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Mann, Erika

o.O., 1951-03-27

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Erika Mann

March 27, 1951

Mr. Wayne T. Cottingham
Biographical Editor
The Associated Press
General Office
50 Rockefeller Plaza
New York 20, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Cottingham:

Thank you very much for your kind note of March 19th and for taking so much trouble with my suggestions. The sketch seems in perfect shape now. Since, however, you have taken to quoting me, I went over the paragraph in question to make quite sure that it sounded like myself. As you will note, I have had to make a few minor changes in the MS. But here, to be especially cautious, are the lines as I would like them to run:

In 1917, during World War I, Mann wrote "Reflections of a Non-Political Person", his most controversial book. As his daughter Erika described it, this book "romantically celebrated German 'Kultur' at a time when the rest of the world failed to share any such feelings."

"One might say, though," she added, "that the 'Reflections' constituted a turning point, and that no sooner had the book been completed than he turned his back to it."

"Even while writing it, he had been changing from a German dreamer defending art and beauty against politics and democracy into a man defending democracy and reason against reactionary barbarism."

Thanks again for your courtesy in this matter.

Yours very sincerely

Erika Mann.

1 encl.
Revised substitute for sketch 2559, issued Sept. 1, 1937
by the Associated Press.