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Laura Lafargue an Karl Marx in London. San Sebastián, Sonntag, 12. Dezember 1871

Lindenberg, Thomas (Bearbeitung)
Lura, Caroline (Bearbeitung)

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Handschriftenbeschreibung:

Soweit aus der Fotokopie zu ersehen ist, besteht der Brief aus einem Bogen weißem Papier. Laura Lafargue hat die erste, dritte und vierte Seite vollständig beschrieben, die zweite etwa zu zwei Dritteln, wobei das verbliebene Drittel durch eine aufgeklebte Notiz (Auszug aus dem Brief von Lachâtre in der Handschrift von M. Leconte) ausgefüllt ist. Schreibmaterial: schwarze Tinte.

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In der Sprache des Originals wird der Brief hier erstmals veröffentlicht.

Absender: Laura Lafargue
Schreibort: San Sebastián
Schreibdatum: 1871-12-12

Empfänger: Karl Marx
Empfangsort: London

|Dec^{br} 12th /71.
Hôtel de France.

My dear Challey,

On the same floor of the hotel as ourselves there lives a certain M. **Leconte**^a, who finding himself in a similar position as our own, & taking a great interest in all that concerns you, we have grown to be very friendly with. We can't exactly make out what this individual is; but personally, he is most amiable, & politically, he has been mixed up in the late movement of Paris, after having been expelled from France for long years during the Empire.— Now, as **Paul**^b found out that he was most desirous of being useful to the “cause” & that into the bargain he was a friend of **Maurice Lachâtre**^c’s—the Editor—he thought we might as well turn this friendship to account.

So the other day **Paul**^d went to pay him a visit pretexting the return of the “**Illustration**”^e that he had lent us—We get M. **Leconte**^f’s papers before he has read them himself—& en passant he hinted a word or two on the publication of your **book**^{hg}. M. Leconte at once jumped at Paul’s proposal to write to **Lachâtre**^m in order to know what conditions he would make. Yesterday |

Leconte received a letter from his friend, the Editor, in which the latter declares himself ready & delighted to publish your book. But the said Editor shall speak for himself:

Vous me demandez mon avis sur le projet de publication du livre de Karl Marx “**Le Capital**”^m. Je crois que ce serait faire une bonne œuvre que de vulgariser ce livre du grand philosophe; ce serait rendre un service signalé à la cause du Socialisme.

Je ne suis pas encore fixé sur la question de savoir s’il vaudrait mieux publier une édition populaire à 3^{Fr} qu’une édition de luxe à 6^{Fr}. Au point de vue des principes et de la propagande; il faudra faire l’édition populaire; **plutard** **plus tard** on pourra faire l’édition de bibliothèque.

—This extract from **Lachâtre**^o’s letter is in the handwriting of M. **Leconte**^p which to his delight is very like your own.—

—Now as regards the popular Edition for which no doubt you will decide:—3 frs. is a very low price for so big a volume—and of course the book would not be so fine a one in all respects as your german Edition. It would have to be brought out in the form of the popular Edition of **Louis Blanc**^q’s **Histoire de la révolution**^r. **Lachâtre**^s is to send you the | first “fascicule[?] of this work in order that you may judge. For the rest: the conditions are the following.

It appears that no more than 4000 frs. are required for the beginning: of these **Lachâtre**^t is to furnish one half, the author the other half. **Paul**^u at once accepted this part of his proposition, for as we have a few thousand francs at Bordeaux, they may just as well be made use of by **Lachâtre** as lie idle in the hands of **Messrs Lamarque & Hue**^v.—The translator is to receive about 1500 frs. Your portrait is to be pre-fixed to a biography written by whomsoever you please & a preface by the Editor in which he wishes to call attention to the fact of your book having been recommended to & by the workmen in one of their congresses. Paul has been asked to write your biography: to dwell largely upon the active part you took in the revolutionary mouvement in Germany & elsewhere & to quote at length from your paper: the **New Rhenish Gazette**^w. But you must know best how & by whom your biography is to be written; & these are | merely propositions & not conditions of the editors.—Finally, & this is a point which I fancy is important, **Mottu**^x is to give your book en prime with his paper “**le Radical**”^y. This of itself would get the “Kapital” circulated widely: it is true that **Lachâtre** seems assured of the success.

Lachâtre^z makes it a condition that his name shall be mentioned nowhere & to nobody until the **book**^{aa} shall have appeared. He is afraid of being interrupted while bringing it out.

—As for the translator: we don’t know what has become of **Keller**^{ab}, perhaps you will be able to find out at London for he was known to many of the refugees—to **Vaillant**^{ac} among the rest. **Lachâtre** will make inquiries at the same time at Paris—auprès de **Germain Baillière**^{ad}, éditeur de livres de médecine—whose translator Keller was.

Goodbye, my dear Challey, my best love to all at home & a merry Christmas to you. You must write to us at once on the subject of this letter.

Your affectionate Laura.

Erläuterungen

- a) La Châtre, Maurice (1814-1900)
- b) Lafargue, Paul (1842-1911)
- c) La Châtre, Maurice (1814-1900)
- d) Lafargue, Paul (1842-1911)
- e) L’Illustration

- f) La Châtre, Maurice (1814-1900)
- g) Die französische Ausgabe des ersten Bandes des „Kapital“ⁱ erschien in periodischen Lieferungen von 1872 bis 1875 in Paris. Siehe **Karl Marx: Le Capital. Traduction de M. J. Roy, entièrement révisée par l'auteur. Paris: Lachâtre [1872–1875].**^j In: **MEGA II/7**^k. S. 1–699. Zur Entstehungsgeschichte dieser Ausgabe siehe **ebenda**,^l S. 713–733.
- h) [Zotero Link für: book](#)
- i) [Zotero Link für: „Kapital“](#)
- j) [Zotero Link für: Karl Marx: Le Capital. Traduction de M. J. Roy, entièrement révisée par l'auteur. Paris: Lachâtre \[1872–1875\].](#)
- k) [Zotero Link für: MEGA II/7](#)
- l) [Zotero Link für: ebenda.](#)
- m) La Châtre, Maurice (1814-1900)
- n) [Zotero Link für: Le Capital](#)
- o) La Châtre, Maurice (1814-1900)
- p) La Châtre, Maurice (1814-1900)
- q) Blanc, Louis (1811-1882)
- r) [Zotero Link für: Histoire de la révolution](#)
- s) La Châtre, Maurice (1814-1900)
- t) La Châtre, Maurice (1814-1900)
- u) Lafargue, Paul (1842-1911)
- v) Jules Hue, Th. Lamarque & Cie.
- w) Neue Rheinische Zeitung
- x) Mottu, Jules (1830-1907)
- y) Le Radical
- z) La Châtre, Maurice (1814-1900)
- aa) [Zotero Link für: book](#)
- ab) Keller, Charles (1843-1913)
- ac) Vaillant, Marie Édouard (1840-1915)
- ad) Baillière, Gustave-Germer (1837-1905)

Kritischer Apparat