

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Klaus

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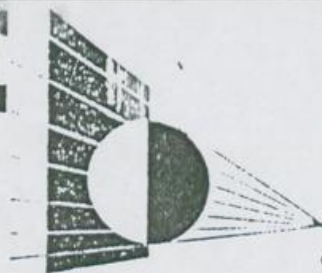
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DECISION

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a review of free culture

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January 23, 1941

Miss Jean Gould
2534 Lawrence Avenue
Toledo, Ohio

Dear Jean Gould:

My best thanks for your very kind letter which was indeed one of the nicest congratulations I received after the publication of our first issue. Our next issue will prove to you that these are not empty words, but that I really enjoyed your intelligent praise.

We are starting, in our second number, a new department quoting some of the statements we received from readers concerning our publication. I am preferring for this purpose critical statements rather than friendly ones. However, I felt it appropriate to include at least one kind utterance as I am quoting five aggressive ones. As I went through my mail, I felt that your letter was particularly nice and, therefore, decided to quote it. I presume that you have no objections.

The success of the first issue is most satisfactory, indeed, and it sells better than I had dared to hope. You ask me how I felt myself about this first issue and what the venture as a whole means to me. Well, it means quite a lot to me; but it would lead somewhat far to explain to you for what particular reasons and under what sorts of angles. As to the first issue, I considered it rather as a sort of an overture or a carte de visite. I think that it wasn't bad as an opening number as it gives a sort of foretaste of what I want to do later. I wouldn't like it so much if it weren't an opening number for I think it is a little bit mixed up and contains too many short contributions by too many celebrities. I agree with you that Huxley's piece is probably the most interesting one, but my personal favorite is Cocteau. I wonder if his little piece is as impressive to those who do not know his other works as it is to me.

With my best regards,

Yours,

Klaus Mann