

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Klaus

o.O., 1945-01-12

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12 January, 1945

Ma très chère,

Your letter of 19 December reached me only today; for one reason or another, our overseas mail service seems to have slowed down in the post-Christmas period. Also, the reproduction of my last V-mail must have been quite inadequate indeed. By no means did I want to suggest or intimate that I wanted anything for the dentist's bill. Really, it was only in a jocular manner that I mentioned the whole affair. As I told you before, I have more money than I am able to spend, and there is really no sense in sending me any cash. So I return the money order to you -- whereupon you will manage, I hope, to get the money back from the post office. Thanks all the same for the kind intention. I'll remember it in the hour of need, when 40 \$ may come very handy. ... As for the packages, I suppose that I have received most, if not all, of them by now -- except the last (or maybe the two last!) Mimosas and the one containing slippers and cigarettes; but these, too, will arrive in due time, no doubt. Whenever it comes to composing new Mimosas, any additions in the fishy and cheesy line (also salty crackers) will be greatly appreciated.

My reflections à propos the Kröger tragedy were already incorporated in my last letter. Yes, I can just see how difficult the situation with poor Uncle Heini must be! Let's hope that the arrangement with Salka Viertel can be worked out: it sounds like a comparatively promising solution.

What is new from here? I had a very interesting, if all too short, time in Rome, which was indeed quite a refreshing change. The city appears relatively peaceful, with elegantly dressed people, nice things to buy in the stores, etc. Only the prices are exorbitant. I saw a lot of people -- including Sforza (whose popularity in this country has enormously increased, as a consequence of Churchill's fantastic blunder), Elena Croce (Benedetto's graceful and intelligent, if somewhat snobbish, daughter), Silone (who recently arrived from Switzerland, married with a rather attractive Irish girl -- and who sends you and Dad his compliments), Ripper (who is very much mixed up with a slightly monarchistic Free Austrian Committee), Peter Viereck (who is with P.W.B., and a favourite of the Roman "mondain" intelligentsia), and -- last not least! -- Bimpi Oberhummer!! She stays in the same house with one of Ripper's Austrian friends, and rushed to see me, as soon as she heard that ~~she was~~ I was about. Married to an Italian hotel-owner in Meran, she left Munich back in 1934, and seems sincerely anti-Nazi -- with a conservative touch. Mother Oberhummer and sister Olli are in Munich and, as Bimpi put it, "schon ganz vertrottelt." She herself is fairly attractive -- not quite young anymore and rather on the sharp side, but quite racy and in her own silly Bavarian way quite amusing. It seems that she used to be on very intimate terms with the whole Bavarian high aristocracy, including the Wittelsbachs, and that all those gentlemen are thoroughly fed-up with Hitler. But that doesn't help us much...

27/1/45

