

## **Verbundkatalog Kalliope**

**Mann, Erika**

**Pacific Palisades, 1949-12-09**

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Erika Mann  
1550 San Remo Drive  
Pacific Palisades, Calif.

December 9, 1949

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

Dear Bill:

Your letter came, of course, as a severe shock. All the more so, since my recent lecture activities chanced to be singularly successful. I don't know whether the Berkeley Evening School Forum reported to the Pacific Coast Office and whether the latter reported back to you. At any rate, however, I was the "victim" of a true ovation at the end of my offering with the result that those in charge inquired on the spot if I would be available for one or even two additional appearances early next spring. The same goes for my four-weeks' stay as a "visiting writer" at Pomona, Redlands, UCLA and Stanford. For your information, I enclose copy of a few relevant sentences from Dr. Joseph Angell, Head of the English Department at Pomona, and responsible for the whole project.

I realize that things aren't too hot on the lecture market, and that it may be impossible for you to arrange for a profitable eastern and mid-western tour. However, if you can't do it, who on earth could? I don't, in all honesty, feel that I'd be better off with any other agency which is why I'd like to ask you the following question: Don't you want to handle me any more, or is it just that you can't "promise" me anything? There is, you know, a decisive difference between the two propositions. If both, Pacific Coast Office (especially it!), and George Lacher should wish to go on trying their best, I should be most willing to do the same. As it must be about equally difficult for you to send first-rate "numbers" out to Arizona, California, Oregon, or the State of Washington, as it would be to send me or any other "westerner" to the middle-west or east, in these depressed times, I should think that a number of engagements pro season in these parts ought to be "findable" even now. I would take whatever we could get and, as usual, do my jolly utmost once we'd got it. If, however, - for reasons unknown, though, perhaps, to be guessed, - you simply want to "drop me", I wished you'd say so in so many words. These are tough times, and I'd be sure to

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appreciate any consideration that may have caused you to wish me God's speed - - under somebody else's auspices. Now that virtually every liberal radio commentator and newspaper columnist has been fired, I should hardly be surprised to find myself on some sort of "unwanted" list. I'd like to know, though.

Please be so kind as to enlighten me.

With many good wishes

Yours as ever cordially

Erika Mann.



Excerpt from a letter by Dr. Joseph Angell, Head of the English  
Department at Pomona, California.

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As for Pomona, the whole impression of your visit was most favorable. The students, I hear, speak often of your work in class and above all of the absolutely stunning impression you made, through your words and your personality, at the evening lecture and on Monday afternoon. You remember, of course, the real ovation given you after your evening address. I have talked with Mr. Bracher and Mr. Ilyin and they are both still "full" of your classes and platform performances. I do not recall any lecture here that has been so long and so vitally discussed as yours of the Wednesday evening. Just yesterday I ran into a group of students and teachers who were heatedly discussing your address, not just the topic of it, but your views, your presentation, the impact of your thought, etc.

Of course, for people who count most, such as the Mays and other teachers and students like them, your visit was a vital and memorable experience. As for myself, you were all that I hoped you would be, and more. I cannot tell you how deeply I responded to your first lecture. And you know my feeling about your evening address.