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*Frederick Goldman
Philadelphia, Pa.*

THE EDITOR:

To protect my reputation as translator, I must disavow responsibility for the shape in which Manfred Wekwerth's "Brecht Today" appeared in T37. It is one thing for an editor to delete

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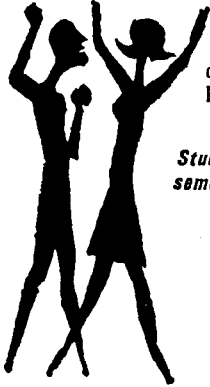
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LETTERS

a good third of the original, including many of the main paragraphs. But it is another when an editor's hand adds meanings and words which appear neither in the original nor in the translator's copy. This is true particularly of the phrase "some Marxist critics" in the second paragraph of page 118. The allegation that these critics were Marxists, however true it may or may not be, simply does not appear in the original and was added by editorial fiat. I fail to see what purpose was served by this introjection of editorial opinion, nor by the consistent deletion of Wekwerth's most "political" passages.

Martin A. Nicolaus
Simon Fraser University

Mr. Wekwerth, in a letter accompanying his manuscript, expressed some concern that American readers might not grasp all the references in his article, which he considered in part a polemic against dogmatic German critics of Brecht, both Marxist and anti-Marxist. The paragraph in question compares these two positions, and the addition of the

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adjective seemed to clarify things; Mr. Wekwerth did not object. As for the cuts: we had commissioned an article from Mr. Wekwerth, as current artistic head of the Berliner Ensemble. After his manuscript had been sent to the printer, we discovered that it was not a new piece, but one already published in Germany. We therefore decided that we were under no obligation to print those sections which had little directly to do with Brecht or his theatre.—Ed.

THE EDITOR:

In the piece "Brecht in America: 1935" by L. Baxandall [T37] he states: "Then and now, Wolfson could not understand the fuss over Brecht." True. "Wolfson regarded Brecht's personality and theoretical position as repugantly impersonal, if perhaps symptomatic of the age." True. "He had no soul," and here Baxandall is quoting me, "no heart, no prick." True. I did say that. But what is *not* true is the following statement: "Wolfson had thought he'd find in Brecht another poor Jewish refugee, and could not conceal his disappointment that Brecht was in exile because of his

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