

From the *Slavic Review* Editorial Board:

*Slavic Review* publishes signed letters to the editor by individuals with educational or research merit. Where the letter concerns a publication in *Slavic Review*, the author of the publication will be offered an opportunity to respond. Space limitations dictate that comment regarding a book review should be restricted to one paragraph of no more than 250 words; comment on an article or forum should not exceed 750 to 1,000 words. When we receive many letters on a topic, some letters will be published on the *Slavic Review* website with opportunities for further discussion. Letters may be submitted by e-mail, but a signed copy on official letterhead or with a complete return address must follow. The editor reserves the right to refuse to print, or to publish with cuts, letters that contain personal abuse or otherwise fail to meet the standards of debate expected in a scholarly journal.

To the Editor:

At the core of Galya Diment's review of *The Tender Friendship and the Charm of Perfect Accord: Nabokov and His Father* (vol. 74, no. 1) lies an assertion that the book lacks objectivity. Diment hinges this on my "close collaboration with Dmitri Nabokov." This is not true. While having been supportive of the project, Dmitri Nabokov never read any portion of this book in progress and, sadly, did not live to see it published. Diment further maintains that "the book, as written, would have no doubt immensely pleased all three male Nabokovs involved." Although Diment regards this as a shortcoming, I take it as an accolade and wish I could use this phrase as a promotional blurb. Diment illustrates my "rather uncritical reading of V. D. Nabokov's personality and behavior" by suggesting that I do not address his "emotional distance from his gay son, Sergei," and insufficiently tackle his alleged antisemitism. I find the first claim baffling: the book is neither a monograph on V. D. Nabokov nor a biography of the Nabokov family. As for the second claim, I discuss this subject in detail. Whereas I find V. D. Nabokov's mention of Moisei Uritskii's and Iurii Steklov's ethnicity irrelevant and V. V. Nabokov's clarification unsatisfactory, I offer my own explanation alongside evidence of Dana Dragunoiu's uncorroborated charges, both of which Diment ignores. Instead, Diment uncritically repeats these charges against a person who made a major contribution to combating antisemitism in imperial Russia.

GAVRIEL SHAPIRO  
*Cornell University*

Professor Diment chooses not to respond.