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Mann, Erika

o.O., 1963-04-17

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April 17, 1963

Mr. William A. Koshland
Alfred A. Knopf Inc.
501 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.

Dear Bill, -

excellent! Thank you ever so much! I assume that either the Vaughans or Kay Brown have been in touch with you in the meantime regarding that "quit-claim" and am very glad indeed that there aren't any difficulties as far as Alfred A. Knopf is concerned.

In your last letter to my mother you inquired about that strange notion according to which a play should have been manufactured out of a very minor anecdote from "Doktor Faustus". Long since my mother has advised the people in question that we can't grant any piecemeal-rights deriving from "Doktor Faustus" and that, incidentally, another play ("The Holy Sinner") is presently being prepared in New York. One shouldn't try to offer too much simultaneously, - quite apart from the nonsensicalness of that "legend"-idea. Actually, if one were prepared to sacrifice the most "highbrow"-aspects of the novel, "Doktor Faustus" would lend itself amazingly well to being made into a film. Needless to say I'am not planning any such thing. Even so I shouldn't wish to authorize the dramatization of any part of the novel, thinking, as I do, that this might damage the value of the whole.

I am crazily busy editing volume II of my father's letters which, I believe, will be particularly interesting to Americans.

Please give mylove to Blanche and Alfred.

As always with kindest regards

yours cordigly,

