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Najmilejsza :

Tak mi bylo niezmiernie przykro, ze i wyminelysmy sie w Paryzu we wrzesniu i jak tu zjechalas na pare godzin - nie moglam Cie przyjac z powodu dzwonka u drzwi. Zalozylismy swoj wlasny, bo ten paskudny nowy agent robil straszliwe szykany, a ze na sniadniu byl P. Wandycz z Yale University - nie moglam byla siedziec na dole i na Ciebie czekac.

Nie wiem gdzie Cie gonic myslami - pisaly siostry, ze byles w New Yorku, a moze jeszcze jestes z dziatkiami w Stanach? Pytalam o to , ale mi nie odpowiedzialy. Juz dosc dawno nie mialam wiesci, od Feli tylko kartka z Meksyku, a napewno obecnie , mam nadzieje, cieszy sie nowa synowa, oby Jedrek dobrze wybral - a Malina stale w ruchu i obecnie rzadziej pisuja niz dawniej. Mnie tez jest dosc trudnok bo Edzio mimo swych 96 lat jest nadal bardzo czynny, a ze wlasciwie juz nic nie widzi, wiec wszystko mu czytam, pisze pod dyktando, gotuje dla przyjezdnych, ktorych nigdy nie brak i jestem z tem bardzo szczesliwa. Tylko drze o mego ulubionego. On umyslowo jest nadal wspaniale, ale ma silne bole jakby biodra, doktorzy chca mu pomoc ale jeszcze nie wiedza czy utrafili " w sedno".

Gdy czytalam w niedziele artykul o majacej sie ukazac biografii Twej przyjaciolki Jacqueline du Pre - pomyslalam, iz ten artykul moze Cie zainteresuje.

Pisalam do Ciebie na jesieni, ze poniewaz masz u mnie £65 (£3- zabralam do puszki, gdy w Ognisku kwestowalam na Skarb Narodowy) czy bys chciala dac je na Instytut Polski z zaznaczeiem, ze to dla uczczenia .... ale jesli nie zalezy Ci na tem - to wprost dam czek w Twoim imieniu. Szczesliwie dobrzy rodac nie zapominaja o Instytucie, a zainicjowalam taka skladke wieczysta £100 i jakos to przekonalo ludzi i sporo juz tak sie zapisalo. Flota jest zinwestowana i tylko procenty moga byc uzywane na prowadzenie samej instytucji.

Jak Twoje Coreczki i Johny z rodzina? Czy rzeczywiwcie sie rozszedl czyto tylko byly przejsciowe nieporozumienia?

Zima tutaj była bardzo łagodna i tylko mieliśmy pare dni prawdziwie zimnych.

Ponieważ już wychodzenie wieczorem Edzia męczy - nie jezdzimy jak dawniej na koncerty czy do teatrów i wycofał sie z zycia towarzyskiego - wiec auto się sprzedało i zwykle jestesmy wieczorami w domu i czytam na głos, a tego czytania jest bez liku. Chciałoby się jak ta wspaniała pani Thatcher sypiac po 4 godziny na dobę, a tu trzeba dłuzej wypoczywac, by nmoc pracowac. Ale gdyby kazdemu było tak dobrze jak mnie - to by świat inaczej wyglądał.

Poczekam ze 2 tygodnie na Twa decyzje co do Twego daru, a jak nie bedzie Twej dypozycji - to pieniądze przekażę.

Edzio Ci ręce całuje, a sama Ciebie ściskam najserdeczniej,

Aurela

Family anger at du Pré book

by Charles Oulton

THE family of Jacqueline du Pré are involved in a bitter dispute with an American writer over claims that they deserted the cellist during the final years of her illness.

Less than six months after her death, Daniel Barenboim, du Pré's husband, is leading a fight to block a biography which will accuse the family of virtually ignoring her until shortly before she died.

The pianist and conductor has told his wife's family and friends not to co-operate with Carol Easton, a close friend of du Pré's, who says her account will also de-romanticise much of what has been written about the cellist's 14-year battle against multiple sclerosis.

She says she will write about the cellist's "complaining and angry" reaction to her illness as well as her strength and bravery.

In the biography commissioned by Hodder and Stoughton, which Easton claims du Pré requested herself, a key passage will be devoted to the alleged neglect of du Pré by her brother Piers and sister Hilary, herself a talented flautist.

Easton, who has interviewed 100 people, claims they stopped going to see their sister before she met the cellist in 1982. She says they only started visiting again when du Pré's nurse rang them to say she was going to die.

This is hotly disputed by the family, who said last week that they were astonished at the accusation. Piers, a businessman, admitted his work had prevented him seeing Jacqueline as often as Hilary had managed but he had still been "a regular visitor".

Hilary, the daughter-in-law of Gerald Finzi, the composer, said that when she had visited her sister, which was "very frequently", there was never anyone else there because Jacqueline could only cope with one person or one couple at a time. "I don't know how anyone would know who had been and who had not been to see her," she said.

Hilary pointed out that she also had to nurse her dying mother during this time as well as looking after her father, who is now seriously ill with Parkinson's Disease.

Barenboim escapes censure, having paid regular and well-publicised visits to see his wife during her illness. This is despite the double life he was leading in Paris with Helena Bachkirev, a Russian pianist who is the mother of his two children.

Although he is expected to be generously treated in the book, he is nevertheless determined that the American should not be allowed to continue her book. He has decided on the writer he would like to write his wife's official biography and expects a contract to be drawn up this week.

His opposition to Easton is based on the relatively short time she knew du Pré, coupled with her lack of knowledge of classical music. Easton says, however, that she is ideally suited to the task, having visited du Pré once a week for most of the five years she had known her.

Their "improbable friendship" had grown after she had offered to read to du Pré while accompanying an American cellist friend who was taking lessons.

She said: "It became evident after a couple of sessions that she didn't want to be read to – she just wanted people to pass the time with. Although there were lots of people who had a great deal more in common with her than I did and who were devoted to her, they really didn't have the time or the emotional stamina to see her, and I had that time."

Easton says she decided to agree to du Pré's request to write her biography last April, six months before she died. The cellist had said: "Write about how I loved playing and how much I hate being ill." That, says Easton, is the side of du Pré which nobody knows about.

"There is a myth about Jacqueline which I want to dispel. Of course she was very brave and courageous but she was also human. She complained and she was angry. I think it is a great disservice to people who are seriously ill to hold up these impossible standards of saintliness."

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