

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Erika

o.O., 1958-05-02

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May 2, 1958

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110.7
John Mann
Mr. John Farrar
101 Fifth Avenue
New York 3, N.Y.

Dear John, -

sheer pessimism caused me to overestimate the amount of time it would take my dear little juveniles to cross the Atlantic. And so I failed to answer your letter and to reply to your questions in advance of the small books' arrival. Will you please forgive me ?

Doubtless, it was a very good idea to forward the juveniles to your daughter-in-law. For, only to rarely, are there really first rate German "lectures" in American firms, and I am certain that your daughter-in-law will have far more understanding for my narrations than would any American editor whose German were just sufficient to make him cloudily understand what I tried to say.

There is just one point which keeps disquieting me a bit regarding your daughter-in-law. While my boy singers do a lot of travelling and, by doing so, see a lot of Europe, they fail to hit Austria at all. This is not my fault but the publishers'. For them the question took an entirely calculatory form. When they had robbed me of what I considered to be but a few introductory chapters, because they meant to make them into a volume, they insisted that each consecutive volume mustn't have any more pages than had the first. This meant that not only volume two but particularly volume three and four had to be cut to bits. Which intern resulted in the lamentable disappearance of Austria from my particular map. The chapter is here, so, and I should be more than happy to see it re-included in any further edition of my VAGRANT BIRDS or whatever the more attractive English expression may be.

Also, I should think that, should your daughter-in-law not dislike my children, it would be better to ask one or the other specialized publisher directly to adopt them than to employ the services of an agent. Agents may be excellent creatures but my confidence in them happens to be limited - and this on account of all too many personal experiences or rather, disapointments. I have always been better off when labouring on my own and I can't quite visualize the type of American agent who would be sufficiently interested in German juveniles to do them any good.

Thanks, darling John, for being such a reliable friend and, once again: ~~please~~ excuse my actually inexcusable tardiness .
please

Much love

ERIKA MANN