

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Klaus

New York, 1941-06-04

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DECISION

a review of free culture

141 East 29th Street, New York

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Mr. Jean Gould
2524 Lawrence
Toledo, Ohio

Dear Jean-Gould:

It was nice to hear from you again after quite a while. I was half-pleased, half-disappointed to learn that you did not get the real thing (not the real prize, I mean) from the Writers' Digest but that at least you got an appreciative letter. It was nice of you to mention Decision in your reply. All kinds of publicity are welcome — particularly if it comes from so nice and understanding a reader as you are. These qualities of yours are very obvious again in what you have to say about my piece on Whitman.

No, I must confess that I am not familiar enough with the work of Emily Dickinson. Curiously enough I just discussed her with Muriel Rukeyser, who told me interesting things about her and said that she admires her and does not really love her very much. I want to read her things as I have somehow a hunch that she is very important, or rather that she is on the point of becoming very important once again. I saw yesterday that the editor of the Kenyon Review is announcing a monography on her which is to be published by New Directions. He is one of those men who has a very keen feeling for what is "in the air" and what the Vanguard needs and wants to hear at a particular moment.

As to Rudolph Hess, I do not know very much more than you do or than anybody else does. My personal guess is that the Nazis in this exceptional case did something which they never did before — they said almost the truth. I emphasize "almost" because they belittled or concealed the tensions and disagreements between Hess and Himmler. Yet, I think that on the whole the presentation of the Nazi papers is rather exact this time. I am positive that Hitler had no idea about his going to England and I also believe (unfortunately) that there was no big plot or attempted revolution but rather some sort of hysterical tension between the Fuehrer and the stooge.

Let me hear from you again and take my best regards and wishes.

Sincerely,
Yours,

Klaus
Mann