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Pacific Palisades, 1949-08-22

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Erika Mann
1550 San Remo Drive
Pacific Palisades,
August 22nd, 1949.

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Shanghaier
9/2/55
I/30

Dear Doctor Angell.

Many thanks for your letter of August 18th. I've only just arrived, and hasten to confirm its receipt. For, while I could manage - I suppose - the October first beginning, I should much prefer to start on the 7th, - or even the 15th of October, although this might cost me a few Colston Leigh engagements for which I'd otherwise be free from the first of November on. However, I have promised to deliver a manuscript of very great importance to me by the late middle of September, and since I always take at least a couple of weeks to organize my lecture material, the proposed October first "opening" would get me into a jam, - unless I postpone the delivery of the manuscript until after the college period, - which I should hate to do.

The book in question is Klaus's last major effort, his autobiography "THE TURNING POINT" which appeared in the U.S. as early as in 1943 but a revised German version of which he had completed shortly before his death. Actually, he had not quite completed it - a great number of small changes and corrections have yet to be made; certain cuts seem highly advisable, and I have taken it upon myself to knock those 780 pages into final shape - a highly responsible job which I am determined to do as carefully as at all possible. The book is probably Klaus' most important one and I am most eager to have it come out at its very best. I feel confident that you'll understand my desire to gain a little time by postponing the date of our "visiting writer" - premiere. *(postponing)*

Should you find it impossible to arrange for any postponement, I would, of course, be willing to start at the suggested time. But needless to say I should be grateful indeed if the 15th or even the 7th of October were acceptable. As for the sequence, I think your proposal ideal: if all those concerned agree, let's begin at Pomona and end at Stanford with U.C.L.A. and Redlands sandwiched in according to their respective preferences. - Will you let me hear from you as soon as possible?

My parents wish me to give you their best. We hope to see you here in the very near future.

Yours as ever very cordially,

Erika Mann

