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Klaus Mann

111 East 39 th. Street

New York City,

February 4, 1940

Dear Mr. Greenslet,

Your secretary wrote me that you won't be in Boston before February 5. So I assume you didn't read yet the outline and the Eleonora Duse chapter I sent you.

What I am enclosing today, is a short Preface which may clarify somehow the basic idea of the book.

Besides, I would like you to know a few changes which I have made in the outline of the book.

1.) I intend to include, as a first chapter, a story on an explorer who has written something about his experiences and activities in this country. I may choose a Spaniard of the XV. or ^{the} early XVII. century. I found some quite interesting material in the public library, and think it could make an amusing chapter. I would present, that way, representatives of four centuries: of the XVII. in the first ~~the~~ chapter, of the XVIII. in the second chapter, and of the XIX. and XX. in the following parts of the book.

2.) I don't think I will dedicate the entire second chapters - which appears as Chapter One in the outline - to Lieutenant Anbury. I rather want to introduce representatives of two other nations who visited here at the same time: a German by the name of Seume, who was a soldier with the Hessian troupes and wrote a famous autobiography, and Chateaubriand, who

~~was~~ fits much better into this chapter than into the story on the French writers.

3.) I will drop the story on Rachel - whom I may mention in the chapter on Sarah Bernhardt. There are too many theatrical people anyway. I am rather inclined to include a chapter dealing with Big Business, more especially with big crooks. It may contain material on Ivar Kreuger, Sir Basil Zaharoff, and the Czech industrial Bata. I also consider a chapter on famous flyers, for instance on Graf Zeppelin.

4.) An amusing character for the chapter on Poets and Tramps is a German writer by the name of Rosen who became popular through an autobiographical novel "Ein deutscher Lausbub in Amerika." - Another character in the French chapter should be Bergson, the philosopher, who was here during the World War.

...By the way, I am collecting quite significant and new material on Gustav Mahler - through Bruno Walter - , on Herman Bang - through Baron Dahlerup, a Dane who was a member of the committee that received Bang in New York - ; on Trotzki, through Ludwig Lore, who used to be one of his intimate friends in the New York period - ect. ect.

I enjoy working - but I would certainly enjoy it still more when I ^{would} have your answer...

Yours very sincerely,

I am sure you have noticed that ^{my} ~~you~~ made a mistake, in the outline, when I mentioned Anbury's "diary." His book is, of course, a collection of letters to a friend - as you know perfectly well, since the one limited edition which exists, was ^{published} ~~being~~ by Houghton Mifflin...