

*Dunning Trust*

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY  
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. W. A. Mackintosh,  
Principal.

Date: April 23, 1959.

Re:



Dear Principal Mackintosh:

Professor Shortliffe has told me of the suggestion brought forward to you, from the French Cultural Attaché, to bring Mr. Pierre Emmanuel to Queen's as a Dunning Trust Lecturer.

I believe Mr. Emmanuel would be an excellent choice to speak in the series. Not only is he a major poet (possibly the most vital of the French poets who, having come of age about the second world war, are using a traditional idiom, classical and biblical themes--while grappling with 20th century spiritual problems), but he has actual experience as a leader of men in the Underground Movement, has known the practical problems of the administrator (he was for a while Préfet under the 1945 de Gaulle government), has raised fundamental issues of the political thinker (some of his articles have had a decisive influence in defining a personalist position in the Hungarian and Suez crises, for example). Finally, Mr. Emmanuel, with distinguished academic connections both in Britain and the United States, has an excellent command of English, and is experienced as a lecturer.

Yours sincerely,

Pierre Gobin

Paris, March 8, 1960

Sir,

I am very happy to accept your kind invitation during the session 1960-1961. To comply with the purpose of the Trust, would it interest you to hear a series of lectures on the situation and the role of the writer in a changing world? There is clearly a pessimistic trend in to-day's literature: why is it generally nihilistic? Is its lack of concern - to say the least - for moral values a sign of decadence, or an attempt to get rid of hypocrisy and find a new basis for other and real values? Or is it the sign that the world we live in is shapeless, has lost its human measure, and that the individual self has no identity?

How is the writer to preserve the individual values the purpose of the Trust is mentioning, in a society more and more uniformized, either on a political or on an economical level (though the latter be higher and ~~more~~ more just)? Will the writer express a necessary dissatisfaction going beyond the problems of personal and social welfare - and who will follow him in that direction?

These ideas are still confused and would need order and clarification. They might, though, raise questions important not only to the writer, but to everyone who thinks.

As for the date, could we fix it a little later - though January would do, "en principe." I would be glad to take that opportunity of visiting other Universities -

When would you like to have a general  
title for the lectures - and perhaps for each?  
If you need anything else - such as an outline  
of the series, I shall be happy to prepare it.

Sincerely yours,

Pierre Emmanuel  
61 rue de Varenne  
Paris 7<sup>e</sup>

March 16, 1960.

Dear Mr. Emmanuel:

I have delayed acknowledging your letter of March 8 in order to consult some of my colleagues. I am delighted that you are able to accept our invitation to be the Dunning Trust Lecturer and I look forward to meeting you later.

The theme for your lectures which you suggest seems to me entirely suitable and would, I am sure, be most acceptable to your audiences. They will know you principally as a writer and will expect you to speak as one. The questions which you raise are very relevant to the purposes of the Trust. However, as I said in my earlier letter, the declared purpose of the Trust ought not to be allowed to confine you too narrowly. If the lectures are in general relevant to the purpose, they need not be a restricted preachment on it.

We will not be announcing the title of the lectures for some months yet and so it is not necessary to hurry in fixing a title.

As to the time of the lectures, I think if we plan for a period of two full weeks here in Kingston, that will be sufficient. Within the period January 15 to February 18, it would be possible to select whatever two weeks would be most convenient to you so long as we reach a fairly early decision so that we can take steps to prevent other events from interfering. After about the middle of February, it becomes increasingly difficult to arrange the lectures satisfactorily.

I should have asked you earlier whether you plan to bring your wife with you. Our arrangement does not provide for travelling expenses of wives but we would be glad to provide local accommodation and it would be quite possible to apportion a part of your honorarium to additional travel expense.

Again it is a great pleasure to have your acceptance of this appointment and we look forward to your visit.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Pierre Emmanuel,  
61 rue de Varenne,  
Paris 7e, France.

W. A. Mackintosh