

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Erika

o.O., 1958-03-26

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March 26, 1958

Mr. John Farrar
Farrar, Straus and Cudahy Inc. Publishers
101 Fifth Avenue
New York 3, N.Y.
U S A

Dear John,-

ten days ago I returned the page proofs to Mr. Vursell along with a number of minor corrections, proposals and possible embellishments.- possible, that is, in case my English hasn't deserted me for good. However, as I wrote Mr. Vursell: it's all up to him except for a very few suggestions which I deem doubtless superior^{to} or, rather, more adequate than, the original translation.

Today I am writing you to ask whether - by any chance - you know some American publishing firm specialising in children's books ("juveniles"). Most probably you are unaware of the startling fact that I am writing for children and that - more particularly - a book which was published here in four volumes but which might just as well take up two volumes only or - if it came to the worst - a mere one volume seems particularly suitable for sale in the United States. The whole series deals with boy singers (a whole choir of them) the members of which remain the same throughout the narration. Its background is at first the old castle in which they live and are being trained, and later on more or less the whole of Europe. For, naturally the famous "Choir" keeps travelling a lot, giving concerts in Holland, England, Sweden, France, Italy etc., thus cunningly providing the young reader with a fairly comprehensive knowledge of all the countries and cities, all the nations and national particularities woven into the narration. You know me too well for me to stress all sorts of silly, funny and not unattractively idiotic episodes that would make it rather impossible for any child to consider the book a of instructions. The German edition is illustrated and so is the Swedish one. Should any American publisher be interested, however, I feel certain, that they would wish to commission their own illustrators. Even so personally, I love the Swedish illustrations while being rather dissatisfied with the German ones. The German edition, however, was the only "juvenile" that I might have to offer. It is only that I consider this particular book particularly suited for the little people of your country. Even your grandchildren might enjoy it.

But really, what an exceedingly international, active and successful family you seem to have raised. "Three years in Pakistan - three years in Bangkok, one year in Greece..." and you speak of "all this being certainly dull". Actually, it is

very far from anything like making dull reading. Quite apart from the joy and pride you and Margaret are sure to derive from your offspring and their many doings.

All my love, dear John, and please forgive me for asking your advice. But my German publishers have no foreign connections at all; whatever contacts I succeed in making abroad are being made by my own little self and so I shouldn't have a chance in the world concerning the US, were it not for my feeble efforts (of which this is the very first!) in this direction.

Yours as ever affectionately

PS. Do you by any strange coincidence still have in your possession a couple or so of our good book "Zero-Hour" ? My own copy has gone astray, and its loss keeps saddening me quite a bit.

John
Lover
SC 1/25
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