

March 12, 1979

Dear Bob,

I received your letter of February 27<sup>th</sup> yesterday. So, in the space of less than a month we managed to exchange letters. Progress!! Our post office is definitely starting to work better. Long may it live, hooray!!!

You have thanked me very sincerely many times for the book that was sent, but I swear, this is such a small thing. Most importantly, I do all this with pleasure. Familial feelings have been awakened in me for the first time in my life, and I understand how pleasant this is. It is only a pity that you did not write as to whether the book I sent you will come in handy, given that it is not on your list and I bought it, as they say, just in case.

The son of a friend gave me a wonderful gift a few days ago. He gave me P.A. Zaionchkovsky's *Правительственный аппарат самодержавной России в XIX веке (The Government Apparatus of Autocratic Russia in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century)*. I sent it to you a few days ago. But as regards the other books on your list . . . Well, the search continues . . .

And now, regarding the list of books I wrote about in my previous letter. It would be really good if you would be able to send something from it. And, of course, *only* in Russian. (It makes no sense for Russian people to read Russian authors and poets in translation.) Then I would for sure be able to exchange them for the books you need. A couple of weeks ago, someone offered an eighth edition of Klyuchevsky, but not for cash – only in exchange for some of the books on the list I sent you.

Well, the business part of my letter is finished.

I am very glad that you decided to write to me in Russian. I really do not want to find a translator every time. Because of that, I did not answer Barbara and Dorothy. If you get a chance, explain this to them and apologize on my behalf. I only answer Sylvia regularly in English. But she and I are personally acquainted, and I have special feelings for her. On February 15<sup>th</sup>, along with the letter and book to you, I sent Sylvia a letter and package. But I have not heard an answer from her yet.

Victor and I found a map of the city to which your parents moved. It is a little to the north of Miami on the Atlantic Ocean. Is this true? I am glad that you liked it there and that you rested well and basked in the sun. I also really love to vacation by the sea, but for several years now, I cannot let myself do this because of how badly I tolerate the heat.

How are things with your work? Is everything as it was before or has something managed to change?

Write. Victor sends warm regards. Give our best to Richard and his family.

I kiss you. Sara.