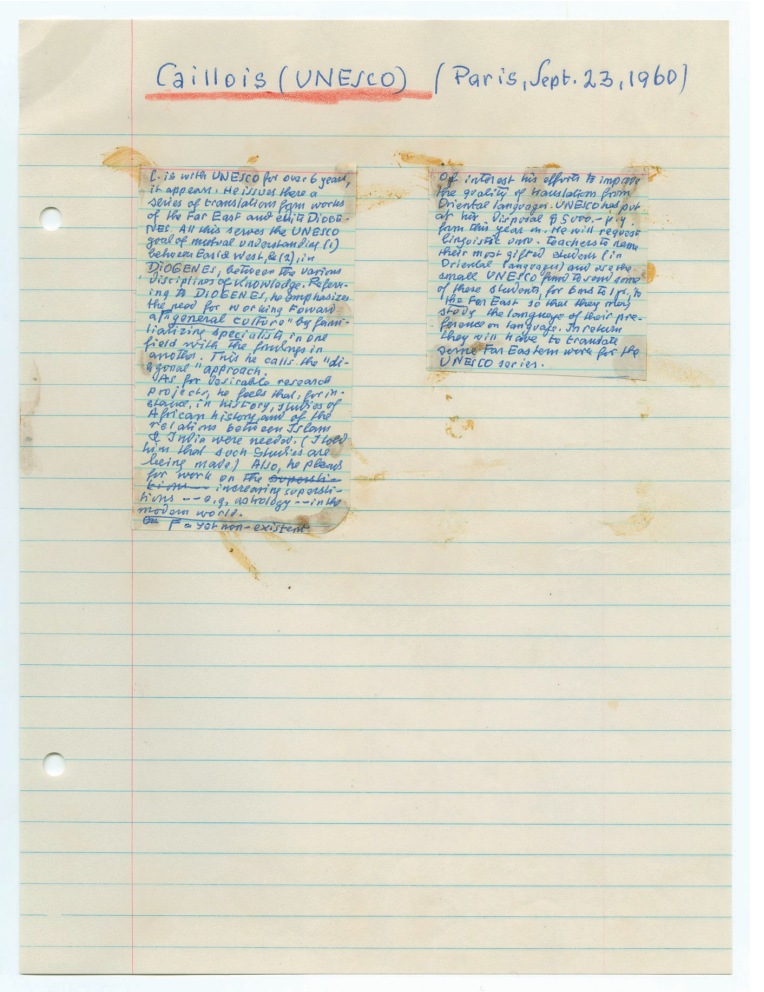
Anhang: Krakauer und Caillois



Caillois (UNESCO) (Paris, Sept. 23, 1960)

C. is with UNESCO for over 6 years, it appears. He issues there a series of translations from works of the Far East and edits DIOGENES. All this serves the UNESCO goal of mutual understanding (1) between East & West, & (2), in DIOGENES, between the various disciplines of knowledge. Referring to DIOGENES, he emphasizes the need for working toward a "general culture" by familiarizing specialists in one field with the findings in another. This he calls the "diagonal" approach.

As for desirable research projects, he feels that, for instance, in history, studies of African history and of the relations between Islam & India were needed. (I told him that such studies are being made) Also, he pleads for work on the ~~superstition~~ increasing superstitions -- e.g. astrology -- in the modern world.

~~On~~ Fayet non-existent

Of interest his efforts to improve the quality of translations from Oriental languages. UNESCO has put at his disposal $5000.- p.y. from this year on. He will request linguistic univ. teachers to name their most gifted students (in Oriental languages) and use the small UNESCO fund to send some of these students, for 6 mts to 1 yr., to the Far East so that they may study the language of their preference on language. In return they will have to translate some Far Eastern work for the UNESCO series.

Kracauer, Siegfried: Conversations in Europe. July-October 1960. A: Kracauer, Siegfried; Bollingen Foundation. Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach, 72.3709a, 4.

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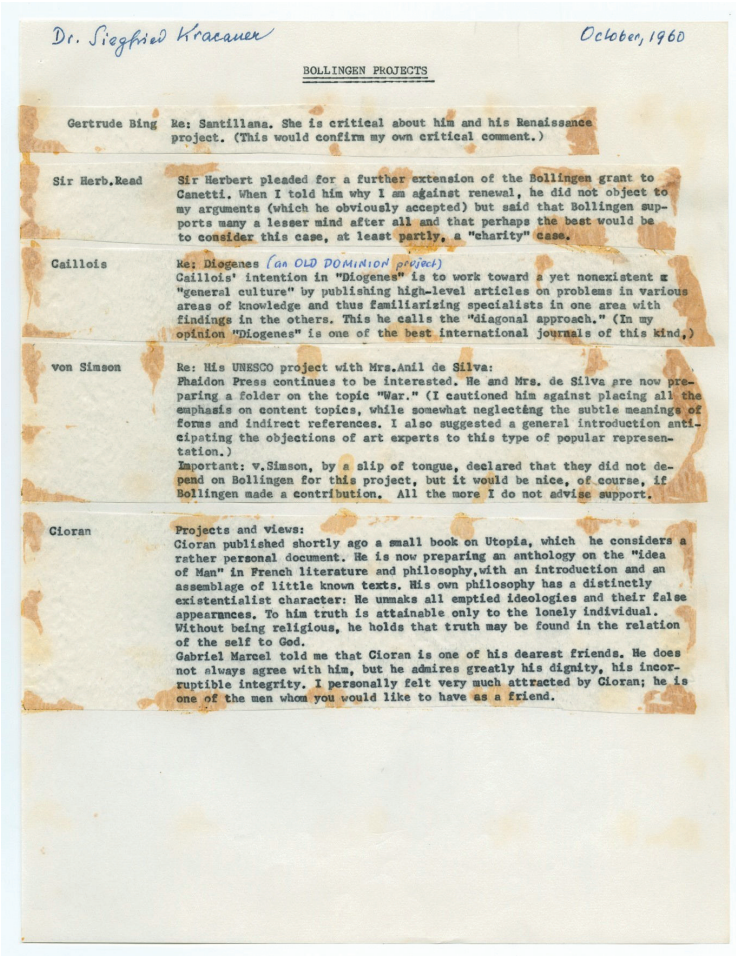

Dr. Siegfried Kracauer — October, 1960

BOLLINGEN PROJECTS

Gertrude Bing	Re: Santillana. She is critical about him and his Renaissance project. (This would confirm my own critical comment.)
Sir Herb.Read	Sir Herbert pleaded for a further extension of the Bollingen grant to Canetti. When I told him why I am against renewal, he did not object to my arguments (which he obviously accepted) but said that Bollingen supports many a lesser mind after all and that perhaps the best would be to consider this case, at least partly, a "charity" case.
Caillois	Re: Diogenes (an OLD DOMINION project) Caillois' intention in "Diogenes" is to work toward a yet nonexistent a "general culture" by publishing high-level articles on problems in various areas of knowledge and thus familiarizing specialists in one area with findings in the others. This he calls the "diagonal approach." (In my opinion "Diogenes" is one of the best international journals of this kind.)
von Simson	Re: His UNESCO project with Mrs.Anil de Silva: Phaidon Press continues to be interested. He and Mrs. de Silva are now preparing a folder on the topic "War." (I cautioned him against placing all the emphasis on content topics, while somewhat neglecting the subtle meanings of forms and indirect references. I also suggested a general introduction anticipating the objections of art experts to this type of popular representation.) Important: v.Simson, by a slip of tongue, declared that they did not depend on Bollingen for this project, but it would be nice, of course, if Bollingen made a contribution. All the more I do not advise support.
Cioran	Projects and views: Cioran published shortly ago a small book on Utopia, which he considers a rather personal document. He is now preparing an anthology on the "Idea of Man" in French literature and philosophy,with an introduction and an assemblage of little known texts. His own philosophy has a distinctly existentialist character: He unmaks all emptied ideologies and their false appearances. To him truth is attainable only to the lonely individual. Without being religious, he holds that truth may be found in the relation of the self to God. Gabriel Marcel told me that Cioran is one of his dearest friends. He does not always agree with him, but he admires greatly his dignity, his incorruptible integrity. I personally felt very much attracted by Cioran; he is one of the men whom you would like to have as a friend.

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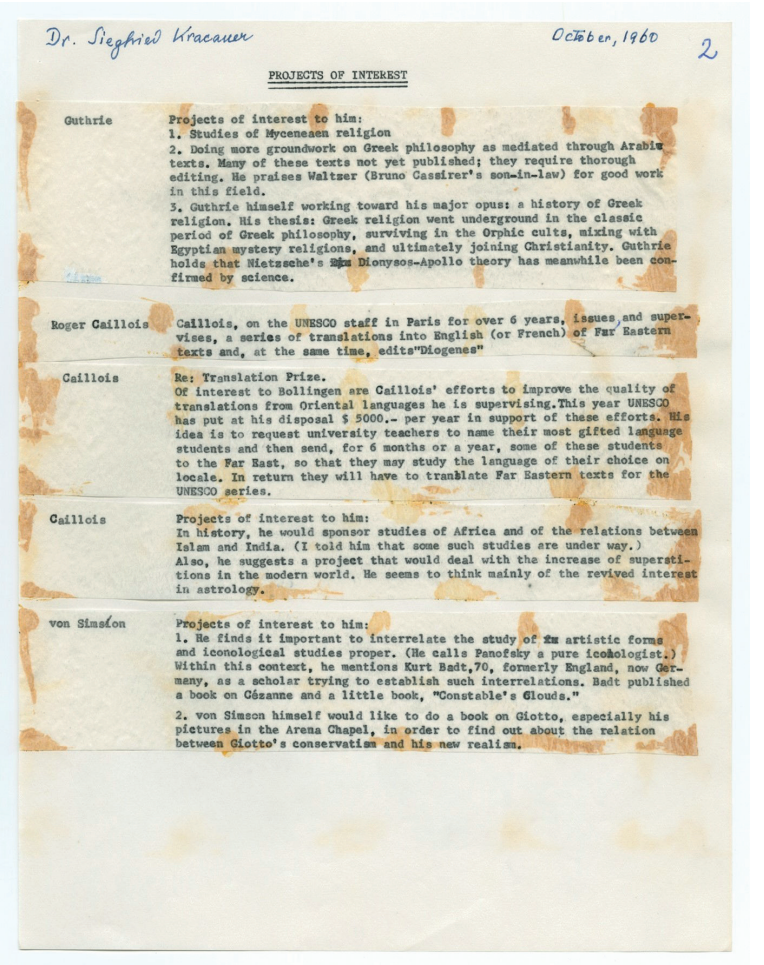

Dr. Siegfried Kracauer October, 1960 2

PROJECTS OF INTEREST

Guthrie

Projects of interest to him:
1. Studies of Mycenaean religion
2. Doing more groundwork on Greek philosophy as mediated through Arabic texts. Many of these texts not yet published; they require thorough editing. He praises Waltzer (Bruno Cassirer's son-in-law) for good work in this field.
3. Guthrie himself working toward his major opus: a history of Greek religion. His thesis: Greek religion went underground in the classic period of Greek philosophy, surviving in the Orphic cults, mixing with Egyptian mystery religions, and ultimately joining Christianity. Guthrie holds that Nietzsche's Dionysos-Apollo theory has meanwhile been confirmed by science.

Roger Caillois

Caillois, on the UNESCO staff in Paris for over 6 years, issues and supervises, a series of translations into English (or French) of Far Eastern texts and, at the same time, edits "Diogenes"

Caillois

Re: Translation Prize.
Of interest to Bollingen are Caillois' efforts to improve the quality of translations from Oriental languages he is supervising. This year UNESCO has put at his disposal $ 5000.- per year in support of these efforts. His idea is to request university teachers to name their most gifted language students and then send, for 6 months or a year, some of these students to the Far East, so that they may study the language of their choice on locale. In return they will have to translate Far Eastern texts for the UNESCO series.

Caillois

Projects of interest to him:
In history, he would sponsor studies of Africa and of the relations between Islam and India. (I told him that some such studies are under way.)
Also, he suggests a project that would deal with the increase of superstitions in the modern world. He seems to think mainly of the revived interest in astrology.

von Simson

Projects of interest to him:
1. He finds it important to interrelate the study of the artistic forms and iconological studies proper. (He calls Panofsky a pure iconologist.) Within this context, he mentions Kurt Badt, 70, formerly England, now Germany, as a scholar trying to establish such interrelations. Badt published a book on Cézanne and a little book, "Constable's Clouds."

2. von Simson himself would like to do a book on Giotto, especially his pictures in the Arena Chapel, in order to find out about the relation between Giotto's conservatism and his new realism.

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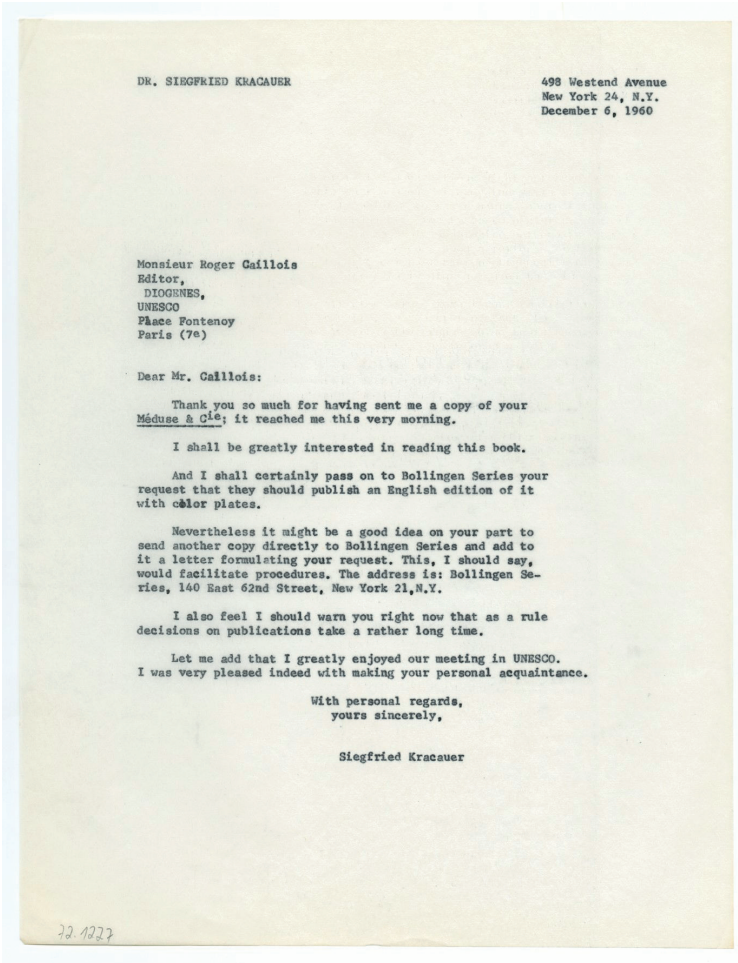

DR. SIEGFRIED KRACAUER

498 Westend Avenue
New York 24, N.Y.
December 6, 1960

Monsieur Roger Caillois
Editor,
DIOGENES,
UNESCO
Place Fontenoy
Paris (7e)

Dear Mr. Caillois:

Thank you so much for having sent me a copy of your Méduse & Cie; it reached me this very morning.

I shall be greatly interested in reading this book.

And I shall certainly pass on to Bollingen Series your request that they should publish an English edition of it with color plates.

Nevertheless it might be a good idea on your part to send another copy directly to Bollingen Series and add to it a letter formulating your request. This, I should say, would facilitate procedures. The address is: Bollingen Series, 140 East 62nd Street, New York 21,N.Y.

I also feel I should warn you right now that as a rule decisions on publications take a rather long time.

Let me add that I greatly enjoyed our meeting in UNESCO. I was very pleased indeed with making your personal acquaintance.

With personal regards,
yours sincerely,

Siegfried Kracauer

72.1227

Siegfried Kracauer an Roger Caillois, Brief vom 06.12.1960 (Durchschlag). A: Kracauer, Siegfried. Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach, 72.1227.

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