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Mann, Erika

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23. Mai 1962

Mr. L. Arnold Weissberger
Weissberger & Frosch
120 East 56th Street
New York 22, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Weissberger,

I was very glad to learn from your note of May 3 that Mr. Selznick "is most interested to work out a co-production deal, for which he would supply certain basic elements."

As to your question regarding the screenplay I am sorry to say that the script is by no means ready. What we do have, however, is not merely an "outline" but the result of years of travail on "THE MAGIC MOUNTAIN", - years that have not been wasted. By now, we know precisely how to handle the thing, which figures, scenes, developments, etc. we want to include and just what we'll have to sacrifice.

But as you yourself so aptly put it in your letter of February 14: "When a work in one medium is transposed into a second medium, it is the rules, as it were, of the second medium that must prevail."

Which is why I fail to see how our efforts concerning the film could possibly be of any help to Mr. Selznick whose wishes concern a third and utterly different medium - the stage.

As, on the other hand, Mr. Selznick seems also interested in the motion picture, a good talk with the German producers will quickly enable him "to gauge what will be required." The producers seem somewhat reluctant to part with any exclusive material ordered and paid for by themselves, until and unless a deal has been at least discussed and sufficiently clarified.

With kindest regards

yours sincerely,

