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Mann, Klaus

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Rome, October 20, 1945

Dear Mrs. Garrett,

You were good enough to cable me, a few months ago, that you were interested in a book on postwar Europe, or postwar Germany, which I intend to write. Well, I have been thinking about the matter, and have now a pretty clear idea of what I want to say in the book and how I would like to say it.

I am afraid the enclosed outline rather fails in communicating the things I actually have in mind. Outlines of this kind have a tendency to be inadequate -- and in this particular case it was almost impossible to give a comprehensive and exact description of the forthcoming book, especially as far as the second part is concerned. In writing the outline, I had to content myself with generalities, as my second trip to Germany has not yet taken place. If this second trip turns out to be as impressive and eventful as the first one was (and why shouldn't it?) -- the second half of the book will become as personal and colorful as (I hope!) the first part is even now (if only in my mind).

I think I can promise you an interesting story. I daresay it's likely to sell fairly well, too -- better than the Gide. Also, it will not be difficult to sell the foreign rights; the Italian rights, for instance, will ~~be~~ already be sold at the time you receive this letter.

Now, here are my suggestions for our new contract:

1. I promise to write a book of about 300 pages along the general lines as indicated (... however inadequately...) in the enclosed synopsis. I will try to have the manuscript ready by the end of April or the beginning of May. In any case, I am willing to accept a date some time early next summer -- say, June 15 -- as deadline for delivery of the whole thing.

2. As for the advance, I suppose \$ 1000 would be appropriate -- \$ 500 now (to be paid to my Special Checking Account, No. 12224, National City Bank, 42nd Street Branch, New York); the rest upon delivery of the manuscript.

3. As I believe that this book will have a chance to do well, from a commercial point of view, I would like to have the assurance that it will be brought out with sufficient publicity. Unfortunately, I have had the opportunity to find out, in the case of THE TURNING POINT, that even an unusual literary success doesn't help, unless the splendid reviews are followed up by equally splendid ads. The case of ANDRE GIDE was different, as the very theme of that book is too esoteric to appeal to the masses. But ~~me~~ I feel very strongly that my new book will need, and will deserve, publicity. I would appreciate it, therefore, if our contract contained a clause specifying the minimum sum which The Creative Age Press is prepared to spend for advertising my book during the first two or three months after its appearance.

4. Maybe the most important -- and most tiresome point! ... I have not managed, so far, to get myself accredited as a correspondent. Clearly, it is not easy for me to find just the kind of journalistic assignment I want for my purposes -- an assignment that does not affect my independence and mobility. This matter of accreditation is of minor importance, as long as I am here in Italy. It becomes vital, however, as soon as I enter -- or apply for permission to enter -- German or Austrian or any Russian-held territories. The simple truth is that I won't be able to move in Central Europe at all, unless I get some kind of accreditation.

Now, I know that the quota of TOMORROW representatives in Europe is filled -- or was filled, at the time you cabled me last. Yet -- and at the risk of appearing unduly persistent -- I want to ask you whether you will not make another effort to get me accredited. Even if you have already other correspondents on the continent -- you might explain to the War Department that I am a specialist, an expert in German affairs, and that you want me for the particular purpose of writing about German matters. The fact that I have been for almost three years in the U.S. Army, should certainly help a little. The Stars and Stripes, in particular, has a good name in Washington. Besides, Public Relations authorities here assure me that the quotas for correspondents are no longer frozen and that it would not be difficult for me to get accredited, if only an American magazine applied for my accreditation. Now, tell me frankly and truly, dear Mrs. Garrett -- have you ever applied for me? And if not -- why not try it? I have a hunch it might work.

But if it cannot be arranged at all -- what I should get AT LEAST is a nice, formal letter from you -- confirming and specifying our book contract and your interest in my contributions to TOMORROW Magazine. The letter should make it clear that I will have to travel, especially in Central Europe, in order to gather material for book

and articles. You should expressly appeal to the authorities to grant me all facilities on which I depend for that purpose. And be sure that the letter contains references to both book and magazine stories -- CREATIVE AGE and TOMORROW.

Equipped with such a letter, I might get myself recognized as a so-called "political correspondent" -- which is a kind of phony, semi-official status; much less good than the real thing, but better than nothing at all.

I would be grateful and happy, if you could get me accredited, after all.

The "political correspondent" status involves a lot of trouble and would make it difficult, if not impossible, for me to do as much traveling as I should. Yet I would try to make the best of it. Your letter -- if couched along the lines indicated above -- will be an important help.

If you feel disinclined, however, to ~~be~~ let me have such a letter -- then I am afraid we will have to forget about the book, for the time being. For it would be impossible for me to go to Germany as a plain civilian; nor could I see the kind of things I want to see, if I went as an employe of one of the wire services or as a U.S. official working for U.S.I.S. or a similar organization.

So there we are; I have tried to explain my situation as frankly and precisely as possible. I know that I can count, as usual, on your helpfulness and kind consideration.

I hope to hear from you soon.

Cordially,

