

Letter from Robert Calmann-Lévy to Marc Chagall

Paris, April 25th 1958

Letter in French

Marc and Ida Chagall Archive, Paris

The letter was accompanied by a copy of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. The publisher writes that he would be delighted if Marc Chagall were to participate in the illustration of an edition for charity and awaits his response.

AMIC-2A-0037-143

Thank you for your letter of April 22nd.

I have immediately enclosed the bound edition of the Diary of Anne Frank, as it will be more pleasant to read the text presented in such a way. I am convinced that, once you read it, you will agree it is one of the most moving documents of the past years.

It goes without saying how delighted I would be if you were willing to participate in our initiative. Taking into consideration that initially the publication should coincide with the opening of the Collège Français in Tel Aviv, which is programmed for September, it would be to mine and Mr. Meyer's great satisfaction to know of your intentions as soon as possible.

I hope to have the privilege of meeting you soon, please accept my best wishes.

Journal de Anne Frank *[Diary of Anne Frank]*

París, Alliance Israélite Universelle, 1959

Book in French

Edition illustrated with an original lithograph based on a drawing by Marc Chagall. 495 numbered copies on Vélin d'Arches paper

Private collection

Marc Chagall, poem

1968

Handwritten text in Yiddish

Marc and Ida Chagall Archive, Paris

AMIC-3A-0024-044

*My world is sealed under lock and key,
My light is fading;
My end is getting nearer,
Will I no longer paint with my colors?
And my tears, where will I shed them?
My last gaze, my final blessing
Will be for the famous country where my brothers are:
I go up to look for them and come down once again to see them
On Jacobs's ladder...
I drag heavily in dreams: look, my God!
The weight of my cross...
And each of the paintings I have made
Exhale their afflicted song...
Here they are, scattered on the ground,
That of the cemetery...
The smell of a candle that is burning out lingers,
Dead musicians arrive from far and wide
Calling with strength to the glory of the divine Name.*