

# In Our Opinion

For years I have been a reader of THE AMERICAN MERCURY. Its changing style and editors never interested me much until you came along. I literally love your writing. I appreciate the guts, frankness, facts, truths and information in general which you are bringing to me in THE MERCURY.

HARRY LONG  
HORSE CAVE, KENTUCKY

A belated note of appreciation . . . to Mr. Ralph de Toledano for his article in your July issue; but I wish also to thank you for commissioning or publishing it, or both.

MARGARET TABOR  
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

I read THE MERCURY because I want to read facts — whether good or bad. The articles in THE MERCURY are often startling . . . [but] I believe they are the true, unbiased statements.

CARL E. BRANDENBURG  
SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

I think "Homosexuality in American Culture" (in the August MERCURY) oversimplifies the matter. Individual cults come and go, different fashions in sex and prudery, but the cult remains, and it is the cult, the fashion in writing that is detrimental to literature. The big writers are usually the most independent ones.

MARGERY MANSFIELD  
NEW YORK CITY

. . . I'm sorry to read in the August issue, Page 124, column two, and starting "THE MERCURY is not written [for a mass audience]". That seems to me too bad. It is too bad more of the People do not read it. It is too bad it is not read as widely as the *Reader's Digest*. I wish it were . . .

LOUIS K. TIMOLAT  
RED BANK, N. J.

# In Our Opinion

There may be "Sin In the White Mts.," but, boy, we're playing it safe here on this peak of the Green Mountains.

EVELYN E. TUDHOPE  
BRISTOL, VT.

Your essay on "Obligation to a Cow" ("Draughts of Old Bourbon" in July *MERCURY*) is a signpost on the highway of time.

KENNETH D. MCQUIGG  
CHICAGO, ILL.

I have followed your magazine with a great deal of interest since its advent as the "new" *MERCURY* several months ago; on the whole I like it very much. It seems to me that your articles concerning foreign policy are really valuable contributions to American thinking.

JEAN LAWSON  
NELSONVILLE, OHIO

Being a consistent reader of *MERCURY* I was, I'll confess, a little aghast when you took over. My first reaction was that here was another iconoclastic pseudo-intellectual who was going to startle everyone with rot, gut and smut. But I waited —. I was wrong. I like your stuff. It sounds like a man talking. A fundamentally *good* man if you'll permit me to say so.

JAMES K. WELCH, M.D.  
CUBA, ILLINOIS

What a thoroughly rotten and worthless magazine — and it used to be pretty good. I bought it for the Truman article and boy, oh boy, what a mess the rest of the magazine is in.

UNSIGNED  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

In Our  Opinion

I was shocked at your rotten article about the President of the United States (*any* President).

MILDRED MONISON  
DOVER, N. H.

It is my private opinion that you are an opinionated, conceited ass. It is also my opinion that you are amusing and courageous. I can stand a conceited ass if he is also amusing and courageous. More power to your magazine.

ADA SAGE LAVERTY  
BIGELOW, ARK.

The continuation of your vivid character profile concerning Harry S. Truman . . . while illuminating and penetrating is, however, somewhat limited in scope. You overlook one of Truman's outstanding characteristics, which is — never play fair.

JOHN A. WARD  
NEW YORK CITY

Please accept, in plain dull prose, my heartiest felicitations and appreciation of the splendid editorial work you are giving us in the new MERCURY.

LEON PATRICK, M.D.  
OCEANSIDE, CALIF.

An orchid to the new MERCURY! In this day of managed "thinking" it is a relief, a tonic against current ring-in-the-nose intellectualism.

PRESCOTT CHAPLIN  
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

My complaint against the new AMERICAN MERCURY is that it is published monthly, instead of every two weeks.

HERBERT A. SINDSKOPF  
JAMAICA, NEW YORK

# NEW OIL FIELDS

EDITORIAL REPRINTED FROM *The New York Times*

“WHAT may well be the beginning of a new major domestic oil source in the northern Middle West is indicated by two recent important finds 100 miles apart, one last April in North Dakota and another in the past fortnight in Montana. For several decades this country has depended heavily, though not exclusively, upon southern and western areas—such states as Louisiana, Texas and California. If these new finds in North Dakota and Montana presage the opening of comparable rich fields they are of great importance.

“The mounting number of cars and oil heaters in this country is steadily increasing our consumption of this material, while from a global point of view the shadows over the future of oil production in the Middle East, particularly Iran, make it most desirable to increase production from more certain sources, as in this country, as rapidly as possible.

“In our gratification over these new finds we should not lose sight of the factors which made it possible for oil to be discovered at depths of 7,000 to 11,000 feet underneath the earth. The contributions of geologists, drilling technicians and related specialists are, of course, of the highest importance, for they make possible the location and then the reaching of this buried treasure. But important, too, are the enterprise and the willingness to bear risks which motivated these efforts. Wells that find oil are well publicized, but the large number which are no more than dry holes in the ground are recorded only in red ink in private ledgers.

“The men and organizations who search for oil at fantastic depths risk millions in such ventures, and frequently lose them. But they continue even after repeated disappointments because on balance profits can be made if a reasonable proportion of successes is attained. In this activity, as in many others, the role of the profit motive in inducing socially useful action is of primary importance, a fact which our people and our legislators might well keep in mind.”

*This advertisement is brought to you in behalf of America's thousands of privately-managed Oil Companies by the OIL INDUSTRY INFORMATION COMMITTEE, AMERICAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE, 50 West 50th Street, New York 20, N. Y.*

*The Moral Eclipse of a Great Writer*

# THE CASE AGAINST THOMAS MANN

EUGENE TILLINGER

ONE of the absurdities of our time is the depiction of Thomas Mann, internationally famous novelist and Nobel prizewinner, as a true liberal, and a great humanitarian, as a fighter for freedom and democracy, as a defender of moral integrity and decency. The myth is widespread, and it is therefore of some importance that Thomas Mann's real political record become known in this country.

Very few Americans are familiar, for example, with his deification of Prussian militarism and Pan-Germanism during World War I. Sample: In his essay *Friedrich und die grosse Koalition* (1915) he wrote, "War! It is purification, liberation, an enormous hope. . . . The vic-

tory of Germany will be a paradox, nay, a wonder: a victory of the soul over numbers. The German soul is opposed to the pacifist ideal of civilization, for is not peace the element of civil corruption?"

But if this phase of Mann's political career is barely known to Americans, his early encounter with Nazism is almost entirely unknown in the United States. Here are some details: In the Fall of 1933, when Mann's name was identified with an anti-Nazi magazine, *Die Sammlung* (launched by his late son Klaus with the help of André Gide and Aldous Huxley), the Goebbels Propaganda Ministry threatened to put Mann's books on the *verboten* list. Whereupon Mann wired from his abode