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Lindsay

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To George Lukacs  
Budapest  
Dear Lukacs

Thank you very much indeed for your book on Russian Realism, which I know I will find most interesting and from which I will learn much.

I shall send you a copy of my book on Byzantine history and culture -- BYZANTIUM INTO EUROPE - when it appears later this year. I have just finished a book on George Meredith - a neglected novelist, at whom I looked seriously for the first time since youth last year. He has many vices of form, but his content is remarkable. A man of 1848, he carried on the Radical principles right till his death in 1908 -- hailing the Russian masses in 1905 in a fine poem The Crisis. He sought to define the positive and revolutionary hero - in Sandra-Vittoria of the national-liberation movement, Beauchamp (the Radical moving to proletarian revolution), and Alvan (a fantasy picture of Lasalle, but going to the root of the matter, showing how the "social-democrat" betrays the revolution and himself by wanting

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at a certain point to justify himself in the eyes of the bourgeoisie. Throughout he keeps a political focus (in the marxist sense) and has almost a dostoevskian insight into the process of alienation, plus a faith in progress radical-revolutionary. If only his form was equal to his content, he'd be one of the greatest...

But he has, I see, great importance for our culture, being the one writer who over the bad period, 1850-1900, unhesitatingly keeps his faith in the masses, plus insight into the alienating process. Hardy, Gissing, Wells, James - all can only be seen in the focus of his achievement, which clears the ground. Even DH Lawrence began from his work

Again thanks. I shall write again later when I can properly absorb your book

*Yours sincerely  
Jack Lindsay.*

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