



Lincoln College,
Oxford.

14th November 1955

Professor Georg Lukács,
University of Budapest.

Dear Sir,

MTA FIL. INT.
Lukács Arch.

Perhaps you remember that a young Englishman went up to shake hands with you at the Helsinki Assembly for Peace, introducing himself as a student of German literature. I am that student.

I promised at the time to convey your enquiries about your book on Socialist Realism to your publisher here, Mr. Abramsky, with whom I am acquainted. This I have done, but without, as yet, any tangible results.

I am writing to you now to make a very special request. It is to ask whether I could have facilities to study next year in Budapest so that I might be allowed to profit in some way from your guidance.

May I explain my position? I am reading for the Honour School in Medieval and Modern Languages and Literature here at Oxford, taking as my languages Russian and German. I shall be sitting for my final examination next June (1956). After taking my degree I wish to do research. But I know that the type of guidance I require for such research is unobtainable ~~if~~ in Oxford,

and indeed anywhere else in England.

I have been reading and re-reading your essays for some time now, and I wish to say that it is only since my acquaintance with your work that I have begun to understand what literature is about. Your work has been a living inspiration to me and guided me in my faltering attempts to deal with literary problems. Allowing for my limited experience in this field, I have come across no other Marxist literary criticism which has been able to give me such insight and sure guidance as your own.

As I read your essays and come across the exciting comparisons you make between the development of different national literatures, I marvel at the rich perspective they open up for Marxist research. One example which has struck me particularly since it is so close to my present studies is your comparison between the development of Pushkin and Goethe (Pushkin essay), which provides the basis for a most important piece of research, illuminating in the destinies of these two great men so much of the contrasting cultural and historical development of Russian and Germany.

I have learnt more than I can say from your books, and there is still much more for me to learn from them. But I know that it would be difficult, if not impossible, for me to develop any of your ideas (such as the one I ~~mentioned~~ have just mentioned) into a systematic study without special assistance. They are ideas which require the most careful handling, and by somebody trained in your methods.

MTA FIL INT.

Lukács Arch.



I fully realise that I am asking you to commit yourself to what is for you an unknown quantity, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~. However, I would like to say that I am making this request only after long deliberation, as I wished to make sure that it was the logical conclusion of my aims and studies. I don't think I am exaggerating if I say that this request has become a necessity for me.

I don't know how the University in Budapest is run. But would it be possible for instance for me to attend a course of lectures or classes arranged under your direction? For what I require is the day to day contact with a systematic Marxist approach to literature, in the light of your teachings.

However, I must not elaborate any further on this ~~fx~~ request. Any consideration of the difficulties and details involved is pointless until you have expressed your attitude.

I hope you will excuse my writing this letter in English: I hesitated to venture from the safety of my native tongue.

I shall be deeply grateful if this letter receives your consideration; I hope that it finds you in the best of health.

MTA FIL. INT.
Lukács Arch.

Yours faithfully,

S. Mitchell

(S. Mitchell)



Professor Georg LUKÁCS,
University of Budapest,
BUDAPEST,
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Belgrad 2

MTA FIL. INT.
Lukács Arch.

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