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Erik von Kuehnelt-Leddihn Correspondence: December 17, 1987

Steven Alan Samson

Liberty University, ssamson@liberty.edu

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December 17th
1987

Dear friend,
at long last I had the time to read your most interesting
essay on Paul Valéry. I was amazed about the whole
amount of literature by & about Valéry in the Cylist
language. He really seems to have had quite an
echo in Anglo-Saxony⁴. But how French is he really?
His father was a Corsican (i.e. an Italian like
Napoleone Buonaparte), his mother an Italian from
Udine. ^{EA}Reading your essay he seems to be a rather
elusive writer with an ideological aversion which
is not very French. I have learnt a great deal
about Valéry from your essay. So far I knew
practically nothing about him except his famous
remark about the Germans: "Savoir et devoir -
comme vous êtes suspects".

I still remember happily my days in
Marion. You are an original thinker and a
small college is - perhaps - not such a bad
background because it might give you more free
time than a big university. I think here about
John Lukacs whom I got his job in Chestnut
Hill College and - in spite of his fame - stuck
to it.

To you and a very happy Xmas,
Yours ever grateful

I am just finishing
a "radical" article on
American "liberalism" for
"Chronicles".

Robert K. Ruddle