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Georg Lukacs
Budapest

Sept 30

Dear Georg Lukacs

as mentioned
Thank you very much for your letter. I agree wholly with your position about Form and Content, and must make sure that I get it clear in the book. It is indeed the crucial issue, and only by getting it quite clear can one bring out the inner struggle in such a writer, and make what is good in him of service for the positive development of culture today.

For our literature Meredith is, I am sure, very important. He stands behind a large number of other writers, directly or indirectly -- Hardy and Gissing in chief, but also Shaw and Wells, Galsworthy and James in a more complex way - not to mention D.H. Lawrence whom he powerfully affected in his formative period.

He is the English example of the very involved and difficult phase ~~of~~ of European culture to which Zola, Strindberg, Dostovesky, Ibsen also belong; and though he is in many ways unlike any of those others, he has certain deep points of contact - in that he is struggling with the advanced pressures of bourgeois alienation, in part succumbing, but also in large part fighting beyond them.

I think the clarification of values in this phase of European culture (to which from another angle Baudelaire and Rimbaud belong) is perhaps the most difficult one that Marxist critics have to face. It is easy to see the decadent elements here, but these writers do struggle with the extreme pressures of bourgeois alienation at the phase before the organised proletariat has decisively appeared - and with all their weaknesses they add something of great significance to human culture, something that throws the final light on the hell of alienations under capitalism in its later phases.

This anyway is what I think. I should like to write to you later when I have had time to go into your book.

The delay in this reply is owing to the fact that I have been in Rumania on a most delightful holiday.

all good wishes

yours sincerely

Jack Lindsay

MTA FIL. INT.
Lukacs Arch.