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Letter from Gerard Previn Meyer to Hubert Creekmore

Gerard Previn Meyer

Hubert Creekmore

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6 Wellington Road
Greenvale, L. I., N. Y.
April 25, 1951

Dear Mr. Creekmore -

Upon receipt of your letter regarding my translations of Rimbaud et al., I got in touch at once with Oscar Williams and read him your letter. He conveyed to me the welcome news that it was not too late to get some of my work into your anthology - asked me to send him a release, which stated that I would be agreeable to terms set by the publisher, etc.

However, because (a) he says he is up to his neck in his anthology of British poets; and (b) he feels he should not assume the responsibility of passing on poetry which will appear in an anthology under your editorship, he directed me to send the translations I wished to submit to you. When you okay whatever you prefer, he will go ahead and transmit the ms. to the publishers.

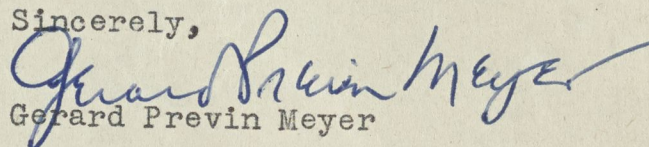
I gather that the time element is not immediately pressing. However, should there be any sudden request from Scribner's for an early final decision, I am sending carbon copies of the enclosures to Oscar simultaneously with my dispatch of this letter to you. Then, if there is a sudden rush-call, you can simply wire the title (or titles) you select to Oscar and he can immediately shoot the carbon to Oscar. (Of course, I imagine it would be better if time permits the sending of the first copy, the original typing, instead.)

I don't recall if I told you in my previous letter that I had also done a (one!) Verlaine - and it is quite possible that you have already contracted for a translation of his justly-famous "Autumn Song", which I have Englished. However, on the off-chance, I am sending along my version of this "untranslatable" poem, along with the Rilke, Rimbaud, and Apollinaire.

Incidentally, I have another recommendation of my work as a translator to pass along to you. Since I wrote you last, I have had an opinion on my Rimbaud from Justin O'Brien, the translator of Gide (who, as of course you know, won the Translation Award last year). O'Brien described my translations to me as "remarkably fine". So I think you may consider it a safe bet to fit me into your anthology.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,


Gerard Previn Meyer