

Dr. Philip Singer
Department of Anthropology
California State College
Los Angeles, Calif. 90032

29 October 1968

*5151 State College
Drive*

Dear Philip,

Bob Ockene told me today that after a number of telephone calls to Grove he has finally squeezed out of Jules Geller the vague and hesitantly stated information that Grove has definitely decided not to publish Accessories After the Fact in paperback.

I do not quarrel with Grove's negative decision, nor do I even regret it now as I would have regretted it in May or June. But I do object strongly to the unconscionable failure of Grove Press to notify Bobbs-Merrill or me of its decision, after a lapse of six months during which other possibilities of a paperback edition could not be explored. It is a breathtaking discourtesy, to you as well as to my publishers and myself.

It has also proven impossible to obtain back from Grove my personal, indispensable, and invaluable copy of my out-of-print Subject Index. I wrote to Miss Heathcote on 26 August 1968 to request the return of the book but acceded to her telephone request of the next day to wait another week or ten days. I then wrote to Mr. Geller on 15 October, asking him to send the Subject Index back to me by return mail. Bob Ockene made the same request by telephone on 25 October, at which time he received the impression that both books were on Dick Seavers' desk still. But today, Mr. Geller said that "the editor" who had the copy of the Subject Index (not Seavers, after all) was on "jury duty" and nothing could be done until he returned.

Despite Grove's pretentious posturings on the correct side of the socio-political ledger, vis-a-vis Chicago (Seavers was there) or the Che Guevara diary, it seems to be run by the common commercial rule-book of arrogance, indifference, and deceit. But there are many warts on the face of anti-Establishmentarianism. No wonder someone remarked to me that had Accessories only been pornographic, it would have been in the shops in Grove edition in June. All I hope for now is the return of my Subject Index, if that crew of...rather unreliable editors, shall we say, can bestir itself to so enormous a feat of simple ethics and minimal courtesy.

Phil, I hope that I need not even say that I feel nothing but gratitude and friendship towards you and in no way blame you for Grove's derelictions. On the contrary, I think Grove's handling of this matter is an indignity to you and a gross violation of trust. I cannot conceal my disgust, on your behalf no less than my own. Nor will I pass up any opportunity that may present itself to warn other potential victims of the manner in which Grove Press operates. I miss your honest face at the office and look forward to your return. Best affection,

Sylvia Meagher
302 West 12 Street
New York, N.Y. 10014

cc: Robert Ockene,
Jules Geller, et al

*Barnes Rosset
Mary Heathcote*