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Mann, Erika

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Erika Mann
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Zürich

July 11, 1963

Dear "Fürstin":

11.11.63
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I fear that I haven't written for a very long time and certainly failed to thank you for your kind note of June 1st. But then it reached me when I just suffered a major setback - to make the silliest understatement of the year. What actually happened is that my good leg turned bad on me and that it is now the formerly healthy hip bone which is damaged owing to the osteoporosis and that the thing is progressive. Idiotic. I am once more hospitalized but still working like a devil.

A week ago or so Professor Hatfield arrived here and is working at the T.M.-archive. He told us some surprising things concerning the T.M. collection at Yale. These tales, however, don't concern you. An even more surprising development has been brought to our attention by one Günther Rebing who wrote to the archive that he had been commissioned by Yale to work on your T. M. letters and who requested the archive to turn over to him whatever Agnes E. M. letters they might be in possession of. Now, as you know, we turned over to you all letters written by yourself, which is why the archive couldn't have obliged even if they had wanted to. As it goes they certainly would not have wanted to. Moreover, I am a little disquieted regarding Mr. Rebing's work. For the time being and until publication of "our" volume those letters were not supposed to be shown to anyone let alone to be "worked on". In addition Knopf is planning to publish at least one, possibly two volume of selected letters and it goes without saying that a great number of the letters to you will be enclosed. Any work Herr Rebing is doing now couldn't but be meant to be utilized in the not too distant future which would surely damage the far more important publication of the letters by Knopf. Somehow I am convinced that whatever is going on in this context at Yale has not been approved by yourself. If I am right I hope that you'll stop this unauthorized doings.

Regarding your letters to T. M., I told you that we are very earnestly considering the publication within a few years of all of my father's letters to you including ~~your~~ your letters to him inasfar as they are available. We deem it very interesting to the reader to acquaint him - through her letters - with the person who received such an enormous amount of communications within so short a period of time. May I then timidly ask that you have photostatic copies made of your letters to T. M. so that we should be enabled to start and tentatively compose that particular volume. May I?

As for myself and my tiresome complaints nobody knows at present just what's to be done. My doctors don't think an operation to be feasible at present while, on the other hand, the bone is getting from bad to worse. Some sort of decision, however, will have to be made rather soon.

Let me hope that all is well with you. Kindest wishes and any number of outstanding regards from yours as ever affectionately,

