

30 SANDILEIGH AVENUE  
WITHINGTON MANCHESTER.

TELEPHONE: DIDSBURY 3838.

12th March 1941

Dearest Flora,

I feel the intense disappointment of your failure to get your exit permit, and also the difficulty of your next decision. But both these are not beyond the average hardships in these austere times. Separation is the rule, not the exception, and this, I believe, is the guide to the necessary decision. Besides, it is - I feel - made imperative by the fact that Karl cannot go on, turning on lecturing work of the kind he was doing during the

past years. How then could he  
come back <sup>here,</sup> from a place where  
he can support himself without  
such undue, indeed entirely excessive  
strain? So much from the point of  
view of practical life. But the  
higher points of view, for once,  
are in agreement with this.  
The occasion to write this book,  
prepared by years of study, can  
not be given up without the  
most profound, and, I think,  
quite undue, sacrifice. The  
occasion is a last offer of a  
capricious fate. Speaking as a  
man who had the great good  
fortune of being granted a  
lifetime of creative effort, I  
should say that to take his  
opportunity or to leave it, is a  
matter of life-and-death to be

30 SANDILEIGH AVENUE  
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meaning of Karl's life, so far as he lived in his work. I know that his happiness was largely drawn from other sources, and that much of his work has crystallized through his influence on younger contemporaries. Yet I do maintain the great importance of this opportunity, undiminished.

In fact, I am not so sure, that the event may not be a blessing in disguise, imposing an extremely painful solution, which yet agrees with the most profound — or at least some of the most profound — motives of the participants. Both Kai and you are so attached to this country,

that the transfer would be a blow to you. You feel that, except for Karl, all your duties, all your most active interests lie here, not there. Even the hardships of separation itself, might brace you rather than depress you, if you can look at the situation from his point of view. On the other hand, Karl is at 54, with all his wanderings behind him, and his infirmities hampering his movements, is a man whose purpose would be to reap, to collect and bring to final shape the gains of a lifetime of thought. It is the only good he can do; to himself and to Society. He cannot do it here, but only in America. It is hard, but it seems sensible.

Excuse me please for forgetting to send you his little contribution. It was due in January. Apologies.

Please write to me, Love  
Miri

30th July 1941

My dear Elona,

It is a long time since I heard from you - or from Karli. The news of Egon's death which occurred in concentration camp on April the 1st will have reached you. I had it from Edith, from Marika and from Mauri about the same time.

I wrote to the two daughters, but my feelings are more bitter than anything I told them. To kill this poor little man like this, just a harmless old raisonneur of the most good natured kind, a father, a husband and a small businessman earning his bread at a fierce disadvantage - it is more cruel

and stupid than anything I have heard of from a distance. Perhaps because the fate of people who are mentioned in wider circles, <sup>usually</sup> have some features which make some sense of the horrors which they undergo. Here there is nothing, but life in its most elementary form, wantonly uprooted and squeezed into torture and death.

Please let me know what you are doing yourself. Last heard you were despairing of getting the American visa. I would like to know the sequel. Kari is now back with you - what are her plans for next year? George is carrying on for another 6 months before joining up. Hopes are running high with the Russians resisting so well. There would be a great deal to talk about but

11  
 strenuous efforts to get them access to  
 some place on the Western Hemisphere  
 This new law of the U.S. which prevents  
 their entry is one of the worst pieces  
 of cruel and hypocritical legislation,  
 pursuing a policy of antisemitism  
 under the pretext of protecting the country  
 against Hitler's influence.

Could you please send the copy  
 of my book *The Contempt of Freedom* to  
 Karli - I would like him to see it.  
 I hope this is not too much trouble.

I hear quite a lot from Edith  
 and begin to like her very much.

I am not getting to London in these days, though I have been travelling a great deal, <sup>in</sup> other directions lately. I am going to Swansea to-morrow and hope to return Saturday or Monday. It would be a great pleasure to have a reply from you when. Do tell me about Karli when you write. My little John has been operated on for hernia, but he has recovered by this time.

Love

Miri

The P'Langy boys have been refused entry to the U. S. because they have relatives living in a Fascist country. I think they are now in Cuba awaiting ~~the~~ the results of Mauri's further



Manchester, February 21st 1942

My dear Elona,  
Thank you for your most refreshing letter from Deunington (27th Jan.). I also got the somewhat sad one from Bermuda, but it took 6 weeks to reach me. The miserable affair of the lost cable caused much less trouble to Kari than I feared. Irene took the time all the time that Donald's journey took many weeks and I kept telling Kari how cable ~~—~~ often go astray nowadays .. etc. She did not seem to be <sup>too</sup> uneasy — judging by her letters to me and talks over the telephone. I did not want to cable on my own accord, fearing to do some harm of one kind or another. Curiously enough Kari was getting very upset just a week ago when your letter of Jan 27th came — so I sent her a telegram; but your letter to Rorie came the same day, anyhow: so all was well.

I hope to see Kari at the end of March in London and <sup>we</sup> will be happy to receive your return visit to John in Toronto. What takes you to Canada? I hope it will come off. I saw Irene in London a fortnight ago. She returned the precious pamphlet and told me a little about the people behind it. I propose to keep up contacts with Irene in future, which will make it easier to keep in touch with Kari and yourselves.

You mention the incongruities in people's attitude to British life - looking at it across the Atlantic. The most surprising change that occurred here since you left is a paradox on the opposite side. Never has so much concern in the state of mind of a woman waned so suddenly relapsed into indifference on the very day of the long desired marriage. "And what will America think?" was the echo of every event, however fateful, since May 1940 in this country. Overnight we have ceased to ask this question. It is quite funny

On the whole the relations between the two countries are taking a more serious and healthier turn, casting off the repulsive and frivolous taint of snobism which affected ~~it~~ <sup>them</sup> not a little before. Mr. Breda's speech to-day indicates that some Americans may realize that with all their contempt for Chamberlainism in England, it remains a fact that no other country produced even a Mr Chamberlain ~~but~~ <sup>whom</sup> a history will know ~~him~~ as the only statesman to declare war on Germany (you can't count Bonnet who would have packed out but for sheer force bearing on him from London).

It is very good that we got rid of Beaverbrook who has no ideas of organization. Rytheton will be very good. The cutting out of the dead "wood" i.e. Greenwood and Kingsley Wood will make the Cabinet less ridiculous. The unanimous appointment of Cripps to the position of The Coming Great Statesman is a remarkable piece of history. Cripps was the man who broke

with the Labour Party, because they did not follow sufficiently the example of Moscow. When they went to Moscow and never managed to see a single responsible person there; returning and said that Ruzhka could not visit more than 3 weeks. But merely because he does not belong to any party everyone who does suffer under that disability thinks him a great man. I sincerely hope he may be one. After all he can not have a worse record for home policy and <sup>handling of</sup> social <sup>and economic</sup> problems than the P. M. himself.

I am working hard on a book on the lines of my essay *The Growth of Thought in Society* published in *Economica*. This paper seems to have caused some interest, in particular among the Faculty of Philosophy and Theology in Manchester. We will have a meeting on the subject next month. I hope you have got a copy (which I sent you) and will let me have your views.

With all my love to you both

Your account of Sophie's letter gave me profound consolation. The thought of her never leaves me. Mein

Manchester  
12th Nov. 1943.

My dear Ilona

I wish to congratulate you on the 25th anniversary of your victorious liberation from prison. I do not know whether I ever told you that my dear blessed Aunt Irma told me first about you - I am afraid - not much less than 30 years ago. She found you enchanting but with respect to myself she decided to keep you out of my way. She thought I would fall in love with you straight away and you did not suit her for me. (Your own reaction to my sentiments, if opportunity arose, was a foregone conclusion in her eyes.) Well perhaps all has been to the best in the end and avuncular (or is it tantuncular?) Providence

could not have arranged it better.

However, our views in the last 25 years, have shown distinct signs of approaching another and promise definitely to meet somewhat short of infinity. In order to accelerate the process you have not to go far in your thoughts. The key to the most important problems of social theory lie (this is my serious view) in a careful comparison of the handling of a polycentric framework (of joints and pin joints) by the alternative methods of a set of simultaneous equations and by the "Relaxation Method" of Southwell. The former represents in essence the principles of centralized direction, the latter the method of individual enterprise and independent mutual adjustment.

Have you read St Exupery's "Flight over Arras"? Do read it, it is a masterpiece. yours ever  
Miri

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER  
MANCHESTER, 13.



TELEPHONE:  
ARDWICK 2681

9th Dec. 1944

My dear Ilona,

Thank you very much  
for your letter. The doctor has  
definitely said that my condi-  
tion is not life threatening  
but he would not say anymore  
than that for the future without  
seeing me after 3 weeks com-  
plete rest for my vocal  
chords. I have been suffering  
from this laryngitis for 7  
months and - you may remember  
- it was on account of it that  
I did not go to meet you  
when you arrived.

I hoped to recover in Wales,  
but actually it did not help  
me very much. The conditions  
at the moment is more grave  
for the University than for myself  
since there is no one to replace  
me in the lecturing work which  
I am doing. There is no reason  
however to take a gloomy view  
of the future and I may be  
restored much sooner than it  
may seem likely now - provided  
that the treatment is continued  
energetically. I will let you  
know when I next see the  
specialist at the end of the  
3 weeks silence.

I am glad the Register  
has reconsidered its policy  
towards you. They have





THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER  
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY,  
MANCHESTER, 13.

TELEPHONE: ARDWICK 2681

argument, but I yet doubt whether I will find myself in agreement with its main contention. I have been thinking a lot more about it since I left you. However, though it would be a great blessing to be able to agree with you in the closing years of our lives, it may not be granted to us to do so. We shall bear the additional burden for a good cause.

I had a letter from Edith to-day. She is a very good and patient creature, poor girl. Unfortunates her

health is not improving to any  
great extent.

I was glad to see you in  
so good ~~but~~ health. ~~My~~ Done  
looked rather strained. I wonder  
how her cure is getting on. I  
shall send on her papers bit by  
bit but at the moment business  
is rather pressing all round.

I will meet the Howmonds  
next Sunday; shall I talk  
to them about your book?

They are the sweetest people  
in the world but very old and  
frail-unfortunates.

I do hope to see you soon  
again, in Chamberlayne.

Yours  
Linn

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

MANCHESTER, 13.



TELEPHONE:  
ARDWICK 2681

31st Jan. 1944

My dear Ilona,

Thank you for the good news which gave me no end of pleasure. I have only just returned from North Wales where I have again made some progress. I had been in Manchester only few hours when John announced his arrival by telephone from Liverpool. George being in train near Sheffield and free to visit us on week ends.

the whole family is very warmly  
re-united again.

I shall write about arrange-  
ments concerning Edith on  
a future occasion.

All good wishes

Yours

John had a very nice day  
with Hollo Gyula and Agnes  
in New York. He came over  
on board of a warship.



FROM  
PROFESSOR M. POLANYI

TELEPHONE: ARDWICK 2681.

Oakeley Arms  
Taw-y-Bwlel  
Blaenan Ffestiniog N.W.

~~THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER~~

~~DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY~~

(until the 6th Sept. incl)

15th Sept. 1944

My dear Ilona,

I was happy to get your letter which showed you so intensely relieved and full of new hope. Thank you ever so much for sharing with me these sentiments and for remembering a period when we used to exchange so many letters.

I wonder how Karl's affairs are progressing. Has he applied for any particular post? The endowments for economic and social research

are being stepped up so considerably that an opening cannot fail to present itself soon. I expect to visit London at some time in October in order to consult some literature, etc. I may bring with me the semi-final draft of my book "A Policy of Economic Expansion". I have been working hard to finish it, of late.

You know that John has been ill most a lot. Almost the whole time since he returned from Canada. It was a series of infections. Sinus trouble, mastoiditis, osteomyelitis of the femur. He is recovering from this last illness here and I hope he will be well and fit to return to school by the end of October. George is back from Normandy. I expect he will go to see you one day. My love to all of you,  
Laurie



I have reached me one day  
before your flight, stated 9th,  
about your interview with  
Mrs. Moore.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER  
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

FROM  
PROFESSOR M. POLANYI, F.R.S.

TELEPHONE: ARDWICK 2881

10th Nov. 1946

My dear Diana,

I do thank you  
very much for your letter.  
I felt I had made an  
error of the situation by  
my previous reply. Let us  
start again. What about  
this approach? At the  
back of the current *Times*  
with "you will find me

a advertisement of the  
London School of Economics,  
asking, wholesale, for applica-  
tions to lectureships up  
to the highest grades.

(I have not got it before  
me, but that is how I

remembered it.) This advert  
will be one of the endow-  
ments for the "Clapham

the D. S. E. got more money  
than they had spent & so they  
take the very unusual step  
of asking for applications in  
any field of economics, and





\*) The idea was that your present cover and friends should write to Ginsberg.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER  
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

FROM  
PROFESSOR M. POLANYI, F.R.S.

TELEPHONE: ARDWICK 2681

requesting the applicants state the field in which they are experts. This is a peg on which to hang a letter to Ginsberg or any other of the fellows here. \*) A lecture ship can be paid up to £800 or even more, which may satisfy you and that, with your modest requirements.

I shall take an early opportunity to consult Arthur Lewis who is now a professor here but was at the R.S.E. for many years before.

I had a very happy and kind letter from Karl yesterday, but he did not mention these problems. He seemed to be very glad about Truman's election. Well, for once, we are both glad at the same time.

I hope to hear from you soon again - Yours M

**BY AIR MAIL**

**AIR LETTER**

IF ANYTHING IS ENK  
CLOSED THIS LETTER  
WILL BE SENT BY  
ORDINARY MAIL



BRITISH INDUS  
27 APR - 8M  
LONDON & BIR  
POSTAGE

Mrs Ilona Polanyi  
R R 3 Pickering  
Ontario  
Canada

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To open cut here

Sender's name and address:-

→ To open cut here

5.7.53

Dearest Ilona,

I was delighted to hear from you. John had written about his visit to you and the subsequent Auscinander-  
retunng. I do hope you will see more of each other in future. At the moment I should like to give only the most hurried response to your letter, for I have to catch a train to Plymouth (of all places!) within the hour.

I can think only of one person who may be of use to you and to whom I could give you a recommendation. He is a theoretical physicist Associate Professor, A. J. Coleman. You could approach him on the strength of this suggestion of mine, but if you prefer it, I shall write to him on my return to Manchester early next week. I shall send you an open letter of recommendation, in which I will give the particulars

The recommendation to you, for your  
use, if desired. It should be in  
your hands about 4 days after this  
reaches you.

My very warm wishes to you,

M.

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UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER



TELEPHONE: ARDWICK 2681

DEPARTMENT OF  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STUDIES  
DOVER STREET  
MANCHESTER, 13

31. October 1953

Dear Thona,

I thank you very much  
for writing to me about your new job.  
I was happy to hear about it.

I had hoped to see you both  
in Toronto around Christmas but un-  
fortunately I find myself short of time  
and shall stay on here to do some  
work till 30 Dec when I shall fly  
directly to New York. This will leave  
me only a few hours before the  
beginning of the term in Chicago.

ct

So I shall not be going via Canada on  
this journey—perhaps on the way back?

I have sent off by surface  
mail the Ford Foundation pamphlet  
which Karli wanted back. I ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup>  
much engrossed by the two typewritten  
documents which he gave me and  
talked about their subject both the  
professor of Mesopotamian Studies  
(T. Fish) who is an old friend of mine  
and to the professor of Ancient History  
a new comer from Sydney, Australia, of  
name of Smith. Fish told me he  
was pretty well the only Assyriologist  
who was actively interested in economic  
institutions ~~●~~ referred to in cuneiform  
literature; he would be very glad to  
know more about Karli's studies.  
Smith was quite excited when I  
told him of an attempt to look

## UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER



TELEPHONE: ARDWICK 2681

DEPARTMENT OF  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STUDIES  
DOVER STREET  
MANCHESTER, 13

ancient economic life from a point of view not pre-supposing modern standards of economic efficiency. Both Fish and Smith asked me for more material on this line of study but I have hesitated to give them what I had got from K. for it seemed to present the subject too sketchily.

I should be glad to know whether K. would like to get in touch more effectively with Fish and Smith both of whom I can highly recommend as scholars.

Give my regards to Coleman if you happen to see him, please.



I am sending you both  
my love, as always

Lu Zi

BY AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION  
AIR LETTER  
AÉROGRAMME

CHESTER  
14 JUN  
1947  
S.E.

6 SIX PEN 6

Mrs Polanyi  
R.R. 3  
Pickering  
Ontario  
Canada

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Sender's name and address:

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY  
ENCLOSURE; IF IT DOES, IT WILL BE SURCHARGED  
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

To open cut here

14 June 1957

My dear Ilo,

I arrived in Toronto from  
 abroad, to find your letter. Yes I think  
 we should be grateful that things are  
 as they appear to be — with no sign  
 of danger on the horizon. And I  
 am deeply grateful to you for letting  
 me know and promising to keep me  
 posted. John (on whom I have relied  
 previously) will be back in Toronto  
 on 25. June. We hope to see him  
 for a day or two before he leaves,  
 on his way through London. John  
 told me that the poet whom I  
 recommended to you turned out  
 to be a fake — I apologise for the  
 mistake (It is easy to make one with  
 poets.) I say Bé in Paris for an  
 hour and read Karl's last letter

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together; from which I gathered  
places given news about the young  
generation. Please give them my  
affectionate regards. I enjoyed  
the talk with Joe and Kai. I  
believe was a great advance on  
her previous chances. I hope we  
shall keep in touch with each  
other. Best love to all  
M. G.

BY AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION  
AIR LETTER  
PROGRAMME

CHES  
15 JULY  
1957  
S.E.



Mrs. Iona Polanyi  
R.R. 3.  
Pickering (Ontario)  
Canada

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To open cut here

2.15 July 1957

My dear Ilona

Forgive the delay in answering your letter of 27 June, which arrived about a week ago. I was hard pressed with urgent re-writing of the last chapters of my book now in the pen with Routledge. I am glad your arrangements with the Beacon Press are still valid and hope you will make use of them as intended. I have not kept track of the various translations that have so far been published, but would be surprised if there were no major effort being made here ~~in this direction~~. Fortunately, we are going to London ~~to~~ ~~move~~ and shall dine with the Ignatians the following night. He will be able to tell me exactly what is going on. I shall also tell him of your work and ask his advice in the matter. I hope to write to you again before the end of this week. Please give my love to Brian if she is still there. I am happy to hear

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been published, but would be surprised if  
 there were no major effort being made  
 here in the ~~direction~~ <sup>direction</sup> of the ~~work~~ <sup>work</sup>  
 very heart warming to all concerned  
 with the Institute the following night. I  
 am sure. I am sure. I am sure.  
 I shall also be able to tell you exactly what is going on.  
 Little bit of your work and  
 I shall also be able to tell you exactly what is going on.  
 I hope you will be able to give me  
 I sent last night. I am sure.  
 I am sure. I am sure. I am sure.

BY AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION  
AIR LETTER  
AEROGRAMME

CHESTER  
5 30PM  
2 AUG  
1957  
S



Mrs Polanyi

R.R. 3

Pickering

Ontario

Canada

Second fold here

Sender's name and address

M Polanyi  
Mayfair, Fielden Park  
Manchester 20

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY  
ENCLOSURE; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED  
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

To open cut here



2. August 1957

Dearest Ilona,

No, unforgivably, your letter was not  
crowded by any of my own. I suppose it is more than  
a week since we dined with Ignatius in London. Briefly,  
nothing is happening here in respect of English transla-  
tions of Hungarian poems. The French are turning out  
manes of <sup>translations</sup> it and more is in preparation, but  
nothing comparable is going on here. So the thing to  
do for you is to go ahead and ask help from  
here as a subsidiary factor. Ignatius who is President  
of the Hungarian Writers' Association will do what he can  
for you. His address is 12 St. James's Court, Craven Road,  
London, W.2. He is very conscientious and a master  
of editorial faculties. I am happy to hear that  
you approve of Milose's book. I admire it greatly, but  
it has come in for a lot of criticism lately on the  
grounds that no-one can be found in Poland today  
who was so deeply affected by Dismal, as he seems  
to think typical. Wiles wrote an article on these  
lines in Encounter: "The Land of Unwashed Prussia",  
and a Polish professor (called Dembrowski) whom we had  
here for a couple of months during the Spring Term  
also deprecated Milose's analysis, as an exaggeration. I have  
relied on it quite a bit in my essay on the Magic of  
Marxism which is now in the press as a small section  
of Personal Knowledge. I was happy to hear of the  
paperback stage of The Great Transformation which will no  
doubt increase its influence further among the general public.

Please send me a copy of it. Thank you for acknowledging my cable and for your account of the family reunion. Next time you write, please tell me how Kasi is getting on with her project to resume her post-graduate studies. We are planning to leave Manchester about 15th August and will not be accessible ~~thereafter~~ thereafter perhaps for a whole month. But if anybody, John will know how to get in touch with us during his time. I shall remember Enzo, but the best thing would be if you would write directly to Congrès pour la Liberté de la Culture, 104 Boulevard Haussmann <sup>Paris 8ème.</sup> ~~London~~ <sup>to Jörgen Schlemann</sup> ~~Manchester~~, telling him that I gave you his address. Best wishes, my dear, & all

BY AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION  
AIR LETTER  
AÉROGRAMME

MANCHESTER  
6 45 PM  
14 NOV  
1957  
S.E.



Mrs Ilona Polanyi  
R. R. 3.  
Pickering  
Ontario  
Canada

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To open cut here

13 NOV. 1957

Dear Ilona, I was delighted to have your long letter telling me everything about everybody. However, next time please write more about Karl - he was in N.Y. when you wrote. Does his work make good progress and what, his further arrangements in respect of it. My correspondent at Routledge's is Norman Franklin, son of Colin. He is not communicative, so I have heard nothing about the prospects of Trade and Market. I suppose, by this time 'learned' journals will have started publishing reviews of the book. Have any come out yet? I am just finishing the galleys of Personal Knowledge, which have quite outmarched me for close on 4 weeks. Two hundred thousand words are quite a mouthful - I hope <sup>the book</sup> it will be out by April. I am sorry my birthday present to K. has been sadly delayed owing to the illness of my secretary whom alone I can trust to pack it properly. Meanwhile, if K. has a copy already of his book, Norman Cohn The Pursuit of the Millennium, would you let me know by return? I am sure <sup>you</sup> will interest him greatly, but if he already has it, I should rather send something else. Have I sent you a copy of Encounter with my brief commemorative of the 40th anniversary of Lenin's revolution? If not, I shall send you one. I should like to know what Joe thinks about it. I am going to discuss it with a small group of post-Marxist refugees in Paris, Fests, ~~and~~ others, with Kende (son of Zsiga) among them, on 1. December. Last Sunday George F. Kennan broadcast the first of his 6 Reith Lectures. It made a great impression on me; it promises to start an intellectual and moral New Deal in ~~the~~ international affairs. Our posture is becoming ever more cramped, sterile and ignoble in this relationship. Magda has been helping me a great deal with my galleys and we will both be happy to see the last of them by next Monday. <sup>Recently</sup> she has established herself as an acknowledged expert on textile literature, a situation which she enjoys with gusto. Apart from this she is deeply involved in Hungarian welfare work. Do you see Wodan

What? It has been paying subscribers and is said to  
be in keen demand in Hungary, and the shorts of the  
current spec. We are approaching the position where  
material for the Katolok just 1000 years ago, probably  
if you know. It was where he had it printed in Rumania  
Must not touch Boer. How you can write to Ignatius at  
about your translation? It is an excellent work. Prof. Bunker  
Estlin (Rome), got me Stypheloch was on TV - I had  
most authentic report about it. How you see Estlin's  
book? I suppose it has come out in U.S. now after many  
with its publication here. Do you wish we send you a  
copy? Film has showed down in his correspondence with us.  
Estlin (Rome) got it in the was that he was planning to  
send a further with you. I will soon be a year  
that we were there together. I am spending about an  
excuse to report his work. But here get no other with it yet.  
do want of our letter

First fold here

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER



TELEPHONE · ARDWICK 2681

DEPARTMENT OF  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STUDIES  
DOVER STREET  
MANCHESTER, 13

10, Gilbert Road  
Hale,  
Cheshire

8. Febr 1951  
1951

My dear Ilona,

Thank you so much  
for your letter. It is good to  
hear that you are all fixed  
up for the journey. Thank you  
for transmitting your impressions  
about Karl. I knew he would  
be bursting with happy energies  
on his return to Columbia  
and the circle of his disciples.

I am not so well. I  
at last consulted a psychiatrist

last week and was advised to  
break off all mental work im-  
mediately for 6 - 8 weeks. We  
have decided to leave in a day  
or two for the South: probably  
Easton Court Hotel, Chagford, Devon.

I shall drop you a postcard  
with the address before we go.

We may not travel before Sunday,  
though I have Saturday in mind  
as my preference. At any rate it  
seems we shall be too uncertain  
of our movements for another 24  
hours at least (until we have  
seen the doctor with our inoculations  
and the American Vice Consul for  
the Visa) to make any appoint-  
ments. It looks unfortunate as if  
we ~~would~~ <sup>shall</sup> be steaming south just  
when you will be puffing north.

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER



DEPARTMENT OF  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STUDIES  
DOVER STREET  
MANCHESTER, 13

TELEPHONE · ARDWICK 2681

We had Lilli Kraus here yesterday and shall meet her again tomorrow. She and Oks will be visiting Be' de Waard in Paris shortly.

Has Kari's marriage duly taken place? We did not receive her address from you, so could not send a cable as intended.

We have let our house for 6 months from the 12. March and I am spending all my time this week stacking away



our things, packing for America,  
buying clothes for Magda and  
myself. It is quite a business.

I have just read in a  
manuscript an account of Alex  
Weinberg of his experiences during  
the Teshov period. Another,  
independent story by two others  
who went through that time  
should be out in print soon.  
There is close correspondence  
between their observations which  
should clarify the whole affair  
far beyond anything that we  
had known until now.

So much for the moment  
my dear. I am happy to know  
you well and forward-looking  
Miss

BY AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION  
AIR LETTER  
AEROGRAMME

Oxford  
6 30PM  
2 147  
1935



Mrs Ilona Polanyi  
R. R. 3.  
Pickering  
Ontario  
Canada

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Sender's name and address: M Polanyi  
B Merton College  
Oxford

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY  
ENCLOSURE ; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED  
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

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Draga Ilonam,

Merton College  
Oxford 7 Oct 59

Thank you so much for his fascinating review of life. I had just written to K. asking for a time to make sure where you all are. Today I have settled down in College and am writing from my desk facing the Fellows Garden with Magdalen Tower peeping in from my other window on the right. It makes me feel as if I had died and found my soul dwelling in some Scholars' Elysium. The change from Manchester or even London is so miraculous. Admittedly, most people have to work very hard here, but I have got so used to ~~having~~ a bad conscience on account of my privileges that I hardly notice any worsening in my moral position. So this is where I am going to read your biographical notes, looking back serenely on the past 40 years that have elapsed since you undertook

your memorable action, which I still well  
remember witnessing from a distance at  
the time. I am happy and grateful to  
have lived long enough to contemplate your  
youthful person and the whole period since  
those days in a historical perspective and  
feel a growing appetite for contemporary  
documents that recall it to my imagination.  
You can be sure therefore of a hungry,  
affectionate and respectful enjoyment of any  
such pieces you may send me or towards  
which you might direct me. Gratefully & Warmly

← First fold here →

To open cut here ←

Sender's name and address:

W Blauys

22 Upland Park  
Road

Oxford

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ENCLOSURE ; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED  
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

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BY AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION 15P  
AIR LETTERS  
AEROGRAMME A



Mrs Dona Polanyi

P.R.3.

Prokerang 48 Boswell  
Ontario Joints  
Canada

[6072

My dear Ilona

Nov 25

Thank you very much for writing. However distressing it is to know Karli being in such pain, I am grateful to be told about it. How fortunate that you were on your way home already when the warning came. I know how much misery a surgery of the bladder and possibly the prostate can cause. My own experience was pretty bad. But an additional distension of the tumor adds of course greatly to the effects of discomfort and pain. I shall keep writing in the hope that my share of these sad days may distract from them for a moment.

Sue and John both wrote with attitude of the flowers which you two offered her on the birth of Michael. Thank you also for your news about him. All being well, I shall see him in two months from today. Then we shall all meet again. I had a long letter from Lily (in reply to my own) in which she described the horrible accident of Sept 2nd. Adolf's left arm is still in plaster which interferes with his movements and even with his breathing. He is 'fed up', writes Lily. Thank you for the reference to Népszabadság I shall try to get it. Did you see ~~the~~ Látóhatár now printed in Budapest. Vámos still editing it. It has just reached me. his faithful thoughts Miss

P.S. Your postscript expressing  
doubts about the success  
of the operation is the  
last news from you....

First fold here

To open

Sender's name and address:

*Mr Polanyi*

*22 Upland Park Rd.*

*Oxford*

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BY AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION  
AIR LETTER  
AEROGRAMME

OXFORD  
1 5PM  
9 DEC  
1963



*48 Besswell  
Toronto 5*  
*40 Robson*

*Mrs Ilona Polanyi*

*R R 3*

*Pickering, Ontario*

*Canada*



8<sup>th</sup> December 1963

My dear Ilona,

I am addressing this letter to you, I think, because I have just re-read your account of Adolf's story, <sup>he</sup> told to you 5 1/2 years ago. Perhaps I have never told you how grateful I am for this ~~record~~ ~~a~~ piece of family history. I can still remember much of it, though vaguely.

Could you possibly let me have some news about Karli? I had none since you last wrote about a fortnight ago. Going through papers and pictures I found <sup>three copies of</sup> a colour-photograph (all enlarged) of the family portrait of 5 brothers and sisters, as we were 68 years ago. I shall send one copy to Karli and you by air tomorrow; <sup>another to Adolf.</sup> They may want to remember what that painting was like. I have just spent 3 nights in Manchester for the first time since my retirement in 1958. So my mood is reminiscent. I wish I could think of you both with less doubt and worry.

Mimi

Sender's name and address:

*M. Polanyi*  
*22 Upland Park Rd*  
*Oxford*

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*423 West  
120th St apt 76  
NY*

*Mrs Polanyi*  
*R.R.B.*  
*Pickering, Ontario*  
*Canada*

June 5.

My dear Ilona,

It was sad to miss you in Toronto when I passed through last Saturday and Sunday. I hope you have heard from Melvin Lasky to whom I gave your address in reply to an enquiry of his and with a view to my request for his support of Co-Existence.

I have described K.'s funeral in some detail in a letter to Magda and sent photo copies of his account to the Hollos and to Adolf and Lily. Had a long letter from Lily telling of their deep response to the images conveyed to them. This has been effective also in fixing the event in its details and power lastingly in my own mind. My thoughts of it remain a homage to your noble genius, governing every detail and generating their power. Both John and I were deeply grateful for the way you intertwined our flowers round the edge of the <sup>open</sup> tomb of K.'s ashes. I was glad to hear that you are keeping up the house at

← First fold here →

Pickering. We propose to spend more time in the future in Oxford, but this will not prevent us from visiting Toronto once or twice every year. So I hope we shall keep in touch. I gather that you intend your main work to lie in translating Hungarian literature, which seems to offer a wonderful range of exciting opportunities. I hope to send you some of my writings from time to time. Next you will receive a copy of the paperback edition of Science, Faith and Society with a new introduction. It should be out in a few weeks. My love to you will be

Fairfax  
Wick

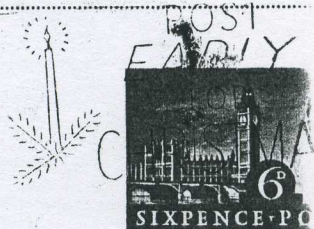
↑ To open slit along here ↑

Sender's name and address:

22 Upland Park Road,  
Oxford.

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN AN  
ENCLOSURE ; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED  
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

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Mrs Ilona Polanyi  
RR 3  
Pickering, Ontario  
Canada

I still have in front of me your letter of early July. Since then I heard about you from Tolun and others, telling of your journeys and labours. I am writing mainly to make sure that I shall not miss you on my next visit to New York and Toronto. I propose to arrive in New York on 29<sup>th</sup> Dec and stay there for 4-5 days. Thence I hope to visit Toronto around 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> January. Perhaps I shall stay there for the better part of a week. Leaving Toronto I am to visit Lily and Adolf in São Paulo. Maybe I shall return via New York around 20<sup>th</sup> January. My address in New York will be the Roosevelt Hotel. Hoping to see you soon again — from all my heart  
Ulivi

I shall bring along your letter in order to ask you about its various items.

22 UPLAND PARK ROAD  
OXFORD  
TEL. 58288

9 Dec 1966

My dear Ilone,

Christmas is on the doorstep and you and I are the only ones left of our generation. So I hope it may reach you by this letter and perhaps hear from you in your turn. In this part of my family there will be a welcome change quite shortly by the moving of George and Priscilla to London. He is giving up his post as Economist of the North Western Gasboard and joins the Institute for Economic Studies in London. It is a free lance endowed enterprise which issues pamphlets and other publications by distinguished economists, usually of academic standing. George has apparently published anonymously a pamphlet with them (his official position did not permit him to do so openly) and this

little publication has earned such success that they invited him to join the organisation. We shall have now three politico-economists of about the same age: Kari, Merika and George, and I hope they will take notice of each other, including George in their circle. (I shall elect myself honorary president and convene a meeting of the whole company.)

Well, I don't think it will be all that easy to get them together. I suppose there is still such a thing as left and right, and I think George believes in it. However, to both of us here it is a great asset to have them so much nearer and also intellectually interested for a give and take.

Please give my love to Kari. I hope to be able to talk to her on the phone once more on our next visit to America. She is always very kind and the short exchange has to be all, since it is so difficult to meet face to face.

All the best, my dear. U.



22 UPLAND PARK ROAD  
OXFORD  
TEL. 58288

3 Feb 67

Dear Ilona,

I have been very un-  
lucky in my attempts to get  
a copy of Karli's books. Blackwell  
wrote on 20 December that they  
will send me a copy of the  
Dahomey book "as soon as it  
is published" - but in 6 weeks  
nothing happened.

Doubleday wrote on 16<sup>th</sup>  
January about the collection of  
essays expected to come out as a  
paper back:

I'm sorry to say that I can't find out any-  
thing about your brother's book in the  
Anchor files. Are you sure it was not some  
other publisher?

Could you advise me what to do next? Perhaps I should wait till I am back in America again for my next visit. We are planning to pass through Toronto during the first week of April and I hope to call on you then, which I would like to combine with a brief look at all the posthumous work of K.

I am going to mail you three essays by George, hoping that you will pass them on to Kari when you finished with them.

An revoir, I love

Muzi

TO OPEN SLIT HERE

Sender's name and address:

*U.P.*

**22 Upland Park Road**

**Oxford,**

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN AN ENCLOSURE; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

SECOND FOLD HERE



*Mrs Dwozynska Polc*

*RR 3*

*Pickering,*

*Ontario*

*Canada*

*386 Wood Point Cres*

28 March 57

Dear Iona,

The Dahomey Book has arrived at last. It is obviously a splendid work. I shall send this copy to George (Polanyi), who is now turned writer on economic affairs, and get myself another copy in Chicago.

I am to leave for New York on 30<sup>th</sup> March and am due in Chicago on 7<sup>th</sup> April. Maybe her to stay here for a few weeks in order to look after the construction of an extension to our house. My address in Chicago: Quadrangle Club  
University of Chicago.

Our proposed visit to Toronto had to be postponed till the second week of June, but I ~~will~~ hope this does not impair the chances of our next meeting. Miss

22 UPLAND PARK ROAD  
OXFORD  
TEL. 58288

p. 1

24 March 1970

My dear Ilona,

I wish I could write in Hungarian, to make my thanks sound more homely. Your charming few lines make me dream of a past vastly extended by the sheltering changes of history. I wonder whether we shall yet meet on this side of eternity. The advantage of reaching an age like 80 (which, if I do reach it, will coincide with the 50th anniversary of our marriage) is, that one does at last see one's life at an end. One can look back and see what the whole thing has amounted to. In terms of a miracle, life is of course astounding. I am grateful to my view of the universe that it does let me see inklings of this unbelievable miracle.

Magda has been very ill. A heart attack. She is recovering, but not without having opened both her eyes and mine to death in a way that is illuminating. Another event that also brought nearer the view of the end, was a pleasure. John wrote yesterday that he is to receive an honorary degree of D. Science of a Canadian university. Illum oportet crescere me autem diminui. John also has been ill for months or so end with an inflammation of the brain caused by virus. He is recovering at last. George has moved from the Gas Board in Manchester to the Institute of Economic ~~Studies~~ <sup>Affairs</sup> in London, which is a joy to us. I have dreamt of organising an international congress of George, Kari and Marika, but history has not reached that point yet.

Please let me know if you ever visit England. Meanwhile, I shall dream of seeing you in Vienna one day.  
Best wishes, my dear. M.

22 UPLAND PARK ROAD  
OXFORD  
TEL. 58288

Mrs. Ilona Duszynska Polanyi,  
386 West Point Crescent,  
Pickering, Ontario,  
CANADA.

1st December, 1970.

Dear Ilona,

I hear that you do visit Toronto from time to time. So let me tell you that Magda and I intend to spend there a week or so from about the 10th to the 20th of March. I would be profoundly happy with a chance to see you again at that time.

I am adding a reprint of a recent paper, which touches on matters that we both share.

Affectionately  
Misi







THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
COMPARATIVE STUDIES  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78712

21 March

My dear Ilona,

I have gone through your manuscript once more carefully without finding anything I would wish to see changed.

I am happy we have met and found each other such good brothers or sisters. It has given me a change of life for which I am deeply grateful to you.

Misi

I have tried to get you by phone but it did not work.

KP  
 Kedves Misim,

hallom Enczi Endrétől hogy meghívták a magyar írószövetség párisi gyűlésére. Úgy veszem, emlékszel még a képre amit róla rajzoltam. Itt nehéz idők járnak az olyan szerény, önzetlen emberre mint amilyen ő. Mint tanulatlan kézi munkás keresi meg a kenyerét; valósággal hire terjedt már itt ennek az anomáliának a kanadai írókörökben. Megírtam, ha jól emlékszem, hogy Harry Campbell, a torontói nyilvános könyvtárak igazgatója, meghívta hogy tartson előadást a magyar irodalomról a könyvtárak össz-személyzete előtt. Igen nagy siker volt. Megmutatta a kanadaiaknak hogy mi a valódi erkölcsi és szellemi színvonala az új magyar írónemzedéknek.

Enczi nemes erélyének az egyetlen jó magyarnyelvű ~~mag~~ versantológia megjelenésében volt tetemes része, a Csicseri Rónay által kiadott "Költők forradalma" című kötet körül.-- A magyar írók és költők súlya és tekintélye az U.S.A.-ban csekély. Reméljük hogy ezen a Niki megjelenése hozhat változást. Különbön egy szép kis gyűjtemény jelent meg ~~magyar~~ részben igen jó fordításban Déry, Tamási Áron, Sánta Ferenc Szabó Pál novelláiból "Flashes in the night" címen, amit Szabó Zoltán igen szépen beszélt meg az Irodalmi Ujságban. - Tagadhatatlan hogy a londoni magyar emigráció írói keserű csalódást okoztak világszerte. A magyar költők tettei és

művei remekbe illenek. Ezeket méltatni, ~~átértetni~~ átértetni lefordíttatni egy nemzedék méltó hivatása lehetne ~~lehetne~~ *aha,*

Sietve közöm ezt a pár sort, az esetre ha Enczivel találkoznál. Párizs után Londonba készül. Persze igen nagyon szeretne veled személyesen megismerkedni. Attól tsrtunk hogy úgy ott mint itt elkerülhetnétek egymást.

U.i. Különösen Budapest miatt, de azon felül is csak Neked szólóan, igen bizalmasan értesítünk Téged hogy a pickeringi antológia igen kitűnően halad és befejezés előtt áll. Mégegyszer köszönet.

K és Ilona