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Erika Mann
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Zürich

27. Juni 1963

Dear Kay, -

thank you very much. I am glad to know that Ferrer's interest hasn't lessened. But I absolutely fail to share Mr. Besch's faith in a German TV deal which would substantially help in financing the film. If Ferrer ~~was~~ were to wait for any such bargain nothing would ever be finalized. So, I'd much rather make some sort of concession regarding the profits from Germany, - and, if necessary, even from the rest of the German speaking market - and get the thing going.

Re Frederic Ewen: My mother answered his letter of May 23rd just before she went into a hospital for a - not so very - minor operation. She had a great deal to do that day and I can't be absolutely sure whether she ever posted that letter. Ewen's address is: 410 Central Park West. Surely, he is in the directory. Perhaps - unless you have heard from him in the meantime - you'd better ~~know~~ get in touch with him. He sounded quite serious.

On July 1st Hugh Martin is to pay \$ 2500 or else forfeit his option. You'll take care of the matter, won't you ?

Among the queries we had concerning "Death in Venice" there was one from an outfit called "American Market Trading Co." (225 Fifth Avenue, MU 5-1872). Their European office is in Rome, and their Rome representative is one Piero La Mantia. Of course, I've never heard of either the firm or the man who wrote. Perhaps you'd be so kind and find out how they rate.

We've also had some sort of offer for a German TV musical based on my father's novel "Royal Highness" which was highly successful as a film. Personally, I feel "Royal Highness" eminently suitable for a musical and consequently refused to have anything to do with the German TV people. I wonder, though, whether you'd care to have a look at the novel which Knopf will be glad to furnish you with.

What a grave pity we didn't have a chance to get together or even to chat on the phone while you were overhere. But then I know the kind of crowded time one is having on such a short visit and can see that the thing wasn't feasible.

As ever yours cordially,

PS. Just to give you a faint idea: "Royal Highness" is some sort of a glorified and sophisticated "student prince" involving a gruff American millionaire and his witty, enchanting daughter (she has Red Indian blood on top of it all) with whom the prince falls in love at first sight. His small principality being nearly bankrupt, the American finally steps in to save it. I might be able to procure a copy of the German film were it not for the customs.

