

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Erika

o.O., 1963-11-10

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November 10th 1963

Dearest Duchess, -

the very minute the first 3 copies of the LETTERS arrived in Vienna - day before yesterday - I sent one on to you. Though the book hasn't as yet hit the market, orders keep pouring in and it looks like a considerable success.

Meanwhile, as you will note from the dateline, I have been transported back home and intend to stay here, if possible, at least over Christmas. I've just got to wait and see.

Please, in perusing the volume, don't ever think that any one paragraph either in the preface or in "your" annotation constitutes all that I've said about you. Your name keeps recurring time and again throughout the annotations - i.e. not "only" in those that deal with the 110 (!) letters to you.

Doing this book has been one helluva job, - far tougher than was volume I and than volume III could possibly turn out to be.

I do hope you'll like "our book" and wish to thank you once more and in the most heartfelt sort of way for your generosity and for entrusting me with the selection.

Incidentally, I feel fairly confident that people will be sufficiently fascinated by your correspondence with T. M. as to wish eventually not only to read all of it, but also to get a glimpse at your letters to him. Which is why I should be most grateful if you'd let me have photostats of those communications. I realise that a comparatively small number have been found and returned to you. Even so, your personality is certain to emerge clearly enough, and whatever he wrote you becomes twice as interesting if and when you, too, appear in the flesh.

I am thinking of this "Exchange of Letters" as of a publication to follow volume III. It is, however, always a good thing to start planning in time. So would you kindly ... ?

As I have only just arrived here, I had no chance yet to get a good look at the "FRAGMENTS". Be sure that I'll dig into them as soon as doctors, visitors and long postponed work will permit.

Aren't the Russians a moody lot ? In a way I am glad that you don't have to rush off in such breathtaking hurry.

God bless you.

Yours affectionately,

PS. First printing of the letters: 12 500. Second printing (same number) in progress.

