

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Klaus

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Klaus Mann

441 N. Rockingham,
Brentwood, Los Angeles,

August 21, 1940

Dear Miss Gould,

The word 'Biedermeyer' is a popular designation for the cultural style of a certain period in Germany.

The German word bieder, used in this connection, means something like 'homely' - i.e. 'cozy', with a certain flavour of petty-bourgeois idyll. The name 'Biedermeyer' was

originally used for certain types of men who over-emphasized this idyllic element, in their writings or in their private life. This nickname, however, gradually

became the general label of the whole period - which runs from about 1820 to 1848. It is the period following the Napoleonic wars and preceding the great industrial developments. In France this was the period of Louis Philippe, the king with the umbrella. In Germany, it was the period of the painter Spitzweg, post-classic poetry - somewhat feeble as compared with Goethe, Schiller and Lessing - , nice furnitures (the German Biedermeyer style being akin to the French 'Empire'), and a great deal of "Gemütlichkeit", with chamber music, sublime flirts, lovely flowers, and all that kind of thing. Unnecessary to say that the great romantic music - including Schumann's, of

now, in particular, because of my sister Erika who is leaving
today from New York - to London...

Best regards and wishes.

Yomd

Klein, Ann

am