

GAYLORDSVILLE, CONNECTICUT
9 APRIL, 1946

MR. D. M. KOHLER
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

DEAR MR. KOHLER,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR EXCELLENT ARTICLE AND FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION IN SENDING ME A COPY. I THINK YOU MADE YOUR POINTS WELL AND WITH THE NECESSARY DETACHMENT. I WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT YOU DISCUSSED MY ESSAY WITH SO MUCH EVENNESS OF TEMPER. IN SOME QUARTERS IT GAVE RISE TO OUTBURSTS OF PERSONAL EMOTION.

WHAT YOU CALL SENSUAL IMMEDIACY I THINK SUMS UP MY CONCERN WITH THE PREVAILING POETIC METHOD. THERE IS NOTHING INHERENTLY WRONG IN POETIC ABSTRACTION, WHICH IN THE PROPER HANDS EVEN BECOMES AN INSTRUMENT OF FORCE. BUT AS IT IS SEIZED UPON BY DISCIPLES OF THE VERY ADROIT, ABSTRACTION IS APT TO BLUR INTO SENSELESSNESS AND CONFUSION. THE TECHNIQUES OF SYMBOLISM DO NOT STRIVE FOR THE DOUBLE EXPOSURE AND THE MONTAGE OF MEANINGS; YET ONE MIGHT THINK SO, BY THE COMMON USES OF PSEUDO-SYMBOLISTIC POETRY. -OF THE POETIC IMAGE ANYTIME, ANYWHERE, I SHOULD SAY THAT THE IMPACT OF SENSUAL MATERIAL IS OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE.

MY VERY BEST WISHES TO YOU, AND AGAIN MY THANKS.

SINCERELY YOURS,

Karl Shapiro