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Mann, Klaus

Camp Crowder, 1943-10-04

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Post Public Relations Office

Camp Crowder, Missouri

October 4, 1943

IT WAS VERY SWEET OF YOU - dearest Muriel - to send me your beautiful book, for which I hope to get a great big fat juicy War Bond. I have saved it, along with most of the nicer items, for the most dignified, if somewhat belated, rally, to take place next Saturday, in Kansas City, under the auspices of the University, respectively of President Decker.

It was fine to have your book around for a while and to reread certain parts of it, like the chapter on Melville and Whitman. While doing so, I was perturbed by a sudden feeling, as though I had never told you how much I admire "Gibbs." Is it possible? And if so, is it pardonable? The truth is that I was greatly moved and impressed when I first read it, shortly before my induction, and meant to write you a profound and voluminous letter. But those were hectic and busy days, and the letter remained unwritten. Now it's too late to write, and I have to wait until I see you again, to tell you all the interesting things I intended to formulate, so many months ago, in a poignant, yet nonchalant, manner.

But when shall I ever come to New York again, or to any other place where you are likely to be? Since September 25, I am an American citizen - finally, after all. This means that I shall be able to go overseas at last - to rejoin my old unit, if possible. It may take another month - maybe longer, maybe less long. All I can do is to send urgent cables and to depend on God and the War Department - two capricious giants but both full of kindness, au fond.

Erika is back from her great journey. My brother Golo is a private in Alabama. Selden Rodman asked after you, in a rather depressed letter he wrote me from his new post, at Buffalo. Curtiss expects to be sent across, one of these days. I am writing unflaggingly for the Camp Crowder MESSAGE, and enclose another sample for you. Before long you may also receive a big book edited by me - "The Heart of Europe", which will remind you of him whom you should NEVER forget,

Yours ~~Holiness~~

ttoliness

(in bitter grief and utter
humiliation - a prisoner of
General Kesselring!!)

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Opened by mistake.

K.
(Non-American and, therefore,
anonymous member of the
gifted group.)