

antioch

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My dear Mr. Schwartzman:

Thank you for your letter and your enclosures, and congratulations on your work with FRAGMENTS

As to writing some memoirs about my father, you raise some difficult problems. For one thing, I am doing no writing now chiefly because of the tragic condition of my wife. Because of hardening of the arteries of the brain, she has been failing for almost a decade and for nearly two years now has been confined to a nursing home--totally helpless, no recognition of me or anything else, and constantly screaming. I have even been asked to stay away from the home because my visits help neither her nor me. As Harry Golden knows--but perhaps does not appreciate--the strain on me has been almost unbearable. What energies I have must be directed to my teaching. So I have in almost every case turned down invitations to talk or to contribute papers.

I did that small note for the Antioch Review, which helped to start 40 years ago, but that was a ~~small~~ inadequate 'fragment.' Writing about my father presents special problems, as does the HGSS. I was away teaching during that period and Bob Clancy would be better informed than I. Harry Golden and Bob both seem to know things about my father that I can neither corroborate nor remember. Many persons here and elsewhere have asked me to write my own memoirs (which is a ridiculous suggestion) and others have suggested writing a life of my father. But I need data, and I have <sup>on hand</sup> none. I'm not a psychiatrist, so I can't estimate our relations to each other. There is nowhere to research anything, beyond what Bob and Harry have attempted, with indifferent success. So, I'll have to leave it to them <sup>with their permission</sup> to continue. Believe me, I am not taking this lightly, but to explain my position fully would require the book I am not going to write.

Sorry, but, in any event, best of luck to this and any other works of yours.

Cordially,

*George Seiger*