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A Thomas Mann Collection

Richard Cary

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Two summers ago, Mr. John Eastman, Jr., of New York City and Skowhegan, Maine, presented to Colby College his thirty-year accumulation of Thomas Mann literary materials. Among these were seventy-six first editions of Mann's books in German and English, fifty-four of them presentation copies; eleven periodical articles, nine inscribed by Mann; twelve letters and two postcards written by Mann; a nine-page manuscript of an essay in German, with accompanying typescript in English; letters by Archibald MacLeish and Sumner Welles concerning Mann; galley proofs of *Felix Krull*; a scrapbook of reviews and interviews, and other significant memorabilia. Since that time Mr. Eastman has added seriatim a goodly number of other books, letters, and association items, notably the autographed photographs which are reproduced, reduced in size, in this issue.

The friendship which developed between Mann and Eastman as a result of the latter's undeterrable quest is recorded in pages preceding these. The portrait which emerges bears small resemblance to the Mann generally conceived by readers who did not know him personally. Their impression of the man who produced such formidable epics as *The Magic Mountain*, the *Joseph* novels, and *Dr. Faustus* is that of an icy, enigmatic Olympian minutely acquainted with the destructive duality of good and evil in humankind but unaffected by its writhing consequences. Labeled “a metaphysical pessimist” and likened to Dürer’s “Knight between Death and the Devil,” this passionless master of technique and esthetic, this marcher through dour labyrinths of the psyche, this bleak, unappeasable ironist inspires awe, not love.

For those who saw but did not come to know him, the image remained the same: dark, narrow face with prominent nose and punctilious moustache, furrowed cheeks, craggy brows, and glittering forehead — more the Mephistopheles than the Faust. And for those who depend on hearsay for judgment, Janet Flanner notifies that he had no intimate friends, that he was
more or less "devoid of interest in flesh-and-blood people." An entire section in Charles Neider's *The Stature of Thomas Mann* is devoted to reminiscences about the Nobel Prize winner as father, brother, and friend. Each chapter strives, in its way, to bring out his gentler graces, his unpretentiousness in private, his pleasure at traditional family celebrations, his little superstitions. Daughter Monika succeeds best at humanizing the titan but, despite this and other evidence, the stamp of Mann as unapproachable *Obermann* persists.

Thus, the following descriptive checklist of Mr. Eastman's gift may serve two useful purposes. The first: to place before scholars hitherto unknown commentary by Mann. The second: to demonstrate again, and perhaps again bootlessly, Thomas Mann's capacity for warmth, humor, and sentiment with "flesh-and-blood people." In his relations with Eastman, Mann evinced these qualities without strain, as the inscriptions reveal. It must have been a supreme moment for young Jack when he discovered that the oracular voice had also an avuncular tone.

Only items in the collection inscribed by Thomas Mann are included below. Books and essays written by Mann are listed alphabetically by title; books and articles about Mann, alphabetically by author; letters by Mann, chronologically.

I WORKS BY THOMAS MANN

**ADEL DES GESTES:** Sechzehn Versuche zum Problem der Humanität. Stockholm: Bermann-Fischer Verlag, 1945.

Inscribed on front endpaper:

*To Jack Eastman / with all my best Christmas wishes! / These essays will appear in English / very soon and I shall sign them / for you, young friend and collector, / as well. / Pacif. Palisades, Calif. / Dec. 18, 1946 / Thomas Mann.*

**ANSPRACHE IM GOETHEJAHR.** Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp Verlag, 1949.

Inscribed on front endpaper:

*Jack Eastman / freundlich zugeeignet / Thomas Mann.*
BEKENNTNISSE DES HOCHSTAPLERS FELIX KRULL. Amsterdam: Querido Verlag N.V., 1937.

Inscribed on front endpaper:

To Jack Eastman / This is a little more than the / story which you may read in / the volume “Stories of Three Decades.” / Pacif. Palisades / Febr. 16, 1947 / Thomas Mann.


Inscribed on front endpaper:

To John Eastman, jr. / who deserves such a fine edition / Pacif. Palis. Calif / May 17, 1943 / Thomas Mann.

Autographed on colophon page:

Thomas Mann.

BEMÜHUNGEN: Neue Folge der Gesammelten Abhandlungen und kleinen Aufsätze. Berlin: S. Fischer Verlag, 1925.

Inscribed on front flyleaf:

To Jack Eastman, / the insatiable collector of / T. M. editions / with sincere respect for his stubbornness / P. P. Febr. 16, 47 / Thomas Mann.

DIE BETROGNE: [Lausanne: F. Wahli, 1953.] A folio 91-page facsimile of the manuscript, and of Thomas Mann’s signature on front flyleaf. Copy 166 of 400.

“The Bible,” Good Housekeeping, CXIX (August 1944), 17, 141.

Inscribed below byline:

I think this is the complete englisch version of the manuscript / you possess. Obviously the editor couldn’t bring himself to cut it. / Thomas Mann.

EIN BRIEFWECHSEL. Zurich: Verlag Oprecht, 1937.

Inscribed on title page:

I have written many things against / the Nazi-plague, but
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these few / words made their way around the / earth and I think they will remain . . . / To Jack Eastman / Thomas Mann.

Inscribed on front endpaper:
To John Eastman / a good reader / from / Thomas Mann.

Inscribed on front endpaper:
To Jack Eastman / with all my good wishes / Thomas Mann.

Autographed on front endpaper:
Thomas Mann.

Inscribed on front flyleaf:
This is a layer of Dr. Faustus / whom you do not know, poor fellow! / Hasten to become a member of the / Book of the Month Club who made / it its choice for one of the next / months! / (I like this sort of correspon- / dence in the form of informal de- / dications.) / To Jack Eastman / Pacif. Palisades / July 28, 1948 / Thomas Mann.
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**Doctor Faustus.** The Life of the German Composer Adrian Leverkühn as told by a Friend. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1948. Translated from the German by H. T. Lowe-Porter.

Inscribed on front endpaper:

>To Jack Eastman / hoping that he may not yawn / so much as the American reviewers / Pacif. Palisades, Calif. / 4 November 1948 / Thomas Mann.


Inscribed on front endpaper:

>To Jack Eastman / cordially / (amplification of this dedication / follows in the English edition) / P. P. 2 XII 47 / Thomas Mann.


Inscribed on front endpaper:

>You are quite a frivolous prodigal, my / dear Jacky, to spend so much money / for this cross-breed of a book and of / a manuscript which you even can not read. / But I like this sort of squandering, I find / it very moving and am sincerely proud / of it. Thank you for your faithfulness! / To Jack Eastman / Pacif. Palisades, Calif. / Nov. 6, 1947 / Thomas Mann.

Autographed on page following title page:

*Thomas Mann.*


Inscribed on front endpaper:

>To Jack Eastman / with heartiest greetings / from Fjodor and Thomas / Pacif. Palisades / 29 Jan. 1946.

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Inscribed at head of title:

To Jack Eastman / who wants to have this melancholy piece too / in his collection. / Thomas Mann.

*DER ERWÄHNLTE.* [Frankfurt am Main]: S. Fischer Verlag, 1951.

Inscribed on front endpaper:

This was done by a better / writer than the teller of / that story "The Holy Sinner," / whom I will not blame. / To Jack Eastman / with all my good wishes / Oct. 28, 1951 / Thomas Mann.


Translated from the German by H. T. Lowe-Porter.

Inscribed on front endpaper:

To Jack Eastman / with cordial Christmas wishes / P. P. 7 XII 47 / Thomas Mann.


Inscribed on front endpaper:

I like to bow and to admire / and so do you. Let us this / time appreciate and admire / together! / To Jack Eastman / Pacif. Palisades / 28 July 1948 / Thomas Mann.


Inscribed at end of Foreword:

Short and pithy! / To the UnAmerican / Committee — right into its heart! / To Jack Eastman / T. M.

Inscribed at head of title:

To Jack Eastman / these notes de profundis / Thomas Mann.


Inscribed at head of title:

To Jack Eastman — with my regrets, that / these poor inscriptions for the time being must / take the place of letters. I am too pressed to / write. / Thomas Mann.

DIE GESCHICHTEN JAAKOB. Berlin: S. Fischer Verlag, 1933.

Inscribed on front flyleaf:


[Jack Eastman, faithful reader and collector, who easily found and who knew to pick up these rare editions.]


Inscribed on front endpaper:

The jokes of a poet are more serious than / the gravity of a philistine. / To Jack Eastman / Thomas Mann.

Autographed on colophon page:

Thomas Mann.

GOETHE UND DIE DEMOKRATIE. Zurich: Verlag Oprecht, [1949].

Inscribed on half-title page:

Dem jungen Freunde und treuen Leser / Jack Eastman / mit allen guten Wünschen / Thomas Mann.


Inscribed at head of title:

Once for all and never again! / To Jack Eastman / Thomas Mann.
"Israel Stands Before Pharaoh," *Accent*, III (Spring 1943), 171-174. Translated by H. T. Lowe-Porter [from Joseph the Provider].

Inscribed at head of title:
*This is a nice little scene, even separated from / the whole. / To Jack Eastman / Thomas Mann.*

**Joseph and His Brothers.** New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1936. Translated from the German for the first time by H. T. Lowe-Porter.

Inscribed on front flyleaf:
*To John Eastman jr. / friend of literature / with my warmest greetings / Pacif. Palisades, Calif. / May 7, 1943 / Thomas Mann.*


Inscribed on front endpaper:
*This is the gayest volume of the / four, gayer in German than in / English, though English is gayer / than German. / To Jack Eastman / P. P. Dec. 7, 1942 / Thomas Mann.*

**Joseph in Ägypten.** Wien: Bermann-Fischer Verlag, 1936.

Inscribed on front endpaper:
*To Jack Eastman / from / Thomas Mann / 7 XII 1947.*


Autographed on front flyleaf, vol. 1: *Thomas Mann.*

Autographed on half-title page, vol. 2: *Thomas Mann.*

Inscribed at head of title:

*To Jack Eastman / Thomas Mann.*

Translated from the German for the first time by H. T. Lowe-Porter.

Inscribed on front endpaper:

*To my young friend / Jack Eastman / hoping that he will enjoy / these serious jests / Pacific Palisades / June 26, 1944 / Thomas Mann.*

**DER JUNGE JOSEPH.** Berlin: S. Fischer Verlag, 1934.

Inscribed on front endpaper:

*Undoubtedly, it has more melody than / any translation. Either you should / learn German or I should learn to write English! / To Jack Eastman / Thomas Mann.*

**DER KLEINE Herr FRIEDEMANN.** Berlin: S. Fischer Verlag, 1925.

Autographed on front endpaper:

*Thomas Mann.*


Inscribed on front endpaper:

*Dear young friend, / I am glad to inscribe for you this / small book that contains a piece / of personal history and that shows / how mother Germania is wont to trouble / her sons. — This is not a book meant / for a large public but for a circle of / friends which includes / Jack Eastman / Pacific Palisades, Calif / 24 July 1946 / Thomas Mann.*

Autographed on colophon page:

*Thomas Mann.*

**LISTEN, GERMANY!** Twenty-five Radio Messages to the German People Over BBC. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1943.
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Autographed on front endpaper:

Thomas Mann.

LOTTE IN WEIMAR. Stockholm: Bermann-Fischer Verlag, 1939.

Inscribed on front endpaper:


[This is an unusually German book, but it may not be read in Germany. That a young American, in the midst of the war with a Germany become terrible, wanted a German edition of Lotte in Weimar is a beautiful sign of spiritual freedom.]


Inscribed on half-title page, vol. 1:

To John Eastman jr. / a faithful friend of my work / Pacif. Palisades / May 17, 43 / Thomas Mann.

Autographed on half-title page, vol. 2:

Thomas Mann.


Inscribed on front endpaper:

To Jack Eastman / who indefatigably finds out / more books to be signed / with kindest personal regards / Thomas Mann.

MARIO UND DER ZAUBERER. Ein tragisches Reiseerlebnis. Berlin: S. Fischer Verlag, [1930].

Autographed on front flyleaf:

Thomas Mann.
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Inscribed on front flyleaf:
This man means well, too, especially for such a good old young friend as Jack Eastman / P. P. Oct. 28, 1951 / Thomas Mann.


Inscribed on front endpaper:
To Jack Eastman / with friendly greetings / "Dostojewski" and "Nietzsche" are layers of "Faustus." / Pacif. Palisades, Calif. / Nov. 4, 1948 / Thomas Mann.


Autographed on colophon page:
Thomas Mann.


Inscribed on front flyleaf, vol. 1:
[As beautifully bound were all the books I owned. In 1933 they literally went to the devil. I have enjoyed seeing once more that blue leather. And I gladly grant you the possession, good Jack.]

Autographed on colophon page, vol. 1:
Thomas Mann.

Inscribed on front endpaper, vol. 2:
Jack Eastman / Zugeeignet / von / Thomas Mann.

Autographed on colophon page, vol. 2:
Thomas Mann.
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Inscribed on front fyleaf:

This is a fine book indeed! Is it / written as well as it is printed / and / bound? Don't say anything, young man, you cannot judge! But a piece / of experience it is — rendered faithfully. That's why it is amusing — if not worthy / of such an outfit. / To Jack Eastman, the great / collector / Pacif. Palisades, Calif. / 28 July 1948 / Thomas Mann.

Autographed on frontispiece portrait of TM by Karl Danne mann:

Thomas Mann.

Autographed on colophon page:

Thomas Mann.


Inscribed on front endpaper:

To John Eastman, jr. / with the kindest regards / Pacif. Palisades, Calif. / May 17, 1943 / Thomas Mann.


Inscribed on front endpaper:

To the good reader / Jack Eastman / with kindest regards / 18 XI, 44 / Thomas Mann.


Inscribed on front endpaper:

This is not my best homage to / Goethe, but it is one of them after / all and I enjoy it more than / any Philologist ever did to see my mortal name connected with his / Immortality. / To Jack Eastman / Pacif. Palisades / 24 July 1948 / Thomas Mann.

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PFITZNER'S PALESTRINA. Berlin: S. Fischer Verlag, 1919.

Inscribed on front flyleaf:  
Very rare! / I wouldn't write it today, but / it's well written. / To Jack Eastman, / great collector / Thomas Mann / 7 Dec. 1947.


Inscribed at head of title:  
Even today this seems to me a nice / analysis and apology. / To Jack Eastman / Nov. 18, 44 / Thomas Mann.


Inscribed at head of title:  
To Jack Eastman / as a handshake / Thomas Mann.

ROYAL HIGHNESS. A Novel of German Court Life. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1926. Translated from the German by A. Cecil Curtis.

Autographed on title page:  
Thomas Mann.


Inscribed on front endpaper:  
You may take this as a rather helpful / supplement to my writings — so far / as it goes. Time will bring some / additional fragments of this kind. / To Jack Eastman / Pacif. Palisades / 28 July 1948 / Thomas Mann.

Inscribed on front flyleaf:
To John Eastman jr. / with sincere wishes for his / happiness / from / Thomas Mann.


Inscribed on front endpaper:
To my young friend and faithful / reader. / John Eastman jr. / who will recognize behind the jokes / and jests of this story its hidden / seriousness whose aim is the defense / of human civilization. / Pacif. Palisades, Calif. / Dec. 8, 1945 / Thomas Mann.

This War. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1940. Translated from the German by Eric Sutton.

Autographed on front endpaper:
Thomas Mann.


Inscribed on front flyleaf:
To Jack Eastman / with kindest regards / Thomas Mann.


Inscribed on front endpaper:
To my young friend and most / receptive reader / John Eastman / with cordial wishes / Pacif. Palisades / Jan. 5, 1944 / Thomas Mann.

Inscribed on front endpaper:

To John Eastman / from / Thomas Mann.


Inscribed on front endpaper:

To John Eastman, jr. / grateful for his interest / Pacif. Palis. Calif. / May 17, 1949 / Thomas Mann.

Unordnung und Frühes Leid. Berlin: S. Fischer Verlag, [1926].

Autographed on half-title page:

Thomas Mann.


Autographed on frontispiece portrait of TM by Rudolf von Ripper:

Thomas Mann.


Inscribed at head of title:

A very fragmentary answer / to the question! / Thomas Mann / (Bad writing paper).

[Mann's parenthetical remark is to explain his pen blotting the overly absorbent war-issue paper on which the article is printed.]


Autographed on front flyleaf:

Thomas Mann.

Inscribed on front endpaper, vol. 1:
To Jack Eastman / from / Thomas Mann.

Autographed on front endpaper, vol. 2:
Thomas Mann.

II WORKS ABOUT THOMAS MANN

Inscribed on front endpaper:
"Possible que j'ai eu tant d'esprit?" / To Jack Eastman / 18 XI 44 / Thomas Mann.
[Mann seems to be twitting the author's statement in the Introduction: "His history is one of a spirit born to a romantic heritage and powerfully stimulated by it—a spirit which gradually becomes aware of its own romantic inclinations and, subjecting them to critical analysis, allows some to die away after working them out in creative products, and guides others into new directions."]

Inscribed at end of review:
Now, then, every thing seems to be all right, / thank you so much for your benevolence! / T. M.
[Mann seems to be addressing the reviewer's highly laudatory last paragraph.]

Albert Guérard, "What We Hope from Thomas Mann," American Scholar, XV (Winter 1945-1946), 35-42.
Inscribed at head of title:
Don't hope too much! — But this is a fine / article, greatly superior to the banal / denunciation of Mr. Peyre — do you remember? / To Jack Eastman / Thomas Mann.
[In May 1944 Mann's "What Is German?" appeared in the Atlantic Monthly. It evoked a number of letters to the editor (July 1944), notably that of Professor Henri]
Peyre which accused Mann of influencing his readers to “dissociate the German people from the Nazis.” Mann wrote “In My Defense” for the October issue, scoring the “political bias of Professor Peyre,” who had the last word in this logomachy in a December letter which concluded that “the great German writer” was “guilty of a discreet sin of omission.”

Henry Hatfield. THOMAS MANN. Norfolk, Conn.: New Directions Books, [1951].

Inscribed on front endpaper:
He means well, this man, and / he is right with his “be-tween / tradition and experiment.” / To Jack Eastman / with friendly greetings / Oct. 28, 1951 / Thomas Mann.

Viktor Mann. WIR WAREN FÜNF. Bildnis der Familie Mann. Konstanz: Sudverlag, [1949].

Inscribed on front endpaper:
An Jack Eastman / in Vertretung des entschwundenen / Autors / Thomas Mann.


Inscribed on front endpaper:
This strange book has amazed / and irritated many peo-ple — a / certain sort of people. Perhaps / it was not wise to publish it. / It is just a book for friends, a / book for you. / To Jack Eastman / Pacif. Palisades, Calif. / July 28, 1948 / Thomas Mann.


Inscribed on verso of title page:
This is quite good, not very / good, but pretty good. / To Jack Eastman / the hero of this nice booklet. / T. M.

Inscribed at head of title:
To Jack Eastman / who is interested not only in what I write, but also in / things intelligent people write on me. / T. M.


Inscribed in top margin, p. 332:
This marks my way pretty well. But the whole / book indicates a way — and my place is on the end where it transcends into something / new. / T. M.


Autographed on front endpaper:
Thomas Mann.

III FROM THOMAS MANN'S LIBRARY


Penciled notes in Mann's handwriting on the front endpaper, marginal pencil scorings, and occasional underlining of words and phrases in the text.

IV LETTERS AND MANUSCRIPT BY THOMAS MANN

Typed letter signed (TLS) from Pacific Palisades, California, March 31, [1943], 1 p. (Regarding the English edition of the final volume of the Joseph stories, and inscribing and remitting Eastman's books via the postal system.)

TLS from Pacific Palisades, California, December 27, 1943, 1 p. (Refers to his meeting with Eastman during TM's recent trip east.)
TLS from Pacific Palisades, California, May 11, 1944, 2 pp.
(A gift of the manuscript of "Vom Buch der Bücher und Joseph" to Eastman.)

TLS from Pacific Palisades, California, May 27, 1944, 1 p.
(Regarding Mann's article "The Bible" in *Good Housekeeping* magazine.)

TLS from Pacific Palisades, California, July 5, 1944, 1 p.
(Concerning Eastman's annual award of a set of Mann books to a student at Deerfield Academy for meritorious achievements.)

TLS from Pacific Palisades, California, November 13, 1944, 1 p. (About the two most recent presidential candidates, and the typescript of the English translation, "The Bible.")

Typed copy of letter now at Deerfield Academy, Massachusetts, from Pacific Palisades, California, March 6, 1945, 1 p. (On the occasion of the presentation of an award for excellent achievement in the field of literature to a member of the senior class, established by John Eastman.)

TLS from Pacific Palisades, California, August 18, 1945, 2 pp.
(TM has returned from a six-weeks lecture tour to Washington, New York, and Chicago. Is now devoting himself "to the extensive novel upon which I have embarked so late in life.")

TLS from Pacific Palisades, California, February 15, 1947, 1 p. (Reluctantly declines to attend graduation exercises at Deerfield Academy, for his time on the east coast is limited before he sails for Europe.)

TLS from Pacific Palisades, California, November 13, 1950, 1 p. (Apologizes for meager inscriptions in book due to work on a novel, and gives an opinion on the Korean war.)

Holograph letter signed "T. M." from Pacific Palisades, California, November 27, 1950, 1 p. (Thanks Eastman for the return of a book as a gift.)
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TLS from Pacific Palisades, California, October 27, 1951, 1 p. (Congratulates Eastman on his engagement, and characterizes critics of the New Yorker and the Nation as "quite lukewarm and unsusceptible to the pleasure" of The Holy Sinner.)

Holograph postcard from Pacific Palisades, California, n.d.: "Heartfelt thanks! / Thomas Mann." (Eastman's note: "Sent to me, when I was in Okinawa, in August 1945. I think it must have been in response to my letter of birthday congratulations.")

Holograph postcard from Erlenbach, [Zurich], January 6, 1954. (Thanks for the Christmas card, and felicitations for the New Year.)

Manuscript in German of the article “Vom Buch der Bücher und Joseph,” which appeared as “The Bible” in Good Housekeeping magazine, 9 pp. Inscribed in bottom margin of last page: "This manuscript I dedicate to my young / friend John Eastman. / Pacific Palisades, May 9, 1944 / Thomas Mann."

Typescript, English translation of above article, 7 pp.

V PHOTOGRAPH OF THOMAS MANN

Photo-portrait by G. Gottlieb. 7½ x 9½ inches.

Inscribed in bottom margin:

To Jack Eastman with thanks for his / wide-awake interest / Thomas Mann.

Editor's note: This tabulation includes all of Mr. Eastman's gifts of Thomas Mann autograph materials to date. To keep the current record complete, two contributions by other friends are hereby noted:

1) From Mr. H. W. Pier:

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Translated from the German for the first time by H. T. Lowe-Porter.

Inscribed on front endpaper, vol. 1:
To Mr. H. W. Pier / with kindest personal regards / Princeton 27 IV 39 / Thomas Mann.

2) From the Colby Library Associates:


Autograph on colophon page:
Thomas Mann.

I wish also to acknowledge the aid of my colleague, Professor Henry O. Schmidt, for patient deciphering of Mann's Gothic cacography and for providing translations where they seemed helpful.