

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Klaus

New York, 1945-03-10

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(CENSOR'S STAMP)

TO: Mr. Hermann KESTEN

210 Riverside Drive,

NEW YORK 25, NY

FROM

Cpl. Klaus Kann, 32697270,

The Stars & Stripes, Unit 1

APO 512, c/o FI, New York

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

(Sender's complete address above)

10 March, 1945

Dear Hermann Kesten,

It's always so nice to receive news from you: I wished that you'd write me more often! What my friend Peter Linderhood told my friend Lazare about the dangerous life I am leading, and what the latter seems to have repeated to you, must have been somewhat exaggerated. In general my job with P.W.B. was monotonous rather than dangerous and exciting; it is true that there were some exciting and even a few dangerous moments, but they were rather exceptional. And, anyhow, now I am not in the field anymore but have joined our Army newspaper and am busy writing articles, which is after all the only thing I am good for. I am doing "special features" for our Sunday edition, which is indeed a much nicer Sunday paper than many a similar publication in the United States -- saying my bit about such familiar themes as the German Junkers, the city of Berlin, Wagner's influence on Nazi philosophy, and so forth. But there are many other things I want to write about, after not having written anything, or having written very little, for the past 15 months. As you know, I enjoy writing; it's an old habit with me.

But I enjoy reading, too! That's why I am eager to get your COPERNICUS, even though you try to frighten and to discourage me by calling it a "difficult" book. I am impatient to read it and I might even try to present it to our G.I. audience; it may be very good for some of them to find out who old Copernicus was and who old Hermann Kesten is. Also, I am looking forward to The Twins of Aschaffenburg; I suppose it will be published by Kiepenheuer, in Berlin. But why write a novel about the Jews? It's such a melancholy subject! Was not the Jewish question just one of Hitler's ugly inventions? And shouldn't we drop the matter -- now, with Hitler being nearly defeated? I think we should! Let's write about more pleasant things! Why don't you write a novel about a circus, or about Toulouse-Lautrec, or about Confucius, or a book about Voltaire? Leave the Jews to Schalom Aschl! The Jews are dreary.

The War will be over soon.

Remember me to dear Mrs. Kesten.

As always,
Cordially yours,
KLAUS

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE
ADDRESS AT TOP?

V-MAIL

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ADDRESS AT TOP?