

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Erika

Pacific Palisades, 1951-11-23

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Erika Mann
1550 San Remo Drive
Pacific Palisades, Calif.

November 23, 1951

Mr. Victor Jacobs
Galef & Jacobs, Law Offices
22 East 40th Street
New York 16, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

Thanks ever so much for your note of November 16th which neatly settles the eye-spitting question once and for all.

No, I don't think anything should or could be done right now. Let them trouble their heads about a problem which they won't ever be able to solve to their own dirty satisfaction.

I am toying, though, with the idea of writing an article on the whole thing and offering it, say, to Atlantic Monthly or some such publication that I deem both conservative and yet (or rather consequently) comparatively courageous. Good old Mady Christians whom I mentioned before said in a letter mailed a couple of days before her death that as soon as she could manage even to think of her recent experiences, she'd write them down "as a record of something quite unbelievable". Well, she has had it. And, perhaps, it might be an idea for me, as long as I am still walking around so gaily, to take the matter up where she quit. For some reason this seems all the more desirable to me since my wartime pal Irvin Shaw in his very gifted but equally opportunistic novel "THE TROUBLED AIR" contrives to render five figures accused of communism by some witch-hunting magazine more or less guilty. He doesn't like the witch-hunt, but as it happens everybody involved has deserved it to a certain degree and one of them, much the most important one, turns out to be the devil in the flesh. That a liberal writer allegedly setting out to settle accounts with the McCarthyites should fail to acknowledge the fact that rather more often than not there is not the faintest shred of truth in that sort of accusation, makes me sick. And I, as would have been the late Miss Christians, am a

perfect case. What do you think? Isn't it correct to state that there is no better defense than the offensive? Moreover, I finally want them to look like the lice they are, and besides a person ought to be entitled to some fun.

Even so, and despite all this I should very much like to learn whether you believe that grave damage (immediate deportation or some such disaster) might result. Personally, I doubt it. On the contrary, the meek silence I contented myself with so far would seem to indicate a certain feeling of guilt which I am exceedingly far from harboring.

Let me hear from you, will you? And all my kindest regards,

Yours as ever cordially

Erika Mann.

Jacobs
[Nov. 23rd, 1917

III/18

