

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Erika

San Remi, 1948-04-19

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Erika Mann
1550 San Remo Drive
Pacific Palisades
California
April 19th, 1948.

Mr. W. Colston Leigh
521 Fifth Avenue
New York City
N. Y.

Dear Mr. Leigh.

I am writing you today on behalf of my brother, Klaus Mann, who is about to return from a European tour of unusual interest. Having traveled extensively in Scandinavia and Western Europe including Germany, he arrived in Czechoslovakia just after the "coup". His contacts there are excellent and embrace all political shades. As I see from his letters, he has talked and listened to practically anybody worth bothering with. From Prague he went to Vienna where he interviewed the Austrian President and other figures ~~nnnnnnnnnnnn~~ in the news. Klaus traveled as a lecturer as well as a reporter which enabled him to get a broader and a more exact picture of people's reactions, fear, hopes and idiosyncrasies. His Czech news in particular ought to be quite exclusive and fairly sensational, as I don't believe that any other American went there - and returned - at this time.

which is
There are other things which would make him appear "a natural" just now. He is the co-author of the newest Italian film hit (I forget its name) New York critics have been raving about and still running in your fair City. A novel of his on Tchaikovsky ("Symphony Pathétique") came out a few weeks ago and has been most favorably reviewed. And he's been lucky enough to publish a book on André Gide a short time before the French novelist won the Nobel Prize. - Thus, all in all, I honestly think that audiences would welcome his appearance on the lecture platform.

but
I realize, of course, that the season is as good as over and that even if it weren't, you are not in the improvising business ~~and~~ accustomed to plan your stuff well in advance. Still, I felt that you might wish to know about Klaus' coming to town and that some unforeseen - and unforeseeable - opportunities might arise that would give both of you a chance. What about ~~nnnnnnnnnnnn~~ conventions and the like? Klaus expects to arrive within a month or so. I asked him to send you a brief outline of his travels along with a number of suggestions re "subjects". He is a good and lively speaker who's just freshened up his

platform technic in a large number of European cities - speaking, of course, in English. Naturally, he is eager to make the best use possible of his unique material and the time to do ~~hh~~ so is now when everything is still so fresh. Let me hope that something can be arranged in a mad hurry.

Please forgive my many typographical errors. Both, my typewriter, and myself are sort of out of order. As you may have heard from Miss MacClave, I've only just come back from the hospital where some major butchery had to be performed and this is the ^{business} first letter I write at all. Though everything went according to plan, the plan itself wasn't particularly enthusing and I am still somewhat pale and feeble. Come sunshine, however, and a few weeks' healing influence, I'll be more powerful than ever.

Kindest regards to you and Mrs. Leigh.

Yours as ever cordially

P.S. Should you, contrary to my hopes and expectations, wish to ~~njnh~~ say "no" (to my suggestion) even without waiting for Klaus' outline, please let me know. If necessary, I'd get in touch with Private Peat.