

April 29, 1975

Geraldo Rivera
ABC-TV
77 W 66 St
NY 10023

Dear Pistil

Acknowledgement is made of your preprinted and presigned "brief note" of April 23, addressed to a Thomas Stamen. If approval of the Warren Commission falsification of history and defamation of Oswald, to be anticipated from the announcement the Rockefeller Commission will include comment on the WC "findings," should occasion another discussion on the Kennedy assassination on your GOOD NIGHT AMERICA program; and this, in turn, should provoke further correspondence between us, I prefer you address me as Thomas Stamm.

Not only is Stamm shorter than Stamen by one letter, which should matter to one pressed for time, but the two names have diverse derivations and significance. Stamen, as defined by Webster's New International Dictionary, third edition, has two meanings. The first, unfortunately for me in view of my age, is obsolete and relates to longevity. The second meaning is botanic with no relevance to the assassination of president Kennedy. Stamm, on the other hand, found in central and east European names - Mandelstamm, e.g., the late soviet poet - in extended use has the meaning of stock or tribe. The well known but little read historian, Marx, so used it. More commonly it is taken to mean trunk or root.

Getting to the root of the Kennedy assassination - its motivation and source in American society - did not appear to be the aim of your guests on your recent program. To point you in that direction was the aim of my letter, inviting you to pursue the problem, to which you have responded, thanking me for "additional information" by postscript.

If this signifies your intention not to engage in further exchanges, you have closed but, I hope, not locked a door to a "story" greater in importance than Willowbrook. If so, then Good Bye Rivera. But if your capacity for love extends to the acceptance of seminal and fructifying ideas, take time from running on your treadmill to write or talk to me in person.

With ardent May Day greetings

Thomas S t a m m
2705 Bainbridge Ave
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Additional Information

stamen...2: a microsporophyll of a seed plant: the organ of the flower that gives rise to the male gamete...morphologically a spore-bearing leaf...affords an important diagnostic characteristic compare PISTIL.
pistil...the ovary with its appendages.

