

Abstract

The work deals with the ambivalent relationship between Klaus Mann and Gustaf Gründgens. Former political and artistic colleagues and friends chose opposite paths during the time of National Socialism. The prior thrust in their relationship allowed Klaus Mann to process the person of Gustaf Gründgens in the time-critical novel *Mephisto*. On the one hand, Klaus Mann describes the path of a cultivated supporter of the regime, the talented opportunist and characterless careerist while the novel is also Klaus Mann's dealing with his past friend. The aim of my work is to compare the moral positions and development of the two artists during the Nazi-regime. The basis for this comparison is the novel *Mephisto*.

Keywords: Klaus Mann, Gustaf Gründgens, Career, Comparison, Moral Responsibility, Artist, National Socialism, Ambivalent Relationship of Klaus Mann and Gustaf Gründgens