

Robert Scholes and Richard M. Kain (Evanston, Ill.: Northwestern Univ. Press, 1965), p. 15.

<sup>3</sup> See my *Epiphany in the Modern Novel* (Seattle: Univ. of Washington Press, 1971), pp. 90–93. For my own discussion of the issues raised by Robert Scholes's contentions, see the Introd., the ch. on Joyce, and esp. pp. 82–85.

### Humanism

To the Editor:

Piers Lewis' response [Forum, 87, Jan. 1972, 105–06] to Maynard Mack's address to the MLA prompts this respectful denial that "humanism in education has had its day." I teach in even more middle, middle America at a college devoted to engineering and technology, and I can report that humanism is at least alive, if not kicking.

I, too, teach required courses to reluctant and even hostile students, most of whom "want only one thing . . . a [good] grade." But they *respond* to literature—to that "repertory of encounters" which brings us "face to face with all that we have been, much that we might be, [and] stands as a perpetual challenge to whatever we become," according to Maynard Mack. That my students come unaware of their capacity to make this response, and may even remain unconscious of its value, I consider justification for accepting my salary—not that its size requires any.

Their response is real. It is fleeting perhaps, but it is felt, it is truth encountered. And while I don't delude myself about the lasting effects since I have no way to evaluate them in any case, I teach from the conviction that I have something to communicate which is very

real and very necessary. If a teacher of literature has lost that conviction, Mack's "faith," his students will be the first to notice, and fundamentally this condition may make "effective teaching in the humanities impossible." It is probably true, as Mr. Lewis puts it, that "few students are prepared for honesty and responsibility or know how to respond to teaching that possesses these qualities." Might not that very fact be the *raison d'être* of all departments of the humanities?

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### Thomas Mann to Hermann J. Weigand

In publishing the English translation and original German version of the letter from Thomas Mann to Hermann J. Weigand in the March 1972 Forum (pp. 306–08), we failed to note that the German version had previously appeared in *Wächter und Hüter: Festschrift für Hermann J. Weigand* (New Haven, Conn.: Yale Univ., 1957, pp. 163–64). Harry Tucker, Jr. (North Carolina State Univ., Raleigh) points out two variant readings: (1) *PMLA*—"Unwiederholbares" (p. 307, col. 2, line 10 down); *Wächter und Hüter*—"Unwiederholhaberes [sic]" (p. 163, lines 15–16 down). Mann's original letter contained the *Wächter und Hüter* version. (2) *PMLA*—"Muss ich es denn *alles* irgendwoher haben?" (p. 308, col. 2, lines 4–5 down); *Wächter und Hüter*—"Muss ich denn *alles* irgendwoher haben?" (p. 164, line 12 up). Mann's original letter contained the *PMLA* version.

The headnote to the letter as it appeared in *PMLA* was written by Professor Weigand.