

THE BRITISH COUNCIL

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER

Patron: H.M. THE KING

3 HANOVER STREET
LONDON, W.1

Telephone: MAYfair 8484

Telegrams: "Britcoun, London"

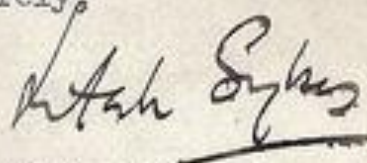
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3rd May, 1946.

Dear Mr. Orwell,

I am so sorry such a seemingly stupid situation has arisen with your manuscript. Kathleen Raine will have told you of my doubts on such a treatment of the painful subject of Food in these times, but if these were the lines on which you were asked to write, naturally enough, it was not yours to reason why, but to produce a good essay. Which you have done: apart from one or two minor criticisms, I think it is excellent, but I am glad that you agree with me that it would be unfortunate and unwise to publish it for the continental reader. I am returning the MS now, and enclosing your cheque for ~~thirty~~ guineas. The Council of course hold no rights in the essay, and I hope you will publish it, or extracts from it, elsewhere. I hope you will understand how sorry (and angry!) I am about this, and that you will write for us in the future - starting off on the right foot!

Yours sincerely,



Publications Department.

George Orwell, Esq.,
27B Canonbury Square,
Islington,
London, N.1.

ls/smb

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