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Mann, Erika

Zürich, 1963-01-12

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Erika Mann
Kantonsspital, Room A 75
Zürich

January 12, 1963

13. I. 68
Princeton
Mr. Alexander D. Wainwright
Assistant Librarian for Acquisitions
Princeton University
The Library
Princeton, N. J.

Dear Mr. Wainwright, -

as I have edited the first volume of my father's letters and am now working on the second (a third is to follow), I wish to thank you most warmly for your cooperation.

Letters recently received both from THE LIBRARY of PRINCETON UNIVERSITY and Miss Caroline Newton would seem to indicate that there has been some slight misunderstanding. I never proposed to publish Miss Newton's entire collection or even any important percentage of same. All I wished to do was to include in the new volume a few characteristic samples which would throw the necessary biographical light on Thomas Mann's friendship with Miss Newton. Of course, it would be a great pity - in all respects - were I to be forbidden to realise this plan.

Miss Newton seems to think that the value of the entire collection would decrease on account of any such publication. She may rest assured, though, that nothing of the sort would happen. On the contrary: Volume I has shown that a very limited number of letters from a large collection had the effect of appetizers, made people curious, got them interested and was altogether beneficial to the collection in question.

Besides: Huge collections of 400 letters and more have been put at my disposal unconditionally, and while I could never use more than a certain number of communications addressed to one person, I am at liberty to use just as many as I possibly can. Nor are the owners of said collections unaware of the letters' value which they wouldn't want to see dwindle either.

But be all this as it may: Nothing will be done without your and Miss Newton's approval. As long as my selection for volume II will be final I shall submit the dates of the letters which I'd like to include to THE LIBRARY and Miss Newton. I feel confident that permission will eventually be granted.

With renewed thanks for your courtesy and kindest regards

yours very sincerely,

JP/5021