

5/4/71

Dear Mrs. Meagher,

Today I came home from the University and saw your good letter of April 28, to which I now respond.

As you know from my letter of yesterday, I have received the new Givens material. Your formulation on the footnote is fine with me and I hope for your sake that I can refer to the article in print. Not that the other way would be to your disfavor--it's just that I'd like to see your work out in that way much better, as I know you would.

I have already had some correspondence with Dr. Wecht (but thanks for the offer to put us in touch), who has been very cooperative and, if I may say, complimentary. Though he knows only a minor portion of my theories, it would be a good idea to "brief" him on specific things to look for in the photographic materials. I would gladly do this for my part. (You'll have a good idea of what I'd look for once you've read my book.) However, though the "five year moratorium" expires this October, I have no reason to believe the government's suppression will also. My recollection of the "contract" is that past the Oct. date all requests must be approved by the Archivist, which I regard as the virtual guarantee of continued suppression. Rhoads has refused lesser requests and I think he (and others) are well aware that they are relatively well protected in even the most indefensible denials of access to evidence. This so far has been the record. Perhaps Harold's ~~switzwit~~ suits will change this unfortunate gov't posture. As of now, I wish Dr. Wecht the best, but expect the worst.

Thank you for explaining the conditions under which you work on manuscripts. I certainly would appreciate it if you could review my ms (which legally will be a "published" book to which I would own all rights). As for indexing and rewriting, please understand that I am of rather modest means (that includes my family), and it would be impossible for me to request those services. However, please do not think this at all underscores the great appreciation I have that you offer to review the book. For me that in itself is an invaluable service and I have only the greatest respect for the devotion and concern out of which you offer such services.

Perhaps I was too negative about the organization of my book. Harold, in line with your very appropriate criticism, has been a great inspiration to me in what to go after and how to do it plus how not to write a book. I did consciously try to avoid his organizational and stylistic pitfalls, though I attempted not to become too coldly objective and removed from my topic; I felt there must be some emotion, but no invective--at least not in the presentation. The real um-pah should come in conclusions and the like when the reader has been thoroughly prepared for it and can empathize with it.

Will try MarboroX for the book. I can probably make it to NY in mid-to-late June. If the ms isn't ready by then, I could mail it to you. Would really like to get together though.

Best,

*Howard*