

47 Park Rd. (Flat 3),  
Bulli, N.S.W.,  
Australia.  
16.4.59.

Professor Georg Lukács,  
c/o University of Budapest,  
Budapest,  
Hungary.

Dear Sir,

A close student of your writings ever since the publication of Studies in European Realism in 1950, I early considered it deplorable that only one book by you existed in English. This feeling of dissatisfaction increased in face of the continued non-appearance of translations since the publication of the above-mentioned work.

This state of affairs has prompted the present request that I might be considered for the privilege of rendering one of your works into English.

The choice of material to be translated would of course rest entirely with you. If I may be permitted here to make a couple of suggestions, I should begin by saying that for the ordinary English reader the subjects of your writings are of unequal interest, not, it goes without saying, because of the quality of the works themselves, but because of the differing literary and philosophical backgrounds of the average English and the average European reader. One book however seems to be of the sort that would, almost entire, interest and instruct the English reader, namely, Der Historische Roman. Apart from that I might suggest collections of studies taken from various writings. For example, a work of great interest would be a collection of some of your writings on aesthetics (e.g. your study of the aesthetic writings of Marx and Engels in the Beiträge z. Gesch. d. Aesthetik, the studies on the significance of the concept of the particular for aesthetics considered both systematically and historically, in the Deutsche ZS. f. Philos. and the Bloch-Festschrift, and some of the papers in Probleme des Realismus.) Again, a most rewarding selection might be made from your Zerstörung der Vernunft (e.g. the chapters on Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, Kierkegaard, sociology, etc)

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If the above request meets with some interest on your part, I should be happy to send you a specimen translation of any pages of your works which you wish to specify.

May I state in conclusion, or perhaps emphasize, that my request springs solely from a desire to render a little more widely available to English readers works, which I have

1959 IV. 10.

derived enjoyment and instruction as from few others.

Yours faithfully,

*W.A. Suchting*  
(W.A. Suchting )

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Australia

47 Park Rd. (Flat 3),  
Bulli, N.S.W.,  
Australia.  
8.5.59.

Dear Professor Lukács,

Thank you very much for your reply to my recent letter concerning a projected translation of some of your work.

In the light of your remarks regarding possibilities of publication, it is evident that I did not take this factor sufficiently into account in my earlier plans. I intend however systematically canvassing possible publishers. I have already written to Lawrence and Wishart, London, offering a translation of your work on the historical novel. Considering the somewhat "orthodox" nature of the material which they normally publish however, I have not great hopes of success here. Simultaneously I have written also to the printers of your Studies in European Realism (Narod Press, London) asking whether they can supply me with the address of the publishers of the above work (Hillway Publishing Co.). If this address is forthcoming I shall propose a similar offer to them. As I am not personally seeking any financial gain from the business, it may be possible to come to some sort of terms.

As soon as replies to the above and further enquiries <sup>to</sup> which I shall make, enable me to form some picture of the situation, I shall write to you again.

Respectfully yours,

W.A. Suchting  
(W.A. Suchting)

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George Lukács,

Budapest, V. Belgrad rkp.2,

HUNGARY.

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Lukács Arch.

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SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS.

W.A. Suchting, 47 Park Rd. (Flat 3),

Bulli, N.S.W., AUSTRALIA.

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26 Park Rd,  
Bulli, N.S.W.,  
Australia,  
26/10/59.

Dear Professor Lukacs,

You may remember that in April of this year I wrote you asking permission to translate one of your books, and suggested that from several points of view Der Historische Roman would be a good choice. You were kind enough to reply in a letter dated later in the same month, indicating your willingness that I undertake a translation of some of your work, and agreeing with regard to my above-indicated choice. However, you expressed considerable doubt concerning the possibilities of finding a publisher for such a translation and advised me to see what avenues were open. In a reply to this letter written in early May, I said that I would immediately begin inquiries with a view to finding a publisher for a translation of the above book.

I subsequently wrote to three publishers, viz. Narod Press (publisher of your earlier Studies in European Realism), Lawrence and Wishart, Routledge and Kegan Paul. Each expressed willingness to see a specimen of my proposed translation. I therefore made a careful translation ~~of~~ (in full) of three sections of your book (Ch. I, Sec. I on the social-historical background to the rise of the historical novel, Ch. III, Sec. I on the changes in the philosophy of history after 1848, and the following ~~xxxxxxxx~~ section on Salambo etc.). This I sent a couple of months ago to the above-mentioned three publishers.

Today I received a reply from Mr. Abramsky of the Narod Press, in which he writes that "The Merlyn Press of London has commissioned Mr. Stanley Mitchell of Oxford to translate Der Historische Roman. Hence I regret I cannot do anything about it." This reply has naturally caused me considerable puzzlement: although I am unfamiliar with the intricacies of publishing practice, I assumed that you would reserve rights of translation.

I am perfectly willing to see someone else do the translation of your book: as I indicated in my first letter to you my main interest lay in making your writings somewhat more widely known in the English-speaking world. However, I trust you will understand that the time and labour - in no way regretted - already spent on the work has given me not a little personal interest in it. I would be very grateful therefore for some clarification of the above-outlined position.

Respectfully yours,

*W.A. Suchting*  
(W.A. Suchting)

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GEORG LUKACS,

BUDAPEST, V.

Belgrád rkp.2.

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SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS.

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Lukács Arch. 26 Park Rd, N.S.W., AUSTRALIA.

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