Series E: General Alphabetical Files. 1960-1992
October 8th, 1979

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
65-50 Wetherole Street
Rego Park, New York 11374
Apt. 5A

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum,

It was good to talk to you this morning and to learn you’re willing to serve as one of our consultants on GREAT PEOPLE OF FAITH AND WISDOM, the book we’re preparing for Reader’s Digest General Books.

As I told you on the phone, James Maxwell, who is the president of our group, is off on vacation now. So if you’ll return both copies of the enclosed letter with your signature, he’ll countersign it when he returns on November 17th, and send one copy back to you, together with your first payment.

I hope you’ll like the pieces we’re doing. Jary Pelikan seems so far to be pleased, and that’s reassuring to us. And with the help of your additional knowledge, we feel quite hopeful that we’ll be able to turn out a book all of us can be proud of and that will be valuable to its readers.

Sincerely,

Nancy E. Gross

I’m enclosing a stamped return envelope addressed to me, so that I can have the letters until Jim’s return.
Dec. 1, 1979

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:

I'm delighted that you have agreed to serve as a consultant for GREAT PEOPLE OF FAITH AND WISDOM. Articles will be sent to you for comment in the near future.

Your first check for $500 is enclosed.

Sincerely,

James A. Maxwell
President

Rabbi Marc H. Tenenbaum
65-50 Wetherole St. - Apt. 5A
Rego Park, N.Y. 11374
December 28, 1979

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
65-50 Wetherole Street
Rego Park, New York 11374.

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:

I'm enclosing a manuscript of the piece on Moses for our book. A copy is also going off to Jary Pelikan for his comments, and to a researcher who will check it for accuracy. We look forward to hearing your comments on it.

I should tell you that the article will be accompanied by several sidebars, in which we'll talk about things that are somewhat tangential to the main thread of the article. There'll be one, for example, on Muslim legends about Moses, another on the Passover and a third—which we may decide to incorporate with the Passover one—on the place of the Exodus story in the black struggle for freedom in this country.

One last thing: Will you return the manuscript to me at my address (37 West 69 Street, New York, NY 10023) rather than to the address on the stationary.

Thanks for your help. And happy 1980!

Sincerely,

Nancy E. Gross
Jan. 26, 1980

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:

The article on Philo of Alexandria is enclosed. Apparently little is known about the details of Philo's life, but I think the writer has produced a sound piece about the subject's work and his influence on Christian as well as Jewish thought.

I hope you'll like it.
February 19, 1980

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
American Jewish Committee
165 East 56 Street
New York, NY

Dear Dr. Tanenbaum:

It occurs to me that I might as well drop off this copy of the ELIJAH manuscript now. A copy will be going to Jary Pelikan, and another to a researcher who will check it for accuracy. And we'll doubtless do a little bit of additional fiddling with the prose. But no substantive changes will be made unless you or Jary have some to suggest.

We're planning on a sidebar--or box--to accompany the piece: a discussion of Elijah's role as the herald of the Messiah, both in the Jewish and Christian traditions.

It was good talking to you. And, of course, it pleases us to know that you've so far liked the work we're doing.

Cordially,

[Signature]

Nancy E. Gross