9– X – 1947

(October 9th, 1947)

Monsieur Raphaël Birtchansky

6, rue Claude Matrat

Issy-les-Moulinaux (Seine)

Dear Sir,

Now that I am back in Jerusalem, I very much want to thank you for the beautiful gifts that you have made to us of Chourigine’s portrait of Levitan and of your own canvas of flowers. As soon as we receive them here, we will display them and you will be acknowledged by name as their donor.

On the occasion of my last visit to Paris, I had hoped to come to see you once more about the two small [pictures] by Levitan, but unfortunately I was not able to get out of the city to see you.

I have the fondest memories of your studio and of your home, and was truly saddened to discover that Madame Birtchansky was no longer with you; I send you my deepest sympathy and cannot express how sorry I am for your loss.

I hope to return to Paris in November and would dearly like to see you at that time.

With my warmest wishes,

[Illegible signature]

Jerusalem, February 14th, 1957

Monsieur Zacharie Birtschansky

9, rue du Boccador & “Les Belles Epoques”

Paris 10, Boulevard Général Leclerc

France Beaulieu-sur-Mer (Alpes-Maritimes)

 France

Dear Sir,

I send my thanks for your greetings and would also like to wish you and Madame Birtschansky all the best for 1957. I was not able to do so earlier as I have been unwell and confined to bed for the past seven month and I have therefore had to neglect my correspondence somewhat.

During my last trip to Paris two years ago, I tried to contact you but with no success; your Gallery was also closed. I see from your card that you are now in Beaulieu-sur-Mer, and so I am sending a copy of this letter to both addresses. Monsieur Kugel has spoken of you and told me that you had not been well. I hope that you are now in good health again.

The Museum collections are growing steadily; in a few days I will send you the catalogue for an exhibition that we are currently organising and that will include a selection of our acquisitions between 1946 and 1956.

With my very warmest wishes,

M. Narkiss