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Mann, Klaus

Zürich, 1946-02-22

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Zurich, 22 February, 1946

Dear Mrs. Garrett,

This is really a letter to your business manager. If I address it to you, it's just to keep you informed, in case you care to know. But you don't have to read the whole stuff. The affair of the European rights of my GIDE book is indeed getting tiresomely involved.

1. Italian rights: As you may remember, I sold the Italian rights, last November, to the Roman publishing house, COLOMBO, who paid an advance of 50,000 Italian lire. Now, what do I owe you out of this transaction? As you know, the official value of 50,000 Italian lire is \$ 500 -- but in reality it's only about \$ 125. Besides, it would have been impossible to transfer the money. Besides, the contract would never have been made, if it has not been for my being in Rome and my personal contact with the publisher. L.B. FISCHER, in recognition of these particular circumstances, waived voluntarily a part of this commission and charged me only with \$ 50. (COLOMBO paid the same advance for the Italian rights of THE TURNING POINT as he did in the case of GIDE.) -- Naturally, if there are any further royalties for me out of the Italian edition, you will get your due share (which, if I am not mistaken, is 50 % -- or isn't it?).

2. German rights: Yesterday, I signed here a contract with a Swiss firm, STEINBERG VERLAG, ZURICH, and received an advance of 1,100 Swiss francs -- which includes also my fee for the German translation. In fact, I am not only supposed to translate the book myself, but I will also have to re-write and change it in important parts. In other words, the German version of GIDE will actually become a new book -- written by me in German. I don't think, therefore, that you will want to take any percentage out of my royalties, in this particular case.

3. French rights: As I cabled and wrote you, the French-Swiss publisher EGLOFF in Fribourg was interested in the French rights. Everything seemed settled -- when certain difficulties came up, at the very last moment. First of all, EGLOFF had some kind of professional or personal conflict with GALLIMARD in Paris. Consequently, EGLOFF, who had already been prepared to sign the contract, wanted me, all of a sudden, to offer the book to GALLIMARD (Gide's publisher) -- being afraid that GALLIMARD might consider it a new insult if he (EGLOFF) published a book on one of his (GALLIMARD's) authors, without having given him (GALLIMARD) a chance to see it (the book). (All this may sound a little involved, but that's the way the Swiss mind works.) -- Besides there was an additional complication in so far as my German publisher (STEINBERG) insisted that the French version should not be released before the publication of the German edition -- a condition which EGLOFF was unwilling to accept. In short, the contract with EGLOFF has failed, so far, to materialize. It is STEINBERG who has now bought the French rights, together with the German ones, -- paying me 400 Swiss Francs as an advance on the advance he expects to get from a French, or French-Swiss, publisher -- either EGLOFF or some other firm. In return, I have to give STEINBERG one third of my

royalties from the French edition. Of course, this arrangement has its disadvantages, but I had to accept it, so as not to jeopardize the German ~~ed~~ edition. For no German-Swiss publisher would be interested in a book like GIDE, unless he had a definite guarantee that the French edition will not come out before publication of the German version.

The French version of my GIDE book, incidentally, is to be based on the new German adaptation I am going to do -- not on the original American text. Yet I will not contest the claim you want to make in this case, and will see to it that STEINBERG transfer to you your legitimate share of my royalties in the French-speaking countries.

4. English rights: As I mentioned in my recent letter to you, SIDGWICK & JACKSON (44 Museum Street, London W.C.1) might be interested in the English rights. I hope that a copy of my book may already be on its way to that firm. It should be pointed out that the book is sent upon a suggestion of Mr. J.S. KNAPP-FISHER. -- In the case of the English edition, all arrangements, financial and otherwise, will of course be transacted between CRETTIVE AGE PRESS and the English firm directly.

5. Other European rights: STEINBERG VERLAG, Zurich, would be interested in handling also the rights of my GIDE book in certain other European countries, such as Sweden, Czechoslovakia, The Netherlands, maybe Hungary and Spain. They want a commission of 25 %. I suppose it might be a good idea for us to accept this proposition, as the STEINBERG people seem to have good contacts in various parts of Europe. Of course, such an arrangement would not make sense, from our point of view, in any country where you or I might be able to place the book directly, without STEINBERG's assistance. -- Please let me know how you are feeling about this point. In case you want the STEINBERGS to act as our agents in certain European countries, I would suggest that the Swiss firm write to you and make all the necessary arrangements with you directly.

I expect to return to Rome in a few days. My address for the next four or six weeks is c/o U.S. Embassy No.1, Press Attaché, APO 512 Postmaster, New York.

I hope to hear from you soon -- especially as regards the STEINBERG proposition mentioned in paragraph 5, as I would like to inform my Swiss friends whether or not they may offer my book in your (and my) behalf to certain Central and Eastern European publishers.

Was I right when saying that this is rather an involved and tiresome affair?

So sorry...

As always,