

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Erika

o.O., 1965-12-11

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11. Dezember 1965

Dear Billoux, -

your good letter came as a great relief to me. Thanks ever so much. As I told you before I'd found it quite impossible really to write about Brian, and as matters went it was even harder when I had anticipated. Whatever I touch these days seems to go wrong - or at least I believe this to be the case. Which makes writing at all sheer torture. Although, I expect everything I do to be turned down by the editors and so on and keep being delighted when they fail to do so. I suppose I've been ill for too long now for my complaint not to react on my whole nervous system, my entire condition - and I can but hope that I'll be able in the long run, "mich am eigenen Schopf aus dem Sumpfe zu ziehen".

I am so glad, Billoux dear, that you took the trouble of revising that raw-translation. Usually, when a German translates something into English it continues to sound extremely German even though the translator might be capable of writing English quite well, - directly, but not when translating from his own tongue into the adopted one. Sweet of you to do all that work.

No, I don't need the German ms. of the Brian piece.

Concerning Klaus' letters to you, it won't be too late if you unearth what's left of them in the Spring. It's just that the publishers start collecting all that might be available of his more important correspondence. Of course I shall be the one to edit the thing. Having just finished editing three volumes of my father's letters - which took me six years - I am rather frightened of the job but feel strongly that it has to be done.

Please do manage to come here in the non too distant future. Not only would it be a real joy for me but it even seems something resembling a necessity after so many years and with so much we have to talk about, to remember...

Yours as ever affectionately,

