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Mann, Erika

o.O., 1960-03-20

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March 20, 1960

Mr. Roger Senhouse
Martin Secker and Warburg Ltd.
7 Johns Street Bloomsbury
London W C 1

Dearest Roger, -

far better to have to wait a little and in due time to receive a truly charming letter than to get immediate answer. with nothing Roger-like to it.

Well, yes - the "Buddenbrooks"-Film is now really and definitely a matter of the worried past. Incidentally, as you say that the novel is at present doing well in England, why don't we try and get the film shown in London? If there were any interest I should apply myself to the subtitles, and there might be a fair chance for success.

As for ACT ONE I should certainly be well pleased with that proof-copy but am equally ready to wait for publication day. Thanks very much for promising to let me have the book.

Let me thank you even more cordially for your offer to interest either Rupert Hart-Davis or Heinemann or Norah Smallwood in my delicious juvenile. I have already sent you a copy and should be delighted if anything chose to materialise.

Are you sending the photostat copies of my father's letters to S. Fischer? I am very glad that you thought of having them made. Heinrich Mann is, of course of no urgent and immediate interest to us in as far as we have nothing to do with his estate. As you probably now, there exists a rather complete and grand Heinrich Mann-Archive in east-Berlin (c/o Deutsche Akademie der Wissenschaften); besides, his collective works are gradually being published somewhere in western Germany (I believe, in Hamburg), and most probably the publishers would be much pleased with some of his letters. As soon as I know the name of the firm concerned I shall tell you.

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The "Buddenbrooks"-Film, though by no means as good as it could and hence should have become, is not only a howling success but also far better than the best average German offering in that field. It would seem that the novel itself, the screen-play, a number of outstanding actors, the buildings, the costumes and the general atmosphere defeated most of the worst mistakes made by a director who was entirely alien to the material and took over when at the last moment the original man collapsed. The latter who had already done ROYAL HIGHNESS had been working with me for the better part of three years so as to get the thing most thoroughly prepared. The "stand in" on the other side knew nothing at all, and had it not been for the violence troubles I waged day in and day out, heaven knows what would have resulted.

Isn't it strange, though ? I hardly read any German and concentrate almost entirely on things English. Yet I have grown quite incapable of writing a letter that makes even a modest bit of sense. Actually, it isn't only strange but outrageous and saddens me beyond description. Phooeh! (?) My thoughts, however, are being thought in English (and a very pretty English it is, too!) and they are extremely affectionate regarding yourself.

Yours as ever:

