

Marie Louise Berneri Memorial Committee

c/o FREEDOM PRESS, 27 RED LION ST., LONDON, W.C.1

Hon. Sec. }
and } COLIN WARD
Treasurer }

CHAncery 8364

CIRCULAR LETTER No. 2.

November 1950.

Dear Friend,

We are glad to inform you that Marie Louise Berneri's book Journey through Utopia, described in our first Circular Letter last March, has now been published. It is an attractively produced volume of 330 pages, cloth bound, and we have arranged with the publishers for a special limited edition to be made available for friends of our Committee and readers of the journal Freedom at 10s.6d post free (U.S.A. \$1.75). This edition bears our imprint and contains a portrait of the author. Otherwise it is identical in every respect with the edition for the general public published by Routledge and Kegan Paul at 16s.

Journey through Utopia is a survey from a libertarian viewpoint of utopian thought from classical Greece to the present day. Mr. Lewis Mumford, who read the book in proof warmly recommends it as "the most comprehensive and perceptive study of that ideal land that I have come across in any language" and concludes "Those who retain a healthy hope for the future will find sustenance for their faith in this book."

We are anxious that this book should have as wide a circulation as possible and that you will suggest it at your local public library (our special edition will not, of course, be available to libraries nor obtainable through booksellers. You should give Routledge and Kegan Paul as publishers and the price as 16s.)

The Italian counterpart of our Committee has planned to start a children's colony to be named after Marie Louise Berneri. Teachers, agricultural and building workers, and doctors have offered their help. It was at first proposed to use a site at Cesenatico, in Northern Italy, but since then an existing house and grounds at Sorrento have generously been made available and an extension is planned. We hope to be able to tell you more of the progress of the scheme in our next letter.

Two books, published recently, have been dedicated to the memory of Marie Louise. They are "Existentialism, Marxism and Anarchism" by Herbert Read (Freedom Press) and "The Anarchist Prince - The Biography of Prince Peter Kropotkin" by George Woodcock and Ivan Avacumovic (Boardman).

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We are at present compiling a volume of Marie Louise Berneri's writings. The book, apart from its intrinsic worth, will illustrate the warmth and humanity she brought to her study of social and political questions as well as what Herbert Read has called "her penetrating intelligence and clarity of vision."

Unfortunately we are not at present in a position to say when we shall be able to publish this volume. On November 1st the contributions received by the Committee amounted to £408. 16. 4, which is less than half the amount we estimated as a necessary minimum to carry out the work which was to have been our Memorial to Marie Louise. May we count on your help?

Yours sincerely,
for the Memorial Committee,

Colin Ward

Hon. Secretary.

Orders for the special edition of Journey through Utopia (10/6d), and the volume Marie Louise Berneri, 1918-1949 -- A Tribute (5/3d) should be addressed to the M.L.B. Memorial Committee, 27, Red Lion Street, London, W.1. Cheques and P.O.'s should be made payable to the Committee and crossed.