

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Klaus

o.O., 1944-06-28

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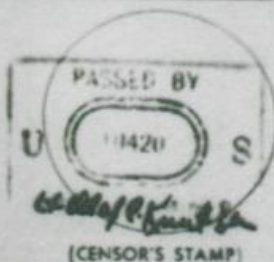
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No. _____



To

MR. THOMAS MANN
1550 San Remo Drive,
Pacific Palisades,
Calif.
U.S.A.

From

Sgt. KLAUS MANN,
(Sender's name) 3964 7970
P.W.B., HQ 5th Army, APO
(Sender's address) 464,
c/o Postmaster,
New York, N.Y.

(Date)

Italy, 28 June

Ma très chère: This morning I had the agreeable sensation of receiving your well-formulated communication of June 13: thanks a lot. Also for the neat little copy of CANDIDE and two miniature packs of cigarettes, which reached me some days before. Always so pleased and touched. Now I am living in, and on, the expectation of another amosa package: lebkuchen and marzipan are more and more becoming a highly welcome, not to say indispensable, feature of my daily life. Incidentally, one item I would like to have, is a pair of nice, sharp nail scissors -- to cut my finger nails with: they are already rather long and deformed, and it seems impossible to get hold of any scissors, in this part of the world. -- As for my morale, I should really make it my policy not to mention it at all in my letters. The ups and downs are too erratic and irrational. Now, for instance, your old boy is indeed rather happy -- which is not primarily ~~due~~ due to the promising stand of our military operations but to more personal reasons. Incurable Don Quixot one is, one allows oneself, once in a great while, to indulge in emotional illusions -- which are so beautiful and comforting, as long as they last.... As for my military status, that's nothing to worry about. In a sense, it is even more honorable to live through this War as an enlisted man than it would be as an officer -- especially in P.W.B., or similar organizations of a semi-civilian type. Saroyan, for instance, was still a private when I heard about him last. There you are! Bill is a wedio, if I am not mistaken: that's a different case. They become automatically officers. Besides he has Washington contacts... However, something has to be done when we reach Germany proper. In this event, I may either get that much-discussed commission, or else get myself discharged (being almost 38 years old!) and continue to work for OWI as a civilian. It would be somehow foolish to show up in Berlin or Munich as a sergeant... Speaking of Munich: have you ever submitted any claims for compensation of lost property to the proper authorities in Washington? I think now is the time to do it. Any lawyer can tell you whom to approach, and how the application has to be made. I am looking forward to the day when I shall requisition personally good old Peschi -- throwing out, with the utmost brutality, its present inhabitants and moving right into my own old room... Still speaking of Munich and "Gespensterreigen": is it credible that Otto Falckenberg -- as usually well-informed circles inform me -- has become a wickedly active Nazi -- turning in people to the Gestapo, etc? It sounds almost too ghostly to be believable... Golo writes cheerfully. I think he should stay where he is. I may try to get myself into a similar job -- here or in England. By the way, my own Capt. H. has left for London.

Love and blessings:
old K.