

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Klaus

o.O., 1944-06-16

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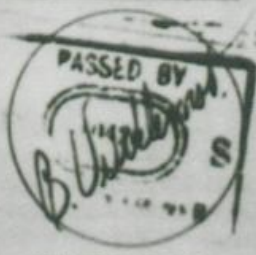
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No.



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

To
Mrs. Thomas MANN,
1550 San Remo Drive,
Pacific Palisades,
Calif.
U.S.A.

From

Sgt. KLAUS MANN,
(Sender's name) 3269 7270,
P.W.B., HQ 5th Army,
(Sender's address)
APO 464, c/o
Postmaster, New York
(Date) N.Y.

Italy, June 16, 1944

Chère Amie:

Another "petit mot" -- although I wrote you only a few days ago. According to your note of June 3, however -- which I received today -- it seems that you were without news from me for a certain length of time. The reason for this delay is probably of a purely technical nature. We keep moving, as you know from the papers -- which causes many inconveniences and may complicate our mail service. If we were standing still, however -- or moved into the opposite direction --, that would be even worse, wouldn't it. ... The Italian roads are dusty, the villages bombed to pieces, and the weather is getting hot -- after having suffered, in our tents, from the cold, for so many weeks and months, it's now the heat that becomes the greatest nuisance. I don't see much of the cities. However, I have been in Rome, which I knew only most superficially. It was quite a thrill to see the grand old thing again -- hardly damaged at all, tremendously privileged -- thanks to its Eternal Glory and to the presence of the Holy Father --; with well-dressed people -- very much in contrast to the misery prevailing in Naples --, beautiful shops, and so forth. Food seems to be the only thing that is really scarce -- the restaurants are fabulously expensive and what you get for your money is very poor stuff indeed. My visits there were not frequent and always short. Yet I met, or re-met, some people -- the theatrical director, for instance, who produced a Italian version of "Anja und Esther" -- about sixteen years ago... He used to be a liberal and a bohemian -- with "futuristic" affiliations but otherwise quite unpolitical. As Fascism remained in power, however, he yielded gradually to its pressure and, after 1933 or so, became the director of some State theater -- teatro del li Arti di Roma -- and, furthermore, accepted all kinds of titles and honors from Mussolini. Now, of course, he is nervous and disturbed -- fearing the revenge of the anti-Fascists. When I called on him -- unsuspecting of this whole development -- he presently overwhelmed me with all kinds of documents proving his innocence, his demands to recommend him to the Allied authorities, and so forth. The whole affair was rather embarrassing and depressing -- and there will be hundreds, thousands of similar cases, in post-Hitler Germany. It will be quite a dilemma -- which, in the case of the "Teatro-delli-Arti" man was solved automatically; for I don't think that I would have been able to do anything in his favour, even if I had wanted to do so.

V-MAIL

Already sent to As per
Tant for: K.