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megvalaszolatlan

Telephone 80-006

Massey University College of Manawatu

Faculty of General Studies
Department of English

Box 644
PALMERSTON NORTH
New Zealand

19th July, 1963

The Literary Editor,
Merlin Press Limited,
112 Whitfield Street,
LONDON, W.1.

Dear Sir,

Georg Lukács, The Historical Novel

I wish to call your attention to certain inaccuracies in the translation of Georg Lukács's The Historical Novel.

These inaccuracies occur in that portion of the book which deals with Scott and are principally the wrong attribution of dates and events in particular novels. On page 52, for instance, Jeanie Deans is described as "a Puritan peasant girl, the daughter of a radical soldier of Cromwell's army". The period covered by The Heart of Midlothian is surely that following the Porteous Riots of 1736. The reference on page 55 to the Prince of Wales as in the Fair Maid of Perth is manifestly incorrect, as is that to the Knight Templar in Waverley. On page 57 it is said that the "last attempts of the Stuarts to turn back the clock of history" occurred in Rob Roy - "end of the eighteenth century." On page 58 there appears the following: "with the suppression of the uprising of 1745 - which is depicted in Waverley - the real downfall of gentile society in Scotland begins, says Engels. Several decades later [sic] (in Rob Roy) we see the clans already in a state of complete economic dissolution." It is my belief that Rob Roy is concerned with the revolution of 1715, and under no circumstances could be regarded as dealing with the end of the eighteenth century.

I feel in general that M. Lukács's thesis is so fine that it would be a pity for these inaccuracies to remain without some comment or correction inserted in the book.

It may be of some assistance if these comments are forwarded to M. Lukács for his information.

Yours faithfully,

J.R. Tye

MTA FIL. INT.
Lukács Arch.

J. R. Tye,
Department of English.

JRT:JES