

JOHN MANDER 3 LANCAN TERRACE LONDON N.1. TERMINUS 8980
28.10.61

Dear Professor Lukacs,

thank you very much for asking Cesare Cases to send me a copy of his article in 'Mondo Nuovo' (it has not yet arrived, by the way). I will see what can be done about having it published in some journal here. I have recently met Mr. Martin Eve and he has shown me the translation of the 'Historical Novel' - it seems to me on the whole an acceptable translation. Mr. Eve has asked myself and my wife whether we should be willing to translate the 'Gegenwartsbedeutung des kritischen Realismus' into English and we have accepted. I think it is important that particularly this book, which, because of its brevity, could make your views known to a wider reading public, should be translated as soon as possible. My impression - if I may say so - was that you are in excellent hands with Mr Martin Eve, but that it would be better if the C.P. Snow introduction, which will probably not be ready in time, is allowed to lapse quietly.

Prof. and Mrs Ernst Bloch are in London at the moment and we shall be seeing them in a few days time. They asked me to send you their warmest greetings.

Yours sincerely

John Mander

MTA FIL. INT.
Lukacs Arch.

JOHN MANDER 6 DUNCAN TERRACE LONDON N.1. TERMINUS 8980

Jan 2, 1963.

Dear Professor Lukacs,

U44L 27 1741/5

as you will have heard, the book of yours which my wife and I have translated will be coming out within the next few weeks. I am hopeful that it will reach a rather wider public than the Historical Novel, and stimulate a general interest in your work.

I do not know whether you have seen the translation, but I hear that Istvan has approved of it and I hope you will do likewise. It is never easy to translate German into English - I believe we talked of this when we visited you last year - but I think our efforts have been in some small way rewarded.

Now, I have a suggestion to make which may or may not interest you. If it does not, I am sure that you will tell me so quite frankly, and that will be that. But I would naturally be delighted if you felt able to agree.

The suggestion is this: would you be willing to speak about your critical and philosophical writings - avoiding politics as far as possible - in an interview for the Third Programme of the BBC? I have in mind something like the conversation we had when we visited you. It would be largely conversational in tone - requiring no elaborate preparation - but would serve to tell people something of your general views on literature and how

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Lukács Arch.

they came to be formed. I think the appearance of the small book we have translated would be an excellent occasion for this, as it will arouse considerable curiosity and debate.

Mr Lasky of ENCOUNTER Magazine tells me that the Hungarian Writers' Association have been most helpful in enabling Tibor Dery's recent story to be published in his magazine. You can imagine how glad I was to hear this piece of news. Perhaps you would let me know whether you would be interested in my suggestion? Naturally, I should be very glad to conduct the interview myself. But I would perfectly understand if you feel that it is not a good idea in present circumstances. Perhaps you would be good enough to let me know one way or the other as soon as possible?

Yours very sincerely

John Mander

— With best wishes for you and your wife

MTA FIL. INT.
Lukács Arch.

for the New Year!

JOHN MANDER 6 DUNCAN TERRACE LONDON N.1. TERMINUS 8980

March 18, 63.

LUYC 27-1141/7

Dear Professor Lukacs,

I hope you will forgive me for taking so long to reply. There have been various complications this end, and I am not yet sure about the visa. What the BBC would like to attempt is the following: they will provide me with a recording instrument (I am not technologically gifted, but I am to be taught how to use it). They would like me to record a conversation between us in English on - as we agreed - literature and cultural matters generally, with special reference to the book I have translated. I suggest that, if we talk over beforehand what we are to say in English (or in German), there should be no difficulty at all in this. I remember from our last visit how excellently you speak English, and if you have any hesitations we can, as I have said, mark out the course of our talk beforehand. I should add, by the way, that the director of the BBC is extremely interested in the project.

The book I translated had some excellent reviews in the press here. I don't know whether Mr. Eve has sent you any of them? Professor Roy Pascal, whom you will know, wrote to me saying that he liked the translation and the book very much. I foresee something like a 'Lukacs revival' in this country - and perhaps in America. I hope to come to Budapest (depending on the visa) towards the end of April. I will let you know when I have definite information about the visa and other matters. If you should be leaving Budapest during April or early May, I wonder

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if you would be good enough to let me know? Otherwise, my wife and I would hope to spend a 'long weekend' in Budapest towards, as I say, the end of April. We both very much look forward to seeing you and your wife again.

Yours sincerely

DATA FIL. INT.
Lukács Arch^y

John Mander

JOHN MANDER 6 DUNCAN TERRACE LONDON N.1. TERMINUS 8980

May 4, 63.

LMU 27-1141/9

Dear Professor Lukacs,

it is with very great sorrow that we have heard through Mrs. Hay of your wife's death. We remember so vividly our brief meeting with you both in your flat overlooking the Danube and we realised then - what perhaps the outside world does not know - how important a part his wife played in the life and work of Georg Lukacs. We know very well what a terrible loss this must be for you. There is so very little meaningful that one can say in such circumstances, but we do hope that you will accept our condolences and deep sympathy at the present time.

Yours sincerely

MTA FIL. INT.
Lukács Arch.

John Mander and
Nedra Mander

JOHN MANDER 6 DUNCAN TERRACE LONDON N.1. TERMINUS 8980

May 17, 1963.

UUC 27-114112

Dear Professor Lukacs,

you can imagine that I was deeply troubled by your letter. Let me say first of all that while the statement that the article in question appeared 'unter meiner Redaktion' is partly true, the statement that it appeared 'mit meiner Billigung' is very far from true. The facts of the matter are these: three months before I joined the staff of Encounter the editors commissioned an article from Mr George Lichtheim to be based on the Historical Novel and The Meaning of Contemporary Realism. The article that he actually wrote had very little to do with either of these books, but was an all-out polemic against your views and political-literary career. That I wholly disagree with what Mr Lichtheim says hardly needs to be enlarged upon. It was because I admired both you and your writings that I was delighted to have the opportunity of translating the book. I think this is well known to you.

You will see from this that I had no hand in commissioning the article from Mr Lichtheim at all. It was therefore a great embarrassment to me when the first appearance of my name as an associate editor of the paper coincided with a murderous attack on a book I had translated, and with which it was obvious that I was in considerable sympathy. However, the responsibility for this was that of a respected colleague, who had commissioned the article as an expression of Mr Lichtheim's view, and certainly not as the editorial view of the magazine. I did not feel able to interfere with its publication, partly because I did not wish to expose myself to a charge of interfering with another writer's opinions in my own interest, and partly because the contents of that number of the magazine had already been decided upon before my arrival.

However, much as I regret the tone and argument of Mr Lichtheim's essay, I do not think that it has by any means had the effect

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Mr Lichtheim intended. There is little doubt that it has worked out to your advantage. I think it is fair to say that the English tend to support the victim of an attack like this, particularly when it is so personal. Perhaps that is too lokalpatriotisch. But it is certainly what has happened. The reactions I have met in conversation was extremely hostile to Mr Lichtheim. The article was specifically attacked in The Spectator - Mr Martin Eve will be sending you the cutting. As soon as the editor of Encounter saw Mr Lichtheim's article, he asked Mr George Steiner (who will be visiting you in July), and will be able to confirm all I have said) to reply to Mr Lichtheim's allegations. I entirely endorse his views, and enclose the number of Encounter in which it appears. In the next issue, I have asked various people to comment on both Lichtheim and Steiner, and I have in hand letters from Dr. Alastair MacIntyre and Professor Roy Pascal and others, vigorously supporting you against Lichtheim's charges. I had thought of replying myself - and may still do so - but I would much rather that others should defend your cause than somebody who is so obviously parti pris. However, if there is such doubt about my motives in the matter of Mr Lichtheim's article - and your letter suggests that there is - then it would perhaps be as well for me to set this down in writing.

I hope this will make plain to you where I stand, and clear my name of the imputations you suggest. I repeat, the whole business of the Lichtheim article can only work out to your advantage in the long run. I am sorry indeed that it had to appear in Encounter; but that was, in the circumstances, an unavoidable evil. (As far as the personal polemic against you is concerned, Mr Lichtheim bases himself entirely on the articles of Mr Morris Watnik in Survey - which you doubtless know.) I trust that you will accept my explanation, and that you will not consider our personal relations at an end. As you know, Mrs Hay has been in this country and Mr Dery will be here early in June. I shall ask both of them to intercede for me.

NTA FIL. INT. Yours sincerely

Lukács Arch.

John Mander

JOHN MANDER 6 DUNCAN TERRACE LONDON N.1. TERMINUS 8980

1963 May 17.

P.S.: There have been difficulties about my expedition to Hungary, both about the visa and about the date to be set for it. It seemed to me that I was unlikely to be able to come before the autumn, and since I knew Mr George Steiner was to visit you in July, the BBC had suggested that he might be willing to do the interview, At the time of writing, I am not quite sure whether he will be able to do this or not. If not, I hope to be able to do it myself - if you are still willing - at a later date.

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Lukács Arch.