

January 29, 1931

My dear Mrs. Baum,

I am indeed sorry to learn from your letter of the 19th that you have been ill and hope by now you have entirely recovered.

By this week's boat we have sent your copies of GRAND HOTEL and have addressed them in care of Curtis Brown, Ltd. I shall be interested in learning from you how you like the appearance of the book. We have made it slightly larger than the usual novel in over-all size and have tried to make it an impressive looking book. Tomorrow is our publication date and we hope to have sold in excess of 10,000 copies (over and above the quantity distributed by the Book-of-the-Month Club) on that date. We feel that this is a splendid advance sale and hope very much that it pleases you.

It gives me no little pleasure to have had this book accepted by the Book-of-the-Month Club as a monthly choice and feel that it will do your property in this country considerable good. We are watching it carefully and assure you we shall do everything in our power to give your works the distribution they so richly deserve.

We learn from Miss Leonard that Margaret Goldsmith expects to finish the translation of ZWISCHENFELL IN LOHWINKEL this month and we are simply awaiting further word from England as to plans for the book there before scheduling it here.

With kind regards, believe me

Yours sincerely

Mrs. Vicki Baum  
Berlin-Grunewald  
Königsallee 45



August 2, 1932

Dear Vicki Baum:

Mrs. Paul Reinhardt of Cinema Classics came to see me the other day. She was sent by Howard Dietz of Metro-Goldwyn. Her request was that Cinema Classics be allowed to make a rather elaborate booklet - a 5,000 word digest - of the scenario of GRAND HOTEL, to be sold in the chain stores throughout the country for 10¢ a piece, along with some biographical sketches of the players and actors in the moving picture version of GRAND HOTEL.

I was told by Mr. Dietz' office that your contract allowed for a digest of the screen story up to 4,000 words that would be used for non-commercial purposes. This scheme of Cinema Classics, so nearly as I can understand it, is a new development. It is not a magazine, yet it is bound as one. It really is the stuff of a book and the moving pictures sell a half million at a time through the chain stores.

We have been told that you had given your consent provided we gave ours. We can always change our decision at your request, but we told them that this decision infringed on our book rights both on the copyright and reprint editions, and we therefore refused their request.

Frankly, if it is done you should get something out of it. It really is a commercial purpose and while it will help the moving picture, they are giving the stuff of your story for 10¢, and they should pay. And naturally we look with a little anxiety on the close way in which this infringes on our book rights. Whether it would do harm or not, we cannot tell. It has never been done. But such distribution of your story shouldn't be allowed without you getting something from it. If you want to do something different, won't you advise me?

The new book has gone rather well. We have gone through three editions, which in these times, is very good. People like it.

GRAND HOTEL keeps up in the reprint too.

We have a beautiful list of books. Everything goes well. Nelson seems to be happy in London, will be back soon. And if you are enjoying your stay in Hollywood and are coming back to see us someday soon, I should think that would make things about perfect.

Sincerely,

Frau Vicki Baum  
Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios  
Hollywood, California

Daniel Longwell

DL:CC



*Dear Edg  
thought you would  
like to see this. Are sure  
your note will please her.*

CC to Miss Gabel

12 December 1930

Frau Vicki Baum,  
C/o Ullstein Verlag,  
Kochstr.68,  
Berlin S.W.

Dear Frau Baum:

I am sending you photostats of various lay-outs of publicity on GRAND HOTEL which we are using in America, and which will give you a fair idea of our campaign, although the "copy" is not filled in.

The letter head is being used to write the book sellers, and the tag is being attached to all sorts of parcels going out. In fact we are doing one of the most elaborate publicity campaigns I have ever known the Company to put on, and I do hope we are going to give you a real success.

I am also enclosing a note from one of the girls in our New York office who is of German descent. She saw your play in Berlin and has been much excited about our doing the book and my having bought the English rights. She came across a review of the play in one of the German papers in New York and I think she has written you a little note enclosing it.

When I spoke of dramatic rights I did mean the rights for England, and I have bought these and am now in the midst of the details concerning production. Gilbert Miller, a very famous producer both in England and America, is going to do the play here.

I am exceedingly sorry to have missed you, and I hope when we do the play in London you will come back for the opening. In the meantime I may have an opportunity of seeing you in Berlin.

With warmest good wishes,

Yours very sincerely,