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Zitiervorschlag:

Edward Spencer Beesly an Karl Marx in London. London, Dienstag, 13. Juni 1871. In: Marx-Engels-Gesamtausgabe digital, hg. v. der Internationalen Marx-Engels-Stiftung, Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Berlin. URL <https://megadigital.bbaw.de/briefe/detail.xql?id=M3829499>

Edward Spencer Beesly an Karl Marx in London. London, Dienstag, 13. Juni 1871

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

Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften (BBAW) Marx-Engels-Gesamtausgabe

Handschrift: Handschrift: RGASPI f. 1 op. 5 d. 2352

Handschriftenbeschreibung:

Soweit aus der Fotokopie zu ersehen ist, besteht der Brief aus einem Bogen weißem Papier, auf dem die vierte Seite schwarz umrandet ist. Wasserzeichen: „JOYNSON / 1869“. Beesly hat alle vier Seiten vollständig beschrieben. Schreibmaterial: schwarze Tinte.

Archivsignatur des Moskauer Marx-Engels-Instituts (IME) auf allen beschriebenen Seiten mit Bleistift: „Rj 1387a–d“.

Absender: Edward Spencer Beesly
Schreibort: London
Schreibdatum: 1871-06-13
Empfänger: Karl Marx
Empfangsort: London

| University Hall
13 June 1871

My dear Sir

I know very well that you are radically opposed to us Positivists nor do I suppose it to be at all likely that you will ever alter your views. The one point we & you have in common is our indignation against the individualist theories of the propertied classes and their anti-social conduct. We both believe that the working class suffer terrible wrongs at the hands of the middle class & that the social question is more important than the political.

| You are quite wrong in supposing that my attitude differs in any respect from that of my co-religionists – Harrison^a at bottom agrees with me, though in writing he is inclined to be too diplomatic, in my opinion, & to spare the susceptibilities of the middle class. But Congreve^b (our director) & Bridges^c have warmly approved all I have written. Congreve though suffering from great prostration stood up at our weekly meeting before many strangers & declared that History would look back on the burning of the public buildings in Paris as a solemn symbolical protest against material magnificence & the worship of wealth. Our members in Paris though hostile to Communism have not intrigued against or opposed the Commune but have frankly served it & risked their lives for it. All the English Positivists have been ardent supporters of it from the 18th of March.

No doubt when ever it becomes a practical question | whether private property is to be abolished you will find us opposed to you firmly. But it is likely that long before then we & you shall have been crushed side by side by our common foe.

I will let you know if we have need to avail ourselves of your kind offer to take messages from us to Paris. But I rather think we can write to D^r **Robinet**^d now. He has emerged from concealment & has not as yet been meddled with. A friend just returned from Paris saw him on Sunday.

Yours sincerely
E S Beesly.

Erläuterungen

- a) Harrison, Frederic (1831-1923)
- b) Congreve, Richard (1818-1899)
- c) Bridges, John Henry (1832-1906)
- d) Robinet, Jean François Eugène (1825-1899)

Kritischer Apparat