

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Erika

o.O., 1968-04-03

Nutzungsbedingungen

Bei zahlreichen Dokumenten auf monacensia-digital.de sind die Urheberrechte bereits abgelaufen. Sie sind gemeinfrei und dürfen ohne weitere Rücksprache mit der Monacensia weiterverwendet werden. Bei den Dokumenten, bei denen noch Urheberrechte bestehen, müssen für eine Weiterverwendung stets die Rechteinhaber*innen angefragt werden sowie eine Publikationsgenehmigung der Monacensia eingeholt werden. Das Zitatrecht bleibt hiervon unberührt.

Zur Erteilung einer Publikationserlaubnis wenden Sie sich bitte an:

Monacensia im Hildebrandhaus
Literaturarchiv
Adresse: Maria-Theresia-Straße 23, 81675 München
E-Mail: monacensia.literaturarchiv@muenchen.de

Terms of use

The copyrights for numerous documents on monacensia-digital.de have already expired. They are in the public domain and may be reused without further consultation with Monacensia. In the case of documents for which copyrights still exist, the copyright holders must always be contacted for further use and publication permission must be obtained from the Monacensia. The right to quote under copyright law remains unaffected by this. To obtain permission for publication, please contact:

Monacensia im Hildebrandhaus:
Literaturarchiv
Address: Maria-Theresia-Straße 23, 81675 München
E-Mail: monacensia.literaturarchiv@muenchen.de

April 3, 1968

Dear Mrs. Lancaster, -

3.11.68
2/200000-1
this is - above all - to congratulate you on a job splendidly done, though indubitably most precarious and difficult. "Portrait of a Failure" is an extremely moving book and - I should think - the fullest account imaginable of darling Brian's life and character. Out of an over-abundance of material you have selected and crystallized all that was essential. In some cases - such as mine - it proved necessary to hack away at the original sequence on account of the chronology of the whole. This was a bit unlucky for the respective authors but I am sure it could not have been helped.

There is, however, one small error which I feel I had better mentioned. Personally, I wouldn't have the tiniest objection. It's only that I am afraid the error in question might play havoc with the studies of many a Thomas Mann scholar in the Anglosaxon sphere. Those poor scholars have accustomed themselves to the - correct! - thought that Thomas Mann never had one drop of Jewish blood. And now "Portrait of a Failure" (pg. 323) says as follows: "His (Klaus Mann's) sister, Erika Mann, had started her Peppermill satirical cabaret venture, where she did a bit of everything as well as being master of ceremonies. Surprisingly enough the Nazi theatre critics were in the habit of praising her as 'the embodiment of sturdy Germanic humour, ignoring the fact that she was Jewish and passionately anti-Fascist to boot'".

Obviously, whoever copied that bit from Klaus' "The Turning Point" got his or her sentences mixed up and quoted something which was meant to describe the "Peppermill" star Therese Giehse with something meant to describe poor little me. Therese Giehse was - and is - indeed full of quasi "sturdy Germanic humour" and Jewish to boot, and the Nazis did mistake her for a "Blut and Boden actress".

I have no idea, whether or not - and if so, where and how this funny little mistake could or should be corrected. Nor do I mind. I just thought I had better bring it to your attention. Perhaps you might tell some critic just to mention it in half a sentence. Perhaps - on the other hand - we might better forget about it.

Another question is infinitely more important to me. Up to now I had believed in an entirely different version as to Sam's death. Are you quite certain that Sam died exactly the way described in your volume, and that Brian's letter to Heywood Gill is a genuine and honest one? From all I had repeatedly heard, Brian and Sam had had one of their violent fights; Brian had hit Sam with a bottle or something, Sam had subsequently died - three days later - and only then had Brian killed himself. I should be only too happy if the tragic story as contained in "Portrait" were definitely true.

Thanks again.

Yours cordially,

