

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Erika

o.O., 1962-09-17

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September 17, 1962

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Mr. John Gudmundsen
Editor
Trade Book Division
Prentice-Hall, Inc.
Englewood Cliffs,
New Jersey

Dear Mr. Gudmundsen, -

may I not thank you very cordially for your kind and
flattering invitation.

Actually, I have been planning to write my father's bio-
graphy or - in other words - to tell his life's story for a
number of years. Unfortunately there was always so much urgent
work to be done straight away that the biography had to be post-
poned time and again.

At present I am engaged in editing Thomas Mann's letters
(a selection in three volumes)- let alone the screen plays
based on some of T.M.'s works which I am under contract to write.
In addition to all this I don't think that I should be free to
dispose of the biography once it were written. Alfred A. Knopf
who as, of course, you know has published all of my father's books
has also published "THE LAST YEAR", although it was a mere booklet
with no chance of a financial success. And whilst my obligation
to Knopf is a moral rather than a legal one, I feel it mustn't be
overlooked.

Even so I am highly pleased with your offer and shall certainly
keep it in mind. But as much as I should like to meet Mr. DeLuca,
I can hardly wish to take up any of his valuable time concerning a
project the realisation of which won't be possible for some time to
come and which even then may not prove to be available to Prentice-
Hall.

With renewed thanks for your interest

I am, dear Mr. Gudmundsen,
yours very sincerely,

