

My Beloved!

[1/1] At the same time as I am sending this letter I am expediting an affidavit and the necessary [1/2] attachments straight to the American consul in Warsaw.¹ [1/3] The affidavit contains the following data²:

[1/4] Occupation: Research Assistant, New York University

[1/5] Earnings: \$140 monthly, this data is notarized and verified [1/6] by my boss

[1/7] Monetary assets: \$29,615.71 verified by letters from banks

[1/8] Occupation of the candidate for visa: applied art.³

[1/9] Along with the affidavit I sent a private letter to the consul just like the one in the [1/10] attached copy.

[1/11] Please, immediately contact the ship bureaus⁴ [1/12] about what further things should be done and with haste begin the efforts with full [1/13] energy, because the temporary quota for Poland is filling up very quickly. [1/14] I heard that the quota is full until October—but [1/15] my information is not certain. Please tell me soon about what you [1/16] have done and what you have found out.⁵

[1/17] I judge that the affidavit should be sufficient. Please send [1/18] me copies of all the forms you submit to the consulate.

[1/19] Tomorrow morning I'm leaving for Woods Hole. I wonder if [1/20] this trip under the wings of my boss will be favorable to me. He already [1/21] told me that we'll have longer working hours there than here and [1/22] that we'll also work Saturdays. We'll see whether I'll manage to make him [1/23] waver, or whether it will all end with a hellish quarrel—he [1/24] doesn't always go down well with me, and as you guys know, I am [1/25] not the most agreeable subordinate, if one is trying to walk all over [1/26] my head. We'll see.

[1/27] My definitive address from tomorrow on:

[1/28] Marine Biological Laboratory

[1/29] Woods Hole, Mass., U.S.A.

[1/30] I send my kisses and sincere [1/31] hugs
Yours

¹ This application for a visa was Professor Birnbaum's first attempt at getting his sister out of Poland.

² The collection contains copies and rough drafts of the affidavits and letters to the American Consul.

³ The letter to the Consul in Warsaw actually mentions this considerable amount of money and says that since Z.W. is so busy with work, this money will go to waste by lying fallow in banks. He apparently expected that his sister would somehow start a business that would use the capital in a way that would allow her to utilize her artistic talents.

⁴ This probably refers to tickets for a liner to America.

⁵ The quota was most likely fuller than Dr. Birnbaum thought, because Franciszka Birnbaum did not come up for consideration before the German invasion during the autumn of '39. Incidentally, since Lwow was taken over by the Russians early in the war, she was no longer under the jurisdiction of the Poles and not only lost her "place in line", but also any right or chance to leave for America, since the Soviets did not have diplomatic relations with America, nor did they even allow travel to neighboring countries.