

personal
from
Fakidley

118 Elgin Crescent
London W11 - England



To: *Mya Pannekoek*
Leist (Holland)
Regentesselaan 8



6011

118 Elgin Crescent - Gordon
W71 - February 18th 1947

Dear Mr Pannekoek

Thanks for yours of Feb 10th
may I, in the first
place, express my delight
at learning that you escaped
the perils of the war-years
and are still well and as
militant, obviously, as ever.

I have read your
classical booklet, "Marxism
and Darwinism", several times,
and I only wish that there
were an edition available
for the instruction of the
socialist workers here. If I have
your permission it is just
possible that I might be able

to fix this up?

With regard to the recent large book of which you write, I have no doubt whatever that it would be a most valuable aid to intellectual clarification - never more needed than today! - in the international Labour movement, which, you will agree, has completely mixed up state-capitalism with socialism. However, the big difficulty is the inadequate supply of paper. The I.L.P. have a large book of mine - on the English revolutionary tradition - coming out shortly and I know that they have

p.s. I will keep your summary of the
ms for the 3 time being - FAK 6/13

no more paper, at any rate
in the immediate future.
I doubt if any of the
English "left" (sic!) publish-
ers would handle your
work, any more than they
will mine: they are very
timid. There are, however,
one or two small left
groups who do some publish-
ing. I will contact
these, and will let you know
what happens. Both Ken
Eaton and myself are extremely
anxious to see your book in
English, if only to read it ourselves.
So you can rely on us to do
our best. With revolutionary greetings
fraternally - FA KIDLEY



60/4



To - Dr Anton Pannekoek
Zeist
Holland
Regentesselaars (8)

personae
from
F. A. Ridley
18 Elgin Crescent
London W11
England

60/4
118 Elgin Crescent - W11 -
9/3/47

Dear Comrade Pannekoek

I am much obliged
for your letter.

With regard to the
political situation here this is
as I need hardly tell you
very confused. The Labour
government is putting into
operation a social philoso-
-phy which is really neither
capitalist nor socialist, but
a sort of bureaucratic cross-
-breed between state-capital-
-ism of the Fabian brand
and James Burnham's so-
called "managerial revolution".²²

²
 To militant socialists it is
 all very confusing. Britain
 is really approaching the
 classical situation of social
 Revolution or Counter-Revolution.
 In the event of the latter, in
 my opinion, half the present
 Labour leaders would run
away from the Fascists, and
 a substantial proportion of
 the remainder would run
towards them!

The ILP is, un-
 -doubtedly improving on its
 pre-war role, but whilst
 I am in it I have no illusions
 about its numerous weaknesses
 deriving from its long associa-
 -tion with petty-bourgeois

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and pacifist elements. However, the present-day ~~it~~ must be given the credit for at least, realizing the need for a 3rd camp - Libertarian Socialism - as against the alternate evils of Wall St and the Kremlin. Our present campaign, in conjunction with our continental comrades for a socialist federation of the European peoples is one of the few hopeful signs on the present international landscape. On our European committee, of which I am a member, we have a Dutch comrade, Jef Gast, who said he knew you. We are having

~~4~~
a conference in Paris in June.
I suppose that it would
not be possible for you to
come? Our fundamental ideas
are in the melting pot, and
I am sure that your advice
would be invaluable.

now a word on
publication. I am president
of a philosophical group
known as the "Engels Society".
We do a certain amount of
publishing in a small way
- pamphlets only, as we
have not the funds to handle
books. They are publishing a
pamphlet of mine - one
"Socialism and Religion" - in
a few weeks - the ILP is very

timid ⁵ where the churches are concerned; here there is no militant atheist movement, only a (more or less!) "left" bourgeois one. If this pamphlet, of which I will send you a copy, sells, as well as we expect, I will try to get the "Engels Society" to publish a "Marxism and Darwinism" - we only have the Kerr edition, and would welcome any corrections you care to make. In the event of the "ES" doing it - and I imagine that guidance once solved, there should not be any difficulty about it, though I have not yet approached them on the subject, we would, of

b
 course, send you proofs.
 I must again convey to you
 my sincere, if belated thanks
 for this magnificent little
 work, which I have known
 and reread for many years,
 and which does something to
 break the intellectual sterility
 of our decadent times. You
 can rely on me to do everything
 possible to ensure its appearance
 here, and am honoured to be
 permitted to assist. I do not,
 alas, know any of your other
 works. I once managed to
 borrow Comrade Cortes's splendid
 pamphlet on World-Revolution.
 I assume that he is now dead? Who
 could then have foreseen our present

débauche? ⁷

now, last but the reverse of least, is the question of your book. I will do what I can about this, but frankly this is a very bad time for launching a project of this kind, and I am not very optimistic. I agree with you about Gollancz: my experience of commercial publishers is that they are just hopeless for this sort of original revolution - any work. The "Sept" ones seem the worst of the lot. they can just smell anything dangerous, - really dangerous! - to the present social order, with which their hopes, interests,

⁸
 and real political sympathies
 are bound up. So I am afraid
 that avenue is closed. As far as
 the LP is concerned, I know
 that it would be 2 years, at
 least, before they would have
 the paper. (I am afraid that
 I am the chief culprit, as they
 have 2 big books of mine in
 hand on revolutionary history
 160,000 and 200,000 words respect-
 -ively!) The only hope would
 appear to be in one of the
 small independent publishing
 groups here. I will see what
 can be done and will then
 write you. There is no need to
 convince me that the book
 is really important. Both its

subject - matter and, may
 I add, its author are sufficient
 proofs of that. In any case
 it is now obvious that the
 socialist movement as well as
 the capitalist system is at the
 historical cross-roads. We
 want really a new ¹²³ "manifesto",
 of 1947-8 rather ^{than} a century
 ago? as it is, everything
 seems set for a third world
 war, with USA and USSR as
 principals, but involving the
 whole world; the "30 years
 war" of declining capitalism, which
 will finish off Europe as its feudal
 prototype (1618-48) finished off
 Germany? With revolutionary
 greetings and warmest wishes
 Fraternally
 Farid

60/13



Mr Anton Pannekoek
Leist
Regentenselaan 8
Holland

60/13
118 Elgin Crescent London
W11-24th Sept.

Dear Comrade Pannekoek

as you may remember I wrote to you last spring in connection with an English translation of your book. I sent on the correspondence to the "Porcupine Press," a radical group of publishers here, and asked them to communicate with you. I hope that they have done so.

Meanwhile, I have just succeeded Fenner Brockway as editor of the monthly "Left," an open forum for the discussion of all questions of socialist theory. Brockway sent me an article of yours on the "The Group of International Communists in Holland?"

I am publishing this remarkable article in the next (October) issue of "Left." It should be out next week, and we will send you several copies. Meanwhile, I return herewith, the hand-written original copy.

as an old admirer of your brilliant pamphlet - "Marxism and Darwinism" - I am not, alas, acquainted with your other works, may I take

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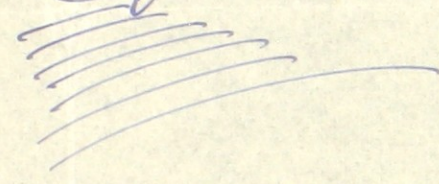
this opportunity to say how pleased
and honoured I shall be to publish
anything you may care to send here
for either of the papers which I now
edit - "The Socialist Leader" (weekly)
- and "Left" (monthly).

With revolutionary greetings,
Dear comrade Pannekoek

Fraternally

F A Ridley

Editor - "Left"



A century Communist Manifesto
War against war.
Everybody against us.
What about Marxism?

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118 Elgin Crescent - London
W11 - England - 16/3/49

Dear Comrade Pannekoek

I was, indeed, surpris-
-ed and delighted to receive
your letter and article for
LEFT. I have already made
up the issue for this month
but your article will appear
in the one which follows.

I must congratulate
you upon your remarkable
book, *Genin as Philosophers*,
which your American pub-
-lisher sent me, and which
I reviewed (very inadequately)
in LEFT.

I have much pleasure
in enclosing a copy of my

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 pamphlet, "socialism and religion", a very unworthy successor of your "Marxism and Darwinism". The "Engels Society", which published it, is more or less defunct, unfortunately. They don't like ideas in this country, and the Labour movement here represents empiricism run mad!

I shall be most interested to assist your projected essay on "socialism and religion" - work of this kind is badly wanted. Actually, I think that I can be more useful with this kind of work than with purely political work. The theoretical level of

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the British workers movement
 is shocking, and it is
 honeycombed with religion.
 ("Jesus was the first Social
 -ist" - my socialism comes
 from the Gospels, not Marx!)
 However the freethought move-
 -ment here, whilst not as
 advanced as one could wish, is
 now moving leftward - they
 handle my enclosed pamphlet.

I shall probably be
 the next editor of the "Free-
 thinker", the leading English
 rationalist weekly, and I
 think that I could get it pub-
 -lished there for you, if you
 don't attack "bourgeois free-
 thought" too directly. The

60/18

English ^{4cc} socialist ²² movement
is hopeless for any anti-
religious work, I can tell you
that right now!

I can't, of course,
give you a definite assurance
until I have seen the MS,
but I think that I could
manage its publication if you
like to finish it and send it
on to me. As I shall be leaving
this address, please write me in
future: - Fd Kidley - "The
Freethinker" - 41 Gray's Inn Rd
- Holborn - London WC1.

you can be assured,
Comrade Pannetock, that, as
an old admirer of your work
I will do everything possible.

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Even if I can't publish it as
a book, I can get it pub-
lished serially for certain,
and we have a printing
publishing concern. They
are, it so happens, issuing
a booklet of mine on "The
Evolution of the Paracy" in a
few days. I will send you a
copy yours could follow.

Hoping to hear again
from you soon, and with
renewed thanks.

Fraternally

F. A. Kidley (Editor LEFT)