

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Erika

Pacific Palisades, 1950-01-30

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1550 San Remo Drive
Pacific Palisades, Calif.
30. Januar 1950

Durrr, -

war ja uesserst nett von Dir und kann man nur hoffen,
dass Benton funktioniert.

Anbei zwei statements von der muehsaehligsten Sorte.
Das eine, scheint mir ("STATEMENT CONCERNING APPLICATION")
jedenfalls richtig. Vom andern weiss ich nicht recht. Geschrieben
ward es, weil der feige Manfred George, der sich seit langem meinet-
wegen an Representative Javits wenden will, mir, nicht ganz unein-
leuchtend, zu bedenken gab, dass, wenn der Representative vorstellig
wird und man ihm mit duesterer Miene Andeutungen ueber das viele
Garstige in meinen files macht, ihn am Ende gar Einblick nehmen
laesst ins Schlimmste, er rein gar nichts erwidern koennte, es sei
denn, man haette ihn vorher ins Bild gesetzt. Javits kennt mich
nicht, and neither does Benton. Nur zu sagen, ich stamme aus
einem zu feinen Stall als dass derlei mir zuzutrauen waere, ist
nicht das Wahre. Er sollte wissen ungefaehr, was man mir zum
Vorwurf macht und im Stande sein, laut und hoehnisch zu lachen,
wenn man es ihm sagt und zu erwidern, all diese Katzenscheisse
sei ihm bekannt und sie stinke.

Natuerlich ueberlasse ich es Dir, ob dies zweite statement
(possible reason...) an den Mann gebracht werden soll. Vielleicht
findest Du es auch nur zu detailliert und waerest bereit, ein
digest herzustellen. Mir war nur, als ob ich gut daran taete, zu-
naechst einmal alles hinzuschreiben, was moeglicherweise eine Rolle
spielt. Tausend Dank jedenfalls fuer Deine Bemuehung.

Habe vorhin, wie angekuendigt, mit Dr. Obermeyer (dem
Hautmann) hinterm Ruecken telefoniert und recht beruhigende Auskunft
erhalten. Ganz sicher, sagte der Spezialist, sei Boeses weder im
Spiel noch zu erwarten. Die "Stelle" in der Backe, die er seit
vielen Jahren hat, sei seit ebenso vielen Jahren "potentially"
boesartig, es sei aber keinerlei Anlass, zu fuerchten, dass sie
nun ploetxlich ihre Potentialitaeten ausleben moechte. Und da
die Idee des Nicht-Racuen-Duerfens den Patienten so sehr herab-
stimme, so werde man sich mit Einschraenkung begnuegen. Wie lange
die akute Krankheit noch andauern werde, sei schwer zu sagen;
immerhin seien die Ohren ja wesentlich gebessert und das Uebrige
werde zweifellos in due time ihrem Beispiel folgen.

Das ist alles fuer heute. Sei mit den Deinen umhalst
und sag mir bald, ob mein toil, sweat and blood und meine Traenen
das Richtige zuwege gebracht.

Erika Mann

1550 San Remo Drive
Pacific Palisades, Calif.

STATEMENT

(concerning the possible reasons for which naturalization is being held up.)

The following is largely conjecture; even so it might possibly help to clarify the situation:

When, in the summer of 1947, Miss Mann found it impossible to obtain permission to enter the American zone of Germany, she succeeded in having a Washington friend of hers get a glimpse at her file. Consequently she was asked by said friend whether it was true that she had ever been a member of or in some way affiliated with the so-called Paulus Committee (Soviet sponsored group consisting mainly of former Wehrmacht generals and headed by General Paulus). Not only had Miss Mann never been associated with this Committee, she had even repeatedly attacked it in public. The question referred to above would seem to indicate that her Washington file contained some erroneous reference regarding her alleged relationship with the Paulus Committee.

The press in Western Germany have repeatedly denounced Miss Erika Mann as a leftist, and in one case she has even been referred to as "one of Stalin's leading fifth columnists in the United States" (front-page headline, "Echo der Woche", October 12, 1948). Miss Mann immediately sued the author of this criminally libelous editorial, but has not up to this moment succeeded in inducing the American Military Court to bring the liar to justice.

In a recent article published by the German language newspaper "Staatszeitung und Herold", New York, exception has been taken to Thomas Mann's recent trip to the Goethe city Weimar (Soviet zone) and it was suggested that Thomas Mann's "debonair and energetic daughter Erika" was guilty - through her influence on her father - of the author's voyage behind the "Iron Curtain".

Quite possibly all these denunciations which are pure fabrications and others of which Miss Mann may be unaware are to be found in her Washington file. Nor is it unthinkable that a number of people who disagree with her views might have written to Washington denouncing her of "un-American activities". In this context it might be stated that as a lecturer Miss Mann would not care ever to open her mouth were she not free honestly to speak her mind. Thus on various occasions she has found cause to criticize American foreign policies, especially with regard to Germany. That this has been done loyally and in the spirit of her devotion to this country should require no comment and will be testified to by the vast majority of all those who heard her speak.

Conceivably, objections of a different nature might also have been raised to her becoming an American citizen. When in the midst of the war, her brother, Klaus Mann, then a sergeant in the U.S. Army, applied for naturalization, a great many obstacles were found to be in existence. Like his sister, Klaus Mann finally succeeded in getting a rough idea of what was being held against him. It seems that he had been classified as a "premature anti-fascist". But his private life had also been dissected, with the result, it seems, that he stood accused of having entertained an incestuous relationship with his sister Erika. Should the information obtained by Klaus Mann prove to have been correct, the same false accusation is likely to disfigure her record.

Despite all mental efforts Miss Mann finds herself unable to think of any additional erroneous accusations, denunciations, or suspicions that might speak against her in Washington. Nor, as stated above, can she in any way be sure whether her conjectures have any basis in fact. Since, however, she has been left in the dark and harmed without any charge having ever been brought against her, all she could do was most vigorously to defend herself against anything that might possibly have done her harm and, if so, is likely to continue to do so.

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January 30, 1950

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January 30, 1950

Erika Mann

1550 San Remo Drive
Pacific Palisades, Calif.

January 30, 1950

STATEMENT CONCERNING APPLICATION FOR
U.S. CITIZENSHIP

Erika J.H. Auden (known as Erika Mann), born November 9, 1905, in Munich, Germany. Left Germany in March 1933; became a British subject in July, 1935, through her marriage to a British subject, W.H. Auden. In the summer of 1937 immigrated to the United States and took out her First Papers immediately thereafter. In 1940, following the fall of France, flew to England upon invitation of the then British Minister of Information, Mr. Duff Cooper, in order to broadcast allied propaganda to Germany and the occupied countries of Europe. In January 1942 joined the staff of the Coordinator of Information in New York and resigned when her activities as an adviser had become superfluous. Until the summer of 1943 continued sporadically to work for the B.B.C. and to deliver lectures of a political educational nature (concerning the war) in the United States. In the summer of 1943 became an American war correspondent, accredited to the U.S. forces and covered first the Middle Eastern theater of operations and subsequently the European campaign. After the war spent about one year with the occupying forces in the American zone of Germany.

While her status as a resident in the United States who had taken out her First Papers in 1937 would have made her eligible for citizenship in the summer of 1942, her manifold war activities never permitted her to stay in any one place for the required period of six months. And since her husband was about to become an American citizen, there was no danger that her eligibility might be forfeited. Hence she applied for citizenship only when it had once again become possible for her to take up residence for the required length of time.

Application for the certificate of arrival and permission to file a petition for naturalization was filed on January 2nd, 1947, 0300 K-51307. Her hearing took place on February 7th, 1947, at which time her petition for naturalization was entered (2270-552807).

Since ^{that} ~~this~~ day three years ago, no news concerning the matter in question has been received. However, applicant has found it increasingly difficult to obtain a re-entry permit whenever she had to leave the United States on business (as a correspondent) or as her father's secretary. In May 1949 her application for re-entry permit had been turned down and was finally granted at the last moment on the very day of her and her father's departure for England where the latter had to be on a specified day owing to his honorary graduation as a Doctor of Literature at the University of Oxford, England. At that time her lawyers (Galef and Jacobs, Law Offices, 22 East 40th Street, New York 16, New York, telephone Murray Hill 3-7866) were informed that "pending the investigation" applicant would ~~not~~ ^{no} longer be permitted to leave and re-enter the United States.

Applicant is utterly ignorant of what said investigation is about. She believes her record in general and especially her war record to be good. Thus she cherishes the possession of two citations from the United States Treasury, one of April 6, 1942 ("In recognition of distinguished and patriotic services to our country rendered in behalf of National Defense on a nation-wide radio broadcast on the date of April 6, 1942 and periodically thereafter"), and one of April 1943 ("In recognition of patriotic service through personal and untiring effort Erika Mann has earned the grateful appreciation of the War Savings Staff..."), as well as that of a War Department citation ("For outstanding and conspicuous service as an accredited war correspondent serving with our armed forces in an overseas theater of combat."), dated April 21, 1947, and signed by the then Secretary of War, Mr. Patterson.

Applicant is not a member of any black-listed or "undesirable" organization. Nor is she a member of any organization, party or group except the American War Correspondents' Association. She is not, and has never been, a member of, nor is she or has ever been in any way affiliated or on friendly terms with, the American or any other Communist party. Among her very numerous acquaintances and friends there is no communist. A great many organizations (schools, clubs, town hall forums, etc.) for whom she lectured, would be able and willing to testify to the constructive character of her offerings. Her agent for many years (Mr. W. Colston Leigh, president, 521 Fifth Avenue, New York City) would be able and willing to testify to her conscientiousness and reliability as a worker as well as to her outstanding successes on this country's lecture platforms. A large number of distinguished American citizens who have known her more or less intimately over a long period of time would be able and willing to serve as character witnesses on her behalf if the authorities should wish them to do so.

Two of Miss Mann's brothers served with the U.S. forces in overseas theaters of operations and after the war were honorably discharged. Miss Mann's entire family (with the exception of her sister Monica who is not as yet eligible for citizenship) are naturalized Americans. Her father, Thomas Mann, is a consultant to the Library of Congress.

It must be stated that Miss Mann feels deeply hurt by the lack of confidence betrayed by the American authorities and that she has also been severely damaged by the inexplicable delay in the above mentioned proceedings. As far back as in the summer of 1947 (half a year after her hearing on February 7th, 1947) she was refused permission to enter Germany although she was still an accredited correspondent and proof existed of the position she held with an American newspaper syndicate who had engaged her services as a correspondent in Germany. At present Miss Mann desires to leave for Europe where she plans to work during the summer while also assisting her father. Since the latter needs her services he cannot in his turn decide on a proposed trip to Switzerland as long as his daughter's affairs have not finally been settled.

Any assistance that might be given to Miss Erika Mann who feels that for the past three years she has been badly harmed without any apparent reason, will be deeply appreciated.

(Elisabeth Dorgese)

Letter to Duane Re Senator

Benson

+ 2 "Statements"

re "Citizenship-application"

Ms. T. 56

"Citizenship"

[2 "Statements"

2 copies each
uncovered]