

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Erika

Pacific Palisades, 1942-05-13

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1550 San Remo Drive
Pacific Palisades, Calif.

May 13th, 1942

Mr. V. Marcu
5400 Fieldston Road
Riverdale, New York City
New York

Sir:

This is meant to be a lesson in bad English. You have to start once, haven't you? And I simply can't find the time anywhere to write in German.

Your Special Delivery arrived at the moment when I was flying off for Texas to address some Teachers and Parents, so I read your article on the plane and derived both pleasure and fury from it. It's a good article though, and I might be inclined to agree with you on almost everything you say, were it not for the fact, or facts, that you,

(a) seem bloodily to enjoy some of the less pleasant things you convey, while

(b) excluding yourself from the very group to which you belong whether you like it or not.

Let me explain: As for (a), it is quite possible that there will be a great deal of anarchy and that the type of the See-und Abrutzenraeber you picture will be indeed most powerful in the Europe to come. I even prefer him to the lame ducklings of Social Democrats whom you rightly pronounce dead. Yet, the contempt which you treat anything that looks from far like a civilized solution is bewildering to me, and phrases like "They have finally come to recognize War as the father of all things" have an awkwardly familiar ring. (The parents and teachers snatched the article away from me and I'm quoting by heart, which may prove that I've read it most carefully).

As for (b), the contempt (contempt again) you express for all emigres, more or less regardless of their personal advantages or short-comings, is also disturbing; for, not only does it seem to contradict your own strictly individualistic attitude, it is also somewhat odd that what you say must be applied to all of us except you. Granted that Mr. Greszinsky and company have had a better and bigger chance to make good than had you and I, and that therefore their failure should be looked at more severely than ours need be; yet, you were an entirely grown up, quite successful, exceedingly clever, not uninfluential person when Hitler broke out in 1933, and I don't seem to remember any particularly helpful action on your part. Not as if the evidence of any such action was needed in order to justify your writing the things you write. Maybe it's

the tone more than the actual contents of your article which struck me as all too fresh, and not altogether acceptable.

I suppose it was my honest opinion you wanted to harvest, and I hope this letter won't ruin our scarcely new-born friendship. Let me know how you feel as soon as your interpretators have mis-interpreted all I have said here.

Best luck to you.

Yours as ever -

Very cordially,

P.S. How about Bruening? Isn't he actually worse than most others? Guiltier in a sense? Why do you spare him then?

E.
to Valer. March

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