

# **Letter from Heinz Henghes to Ezra Pound**

7.5.1937

Milano

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From a series of letters to Pound

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7.5.37.xv  
Milano

Dear E. P.

I am in the process of leaving Italy for Switzerland. The material reason for which I am writing to you is to ask you - would you care to accept the little statue which you liked at the Genova show, called - Kneeling Man - . I think you would be the person to whom it would have most meaning & it would please me to know it in your possession. The reason I am offering it to you is somewhat profounder, or, at least more personal, - but I dare say it would (fortunately) only annoy you - were I to begin a long tale all about that I am grateful to you & why etc... Anyway - I esteem you too much to ever offer you any work of mine solely because I am grateful to you etc... This question threatens to become complicated - so lets drop it. The statue is yours if you will do me the favor to accept it & will be forwarded to you within a reasonable time after I receive your consent. Since I expect to leave about the end of this month I would ask you to let me know before too long. I have been rather fortunate here in Italy & I do not know

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I have been rather fortunate here in Italy & I do not know (over)

precisely what I am going into by leaving - but I feel I must, in order to free myself again, from something too complex to express. I anticipate a new creative period there, such as I have had here & which is now finished. It's not so superficial a matter as changing location but I have come to know too many people here & with the exception of K di San Faustino, Ramieri & you - none of them mean a thing to me. Getting away means being alone again, being thrown back to my one god - nature & it will also prove to me if I can do the same thing I did here, again, on my own resources emotionally - let me express it metaphorically by saying I am tired of a state of being in which - since a year & a half I have not written a single poem.

As far as sculpture is concerned, these Italian years have given me incredible much. My metamorphosis has been so rapid that I really need the solitude I am letting myself in for to prove to myself that it is on as solid a foundation as I think it is, & not a hot house flower. For all that; I am sure of myself.

I do not wish to be indelicate; solely apropos of your once saying to me - apropos of one of my statues, (the Kneeling man,) "there is a lot of Gaudier in it", I want to tell you something

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which my acquired Anglo-Saxon 'pudore' has kept from you 'till now. It is that in some strange & mystic way I have always felt very close to Gaudier.

This is something that began much before I met you, & precisely in New York, when a young Eurasian sculptor, Isamu Noguchi, told me to read a book, "read - the savage Messiah - that's very much like you." Well, I have never read the Savage Messiah - it wasn't necessary somehow, but somehow my consciousness dates from that day.

Meeting you later & everything else has been sort of very normal. - I have never told this to anyone & I do not precisely know why I am telling you now - nor, to be fair, do I know just how much of this is an unconscious exaggeration that has become so real to me that it is now part of myself. Anyway, the bare facts, Noguchi etc. are quite correct.

It doesn't count now anyway, let's say, - because I do feel lately that I have begun to go beyond the Gaudier, even at his best which best, altho' vastly superior, does still betray a very natural immaturity.

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mean that there isn't still "a lot of Gaudier in it," even if it only means that, in the general & generic sense in which we might & has to say of any modern sculptor that amounts to 2pence - "there is a lot of Brancusi in it" or "of Alexander the Great" or "of Mr. Pinco Pallino!" You possibly understand me better than I can express myself.

So let me know soon if I may send you the statue - I should begin to pack up my various useless possessions around the 20<sup>th</sup>.

I feel certain that I shall see you again some day, & the thought gives me a real & sincere pleasure.

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