



August 2, 1938

Dear Mr. Iglesias:

Let me tell you with what interest and pleasure I read your "Essay Toward the Unity of Contemporary Knowledge." As I told you when I saw you in the office, the University of Chicago Press is now publishing an encyclopedia in which the unification that you have in mind is attempted on a small scale. That is, it is limited to science. There is no reason why a unification as extensive as that which you have conceived should not be carried out.

One point that I would like to raise with you is the fact that though science may be defined as organized common sense, as Huxley remarks, common sense changes as our knowledge broadens, particularly our knowledge of the universe. It was common sense to a Greek to believe in the music of the spheres, common sense to any educated person in the Middle Ages to believe that the earth was flat, common sense for many centuries to hold that the sun and the stars revolved around the earth. These beliefs are now regarded as absurdities. Each new discovery does something to make the science of yesterday seem wholly or partially absurd. The Newtonian laws which have served us for three centuries and were regarded as fundamental truths are no longer common sense.

And so it is, I think, with religion, philosophy and poetry. All change as knowledge changes and as man sees the universe in a new light.

Waldemar Kaempffert

[Carta] 1938 ago. 2, [Chicago, Illinois] [a] Dear Mr. Iglesias [manuscrito] Waldemar Kaempffert.

AUTORÍA

Kaempffert, Waldemar 1877-1956

FORMATO

Manuscrito

DATOS DE PUBLICACIÓN

[Carta] 1938 ago. 2, [Chicago, Illinois] [a] Dear Mr. Iglesias [manuscrito] Waldemar Kaempffert. 1 h. ; 28 x 21,6 cm.

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