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Mann, Erika

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Erika Mann

October 23, 1950

Dear Mrs. Gedin:

Thank you so much for sending me those copies of "Muck". Would you please convey to Raben and Sjoegren my most cordial congratulations. I do think the book very handsome indeed, and the illustrations far but far superior to the original ones.

Looking at the book, I feel all the more keenly that Raben and Sjoegren and not Natur og Kultur should have "Stoffel" which latter juvenile, though already known to some Swedish youngsters could be quite a hit if properly presented. So if it is at all within your power to do so, kindly see to it that "Stoffel" goes to "Muckss" publishers at the earliest possible moment.

Both "Stoffel" and "Muck" have been out of print in German for unthinkable times. Nor do I see why. And while I have no desire to see them published or republished in Germany (only "Stoffel" ever made an appearance there at Christmas 1932 and sold 10.000 copies within six weeks whereupon Adolf stopped the racket), ~~but~~ I'd love to sell the two of them to Switzerland. The Swiss are very fond of juveniles, produce very nice ones themselves and I don't know why they should not be willing to buy mine. Please try to get a hold a) of the German copy of "Muck" which should be easy enough and b) of a German copy of "Stoffel" which may not be quite such a child's play. Still: Old Hansson is bound to have one somewhere though he may be most unwilling to part with it under the circumstances. I wonder whether young Baron Alexander von Yxkull is in the possession of the German original. I am afraid he has only the Swedish book. Once you collect ~~the~~ one or the other or both of the jewels, just kindly sit on them and guard them for me. I am writing to Switzerland, and shall in due time direct you as to where the rarities ought to be sent. It would not, of course, make much sense for you to mail them to the U.S. ~~and for me~~ *so that I* to mail them right back to Europe.

have

Many thanks for that most beautiful and becoming check. Did you receive "Ink spot"? I am now somewhat sorry that I sent you the German translation which leaves a disgusting lot to be desired, rather than the English version which is quite adequate. Should even the German manuscript succeed in arousing your interest, please let me know at once and I'll dispatch the English one.