

June 8, 1978

Dear Meintje:

Thank you ever so much for the work you did on Polad-Holst's biography of Rosa Luxemburg. It is of great value to me, and I hope you will permit me to ask you for more work. To give you an example of why it is so much more important to have a Woman Liberationist write than the summaries you get from men, no matter how sympathetic to Rosa, nevertheless always expand on matters that look like "women fighting" (or do they say "cats fighting"?). Where you mention only one master on Clara and Rosa which includes Rosa's intention to accompany Zetkin to International Women's Conference--she could not as she landed in jail instead; and then say but one sentence on Henriette's estimation of Zetkin's dependence on Rosa, no less a scholar than Nettlo expands unnecessarily as to just how Henriette said Clara was wasting Rosa's time because she herself did not like Clara!

So, first will you please tell me (incidentally please cite title of book, publisher, date of publication) what does HR-H mean, that is, how does she develop the point Rosa wasn't interested in women's movement "but now she wants to help everywhere where people try to reconnect the torn threads of the web of int. connections?"

Secondly, and even more important, is what you summarize in but one short par. about the years, 1910-1914 and Karl Kautsky. What, exactly, does she say are the reason of their conflict? Is it just opportunism? Is it the position of Rosa on the General Strike? Is the polemic between KK and RL that HR-H cite on the question of the war? Or is it the fact that he refuses to publish her and she goes "outside" to have it published and thus reveals there are polemics within the organization? This takes up a great part of Rosa's legacy as well as life, and Roland-Host was "ultra-left" so the exact phrases she would use would be very revealing to me even if the space devoted to it is little. Can you please translate, say, a page? Thanks, again.

When are you coming to NY, or better still to Detroit? I hope it is to the Labor Day convention; we'll be glad to put both of you up. Incidentally, I once lived for a little while in Worcester, and was most surprised that so little a place, was both important for labor & women especially--at least in the 1930s it was--and had a most sophisticated classical music festival every summer. Is it still there.

Yours,

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