaching load. Canisius College as a private institution has felt the financial pinch with the result that particularly in the modern languages vacancies have not been filled. She has also been involved in her research into the intellectual and cultural history of the Bohemian Jews in the 19th century in the crucial transition period when Jews were entering the main stream of German and Czech culture. With a grant from Canisius, Wilma went to Hebrew Union College, to Chicago and Champaign for short periods during the summer to do the basic bibliographical work for her study on the Bohemian Jews and hopes to go to Prague this coming summer to use the materials in the Jewish State Museum. I too have been very busy with teaching, a smaller course load than Wilma but considerably more graduate students than in the past. I was busy during the summer revising and completing the historiographical essays I had begun during our stay in Germany. My community involvements remained the same, only that the situation in the community has changed. On my return to Buffalo, I was reappointed co-chairman of the education committee of the NAAEP branch, but the branch has been relatively inactive. We have filed a major suit challenging discriminatory patterns in the schools in the Buffalo and the metropolitan area, but this will be long drawn out litigation with few immediate results and relatively limited hope for a decision which would link the availab-

ility of educational facilities in the suburbs with those of the city. As in other American urban areas, racial isolation with all its social implications is increasing as the exodus into the suburbs continues. Our hopes of the 1950's and early 1960's that the existing social structure would permit reforms in the direction of an open, multiracial society in which the alienation and isolation of those who have been disadvantaged in the past and present could be overcome appear much less likely of fulfillment, today. My main community involvement remains the Military and Draft Counseling Center of Buffalo. The center has remained in operation even after inductions came to an end and has worked with a small but steady number of persons in the military requiring help. If we once counselled primarily students opposed to participation in the Viet Nam War, we now primarily work with enlisted men, many 17 and 18 years old, who escaped into the armed forces from very disadvantaged circumstances only to face new conflicts in the military.

The main family event of the year was, of course, the wedding, which took place outdoors on a beautiful summer afternoon in late August on Maggie's parents' farm about 100 miles north of Toronto. It was a simple, informal wedding and an opportunity for friends and relatives to gather. Dan and Maggie had asked Sam Gandy, who had been a close friend of the family since we moved to the Dillard University campus in 1957 and who thus knew Dan since he was a small child, to perform the ceremony. The choice of Sam Gandy was particularly fitting because Sam -- while a Christian minister, now Dean of the School of Religion at Howard University -- has always had a very deep and active interest in Judaism and has shared our family's concern in the broader issues of social justice and peace. Sam composed a very meaningful service for the ceremony rooted in ideas common to the Jewish and Christian heritage. Our rabbi, Daniel Kerman, participated in the ceremony. It was a very nice day. It was encouraging how a group of people, as diverse in their ethnic and religious backgrounds as this wedding party was, could come together in a rural Canadian setting to celebrate an inter-religious marriage.

Even with Jeremy and Danny gone, our house was by no means empty. During the spring and summer we had a steady stream of friends visiting, mostly from Germany. My father spent a part of the summer here after a cataract operation performed in Buffalo. He has not been in the best of health this year and since last February, when he was briefly hospitalized, has virtually had to give up his work. He is still living in Richmond but is now seriously considering moving to Buffalo after the winter.

This letter turned out longer and chattier than originally intended. We look forward to hearing from you and wish you all the best for the Holiday Season and the New Year.

George and Wilma

100 Ivyhurst Road
Amherst, NY 14226

December 7, 1974

Dear Friends:

The years fleet by. Last year, shortly after we had written you, we celebrated our twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. We observed the day by driving with Jonathan to Toronto to spend the day with Dan and Maggie and then flew to the West Coast the next morning to spend several days with Jeremy in Seattle on our way to the American Historical Association meeting in San Francisco. Both Jeremy and Danny had taken the year off from school after receiving their BA's the previous spring to work and reflect on their future plans. Jeremy found a fair amount of time to photograph and hike in the Northwest. Danny, like Jeremy, had several jobs, the last and most pleasant one working for the Canadian National on the parlor car between Toronto and Windsor. Both found it to be a very valuable year. Jeremy, not yet fully certain in what direction he wants to go, started in the Ph.D. program in philosophy at the University of Minnesota but is also taking some work in classics; Daniel, apparently more certain of his future aims now, is a first year law student at the University of Windsor where Maggie is completing her last year for a B.A. in sociology. Jonathan remains at home. He is a freshman at Canisius College. He has not yet decided on a major, is thinking of economics, but also considering combining a general liberal arts course with special training in surveying. He is thinking of transferring in September but for the time being appears to enjoy both Canisius and staying at home.

So our house is not quite empty. In addition, we had a relatively steady flow of visitors, including European friends, who passed through. Wilma and I have been involved in our usual activities. Wilma has been particularly busy. She has had a heavy teaching schedule at Canisius--as enrollment declines, and faculty members are not replaced, the pressure on the remaining faculty has increased. She has at the same time been very active in pursuing her research interests on the literary and intellectual history of the Bohemian Jews in the period of transition in the nineteenth century from ghetto and Judengassen to the mainstream of intellectual life and the cultural explosion of the turn of the century in Prague and Vienna. This past year, moreover, she was asked to write and give several papers on Karl Kraus, the Viennese cultural critic on whom she wrote her dissertation and book, on the occasion of the centennial of Kraus' birth. Today she is in New York City for an AAUP meeting on collective bargaining, a somewhat risky topic at Canisius, where there is considerable uncertainty about the future as at many other private colleges, so so that the colleagues were glad to have her represent them. I am continuing my own, less interesting research, on twentieth century European historiography. The atmosphere at the University has changed as it has changed elsewhere too; it has become not

only politically but also intellectually much quieter. I have found it more difficult than in past years to involve my undergraduate students in discussion and been forced to do much more straight lecturing. On the other hand I have had my liveliest and most hardworking graduate seminars these past years in European Historiography as well as in two study groups, one on the Frankfurt School, the other on Marx's Grundrisse. But this is a different generation of students. Outside the University, I continue to be active as co-chairman of the education committee of the local NAACP and as a counselor in the Military and Draft Counseling Center. My association with the NAACP is in some ways a nostalgic one at this point. The education committee has been increasingly ineffective in an increasingly rigidified situation. We expect to obtain a court order mandating a plan of racial balance for the Buffalo public schools, but are very doubtful whether the order will also include the suburbs; without the latter, the former will be difficult to implement meaningfully. Too many signs point to an increasingly separated society. My involvement with the counseling center seems much more encouraging. We work with a small but steady flow of persons in the military, who for a variety of reasons need help in obtaining discharges or facing disciplinary action, as well as selective service violators, some of them in Canada. In contrast to the Viet Nam days, when we were mostly counseling students, we are now dealing very largely with persons from very disadvantaged backgrounds and often with very serious problems.

This past summer we were in Europe, but partly separately because we did not want both to be away overly long from my father. Wilma had a summer grant to work on the Bohemian Jews in Prague and West Germany. I flew ahead to London in June to participate in a conference; Wilma joined me in Göttingen after Jonathan's graduation where we stayed with our friends in Rauschenwasser with whom we have spent the sabbatical year 1971-1972. Between library work and old friends the few days in Göttingen were wonderful. We then spent a very pleasant week with friends in the Polish countryside and then proceeded on to Prague. The political atmosphere in Czechoslovakia, in sharp contrast to that in Poland, was more depressing than ever. Not only have the intellectuals who participated in the 1968 events been humiliated in every possible way, reduced to menial jobs or in some cases unemployment, but their children have often been barred from further study. There is close police surveillance. Yet the morale among the victims of persecution remains remarkably good. I stayed only four days, long enough to see our friends, before returning to Buffalo; Wilma spent a month there. She was unable to obtain access to the library or the archives of the Jewish Museum, because Jewish studies are being officially discouraged, but found the persons at the university library very cooperative and was thus able to keep herself fully busy.

Just before Wilma's return, my father died. He had moved here in February after very reluctantly having given up his job as a traveling salesman. He first stayed in an apartment hotel in town, but then as he became increasingly feeble, moved into a quite pleasant nursing home not far from our house. We saw him almost

daily here in Buffalo. He was depressed at times about his failing strength and lack of work, cheerful at other times, keenly interested in the Watergate Affair. He was never bed-ridden and died quite suddenly of congestive heart failure on August 17, several weeks before his eightieth birthday, and was buried next to my mother in Richmond.

Our best wishes to all of you for the holiday season and the New Year. May it be a year of peace.

George, Wilma and Jonathan
Iffers

100 Ivyhurst Road
Buffalo, NY 14226
December 10, 1975

Dear Friends:

Once again our annual urge to communicate with our friends strikes us at a time when we are too busy to write individual letters.

Little has changed in our lives in the past year. Jeremy continues in the graduate philosophy program at the University of Minnesota. Danny is in his second year of law school at the University of Windsor in Canada. Maggie completed her B.A. at Windsor in June and is working as a social worker in Chatham, an interesting job which, however, involves a one-hour commute daily each way. We manage to see the two fairly frequently. Jonathan remains at home and is now a sophomore at Canisius College.

The demands on Wilma's time have been particularly great this year. In addition to her full load of courses at Canisius, she was asked to take over the graduate fellowships office, a position it was difficult to turn down in the face of the declining modern language enrollment. The job is time-consuming but does give her an opportunity to counsel with a large number of students. She has also been active in the faculty senate and on the state board of the AAUP, important as several crucial academic freedom cases have come up in the face of continuing faculty retrenchments. At the same time, she has sought to continue her scholarly work on the social and cultural history of the Bohemian Jews in the nineteenth century.

I have enjoyed my own teaching, both graduate and undergraduate. The student atmosphere has changed very much over the past several years, as it has generally on university campuses, but we continue to have lively sessions in my seminar which meets in our house on Monday evenings and seldom breaks up before 11 p.m. Teaching and working with students individually takes most of my time so that I have relatively little time for my research during the regular year. My main involvement in the community, except for my continued membership on the NAACP education committee, remains the Military and Draft Counseling Center. We handle much fewer cases now than several years ago, when we counseled hundreds of young men, mostly middle class students, on the draft. Our clients are now mostly persons facing problems in the armed forces, for the most part from disadvantaged economic and educational backgrounds, including some women, veterans seeking discharge upgradings, and an occasional draft or military refugee interested in legalizing his status or in repatriation.

In June and the first half of July, Wilma and I were in Europe on a research trip. We were in Czechoslovakia only very briefly this time, to see friends, since Wilma could not obtain permission to use the archives in the Jewish State Museum. The political and cultural atmosphere has become even more repressive and depressing. Only a few weeks earlier various writers and intellectuals had had their houses searched and manuscripts seized. The major part of our stay in Europe, except for visits with friends in the Munich area and a lecture trip to Leipzig, was spent in Göttingen, where we buried ourselves in the libraries during the day and divided our evenings between friends and going to plays at the two theaters. We again very much enjoyed the unique atmosphere of community at Frau Bokemeyer's house in Rauschenwasser where we stayed.

We look forward to hearing from you. With best wishes for the holidays and the New Year,

*Gary and Wilma
Leger*

100 Ivy Hurst Road
Buffalo, NY 14226
November 27, 1976

Dear Friends:

This has been a busy but on the whole quiet year for us. Little has changed in our lives since last year. Jeremy is in his third year of graduate work at the University of Minnesota; Danny and Maggie in Windsor, Jonathan is a junior at Canisius. Jeremy will be taking his Ph.D. prelims in Philosophy this coming spring. He is becoming interested in the ethical problems involved in medical experiments on human subjects. In his spare time, he pursues his journalistic interests and contributes book reviews and a restaurant column to a local weekly. Danny is in his last year in law school. He is spending this semester with Legal Assistance of Windsor, for which he receives course credit. This involves actual legal experience in counseling mostly poverty cases, representing them in court, a very welcome relief from class work. He will then have a final semester of courses and seminars and after that will do his year of "articling," required in Ontario for admission to the bar examination, with a law firm in Hamilton. Maggie continued to work as a social worker with neglected children in Chatham, a job she enjoyed but gave up this fall because the daily commute of 50 miles each way was too much of a strain. She now has two jobs in Windsor as a social worker and as a college counselor and is considering going back to school next year in Hamilton. They have managed to come to Buffalo fairly frequently over weekends and we look forward to seeing even more of them next year when they will be in Hamilton, only seventy miles from here. Jonathan continues to enjoy Canisius. He is still uncertain about his future plans. He had originally thought of going into economics or business, but has been doing best in courses in history and the humanities and is now speaking seriously about majoring in urban studies.

Wilma has been unusually busy this year. As modern language enrollments have declined at Canisius College, as elsewhere in the country, the administration has involved members of the department in administrative functions. Wilma last year took over the office advising students on graduate fellowships, a job she has enjoyed but which has also been very time consuming. In addition this year she is acting chairman of her department, while the chairman is on leave, a position she finds challenging although her interests are definitely not in administration and she is looking forward to being relieved of the chairmanship by the end of the academic year. At the same time she is teaching a reduced load which nevertheless consists of two courses. Despite everything she has done some writing, has completed articles on recent East German and Czech literature, is working on her Bohemian Jewish themes, and is currently organizing a session on Kafka for the next meeting of the North East Modern Languages Association.

Things at the university are very quiet. The financial exigencies of the State of New York have made themselves felt in many programs and in the library, but my own situation has been relatively unaffected by them. The ambitions of the state to build a major university system have been scaled down. The serious employment situation for our graduates has contributed to a decline in history enrollments as well as in the graduate program. I find my students very pleasant, on the whole hard working, interested but much more hesitant to participate in discussions than in earlier years. The fact that the university is scattered over three campuses, several miles apart, while a new campus is under construction has contributed to the fragmentation and atomization of university life. Student political activities at Buffalo, once one of the most activist universities, have virtually disappeared. My graduate seminar still meets at our house on Monday evenings and continues to be lively, although perhaps less so than in previous years. Last semester I co-taught a course on the German and Austrian refugee intellectuals with a member of the German department, next semester I shall co-teach a seminar on Marx and the Prussians, which will probably attract students from a number of departments. My research continues to be in the history of historical writing and I am at present

revising a small volume of essays, which appeared last fall, for a German edition. To enable me to complete the German version, we are planning to spend next summer in Germany again and look very much forward to returning to Rausehenwasser.

Apart from the State Council of the American Association of University Professors, of which she is treasurer, Wilma has had little time for outside activities. I continue to work as a counselor with the Military and Draft Counseling Center. The center is very much reduced in size now with the end of the selective service but we still counsel men in the military--and the occasional draft refugee in Canada--and reach a very different clientele from the middle class students we used to counsel, now mostly men, occasionally women, from depressed economic and educational backgrounds who enlisted without fully knowing what they were doing. I continue to be active in the NAACP without being convinced of my effectiveness at this point. Incidentally, the exchange program between Buffalo and Philander Smith College has been revived on a modest scale and I was twice in Little Rock this past spring. Again I am not sanguine about the results but for myself am pleased to be able to continue contacts.

This brings you somewhat up to date. We hope to hear from you too, and wish you all the best for the Holiday Season and the New Year.

Georg, Wilma and Jonathan Iggers

100 Ivyhurst Road
Buffalo, New York 14226
December 18, 1977

Dear Friends:

I am sorry that this letter will reach you late this year. The last few weeks have been extremely busy and Wilma will be leaving on the 21st, right after the completion of exams, to see her sister and family in Illinois before going to the Modern Language Association meeting in Chicago the following week.

The most important event in our lives during this past year was the birth of our granddaughter, Sarah Elizabeth, on October 25th. Dan and Maggie have been living in Hamilton, Ontario, less than seventy miles from here, since last August so that it has been easy for us to see them and to admire Sarah developing. Sarah was born by natural childbirth with Dan present and assisting during the entire labor. Dan completed his law degree in Windsor last May and is now doing the year of articling, a sort of internship, required in Ontario for admission to the bar. He is working for a law firm in Hamilton, spent the first few months on relatively dull real estate cases but for the past several weeks has been involved in a fascinating murder trial. Maggie was working as a social worker in a home for battered wives in Windsor until the move to Hamilton. The Hamilton area is the home of many of Wilma's relatives and Dan and Maggie have found a ready made circle of family in Hamilton.

Jeremy is continuing his work on a Ph.D. in the philosophy department at the University of Minnesota. He is now seeking to formulate a dissertation topic. He was involved this past year in a study which dealt with the ethical problems involved in the use of human subjects in medical experiments and is generally interested in the field of ethics. The employment prospects in philosophy are not exactly encouraging, not is Jeremy entirely certain that he wants to spend his life in academia. He has become quite involved in journalism in his spare time and has a regular restaurant column in a Minneapolis weekly. He stopped with us for a few days last week on his way to Spain, where he is meeting his girl friend who has been spending the fall in Norway, and will be back here again later this month on his return to Minneapolis.

Jonathan is at home. He is a senior at Canisius College with a joint major in history and urban studies. His plans for next year are not clear yet but he is thinking of doing further work in public administration. He became quite involved this fall in a research paper for one of his courses on the Buffalo police force in 1855 for which he used the computerized census in the university archives. He tutored two children in an inner city school in connection with another course. A good deal of his social life centers around Canisius College where he has been particularly involved in the chess club.

Wilma has been particularly busy this past year. As student enrollments in modern languages at Canisius College have declined, the college has increasingly sought to utilize language teachers in administrative functions. Wilma was acting chairman of her department during the academic year ending in the summer, a position which she accepted with some apprehension but which went very satisfactorily. In addition she also continued in the graduate fellowship office which involves considerable student advisement. She completed a term as treasurer of the state AAUP (American Association of University Professors) and as a member of the Canisius faculty senate. She is teaching a full load of language and literature courses this year. At the same time she continues to work on her long term study of the intellectual and cultural assimilation of the Bohemian Jews in the nineteenth century and to pursue her interests in recent East (and West) German literature.

My own life has continued relatively unchanged. I continue to have lively seminars in my house on Monday evenings. In the spring I gave a seminar on Freud and the Marxians, this fall one on the consciousness of a crisis of modern civilization, both of which I taught with a colleague from German, Peter Heller, and both of which were well attended by students from a variety of departments and view points. There is a group of students who have come regularly to my seminars in modern intellectual history for the past several years so that there is a sense of continuity. Several of my students have been in Germany this past year working on dissertations, several students from Germany have been studying here, particularly from Darmstadt with which our department has an exchange. This summer when we were in Germany we had two reunions of students both German and American who had participated in the seminars in the past. As for my writing, I was busy during most of the year preparing a German edition of a small volume I published in this country on the reorientation of historical studies in recent years. I am now turning to the eighteenth-century historians as part of a broader history of historical writing which has occupied me for some years. For my work on the eighteenth century, I have received a grant which will enable Wilma and me to spend our sabbatical year in Germany. We shall probably leave for Göttingen in the middle of the summer and then spend the entire academic year there. As for my community involvements, I continue to be a member of the education and the executive committees of the local branch of the NAACP but find it very difficult to be involved in an effective way. School integration is proceeding painfully slowly in the city under a court order. My main commitment continues to be to the military counseling center, the successor of the draft counseling center of the Viet Nam days. The number of our clients has declined but we continued to work during the year both with long-term AWOL's who were covered by the Carter program and with short-term AWOL's, mostly very young soldiers from disadvantaged backgrounds, who were not covered and who very much needed counseling and support. I continue to be active in the exchange program, now operating on a very modest scale, with Philander Smith College in Little Rock, where Wilma and I taught twenty years ago and enjoy the opportunity of going there once a year and maintaining contacts.

During the summer we spent several very nice weeks in Rauschenwasser with our good friends Frau Bokemeyer and Frau Kube while doing research in nearby Göttingen. Maggie met us midway during our stay and she and Wilma went to Czechoslovakia to visit friends and relatives. The personal atmosphere in Czechoslovakia was heart-warming, the political climate bleaker than ever with the increased repression which followed the issuance of Charter '77.

With all best wishes for the New Year,

Georg, Wilma, Jonathan

Georg, Wilma and Jonathan
Iggers

Im Bökeler 2
3406 Bovenden 1
West Germany
September 25, 1978

Dear Children and Friends:

Several of you have asked us to report to you on our trip to Hungary. I trust that you will not mind our writing to you collectively while the impressions of the trip are still fresh in our minds.

The trip was a unique experience. It was in many ways very different from what we had expected and different from any other trip we had taken. We had not realized this visit had been conceived as an official invitation. The official character of the visit had the advantage that our activities were very well planned that we met a large number of historians and that at the same time we probably saw more of the country in the short period of time than if we had travelled on our own. The disadvantage was that the setting was often too formal to permit the informal give and take which we would have liked and that we moved in the relatively exclusive world of the academic classes with only limited glimpses into the everyday life of the average Hungarians. Nevertheless we actually managed in our free time to talk with a number of people on a relaxed level.

We did not quite know what to expect before we arrived. Two Hungarian historians at the International Historical Congress in San Francisco in 1975 who knew my work and apparently liked my positive assessment of aspects of Marxist historiography in a short paper I gave there mentioned the possibility of my visiting Hungary. A date in the fall of 1977 proved impossible for me to accept and this spring a formal invitation came from the Academy of Sciences inviting me to spend a week in Hungary as the guest of the Academy and to give a lecture there. A subsequent invitation asked me also to visit the University of Szeged in the southeastern part of the country. On my request the invitation from the Academy was expanded to include Wilma. We knew nothing about the program beyond the plans for the lecture in Budapest and a possible lecture in Szeged. At the station in Budapest, where we arrived last Sunday two weeks ago in the early afternoon, we were met and embraced by our hosts, the two professors I had met in San Francisco, Prof. Mérei from the University of Szeged and Prof. Elekes, one of the most distinguished Hungarian historians, a member of the Academy, and Mrs. Elekes as well as an interpreter, whom we did not need since we conversed in German and to a lesser extent in English, and taken in two chauffeured cars of the Academy to the luxurious Gellé Hotel built in the pompous style of the early twentieth century, with thermal baths and elaborate swimming pools, and named interestingly enough after the missionary who brought Christianity to Hungary. We were assigned a huge room (with a bar of refrigerated drinks) and a balcony overlooking the Danube. There were flowers for Wilma in the room from the Elekes'. We were then taken to a magnificent meal in the Gellert -- we have never been wined and dined as we were during the week in Hungary -- and spent the next several hours talking with our hosts who had freed themselves from all their academic responsibilities for the week to accompany us. Almost immediately Prof. Mérei told us that he was Jewish, that he had been in a labor camp during the war, and that Mrs. Elekes had been in a concentration camp. He was aware that we were Jewish and had fled from the Nazis, the latter a fact which he stressed several times when introducing us. A surprisingly large number of the persons we met at the academy turned out to be Jewish and I think that our common

background had something to do with the extreme cordiality with which we were received. The two Elekes' and Prof. Merei were long time party members, having joined the party shortly after the war, and although critical of the excesses of the early fifties were, particularly Prof. Merei, surprisingly orthodox in their attitudes. While he considered us to be progressive and humanistic in our political views and involvement, he at times seemed sincerely disturbed at our critical expressions.

Our hosts left in the early evening and we were free until the next afternoon. I took an extensive walk through Budapest and the next morning Wilma and I and our brother-in-law Steve, who happened to be in Budapest, explored the city. We were impressed by what we saw. Budapest was a bustling city comparable in vitality, even if not quite in elegance, to Vienna which we had left the day before. The streets were crowded with traffic, both vehicular and pedestrian, and there were considerable signs of prosperity. The sidewalks street curbs were jammed with small automobiles. The shops were filled with consumer goods. Food shops had plentiful supplies of vegetables, fruits and meat, in short supply in other socialist countries, and there were no long lines outside the stores. There was a great variety of dress among the people we observed on the street from elegant to very simple but no signs of poverty. Budapest is a beautiful city with little of the drabness or neglect which mars the beauty of Prague or other Eastern European cities. In the early afternoon we were taken to the Academy where I read my lecture. I was asked to deliver it in English but the discussion almost immediately lapsed into German. It was halting at first, polite, but then became more lively. It reflected considerable sophistication on the part of the participants and a thorough acquaintance with ~~Western~~ trends in historical studies abroad, an acquaintance which one would not be able to take for granted in, let's say, East Germany. The atmosphere seemed very reminiscent of Poland, where we visited some years ago, and the Hungarians expressed considerable admiration for the openness of Polish scholarship.

Free again in the evening, we met Jozsef, a teacher of English in a vocational high school in Budapest, who had studied at the University of Minnesota and shared an apartment with Jeremy until he returned to Hungary this past April. This conversation together with other conversations we had, one with a student on the train coming from Vienna, another on Tuesday evening with the aunt of a Slovak student we know, now in Germany, gave us some insights into everyday life which confirmed some of the things told us by our official hosts. In many ways, Hungary seems to be a society which is functioning relatively smoothly. There is full employment, a comfortable standard of living, and a well developed system of social welfare. The political and intellectual atmosphere is much more relaxed and open than in any other Eastern block country including probably Poland. Hungarians receive currency allotments to travel to the West once in three years. There is relative freedom of discussion. But there are also problems. Everyone, including our hosts, spoke of poor work morale and low per capita productivity, the result in part of excessive planning and bureaucratization although Hungary has gone further than other socialist states in decentralizing the economy. Housing continues in short supply. There has been steady inflation which has affected particularly the elderly whose pensions are often very meager. Class differences are still striking, as they are in other Eastern European socialist countries. There is definitely a privileged class which as we ob-

served in the company of our hosts ~~which~~ moves in spheres of its own and enjoys definite advantages. There are separate hospitals for the academics, special resorts, and greater opportunity to travel abroad. The social distance between our hosts and the chauffeurs who carried our bags and ate at separate tables was marked. At the same time there are limits to political expression. Despite a broad range of opinions which can be expressed, there are opinions which cannot appear in print. The circle of liberal Marxist philosophers around Georg Lukács, who was much more orthodox than his disciples, has been dispersed, with several in exile and others barred from university teaching. As another couple, friends of friends in Germany, whom we ~~also~~ visited in our free time on Thursday evening, also university people, told us, dissenters, particularly those who spoke up against the occupation of Czechoslovakia and more recently in support of Charter 77, found themselves relegated from their university posts to research assignments in the academy where they were isolated from contact with students. There are considerable diversities within the framework of Marxist ideology, as became very apparent at my sessions at the academy with our hosts representing relatively the conservative end of the spectrum.

Tuesday morning we were picked up by our hosts in two official cars and taken to Lake Balaton. This gave us an opportunity to see the pleasant Hungarian countryside with its tidy villages and prosperous looking small towns. We made stops at various historic sites including the abbey at Tihany overlooking Lake Balaton. We were fed an elaborate meal at the resort house of the Academy at the lake. Tuesday evening, as I mentioned, we visited the one non-academic persons we had an opportunity to meet on the trip, the aunt of our Slovak friend. Wednesday morning we were free. One of the younger, very open historians from the academy came to see me and spent several hours talking about new trends in Hungarian historiography. Both Professors Elekes and Mérei took pains afterwards to stress that this historian did not speak for the Hungarian profession. Wilma in the meantime went to see Dr. Scheiber, the director of the rabbinical seminary in Budapest, the only one in the socialist countries, to discuss her work on the Bohemian Jews with him. Scheiber, we were told, was an outstanding Jewish scholar. Mrs. Elekes arranged the appointment. This turned out to be the one unpleasant meeting either of us had. Scheiber was unfriendly and obviously not eager to get into a discussion.

In the afternoon, we were picked up ^{by} the Elekes' and Prof. Mérei to go to Szeged. Szeged, located very close to the Rumanian and Yugoslav borders, makes a very Central European impression. This time we were housed in the Hotel Royal (!), a brand new luxury hotel, and given a suite. Again we were treated to a magnificent meal and then taken to one of the dormitories where we spend the evening in a conversation with students. Unfortunately the discussion was relatively stiff. The students were polite, inquisitive about American conditions, willing to give us what appeared a relatively official picture of their own curriculum and conditions of study but very reticent to be critical of any aspects of Hungarian education, very much unlike the Polish students we had met on an earlier trip. The fact that the discussion had to be conducted with the help of an interpreter and that the professors attended the session may have contributed to the tone of the conversation. The next morning I gave a lecture at the university to a group of professors and students. The lecture was translated into Hungarian and the discussion was interpreted. I was impressed by the skill of the interpreters who gave a

running account of my remarks. There was a moderately lively set of questions coming from the professors, none from the student. We afterwards went to the house of Prof. Mérei, were given a beautiful book of modern Hungarian sculpture, and talked with Mrs. Mérei, who is a professor in the required course on Marxism-Leninism at the university, about her course. This is a course, divided into three years, taken by all university students in Hungary, and judging by the syllabi and reading lists remarkably little effected by the modern, reformist discussions of Marxism. It was mid-evening when we arrived back in Budapest in time to visit the friends of our German friends. Again, although just as on Tuesday evening we had indicated that we had eaten already, we were treated to a second sumptuous meal. All our attempts to stick to a diet had to be forg otten for a week. Hungarian cuisine, we decided, is perhaps the best we have tasted, and considerably varied. Of the couple we visited, he was a professor at the university for the creative arts, she a teacher of pedagogy at a college and a concentration camp survivor as was her mother who was there. They talked ~~extensively~~ extensively about the intellectual situation, particularly about the dissenting group of philosophers, on the other hand felt relatively content with the situation, although they recognized the limits, and certainly loyal to the political order. They seemed like people who really enjoyed life and who radiated a warmth and cordiality which one would find rarely in the West.

On Friday morning we were picked up by a young economic historian, interested in historiography, who had corresponded with me some years ago about my book on the German historians and written an extensive review article at the time, who took on a tour of ~~Prague~~ Budapest, particularly historic Budapest, including the castle. The trip was interesting but our conversation on scholarly interests did not really get going. At two o'clock, he deposited us at the Institute of History of the Academy in the castle for an informal discussion with members of the institute. This was a much more relaxed discussion than on Monday and for my purposes a very fruitful one. It gave me a sense of what Hungarian historians are doing, particularly in the area of social history. It also reflected the openness and diversity of contemporary Hungarian historiography. Mérei who took us to a concert in the evening was not happy about the discussion. He would like to have seen it much more structured with the various sections of the Institute reporting on their research activities.

Saturday morning was free. Wilma went shopping for gifts while I went briefly to the Great Synagogue, the largest in Europe. About a hundred men and women, seated separately, were assembled in a hall intended to hold three thousand. Outside the synagogue three Schnorrers (beggars) were standing. Few of the people in the congregation were under sixty. At noon the Elekes and Prof. Mérei met us at the Gallért for a farewell dinner. In the late afternoon we went to the Elekes' apartment for high tea and a very relaxed conversation which included the very pleasant and ~~well~~ *well informed* ~~state~~ young professor of English and American history at the institute for English studies. In mid-evening we were picked up by a couple whom Wilma had met at the lecture on Monday. Mrs. Elekes gave Wilma a beautiful painted peasant plate as a farewell gift. Our hosts for the evening were the editor of a foreign language press, his wife a "Dozent" in pedagogy at the university and their twenty-three year old son who is working on a joint American-Hungarian movie project. There was again a very elaborate meal and we were received, as we had been on our other visits, with a cordiality as if we had been long time friends. The conversation lasted until

after midnight. We talked about a large variety of subjects. Our hosts spoke extensively about their situation as Jews, about the position of the one hundred thousand Jews still living in Hungary, and about anti-Semitism, of which they were very much aware although a large number of the positions at the academy and at the universities are occupied by Jews. The wife felt uncomfortable to ask for promotion to a professorship, although she had successfully completed the second thesis (Habilitation) required, because she felt Jews should not be in conspicuous positions. Nevertheless the position of the Jews is undoubtedly freer than it is in the majority of Eastern European countries.

Our train left the next morning shortly after 9. At a quarter to eight both the Elekes' and Prof. Mérei came to take us to the station and bid farewell. This had indeed been a memorable week, filled with experiences and marked by an incredible cordiality both on the part of the people whom we met as part of the official program as well as those whom we met unofficially.

The train approached the border. The controls appeared relaxed. Yet an official went through the train and looked with a flashlight under every seat. As we crossed the border we saw the barbed wire fence and the watchtowers.

100 Ivyhurst Road
Buffalo, NY 14226
December 9, 1979

Dear Friends:

When we wrote you last winter, the scene in front of our window was the Jewish cemetery in Bopvenden being covered by snow. A few days later we interrupted our stay in Europe to fly to the U.S. for three weeks to attend the American Historical Association meeting in San Francisco where we both gave papers, an occasion which gave us an opportunity to stop at home in Buffalo and to celebrate our thirtieth wedding anniversary in Hamilton with all our children, daughter-in-law and granddaughter, then fourteen months old, present. On the West Coast we briefly visited my sister in Los Angeles and Wilma's stepmother in Phoenix before being snowed in in Buffalo the day we were to return to Germany.

The remainder of our stay in Germany was pleasant and busy. We wrote you in our last letter about the community in Rauschenwasser near Göttingen where we lived as we had on previous stays. Göttingen in many ways has become a second home to us after our many stays there since 1961. It has been a very good place to do our scholarly work. The library is excellent. I myself was associated with the Max-Planck-Institute for History this year, a small research institute with a very active group of mostly younger scholars who form a very informal working community. There were daily opportunities to discuss my work. Wilma, too, had people to talk to, participated in a discussion group, and was invited to present her work to a meeting of the Philosophical Faculty (the faculty of arts and letters). We had opportunities to see old friends and make new ones. There are now hardly any Jews in Göttingen -- interestingly enough almost the sole exception is the mayor of Göttingen -- but there is a great deal of soul searching about the past. On several occasions we were invited to participate in well attended panels dealing with Jewish questions. On Passover we had two seders at the house; except for a British visitor, all our guests were non-Jewish. A seder is such a rare thing that the newspaper, which got wind of it, sent a reporter and a photographer and gave it an extensive write up. The discussion of the Nazi past, highlighted last year by the observances of the 40th anniversary of the Reichskristallnacht (the program of November 1938), was given new impetus by the presentation of Holocaust on German TV. There are two contrasting attitudes now that the postwar generation has grown up. There are those, particularly on the right, who argue that after forty years Germans should stop examining their past, but there is an even larger number who believe that the past must be a source for continuous examination. Despite certain authoritarian attitudes and practices which persist -- particularly in the restrictions of so-called "radicals" in public service -- democratic attitudes are probably as firmly established in West Germany as anywhere in the West.

Our travel in Europe was closely linked to our work. Lecture invitations gave us an opportunity to go to Great Britain, Italy, France and East Germany. Wilma, in search for material for her study of the Bohemian Jews, also spent two crowded weeks in Israel and ten days in Czechoslovakia. She was warmly received by friends and relatives in Czechoslovakia but found the political atmosphere more restrictive than ever and the general work climate even more demoralized than in the past.

Jeremy is still in Minneapolis. He has a teaching assistantship at the University of Minnesota but has not yet begun his dissertation, partly because the professional opportunities in philosophy are so discouraging.

Jeremy has always enjoyed writing. Last year he wrote a regular restaurant column for an entertainment weekly; now he writes more frequent articles for the Minneapolis Star on a variety of topics. The Star also subsidized his trip to Europe where he used the opportunity of accompanying us to France and meeting Wilma in Czechoslovakia to write a series of food columns and a serious, even if witty, piece on Prague.

Dan came to see us in April. He had just completed his law examinations and been admitted to the bar in Ontario. Dan went through a very difficult and painful period. Maggie had told him very suddenly in January, while he was preparing for his examinations, that she wanted to end their marriage. The announcement came to him as a surprise-- there had been apparently no serious crises or conflicts before. They had been married for over five years, over four when Sarah was born. We had no inkling of any problems when we saw them in December. In retrospect, of course, it is easy to be aware of differences in personality and interests, but these do not explain what happened. Maggie subsequently moved to Toronto with Sarah as did Dan who has in the meantime found a position in the Ontario ombudsman's office with which he is very pleased. Maggie has Sarah during the week and he over the weekend. We have seen quite a bit of Sarah since our return. Maggie met us with Sarah at the airport when we returned from Europe. Dan and Sarah have been down here every second or third weekend. Sarah is now twenty-five months old, alert, active, cheerful and very pretty.

Jonathan moved back home when we returned. He had an apartment during the year while our house was rented. Until the end of the summer he worked on a project at the local theater involving research on their contributors. He majored in history and urban studies at Camisius. At present he has a temporary job with the county Department of Social Services working with persons requiring aid with their fuel bills, an opportunity for him to have first hand contacts with urban problems. He is taking a course at night and exploring possibilities of further studies.

We are very much back in our old routine. Wilma in addition to her teaching load -- the number of foreign language students continues to decline -- advises students on graduate fellowships. The graduate enrollment in history at the university has continued to go down, not unexpectedly in view of the miserable professional prospects for our students. Several of my students, probably the last batch for a while, are completing their dissertations and will be looking for positions. In Germany we kept in close contact with my students who were there doing research as well as with a group of German students from Darmstadt who had studied in Buffalo as part of an exchange program. A few days after our return to Buffalo, our friend Irmgard, at whose house we had stayed in Bovenden, came with her niece for the first time to spend a month here. Our ties with Göttingen continue. I have been invited to spend the summer at the institute and we shall be there from June to August.

With our best wishes for a peaceful year,

Jeremy
Jonathan
Wilma