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Mann, Erika

Kilchberg/Zürich, 1955-11-05

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Erika Mann
Kilchberg/Zürich,
November 5th, 1955

Editor
London Times

Dear Sir.

In a dispatch from Bonn that appears^{ed} in your issue of November 2nd, your correspondent correctly refers to a "newly formed institute for studying the life and works of Thomas Mann... The institute's premises are in east Berlin." - news Having disclosed that "according to the east Berlin agency A.D.N. the scheme was discussed with Thomas Mann and is being carried out in consultation with his family", your correspondent states on his own authority that "he (T.M.) frequently visited East Germany". This is not so. Actually, my father went but twice to the eastern zone - both times to Weimar only - to pay tribute to great poets of the German past: to Goethe, in 1949, and to Schiller, in 1955. "Who", he said, "should represent German unity but an independent German writer whose true home ("Heimat") is the German language with its freedom of occupation?"

Permit me, ^{also} moreover, to mention that while the Berlin ^{entire} institute will indeed operate in consultation with ~~ourselves~~, his literary estate, his manuscripts, notebooks, diaries, etc., are to remain in Switzerland.

my father's heirs

Yours very sincerely

ERIKA MANN