230 West 105 Street (#11D) New York, NY 10025 (212) 865-7328 April 10, 1998

Ms. Edie Roberts, Marketing Assistant

University of Iowa Press

119 West Park Road

100 Kuhl House

Iowa City, IA 52242-1000

Dear Ms. Roberts,

I didn't think I could give a very useful comment about The Higher Jazz, since I found much of it so inert as fiction. Perhaps, I thought, Edmund Wilson showed what a smart critic he was by not publishing it. But as I read on I found some vignettes, glimpses of the period, that caught my interest, so here's what I came up with. I hope it proves of some use:

"Edmund Wilson was not a great fiction writer but he was an acute observer of the cultural scene and of his own life and feelings. This unpublished novel, though highly uneven, was his summary reckoning with the 1920s, offering us revealing glimpses of a booze-drenched milieu that stretches from Gershwin, Dorothy Parker, and the Algonquin wits to burlesque shows and Schoenberg concerts."

Please send me a copy of the book when it appears.

Sincerely yours,

Morris Dickstein

City University of New York