

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Erika

o.O., 1957-12-13

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13. Dezember 1957

Dear John, -

according to my private time-table it must be about a hundred and two years since we heard of each other. Whether it was myself who - a hundred and two years ago - failed to answer your last communication or whether no such communication was ever received, I do not know. At any rate, however, it is my secret conviction that I owe the acceptance of my small book, "The Last Year" to your friendly influence. All the more sorry do I feel, that no personal contact has since been re-established between us. How may you have been in all that eternity? As a matter of fact, I hadn't even known that Farrar and Rinehardt had ceased to exist and that Farrar and Straus had taken their place. While still in California I was quite ignorant enough of "eastern" affairs. But ever since that silly bit of an ocean has once again come to separate me from my American friends I am as void of knowledge as a baby-dog. All of which, I am afraid, speaks severely against my poor unlearned self.

Even so I deem it somewhat strange, if not unnatural that a book of mine, albeit but a booklet, should be about to be published by your firm whilst you and I continue to be ~~estranged~~ - if only in time and not in essence. Also, it is for practical reasons that I ~~shall~~ think it wise if we corresponded directly rather than ~~via~~ the Joan Davies Agency or (and) the S. Fischer Publishing Company.

Have you as yet decided on any publishing date for "The Last Year"? As I understand from the Joan Davies people, you should like to have an additional number of suitable photos. For the past few weeks I have been gathering just such a number but should love to have the page-proof so as to be able to fit the pictures into exactly the spaces where they belong. To do this would be extremely difficult for anyone but myself, since there are lots of occasions where a particular photo might be serviceable although nobody but the author could possibly know just where to look. So, should the page-proof be available by now, would you not be kind enough to let me have a set by return mail? I should then mark pictures as well as pages, no misunderstanding could possibly ensue and we should all be happy.

An revoir - if it all feasible - dear John, and let me hope our common enterprise may enjoy a measure of success. And please do tell me ~~afew~~ minor facts about yourself. Honestly: it has long been a saddening mystery to me that you so completely disappeared from my life.

Yours as ever cordially