

Mr. and Mrs. Bert D. Gilden · 250 Algonquin Road, Bridgeport 4, Connecticut

January 18, 1966

Mr. Georg Lukács  
Belgrad rakpart 2  
Budapest 5  
Hungary

MTA FIL. INT.  
Lukács Arch.

Dear Georg Lukács,

We have asked Charles Pick of Wm. Heinemann Ltd. to send you a copy of the British edition of our novel HURRY SUNDOWN, first published in the United States a year ago by Doubleday & Co. Perhaps you have already received it. You will be greatly interested in the book, we believe, as an emodiment of literary views very close to your own.

As novelists we have constantly sought a modus operandi for translating the highly complex materials of our time into the human terms of fiction. Your formulations - the "typical-in-the-extreme" in relation to the selection and treatment of character; the "universal-in-the-particular" in relation to the development of situation - suggested a method to us for epitomizing the spirit of an era.

In HURRY SUNDOWN it was our purpose to integrate the personal and social, technological and political through characters in interaction with each other and under the compulsion of subjective and objective reality; set in a mobile narrative, cohesive in structure and dynamic in meaning. Indeed we hoped to encompass "a running battle between past, present and future."

We would be pleased and honored if you would find the time to read our novel and comment on it. The three enclosed reviews, though clearly not definitive, reflect the general reception of the book here. (Over 350,000 copies have been sold thus far in hard cover alone.) Interestingly enough it has met bitter opposition by critics of the subjectivist mode. The work will be published very shortly in Germany by Droemersch Verlaganstalt, 8 München 27 Rauchstrasse 9, Eduard Linpinsel, editor and in France by Librairie Plon, 8, Rue Grenchiere, Paris (VI) Georges Roditi, Directeur Litteraire.

Cordially,

*Bert D. Gilden*

cc: Eduard Linpinsel  
Georges Roditi

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May 28, 1966

Editor  
THE NATION  
333 Sixth Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

MTA FIL. INT.  
Lukács Arch

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Dear Editor:

It is unfortunate that Isaac Deutscher chose to review Essays on Thomas Mann by Georg Lukacs (The Nation, May 16) from the point of view of Lukacs's hypothetical relations with Stalin rather than that of his actual relations with Mann.

Having developed an aesthetic that demands of the novelist a total comprehension of the interaction of individual and society, Lukacs would admire Mann, as he does Balzac, quite aside from the matter of their "patrician" or "bourgeois" outlook. An exploration of Lukacsian critical theory would have revealed the basis for his admiration of Mann more accurately than intimations of a Stalinist plot lurking in the background.

Deutscher's review seems to represent the attitude of those who, in a time of continuous political upheaval, deny the occurrence of revolutionary change because it is not taking place in the form which they once anticipated. It is true that the concept of "a destructive global stalemate between...degenerate possessing classes and politically paralyzed working classes" has cast many artists into a mood of romantic pessimism, of commitment to despair. Nevertheless the dynamics of history persist.

For those novelists, and we count ourselves among them, who are concerned with the creative problem of assimilating the components of our historic environment into the characters, narrative and structure of fiction - there is much to be learned both from the Olympian irony of Mann and the techniques advocated by Lukacs.

Sincerely,

OPN

Mr. and Mrs. Bert D. Gilden · 250 Algonquin Road, Bridgeport 4, Connecticut

June 21, 1966

Dear Georg Lukács,

It is becoming increasingly apparent that you have become a bone of contention among American literati. This to us is the meaning of Isaac Deutscher's long and vindictive review of ESSAYS ON THOMAS MANN in the May 16 NATION. No doubt you have seen this and perhaps also our very much abridged comment on that review. We very much want you to read the complete letter we sent the NATION and it is enclosed.

Also included is a long delayed review of our novel in the NATIONAL GUARDIAN. This is the first critical statement - and a pleasing one to us - by those progressive elements here who should be most appreciative of it. The popularity of the work evidently is what has stood between it and serious consideration.

The German edition of HURRY SUNDOWN, MORGEN IST EIN NEUER TAG, is off the press now in preparation for a September publication. We have asked Fritz Bolle, our editor at Droemer-Knaur to send you a copy.

It is our hope that during the past year you have met your writing goals and that this summer you will be able to relax and enjoy the sunshine and the outdoors - a small reward for your mighty efforts.

MTA FIL. INT.  
Lukács Arch.

Cordially,

*B. D. Gilden*