

HENRY HAZLITT
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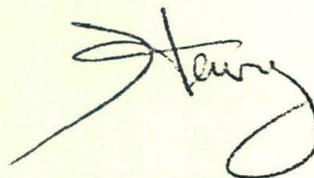
Dr. Paul Poirot
Foundation for Economic Education
Irvington-On-Hudson, New York 10533

Dear Paul:

I am enclosing a copy of the Leonard Read piece as it appeared over my signature in NATIONAL REVIEW of June 10, together with a Xerox copy of my piece as I originally sent it in. If The Freeman or any other publication of FEE gathers together some of the obituaries written about Leonard, I would prefer to have this run and not the one (as added to and changed by Bill Rickenbacker). Of course it would be a little awkward to run it, for example, as "by Henry Hazlitt, in the NATIONAL REVIEW of June 10" etc., but it might be run as "by Henry Hazlitt, for the NATIONAL REVIEW of June 10" etc. Anyway, I don't want to take either the credit or the blame for something I didn't write. I could have put more in myself, but I was trying to follow Priscilla Buckley's request to "keep it short." Rickenbacker added a fat paragraph.

Anyway, I wanted my friends at FEE to know just what I did write.

As ever,



HH:lj
Encls.

Leonard E. Read, R I P

He first dropped in to see me when I was on The New York Times, introduced himself as general manager of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, told me he was thinking of a wider platform to preach the virtues of free enterprise, and looking for kindred spirits. Not long after, in 1946, he had raised the funds, ^{and} started the Foundation for Economic Education at Irvington-on-Hudson, N.Y., and asked me to serve ~~as one of its trustees~~. Its declared purpose was to find and develop "more skilled and eloquent explainers of . . . the free market, private property, limited government way of life and its philosophical antecedents."

Friedrich Hayek, impressed by Read's action, raised the money in 1947 to call a conference at Vevey, Switzerland of some 43 libertarian writers, mainly economists, from half a dozen countries. The group of ten from the U.S. included such figures as Ludwig von Mises, Milton Friedman, George Stigler -- and Leonard Read. That was the beginning of the still flourishing international Mont Pelerin Society.

Some years later Baldy Harper, who had been working as economist with Read's group, broke off to start his own Institute for Humane Studies in California. Then Antony Fisher set up like organizations in England, Canada, and eventually here. Manuel Ayau in Guatemala established his Universidad Francisco Marroquin. Groups in other Latin American countries

set up their own equivalents of "FEE." It would take too long to name all the present institutions here and abroad that owe their origin directly to Read's example.

He was a prodigious worker. He travelled many thousands of miles delivering hundreds of lectures. He wrote 29 books, all variations on the themes of capitalism, liberty, and their moral foundations. He used to tell his friends, "I'll keep going till I fall off my bicycle." He kept his word. He was found dead, at 84, on the morning of Saturday, May 14. At the institution he had served for 37 years, he put in a full day's work the day before.

- Henry Hazlitt