

Yaroslavl. 2. vi. 1959.

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Dear Sir -

I had the good fortune of showing your friends and the officials of your Embassy about my town. I found them very amiable people and shall always think of them with pleasure. It would not be exaggerating to say that little Shama has become a favourite of our town: she had been hugged by many a mother that chanced to be promenading with her children on the Volga embankment at that time.

We should be very glad if you to had found time to come to Yaroslavl and get acquainted with its historical monuments. I would certainly be very glad to show them to you.

I am now engaged in a careful study of the history and philosophy of Buddhism. The existing literature, however, deals mostly with the religion and philosophy of Hinduism and the way it is perceived in China and Japon. I am interested only in ontology and ethics but also, and particularly, in gnoseology and aesthetics in their most ancient initial forms.

I should be very thankful to you if you



could refer me to the literature on the aesthetics and theory of Buddhist literature which may be available in the libraries of this country. My desire is to understand the fundamentals artistic principles of your culture, not only as they are presented by the scientists of the West, but as they are understood by the creators of your art themselves.

I wish you every success in your important and fruitful activity which is aimed at the establishment of friendly political and cultural relations between our two countries

Very respectfully yours,

A. Semenov.

P.S. It was a very great pleasure time to see a very interesting and sympathetic account on the visit of the Ceylon tourists to Yaroslavl, which was presented in this city's television program to-day.

Yaroslavl, P.O. Box N 31. Prof. A. A. Semenov.