

## **Verbundkatalog Kalliope**

### **What Price Fascism?**

**Mann, Erika**

**Datierung v. Stuart D. Ferguson**

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Ladies and gentleman,- before trying to answer the allimportant question ~~WHEN~~ of this morning,- before trying to answer the question "W.P.F.?",- I'd like to tell you two little stories, two little personal experiences of mine and I hope that you will realize pretty soon why I have been telling them.

When I was still a very young and completely unpolitical actrice <sup>about two years before Nazism got into power,</sup> in Munich Germany, ~~I~~ <sup>where I was</sup> was invited to appear at a meeting in honor of the great French pacifist Marcel Capi, ~~in order~~ <sup>to</sup> to recite a bit of poetry which, because of its pacifist content, seemed to be fit for the occasion. <sup>gladly</sup> I accepted, - for although I was completely unpolitical I hated war and everything it stood for and <sup>a</sup> certain sense for human decency compelled me to be a Pacifist by nature. <sup>After</sup> Marcell Capi had delivered her speech in French I was called upon to say my piece;- there were quite a few Nazis present and while they had been unable to understand anything Marcel Capi had said they were able to grasp the fact that I was advocating peace and a constructive collaboration of the nations of Europe,- an attitude they just would'nt stand for. So they did what they always did if anybody was of a different opinion,- they kicked up a row, shouted and screamed and broke up the meeting as well as most of the furniture. Our brave Republican police, reluctantly as ever, made finally up their minds to <sup>to</sup> restore order and I escaped uninjured. The next day, however, ~~WHEN I WAS CALLED~~ <sup>I was</sup> called <sup>by the V.B.</sup> quite a few names, among which that of a flatfooted peace hyena is still fresh in my memory. Well,- I sued the rowdies,- some of them got short prison terms, but were allowed to escape.

When A.H. came into power, two years after this little incident,

his authoritarian state ~~was~~<sup>saw</sup> to it that nobody <sup>would escape</sup> who was in the slightest suspect of pacifist leanings. ~~Ever~~<sup>offense</sup> since 1933 being a pazifist ~~has~~<sup>punishable</sup> been a criminal defense in Germany, - at least as severely as being a kommunist, a devoted catholic, a liberalist, a Rotarian, or a Jew.

This, Ladies and gentlemen, was the first of the two little stories I was eager to tell you. I am sure that you will grasp its significance when you will have heard the second story.

On September 3rd, 1939, the day on which the war broke out there was a little party at Stockholm, Sweden, given in ~~my father's~~<sup>of my father</sup> honor by his Swedish publisher. None of us was feeling like attending a party on that particular day, - but some we wanted to be nice we went after all, - and I personally was fully rewarded. I was introduced to a lady, - a countess Posse, who, as I knew, enjoyed great fame all over Sweden, - having founded and sponsored for years ~~was~~<sup>peace</sup> a powerful women's <sup>on the subject of peace</sup> organisation. A book she had written had been sold by the hundreds of thousands and she used to represent the peace-loving people of her country whenever an international ~~meeting~~ meeting was called in Geneva, - or elsewhere. To my amazement the Countess Posse told me when we had hardly met, that she was most actively engaged in Anti-Nazi-work at the time being, - that she was publishing a highly militant Anti-Nazi-Magazine, - that she was devoting all of her time and efforts to this cause. ~~When I said that~~ I heartily agreed with her efforts, - but that I would'nt have expected that kind of aggressivity from the part of the greatest Swedish pacifist. Well this was her answer: about two years ago a man

had come to see her,- a man she did not know but who turned out to be an ardent admirer of her activities. So great indeed was his esteem for her beautiful pacifistic achievements that he was eager to have a similar movement started in Tschechoslowakia,- a country which was, unfortunately, constantly threatened to get <sup>involved</sup> into a war. Would'nt it be marvellous, he asked the countess, if <sup>she</sup> ~~you~~ could create a strong and powerful pacifistic Womens-organisation in Chechoslowakia? Yes, the Countess, too, felt that this would be marvellous. But she did'nt have the financial resources to back such an organisation. Here, in Sweden things had gone nicely, - in an foreign country, however, - she did'nt quite know how to solve the financial problem. The visitor was in despair. ~~Finally~~ <sup>cause</sup> and before he left the countess he said, - a great ~~thing~~ such as this must never be allowed to be hampered by financial difficulties. I am certain, he said, - I shall find a sponsor for our cause. And he did. Only a few weeks later he returned, told the countess that the miracle had come to pass, - the sponsor who preferred to remain in the background, had ~~promised~~ promised his full support, - and, as a matter of fact, - here was a blanco check, - would the countess just take the trouble to <sup>name</sup> ~~the~~ the amount she needed and it would be at her disposal. Well, - this sounded just a bit too good to be true. And the countess Posse, a person of <sup>both</sup> ~~high~~ intelligence and integrity, carefully started making inquiries. Where did the check come from? ~~Who~~ Who was the generous and yet so modest

Saturday

If and when  
all this will run  
to pass the prize  
payed by the civilized  
world for the victory  
over barbarism we  
not have seen to high

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sponser?

His Name was Paul Joseph Goebbels and the check came straight from the propaganda ministry in Berlin.

That moment, - ~~the~~ countess told me, - when I found out who were the people who wanted me to start a great pazifist movement in Chechoslovakia, was possibly the most terrible one I have ever experience. My whole life, all of my efforts and achievements, - evrything I had been <sup>working for</sup> ~~doing~~ during the passed 20 years ~~seemed to be~~ <sup>have</sup> ~~sensless~~, - all of a sudden, - worse than that it seemed to <sup>have</sup> ~~be~~ wrong. What had I been doing? Because I rightly felt that war was not timely any longer but was below the standard of modern humanity I had ~~worked~~ <sup>have</sup> for peace and against war. Allright. But at the same time I had been working right into the pockets of Mr. Hitler and people of his kind by ~~breaking~~ <sup>trying to break</sup> the ~~power~~ <sup>is</sup> of my own people, - their determination of resistance ~~to remain~~ <sup>by weakening</sup> free and to rather ~~dy~~ <sup>be</sup> than ~~getting~~ <sup>become</sup> enslaved, - and he, - the Führer, - was obviously appreciating my work in this sense and spirit. Needless to say, - the countess went on, - that I refused the check, - needless to say that I renounced ~~all of my activities~~ <sup>stay</sup> within my own organisation, - that I ~~spread~~ <sup>spread</sup> my horrible ~~experience~~ among my friends. It was all wrong, - I told them, - you cannot be a pacifist, as long as the wolf is loose, - for nobody likes your pacifism better than the wolf, ~~he is even able to finance~~ <sup>will</sup> a movement which might enable him to swallow your country without ~~putting up a fight in which he might get killed.~~ <sup>her</sup>



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And the same <sup>story</sup> story  
to have happened in the  
Galton Anti-Nazi-Physiology.  
It must have been quite  
a surprise for the Courtes  
on Monday - then the  
funny house July 2, but in  
his appearance there is an  
matter of fact it was only a  
bit of the anniversary at the  
home, for there was no Boyle  
Nativity, - No Boyle Swastika  
to be found on the Mayor's Capital  
to greet the new friend and then

*1915 story*  
~~The story~~ of the countless impressed me deeply. And while I too  
shuddered to think of the destruction ~~WHICH~~<sup>which was</sup> imminent in the  
war that had broken out that very day, - I had to admit that there  
existed things more terrible than even ~~war~~<sup>war</sup>. The  
NaziBolshevisation of Europe and of the world, - the death of Civi-  
lisation was such a thing, - and while ~~being~~<sup>being</sup> of the opinion that  
civilisation, being a moral and spiritual achievement of humanity  
could'nt possibly be finished, could not possibly overthrown by  
boms and shells, I was ready to see that civilisation might very  
well be threatened by moral and spiritual dangers.  
What price, - etc.

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