

October 23, 1940

Dear Freddie:

This time I have an absolutely flawless explanation for my delay. I assure you, it was not because of lack of interest in the article, but for the past ten days I have been engaged in very little else but moving, which as you know, with my library, is more than a little headache. I had no access to your article during that period because it was packed away in a carton. It is only in the last couple of days that I have been able to read it. I return it to you with regrets -- regrets that I cannot keep it. With all the antagonism, even bitterness that was engendered between us and the Old Man during the factional fight, the real Trotsky, the heroic Trotsky, remained unaffected by it, at least in our eyes. Indeed, our esteem for the Old Man must have been very great to be unaffected by those things he said and did which were injurious to him, to us, and to the movement as a whole. Your article revived in me so many warm memories of him. It reminded me that in addition to being the figure that he is and always will be in our eyes, he was also a living human being.

I say that I am returning the article with regrets because the first chance I get, I am going to write a little booklet on the Old Man as a thinker, a fighter, and a man. I would like to have a copy of your article at hand when I start my work on the booklet. If it shapes up the way I think it should, I should like to incorporate one or two passages from it. Would it therefore be possible for you, in a spare hour or two, to type out a single-spaced copy of your article and send it to me? I would very much appreciate it.

With warmest regards, I am,

Sincerely,

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