

Donaueschingen, 5.7., 1951

Dear friends,

I feel ashamed deeply for keeping you that long without any sign from us. Then this and then that really prevented me from sitting down and do some writing.

You found a report enclosed. I must say any thing in details about that this time, cause some other matter is more important and has to be discussed right now.

It's about Robert Gueissaz who dropped in here about a fortnight ago. Standing on the doorstep, still with his coat as he told us: 1) "I am an old friend of Pierre Ceresole and have worked with him in many services; 2) I've been travelling all over the world, was in Japan, Australia etc. etc. etc.; 3) I am "explorer", Journalist; 4) Have written several books and pamphlets, translated in five, six languages. I earned much money; 5) I have a wonderful collection (unique in the world) pictures about Japan; they can be projected and I give talks with it; 6) I made a film about Schubert." - And I want to stay two, three, four months.

Well, I am sure I forgot a lot, any way, you get an impression of what "Prof." Gueissaz knew and has.

But say honestly wouldn't also you be astonished when somebody without knowing you, as the first thing what he is going to say, in quiz such a review upon his life? Nothing of the real old fine atmosphere, the few people who worked with Pierre Ceresole together are still carrying with them (of which point I is modesty was to be recognised. Every action was the complete contrary.

Although terrible difficult to understand when he speaks, cause he can't speak when he didn't came here as an ordinary vol. He thought to give lectures for soldiers in highschoools and other groups of people. Later on he tried to explain to me that the money he gathered in this way should partly be for the benefit of S.C.I. We asked him if first he would give such a lecture for our group. What he did. Well, the result was just as we expected: below zero. He doesn't do more than just telling what every body sees as same old cracked snaps, where at the other hand we expected to get same interesting talk from a Prof. who was in Japan before and after the last war. Nothing of that.

Besides this activities he worked three days with us on the "Baustelle". Reactions from people needn't to be guessed for: "Is that the way for an old S.C.I.-er to put an example of how to work and live in a camp. He is using the camp as a cheap hotel; ones and a while works, but for the rest cares only for his personal business."

I saw Robert Lienhart about it right at the beginning and asked him if he agreed in training Mr. Gueissaz in the camp for some time without be actively should take part as camplife. He also thought we have to give Mr. Gueissaz a chance to show what he possibly could do for the S.C.I. in his way. Therefore waiting with open critics till he had given his first lecture. Which undoubtedly should give us some picture of the possibilities, he himself, is to excited about. He had and we had the chance to make up our minds. His idea, that's clear, is to stay with us. Our minds actually tells we can't accept him any longer in our community.

Robert Gueissaz is a striking example of the type we often meet in circles of people as Pierre Ceresole par example. The type which knows be himself in nothing (although he tells the very opposite) and log to pull themselves up as people who gathered the, by all the Robert Gueissaz so highly wanted adoration's.

Robert Gueissaz is the type of an autodidact who didn't manage to be one; but tries to make other people believe in his large amount of knowledge. He grapples himself on every thing he has as well as on his materiel property. This has a reason of course. Robert is sticked fast in some infantile complexes. Also proved by the way he adores his mother which isn't normal and the trophies above his bed some flag with Patrie et Liberté on it, a girls figure with pigeons in wonderful colours another flag not with a striking slogan as you might expect. Oh no, its from Swissair.

Sorry, I had to make my epistle this long, but I thought it should be good to try to give you a clear as possible picture of the situation.

S.C.I. still as an extreme organisation in world of today. So we have to reckon with it that we draw extreme people near to our groups. Though this doesn't mean we have to accept them.

I'll talk with R. and tell him about our critic and ask him to take the consequences. Don't know if you feel pressed to add something to it. In that case do it quickly cause he doesn't stay very long anymore.

About the tenth of this month a new "boss" comes to take my place. I must leave directly but stay till 26th 1) to make him (Jochen Wesseloh, Germany) acquainted, 2) cause I should like to apply for the Service in Switzerland starting on first of June. Stay four weeks and go to Signo where work starts first of July (any way this is on the list).

May I hear from you if this is possible and if not what you advise me to do?

We should be very pleased with some more details of Summer services. People don't choose very easily without knowing what going on. Our list Luise Fell brought from Ludweiler directly seems to be not complete. Especially dates turned out to be not correct. Will you send us another one.

Is there a possibility to get the points and conclusions of Ludweiler?

Best wishes and greetings

Yours

Ernst Hulst