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February 7th, 1953

R. F. Harrod Esq.,
Christ Church
Oxford

My dear Harrod,

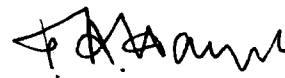
I am writing to ask whether you can help me in connection with a little task I have undertaken. You probably do not know that the late Ludwig Wittgenstein was a relation of mine (a second cousin once removed). I never knew him well but I have met him at intervals over nearly thirty years and of course I know both his Vienna background and the Cambridge atmosphere - in fact it was in Cambridge at the beginning and the end of the last war when I saw more of him than at any other time. When I got the impression that nobody else seemed to prepare a biographical sketch I began to collect a little material and got so fascinated that I went on with it. The fact that nobody seems yet to have got in touch with his surviving brother and sisters rather confirmed my impressions and I have only recently learnt that Miss Anscombe of Somerville College is acting as his literary executor and may be ~~is~~ preparing something on his life. I have not yet had a reply to a recent letter to her and I may possibly abandon my plans when I learn what she is doing. But in the meantime I continue writing to various people which at different times have been in more intimate contact with L.W.

One of the possible sources of information are of course the Keynes papers and it is with reference to them that I am asking for your help. What you say on p.161 of the Life suggests that you had more material before you than you actually used - e.g. your incidental reference to W¹⁸ having studied engineering at Manchester which I knew but to which I have never seen a reference. I should of course be specially interested if there existed any letters of L.W. to J.M.K., but any references to L.W. in Keynes letters would be equally interesting. I just have no idea what kind of information there might be among the Keynes papers (and, incidentally, among any F.P. Ramsey papers if such exist). So far all I have seen of L.W.'s letters is a set of some forty he wrote to Bertrand Russell between 1912 and 1921. I probably shall get a few more when I can make personal inquiries in Vienna next summer. I have not yet written to John Wisdom or Braithwaite who I expect will be able to help me in some degree.

I should be very grateful for any help you can give me in this. I shall probably have more specific requests to make after I hear what there is or may be found. But at the moment I do not even know whether you still have the Keynes papers or where they are.

I hope you did not dislike my review of the Life too much - if you saw it at all. It must be more than two years that I wrote it for the Journal of Modern History and when I recently inquired about what had happened to it they told me that it had appeared last June (Vol. XXIV/2) but they had not even troubled to send me a copy of it - nor had they sent me any proofs!

With best regards,
sincerely yours,


F.A. Hayek

FOLD SIDES OVER AND THEN FOLD BOTTOM UP AND SEAL.
NO OTHER ENVELOPE SHOULD BE USED.