

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Klaus

New York, 1942-03-23

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The Bedford
118 EAST 40TH STREET
NEW YORK
—
CALEDONIA 5-1000

March 23 , 1942

Dear Mr. Field,

We want to write a weekly column, the two of us together: and we would like to do it for The Chicago Sun. You are the first person we tell of this idea.

Of course, we do not intend to paraphrase or repeat the wisdom of the other columnists. What we'll try to produce is a commentary on certain aspects of the general situation we happen to be particularly familiar with. Sure enough, it is to be an American column, dealing with American topics. Nevertheless we want it to have a definite personal flavour.

That is to say, we shall dwell on the cultural and psychological implications of the present emergency, rather than on the great strategic and economic issues.

Also, we want to discuss those international developments and projects which are relevant to American life.

Let us give some examples of subjects we may treat, or might have treated if we had started the column a few months ago:

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- "Is there such a thing as Enemy Music?" (Subtitle:
"No. But there are Enemy Musicians.")
(A discussion of Erika's recent controversy with Deems
Taylor in connection with a letter she published pre-
viously in The TIMES.)
- "The Conservative Revolution." (A critical analysis of
such anti-Nazi champions as Rauschning, Thyssen, etc.)
- "The Fifth Column of Democracy." (The accomplishments
and mistakes of our propaganda efforts in the occupied
countries of Europe.)
- "Women at War." (Comparing the situation in Britain and
the U.S.)
- "A Victim." (The suicide of Stefan Zweig and his wife.)
- "Enemy Aliens in Hollywood." (A letter, or a series of
letters, from the West Coast.)
- "Brave Free World." (A survey of the most significant
schemes of an international post-war order.)
- "Good Neighbours." (A chat with young writers from
Latin American countries.)
- "The Fourth Reich." (Dealing with certain rumours con-
cerning a German Government in Exile, which is
ostensibly in the making and whose leader is -
Thomas Mann, according to The New Yorker and other
well-informed sources.)
- "The Dancing Dutchmen." (Describing a great bal arranged
by the Dutch seamen in the International Sailors'
Home.)
- "The French Spirit." (A report on the activities and
objectives of the French University in New York.)
- "Out of the Night." (Letters from friends in France,
Switzerland, Holland, etc.)

And so forth...

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Moreover, we may be in a position to give sidelights concerning the state of American ^{monable} in different parts of the country which we are going to visit on occasion of lecture tours. There also is the possibility of another trip to England, which would ~~be~~ yield a good deal of interesting material.

As to the heading of our column, we consider the following formulas:

"To Our Minds"
"Under Four Eyes"
"Under Many Skies"
"Under This Sun"
"Lest We Forget"
"In Double Columns."

"from Mann to Mann"

As for our journalistic style, you may remember certain samples of it you have formerly seen - for instance, Erika's reports from England, published in PM and Liberty, or the editorials and various articles Klaus contributed to Decision. Our collaborating is no new experiment, either. We have written four books together, two of which were published in this country - "Escape to Life" and "The Other Germany." (An extensive chapter out of the former has been featured as a leading article in The Atlantic Monthly.)

Don't you think it may be worth while to have a talk

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regarding this proposition?

It so happens that one of us, if not both, will have to stop at Chicago, on the way to California, in about a fortnight from now. This may be an opportunity to meet the editors of The Sun. But we sincerely hope that we may have a chance to see you here, even before that time.

Faithfully yours,

Erika and Klaus Mann.