

Letter to L. B. Viale
24.06.1991

par
Alexander Grothendieck

Transcription by



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Les Aumettes June 24, 1991

Dear Mr. Barbieri,

I must apologize for being so late in replying to your warm letter (of April 22), and thanking for the hospitality you so generously offer me in your farm near Genova; a very charming idea of yours indeed! I am afraid though the idea will not realize, not in this life at any rate, as I have renounced travelling altogether, and for years have practically not left my little house and garden in the countryside, in the south of France, and do not intend to do so in future if I can help it so. My intercourse with other people is almost exclusively through letters. If you feel like corresponding with me about more or less personal or “philosophical” matters (and in my eyes there should be no difference between the two), you are welcome, and chances are I’ll respond sooner next time you feel like writing me, than now. (The last months were quite strenuous and I had no spare energy and time to devote to correspondance...)

Concerning Récoltes et Semailles, I gave up my intention to publish it, and I have no spare copy left of the entire work (which appeared in seven “fascicules” or booklets, totalling about 1500 pages — quite a bulk to read, and it is pretty dense writing...) By separate mail, I am sending you the opening part, which was written at the very end of the whole work. I’ll send you more if it turns out that your interest prevails. Also, I could give you the name and adress of some colleague in Italy, who may lend you a copy of some other parts. (I believe the reading makes sense separately, provided it is a truly attentive one.)

I wonder if you have known Aldo Andreotti, who was a good friend of mine and a very precious person. I’ve come to appreciate his peculiar qualities a lot more now, while he is gone, than in the fifties and sixties when he was still around and we would spice our friendly intercourse.

With my very best wishes for your work and for your life (and for a harmony between both) yours,

Alexander Grothendieck

