

16 November 1970

Mr Richard Bernabei
Department of Classics
Queen's University
Kingston, Ontario

Dear Dick,

I enclose herewith a copy of my letter to Hech on his supplement. I have not yet received the copy of your letter to him from Tink.

About your letter to Harold Weisberg dated 9 November: First of all, Tink Thompson made a point about your dust-like fragments discovery, during a phone conversation about a week ago, which warrants consideration. Perhaps he has already written to you about it. His point was that your thesis depends upon the accuracy and truthfulness of the description in the Fisher panel report, and that your case would be enormously strengthened if we had independent corroboration of the concentration of the fragments at the front of the brain. Theoretically the autopsy X-rays would become available for examination by an expert like Dr. Wecht at the end of October 1971. Tink felt that it might be worthwhile to have such corroboration before your findings are published, and I think his suggestion does merit serious thought.

Turning to your suggestion that Harold and I should collaborate on a presentation of your findings and a search for a publisher, there are a number of reasons why it is not practical and really not acceptable. As you say, we are both fiercely independent; there is also the factor of distance; and I work very long hours at a very demanding job and have very little time available to deal with my own correspondence on the WR and related matters. I have in past years sometimes reviewed and indexed mss. for other critics, but that is as far as I would go with work which is not my own. An arrangement such as you suggest, involving three rather forceful persons at widely separated locations, becoming co-sponsors of the work of one of the three, is open to such danger of misunderstanding and conflict that it makes me shudder. No, Dick, let's stay good friends and colleagues and not invite the kind of imbroglios that we might easily get into.

Anyhow, your work is your work, and you should experience both the labor pains and the credit, with a minimum of midwifery. Meanwhile, you still need to get expert opinions from Wecht and others on your findings, before going further. I am sending you a copy of this letter as well as the original, so that you can send the copy to Harold if you wish to do so, or write your own letter if you prefer.

Best, as ever,

Sylvia Meagher
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