

On August 3, 2024 at 08:08:48 PM EDT, Professor Faye Ran wrote:

August 2, 2024

Dear Summer Program Director Reches,

I am writing to you as Faye Ran, the daughter of the renown Vilna scholar and historian Leyzer Ran whose 3 volumes in 4 languages history of Vilna entitled *Yerushalyim deLite* won the National Book of the Year award in New York and the Manger prize in Israel when it was published, and which as his heir possess the copyright. A very unfortunate incident occurred which I feel it is important to share with you since a faculty member in the upcoming Yiddish program is involved in a matter pertaining to a copyright violation.

Alec Burko published a request on Facebook asking for a third party to copy my father's book for him as a "mitzvah." He engaged in an unethical solicitation inviting someone to engage in an illegal copy the book for his use. That in and of itself is inexcusable. In contacting him I made it clear that his unethical, and unprofessional behavior was offensive and that I will never grant him copyright permission under any circumstances. This is not a matter about money. It is a matter of reprehensible and irresponsible behavior, lies, and mockery.

The two significant lies are that he is merely using it for his upcoming teaching in Vilna knowing full well that there has a copy of my father's work available to him in Vilna and his soliciting a free illegal copy when he already has a copy- that is a copy he claims he bought for himself.

Below are the actual initial communications between us, and I as a former full Professor, Dean, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Associate Provost clearly provided him with information regarding the use of copyrighted materials in a classroom.

My father devoted his entire life to the study and preservation and furtherance of Yiddish, Jewish history, culture and welfare, and importance of Jewish Vilna. I only ask that he be accorded the proper respect and acknowledgement of his work, and that his work will not be treated or used in an unethical manner.

If you wish to contact me, please feel free to do so.

Sincerely Yours, Faye Ran

On August 13, 2024 at at EDT, 00:57, Professor Faye Ran wrote:

Dear Director Reches:

I informed you of the unethical and immoral behavior of Alec Burko vis a vis trying to obtain an illegal copy of my Father- Leyzer Ran's book, *Yerushalyim deLite*. Nothing has been done to reprimand him and stop this from occurring again.

A few people have told me that Alec Burko has put my father Leyzer Ran's Yiddish map of Vilne on his FB page, crediting it to LR but not including the requirement to state the full details of the book it is from!) in spite of his previous attempts to plagiarize his work & my clear message to him that I will never give him permission to copy anything of his because of his reprehensible behavior. Furthermore others have said he has been cannibalizing other stuff from scans and distributing it. Please do not condone this as it also reflects badly on the Yiddish program as a whole.

I expect to hear from you soon regarding this matter.

Thank you,  
Faye Ran