

Letter from Heinz Henghes to Ezra Pound

30.10.1937

London

From a series of letters to Pound

www.henghes.org

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Source:

Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

London - 30.10.37

Dear E. P. - Thanks for letter & addresses. If there is anything at all that you wish me to do here - I shall, naturally be only too glad of a chance to try. Let me know precisely - if there is anything you wish me to attempt, & how to go about it, - & you can be sure that I will do my best, - & with great pleasure to myself.

It does seem that I shall get along fairly well here. - The London galleries have offered me an exhibition, remains to settle the date. Will know Wednesday. Have met many & lots of interesting people, mostly the group of Nicholson, Hepworth, Gabo, Ozenfant, Leger, Calder etc... all of whom I met here. Leger & Ozenfant being the 2 realest & simplest ones among them. Hepworth had a successful exhib. recently in the Lefebvre galleries. Her things are largely pre-cubist, a little (vaguely) Brancusi, - very sensitive & in this direction, rather a cul de sac, being in danger of becoming too precious intellectual. She is becoming unfortunately influenced by Ben Nicholson & his rectilinear compositions, (white on white, etc.) Her latest is 2 round balls on a base with a circular, shallow depression in it. Presumably these elements stand in

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(over)

Some cosmic & universal juxtaposition
to each other. Well, one CAN see the point,
but why one should I don't quite know -
(except in the sense of "among those also present!")

Calders wire affairs are pleasing & clever counter
balancing of weights.



They move, if pushed, or activated by a
clockwork, around each other into
different constellations, naturally in a
circle. I offended several people
gravely by smiling delightedly while
playing with one of them. It seems
one is required to be austere while
pushing them around, & think of
the universe & the eternal motion
of the planets. Some weak, tentative
"but" on my part was howled down
by everybody springing, in concert, the
old gag "children do pure things" on
me. However, I do get along well
with these people - tho' I don't think
they will approve of my unashamed
reminiscent-form leanings.

Nicholson & Gabo & someone else - have
published a book called Circle.

Herbert Read - one called Art & Society,
Stokes one called Color & Form.

Do you want any of them? Or have
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Jacob Epst. has an exhib. at the Leicester Galleries. Nooky bronze heads, clever & cruel, around an oh boy nucleus, a reclining Christ, in alabaster, called "Consummatum est!" The thing is stirring up a delightful fuss. Old colonels writing to the papers that the Empire is going to pot - & smart dowager ladies writing - at last Christianity conceived purely again, on a pre-Paulian basis.

It is certainly impressive, sort of gothic-babylonian, none too well treated technically, the stone being stuccoed & imperfectly polished. The conception is ponderous & difficult to be critical of. The genre, however, is, in my opinion, hardly legitimate, since that kind of ideology certainly does not live up to our day & age but is rather a last-outgrowth of Victorianism. His sculpture is didactic, with a limit to his morality, i.e. - it begins with the Christian era. I feel no consciousness, (except for the inevitably incidental one,) of any except the spectacular features of the ages. No, let us say, blood-sense of mammoth teeth, pierced stones, smoky cavern, primeaval fears, nor of radio-waves, atomic vibrations or spheroid space.

His didactics are an opinion, (with all the sentiment that entails,) - not a free enough, simple statement of, as near as possible, senses that have come out at the other end,

(Senses) (mind) (Senses)
Sentiments Intellect

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Things look promising, for me here -
Lets hope they turn out O.K.

To let me know if you wish
anything at all. You can be sure
that I will do my utmost to
follow your directions.

Climate awful - dusk
at 4.30. Impossible to
live here - but good to work.

Hope to hear from you -
I will look up people
whose names you sent me
when I have done some
work. Seems better plan
than bothering them now.

Sincerely

Regards to Mrs. P. & yr. parents -
I hear Laughlin LXX is publishing a mag. Heard
this in Paris. Must be swell!

7 Wentworth Studios
Manresa Rd
N.W. 3

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