

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Erika

New York, 1940-08-19

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Erika Mann.

The Bedford
118 EAST 40TH STREET
NEW YORK

den 19.. August 1940.

Liesl mein Gold:-

Es ist laeppisch, dass ich in die Reihe Derer eintreten musste, die Dich mit Graus behelligen, anstatt Dir all die zaertlichen Briefe zu schreiben nach denen der Sinn mir steht.

Inliegend findest Du die Kopie eines Briefes, den der Zauberer an Kingdon geschrieben hat, sowie:

1. diejenige eines Getippes von mir an Oprecht,
2. Oprecht's Originalepistel
3. Originalschreiben von Professor Spiro
4. Kopie der Antwort an ihn
5. Kopie eines Schreibens an das Committee Professor Spiro betreffend
6. Originalschreiben von Breitscheid
7. Kopie der Antwort an ihn
8. Originalschreiben von Tennebaum
9. Kopie der Antwort an ihn
10. Originalschreiben von Dr. Grab
11. Kopie der Antwort an ihn.

Vielleicht erkundigst Du Dich bei unserem Schandkomitee ob das Geld an Budzislawski, Rauschning und Osborn abgegangen ist, Wenn nein, muesste man Stunk machen, - will sagen Bruno Walter muesste dies tun. Ohnedies bin ich im Begriff morgen den allergroessten Stunk selber zu machen, - es ist eine Schande, dass man uns nicht wenigstens an unsere \$ 1660.00 heranlaesst, da man schon die \$ 16000.00, die man ausserdem inzwischen auf die Namen unserer Leute hin "geraised" hat, fuer Herrn Hagens Kommunistenpack verplempert. Affidavits zu besorgen, sieht man sich hier nicht imstande. Ich habe mit Kesten gemeinsam eine neue Liste ausgearbeitet; er wird Dir schreiben fuer wen er affidavits zu besorgen trachtet und fuer wen Du es, wenn moeglich, tun sollst. Wer nun wirklich schon Visen bekommen hat, weiss ich noch immer nicht definitiv, werde aber morgen anlaesslich des Generalkrachs mit Kingdon verlangen, dass Du laufend informiert wirst. Einen regelmaessigen Wochenbericht an den Zauberer hat man mir zugesagt; auf der anderen Seite moechtest Du aber bitte so freundlich sein und auf der Stelle eine genaue Abrechnung ueber Einnahmen und Ausgaben in Hollywood einsenden. Der hiesige Treasurer, so sagt man mir, sei "annoyed", weil wir die Trinkgelder nicht abgeliefert haben. Das und genau das haette uns fehlen koennen.

The Bedford
118 EAST 40TH STREET
NEW YORK

2.

Leb wohl, mein Liebling, und umarme den Bruno von mir.
Ich rufe morgen noch an; falls Du es nicht inzwischen tust
in Deiner Herzensfreundlichkeit.

Sehr die Eure

E .

Mac

P.S. McDonald ist out of town (wie denn wohl auch nicht?)
Warren wurde nach Washington abberufen (wie denn wohl auch
nicht?); seinen " substitute", Mr. Malin, sehe ich morgen (wie
denn wohl auch nicht?).

P.S. Fuer Spiro'n sollte man doch wirklich ein affidavit
aufbringen koennen. Ob nicht Dadda Perls sich dafuer hergeben
wuerde?

[beed!]

P.S. Bitte den ganzen Kram gelegentlich Milein zeigen.

August 16th. 1940.

Dr. Frank Kingdon
Emergency Rescue Committee
122 E. 42nd. Street
New York City, N.Y.,

Dear Dr. Kingdon:-

Allow me to submit to you today a selection of cases (a small selection although it may seem large to you) which I have carefully chosen out of an innumerable number reaching me daily.

1) Dr. Emil Oprecht, Raemistrasse 4, Zuerich, Switzerland, his wife, Mrs. Emmy Oprecht. They wish to leave Switzerland and come over here for very good reasons. For many years Dr. Oprecht has been the outstanding liberal publisher in Switzerland, he has published some of my books, has discovered Rauschning, edited the anti-Nazi magazine "Mass und Wert" and has done many things the Nazis did not at all like. The situation in Switzerland is now such that Dr. Oprecht feels himself endangered and would be extremely grateful for his admission to the United States. He is a Swiss citizen, not a Jew, and a man of some financial resources and I can only say with a clear conscience that he would be an asset to this country.

2) Mr. Richard Tennenbaum, Freigutstrasse 12, Zuerich, Switzerland, who has been my Swiss banker for many years and has done a great deal of decent and courageous work on behalf of liberal refugees in Switzerland; he feels himself equally endangered and wants to come over here. He, too, is a Swiss citizen and a rather rich man. In his case, however, there seems to be the difficulty that he is not in very good health, as a matter of fact he is a hunchback, but this does not necessarily mean that he cannot be admitted. At least he writes me that the American Consul in Zuerich advised him that it would be easier for him to obtain an immigration visa than the visitor's visa, but that it would be necessary in any case for the State Department to advise the Consulate accordingly.

3) Dr. Walter Feilchenfeld, c/o Dr. Oprecht, Raemistrasse 4, Zuerich, Switzerland (born January 21st. 1894 in Berlin) and Mrs. Marianna Alice Feilchenfeld, nee Breslauer (born November 22nd. 1909 in Berlin) as well as their child, (born in Amsterdam January 21st. 1939). After having been imprisoned by the Italians for about half a year, they are now in Zuerich. They are in possession of Hiatian citizenship, their Hiatian passports having been issued by the Hiatian Consulate General in Geneva on May 5th. 1940.

The passports are valid to May 5th. 1942 and can be renewed. Dr. Feilchenfeld, who is an important art dealer (having been a partner of the famous Cassirer Gallery in Berlin) would, of course wish to come to this country, but would also be happy if he could only get a transit visa.

4) As for the general situation in Switzerland, I take the liberty of enclosing a letter from the German author A.M. Frey, and a translation thereof, which is self-explanatory. It may help the Committee here to understand the situation in Switzerland and the fact that both German liberals and Swiss Jews are already endangered there and that we had better do something to assist them before it is too late. I asked Mr. Frey to send you a list of the people he is talking about in his letter and promised him that I would do my best to impress you with their plight.

5) Mr. Rudolf Breitscheid, Aux Bons Soins de M. Calvilli, Nouvelle Bourse de Travail, Boulevard de la Pays, Marseille, former German Public Minister and liberal member of the Reichstag. He writes me that he, his wife Tony, nee Drevermann, his friend, Mr. Rudolf Hilferding (former German Public Minister) and Mrs. Erika Biermann (daughter of the former German Chancellor Hermann Mueller, who signed the Treaty of Versailles) are, as may be expected highly endangered in Marseilles and that they have not yet succeeded in getting any kind of a visa. His letter is dated July 23rd. and it seems possible that in the meantime something has happened in their favor. Maybe it would be possible for your Committee to find out. In any case I think that these persons, being very representative and very famous German liberals and certainly being exactly the kind the Nazis would like to catch, should be assisted if possible.

6) Dr. S. Crakauer, Marseilles, Poste Restante, is sending me the enclosed letter as well as some data and material concerning his past activities. I have known Dr. Crakauer for a long time as a decent and gifted person and think it would be worth while to help him.

7) Mr. Theodore Csokor, Hotel Opera Str. Brezoiu 37, Bucharest, Roumania. He is a gifted writer and journalist who has recently published a highly moving and interesting book on the Polish war and his flight from Poland to Roumania. Again it goes without saying that Dr. Crakauer is endangered in Roumania and that any kind of a chance we may be able to offer him to leave Europe would be greatly appreciated both by him and myself.

Csokor

8) Dr. Budzislawski (the envelope to be addressed to Mlle. Marie Roeselova, chez Mlle. de Noix, Domme (Dordogne) is urgently in need of some money. Dr. Budzislawski is the former Editor-in-Chief of the "Neue Weltbuehne", Berlin-Prague-Paris and has great merits in the fight against Hitler. I would be greatly appreciative if the Committee could send \$ 50.00 (Fifty Dollars) right away, while I shall send \$ 50.00 from the small amount left in our Hollywood fund.

9) Hermann Rauschnig sends the following cable:
" Family in danger, penniless. Please influence publisher and Committee to assist. Matter urgent. Rauschnig." If the Committee could spare any sum for this very urgent case, would you please have it cabled to Dr. Emil Oprecht, Raemistrasse 4, Zuerich, Switzerland, earmarked for family Rauschnig.

10) Professor Eugen Spiro, former President of the Berlin "Sezession" and one of the most important German portraitists who besides has been extremely active against Hitler, which is an exception in the case of a painter. He can be reached at Marseilles, Poste Restante. He writes me from there that he is desperately in need of a possibility to leave France. Since Professor Spiro has been teaching a great deal and is known as a first class authority on painting, it may be possible in his case to get him a call from some Art Institute over here. Professor Spiro is " Officier des Palmes d'Académie" and has also been President of " Vereinigte Kuenstlerverbaende" and a member " de la Commission d'Etat pour les Arts" and of the " Nationalgalerie". Two of Professor Spiro's friends, Mme. Best, Hotel Belmont Plaza, Bexington Avenue at 49th. Street, New York, and Mr. Otto Jeidels, c/o Lazare Freres, 155 Broadway, New York, would, it seems, be willing to assist him financially and to give any kind of guarantee for him. I do not know, however, whether these people are American citizens or not.

11) Dr. Hermann Grab, Hotel Internationale, Lisbon, Portugal. He is an extremely gifted Czech lyrical author and a musician, specializing in the history of the key-board music with demonstrations on the historical instruments. Last year he was invited by the University at Princeton to give a lecture, but could not accept because he was drafted by the Czecho-Slovakian Government during the crisis. In this country Dr. Th. W. Sdorno is highly interested in Dr. Grab's coming over here or at least in his removal from the danger zone.

12) Dr. Guido Zernatto, Catholic Minister under Schuschnigg in Austria, at this moment in Porto, Portugal, Avenida dos Aliados 151, Monumental Pensao Vaz. Dr. Zernatto is about 38 years old, and was, as I have said Minister in Schuschnigg's cabinet up to the time of its overthrow. On the day of said overthrow he succeeded in escaping from Austria. Since then he has lived in France. During the period of exile he wrote the book " Die Wahrheit ueber Oesterreich" (The Truth about Austria), which was most successful in the German

language and which constitutes one of the most important documents on the events in Austria. Formerly Zernatto published a small novel as well as several volumes of poetry. In France he published political essays in French newspapers and gave many lectures. After the outbreak of the war he was engaged, by order of the French Government, in consolidating the Austrians living in France. He was President of the Welfare Committee for Austrian emigrants in France. Zernatto is particularly well known in catholic circles in America and it may be assumed that these circles will be willing to provide this man, who belonged to Schuschnigg's intimate circle and who has great merits to his credit in the fight against Nazism, with the necessary affidavits. He asks that if possible a visa be procured for him and his wife.

13) Dr. Max Osborn, Royat les Bains (puy de Dome, Poste Restante), France, is in urgent need of money, and in great danger. Dr. Osborn is a personal friend of Elise Heims-Reinhardt and very well known to Professor Einstein, both of whom would be willing to testify in his favor. The most imperative need in his case would be some money and I beg the Committee to immediately cable \$ 50.00 (Fifty Dollars), while I shall send the same amount out of our Hollywood fund in the same manner as in the Budzislowski matter. The amount should be cabled to Dr. Osborn either through the Credit Lyonnais or the Societé Général, Clermont-Ferrand.

14) Mr. Al Lewin, Universal Studios, Universal City, California, who has contributed \$ 120.00 to our Hollywood collection, begs me to urge the Committee to investigate on behalf of the Danish writer and explorer named Peter Freuchen, who has been an outstanding anti-Nazi for many years. At the time of the Danish invasion, Assistant Secretary of State, A.A. Burley, was kind enough to cable to the American Consul in Copenhagen, who then replied that Mr. Freuchen was alive and well and would proceed to America when possible. Mr. Lewin sent a message that he was prepared to provide the money if necessary to bring Mr. Freuchen and his wife (who is in delicate health) and their children over here. The Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer office in Paris informed Mr. Lewin that Mr. Freuchen had received his message. Since then no news has been received from him, although he formerly used to write frequently. Mr. Lewin would be very grateful if the Committee could try to find Mr. Freuchen and to inform Mr. Lewin of the success of their efforts.

15) As for our friends in England, Erika is going to take up this problem with you and I sincerely hope something

5. can be done about their fate in principle. I am therefore not going into any details right now, but beg you to have your secretary write me what has been decided about the cases I am submitting to you today.

In so far as the financial problem is concerned, may I suggest that any small amounts asked for in this letter may be taken out of the Bruno Walter check, which according to his wishes is to be reserved for just such purposes as the ones at hand.

I also would be extremely grateful indeed, if it would be possible for your office to keep me informed regularly about what is being achieved and about what is necessary. I do not know, for instance, how many affidavits and sponsor letters you have already succeeded in obtaining and for whom. In the case of some writers and scholars who did not yet receive their visas it may be possible for me and for my friends here to find sponsors; on the other hand I do not desire to duplicate the work of the Committee. Besides: since I am receiving scores of S.O.S. calls every day, it would be most helpful for me, if I were put in position to give all the information that can possibly be procured.

I need not tell you again how much we enjoyed your visit to Brentwood and how deeply you moved all of us by your splendid address. I also think it quite extraordinary what the Emergency Rescue Committee has accomplished so far and I beg you to believe that it is not impatience on my part if I insist on full and regular information, but rather my earnest wish to cooperate as much as at all possible.

Yours very sincerely,

enclosures.

Erika Mann

August 20th. 1940.

Miss Capels
Emergency Rescue Committee
122 E. 42nd. Street
New York City, N.Y.,

Dear Miss Capels:-

Enclosed please find a cablegram from Professor Spiro, who was, as far as I remember, mentioned in my father's long letter to Dr. Kingdon. His cable is just intended for the files and in order to show you that the case is urgent. My father has already cabled Professor Spiro that all possible efforts are being made in his behalf.

With kindest personal regards,

Yours very sincerely,

Text of cable:

Marseille. 17. August 1940.

1 enclosure.

Thomas Mann
441 N. Rockingham, Brentwood, L.A.
sans reponse de vous et Staudinger supplie encore me
mettre exquata Americain Marseille
Eugene Spiro Posterestante Marseille.