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Title: Letter from William Benét to Lawton Mackall

Date: February 4, 1916

Location: I-Friends-1982-3

Contact:

Archives & Special Collections
Waidner-Spahr Library
Dickinson College
P.O. Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

25082

WILLIAM ROSE BENÉT
10 ADAMS STREET
PORT WASHINGTON, LONG ISLAND

Feb. 4, '16

Dear Mackall:

Two questions occur to me. Have you a hidden masterpiece? Are you a super-soul?

Li-s-ten!

This Spring I shall publish a magazine of masterpieces - probably it will be the only issue. It will be entitled "The Chimæra".

It is not for the relief of the Albigenses or any other reason. It's not reasonable.

It's simply going to come into existence with a crash - and cease. (probably!) You don't have to pay anything to get your masterpiece printed in it. You ought

to paid for - but how could one fully pay for a masterpiece? The thought is absurd.

A feature will be Book Reviews of 200 words or less of ancient authors disguised as modernities. Will you do a review of the published works of Socrates, supposing that he was now before the public in all his regal beauty and that his definitive edition had just been issued by Charles Scribner and Sons.

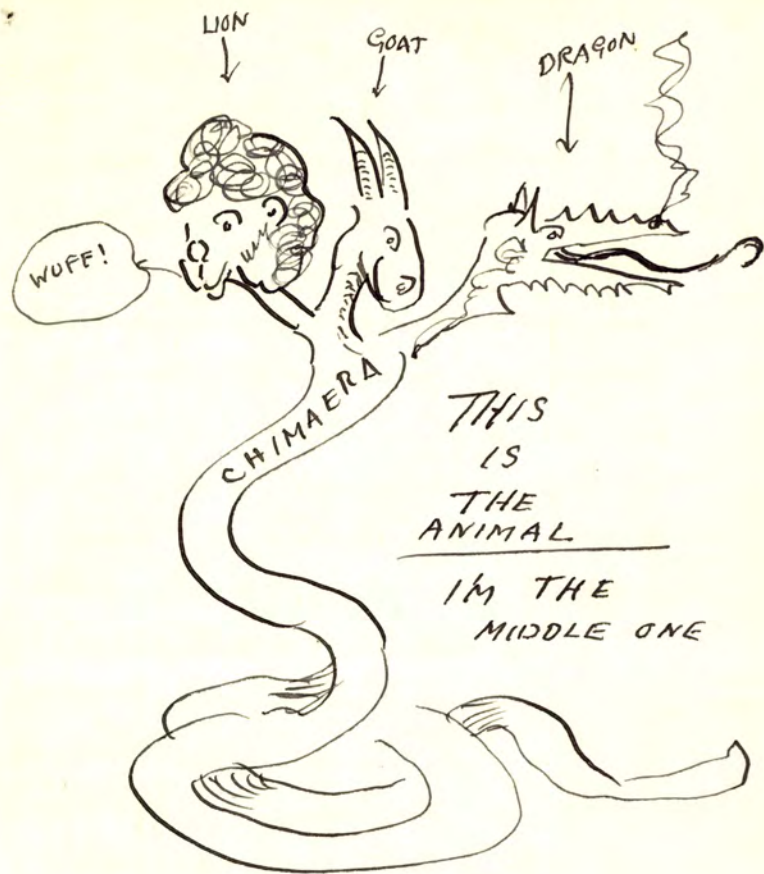
But supply your own leads & notes as to publishers, format, etc. If you don't like Soc. try Cervantes, or Voltaire, or Gray's Elegy, supposing it just published by an unknown English poet, or - any book but Homer, Shakespeare, Keats, or the Poems of David, as far given - then out. Will you try? And remember about that masterpiece.

Yes, of course I'm crazy ... I know ... I need it too ... well, see if you can. Adieu
A. S. N.

to be glad of that anyway.
Among others that may - or may
not contribute - are Louis Untermeyer,
Clement Wood, Stephen Vincent Benét,
and you. Won't you join with
yourself and come in. I have also
approached James Oppenheim &
Don Marquis. I have got nearer to
myself and agreed with myself
that I would contribute. Won't
you ask your friend Arthur Fer-
guson if he has masterpieces
to throw away in a like manner.

Damn it! This letter is
serious. The magazine's only reason
to be is to print super-excellent
stuff. It will be small & not gaudy.
Prose of less than one thousand words,
Poetry of average length, sardonic & comic
verse, humorous prose, caricature &
serious drawing are some of the
things it might do. But it
needs scintillation & sober excellence.

No contribution will ever



LION

GOAT

DRAGON

WUFF!

CHIMAERA

THIS
IS
THE
ANIMAL

I'M THE
MIDDLE ONE