

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Erika

o.O., 1966-05-11

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

11. Mai 1966

Dear Christopher, -

I just got "Der Einzelgänger" and started leafing through it. Now to begin with I am a poor judge as far as translations are concerned. Once I am fond of a book and its style I find any translation hard to stomach. Thus I have never been able actually to read my father's stuff in English although I understand that Helen Lowe-Porter did a decent job. But so much is bound to get lost; so many misunderstandings are certain to occur that it cannot but hurt.

As a whole I do think that "A Single Man" reads quite well in German. Even so one marvels at the things translators will do or omit to do without their conscience bothering them in the least. As soon as they find something just a bit troublesome they will simply leave it out. Thus, when on page 15 you say (a chronic nuisance), you won't find anything of the sort in the translation. Where you speak of "A broken bathroom weighing-machine" (eine zerbrochene Badezimmerwaage), Mr. Kaun will insist that you wrote "a broken tile" ("eine zerbrochene Kachel"). Where Jim used to talk to the "mynah bird", Kaun insists that is a canary whom he used to chat with. Where you say "maybe" which is plainly identical with the German "vielleicht", Kaun says clumsily "unter Umständen", etc.pp. He also calls Mrs. Strunk's porch a "offene Hintertreppe" just as though it weren't quite easy to say "kleine Veranda" or something similar. There are countless things of this kind - but then there probably always are. And I can only repeat that the thing reads quite well. Incidentally, while I hardly read any German books these days, preferring to do my reading in English, I have virtually forgotten ~~how~~ to write in that lovely language. So will you please forgive any and all of my mistakes. I am still a fairly good reader.

Best love to you.

Yours as always,

PS. Just one more example - picked at random - of the kind of thing that you wrote and would look ~~at~~ ⁱⁿ vain for in the German translation: On page 16 you say that Mrs. Strunk can't even "refrain from telling George, with a smile of motherly indulgence and just the faintest hint of approval...". In German this simply reads "sie kann sich nicht enthalten, George mitzuteilen..." I noticed and underlined scores of additional omissions and bad mistakes but it drives me rather furious to look at my own laborious handiwork. However, one must always remember that a translation written in good and fluent German is probably preferable to one taken too literally from the original and giving you the impression of having been translated.