

YALE UNIVERSITY
NEW HAVEN · CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
HALL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

February 9, 1965

Professor György Lukács
Belgrád RKP 2/ V. Em. 5
Budapest V, Hungary.

Dear Professor Lukács,

On August 22nd 1968 René Wellek will reach the age of sixty-five. As a committee of his colleagues at Yale University we have undertaken to celebrate the anniversary by editing and publishing a collection of essays by his friends and associates. We are convinced that such a volume would be most appropriate and serviceable if, as closely as possible, it corresponded to Professor Wellek's own major interests and example--if, in short, it were to concern itself with matters of literary theory, criticism and historiography. In order to compile a useful and unified book certain criteria should be established according to broad editorial principles to which all contributors would be asked to subscribe at the outset. For those who may not find it feasible to contribute we are considering the possibility of a *Tabula Gratulatoria*.

The criteria for contributions which we feel should be established are dictated by several considerations: the ideal of a unified book, the limitations of space, and the linguistic realities of American bookmaking. In the first instance, we are cautioned by the negative example of many *Festschriften* which veer from simple letters of congratulation to inappropriately lengthy monographs, thus constituting disproportionate and unpredictable warehouses of miscellaneous learning. In the second instance, we must in all practicality set flexible but still normative limits on length: an essay within the bounds of the volume we are planning would range roughly from 3000 to 7000 words. In the third instance, regarding publication in America on a practical fairly economic basis, we should hope to publish all essays in English, either in their original or in translation executed here or by the contributor or someone chosen by him. If the translation is rendered under our auspices it would be subject to the surveillance and correction of the original author. The committee of course reserves the right to return manuscripts according to its judgment of fitness under the terms proposed.

We herewith cordially invite you to contribute to the commemorative volume in honor of Professor Wellek. Whether you are able to accept or must decline or wish to offer suggestions and proposals, please communicate with Professor Lowry Nelson, Jr., who will lay such communications before the committee. The deadline for completed manuscripts is July 1, 1966. Declaration of intent to contribute should be communicated by April 1, 1965, shortly after which time the final roster will be established and contributors will be notified.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Demetz
Peter Demetz

Thomas M. Greene
Thomas M. Greene

Lowry Nelson Jr.
Lowry Nelson, Jr.