

RUSSELL STETLER & TRACY THOMPSON
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January 24, 1980

Dear Sylvia,

Paul Hoch has just sent me a copy of the editing you did on my draft Introduction to the Master Index prepared by you and Gary Owen. Of course, I am happy for you to use the draft in any format that you consider worthwhile and appropriate. Your abridgment raises no issues of principle with me, and I am flattered that you may find it worth including. I wrote the draft in response to a number of Paul's comments, in which he seemed to feel that an introduction might be useful. But all that I wrote really came from the heart, in the sense that I wanted you to know how much I appreciated your work -- whether you wanted to use an Introduction or not. I'm pleased that you found my comments thoughtful, but they are in no way generous. I do not exaggerate the importance of what you and Gary Owen have done. Hyperbole is the province of the commercial publishers and their moronic blurb-writers. Ours is a different world.

I do hope we'll meet one of these days. In any event, I hope you'll keep up the good work and find time for some acute writing on these subjects.

(If you use the Introduction and want to identify me, just say that I am co-editor of The Assassinations. I hope I will soon be the co-author of last summer's hectic manuscript, as well; but that work seems to be in limbo at present . . .)

With warmest greetings,

Yours,

Russ

P.S.: One small suggestion: In the next to last line of the next to last paragraph of your p. 4, I think it really makes more sense to say "being a journalist in Washington," instead of simply "being in Washington."