

BY MESSENGER

27 September 1967

Dear Don Preston,

I am pleased to send you herewith the completed index to Six Seconds in Dallas. As you will see, it comes to just over 12 pages of typescript, at space-and-a-half.

Since time was of the essence, I did not make the usual carbon copies. I should be grateful if you would xerox a copy for me as well as a copy for Tink Thompson.

As you know, the pagination problems created a danger of error which was compounded by a sense of urgency in completing the index and by the after-effects of my recent illness. I would therefore urge you and/or Tink (to whom I am mailing a copy of this letter) to make an effort to check the index against the page proofs—or at least to spot-check it against the text—to be as certain as possible that there are no errors, or no serious errors. I do not wish to shirk responsibility for the accuracy of the index, but as you know it is no good to check one's own work—it needs a new eye to catch mistakes. In the light of the unforeseen difficulties under which the index was completed, it really should be looked at very carefully, at least for spelling and numerical sequence.

If the index exceeds the allotted five book pages, I will be glad to review the xerox copy and to suggest deletions. I thought of marking potential sacrifices on the enclosed master copy of the index, but was reluctant to create confusion by flagging certain of the listings. However, if deletions prove to be needed to save space, it should not take more than an hour or so to select them.

One pending matter is the suggestion you made originally, and Tink later advocated, of a special (separate) index for the illustrations. I wonder if this is really possible, in the time that remains. If you both feel strongly about it, I will of course make a try—but I would need some time to study the illustrations and their captions, and to lay out an index. Perhaps the illustrations should be separated into groups of similar items, ignoring the pagination, and then listed (with corresponding page numbers) under a series of general headings. As an addition to the usual list of illustrations in numerical page sequence, which is generally found near the table of contents, the classification of the illustrations under general headings might suffice in place of a detailed index.

I guess this is about all. I agree with your comment that it should be an interesting fall for all of us—but I prefer the phrase, "an interesting autumn."

Yours faithfully,

Sylvia Meagher

ENCLOSURE: Index

cc: Tink Thompson, Haverford