

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Klaus

New York, 1938-02-02

Nutzungsbedingungen

Bei zahlreichen Dokumenten auf monacensia-digital.de sind die Urheberrechte bereits abgelaufen. Sie sind gemeinfrei und dürfen ohne weitere Rücksprache mit der Monacensia weiterverwendet werden. Bei den Dokumenten, bei denen noch Urheberrechte bestehen, müssen für eine Weiterverwendung stets die Rechteinhaber*innen angefragt werden sowie eine Publikationsgenehmigung der Monacensia eingeholt werden. Das Zitatrecht bleibt hiervon unberührt.

Zur Erteilung einer Publikationserlaubnis wenden Sie sich bitte an:

Monacensia im Hildebrandhaus
Literaturarchiv
Adresse: Maria-Theresia-Straße 23, 81675 München
E-Mail: monacensia.literaturarchiv@muenchen.de

Terms of use

The copyrights for numerous documents on monacensia-digital.de have already expired. They are in the public domain and may be reused without further consultation with Monacensia. In the case of documents for which copyrights still exist, the copyright holders must always be contacted for further use and publication permission must be obtained from the Monacensia. The right to quote under copyright law remains unaffected by this. To obtain permission for publication, please contact:

Monacensia im Hildebrandhaus:
Literaturarchiv
Address: Maria-Theresia-Straße 23, 81675 München
E-Mail: monacensia.literaturarchiv@muenchen.de

New York, February 2, 1938

Houghton Mifflin Company
2 Park Street
Boston, Mass.

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is the synopsis of the book on German Emigration, with regard to which we have corresponded and have also negotiated recently with your Mr. Warren. As a matter of fact, this is not a synopsis but rather a skeleton showing how we approximately conceive of the arrangement of the material.

We should like to add a few explanatory words. Above all, we do not want this book to seem "academic"; we want it to be vivid, vital and diversified. On the other hand, it must have a certain continuity, "a red thread running through it." We could have agreed to a division of the material from a geographical or occupational point of view, but we believe that the division which we finally decided upon is better, for the arrangement of this material is inspired by spiritual and at the same time dramatic motives rather than merely mechanical ones.

The book is divided naturally into two large parts, the title of the first part for the time being is "Flight" (Escape), the second, "A New Life". The exact wording of these titles would still have to be decided upon. In the first part, the various circumstances should be described in chronological and dramatic form, under which the representatives of German culture left their homeland together and the very diversified reasons which made such flight a matter of necessity. Incidentally, all sorts of interesting perspectives in connection with European conditions, the relations of the German exiles to other European intellectuals, etc. will be revealed. In the second part, "A New Life", the activity and the continuing productive cultural work of the German exiles in their adopted countries is to be depicted and described. In this second part, European conditions shall be touched upon very briefly, merely as a sort of introduction, and it shall be devoted primarily to the activity of German emigrants in the United States.

The first and also the second part shall contain several detailed portraits of well known emigrants or even

February 2, 1938

Houghton Mifflin Company-#2

unknown ones, but they must be characteristic. We intend to present these portraits of various persons and their services in a highly diversified form. Above all, repetition must be rigidly avoided. In a few instances we should like to present these portraits in the form, for instance, of a personal interview, for example, in the case of ex-Chancellor Brüning and Professor Einstein, both of whom, as is well known, reside in the United States. In other cases we will make use of a more dramatic and picturesque form, for instance in connection with Carl von Ossietzki, Ernst Toller and Heinrich Mann. In other instances again the description is to be of a more intimate and private character. This would be merely logical when describing Thomas Mann, but other persons also, for instance, Bruno Walter, Bruno Frank, Vicki Baum and Prince Lowenstein we want to depict above all as private persons. Other chapters are to be more critical and analytical, for instance, the chapter on Sigmund Freud, his work and his special views in connection with the problem of the Dictatorship. We want to indulge in general abstract considerations as little as possible, for we wish to save these for later chapters. The beginning of the book is to be dramatic. Only in the second part, when the United States of America becomes the main center of interest, shall general, theoretical remarks with regard to the value of democracy, the essential differences between a democracy and a dictatorship, etc. be included. The autobiographical section, concerning our own experiences, we shall save till the very end, not only as a matter of modesty but because we consider this a very effective conclusion. The things which we relate in this last chapter shall possess the attraction and interest of a sorrowful personal experience. The book is to be illustrated by the remarks and documents of the persons whose experience and works we are discussing. The foremost and most important of our friends shall speak in the form of letter - facsimiles of which would have to be reproduced - and in the form of conversational remarks or brief biographies.

In this connection we have in mind a detailed letter of our father, a personal remark of Lion Feuchtwanger, Toscanini, Bruno Walter, Emil Ludwig, etc. It also appears advisable to us to include caricatures, portraits and possibly also photographs in this book. All this will contribute still to the vividness and colorfulness which the book must possess above all else. This book must be entirely removed from the sphere of the "Academic and the Stars" and be very diversi-

February 2, 1938

Houghton Mifflin Company-#3

fied, vital and at the same time as exhaustive and readable as we conceive it. It is our intention to present a complete and at the same time a diversified, entertaining, touching and dramatic portrayal of that complicated and important phenomenon called "German Emigration". We believe it would be advisable to have an alphabetical index as complete as possible of those German emigrants who are important culturally or politically. In the case of authors, it might even be advisable to include a list of their works, so that our book, which in no way is to resemble an encyclopedia shall rather be an interesting and stimulating work of fiction, shall at the same time possess the value and the function of a handbook for all those interested in German exiles.

We believe, gentlemen, that this fragmentary outline will suffice to give you a conception of what we have in mind, and we trust that you will arrive at a favorable decision very shortly.

Very sincerely yours,