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To the Editor

Mann, Klaus

New York, 1948-11-21

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TO THE EDITOR:

This is to correct a mistake contained in my article "The Double Life of Han van Meegeren" (TOWN AND COUNTRY, January 1948). In describing one of van Meegeren's paintings, I referred to the model -- a Dutch pianist by the name of Theo van der Pas -- as "such an ardent 'collaborationist' that his compatriots, after the liberation, banned him for two years from the concert halls." This remark was based on information I obtained, while sojourning in Amsterdam, from usually reliable sources and the correctness of which I therefore took for granted. My usually reliable sources, however, have turned out to be fallible. Mr. van der Pas has indeed convinced me that the term "collaborationist" is not applicable to him. Nor is it true that Mr. van der Pas was banned from the Dutch concert halls after the liberation.

My apologies are due, first, to Mr. van der Pas for having made an erroneous statement which, if left unrevoked, might be harmful to his personal and professional reputation; secondly, to the readers of my article for having misinformed them -- if only unwittingly -- so far as Mr. van der Pas is concerned; thirdly to you, dear editor, for bothering you with this declaration which, I trust, you will be kind enough to publish in your columns.

Klaus Mann

KLAUS MANN
New York, 21 November, 1948