Comment on A Rebel in Defense of Tradition, by Michael Wreszin

An effervercent critic with a strong social conscience, an intermittent radical with deeply conservative values, Dwight Macdonald was an intellectual gadfly, the most entertaining political writer and cultural journalist in postwar America. Without slighting Macdonald's mistakes and limitations, Michael Wreszin's thoroughly well-researched and well-written biography is more than intelligent, it is fun: a lively and detailed overview of the private life and literary career of one of our wittiest, most polemical, most opinionated writers.

--Morris Dickstein,

author of Gates of Eden and Double Agent

December 11, 1993

Mr. Steven Fraser

Basic Books

10 East 53 Street

New York, NY 10022-5299

Dear Mr. Fraser:

Enclosed you will find my comment on Michael Wreszin's fine biography of Dwight Macdonald. Please send me a copy of the final book.

Almost at random, I've come across a few errors in the bound galleys which you will want to correct:

p. xiii, line 2--Chiaromonte was a character not in Man's Fate but in another novel by Malraux, Man's Hope.

p. 210, line 17--the psychiatrist referred too is undoubtedly "Pedersen-Krag."

p. 220, next to last line--I think the author might mean "trouper," not "trooper."

Many thanks for sending me the galleys. My own book with Basic, Gates of Eden, has had a long career

Sincerely yours,

Morris Dickstein