

AR 4037

1/24

CORRESPONDENCE - KAREN MAYER 1972-1985

A 25/3

FEB. 10, 1983

DEAR HANNI,

THE DAY BEFORE YOUR LETTER ARRIVED WE HAD BEEN DISCUSSING YOU. HOW GOOD OF YOU TO WRITE AGAIN.

WE ARE ALL WELL AND SHOULD BE LIVING HERE ANOTHER TWO YEARS.

DAVID IS MAKING PREPARATIONS TO ENTER MEDICAL SCHOOL, FINISHING A FEW FINAL COURSES. HE HAS BEEN AN INTENSIVE CARE NURSE AT EMORY UNIVERSITY FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS BUT FINDS HE CAN'T DENY WANTING TO BECOME A DOCTOR ANY LONGER.

I AM STILL PAINTING AND I AM ALSO RETURNING TO SCHOOL THIS SPRING.

DAVID'S MOTHER HAS BEEN LIVING IN THE RURAL NORTH GEORGIA MOUNTAINS FOR THREE YEARS. SHE HAS A STATE GRANT TO WORK AS A NURSE WITH ALCOHOLICS. SHE IS VERY CONTENT BUT STILL NOT RE-MARRIED.

IF POSSIBLE WILL YOU LET US KNOW HOW TO OBTAIN THE ENTIRE FAMILY HISTORY? KARIN HAD ALSO EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN A REVISED ADDITION.

OUR COPY MADE THE ROUNDS  
OF THE FAMILY AND STILL  
HAS NOT RETURNED, SO THERE IS  
ALOT OF INTEREST.

WE REALLY WERE PLEASED TO  
HEAR FROM YOU AND LOOK  
FORWARD TO FUTURE LETTERS.

MAY THIS LETTER FIND  
YOU WELL,  
Roux

KARIN MAYER  
16266 BARNSTON  
GRANADA, CALIFORNIA  
91344

CLAIRE - STILL IN NEW YORK. NO NEW NOVELS YET.

ERNIE - RETIRED AND MOVED TO FLORIDA IN OCT.

JEAN - STILL WRITING FOR SIEMENS-ALLIS. PLANNING HIS  
FIRST TRIP BACK TO GERMANY

KAROL - STILL SINGLE WITH ONE CHILD. SHE IS  
PLANNING TO ATTEND NURSING SCHOOL SOON.

RON - STILL SINGLE. MUSICIAN IN VANCOUVER.

DEBORAH - SINGLE. WORKING IN A HOTEL IN VANCOUVER.

PATRICIA - DIVORCING ED PETERSON. ONE SON  
TEDDY. STILL IN VANCOUVER.

MARTIN - STILL TWO SONS. MOVING FROM  
COLORADO TO LOS ANGELES.

KARIN - RE-MARRIED LAST YEAR TO AN ENGLISHMAN.  
LIVING IN <sup>GRANADA</sup> ~~VAN NUYS~~ CALIFORNIA. JUST TWO  
CHILDREN. SHE IS WRITING AND PRODUCING  
RADIO SHOWS IN LOS ANGELES. HER HUSBAND  
IS A RECORDING ENGINEER.

WE HAVE NO NEW CHILDREN.

Dear Maury,

Thank you so much  
for a wonderful time. I en-  
joyed the lunch and the  
sight seeing very much. I  
found you to be a very  
kind and wonderful person.  
You were the highlight of  
England. I have read and  
looked at the family tree.  
Your work is remarkable  
and I appreciate it and  
thank you.

Yours Truly,

~~Siconie~~ Steaver

*Karen Shearer  
neé Mayer*

KAREN MARIE SHEARER  
*neé MARTIN*  
3358 Floyd Terrace  
Los Angeles, California 90068  
USA  
27 November 1972

Dear Hanni,

I am sorry that I have been unable to answer your request for information before this; unfortunately, I have been terribly busy with my work, and there has also been a great deal of illness in my family. Both my mother and her brother have been in hospitals in critical condition for some weeks now; my mother is expected to recover, my uncle's future is still sadly uncertain.

At the moment, I am waiting to place a call to my father for some of the details you require. Meanwhile, I will answer those questions that I am myself familiar with:

1. Karen Marie Shearer, neé Martin, born November 30, 1947, in San Diego, California. I have a provisional teaching credential from the State of California (I believe it is now expired) and a credential from the University of London extension in teaching English as a foreign language; I do not have my B.A. or any advanced degrees, since I left college shortly before graduating to live in England. ✓
2. My mother, Janet Ruth Allen Martin, was born in Washington, D.C., on October 29, 1921, and resides now in San Diego. ✓
3. My husband, Benjamin Booth Shearer, Jr., was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on May 1, 1940. He is an attorney (or will be as of February, 1973, assuming he passes his BAR examination) and holds an LLB degree from the University of San Fernando College of Law, Los Angeles. ✓
4. Our daughter is Sidonie Gabrielle Shearer, born December 17, 1970, in Los Angeles. Our second child is expected at the end of February; if it is a girl, she will be named after Aunt Else. ✓  
*my last entry* ✓ JOEL JACOB SHEARER, born TUESDAY, MARCH 20<sup>th</sup>, 1973 in LOS ANGELES.
5. My grandmother, Frieda Henrietta Hirschberg, died in Toronto on March 21, 1964. ✓
6. Martin Hirschberg died in San Antonio, Texas, on March 17, 1950. ✓
7. Now, I have the information you need from my father. Mildred Taylor was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on July 10, 1927.
8. David Andre was born in Deols, France, on December 23, 1953; Karol Lynn was born in San Francisco, California, on December 13, 1954.

I hope that this answers your questions satisfactorily. I would be most interested in having a copy of the family tree when you are finished--I had attempted, when I was still living in England, to compile one myself, but the task proved too monumental and I did not have access to any of the necessary records.

Incidentally, my profession is that of writer; I am presently employed by Universal Studios in Hollywood, California.

Thank you very much for your interest.

Sincerely,

*Faren Plaxton*

KAREN SHEARER  
now Karen Mayer

2021 Holly Hill Terrace  
Los Angeles, Calif: 90068

4 May ~~1972~~ 1973

Dear Hanni,

At last I have a chance to write you a real letter, and I must begin by apologizing for not acknowledging receipt of the family tree immediately upon receiving it--it arrived nearly a week ago, and I have been so terribly busy I've not had time to thank you for it. There was a delay in the delivery because we moved several days after the baby was born, and our mail has just now begun to catch up with us; your subsequent letter, however, came on time because our former landlords simply called me and I went and picked it up. The family tree, however, was left to the mercies of the postal system--hence the delay.

I cannot begin to tell you how impressed I am by the laborious research you have put into the family document, nor can I thank you enough for having sent me a copy. Since Else's death, I have had little contact with my father's family, and no way to collect this sort of information myself--and, sadly, I always postponed getting details from Else until it was too late. Thanks to you, I now have something very important to give my children. Some years ago, father had begun to give me some information, but interest and contact waned and the job was very incomplete. I am photocopying the family tree for one other person whom I know will be equally pleased to have it--Claire's son Martin. Although he lives now in Washington D.C., we manage to stay in fairly close contact by telephone, and he is currently attempting to put together a family photo album--we're busy exchanging information and old pictures and any scraps of information we've gathered. By definition, however, we'll not be able to accomplish half of what you'll achieve with your album--perhaps that, too, could be photocopied if we could all share in the expense. Meanwhile, I will also send Martin your address; perhaps he will wish to write you himself.

Claire very kindly sent a gift for Joel after receiving our announcement; however, she did not enclose any letter and I do not know if she received her copy. We're not much on letters, I'm afraid; aside from my thank you, I'll probably not be in touch with her again until next Christmas. When I next talk to Marty, however, I'll ask if he knows anything and, in this round-about way, try to let you know if her family tree arrived safely. As for Ernst, I've not seen or heard from him since '66 when we met briefly with Else in London.




I am enclosing a few pictures that I have readily available--we are still in the midst of unpacking from our move, and I'm not at all sure where everything is. These might give you something to choose from, however, and when I've taken a picture of Joel and Sido, I'll send that along--it's a whole new generation. I don't have many other pictures of father, none of Millie; the wedding picture of me with both my parents is a rarity, so it's a pity it's not clearer. Somewhere, I've some pictures of Marty with his wife; also early pictures of Claire, father, and Ernst--these I will have to have photocopied. There are not many pictures of Vati and Mutti, but I believe Marty included one or two in his last letter; again, I'll have them photocopied as soon as I have a little time. Else had a very complete photo collection; you might write Claire and see if she has it, I believe she took it to New York after Else's death.

Although we've been so busy with the move and working (currently, I start at 7:00 a.m. and rarely get home before 7:00 at night, except to come to feed the baby and love him a bit during my breaks) that I've not really had time to enjoy him fully, Joel is a lovely child--placid and undemanding, but very alert and responsive. Sido helps me greatly with him; fortunately, she's as pleased as we are to have another child in the house. The house, too, is a great problem--we bought a very old home, and are now in the process of restoring it. It will be a long and agonizing process, I'm sure; the effort and the expense are all so much more than we anticipated.

Again, many many thanks for the family tree. I would, of course, appreciate receiving a copy of any further research you do, and I'll try to collect whatever pictures I can find and send them to you. Your contribution to the Jaffé family and the various descendants is certainly a generous one.

Very best regards,



P.S. Mother is doing quite well, thank you. When I next see her, I'll show her your work; perhaps she can help me start some sort of document for her side of the family.

Karen Shearst  
now Mayst

2 February 1973

Dear Hanni,

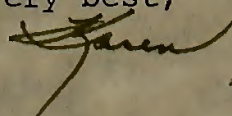
Please forgive the brevity of this reply, but I just returned from a business trip to find your letter, and I want to answer your question about Ben's degree as quickly as possible.

The information you have already put for him is correct; in California, passing the bar examination simply qualifies him to practice law within the state--it does not mean a further degree. So, unless he returns to work on a Master's, which is very unlikely at this point, he will remain "LLB University of San Fernando Valley College of Law."

My cousin Martin--Claire Taschdjian's son--called me from Washington recently and I told him about your efforts to compile a complete family history. He is very excited at the prospect, since it is something we have both talked about for several years. At present, we are trying to gather all possible family photographs into some sort of a coherent album, a venture I started when my daughter was born. I can think of no better gift for my children than the family history augmented by whatever pictures are still available.

Again, forgive this abrupt letter, but I will attempt to write more completely after the baby arrives (about three and a half weeks now) and things settle down. Meanwhile, if there is anything else I can tell you, please let me know.

Very best,

 Shearst  
via Martin



Dear Hanni,

Thank you, again, for the family tree that you devoted so much effort to completing. I have made copies for both my children; this year, you gave both Joel and Aida a truly priceless gift.

Respectfully,  
Karen Shearer  
KAREN SHEARER  
DEC. 1973.

May Joy and  
Peace be yours  
throughout the  
New Year

J.E. Jaffé

As no reply written again  
on 19.1.1976

38, Atherton Close  
Shurdingtoe  
Cheltenham/Glos.  
GL 51 5 SB  
England  
12.11.75.

Dear Karen, (Sister-in-law Martin)

We have not been in touch for a very long time and I never thanked you for the family snapshots you sent me and the beautiful New Year Card at the end of 1973. I hope that you and your family are all well and happy. Any new dates for me to add to my records? Births? Marriages? Deaths? My question applies above all to your wider family circle, uncles, aunts, cousins, etc. in U.S.A. and Canada with whom I have no contact.

But this is not the reason why I am writing to you to-day. I have been in poor health for the last two years and I notice a decline in my physical as well as mental capacities. I had to slow down quite a bit lately and I am getting worried to whom I could leave my work on the Jaffé family tree. It would be a pity if my research work was destroyed or lost after my death, instead of being kept safely and hopefully continued, provided someone really interested turned up. Who knows, there may emerge a new generation who will appreciate again family life and history. Now the point is that of all the favourable reactions I had from people to whom I sent my family tree in 1973 yours seemed to me the most positive and genuinely interested. Mind you I talk of the younger generation, there are a number of cousins in their sixties or seventies or even eighties who would be interested, but it would be of no use handing my work over to them, as their span of life is also limited. Apart from you, I had an encouraging response from a young descendant Jonathan Oppenheimer living with his young wife and baby in Haifa, Israel. He is a lecturer at Haifa University (anthropologist) and as such naturally interested in family history. I do not know him personally. But then I do not know you personally either, nor your cousin Martin T. of whom you always say that he wants to know more about his family.

You will be pleased to hear that I completed another family tree recently, on quite different lines than the first one in which my main aim had been to bring home to future generations the effect of the Nazi regime in Germany on our family. To achieve this I had to find and contact all the living descendants of the family, dispersed through Nazi persecution all over the world. In my new family tree I probe into the past, writing down everything that is known to me after years of research. It is, I am afraid, very little, and the origin of our Jaffé branch is still shrouded in mystery, but I feel that the little I was able to find out ought to be preserved, in case someone wanted to carry on.

Would you like me to send you my new family tree? I am not going to send it to all the descendants as I did the ~~XXXX~~ one before. It comprises about 80 pages. I also would like to send a photocopy to the Leo Baeck Institute in New York for keeps. They accepted a copy of the first one. What worries me is that my material, my notes, etc. also ought to be kept, because they would make the task of a future researcher easier. There are still major problems, concerning the early ancestors, I have not yet succeeded in solving, for instance the link between our family Jaffé and the

one whose ancestor was the famous Mordechai Jaffe, called "Lewush" after his work. There are thousands and

thousands Jaffes in the world, and nobody has yet succeeded to find an answer to all the open questions. I wonder whether you have access to the Jewish E. in Los Angeles, then you will see what I mean.

I am afraid that the days of further research are over as far as I myself am concerned and I should concentrate from now on to putting my house in order. This is my first attempt. My nephew and sole heir Frank K. Tittel in Houston, Texas, is very far away, nor has he shown any interest in the family history so far. He has two young sons.

Please let me know whether you want a copy of my my latest family tree and whether you have any ~~XXX~~ helpful suggestions. I am also going to write to the boy in Haifa.

with best wishes to you and your husband

Yours sincerely,

J.E.Jaffé  
38, Atherton Close  
Shurdington  
Cheltenham GL 51 5 SB  
England

Mrs. Karen Shearer

2021 Holly Hill Terrace

Los Angeles

*Karen Shearer  
now remarried Mayer*

6219 Costello Avenue  
Van Nuys, Calif. 91401  
U.S.A.

25 April 1977

Dear Hanni,

I am so sorry that you have been unable to reach me during the past year, but Claire was kind enough to forward your letter and I will attempt to make amends for the long silence.

Unfortunately, Benjamin and I were divorced in early 1974, and he has since remarried and moved out of state. The children reside with me and are doing splendidly, but at high cost--their father removed them from my custody and disappeared for several months last year, and I have spent all of my time and energy since April 1976 in locating and finally retrieving them. After a prolonged bout of courts, attorneys, detectives, and law enforcement officials, we are enjoying some hard-earned tranquility as a loving family unit, but both the children and I have endured tremendous emotional upheaval, and the expense has been financially devastating. My efforts now are concentrated on creating a stable, loving environment for Joel and Sido, who fortunately have the resilience of youth and do not seem to be suffering any long-term effects from the struggle, and I hope that eventually I can also reconstruct an adequate financial base for us. Meanwhile we are, thank God, united, although there is the constant threat of additional conflicts with their father. An unfortunate marriage and a disastrous divorce, but I trust that we can now proceed with our lives.

On a happier note, I am enclosing recent school pictures of Joel and Sido, and please keep whatever photographs I have sent in the past. Joel, at barely four years, is nearly as big as his sister and is a lively, loving, healthy child. Sido, of course, is more aware of what has happened with her father and has comprehended more than I would have wished, but she is a sturdy child and, hopefully, will be a stronger person for the experience. She suffers from asthma, inherited from both sides of the family, and is prone to constant infections; although somewhat more fragile than her brother, she is equally loving and active, and she has shown a distinct

PAGEASE BOND

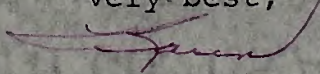
talent for drawing and music. I have managed to keep them in an excellent private school at the sacrifice of less important material comforts, and they are already learning Spanish and math, in addition to reading well beyond their age level. In short, I am a proud mother of two distinctly normal children!

In order to spend more time with Joel and Sido, I am working at a multitude of odd jobs, primarily in entertainment and music, rather than taking a position that would require extensive travel and time away from home. I am writing constantly and with a bit of luck, perhaps I can eventually support us on the basis of my writing rather than on corporate employment--as a single parent, I have had to determine my priorities, and a successful career is far less important than the welfare of the children. Thus it has been, in every sense, a year of cataclysmic change; prior to the disappearance of the kids, I was the general manager of a small record company and had achieved a relative degree of recognition in my profession.

As you may know, my brother David--Hans' son--is married and expecting his first child. I do not even know his wife's name, unfortunately, but my father says she is a delightful woman and they are both very happy. Martin Taschdjian, ever my favorite cousin, should have his PhD. shortly, and he and Carol have two sons--Joel and Sido have relinquished their exclusive claim to the next generation. My mother continues to teach in San Diego, and her mother, who is rapidly approaching 90, exhibits a lively interest in her great-grandchildren; I only wish that more of my family were accessible. Other than that, there seems to be no news of particular interest that you would not already know.

Again, please forgive my neglect, and I will make a conscientious effort to stay in touch. I appreciate your concern so much, and I would very much like to know what you are currently doing, if and when you care to write. I promise to let you know, at least, where I am--I would like to think we have settled, for a while, at least, in one place.

Very best,





J.E.Jaffé

20 February 1983.  
Shurdington  
Cheltenham/Glos.  
GL 51 5 SB  
England

Mrs. Roger Mayer  
16266 Barneston St.  
Grenada Hills  
California 91344  
U. S. A.

Dear Karen,

the above address was given to me by your aunt Claire in a letter I received yesterday and I hope it is the right one. I sent you some papers in 1980 to your previous address (Van Nuys), but they were returned to me with the comment "moved, address unknown".

I am just revising the family tree and beg you to let me have the few details I need by return of post.

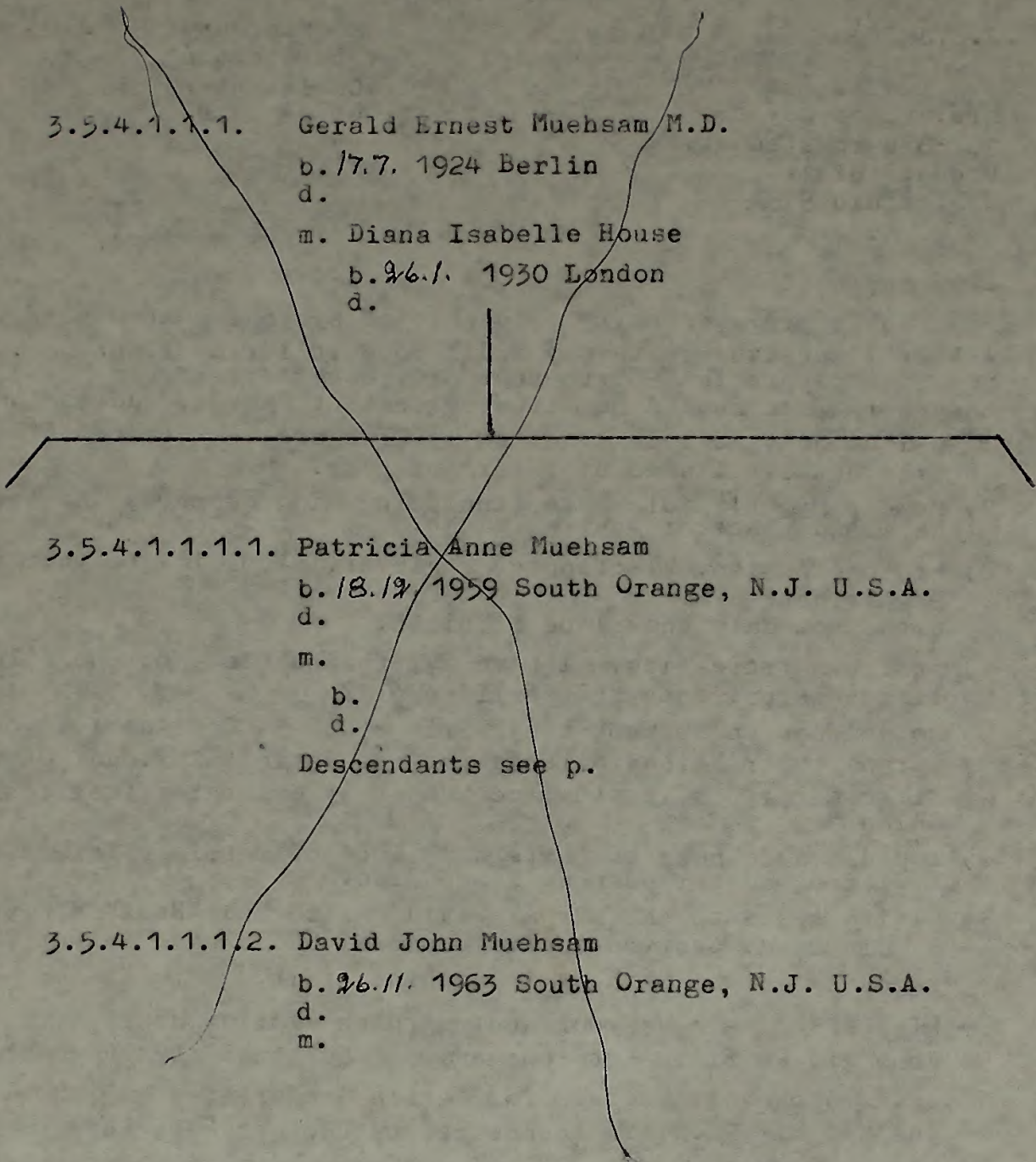
- 1) Roger Mayer's full name (including middlename(s) and the exact date and place of your marriage.
- 2) his profession. Electronics engineer, according to your aunt. She is not sure.
- 3) His exact date and place of birth.
- 4) Your own profession. I have "writer" behind your name in an earlier version. Does that still apply?
- 5) Do you happen to know the marriage date and place for your grandmother Frieda Hirschberg, née Jaffé to Dr.med. Martin Hirschberg? Can you tell me when they emigrated from Berlin to China?
- 6) I would also need the date and place of marriage for your aunt Claire and her husband Taschdjian.
- 7) Claire seems to think that David Martin and "Roux" are separated or divorced. Can you confirm this. I had a nice letter from "Roux" recently in which there is no hint of it.
- 8) Please let me have your uncle Ernie's Florida address.
- 9) When did Patricia Peterson and her husband get divorced?
- 10) Please the new address for Martin Gregory Taschdjian. I know he had his Ph.D. in Economics, but do not know what he is doing now and where.

*11) When did Ronald divorce his wife? 1978?*  
I think that is all. I am happy to hear that you re-married,

but wish you had contacted me before. Have you your children with you? Do not bother to write a long letter, just answer these questions and send the answers to me as soon as possible so that I can include them in the new edition. A more detailed one than the one you have. I have done a good deal of research in the meantime and completed the family tree of another family Jaffe, distantly related to ours. I am in my 84th year by now, so please hurry up.  
With every good wish and kindest regards,

Yours

Excuse bad typing. My eyesight is failing.



KAREN MAYER  
DIVORCED SHEARER  
née MARTIN

I send her  
an airmail  
on 9 May 1983  
x. airmail whether  
she wants a copy  
of 1983 edition

16266 BARNESTON STREET  
GRANADA HILLS, CALIF. 91344  
U.S.A.

25 FEBRUARY 1983

DEAR AUNT HANNI,

I RECEIVED YOUR LETTER TODAY WITH MUCH PLEASURE AND THANK YOU IMMENSELY FOR TAKING THE TIME TO FIND ME. YOUR PATIENT AND DEDICATED RESEARCH IS MUCH APPRECIATED BY EVERYONE, BUT I'M AFRAID I HAVE FAILED TO PROVIDE YOU WITH EITHER THE INFORMATION YOU NEED OR THE GRATITUDE YOU DESERVE. HEREWITH MY ATTEMPTS TO MAKE AMENDS, BEGINNING WITH THOSE QUESTIONS WHICH I CAN ANSWER IMMEDIATELY.

1. ROGER HAROLD MAYER AND I WERE MARRIED IN LOS ANGELES ON 15 NOVEMBER 1980. BORN ON 22 NOVEMBER 1946 AT THE HOME OF HIS AUNT IN HEADINGTON, OXFORDSHIRE, ROGER WAS RAISED IN LONDON AND EDUCATED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON, FROM WHICH HE RECEIVED A B.S. IN ELECTRONICS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN 1968. ALTHOUGH QUALIFIED AS AN ELECTRONICS ENGINEER, HE HAS SPENT THE BETTER PART OF HIS PROFESSIONAL CAREER AS AN AUDIO RECORDING ENGINEER, AND MOST OF HIS RECENT WORK IS IN THE FIELD OF CLASSICAL RECORDING. HE EMIGRATED TO THE UNITED STATES IN 1974 BUT RETAINS HIS BRITISH CITIZENSHIP, AND HIS PARENTS STILL RESIDE IN FINCHLEY, LONDON.
2. THERE'S ANOTHER ADDITION TO THE FAMILY OF WHICH YOU MAY BE UNAWARE (ALTHOUGH I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER YOU CHOOSE TO INCLUDE STEPCHILDREN IN THE FAMILY HISTORY): ROGER'S DAUGHTER, LINDSEY CAROL MAYER, BORN IN LOS ANGELES ON 30 JUNE 1978, ALSO RESIDES WITH US.
3. I AM STILL A WRITER BY PROFESSION, ALTHOUGH I HAVE EXPANDED THAT DEFINITION OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS BY BECOMING A PRODUCER (AS WELL AS A WRITER) OF RADIO SHOWS FOR AMERICAN SYNDICATION. I CURRENTLY HAVE THREE PROGRAMS ON THE AIR, TWO OF WHICH ARE CONCERNED WITH ROCK MUSIC HISTORY. THE THIRD IS A FEATURE ON THE HISTORY OF BLACK AMERICANS, AND I AM ALSO INVOLVED IN

RESEARCHING THE LIFE OF AN AMERICAN INDIAN WOMAN FOR A BOOK WHICH I HOPE TO BEGIN WRITING IN 1984.

4. AFTER A TEMPORARY SEPARATION, DAVID AND ROUX MARTIN ARE RECONCILED. DAVID CONTINUES TO WORK AS A REGISTERED NURSE AT EMORY HOSPITAL IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA, BUT HE HOPES TO EVENTUALLY ENROLL AT A MEDICAL SCHOOL IN ARIZONA AND PURSUE HIS MEDICAL DEGREE.
  
6. MARTIN TASCHDJIAN HAS BEEN LIVING IN COLORADO FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS. HE RECENTLY LEFT GOVERNMENT SERVICE AND IS HOPING TO ESTABLISH HIS OWN COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANCY FIRM IN THE BOULDER AREA, AND HIS WIFE CAROLYN IS STUDYING FOR HER COLORADO TEACHER'S CREDENTIAL. THEIR ADDRESS IS 5578 BOWRON PLACE, LONGMONT, COLORADO 80501.

UNFORTUNATELY, I DO NOT HAVE THE ANSWERS TO YOUR OTHER QUESTIONS, BUT I AM SURE THAT MY FATHER WILL BE ABLE TO TELL ME EVERYTHING YOU WISH TO KNOW. I'VE ATTEMPTED TO RING HIM BUT HAVE RECEIVED NO ANSWER, SO I AM GOING TO POST THIS LETTER TO YOU IMMEDIATELY AND THEN CONTINUE TO TRY AND CONTACT MY FATHER. AS SOON AS I'VE REACHED HIM, I WILL SEND ALONG THE REST OF THE DATA YOU'VE REQUESTED. GIVEN THE URGENCY OF YOUR OWN LETTER -- AND MY OWN INEXCUSABLE SILENCE OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS -- I DO NOT WANT TO MISS TODAY'S POST.

AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR YOUR PERSERVERENCE AND DEDICATION. MY CHILDREN AND I HAVE SPENT MANY FASCINATING HOURS WITH THE FIRST FAMILY TREE YOU COMPILED, AND WE AWAIT THE RESULT OF YOUR CURRENT ENDEAVORS WITH MUCH INTEREST.

THERE IS ONE THING I WOULD LIKE TO ASK, AND I HOPE YOU DON'T THINK ME TACTLESS. I'M SURE THERE'S A SUBSTANTIAL EXPENSE INVOLVED IN YOUR WORK, AND I FEEL THAT THOSE OF US WHO BENEFIT FROM IT SHOULD MAKE SOME CONTRIBUTION, HOWEVER SMALL. IF YOU DON'T MIND, I SHOULD LIKE TO ENCLOSE A MONEY ORDER FOR A FEW POUNDS IN MY NEXT LETTER TO BE USED IN WHATEVER MANNER IS MOST BENEFICIAL, IF THAT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOU? PLEASE REPLY ONLY IF YOU HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO SUCH A GESTURE. I'LL WRITE AGAIN WHEN I'VE HEARD FROM MY FATHER.

MOST GRATEFULLY,

*Garrett M. Mayer*

16266 BARNESTON ST,  
GRANADA HILLS, CALIF. 91344  
USA

16 AUGUST 1983

DEAR HANNI,

AFTER A SPLENDID TOUR OF THE SOUTH OF FRANCE AND THE NORTH OF ITALY, WE'VE RETURNED TO THE REALITY OF DAILY LIFE IN LOS ANGELES, BUT I DON'T THINK ANY OF US WILL EVER FORGET OUR TRIP, AND I TRULY BELIEVE THE CHILDREN BENEFITTED IMMENSELY FROM LEARNING THAT THERE ARE OTHER PEOPLE, OTHER PLACES, OTHER WAYS OF LIFE IN THE WORLD. AND I KNOW THAT WE ALL BENEFITTED GREATLY FROM MEETING YOU -- OF ALL OUR LOVELY MOMENTS, THE SHORT TIME WE SPENT IN YOUR TREASURED COTSWALDS WAS THE LOVELIEST, AND WE'RE ALREADY PLOTTING OUR RETURN SOMETIME NEXT YEAR. ROGER AND I WOULD LIKE NOTHING BETTER THAN TO SPEND A WEEK AT THE PAINSWICK HOTEL, EXPLORING THE COUNTRYSIDE WITH -- WE HOPE -- YOU AS OUR GUIDE. MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT WE HAD SO LITTLE TIME WITH YOU, BUT PERHAPS IT WAS ENOUGH FOR A FIRST MEETING -- WE DON'T WANT TO IMPOSE OURSELVES, EITHER.

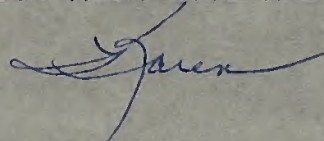
I HAVE, AS PROMISED, CALLED ROUX AND DAVID AND TOLD THEM ABOUT OUR MEETING AND THE FAMILY HISTORY, AND I SHOULD BE ABLE TO FORWARD THEM A COPY THIS WEEK. I'M SURE THAT ROUX WILL WRITE YOU AS SOON AS SHE RECEIVES IT, AND MEANWHILE THEY SEND THEIR VERY BEST REGARDS. I'VE NOT BEEN ABLE TO REACH MARTY AND CAROLYN TASCHDJIAN YET, BUT WE TRY TO SEE EACH OTHER AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR, NO MATTER HOW SEPARATED WE ARE BY SCHEDULES AND GEOGRAPHY. SO, WITH A BIT OF LUCK, MARTY AND I CAN GO OVER IT ALL IN PERSON, DIGGING OUT THE PICTURES TO GO WITH THE NAMES AND DATES. AND THERE IS, OF COURSE, A NEW PHOTOGRAPH IN THE GALLERY -- THE SNAP YOU GAVE ME OF ELSE AND MUTTI NOW LIVES IN A SMALL SILVER FRAME, MY ONLY EXTRAVAGANCE IN FLORENCE, AND I CAN LOOK UP AND SEE IT WHILE I'M WORKING. VERY COMFORTING, THAT.

IT APPEARS THAT THERE'S ANOTHER REUNION IN THE MAKING, SINCE MY FATHER RANG US LAST NIGHT AND SAID HE HOPED TO BE IN CALIFORNIA THIS WEEKEND. I'M SURE THAT HE, TOO, CAN FLESH OUT THE PEOPLE ON THE PAPER, BUT I ADMIT TO BEING A BIT LEERY OF HIS INFORMATION -- HE'S AN EXCELLENT RACONTEUR, BUT I SUSPECT HE OCCASIONALLY SUBSTITUTES A BIT OF FICTION FOR THE FACTS, ALL IN THE NAME OF A GOOD STORY. WE SHALL SEE.

WE KNOW THAT YOUR WORK MAKES FOR A HEAVY CORRESPONDENCE, AND WE CERTAINLY DON'T WANT TO PRESUME ON YOUR TIME, BUT IF YOU COULD OCCASIONALLY DROP US A CARD, JUST TO LET US KNOW HOW YOU'RE DOING, WE'D BE VERY GRATEFUL. AS YOU ALREADY KNOW, I'M A TERRIBLE CORRESPONDENT, AND ROGER IS EVEN WORSE, SO YOU CERTAINLY WON'T BE BOTHERED BY TOO MUCH TRIVIA FROM US, BUT WE ALL FEEL VERY STRONGLY THAT WE MUSN'T LOSE THE CONTACT WE'VE MADE WITH YOU, NOW THAT WE'VE BEEN FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO ESTABLISH IT. I SHAN'T WAX MAUDLIN, DEAR HANNI, BUT MEETING YOU -- AND BEING ABLE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO MY CHILDREN -- MEANT MORE TO ME THAN YOU WILL EVER KNOW. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, YOUR HOSPITALITY, AND ALL YOUR YEARS OF EFFORT -- WE'RE ALL BENEFITTING FROM THE HISTORY, AND JOEL AND SIDO TALK ABOUT HOW THEY'LL BE ABLE TO EVENTUALLY ADD TO IT WITH THEIR OWN FAMILIES.

OH, YES, A FINAL NOTE -- OUR FRIEND FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA WILL BE ROUND NEXT WEEK, AND I'LL ASK HIM THEN ABOUT THE BEST WAY TO PRESERVE THE RESEARCH THAT WENT INTO THE HISTORY. HE PROBABLY CAN'T ADD ANYTHING TO WHAT YOU'VE ALREADY LEARNED FROM YOUR OWN ARCHIVISTS IN ENGLAND, BUT IT'S CERTAINLY WORTH A TRY.

WITH MUCH LOVE AND MANY FOND THOUGHTS,



To Karen Meyer  
J.K. Jaffe  
June 1988.

38 Atherton Close,  
38 Buntington  
Cheltenham, Glos.  
GL51 5AB

Mrs. Karen Meyer,  
16266 Bumpston St.,  
Grenada Hills,  
California 91344  
U.S.A.

Dear Karen,

We haven't been in touch for a very long time.  
Many thanks for your last letter. I wonder what  
your plans for the summer of 1988 are? When you were  
here last year you talked of coming to England and  
the Cotswolds again. That would be very nice.

In the meantime a series of ten articles was  
published in Luchau, and as I lived in Luchau for a  
number of years I am, so to speak "the star of the  
show". At first I meant to send you the series, but  
on second thoughts it occurred to me that you might  
not be able to read German. Please let me know, then  
I will send it to you, otherwise you will have to wait  
until I have translated the ten newspaper articles. I  
think they would interest you, and you might even be  
able to use them in your work in Los Angeles.

I am fairly well - one can't expect too much at  
my age! It would be nice to hear from you, it needs't  
be a long letter, I know you are very busy. Just drop  
me a line.

With love for all of you.

Yours

They ring me up! From  
California

J.E. Jaffé

Mr. Karen MAYER  
16266 BARNESTON STR.  
CANADA HILLS  
CALIF. 91344

38 Atherton Close,  
Shurdington,  
Cheltenham, Glos.  
England. GL51 5SB

11th June, 1984

Dear Karen,

It was a great thrill to hear your voice, and that of other members of your family, over the phone the day before yesterday. I didn't believe my ears when you told me that you were ringing up from California.

I rang up the owner of Painswick Hotel, Mrs. Hill, on Sunday morning and gave her your address. She promised to send the brochure and other details to you straightaway. So with luck you should have it by the end of this week. However, to make quite sure, here is the full address and telephone number:

The Painswick Hotel,  
Kemps Lane,  
Painswick,  
Gloucestershire,  
England

Tel: Painswick (0452) 812160

The owner, Mrs. Hill, knows me quite well. I expect you will have to book soon for the time you mentioned over the phone, because it is the height of the season. But please, please, Karen, do not do it for my sake, rather for Roger's parents' sake. I feel very inadequate these days, especially as my eyesight is deteriorating rapidly.

This is just a hurried line to tell you that I did what I promised to do.

All the very best to all of you, from your old

P.S. Please remember me to Sidy and Coel, particularly. I think it is marvellous that they remember the afternoon at Painswick and myself so well.



16266 Barneston Street  
Granada Hills, Calif. 91344

3 August 1984

Dear Hanni,

Please, please excuse me for not writing to let you know of our plans. The trouble is, we really haven't been able to make any plans, but I kept hoping that things would change and that I could ultimately give you good news rather than bad.

As it is, there really is no news, even though it's been nearly two months since we spoke to you. At the time, I was all set to leave for England at the end of July (and thank you, we received the information from the Painswick Hotel), but we've had so many problems since then -- with the childrens' health, with our jobs, and with some unexpected and rather major expenses -- that we've simply been unable to make a commitment for dinner, let alone for a trip abroad. It's all rather frustrating, but it still isn't any excuse for not writing you long before this.

Meanwhile, as I waiver between leaving on the next plane to London and not leaving at all, the fares are dropping dramatically, and that solves one problem, at least. There is now an excellent standby-by fare available on Pan Am though 31 October, but again, I don't know whether I'll be able to take advantage of it. Failing that, TWA is offering a special Christmas rate, but I can't even think that far ahead at this point.

This does sound so dreary and indefinite, but there is a bright spot in all this. I'm being considered as a writer on a television show that is due to start airing in November, which is one of the reasons I've been unable to leave Los Angeles for even a weekend. It's been three months since my first interview, but apparently the people in charge are still very interested in my work, and the interminable delay is due to unrelated problems with the sponsors and the network. If indeed I get the show, which is supposed to be a rather superficial history of rock music on film, I'll have a chance to do other television programs with the same company, so we're hoping that it all works out. Eventually.

Are you continuing with your research into the unrelated branch of the Jaffes, and how is it progressing? And has the name of the late Sam Jaffe, a German (Prussian) emigre who made a name for himself as one of Hollywood's finest character actors, appeared anywhere in your work? I ask because he bore such a strong physical resemblance to T.T., and I always wondered if perhaps there wasn't some long-lost, remote family connection -- idle speculation, of course, but interesting. His biography appears in several books on film if you would care to have me send you any information.

In answer to your own question of so many months ago (again, my apologies!), no, I neither speak nor read German, which was a source of great disappointment to T.T. I am relatively conversant in French and Spanish -- although my grammar is somewhat haphazard -- but German unfortunately eludes me.

It's a shame that I was unable to meet your nephew, but I hope that you had a good visit and that both the weather and your health allowed you to take some small excursions. Perhaps we will be able to meet him in the States, instead -- does he ever have occasion to come to Los Angeles? Roger occasionally travels to Houston for recording sessions, but I've not been there for years.

Los Angeles is mid-way through the mania of the Olympics, and even though I am not a sports enthusiast and had actually quite dreaded the predicted chaos of the games, it's been rather thrilling to watch some of the events on television. And the city itself, sprawling and disjointed and disconnected as it usually is, seems to have come together, however briefly, in a rather wonderful spirit of hospitality and enthusiasm and general bonhomie. Would that it could last beyond the Olympics!

It was a joy to talk to you again, Hanni, even briefly, and even at such a frustratingly great distance. And I'm so glad that my father was here -- he speaks so often of his childhood and his family, and yet he's really had no contact with anyone from the past for more than thirty years now. He's resolved to go back to Berlin next year, health and finances permitting, but I'm afraid he will find it changed beyond all recognition. Better, perhaps, that he should search for people rather than places.

At any rate, our thoughts and prayers are constantly with you, despite our rude silence. I dare not make any great promises about seeing you within the next few months, but I can promise I'll try -- I'd like nothing better than to lunch with you at the Painswick and see the Cotswolds through your eyes, not just for an afternoon but for as long as your time and energy permit.

With much love from all of us,

*Jaren*

16266 Barneston Street  
Granada Hills, Calif. 91344

19 January 1985

*replied  
on 3/1/85  
and enclosed  
copy of letter to Dr. Milton*

Dear Hanni,

Please accept, once again, my apologies for not having written you sooner. There is no excuse for my rudeness, so I won't burden you with explanations and ask only that you be patient with me.

First of all, here is the information you requested, or at least as much of it as I was able to get from my father and aunt.

My grandparents, Martin Hirshcberg and Freda Jaffe, were married at Tegel (sp?) outside Berlin on 22 November 1912. ✓

Edgar and Claire Taschdjian were married in Peking in 1944. ✓

Hans Hirschberg (Jean Martin) married Janet Ruth Allen in San Diego, California, on 28 April 1946. Jean married Mildred -- I don't recall her last name -- on 31 January 1953 in Marle, France. ✓

Ernst Martin has not yet re-married, although he may do so this year.

Patricia Martin was finally divorced in Vancouver, B.C., in November of 1984. ✓

Deborah Martin has cancelled her wedding plans for this year and remains single. ✓

Thank you, dear Hanni, for your hospitality. It was a lovely meal, marred only by your poor health. I regret having intruded on you when you were feeling so ill, but I certainly cannot regret having spent a few more hours with you. Steve Schneider wrote shortly before Christmas that you were still not much improved, so we are terribly concerned about you, particularly during this terrible weather. Unfortunately our concern is of little use to you at this distance.

I do not wish to burden you with questions that need answering, so I can only tell you that I hope you will soon be strong enough to continue your translation of the Dachau article. I have read the beginning so many times; I am anxious to read the ending.

Thanks to my importunate call to Frank Tittel last year, he and your grand-nephew at Berkeley have made the acquaintance of Martin Taschdjian and his wife Carolyn, who have promised to keep an eye on the boy and have him come 'round regularly for a home-cooked meal. You probably know all of this, of course, but it came as welcome news to me, and I look forward to meeting another relation the next time we go to San Francisco.

It was such a pleasure to meet Steve, particularly since he and Bobbi have both promised to let me know how you're doing. Meanwhile, please know how much I enjoyed seeing you again, and how often both Roger and I think of you. Perhaps, if you do not object to another brief visit, we will both be able to make a quick trip to Cheltenham in the spring, but I promise to give you plenty of advance notice. Your health and the weather permitting, maybe we could have another lunch at the Painswick Hotel.

I won't promise to write often, but perhaps I can ring you in a few weeks, just to check on your health. Our thoughts are with you.

*much love,  
Karen  
and the family*

Dear Haunee,  
Hello. How have you  
been? I hope good. I'm  
very sorry that I have  
not written in such a  
long time. Nothing much  
has been going on except  
for watching the summer  
games on television. They  
have been very exciting.  
The great thing about  
them is I can actually  
participate in them  
because I have the  
summer games on my  
computer which I can

play. My mom tells  
me that you know  
a little about computers,  
maybe next time I  
hear from you, you  
can share some of  
your knowledge to  
me. Well I hope to  
hear from you soon.

Love

Sido

Sheares

Dear Maunie,

How have you been? I've been fine.  
What have you been doing lately? I  
haven't been doing much. Sidle &  
I got a new computer. It's a  
Commodore 64. We've got a lot of  
software including many games.  
One of the games is the Olympics,  
which is a load of fun. We have  
learned a lot about the computer,  
and I have learned how to type  
from it. We have been watching  
the Olympics & America is winning.  
It is very exciting. I am going into  
the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and I'm starting a  
new school. I have all honors classes.

Thank you for everything  
you gave us when we saw you,

Love always,

John Brown



J.E.Jaffé

Shurdington, 31 Jan.1985.

Mrs.Karin Mayer  
16266 Barneston Street  
Granada Hills  
Calif.91344, USA

Dear Karin,

many thanks for your letter of 19 Jan., received yesterday. Please do not worry. I understand very well that being a wife and a mother with a professional life of your own does not leave you any time for private correspondence. I am in the same boat, though for different reasons. Ill-health allows me only a few hours every day to deal with what I have most at heart - my research on family history - , so I neglect the rest. This is also why I write these lines on a very inferior copy of a letter I wrote a couple of days ago to Dr.Milton, the chief archivist of the Leo Baeck Institute in New York where all my work is deposited. I should like you to keep my letter to Dr.Milton for future reference. It gives you the Institute's address and also a summary of my activities in 1984.

I finished the translation of the Dachau series in November 1984; it is now out of my jurisdiction and I can only hope that it will be printed and published in the near future. Neither Steve nor Bobbi are involved, in fact, they do not know anything about it. I never talk about things which are not yet accomplished. Of course, you will be one of the first to get a copy.

What I told Dr.Milton about my research is an understatement. I always make my letters to her as short as possible. You cannot expect an archivist to study in detail all the private documents they are holding. I had some spectacular successes in 1984 which will improve the first 20 pages of the Miloslaw Jaffé family tree very much if I manage to do the necessary repair work in 1985. This is what I am doing right now; it is a hell of a job and nobody can help me. I also 'found' a number of new branches which must be added if I can get the descendants to let me have the information I need. For instance I got recently the address of some of the descendants of Stadtrat Dr.Benno Jaffe in Caracas, Venezuela. Look up p.20 in your copy and you will see how incomplete pXX it is. I can remedy this now, provided the Caracas descendants oblige. They are a large family and I guess it will take a year or more until I have their dates until the present day. Though contacting the living is comparatively easy work, one gets sometimes as little response from them as from the dead.

a long time ago you mentioned the actor Sam Jaffe. If you can get hold of his personalia, let me have them. I have openings for 'Samuels'. I am sure that you will meet Steve again before long, he is now and again on business in USA and I think his parents-in-law live in Los Angeles. At the moment he is pre-occupied with becoming a father (in May). That Bobbi will keep an eye on me, is a joke! I never hear from her, if I do not take the initiative. As you know she is a very busy career woman and has her limitations, too. You forgot to tell me about your own work which would interest me. Was the radio programme on tthe "WHOS" a success? You seemed very confident when you were in this country. I have not heard any details about Frsnk's and Mark's call on the Taschdjians, but hope that Mark will see them again. Strange that Aunt Titi did not tell you about me when you were in this country; she told me about you. We were rather close.

P.T.O.

*No return for now. Much love to you and  
all the family  
from your home*

J. S. Jaffé

38 Atherton Close

Shurdington

Cheltenham/Glos.

Gl. 51 5 55

25 Jan. 1985.

Dr. Sybil Milton  
Chief Archivist  
Leo Baeck Institute  
129 East 73rd Street  
New York, N.Y. 10021  
U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Milton,

In October 1984 I received the Institute's official acknowledgment for the gift of the "Vor Sonnenaufgang" duplicate. Does this mean that you have had no opportunity to pass on the duplicate to the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati as suggested in your letter of 30 July 1984? I should be very grateful for

addresses of further libraries or archives which would appreciate the German booklet. I have here about a dozen copies of "Vor Sonnenaufgang" and would prefer to give them to public institutions rather than to private individuals. By the way, the

Year Book 1984 only mentions Hans Holzhälder's 10 newspaper articles and not the booklet. Probably your and my information about its publication reached Dr. Paucker too late. Hopefully, the 1985 edition will rectify this and also mention my English

translation which is just being prepared for private printing and publication. I do not know the details but it is supposed to be a belated birthday (85!!!) surprise on the part of some relatives. I shall send you a copy of my English version in due

course. As for the Jaffé family research, 1984 has been a fruitful year. I managed to gather a large amount of important new material. Do not ask me how; if it comes to research I leave no stone unturned! Despite failing eyesight, I hope to incorporate

my findings in both my family trees before long. I also want to make arrangements to ensure that, on my death, the archives of the Leo Baeck Institute receive the most up-to-date versions of my compilations. What I am not sure about is whether you would

also want the research material, contained in 2-3 box files of correspondence. I should be grateful for your advice. Please do not forget to enter my own date and place of death on page 28 of the Miloslaw Jaffé family tree!

With good wishes and kind regards,  
Yours sincerely,  
J. S. Jaffé

H. T. B.