

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Erika

o.O., 1950-03-23

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Erika Mann

March 23, 1950

Mrs. Anna Kallin
The British Broadcasting Corporation
Broadcasting House
London W.1.
England

Dear Mrs. Kallin:

Thank you very much for your kind note of February 28th. I am glad to know that you are planning to have a talk in honor of my father's 75th birthday, and quite agree that an Englishman would do far better than a Central European. Since, however, you would rightly like to have someone who knows my father well personally, and who could range over the years in Germany, Switzerland, and America, matters become very difficult. Actually, and in spite of much pondering and wondering, I am unable to think even of one Britisher who would fit the description. One of the few who at least knew my father fairly well in Germany and have since been in contact with him is dear Harold Nicolson who, I believe, would not be disinclined to speak on this particular occasion. He has never, of course, observed him in America; nor could he be called a "T.M. specialist" in any way. If you wish to secure the services of anyone resembling a specialist, Peter de Mendelssohn might be your man. As far as I can judge it, his English is virtually accentless, and he has recently written more about my father's writings than any other English author I know of. He often came to the house, and would, I should think, be able to give your listeners a clear enough picture of the old man. I understand that Peter has returned to London and his life there, but even if he should be in Germany you could possibly arrange either for a visit or for a recording to be made wherever he is.

That's truly all I can think of. Though it was bound to spoil the surprise I also discussed the thing with my parents who had no additional suggestions.

With best wishes and kindest regards

Yours as ever very sincerely

Erika Mann.