

8/21/71

Dear Cyril,

Time pressures are greater than ever. I am into too many too many things, none of which I can drop and all of which I must do.

I had two major purposes in calling several days ago.

McC has not sent the technical data I asked long ago, on the capabilities of spectro and neutron-activation. I have new info on both, by the way.

I have discovered new evidence and new meaning in it that I can't go into now and can't fully explain or say I understand.

I have completed the writing for which I'd asked this information. I am now reading and correcting it and if I do not get it before my wife can retype it I'll not be able to use it except for my own understanding.

Without having read it and without the editing and fitting in of previous relevant writing, I think that on the basis of fact and its capability alone I now have what has the possibility of doing what we have wanted to do, if there is for a while a suspension of all the irresponsibilities on our side and none of the edge is taken off of it before I can have it in shape that permits use short of publication.

I can now show people things and may be able to get to them. I will not be able to show all that would be possible, but I haven't the relatively small sums needed to get what I lack but can get and have studied.

Sincerely,

9/12/71

Dear Cyril,

Much as I appreciate your kind wishes and expressions of sympathy, to solicit these was not the purpose of my 8/21.

Quite some time ago you promised to get through or from Collier for me from standard sources exactly what can and cannot be done with, by and through spectrographic and neutron-activation tests so my writing could be accurate and could cite them.

When we spoke about this, I anticipated that writing. When I wrote you 8/21 I knew I was getting near it. Now I have passed it and my wife has begun the retyping of that part of that work. I can only hope my understanding is not flawed.

To get this part of this writing done while it was fresh in mind, I had to let all but urgent letters accumulate, hence my slow response. Also, during this time, we have had our share of visits from younger critics and buffs. I enjoy them, take comfort from some, but it reduces my output.

My experience with a crooked publisher (or one reached) with Frame-Up has been quite a disappointment. He arranged no single promotion, refused to take an ad to respond to a (successful) literary assassination in the Sunday Times, and is beating me out of