

153 W. 21 St.
New York 11, N.Y.
11/20/47

Dear Anton Pannekoek:

enclosed is a copy of the typed version of your manuscript. I fitted all the quotations in. The English edition of Lenin's book (the first) was, like the German, issued in 1927. If anything is wrong with the quotations, which I think will not be the case, please write at once air-mail. Do not send back the enclosed copy, just indicate what changes (on what page) should be made. We typed the manuscript exactly as you wrote it. Of course, it cannot go to the printer as it is; there are too many grammatical errors, and errors of expression, which must be changed. Professor Harris, a linguist, will work the manuscript over as regards language. Only the absolutely necessary changes will be made, and they will never affect the meaning of what you say, because your meaning is clear to us. I hope you will not object to this procedure, as there is no choice in the matter. As it stands now, it cannot be printed without harming you and the work. I am sure, that Dr. Brauns will be able to tell you so, on looking over the manuscript. I do not understand your friend Harris in Newport; on the one hand, he suggests an impossible title, and on the other, he demands a sub-title to make the title clear. Either the title is clear or not, in the first case a subtitle is not necessary. But you simply cannot say "Lenin Philosopher", on this there is here general agreement, despite Mr. Harris of Newport. I have nothing to say on this issue, because my English is rather poor itself; but there are many experts here, who should know, and who object to the version you suggested. There are words of yours which cannot be used; to give you just one example, you describe Dietzgen on one place as a "whole-

sale" philosopher. Wholesale and retail is only just in trading merchandise, never ideas. But there are many such expression that must be changed. I hope you will trust us in this respect, as we have no other desire as to bring the book out as good as possible. I found no publisher for it and will have to publish it myself. That is, I will borrow the money, in the hope to get it back through sales. If not, I will have to pay the difference out of my pocket, which means I will have to pay it out of factory-wages. This is one additional reason why this book must be in good English, not to ^{be} discounted for this reason. I will print 2 thousand copies, each copy will sell for one dollar. If I sell all two thousand I will have the money for the printer back, not otherwise. (Printing, etc. will cost at least \$ 1000.00- and only 50 cents will be mine from the dollar-price, the rest will be in the hands of the booksellers, or advertisers) The book is to appear in January. This why it would not be wise to write back and forth about language changes. I want to have the book out before February at any rate, because I am leaving the end of March for Germany and ~~XXXXX~~ like to have the book well distributed by that time. I will see you at the end of April in Holland, and I am sure you will be wholly satisfied with the job we will turn out here. We will also handle part of Dawson's publication of the "Workers Councils" in Australia. But about these things I will be able to talk to you. I write this in a great hurry, this why you must forgive me for talking so abruptly. Please give my best regards to your family and to Dr. Brauns.

With my best wishes,

Paul Purthick