c/o Estern
82 Remsen Street
Brooklyn 1, New York
May19, 1960

Dear Friend Lukacs --

Yesterday I spent the evening with a friend of mine, Angus Cameron, an editor at the leading publishing Alfred A. Knopf in this city. I spoke to him about your recently completed book and found that he is very eager to consider it for publication in this country. Knopf, by the way, was the American publisher for Thomas Mann. Would you arrange to send him a copy of the German manuscript to the following address:

Angus Cameron
Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.
501 Madison Avenue
New York 22, New York

I will then read the manuscript and write a report for him. Cameron is one of your admirers. This is a very good possibility of your newly reaching the American public. He has also asked me to make a list of your essays for possible consideration as an anthology. But naturally it would be preferable for you to make such proposals yourself.

I sent you a copy of my play about Byron from Berlin. (Perhaps this will recall our meeting this past December when I was in Budapest.) It seems likely that there will be productions in Poland, Germany (East and West) and possibly France, Belgium and the United States.

In the March issue of Soviet Literature, Anna Elistratova has a review of the play. Almost her entire article is extraordinarily favorable. But her single criticism is important and, I think, justified. She writes: "But though profoundly conceived and accurately defined in its main outline, the character of the hero still appears to be hampered in its development. It will, of course, be infused with greater warmth and fresh color by the art of the actor."

I would appreciate your comments on this criticism if you have had time to look at my play and have time to write to me about it. I am convinced that the play approaches so closely to being a good play that I should like to overcome this weakness, which I sense in it. Byron is not the best character in the play though he should be.

I hope this letter finds you well. Please send Cameron a copy of your manuscript as soon as possible and, if you will, suggestions for an anthology of your other writings.

Fraternally --

Arthur Kahn

Arthur Kahn

Arthur Kahn
c/o Estern
82 Remsen Street
Brooklyn 1, New York

Lukacs Gyorgy

Belgrad 2 rkp

Budapest V, Hungary

FIRST FOLD

SECOND FOLD

AIR LETTER • AÉROGRAMME • PAR AVION

New York, August 3,1960

Dear Friend --

I hasten to reply to your letter of July 25, which I received this morning with great joy.

I had been eagerly awaiting your comment on my play and was deeply gratified by your remarks. I am not exactly clear about your distinction between what you call "old style" drama and a "Lehrstueck." I thought, as a matter of fact, that I was following the Greeks and Shakespeare! Indeed a comment that I have heard from American theatre people is that only Shakespeare can be successful with the kind of play I have attempted -- successful financially in New York, that is. (No comparison intended with the Bard, however.)

The situation of the play in Hungary is as follows. I left it with Szekely Gyoergy at the Institute for Theatre Arts (Krisztina Krt). Several weeks ago he informed me that the manuscript had been given to the Europa publishing house. I wrote in return that I had made extensive revisions and asked to be put in touch with the translator. Unfortunately, my experience corresponding with officials in Eastern Europe has been very bad.

I am eager for a Hungarian production and would be grateful for any intervention from your friends. A Hungarian friend of mine here has written her brother-in-law Horvai Istvan to ask him to interest himself in the play. He is now associated with a musical comedy theatre and probably can do little directly with the play.

As for the changes in the play. In the first place, as a result of holding a reading with a group of professional actors here, I discovered that the play was too long, not merely in presentation time but also for achieving focus on the climaxes of the play. Accordingly, I have cut about ten per cent of the play. The new compression adds to the clarity. In cutting, I omitted most of the purely political details. Thus the personal elements achieve new emphasis. But thematically I have introduced a significant modification. Taking the quatrains that end Act I as my guide, I have strengthened the element of Byron's doubt. Even at the end, in the new version, he is unsure of the success of his path in life and knows only that, like Luther, "he could do no other."

An indication of the change is the addition as the final speech after Gamba's grandiose and somewhat inflated boast that "Byron's trumpet will blast until Lepanto falls." -- Stanhope (shrugs) "Indeed."

In this way I have taken a Brechtian technique, letting the audience decide for itself after the play whether Byron's dedication to an ideal is worthy of emulation or whether it was arrogant and a waste of life.

This reorientation of my play grew out of my experiences during the past year in Europe. The uncompromising revolutionary stand leads to dogmatism and a banal simplification of life; the concern for liberty results in tyranny. Is it possible to seek change in society, guarding the complex variety of life? permitting a fecund pluralism? Many factors pertain, but, of course, I am most interested in these questions as an American and for America.

I do not think that we should give up the idea of a generous anthology of your work. Every intellectual to whom I have mentioned that I met you has said with regret, "I wish I could read more by him." We have had just the one volume published in England. Most effective

to achieve the publication of such an anthology would be a letter from you suggesting specific essays to provide a total of about 500 pages. You might send such a letter to me. I don't think I'd have much difficulty in finding a publisher. I have about ten volumes of the German edition of your works and could obtain from you whatever we might be missing here. I have seen you quoted in the New York Times book review section and heard you mentioned on television here. This country is undergoing such a rapid cultural revolution that your works would be seized for discussion in all intellectual circles.

I did buy your latest published book in West Berlin on my way home -- and find the thesis of the present basic division in the world between the peace and war forces useful and productive.

At present I am negotiating for a book on my European experiences and for articles with leading magazines. Many people in Eastern Europe would be amazed at the rational attitudes and openmindedness of the book and magazine editors with whom I have spoken. I left Eastern Europe with a sense of oppression at intellectual sterility -- less in Poland, of course, than elsewhere. I not achieve a new equilibrium after a few more months at home, but at present I am most content at being an American.

To return to my play -- whatever success I have had in developing different types whose ideology grows out of their full life experiences, I owe to you.

Very best wishes to you --

N.B. My new address is 138 Remsen Street, Brooklyn 1, N Y

Before anything final is done with my play, I should, of course, want to provide the revisions and cuts.

138 Remsen Street
Brooklyn 1, New York, USA
March 18, 1961

Dear Friend Lukacs,
I had hoped by now to have news for you regarding possible publication of your works here. Hill & Wang Publ. have written to your English publisher to seek a joint publication. Such Anglo-American cooperation has become very common in publishing. Furthermore, Angus Cameron at Alfred Knopf Publ. tells me that Yale University is preparing to issue some of your works. Do you know about this plan?
I am taking the liberty to send you new pages to replace pages in the manuscript of my play along with a list of other corrections. I hope something can be done

with the play in Hungary.

As I may have written in a previous letter, I did not receive a gratifying response from publishing houses regarding a book on the peoples democracies. Americans are interested in the USSR, China, Africa and Latin America and in Germany. Rightly or wrongly, other countries are considered less vital. The material I gathered, however, will be of use some day.

It seems likely that my play will be produced later this year.

I have gone back to school to obtain my doctorate in comparative literature. It will take several years but I will be able in the meantime to teach in a university. The tremendous increase in the number of students in higher education has resulted in a critical shortage of professors.

As you are aware, the great reevaluation is proceeding in this country. It will move erratically and slower than we might like, but the people are becoming adjusted to the idea that we need to reorient our values. I am amazed at how rapidly, for example, tremendous changes have been instituted in secondary education in the last two years. The President's interest in cultural affairs has dampened the aggressive spirits of the troglydytes. For the first time in our history a poet participated significantly in a presidential inauguration. His appointment of leading intellectuals to high government posts is also encouraging.

What is discouraging is that the president and his administration are in advance of the people. The unions are scarcely pressuring for his economic program. The Congress follows him without enthusiasm. Although you probably read much about unemployment, the country as a whole is still amazingly prosperous The Negroes are maintaining a constant pressure, but their militance is tempered by the fact that they are winning steadily and at a rate that could not have been hoped for. Labor has not mounted a campaign for a decrease in working hours, a necessary reform to decrease unemployment. The youth has not overcome its opportunistic complacency, the heritage of the McCarthy era. But one senses a new sense of confidence and pride in America. There is less fanatic fear of the Soviet Union. We are becoming more interested in and concerned with other parts of the world. My own observations showed that Western Europe was advancing at a more rapid rate than Eastern. I think that if we can achieve some necessary reforms within our society, we can continue to advance at such a rate that the USSR will offer no economic challenge. I am convinced that culturally with our pluralism, if unfettered, will result in our far surpassing the East. In my next letter I will send you the list of a day's radio and television programs from the New York Times. You will be astounded at the richness, the quality -- absolutely unapproached in Europe (I was about to say, unapproache by all Europe together).

I hope this letter finds you in good health. Let me know if I can be of service to you.
With warmest regards -- Arthur Koestler

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With warmest regards -- Arthur Kadar

Mavrocordato

add after 1st sent of Marvocordato's 2nd speech, the following speech for Byron: "And Lepanto ... If I left Missolonghi in command of scoundrels?"

Scene 3, eliminate entire passage with Alkibiades, opening scene at middle of page 78 with Trelawny's speech: "Stanhope's strutting about ... etc.

page 79, eliminate: 1st sent, Odysseus 3rd speech
2nd sent, Odysseus 4th speech
2nd sent, Odysseus 5th speech

page 80 change "man" to "beggar" 3rd line from end of Odysseus' long speech
eliminate 2nd sent of Odysseus speech at bottom of page

page 81, eliminate: top 2 speeches
words' "An untutored savage" in Odysseus 2nd speech
Odysseus 3rd speech
last 3 speeches on page

page 82, eliminate 2nd sent of Odysseus 2nd speech

page 82a, eliminate 1st sent of Odysseus 2nd speech

page 83 eliminate top three speeches

ACT IV

page 85 add to Byron's last speech: "Were ya scared, Parry?"
Parry's bottom speech now reads: "Those blokes were scared, too. Don't think the bottle didn't help convince 'em."

page 86, Byron's second speech now reads: "The Prince is happy only when life is a nightmare."
eliminate, Parry's 2nd & 3rd speeches
Byron's 3rd and 4th speeches

page 87, Byron's 1st speech now reads: "With the banner of freedom!"
eliminate: Byron's 2nd speech
2nd sent of Parry's 3rd speech

page 89, eliminate: Byron's 4th & 5th speeches
Fletcher's speech at bottom of page

page 90, eliminate top of page down to stage directions

page 91, eliminate 1st sent of Mavrocordato's 1st speech
Byron's 2nd sepeech
change Mavrocordato's 3rd speech to read: "Ay, a blast of cannon has drowned out all the poetry."
eliminate last sentence of bottom of page.

page 95, eliminate 1st sent. of Bozzaris 1st speech
1st sent of Colocotrones 4th speech

page 96, eliminate Maria's last speech

page 99, Parry's speech reads: Can ya blame a man for takin' a nip?
eliminate Mavrocordato's 3rd speech

page 102, eliminate: after word "lord" in Stanhope's 1st speech
3rd sent. in Byron's long speech
Byron's 3rd speech
3rd sent in Stanhope's 3rd speech. Stanhope's 3rd and 4th speech now are combined.

138 Remsen Street
Brooklyn 1, New York, USA
March 18, 1961

Dear Friend Lukacs,
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I am taking the liberty to send you new pages to replace pages in the manuscript of my play along with a list of other corrections. I hope something can be done

6

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Atlas
THE MAGAZINE OF THE WORLD PRESS
Cable Address ATLASMAGUS NEWYORK
WORLEY PUBLISHING COMPANY INCORPORATED • 31 WEST 57TH STREET • NEW YORK 19, N. Y. • PLAZA 2-3330

Friday, May 19 1967

Dear Friend,

I was pleased to receive your letter. I am of course aware that arrangements with plays are slow. Here things are beginning to move. The British-American Cultural Institute is interested and may seek to sponsor a tour of colleges and universities for the play. It seems quite likely that there will be a theatrical production in New York this fall. Film rights may be sold too.

Re your Eidos Press. Its impressive Greek name made me suspicious. Such a press is not listed in the New York telephone directory. As you know, in New York City there is almost a telephone for every inhabitant. Thus anyone without a telephone or any organization without one is to be suspected. I suggest that you have him call me at the above telephone number and arrange to meet me for lunch. I'll then write you my opinion about what you should do. Meanwhile I will try to press some of the respectable publishers.

I am now working the above magazine, a new venture. We reprint articles from publications all over the world -- on all subjects -- to give an impression of what is being thought and said East and West and Neutral. I am having a copy mailed you.

If you'd like me to expatiate on anything about America, send me questions. In general the Great Reevaluation has received impetus by

the Cuban fiasco. I know that the more hardheaded "realists" in your part of the world would be cynical at my opinion that American public opinion simply could not have been brought to the kind of intervention that the Soviets mounted in '57 in their neighboring country. But the newspapers and magazines have become more vocal in their sharp criticisms of American cultural and social weaknesses. And there is a sense of revival in the country. The Congress is appropriating money for vast housing projects. Whole areas of New York City are being razed and reconstructed. As a matter of fact there is more building going on in this city than in any city I visited in Europe. On the other hand it is clear that we are going to meet with many defeats in international politics before our ponderous society reorients itself to a new dynamism -- manifested already in the Peace Corps, which has really fired the university youth. But at last major plans are being made for meeting the challenge of educational needs. It is expected that fifty per cent of the secondary school graduates will be going on to colleges and universities by 1970. The advances made by the Negro people proceed at at an unprecedented rate. Europeans ought to know that the percentage of Negroes going to college is twice that of Englishmen. One out of 5 Negroes owns an automobile. What's more, everyone knows that within the next few years the vestiges of discrimination will be ended. Of course in a free society, all the continuing injustice is constantly aired.
As you see from the above, my appreciation of a pluralistic society grew so tremendously as a result of my European experience that I can perhaps really be accused of nationalism.

Best to you,

Arthur Kahn

A. Kahn

LGY 27-839/11

Friday, July 6 1967

Dear Friend Lukacs,

I am very happy that I am able to write you good news. I have met Michael Hudson and he is ours! He is a very young man whose father was a radical (and may still be). He has access to a tremendous fortune and is prepared to spend it. As you will see from the enclosed letter, I made a tentative contract with him for you. (I have taken the liberty of saying that I was authorized to act in your behalf.) You will note that the agreement calls for a $500 advance to you. I told him that the agreement would go into effect upon my receiving a check for that amount made out to your name. You must tell me whether you are satisfied with this arrangement and what I am to do with the money. It occurred to me that you might want to buy something here with the dollars. If that is the case, I will have him make out another check to me and cash the check and use the money as you instruct. You may be sure that I am eager to follow your wishes.

I am also sending with this letter a tentative list of essays from which he might choose an anthology of about 300 pages (smaller pages than appear, however, in the German edition of your works).

Although I think there are advantages to your being published by a large house in this country, a small publisher will concentrate more effort on his few books. Michael Hudson seems ambitious and energetic. Besides, he has plenty of money to lose. As he notes in his contract letter, there are rumors that other publishers are interested in issuing your essays. I will write to them to inform them that I am representing you and that they are not to publish without first soliciting a contract.

I don't think you'll become rich from this venture, but I do think you will become widely known in this country. Although, as I told you, intellectuals everywhere do know your name and many have read at least the one volume of the French Realists published in England.

As for more general matters, I do not share your pessimism regarding this country at all. The Administration has succeeded in having several significant bills of social interest passed. For example, the Congress appropriated the largest sum in our history for housing. Our housing construction is now at a higher rate per capita than that of the Soviet Union and ~~will~~ since this bill will be even greater. Furthermore, this Administration is at minimum benevolently neutral and at best quite helpful in the struggle for minority rights. What you cannot sense at your distance is the constantly growing belief that poverty, ignorance and backwardness in this country is unthinkable. Even as Americans used to believe that this was the home of the brave and the free, they are now coming to believe that this must be the home of the well-housed, well-educated ... This is the kind of general sentiment that has been developing. And it can be seen tangibly, for the amount of building going on in New York City far surpasses anything I saw anywhere in Europe. The number of great municipal theatres (led by the Lincoln Square Center in New York, which will be the greatest cultural center in the world) being built through-

(over)

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out this country is amazing.

Yet as I have written before, this is truly an open society in which every judgment, no matter how contradictory, can be supported. But one judgment I now think is becoming increasingly incontrovertible -- that this country has made a turn away from the Eisenhower anti-intellectualism and crass materialism.

You will wonder why this is not yet represented in our foreign policy. The answer would be difficult for a European to understand. This country is such a welter of conflicting interests that changes do not occur in all areas simultaneously. Besides, the lag between the changed atmosphere and official policy can be great. Furthermore, this Administration inherited various problems that were not easy of solution. So determined has been the anti-Chinese propaganda, for example, that no Administration could dare support admission of China to the UN. But I think you will see a much more enlightened policy in Latin America and toward the other underdeveloped nations.

The technological revolution that has taken place in this country since the war makes us no longer dependent for our wealth upon plunder. Furthermore, it is now possible for all Americans to live in plenty without the rich being deprived to make such prosperity possible. Thus the rich are not so threatened.

Well, you may consider me overly optimistic. It is true that I have developed a love affair with America as a result of spending a year in Europe.

Let me hear from you immediately regarding this contract and make suggestions regarding my proposals for an anthology representative of your literary critical work.

Fraternally,

July 5, 1961

Dear Mr. Kahn,

Concerning our conversation today about George Lukacs' works, I can guarantee the following:

1) An advance of $500.00 towards his 10% royalty on all works of his that are printed

2) A wide direct-mail and display-space advertising campaign, which will include wide review coverage and (hopefully) pre-publication appearance in a magazine for selected extracts.

3) A first edition of five thousand copies, priced for this wide a sale.

4) The very best book design and production available, in keeping with the rest of our series.

The books will probably be translated either by Paul Oppenheimer, who is at present translating Lessing's HAMBURGISCHE DRAMATURGIE and is the editor of Princeton's literary magazine. He is at present a graduate student at Harvard University. Otherwise they will be done by Michael Herrington, the well-known radical editor of The Socialist Call, Anvil, etc., etc. I might also translate some of his essays.

The series on which Dr. Lukacs' book (s) will appear will contain
1) Michael Hudson: THE NINTH MUSE
2) Lessing: HAMBURGISCHE DRAMATURGIE
3) Trotsky: LITERARY ESSAYS and PROBLEMS OF LIFE

I am interested in printing these by October, if possible, leaving two or three months for the translation. This has the ~~added~~ advantage not only of hastening the reputation of Mr. Lukacs in America, which he certainly deserves, but of printing an "authorised" edition before either Meridian or Yale have a chance to do I don't know what with his works.

Dr. Lukacs asked me to send him a copy of my history, which I will not be able to do until it comes off the press in August. In the meantime I will be glad to show you the manuscript if you wish.

Looking forward to our co-operation on this venture, I remain

sincerely,

Michael Hudson

Michael Hudson

Suggested Inclusions in an Anthology of Lukacs Essays

No. of pages

From PROBLEME DES REALISMUS:

1. Das Ideal des harmonischen Menschen in der buergerlichen Aesthetik 13

2. Die intellektuelle Physiognomie der kuensterlishcen Gestalten 43

3. Erzaehlen oder Beschreiben? 43

4. Schriftsteller und Kritiker 31

From DER HISTORISCHE ROMAN

1. Historischer Roman und historishces Drama 72

From DER RUSSISCHE REALISMUS IN DER WELTLITERATUR

1. "Boris Godunow" 17

From GOETHE UND SEINE ZEIT

1. ~~Schillers Theorie der~~ Der Briefwechsel zwischen Schiller und Goethe 35

From SCHICKSALSWENDE

1. Thomas Mann ueber das literarische Erbe 14

From BEITRAEGE ZUR GESCHICHTE DER AESTHETIK

1. Einfuehrung in die aesthetischen Schriften von Marx und Engels 26

2. Nietzsche als Vorlaeufer der faschistischen Aesthetik 32

From KARL MARX UND FRIEDRICH ENGELS ALS LITERATUR-HISTORIKER

1. Volkstribun oder Buerokrat? 42

From WIDER DEN MISSVERSTANDENEN REALISMUS

1. Franz Kafka oder Thomas Mann? 48

Kalivoda

LGYL 21-839/13

Brooklyn, September 12, 1961

Dear Friend: Forgive me for not having written sooner. Now I have something specific to report. Hudson has accepted all conditions, and I am to do the translations. On September 18 he will deposit $500 to your account as an advance royalty. We have together decided, and we hope you will be agreeable, to issue in the first book essays selected only from your Probleme des Realismus, including the following: Kunst und Objektive Wahrheit, Das Ideal des harmonischen Menschen, Die intellektuelle Physiognomie der kuensterlichen Gestalten, Erzaehlen oder Beschreiben? Schriftsteller und Kritiker. In addition, Hudson has asked me to translate your Einfuehrung in die aesthetischen Schriften von Marx und Engels and your Volkstribun oder Buerokrat? The latter two essays he may publish as the introductory essays to a book of Marxist literary criticism -- an anthology. His plan is possibly to publish a second volume of your works if this volume proves successful. The book would appear in the Spring of next year.

I think this plan of selecting all the essays from one volume is a good one. Besides, these essays provide a kind of general introduction to your literary criticism and deal with some of your most significant contributions. Is this not so?

I recently also discussed your work with my friend Angus Cameron of Alfred A. Knopf. He says that he has been in correspondence with your German publisher regarding your book on aesthetics and that he has made a tentative commitment to publish this work. I think you might pursue this with your German publisher. Knopf was Thomas Mann's publisher and is one of the leading publishing houses in the United States.

Will we succeed in raising your estimate of our country by achieving the publication of your works here? I hope so.

I have arranged with Michael Hudson that he will send you copies of my translation as I progress. I expect to have difficulty in some cases with the philosophic and critical terminology. As you are aware, German as a language has a genius for expressing concepts succinctly that our otherwise more pliable and direct English language lacks. I will try to do 1,000 words a day for the next three months. I am no longer working for the magazine. I will be spending all my time at the university qualifying for my doctorate in comparative literature. In addition, I hope to spend more time arranging for the production of my play, which I hope will take place this winter. I have, by the way, reproduced new and corrected copies of the play-if you should need one ...

I am sure that your local newspapers are giving other interpretations of the news from what we read here -- I can always predict what the press will say. Having seen both East and West Germany, I consider the closing of the escape route in West Berlin a tragedy. Nor can I accept with equanimity Soviet resumption of atomic testing. I am fearful of all theocracies, thus fearful of the Soviet Union and China. Theocracies always find God-given motivation for engaging in holy crusades. Because their populace cannot either develop nor express a popular opinion, the leaders are entrusted with fearful power. Our problem sometimes is that we reach an impasse because of the conflicting pressures in our society, but though reaction has sometimes been in the ascendency for brief periods, the popular forces have always asserted themselves eventually and victoriously. The recent settlement in labor negotiations by one of the large auto firms providing for profitsharing by the workers offers, I think, an indication of what may be the American road to socialism -- revisionist though this may sound. Despite all the warnings of Eastern economists, the nation has recovered with unexpected speed from its recent recession and the growth in the national product is at an unprecedented rate. The indications are that the Western world will form a great common market that will enable it to accomplish its changes in social structure to greater planning with greater ease. After all, some of the capitalist countries are advancing faster than the USSR.

Best to you
Gordon

15

Arthur Kahn

138 Remsen Street

Brooklyn 1, New York

BROOKLYN, N.Y. 1
SEP 12
6 PM
1961

George Lukacs

Belgrad 2 rkp

Budapest V, Hungary

AÉROGRAMME • PAR AVION

FIRST FOLD

SECOND FOLD

October 11. Brooklyn N Y

Dear Friend: The job of translating your essays is more difficult than I had anticipated. The abstract terms have varied meanings in English. Critical terms are not in the dictionaries. Furthermore we do not permit, as apparently in German, the constant repetition of the same word in neighboring sentences. In some cases long German sentences can be condensed into shorter English sentences only with difficulty. In any event within a month you will begin receiving pages in translation. Where I have indicated difficulty, perhaps you could provide me with a translation into French or Russian. Your work deserves dignified and precise translation and I look forward to your assistance.

In my translating I have frequently thought that an introduction directed to contemporary America would be useful. Forgive my modesty if I make some suggestions. In rereading, I find Gorki's Mother a pretty shallow work, not at all the moving and profound work I once considered it. In any event it is not very meaningful for American readers today. Our major problem is how to refashion our old-fashioned economic and social relations to take advantage of a wealth and productivity that at least for East Europeans is absolutely unimaginable. One way we are doing this is by providing presently higher education for four million young people -- a total of college and university students greater than that of the entire rest of the world. Although because of this democratization, some of this education is below the best European standards, much of it, as at the university where I am now teaching, is at least equal to Europe's best. In any event our present struggles are far, far distant from those of Gorki's early 20th century Russia.

You would be right certainly in wondering whether the struggles in this country may not sharpen and become more difficult. But at present I am convinced that this country is engaged in the most intensive national campaign of self-criticism in the world. The approach of the intellectuals is through humanism in this struggle. What alarmed me more than anything else in Eastern Europe was either the outright mockery of the humanist tradition as "bourgeois sentimentality" or the superficial ignorant lipservice to the tradition. This nation was founded in a revolutionary victory of the humanist tradition. Witness the glorious Declaration of Independence and the political writings of our revolutionary humanist Enlightened 18th century leaders -- Adams, Madison, Jefferson, Hamilton, etc. For various reasons this humanist tradition became almost universally accepted as the popular ideology, viz. the often windy paeans of Whitman and the tradition of passionate opposition to social injustice in our literary tradition down through Steinbeck. We have had, according to the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People, about 600 lynchings since 1890. The guilty conscience of our people and the outcry of the rest of the murdering world against these outrages merely, in my opinion, demonstrates the intense concern of this nation with the humanistic rights of the individual.

I think when you reconsider your essays of the 30's which I am translating that you may want to write an introduction to this volume. The question here, as you indicated in our conversation, is to study the meaning or meaninglessness of life within this vast wealth and productivity. Such observations from you would rouse controversy but much immediate gratification here.

Forgive my pretension in seeking to advise you.

I debated whether to write Mainstream regarding Bonofsky's foolish distortions of your position. But I finally decided that such a controversy would have no meaning. In Germany I was regaled with distortions of your thought, quotations out of context. You seem to be the whipping boy of the troglydytes.

We will await the list of books you would like to have sent. Michael Hudson will be able to buy them at the business discount, a great saving.

Best to you --

Arthur K.

P.S. I am pleased that you have written your German publisher to get him to prod Angus Cameron at Knopf. I would not be pessimistic about Knopf's bringing out a long book.

Kahn

138 Remsen St

Brooklyn 1, N Y

M. Georg Lukács

Belgrad rkp 2

Budapest V, Hungary

FIRST FOLD

SECOND FOLD

AÉROGRAMME • PAR AVION

NO ENCLOSURES PERMITTED

DO NOT USE TAPE OR STICKERS TO SEAL

December 20, 1961

Dear Friend Lukacs --

You have undoubtedly wondered why I have not written sooner. As a matter of fact, I am afraid that I have shown myself not to be an astute businessman. Michael Hudson, a young man of good intentions and admirable ambition, has proved to be more a maker of promises than of books. In October he told me that he was having some temporary difficulties that would require his postponing the formation of his company. These temporary difficulties have, I'm afraid, turned out to be permanent.

This afternoon I had lunch with Angus Cameron of Knopf. He told me that he had received about 900 pages of assorted essays from a German publisher. He was certain that these pages did not represent your work on aesthetics. He has assigned these pages to an editor for a judgment. But it is not ~~that~~ a question of quality that concerns him most. He wants to be sure that if he publishes any of your books he will be your sole publisher in this country.

Consequently, he suggested that I write you to find out whether your German publisher owns the English rights to your works, whether any English publisher owns the English-language rights to any or all of your ~~rights~~ books; and, if so, whether such an English publisher has the right to handle the publication of your works in the United States. Angus Cameron had heard that a French publisher had pirated works of yours, that is, published them without paying you a royalty or even making a contract with you. Furthermore, there are many rumors of forthcoming collections of your essays appearing in the United States, especially from the publishing houses of various universities. (About 250 universities in the United States have their own publishing houses.)

Angus Cameron fears that if there is no control exercised over your works in the English-speaking world there will be overlap of publication and general anarchy in regard to your works. A great publishing house like Knopf prefers making an exclusive arrangement with a writer and then methodically and efficiently issuing all the works that would be of interest to an American audience. In any case, Knopf would want first chance at all your works.

Cameron has the draft of the translations that I have completed. (I have finished about 20,000 words, or about one-third of a prospective book based on your Problems of Realism.) He has asked me to leave this material with him until some clarification of your arrangements with regard to the English-language rights to your works. Please let me know specifically and concretely what contractual arrangements you have in this regard and send me any information you may have about prospective additional editions of your works in English.

My play will open in this city in February. I am consequently very busy -- but exhilirated.

Would you mail me a copy of the Italian edition of the Problems of Realism?

I hope this letter finds you well.

Fraternally,

William Kolb

TO SEAL

Arthur Kahn
138 Remsen Street

Brooklyn 1, New York

BROOKLYN, N.Y. 1
DEC 21
1 - PM
1967

Georg Lukacs
~~Belgrad-rkp. 2.~~
Budapest V, Hungary

Magyar Tudományos Akadémia Könyvtár

AÉROGRAMME • PAR AVION

FIRST FOLD

SECOND FOLD

Monday, January 22, 1962

Dear Friend,

One question: Angus Cameron has asked me to find out from you whether your German publisher controls any of the English rights.

As you can see, Knopf is eager to know exactly what disposition you may have made of the English rights before ~~consider~~ Knopf will consider you as one of his writers.

If you have made any agreements other than those you wrote about in your last letter, regarding English-language rights, will you please inform me immediately?

I am very busy. My play is in rehearsal. I have had to make many changes in the text, primarily excisions -- all to the good.

I hope this letter finds you well. Please reply as soon as possible.

Fraternally,

Arthur K

FOLD SIDES OVER AND THEN FOLD BOTTOM UP
MOISTEN FLAP WELL AND APPLY PRESSURE TO SEAL

Arthur Kahn

138 Remsen St

Brooklyn 1, N Y

BROOKLYN, N.Y. 1
JAN 22
330PM
1962

M. George Lukacs

Belgrad 2 r.k.p.

Budapest V, Hungary

FIRST FOLD

SECOND FOLD

AÉROGRAMME • PAR AVION

DO NOT USE TAPE OR STICKERS TO SE

NO ENCLOSURES PERMITTED

138 Remsen St.
Brooklyn 1, N.Y., U.S.A.
June 7, 1964

Dear Friend Lukacs,

Please forgive this paper. I am in the process of moving, and everything is in disarray.

As you will see from the enclosed letter, I have at last made a contract for the publication of a collection of your essays. Thus all the work I did three years ago will now come to use.

The contract comes into effect as soon as you send a letter of agreement to Michael Hudson. Upon receipt of such a letter a sum of $500 will be deposited in a bank in my name for you. This money will be an advance on royalties.

If I should be satisfied with the publication & sale of this book, I would then recommend that you allow them to publish your aesthetics book. They are eager to do so.

I am leaving for London on June 10 & will confer with the owner of Merlin Press, who is eager to bring out a simultaneous British edition & will cooperate with Hudson.

I would advise your accepting this offer. Now if any problems arise, you are guaranteed at least $500.

I will be in Europe all summer from June 10 to September 5 – traveling from England to Turkey & back to Paris.

If you want to communicate with me,

I will be in Brussels from June 18 – 17
Chez Mme. Marcelle Cerf
139 Rue de Tacqs
and at Ambazon, Haute Loire, France on June 21
Chez M. Robert Mallet
and in Munich on Aug 31
an Herrn Doktor Alfred Kroth
Marsopstr 15
Muenchen-Obermenzing.

I will write you a longer letter when I return in September.

Best wishes,

Arthur Kahn

P.S. Please write to Michael Hudson as soon as convenient.

PPS When we had first discussed such a book, you agreed to write an introductory essay directed to American intellectuals. I hope you will still agree to do so. We may want to substitute another essay for the Mann essay since Merlin is bringing out your Mann book.

September 27, 1964

Dear Friend Lukacs,

I was delighted to receive your letter in Munich. I cannot understand why your previous letter had not been delivered in France and am sorry you had to write a second time. I delayed replying until I had received a final commitment from Michael Hudson. Yesterday I was informed that two checks would be sent me within the next ten days, an advance to me and a $500 advance for you. I will deposit your money in my account and dispose of it as you instruct, whenever you may want books or other things, or cash.

There will be no problem about the selection of essays. So far I have translated in first draft: Narrate or Describe?, The Intellectual Physiognomy in Characterization, The Ideal of the Integrated Man in Bourgeois Aesthetics, Writer and Critic, and Art and Objective Truth. Thus it will be no problem to eliminate the Mann essay and the essay on Goethe and Schiller which I had formerly contemplated for this collection. I can substitute an essay or two from Literatursoziologie or from Widen den Missverstandenen Realismus--and am open of course to your suggestions in this regard.

In the next ten days I will send you my final draft of Narrate or Desc for your correction. As I had expected, I have had difficulty in seve sentences but am pleased to report that my translation is smoother and idiomatic than the Merlin trans. of The Historical Novel. In working this translation, I have been struck by several problems of ideolog I hope you will consider my reactions as being tentative and as being in modesty. Consider them, please, rather as questions even if posed dogmatically for the sake of brevity. If our purpose is not merely to present your essays to American intellectuals but also to influence Am criticism and perhaps literary theory and practice, then I wonder at p some of these essays, like the Narrate or Describe?, in entiret I mean that some of the comments on Soviet literature and Soviet reali can no longer be accepted without considerable modification. I doubt the future will pay much attention to more than two or three Soviet wr of the past forty years. I doubt that anyone but candidates for doctorates in literature will read Gorki in another generation. I wor how many Americans will not lose the impact of your penetrating obser about literature as a result of their rejection of your comparison bet Gorki and Joyce. Granted that Joyce is of interest in great part as a dead-end tour de force, but at least he enjoys the admiration deserve a tour de force (Ulysses). Gorki I find as unreadable as Zola but no good. For Zola's mechanical idealism he substitutes another mechanit idealism. I might exept some of Gorki's naturalistic short stories. novels and his autobiography I find absolutely unreadable, his "Mothe I have written before, I find simply adolescent, schematic, no model contemporary writing. Furthermore, the world, I think, is far more s in its evaluation of the Soviet achievement. A nation that slaughter millions in order to accomplish the collectization of its agriculture which despite its promises and arrogant boasting still has 40% of its population on the land and cannot feed its own people is scarcely a m to the West. My chief observation when I was in Eastern Europe was w it meant not to have undergone the 18th century--and when as with Russia the nation had not known the Renaissance, or earlier, Rome! In effect I'm not so sure that the Russian Revolution was the greatest upheaval the world had ever known. That it has influenced and influences the West is undeniable, but they have yet to carry out the promise of the Jacobins and of our Jefferson and Paine. Whether this problem can be aborded simply by presenting extracts from your essays and thereby including more of them or can be dealt with in your preface to the American edition--which I look forward to as a significant contribution to the ferment among intellectuals in this country--you would have to decide.

In any event, you will receive the Narrate or Describe? from me in the near future. If you can find the time to check it and comment quickly, I will provide you with a steady flow of manuscript and we will be able to publisht the book next spring. You will not have to return the manuscript to me--merely commenting on individual pages--since I will have a copy.

Fraternally, Arthur Koestler

You will be pleased to know, I think, that I am basing a course I am giving on 19th century continental literature on your essays.

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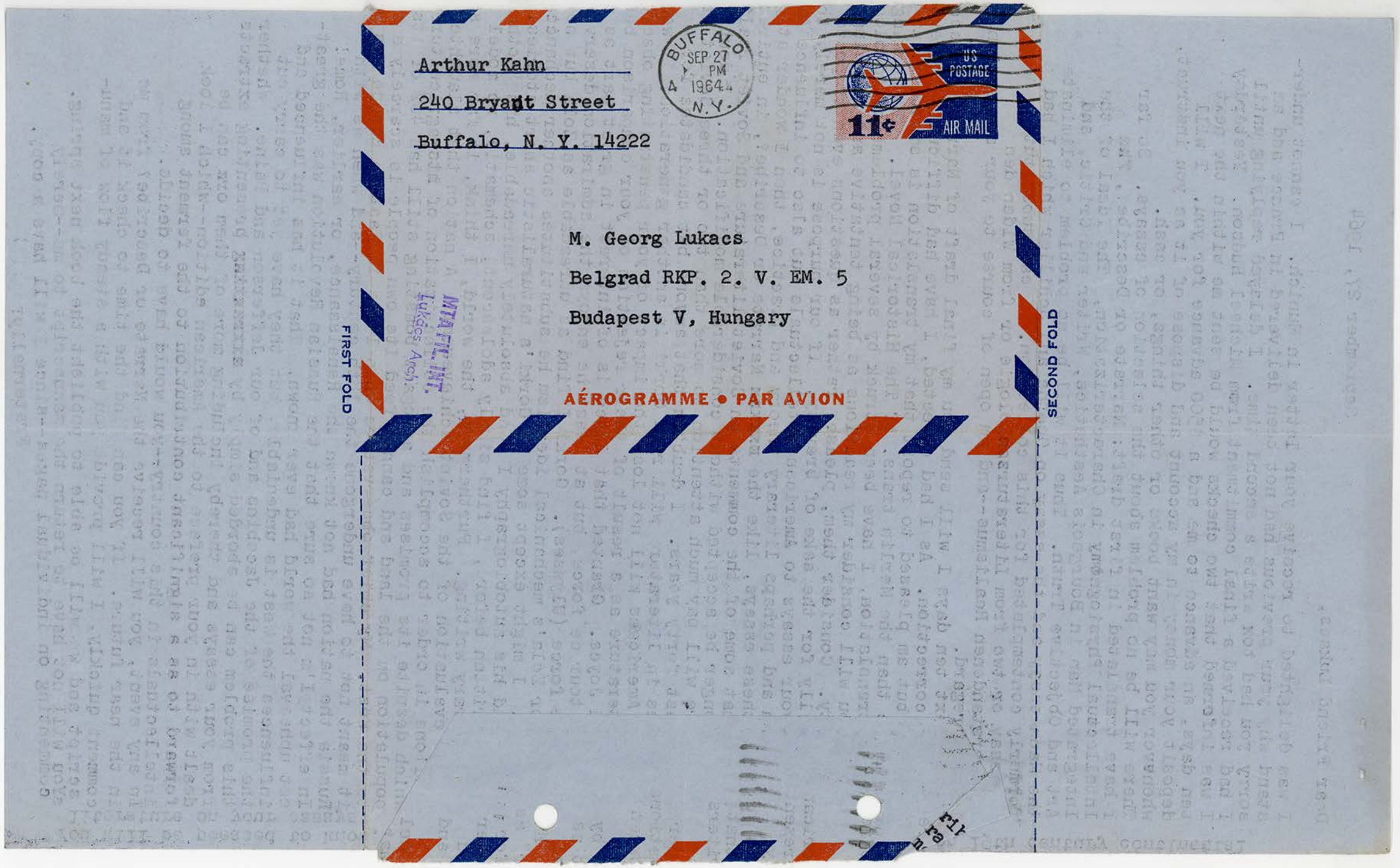

Arthur Kahn
240 Bryant Street
Buffalo, N. Y. 14222

BUFFALO N.Y. SEP 27 PM 4 1964

US POSTAGE 11¢ AIR MAIL

M. Georg Lukacs
Belgrad RKP. 2. V. EM. 5
Budapest V, Hungary

MTA FIL. INT. Lukács Arch.

AÉROGRAMME • PAR AVION

FIRST FOLD

SECOND FOLD

November 6, 1964

Dear Friendx Lukacs,

I am sending you herewiththe translation of the second essay, "The Intellectual Physiognomy in Characterization." My plan is to send you an essay each month until I have completed the collection--by the end of February. Then I will spend a couple of months polishing the translations. I hope to finish the entire task during our Easter vacation.
At the end of this month I will send you the translation of "The Ideal of the Integrated Personality." In December I will complete "Art and Objective Reality" and in January, "Writer and Critic." We will waat two additional essays. I would suggest, as I have already said, two more recent essays, possibly from "Wider den Missverstandenen Realismus" and/or from"Literatursoziologie." Please select two more essays.

Secondly, we must aresolve the problem of original ~~translation~~ texts in French and English. It would be impoper for me to translate from the German what was originally in French and English. Perhaps one of your young associates could dig the original texts out of your files or notes.

Regarding your granting a contract on your Aesthetics book to Michael Hudson--I would advise your replying to his request only tentatively. Let us see first how successfully he handles this book. You might authorize him to begin t he translation but reserve the right to withdraw if the handling of this book is not satisfactory. Certainly make no arrangements if you have not received the advance royalty on this anthology!

I was pleased to receive your last letter and in ready agreement that it is too bad that we cannot discuss the many points that I raised--face to face. Although I am aware that you cannot really deal with the many arguments I raise in a letter, I hope you will not take offense if I take these opportunities to express my own ideas, to organize my thinking.

It seems to me that the crux of my arguments is not unrelated to your theses that the major division in the world in the thirties was between the fascists and the anti-fascists and that the major division in the sixties is between the forces for peace and the forces for war. Such an incisive view puts all ideological conflicts in a new perspective.

Permit me to suggest that it is difficult for people living in Eastern Europe to obtain a sense of the thinking of intellectuals in the West or to obtain a sense of the developments in the social contradictions in the West.

The fact is that Western intellectuals no longer look to the Soviet Union as a model as they did fifteen and twenty-five years ago. I know that the ready and smug responses of the innumerable so-called "marxists" of Eastern Europe to such an assertion, for these bigots have manufactured answers for every situation, answers which are identical from one country to another. But I think there are several basic reasons for the increasing lack of interest in the Soviet Union as "the social and political experiment" of our time:

1. Of prime importance is that the technological revolution that is taking place in the advanced countries of the West has presented us with our own revolution, different from and, to us, more important than the Russian Revolution. I have been told by scientists that man's knowledge of nature has doubled since World War II. A disproportionate share of the advancement in man's knowledge belongs to the United States, partly because of its leadership in technique in general, partly because despite the McCarthy period it has allowed more freedom of experimentation than any Eastern nation, partly because this country has been more hospitable to foreign scientists than any other country, partly because this country devotes more money toward development of laboratories, etc., partly because this nation has the greatest network of institutions of higher learning in the world, a large of number of which are incomparably better equipped than other universities (the third-rate university at which I teach is better equipped than any university I have seen in Europe, East or West.)

Because of this technological revolution, we have confidence that we will be able to resolve our own problems: continuing pockets of poverty, racial discrimination, lack of housing. We have even a new confidence that we will be able to build a new society in which everyone will be educated to a high technological level within the humanist tradition.

Perhaps Marx will be proved right after all that the classless society will arrive first in the advanced industrial countries.

2. On the other hand, we have lost interest in the Soviet Union for other reasons besides the fact that it does not provide a particular model in our present revolution.

In the first place, though we were dazzled by Soviet successes in space and still exhibit more generous admiration for their achievements than they in their narrowminded, bigoted approach to the rest of the world will exhibit for our achievements in space, which in several significant respects are superior to theirs--still we recognize that this achievement is the result of a tremendous concentration of effort and represents, to use your phrase, an example of uneven development.

Soviet failures in agriculture cannot simply be dismissed as evidence of uneven development. At least we won't accept that old cliché very readily any more. Too many times we have heard their boasts that within a certain period of time they would overtake us, only to have them forget their boast at the end of that period of time.

Besides, labor productivity in the East--obvious even to an untrained eye like mine--is so incomparably lower than ours, the general quality of Soviet consumer goods is so inferior--that here again, except in certain narrow, specialized fields, they offer no model of interest to us.

3. Too many of us have visited the East to be starry-eyed about it any longer. My impression of the East was that it was a gray and bleak section of the world. I felt liberated when I left East Berlin and arrived in Brussels. Despite the boast that socialism allows for differentiation among people and brings out individuality, I found Western civilization far more varied, far more dynamic. I believe that people in the West are far more differentiated. In the West we even have significant differences of opinion! In the West there are not set answers to every question, so-called "marxist" explanations for every particular problem.

You may answer that true marxists are not bigots. That is certainly true, but then I found very few true marxists in the East and even fewer in positions of authority. My impression was that marxism had become a

religion with its Rome in Moscow, its Pope in Moscow, its sacred books, its clergy. I began saying after three months in Eastern Europe, "I'm sorry I cannot discuss with you. You see, I am not a religious person, and you are 'Catholic' communists."

4. Those of us who have visited Eastern Europe were also impressed with the uncertainty of political directions. A period of relaxation of Stalinism can end abruptly, without notice.

For us the overthrow of Khrushchev represents a further example of Soviet "Byzantinism." How can we have confidence in such a government?

Contrarily, in our country we have just had an election in which the coalition supporting the social and technological revolution overwhelmingly defeated the forces seeking to retard the revolution. This election victory was the most overwhelming in our history. Supporting the progressive candidate--the bigots in the East have labeled the Johnson forces as reactionaries, implying that the American people are a nation of fools--were the Negro people (99 per cent of whom voted for Johnson), labor, the farmers, the peace-forces among the capitalists and the intellectuals. Opposing Johnson were the petit bourgeois chauvinists and aggressive big business. Much of the campaign was not on a high level, but it was a campaign and the choice, despite the fools who deny this in Eastern Europe, was clear and significant.

5. As intellectuals, we find the Soviet Union no exemplar for us. Except in Poland I was impressed everywhere in the East with the lack of free investigation, the absence of real debate about basic issues, the closed minds, the smugness.

Then, too, our tradition, somewhat less than with the French, is for intellectuals to take a leading role in the defense of the humanist tradition in our social and political life. We have little admiration for the intellectuals in the East who made their peace with the excesses of Stalinism and who still do not expose the rottenness of the past and its continuation in the present. If we are then told that they could not oppose these excesses, then we reply also--your society is no model for us, thank you.

Remember, that during the worst days of the McCarthy era, there were never even fifty political prisoners in this country at one time. It hink the highest total at any one time was about 25. None of these remained in prison for more than three years; most of them were released on bail, fought their cases in the courts and won. The anti-Communist legislation passed by the Congress has been struck down, one law at a time, by the Supreme Court.

6. Now I know the various answers and explanations given to account for the differences between East and West. The point is, I think, that these explanations are merely of academic interest to us. Despite the tone of some of my observations above, I firmly believe that the kind of development that has taken place in Eastern Europe was historically necessary and probably the best possible in countries where feudalism, the Church and militarism were strong, where there was scarcely any tradition of the eighteenth century. Indeed Russia never even experienced the Renaissance with the rest of Europe. I also believe that the Russian model was most appropriate for the most backward countries in Eastern Europe and doubtfully appropriate in the countries that were technologically even more advanced than the Soviet Union (East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland).

Now what is the relationship ~~to~~ between this long harangue ~~to~~ and the work at hand?

I think that some of your observations about the West are dated and will rouse such doubt among Western intellectuals that they will then underestimate the tremendous importance of your key insights. They will question whether individualism really flourishes with so much more freedom and differentiation in the East than the West. They will question the description of capitalism that applies to the thirties but runs counter to the basic movement within capitalism today. For example, anyone who would attempt to preach the relative impoverishment of the masses in the West would be laughed at by the masses as well as by the capitalists.

In addition, in view of the developments in the West in the last decade, I wonder whether Russian literature since 1917 ~~does indeed~~ how much of offer any kind of model to us. I even wonder ~~whether~~ Russian literature will be considered particularly important at all fifty years from now--I mean post-revolutionary Russian literature.

If indeed realism must always be reinvestigated and adapted to current social needs, I wonder, for example, whether Gorki provides any model for us here. I do not foresee any revolution in the Russian model here, nor do I foresee the development of a revolutionary proletariat. The fact is that our proletariat like our farming population is rapidly disappearing. The size of our great unions is decreasing rapidly because of automation and technological specialization. Our farming population has shrunk to about seven per cent of our total population, and this seven per cent is capable of feeding us and all Europe, if necessary. The same development is taking place among our industrial workers. Already a large proportion of our large corporations have instituted profit-sharing systems, whereby the workers participate in the profits and ownership of their factories. Clearly, this is the trend in our development and is becoming more and more widespread every year. The workers in our more advanced industries are demanding and obtaining shorter working hours and longer vacations. The plumbers, for example, have won a twenty-five hour week. They are almost as well paid as college professors.
So what does Gorki's "Mother" offer us as an example for our literary needs? Our problem, as you so effectively posed it, is to deal with the enrichment of our lives spiritually. We already have an automobile for every 2½ people, and a telephone for the same number. Now the telephone company is trying to persuade every family to have at least two telephones so that the children need not interrupt their parents with their conversations or so that the woman of the house will not have to walk from one room to another to answer the telephone.
It is true that twenty percent of our population is poor by our standards, though most of this twenty per cent does own automobiles. But we are confident that we can eliminate poverty from our country. That is not our problem.

I believe that the discussions of Soviet literature in some of these earlier essays ~~represent a kind of thinking that has~~ introduce problems that are no longer pertinent for Western literature and interpretations of the two societies that are no longer pertinent. But the critical insights are peerless. I wonder whether they will not lose their impact when related to discussions that will rouse all kinds of justified doubts.

Fraternally, William Kolb

Arthur Kahn

STATE UNIVERSITY College OF NEW YORK

[redacted]

1300 Elmwood Avenue

Buffalo 22, New York

32

Buffalo, New York
December 6, 1964

Dear Friend Lukacs,

Next week I will be mailing you my drafts of the translations of two essays: Writer and Critic and The Ideal of the Harmonious Man in Bourgeois Aesthetics.

I will immediately begin work on Art and Objective Truth, the last essay which I have already translated roughly.

If I do not hear contrarily from you, I will then translate "Fraaz Kafka or Thomas Mann?" from Wider den missverstandenen Realismus. I propose this essay because it shows your application of your aesthetic theories to the work of two writers of considerable influence in the United States. The other essays that I had selected deal with general theoretical questions. This essay applies your theory and will, therefore, complement the others well.

I ought to send you that final essay by the middle of February. It is my hope that by then you will be able to send me a preface for the book directed to Americans specifically.

May I suggest that the more directly you can deal with American literature or the American cultural scene in general --the better. Furthermore, the sharper your criticism of the cultural scene in this country, the better.

It may seem strange to you that we have never outgrown our concern as to what foreigners think of us. Books by foreigners critical of America often become best sellers. I believe that with a polemical introduction you can set off a vigorous discussion here that can only have good results.

Would you write an introduction of this kind? What would you think of about 5,000 words?

As the translations proceed, I find that I have somewhat less difficulty, but there is still much work to be done with each of them. I have arranged to have a professor of philosophy read each of them very carefully and compare each with the original text. He is well-educated, astute and progessive and recognizes that I have a strong sense of responsibility regarding my translations.

A major worry for me is that I have not the original texts of many English and French quotations. If you cannot provide the original texts, I can appeal to readers of the New York Times to furnish them, but this is a slow process. There is a column in the Sunday book section on which students ask the readers to help find sources of quotations.

You may be pleased to know that I find in my own teaching that I have learned a tremendous amount from my work in translating your essays.

Fraternally,

Arthur Kahn
240 Bryant Street
Buffalo, New York 14222

BUFFALO N.Y. DEC 7 4 PM 1964

US POSTAGE 11¢ AIR MAIL

Mr. Georg Lukacs
Belgrad-rkp. 2
Budapest V, Hungary

FIRST FOLD

SECOND FOLD

AÉROGRAMME • PAR AVION

December 10th
Buffalo

Dear Friend,

I was delighted to get your letter of November 11--as a matter of fact, several of my friends at school were awaiting it as eagerly as I. Although you are, of course, unable to deal with all my observations, I am immensely impressed with how well you deal with them in brief.

First to the business in hand: I am sending herewith the translations o of two essays: Writer & Critic and The Ideal of the Harmonious Individual. Tomorrow I will begin work on Art & Objective Truth.

I have recalculated the length of the essays and have found that one additional, sizable essay will suffice for the kind of book that is to be published. Our letters crossed. As a result, you did not receive my suggestion of the Mann-Kafka article before writing your suggestions of Volkstribun oder Buerokrat? and Freie oder gelenkte Kunst? I have the volume "Marx und Engels als Literaturkritiker." Would you consider the Mann-Kafka article on the basis of the arguments I offered--namely, that it shows the application of your critical method to two writers of considerable significance here and that it does not contain the discussions of earlier Soviet literature, which may, in my opinion, limit the effectiveness of some of the other essays. There is no question, of course, that I will ~~attempt to~~ argue with you about your selection. I will be working on the Art & Objective Truth for the next month. If you can notify me in time which essay you prefer of the three, I will act accordingly. I should not like a long delay in receiving the essay from Germany, however. The Volkstribun article is too short & would make a second essay necessary — another short essay. I will ask Michael Hudson to seek the English and French original quotations.

Regarding your admirable and pithy comments to my observations. In the first place, despite the tone and direction of much of my argument, I feel considerable sympathy for your viewpoints. The general agreement rests, I think, on the desire to develop a society in which the ancient Greek ideal of the harmonious individual can be revived as much as possible. Secondly, I, of course, agree with the view that sees society as a whole, moving as a whole. Thirdly, I consider the cold war a dreadful drain of human energy and a brake on progress. Fourthly, I do not see the answer to basic issues simply in increasing man's material possessions.

I agree with many of your specific comments, too. I readily accept your judgment regarding the limited and schematic thinking among Western intellectuals, as limited and as bigoted often as the thinking of their Eastern counterparts. We might disagree, however, on where there is greater possibility for the investigation of varying views.

I agree with your analysis of the decline of Soviet influence except that I would give considerable weight to the radical changes in the productive forces in the West as a factor in their turning into themselves rather than their looking for external examples. True, there was a greater economic disparity in the twenties, but there was not the tremendous change in industrial capacity within a space of few years during the twenties comparable to what we are experiencing here now. The somewhat demogogic slogans of the Kennedy and Johnson administrations are revealing: the New Frontier and the Great Society. Both presidents sensed the new aspirations of the people for a significant change in values in our society. I find it unquestionably among my students.

We disagree, I think, as to how long it will take to achieve radical changes for the better. I think that the United States, now undergoing a tremendous social change, is revealing social energy and a mobility that I could never have anticipated ten years ago. As I have written many times, when I returned from Europe I became increasingly convinced that this nation has far more of a ferment for change than any country I visited in Europe. The existence of the Soviet Union and the many great changes taking place around the world have affected the developments in this country certainly. But the country itself has demonstrated a remarkable resilience and energy in dealing with these problems. For example, with Sputnik seven years ago, there was an outcry in this country for a radical change in our educational standards. Now we can see the results of this outcry more and more each year as we receive new students in the universities. The universities have now been compelled to change their standards because they are receiving students with far better preparation. There is a great way yet to go and much to be improved, but we are doing it on a scale unparalleled in the world. Other problems being grappled with include the ugliness of our cities, whose slums are worse than almost any to be seen in Europe. Throughout the nation great cities have torn down the great central areas and rebuilt them, often most impressively. The amount of construction in our country is far greater than that to be seen anywhere in Eastern Europe (not necessarily greater than in France perhaps).
Furthermore there has been a cultural revolution--not only has the percentage of students in our universities tripled since World War II (and we had the highest percentage in the world then), but the amount of money spent on museums, symphony concerts, books (good literature, mostly classics), good phonograph records, the building of community theatres and art centers--has tripled in the last ten years.
In addition, the Negro question has been brought right out into the open and has posed basic questions regarding American democracy, questions discussed everywhere--on the radio, television, in the churches, public meetings, etc.
Then there has been an increasing control by the government of the economy by direct spending, regretably still on armaments (but there is increasing discussion now of a change-over to peaceful construction if the arms race should end, a discussion that has become major as an issue). The government requires all companies working on government contracts, for example, to hire a certain percentage of Negroes above ordinary labor. I know it is difficult for Europeans to understand the relationship between the central and state governments, but our separation of powers, though partially an advantage for reaction, also preserves and stimulates local differences and adds to the richness of the civilization. Mobility is still the key characteristic of American civilization.

In effect, what I am saying is that the question of making life more meaningful is being posed ever more strongly in this country, a country in which the economy makes possible all kinds of change and experimentation.

I don't want to prolong our Gorki discussion. I have begun to see what you mean by his particular significance. I know you didn't mean to compare him objectively with Homer, but I see Homer's impact on our entire civilization as a basic impact that will never end. I think that the rapidly changing world situation may result in Gorki's being considered as a significant and interesting temporary manifestation.

I had not meant this to be a long letter, for I am aware that you are involved in very important work.

Your comments about your present efforts made me fearful that you would not be able to oblige us with a preface. If you were not able to do so, I think we would suffer a considerable loss, for I am confident that you could make a real contribution to current American cultural discussion, perhaps even rouse a widespread controversy.

Please do try to send us an introduction directed to us--the book will, I think, be published in England also, but the English will be just as much interested in what you have to say to Americans as Americans will be. If you wrote a preface, the Volkstribun article would then be long enough without a second essay.

Fraternally,

Arthur Koestler

240
~~24~~ Bryant Street, Buffalo, New York 14222
Sunday, January 3rd 1965

LGYL 11-839/30

Dear Friend Lukacs,

I was very glad to receive your letter of December 20 and delighted to learn that you will write an introduction for us.

Regarding your suggestions for additional essays. I would strongly advise against Solshnizyn. I do not think we want to give the impression that you are to be considered primarily as a critic of Russian literature. As for Pushkin, he is, of course, known as the greatest of Russian poets. There have recently been some new translations of his work. But in translation one does not receive an adequate impression of his greatness. Furthermore, he is a great Russian poet and not a great world poet--certainly no Goethe, no Balzac, nor, I think, even a Byron. As a writer he has had no impact on American literature. But Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Turgenyev and Chekhov have had great influence on American literature.

I think we ought to take a critical essay about an author who is important to us and is widely known in this country.

For additional essays I would ~~selett~~ suggest that you might choose from among these:

1. No more than one Russian writer, preferably Dostoevsky or Tolstoy, though Pushkin is acceptable.

2. Selections from the essays on Heine, Buechner or Nietzsche ~~or~~
   "Unser Goethe" (from Goethe und Seine Zeit) omitting last paragraphs.
   I am hesitant ~~about Heine and Nietzsche because of the many quotations from their works~~. I'm not sure that all the poetry of Heine has been translated.
   Buechner is known rather as the librettist for Woyzeck.

   ok in your essays

3. One or more of these:
   Ueberwindung des Naturalismus (the selection in Literatursoziologie)
   Gesunde oder Kranke Kunst? (Schicksalswende), very appropriate to our contemporary literary scene
   Selections from Hegels Aesthetik (Beitraege zur Gesch. der Aesth.)

SINCE I WILL BE COMPLETING WORK ON KUNST UND OBJEKTIVE WAHRHEIT VERY SOON, I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR DECIDING ON FURTHER ESSAYS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Last week I discussed my translating with Angus Cameron in New York. He has far broader vision and more acute insight than I regarding literature, politics and philosophy. His reaction to the inclusion of material about second-rate Soviet writers was far more adverse than mine. He thought we could undermine much of the effect of your essays if we did not omit discussions of what he calls "unimportant literature."

I note that many of the essays in Literatursoziologie are merely extracts from longer essays. Thus I take heart in asking your permission to omit the following sections of essays I have been translating:

from Kunst und Objektive Wahrheit: Part V
from Die intellektuelle Physiognomie ...: Part III, but not the conclusion
from Erzaehlen oder Beschreiben: : Part VII

1965 1.3.

You will note that I have not suggested any elimination from Das Ideal des harmonischen Menschen...although I believe your evaluation of Gorki will not be accepted here without fuller investigation by you of his work.

Elimination of the above passages would enable us to include additional essays. It would mean more work for me, but my sole concern is that this book be effective. I fear to publish a book in which there are passages which under present conditions must be labeled "sectarian."

Your foreword ought to be in my hands by April 1. I must finish all work on this book by the end of April.

Angus Cameron thought that your comments on the ineffectiveness of the Communist Parties in Germany, England and America and on the need for adding meaning to life in the most advanced capitalist countries would make excellent material for a foreword--along with any particular comments you might make on the cultural scene here.

Regarding our discussion about the decline of interest in the Soviet Union, he said that one cannot appreciate the industrial revolution going on in this country ("feel it in one's bones"- to use his language) without living here. He believes that this revolution will bring to a head the struggle for a kind of Marxist ethic in this country.

Like me he felt that your insights could help significantly in clarifying questions of art in our country. Thus, like me, he was eager that we choose wisely what to include and what to exclude from the book.

Please reply at your earliest convenience regarding the elimination of the sections of the essays and regarding the selection of additional essays.

Fraternally,

Buffalo, January 18, 1965

Dear Friend Lukacs,

I was delighted to receive your warm letter dated January 9. Once again our letters have crossed, and so I hasten to answer your letter in the hope of reaching you before you reply to my last letter.

I am pleased that your friend finds that the quality of my translation is improving as I continue the work. I will, of course, go over the first essays very carefully again and, as I have written, will also have them read by a friend here.

It is very important, I think, that the essays be judged for what they have to offer and not be criticized for any extraneous factor like bad translation. You can rely on me to produce as effective and accurate translation as I can.

The desire to produce an effective book also prompts my suggestion about cuts from the three essays mentioned in my last letter.

Regarding additional essays:

1. I do not see what rationale we can provide for including among essays dealing with basic issues confronting American and English writers and critics, essays on Pushkin and Solschenizy

The Mann-Kafka essay would have been ideal, but if we cannot use it, perhaps we ought not to include any about an individual writer unless we can provide a particularly good reason for the choice, that is, as far as an American readership is concerned.

2. I would like to make an additional suggestion, not included in my last letter: Einfuehrung in die Aesthetischen Schriften von Marx and Engels. The new interest in Marx prompted in part by the renewed interest of Sartre and some of the French existentialists makes this excellent essay particularly timely.

I repeat from the last letter:

From Schicksalswende: "Gesunde oder kranke Kunst?
from Literatur-Soziologie: the selection from Ueberwindung des Naturalismus
from Beitraege zur Geschichte der Aesthetik: Hegels Aesthetik

In my last letter I suggested as additional alternatives selections from your essay on Heine or from your essay on Nietzsche .

I am glad that you will deal with the Gorki question in your preface.

I will send you the translation of Kunst und Objektive Wahrheit. (this week) I have not polished the translation of the last section in the hope that you might agree to its elimination. Then I will work on the suggestions from your friend in regard to my first translation. But I should like to start work on the final essays as soon as I have your reaction to the above suggestions.

You may be interested to know that Angus Cameron is interested in having me do a book on the political and social background of some of the Greek tragedies. It will be my opportunity to try to put some of what I have learned from you into practice.

Fraternally,

Arthur Kahn

44

Arthur Kahn
240 Bryant Street
Buffalo, New York 14222

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AIR MAIL

Georg Lukacs
Belgrad-rkp. 2.
Budapest V, Hungary

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AÉROGRAMME • PAR AVION

Buffalo
January 20, 1965

Dear Friend Lukacs,

Here is the translation of the first four sections of "Art and Objective Truth." The fifth section has not been polished in the hope that you will allow me to omit it.

Permit me to recapitulate--ad nauseam, I fear--my proposals for the remainder of the book:

1. from Beitraege zur Geschichte der Aesthetik:

long — a, Hegels Aesthetik

long — b. Einfuehrung in die aesthetischen Schriften von Marx und Engels

2. from Schicksalswende

short — a. Gesunde oder kranke Kunst?

long — b. Der deutsche Faschismus und Nietzsche

3. from Deutsche Realisten des 19. Jahrhunderts

long — selection from Heinrich Heine

4. from Deutsche Literature im Zeitalter des Imperialismus

short — Ueberwindung des Naturalismus (selection in Literatur-Soziologie

In addition to your introduction we can use either one long essay plus two short essays or two long essays.

You will note that I have not included your essay on Pushkin among my proposals, but I am not strongly opposed to its inclusion. I do feel, however, that there is more than a sufficient emphasis on the Russians in your essays without our including as the only essay on an author another Russian. My fear regarding the Volkstribun article is similar to my fears regarding the sections of the articles I would like to omit--I don't think it is suited to our needs as it is written.

Fraternally,

Wilhelm Kaden

5. from Marx und Engels als Literaturhistoriker

very long — Marx und das Problem des ideologischen Verfalls

Buffalo, January 25th

Dear Friend Lukacs,

I feel guilty at taking so much of your time with my constant correspondence regarding the remainder of the book. Have you ever had such a difficult translator?

How foolish I was to be worried that you would not agree to the elimination of the sections of essays that I had asked for!

I am in receipt of your letter of January 16.

I will include the Pushkin essay and the Gesunde oder kranke Kunst?

As a third essay I would like the Einfuehrung in die aesthetischen Schriften von Marx und Engels.

With these three I would be very happy. The Unser Goethe is another possibility, but I would like to grapple with Marx and Engels since there is a renewed interest here in their contribution.

Regarding Pushkin--events here seem to bear out your judgment and not mine--the New York Times Book Review announced a new translation of Eugene Onegin on Sunday, declaring that it was the seventh in the last three or four years to appear in this country.

I share your admiration for him but as a Russian poet. As a Russian poet, he was on the periphery of the great European developments in the first third of the 19th century. I have the same feeling about him that I have about most English writers--they are great English writers but not world figures: Chaucer, Milton, Swift. Whereas Rabelais, Moliere and Voltaire are world figures. Because France was the center of the European civilization and England was a semi-isolated province. Yet the Englishmen are as impressive as writers as the Frenchmen. Similarly, our Melville is as great a writer as Dostoyevsky and Tolstoy, I think, but of a limited provincial civilization. Thus Americans praise him, but Europeans don't read him. I had the same impression of the Rumanian classics that I was given in French translation--exceedingly competent provincial writers. Now Pushkin is not a provincial. Nor is Swift or Milton. But Pushkin is no Balzac or Goethe or, as I think, a Byron. Yet as a writer of the Russian experience he may be superior to Byron, who, however, is a writer not only of English experience but of the French legacy of the French Revolution.

I have enough to work on and can wait for your judgment about a third essay.
As for a title, what do you think of: The Crux of Literature....?

Fraternally,

Arthur Kahn
240 Byyant Street
Buffalo, New York 14222

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AIR MAIL

M. Georg Lukacs
Belgrad-rkp. 2
Budapest V, Hungary

AÉROGRAMME • PAR AVION

FIRST FOLD

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Buffalo, February 2nd

Dear Friend Lukacs,

Your letter of January 27 arrived today. I am pleased that I will be able to include the Marx and Engels essay.

The table of contents will be as follows--not necessarily in this order:
I. Introduction to the Aesthetic Writings of Marx and Engels
II. Pushkin's Place in World Literature
III. Healthy or Sickly Art?
IV. Narrate or Describe?
V. Writer and Critic
VI. Art and Objective Truth
VII. The Ideal of the Harmonious Individual in Bourgeois Aesthetics
VIII. The Intellectual Physiognomy in Characterization

The temporary title--subject to more thought and your approval--will be: The Crux of Literature

I will complete the Pushkin and Healthy or Sickly Art translations in two weeks and ought to finish the Marx-Engels essay by March 1(I would appreciate your friend's sending his comments on the remaining essays as soon as possible thereafter. I have not used his comments yet, but they look helpful.

An important question! Would you consider coming to the United States some time next year? Angus Cameron and I both believe you could make an important contribution here and also learn a good deal from a visit to this country. I have been invited to deliver a lecture in April at Indiana University, an enormous and very wealthy university. The head of the large faculty in Comparative Literature might undertake all arrangements for your visit. The invitation could, I think, include your wife. You might give a series of lectures in different universities through out the country, meet different kinds of people and see different sections of this vast nation. The universities would provide, to generous remuneration.

When you receive the next manuscript, you will discover a lengthy essay, my reaction to your Pushkin essay. Your essays inspire a dialectical reaction from me. When I write at length about the I help to clarify my own thinking and hope to pose you with some questions for the preface to the book. I do not expect you to take time for long replies, for I know you have more important things to do.

Fraternally,

Arthur D. Kahn
240 Bryant Street
Buffalo, New York 14222

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M. Gyorgy Lukacs
Belgrad rkp. 2. V. 5.
Budapest V, Hungary

AÉROGRAMME • PAR AVION

FIRST FOLD

SECOND FOLD

Buffalo, March 22nd.

Dear Friend Lukacs,

I am sending you herewith the manuscript of the final essay.

Your preface arrived on Friday, March 19. I read it with delight. Characteristically, you overlooked all the minor questions and petty objections I had raised and dealt with the key issues.

I was particularly pleased with your including an analysis of your own developing clarity about the significance of your own work. As I read these remarks, I found myself nodding in agreement, for I had also shared this clarification as I had worked on the translation.

Crucial to your work is the humanist view founded inevitably on the Greeks. Thus you are able to view both East and West with a certain independence, without, however, joining the so-called Third Force.

Your preface is good, too, because it helps eliminate in advance mere ultra-leftist or right-wing attacks, for it raises issues above petty partisanship to the level of humanism itself or anti-humanism, as this choice manifests in the particular social and political choices of our time.

I was also glad, too, that you mentioned some American writers. Of the older writers, I'm afraid that only O'Neill (in his last plays) has much chance of enduring. He alone seemed to probe so deeply into the essential weaknesses of our society that he can provide illumination for many years. Your addition of a recent novel, and a rather representative one, also will provide stimulation for discussion here.

Finally, the tone was, I think, exactly what was needed, decisive without being contentious, with the dignity proper to many years of profound reflection.

I will write a brief translator's preface in which I will attempt to note the appropriateness of these essays to the current American cultural scene, including some of the issues I have raised with you. I will raise these in the tone of previous comments in this letter. In any event, I will submit the introduction to you in advance for your approval.

I have done the final corrections on The Ideal of the Integrated Personality. Please inform your friend that I have found his comments very helpful. I have only one criticism of him--he is far too gentle to me. Tell him, please, that he needn't apologize when he corrects me or when he offers a suggestion for an improvement. He treats me with far more humility than I treat you, I'm afraid. Tell him that I long ago became aware that I was somewhat less than infallible. My ~~attitude~~ reaction for every suggestion is nothing but gratitude. [redacted].

I will need the remaining comments from your friend as quickly as possible.

Fraternally,

Cecil Lewis

240 Bryant Street
Buffalo, New York 14222, USA
May 12, 1965

Dear Friend Lukacs,

I am herewith sending you the translation of your preface. I have had great difficulty with it and hope that your friend will read my translation with especial care. I am not sure, for example, how to translate "Schock" and "Rausch"--for I have not encountered the words "shock" and "intoxication" or "delirium" in English-language criticism. Nor am I sure what you mean by "entfremdete Manipuliertheit." Alienation is both artificially fostered in our society and natural to this kind of society. Thus I am not sure how to translate your concept of a manipulated alienation.

I have written to Michael Hudson to ask him to send you a formal contract and to express my surprise that he had not previously sent you one.

I have finished the notes your friend has furnished so far. I hope he will have time to finish the remaining essays soon, for I cannot spare much more time on these essays.

You may be interested to hear a little news of this country. As you can imagine, all people with any conscience or sense of social and political responsibility are deeply troubled by American adventurism in Viet Nam and in the Dominican Republic. There has been a strong movement of protest in the colleges and universities. ~~The~~ A committee of professors at the University of Michigan planned a day-long strike, but after the intervention of the state governor they agreed instead to invite their colleagues and all the students to debate all~~n~~night long. ~~This~~ The debate was reported on the television~~n~~ stations with the result that similar debates have been held all across the nation. On our campus we involved about half our students and about a quarter of our faculty. The debate lasted through the entire night. Although about two-thirds of the students supported the national policy, they were not very articulate. The professors who supported the national policy were in the small minority and also not very articulate. This past Saturday over 500 of our students marched through the main street of the city to protest the Viet Nam and the Dominican interventions. The administration in Washington has expressed its anger at the academic people and the students and has begun to send out official speakers to debate the opponents of the national policy. But these officials have not been well received by the students or the professors and have had a difficult time in their attempt to defend the President.

What is hopeful about this development is that this the most widespread and fervent demonstration in the universities that we have had probably since the thirties. Then we had only a half million students or even fewer, now we have over four million--so these demonstrations are significant. They are also the first widespread demonstrations in the universities on foreign policy in many years, for there have been many demonstrations on civil rights.

There is no question that under the Johnson administration we have made considerable progress in domestic affairs. It will be question whether this progress will manifest itself in time in a change in our foreign policy.

Carl Kaplan

June 10, 1965

Dear Friend Lukacs,

I was pleased to receive your letter of May 31. During the last three weeks I have been reworking the translations. I have, as a matter of fact, gone over each one three times. In addition I have been going over the philosophic sections with a philosophy professor, who has been very helpful. Next week I am driving down to North Carolina with a friend, a German-born professor of Classics. She will help me with all remaining problems. I do think, however, that no one of us is going to resolve the problem of Schock and Rausch easily. Gewordenheit is a more definite problem. I will get help with it at the New York Public Library.

Beginning next week my address will be as follows:

c/o Estern, 82 Remsen Street, Brooklyn 1, New York.

I will be staying there through August, returning to Buffalo on August 29. All letters should be sent to the Brooklyn address in the meantime. If you have sent some mail ~~in~~ there the meantime, it will be forwarded.

I spoke to Michael Hudson on the phone. He assured me that he had mailed you a second copy of the contracts. It may be that he has been sending his mail to the wrong address. I will see him in two weeks and will speak to him again.

I have decided on the following order for the essays--the rational for which will be, I think, immediately clear:

1. Art & Objective Reality
2. Marx & Engels on Aesthetics
3. Writer and Critic
4. Harmonious Personality
5. Healthy and Sick Art
6. Narration or Description?
7. Intellectual Physiognomy
8. Pushkin

I think your friend may never have received the manuscript for Writer & Critic. That will make no difference since I have gone over portions of it with my philosopher friend and will check remaining difficulties with my Classics professor friend. I will, however, be interested in his comments on the preface even though I will read that together with my friends.

I would like to send your friend a gift in return for his help. Perhaps you can suggest something.

I ~~have just~~ finished ~~an~~ writing essay on Byron's parody of Homer and Virgil in the Don Juan. I discovered that in the first half of his mock epic he deliberately parodies books of the Classical epics. Only today did it occur to me that Byron's parody was part of his search for the renewal of the classical ideal of beauty. Byron is not pe or elegaic, however. He seems merely to be saying that the common of the Classical view of life offer no solution in dealing with th of contemporary reality. I think you underestimate Byron. I know more incisive exposé of the waste of war than his parodies of the Iliad in Books VII and VIII of Don Juan--that is, in modern litera Any other essays that your friend has not yet examined, he can leave, for I am confident that with the assistance I am getting here ~~that~~ I will not need additional help.

I discovered a considerable variation in the quality of the translations and have tried to correct this weakness.

Best wishes,

Arthur Kahn
c/o Estern
82 Remsen Street
Brooklyn 1, New York

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AIR MAIL

M. Georg Lukacs

Belgrad-rkp. 2

Budapest V, Hungary

AÉROGRAMME • PAR AVION

FIRST FOLD

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July 7, 1965

Dear Friend Lukacs,

Yesterday I turned over the manuscript to Michael Hudson. I was disturbed to learn that he had not sent you the $500 advance royalty due you. He insists that our agreement was that a check would be sent you upon his receiving two of the four copies of the contract that he claims to have sent you. Please send these two copies back signed. I will see to it then that money is sent to your account as you requested two years ago.

My German-born Greek Professor friend was very helpful in resolving many of the problems that remained with the manuscript. We went over the Preface, the Pushkin and the Healthy and Sick Art essays in toto and checked many sentences and paragraphs in the other essays. Her general comment was that the essays were successfully translated. Both of us rejected some of your friends recommendations. Rausch and Langeweile became intoxication and boredom. I'm not so sure that your friend's confidence that your concept of manipulated alienation will be immediately and generally understood by a sizable American readership. Neither my two professor friends nor I found it so immediately comprehensible. We are accustomed indeed to talk about manipulated public opinion and sense of values and attitudes but not about manipulated alienation. The theme of alienation is, of course, a common one with us though it is generally divorced from the social and economic base which produces it.

My Greek professor friend was eager to read the essays and so we went through more pages than I had expected to read with her. She like me has reservations about your final evaluation of Pushkin's place in world literature and like me rejects your placing him even higher than Goethe (despite your qualifications to this judgment). I will attempt in my introduction to call attention to those theoretical points of most significance in the American cultural scene. For I think the Pushkin essay is more significant to us because of its general theoretical approach than because of its evaluation of Pushkin himself--for example.

If you have a good photograph of yourself (like one that was recently printed a West German newspaper), the publisher would put it on the dust jacket of the book.

Best wishes to you,

Arthur D. Kahn
c/o Estern
82 Remsen Street

Brooklyn 1, New York

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AIR MAIL

M. Gyorgy Lukacs

Belgrad r.k.p. 2

Budapest V, Hunggry

AÉROGRAMME • PAR AVION

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82 Remsen Street, Brooklyn 1, N Y
Sudday, August 21st

N.B. All mail should go to my Buffalo address in the future.

L44C27-839/47

Dear Friend Lukacs,

I was glad to receive your letter last week.
I have not wanted to trouble you with my misgivings about Michael Hudson. You will recall that several years ago when I first began to work on translating your essays I discovered that he was making arrangements with me that he ultimately was not able to carry out. The situation is not the same today, but I am not convinced that he is entirely reliable.
About six weeks ago I visited the publishing concern with which he is associated. I found that his partner had offices in a grubby and bohemian loft which did not inspire confidence. I discovered that his partner was not prepared or able to give me the remaining sum of money due me upon my transferring the manuscript to him. He had not been advised by Michael Hudson that the manuscript was ready and that a check was due me. Accordingly, I had him submit to me a letter promising payment in August to me and in September to you.
Furthermore, Michael Hudson had promised me publication by December. I discovered that Mr. Kelley, his partner, had not known of this promise and was unable to carry it out. Kelley spoke vaguely of a spring publication. In addition, Michael Hudson had promised to have a competent copy editor to check the manuscript carefully. Kelley knew nothing of such a promise. Hudson had also promised to have the entire manuscript xeroxed (reproduced by a photographic process--every business of any size possesses a machine to make such a copy).
I recently wrote Hudson reminding him that money was due me this month according to our latest agreement and warning him that I intended to demand that he keep his word--an implied threat of legal action. I also demanded a firm commitment of a publication date and told him of my dissatisfaction with the apparently indifferent handling of our entire relationship. I was moved to write him by your statement that you had not yet been able to conclude a contractual agreement with him. Hudson replied that he was going to send you a new contract. He claimed that he was sending a standard form and that if any part were missing it would be because such part or parts do not apply to the present agreement. He also promised publication between June and September of next year. He announced that he was hiring a competent copy editor. He suggested that if I did not have confidence in his sending you an agreement I should send a standard form myself.
I replied that I was dissatisfied with the belated publication date, that I was not reassured by his cavalier explanation for the apparent misunderstandings between him and Kelley, and that in view of the continuing impression of inefficiency that I had I would have to advise you not to sign a contract with him for your aesthetics book. It may be that theirs is the only immediate offer of publication in English, but I do not trust Hudson and Kelley, not because I think they are dishonest but because I think Hudson is irresponsible. My suggestion is that you sign a contract for the essays and that you inform Hudson that you have sent me a signed contract for the aesthetics book and that that contract will go into force only when I have been satisfied as to their competence. In this respect, you won't have to be troubled about the handling of the book and I will feel more confident that you will be receiving the treatment you deserve. If the essay book is not properly handled, the aesthetics books can then be given to another publisher. You need have no fear of my dedication to your interests. My sole concern is that you receive the treatment you deserve and that you not waste any time on this unpleasant negotiations.

I will write you again about what happens with Hudson and perhaps then be able to write of more meaningful and stimulating things.

As far as reproducing the manuscript is concerned, Hudson and Kelley now suggest that I pay to have that done. I have refused and insisted that Hudson keep his promise. I don't want to trust the single copy containing all the corrections to their hands.

Fraternally,
G Kahn

Arthur D. Kahn

240 Bryant Street

Buffalo N Y 14222

M. Gyorgy Lukacs

Belgrad-rkp. 2

Budapest V, Hungary

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SECOND FOLD

AÉROGRAMME • PAR AVION

Department of Classics

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BUFFALO

Formerly The University of Buffalo, Founded 1846

Diefendorf Hall
The Loop
Buffalo, N.Y. 14214
Telephone 831-3514
Area Code 716

September 28, 1965

Dear Friend Lukacs,

Yesterday I instructed my lawyer to retrieve the manuscript from Hudson and Kelley. I am returning to them the $350 they gave me as an advance payment. It may be that they will have sent you a check for $500 in the meantime. Will you please ask your bank to refuse to accept the check? The manuscript is going directly to Angus Cameron at Alfred Knopf Publishers. He has asked to see it in the hope of being able to convince his colleagues to publish it. He has assured me that with the increased interest in your work there will be no difficulty in finding a leading publisher for the book. If nothing succeeds, I will turn to your man in London, but there are possibilities for a better publisher here.

I'm sorry that everything has worked out so badly. I did earlier this month put pressure on Hudson and Kelley to send you the money due you whether or not they had a contract from you, but my lawyer strongly urged me to withdraw from any relationship with them if I could. I could, of course, use the threat of advising you not to sign any contract with them.

Angus Cameron also urged this action.

I'm sorry to trouble you with such matters. You may rely on me to make the best possible arrangement for you. I was unhappy at having you published by such a publisher as Hudson & Kelley.

When I have something specific to report, I will write you again. I'm still hoping for spring publication.

Cordially,

BROCK
University
St. Catharines, Ontario

February 11, 1967

Dear Friend Lukacs,

Forgive me for not writing sooner. I hesitated troubling you as long as I had no news regarding the collection of essays I translated and have been attempting to have published for so many years.

Last summer I submitted the manuscript to Merlin. When I wrote in December to inquire what they planned to do with it, they informed me they were still checking the translation. I had written that I would welcome any suggestions for revisions in the translation.

If you should write to London, I would be grateful if you would press them to reach a decision and if you would encourage them to accept the manuscript.

I am afraid that your preface may now be dated. I should be loath to ask you to reread it to see whether you would want to make any changes or to add a few paragraphs to bring it up to date.

You will note that I have moved across the Niagara River into Canada to teach at a new Canadian university. I was attracted by the opportunity to introduce a program in Classics according to my own philosophy. You would be pleased, I think, at the appraoch I follow, for I try to take the Greek and Roman experience out of the museum. My approach is the obvious one that there is no reason for studying the past except the better understanding of the present.

Although my duties at the university take up most of my time, I am slowly assembling material for a book on the environment out of which the Greek dramas of the fifth century arose--the philosophy, science, political developments, economic conditions--to show them as living documents dealing with the problems of a particular time and society. This work will take me several more years of work.

As a political animal, I have a guilty conscience at having crossed the border. This is certainly another country, another world. It is provincial and apathetic. There is simply less energy here, less concern with issues, a disconcerting willingness to compromise. It is a nation only negatively--it is neither England nor the United States. Last year I was the chairman of the Peace Council in Buffalo. Here there is no such activity, and if there were, it would have little significance.

In the States the opposition to the war is disoriented. Even the university students feel they have exhausted the forms of opposition they were using. There is, I think, a general hope and wishful thinking that somehow the war in Vietnam will come to an end soon, but at the moment there is little active opposition to the war. Unlike the Korean War, this war has brought comparatively few deaths. The materiel of the American forces is so enormous and overwhelming that the number of casualties has been kept to

a minimum. Furthermore, there have been so many years of prosperity for three-fifths of the population that a general fear of taking any decisive action that may change matters has spread through the land. In addition, an end to the war and a return of the troops would compel the country to deal with some decisive and radical social and economic problems that can otherwise be held in abeyance.

But the difference between the United States and Canada is that in the States people do feel strongly and argue strongly about important issues. Here no one seems to have a strong feeling about anything although there is considerable petty cavilling at the United States, considerable feeling of inferiority and jealousy. There is little imagination and less energy here. And I feel guilty in not participating at all in the political scene of that nation that can destroy the world or impel it more rapidly into the 21st century.

I hope this letter finds you well and busy.

Fraternally,

Herbert

Brock University
St. Catharines, Ontario
Canada
May 3, 1967

L44C11-839/53

Dear Friend Lukacs,

I am leaving for Europe in two or three weeks and will be traveling in the Old World for about three months. Some time on my trip I would like to visit you in Budapest. Unfortunately, I am unable at the moment to set a fixed time for arriving in Budapest.

If you are going to be in Budapest from late June to mid-July and should be able to spare some time for me to visit you, would you write to me right away?

Cordially,

Arthur Kahn

Arthur Kahn

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Lukács Archívum

CANADA

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SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS — NOM ET ADRESSE DE L'ENVOYEUR

Arthur Kahn
Brock University
St. Catharines, Ontario
Canada

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M. Georg Lukacs
Belgrad rkp 2
Budapest V
Hungary

TO OPEN CUT HERE — POUR OUVRIR, COUPER ICI

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August 15, 1968

M. Georg Lukacs,
Belgrad rkp. 2.V.5.,
Budapest V, Hungary.

Dear Friend Lukacs:

Did you ever receive the text of the introduction which I sent you this past June?

Since I am sure that you are as eager as I am for the book to come out, we should send the revised introduction to Merlin as soon as possible.

Will you let me know what the status of the manuscript is?

Cordially yours,

Arthur D. Kahn.

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TO OPEN CUT HERE — POUR OUVRIR, COUPER ICI

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SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS — NOM ET ADRESSE DE L'ENVOYEUR

Arthur D. Kahn,
Department of Classics,
Brock University,
St. Catharines, Ontario
CANADA

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CANADA
POSTES · POSTAGE

M. Georg Lukacs,
Belgrad rkp. 2.V.5.,
Budapest V, Hungary

CUT HERE — POUR OUVRIR, COUPER ICI

Acad. Lukacs Gyorgy
Belgrad rkp. 2
Budapest, V Hungary

Writer and Critic, Merlin Press 1970

BROCK University

St. Catharines, Ontario

February 11, 1969

L44121-839/56

Dear Friend Lukacs,

I have been engaged in an increasingly acrimonious correspondence with Martin Eve regarding the manuscript that has now been buffeted about for almost five years. Today I wrote him that any action that can impel the publication of the manuscript while you and I are still alive should be undertaken.

If you can exercise any influence on Luchterhans to move him to send a contract to Martin Eve, I would appreciate your using it. I had not wanted to trouble you further about this disagreeable procrastination on Luchterhans part.

I am attaching herewith the manuscript of an article on the Athenian dramatists and fifth-century science and technology, an article I am submitting to a journal entitled Technology and Culture published by a group that seeks to propagate an increased interest in the role of technology in the development of cultures and civilization. The article will become a chapter in a book I described to you briefly & tentatively entitled "Playwright and Public in Fifth-Century Athens." There will be other chapters on social change and economy, political change and on Hippocratic medicine. You will, I think, be gratified to note in this article the influence of your own thinking and to know that as far as the investigation of fifth-century social change and economy are concerned I am, of course, finding that only the Marxist interpretation leads to any illumination.

Do not be concerned if this manuscript seems to treat economic factors superficially. My problem is in dividing the material into the appropriate chapters without excessive overlapping.

Living as I now do in a country outside the mainstream of history, I no longer feel as involved in the important issues of the world as I have felt in the past. Unfortunately, I will have to remain in Canada for another couple of years for professional reasons. If one were to sum up the situation in the United States today, however, I think one would have to say that there is a profound disquietude about the present and the future and a resignation to the fact that there will be little calm for a long time. I do not believe that the present administration has much leeway in either domestic or foreign policy. The people have had the major social problems clearly exposed to view. Perhaps most important is the realization that contemporary American values do not offer much satisfaction. The young and the blacks are not the only ones to understand this fact. The blacks are divided in regard to the American way of life, some merely wanting to share in the booty, few really having any ideological perspective. I do not believe that any administration will easily be able to start another Viet Nam war after a cease fire is achieved in this war--at least in the immediate future. One problem, of course, is that no other nation offers any apparent example of a viable and desirable alternative. I believe that America will simply have to work out in its own harsh experience that model. Whether the American people can direct their incomparable energy and imagination to such a productive goal is not clear. But if the race questions and the problems of poverty and cultural deprivation are not solved in the United States, the future of mankind, I think, is very grim indeed.

I hope this letter finds you in good health, I'm sure it will find you productive.

Cordially,

Arthur Kahn

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