

PARIS 7 January 1929

Dear Theodore:

I found your letter of December 15th waiting for me on my recent arrival in Paris. It is very kind of you to want to include me in your new book. I would like to help you with the material you want; I think most of it you will be able to find in New York. For instance, my own book, "Anarchism and Other Essays," contains a very able character sketch of me by Havel. You will find there most of the important events of my public life. I am writing to a friend, S. W. Van Valkenburgh, to send you a copy of that work. Another book which contains material on my life is Frank Harris' Fourth Series of Contemporary Portraits. Some of the things about my childhood I wrote down for him, so they are authentic. Then again, William Marion Reedy, who if I mistake not was instrumental in giving you and other youngsters of that time their first literary inning, has repeatedly written about me. The most outstanding thing was called "A Daughter of a Dream," I believe it appeared in one of the "Mirrors" of 1911, but I am not sure. You will have to get your secretary to look up the back numbers of that magazine, which no doubt can be done in the Library.

You say in your letter that you have drawn from the files of the New York papers for material concerning my life. As I haven't yet received your resume of it, I cannot tell what you have made of it. But you, being an experienced newspaper man, will know that nothing which appeared in the newspapers about me was ever true. I can say without exaggeration that in all the thirty-five years of my public activities in the United States there have not been more than half a dozen stories about me which presented accurately either myself or my ideas. If therefore you want to do a real portrait of Emma Goldman you will have to be extremely careful if you use the newspapers as a source.

I was amazed to read in your letter that I personally slew Henry Frick, hoping thereby to show up the wrongs of society. You state that I told you this. You must have mixed up something else with this—I certainly never could have told it to you. If it had happened I would not now be at large. It is true that I was intimately connected with the act, that I knew about it from its inception until it was carried out, but it was Berkman and not I who did the heroic thing. As a matter of fact I have regretted ever since that I did not share the consequences with him—it would have been easier than it was on the outside. I can't go into this now—when you read my Memoirs you will see the effect the whole thing had on me. But the facts are that even Berkman did not slay Frick—he recovered from the bullet wounds soon after. I hope you are not as mixed up about the other facts in my life as you seem to be on this.

I feel certain that among your reasons for wanting to put me in your "Gallery of Women" is one of ~~wanting~~ wanting to be of help to me. I admire your optimism, but you will forgive me when I say that I cannot share it. As for my Memoirs, they will have to stand or fall on their merits. If the book can be gotten out by a well known publisher and he advertises it sufficiently, ~~it~~ there will be a sale. In these days quality rarely counts, the circumstances under which things are brought to the public attention being far more important. As for trying to justify me to society, why should anyone want to do that?

Handwritten note:
* I am writing to you
in haste

I am grateful to you for your intention to try to help
ca, but I am afraid there is not much chance of that.
terial, I think you can enough from what I have told you.
of things have happened since 1910, but I rather think you kn
For instance, my connection with the birth control activities.
first to be sent to prison for giving out birth control information.
More important than that was of course my stand on the war, which resulted in my
deportation, the end of a perfect day, or rather of thirty-five years not so
perfect. You can get all this material from the files of "Mother Earth",
to be found in the Public Library or the Columbia one. You will also be
able to find there my Essays and a copy of my book, "The Social Significance
of the Modern Drama."

You will be shocked to hear that I have already written 175,000 words on my
autobiography, and I am not yet half done! On the 15th of this month I am
going back to St. Tropez to resume my writing. My address there is Maison
Mussier, Chemin St. Antoine, St. Tropez, Var, France. I do not think the
book will be ready for publication until ~~2nd~~ September. Three publishers
have already applied for the rights to it, but I shall not discuss it with
any one until it is finished. I want above all a publisher who believed in
~~advertising~~ advertising. If you have any suggestions to make along that
line, let me know.

I hope the material I have suggested will prove to be what you want. If it
is not, I dont know how else you are going to get the data, because I am too
busy with my book to be able to write a sketch for you myself.

Write me again soon. All good wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely,

Virginia Saltman

Handwritten note:
P.S. If you would be good
let me see a copy before it
is published. I ask you to
you may have some mistake
not intentionally, so. I know
are anxious to give something
true. Was it you that
another matter. I would
case in Washington please
in mind that I will promise
nothing compromising. I could
accept the report of necessity
to deny my ideas, never
carefully