

Sent by email Oct. 4, 2009

Dear Roger,

I have just closed the final page of your photo-journal. I have been reading a few pages each night, and moved from tears to laughter to horror to admiration to awe as each evening brought a new surprise. You have wonderfully sent me many of your photo-journals in the past, but this one was like reading a novel at times. First of all, I am so grateful for the news of Virginia Brown's death— this was the first I heard of it. I was stunned, and for some reason the news stayed with me very heavily for several days. I am enormously grateful for you including the memorial script and a photo of her. I never was one of her students as such, but somehow we got to know each other and she was always so helpful and kind to me. Genuinely gentle, yet fiercely strong. Maybe partly it hit me so hard because I felt she was one of *us*, I mean, our PIMS generation. Of course, it was an early death- I didn't know she was struggling with cancer (did others know it?), but still, it was losing the part of PIMs I treasured so much, because I associated her with my love for manuscript research.

Second, I still have not at all gotten over your account of the death massacre of Jewish women and girls at Palmniken/Yntary. I have gone from pure denial, saying this just couldn't be true, to outrage, crying why doesn't the whole world know about this??!! Oh, I just can't bear it when I let myself think of them herded onto the ice and freezing to death or drowning if unlucky enough not to get shot. What can be done? What can be done? Here are true martyrs for their faith! But how to fathom the minds of the soldiers who shot them?

Third, Joseph Lynch's death- again, this was the first I heard about it. You got him to be on my dissertation committee. He is a saint for that! I was touched that you are going to honor him with a eulogy as well as a paper. Please send me a copy of the eulogy after you give it.

Reading your journal, I must say I fall more and more in love with Luba. Not only for taking care of you so well, but her independent spirit, yet piousness, and above all, concern for friends and helping others. The story of her honoring Olga's "40 days" by bringing bags of food to the poor in exchange for their prayers for Olga sounded like something you might find in the early church.

Traveling around with you "virtually" has given me untold pleasure. I love thinking about you and all your adventures. Thank you more than you can know for taking the trouble to send me such a treasure.

I also read your article, "Challenges and Problems" with great satisfaction. Here, I kept thinking, are you, the *teacher*. You have a way of making clear the complexities of editing liturgical-canonical texts that graduate students can understand. I wonder if you have ever thought of narrating your publishing career? I mean, how you were led from one project to the next and the adventure of finding the texts and all the mistakes and errors of others you had to overcome— sort of like your "professional" memoirs. It would be fascinating, because so few students are aware of what liturgical-canonical scholars actually do, and as for your former students and colleagues, we could marvel even more at your career.

Please give Luba my love, and the best of luck with her amber shows in the wild, wild, west. Oh! I forgot to say I was in Spain all of July looking at Visigothic baptismal fonts. Holy mackerel! I think I've had enough adventure for at least 2 years. I can't believe all that I saw and did each day, and am still back in one piece (I drove myself). But I'm going to try to write it up with some of the photos, which I will then share with you.

So much love and prayers,

Susan