

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Klaus

o.O., 1944-10-30

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No.



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

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APO 464, c/o Postmaster,
NEW YORK, NY

(Date)

Italy, 30 October, 1944

Ma très chère,

Since I wrote you last -- it seems just a few days ago --, I received one of your delicious MIMOSA packages (containing anchovy paste, crackers and jam, besides the familiar and always-welcome Lebkuchen and marzipan), and your letter of October 14, No. 42. Ever so pleased. ... No, I am positively not meager behind my ears, or on any other part of my body, but, on the contrary, have not lost any weight and am in a remarkably good state of health. How could I otherwise stand those icy, rainy nights in our damp, drafty tent? The weather here is abominable, the roads are in complete disintegration -- actually nothing but mud --, and to go to the mess or to other vital localities means a risky and exhausting adventure. But it is amazing how much human nature can stand, if it has to be. And out in the fox-holes it is even worse. ... How right you are, in what you say about the present phase of the war -- its senseless and its horror. We try our very best to make these things clear to those German bastards, but they seem impervious to our arguments. ... Unfortunately, you are not altogether wrong, either, in your remarks about my present status and its somewhat irritating character. One has to be very patient. Just now, I have three little irons on my little fire: First, your correspondence with Uncle, which (you never can tell!) may result in something, eventually; second, Golo's plotting for me in London, which could, or should, have more immediate consequences; third, and finally, something I am working on right here, and which might bring about some change -- not very fundamental but pleasant -- in the not too distant future. Probably none of the little plans will work -- which I shall bear with stoic equanimity. ... Glad you liked "Polyglot." I had an extremely good time writing it. Have just been informed by Horch that he sold my article on Sforza and Croce, also to TOWN & COUNTRY (a Hearst publication!), for \$250. I'll be rather well-off, when I return to the States -- especially since I don't have a chance to spend anything over here and therefore send almost my whole pay, almost every month, to my Special Checking Account. ... Too bad, with old Bibi I hope he'll manage to get into Special Services; most musicians do. He should apply for it as soon as possible. Also, his German should help him -- even though he is not an expert, as are Golo and I. ... Remember me to the Borgis. Tell him that I am studying his book, and that I find it rather fascinating (if in parts controversial). I'll write him about it as soon as I am through. Another companion of my evenings is Upton Sinclair's PRESIDENTIAL AGENT -- sent to me by the author --, a most very readable, sturdy yarn, well-informed, well-documented, both instructive and enter-
taining; but, of course, there is something lacking...

V-MANN

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