

## **Verbundkatalog Kalliope**

**Mann, Erika**

**o.O., 1950-01-18**

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Erika Mann

January 18, 1950

Mr. W. Colston Leigh, President  
521 Fifth Avenue  
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Bill:

Your kind and considerate letter of January 10th does not, I am afraid, dispose of my communication of ~~Jan 13 64~~ *Jan 13 64*. ~~Needless to say, mine had left by air~~ while yours was still enroute by ordinary mail.

*expected* I appreciate your willingness to have the Pacific Coast Office continue to work for me. But when I wrote you on December 9th, stating that I should be happy to leave matters as they were, the season was still relatively young, and I had not as yet found cause to be completely disappointed with what materialized in the west and the Pacific north west. By now - as I said in my last letter - it has become very obvious that my being with you does not make any sense any longer. I highly esteem Mrs. McNeil - but then I thought equally highly of Miss McClave. And since the latter failed this season to get me even one engagement (the Berkeley date having been initiated by Dr. Nelson), I do not see how the former could be ~~trusted~~ *expected* to be more successful - in a territory still alien to her.

Whatever the reasons, I am evidently through. And - to repeat - I feel therefore morally entitled to ask you for an immediate release. In view of the Holy Year they are building up international festivals in Luzern, Switzerland, and have asked for my services in this context. I simply cannot afford to decline - and to decline because of one poorly paid engagement *requiring at least 3 weeks of work.*

I know, dear Bill, that you rightly hate cancellations. But I also know that any number of people you represent have cancelled any number of dates owing to less crucial calls from abroad. So please let me have the two lines I am asking for. If you so desire I shall gladly write to Dr. Nelson and explain the situation in such a way as to assume full responsibility myself.

Thanks again for being willing to try in the face of all obstacles.

Yours as ever cordially