

HELLER MOVES BACK TO S&S FOR THIRD NOVEL

Joseph Heller, whose "Something Happened" was published with Knopf, is moving to Simon and Schuster for his next novel, to be called "Good as Gold." The deal was reportedly concluded for a very large sum, which rumor has placed anywhere from \$1.2-million to \$2-million, but which no one, including the author, confirmed.

Simon & Schuster, Inc., was being mum about the money involved and the terms of the contract; the company said only that it owned world rights, that "Good as Gold" would be published by Simon and Schuster and Pocket Books, and that hardcover publication was scheduled for 1978.

When asked to comment on the rumored, wide-ranging sum, a jocular Heller said, tongue in cheek, "I'll give you a humorous answer: I really don't know. I take no interest in the commercial side of publishing."

The move from one house to the other is, in a way, all in an extended family. Heller published his first novel, "Catch-22," in 1961 at Simon and Schuster with Robert Gottlieb as his editor. When Gottlieb moved to Knopf in 1968 (where he is now president and editor-in-chief), Heller moved with him and published "Something Happened" in 1974. Now, as S&S president Richard E. Snyder says of Heller, "We feel he is coming home."

Gottlieb said the move was "a straightforward business matter and no reflection on the quality of the book. I just don't believe in guaranteeing such immense sums of money, and money is what Joe wanted this time." He added that he was sad because it was "fun" working with Heller, and pointed out that the two of them, as well as Candida Donadio, Heller's agent, had been friends for 20 years and would go on being friends. A lunch is already scheduled for the coming week: "Nobody is as much fun to talk to about these things as Joe."

Heller told *PW* that he did not yet know who his editor at Simon and Schuster would be. He said that "Good as Gold" would be finished by summer and that it had required two and a half years of writing, in contrast with "Something Happened," which required 12. The novel, he said, dealt with "a college professor from Coney Island who does a lot of intellectual hack writing and almost becomes the country's first Jewish secretary of state."

"ROOTS" TO HAVE MILLION COPIES IN PRINT BY MARCH 1

When a fourteenth printing for "Roots" was ordered on January 27, which will bring the number of copies in print to 1-million by March 1, five months after publication day, Doubleday officials decided that they had topped their previous record breaker, Billy Graham's "Angels." "Angels" was published September 19, 1975, and after an eighth printing, 1,110,000 copies were available by December 19, 1975. Doubleday points out, however, that the Billy Graham title was priced at \$4.95 and received a hefty push through religious bookstore sales. The Alex Haley title, which was published October 1, 1976, is priced at \$12.50 and is distributed primarily through general trade outlets.

Surging sales reflected the phenomenally successful ABC-TV adaptation presented on eight consecutive evenings beginning Sunday, January 23. On Monday, 6691 copies of "Roots" were sold; on Tuesday, 67,159; on Wednesday, 12,334; and on Thursday, the last day for which figures were available as *PW* went to press, 10,935. Industry observers were unable to account for Tuesday's remarkable total,

but surmised that it represented a "peak of momentum."

The television adaptation, according to ratings, had 61% of the share of the national market with the opening episode, viewed in almost 29-million homes, rising to 70% with Thursday's episode. An audience share of 30% is considered the usual measure of a successful show.

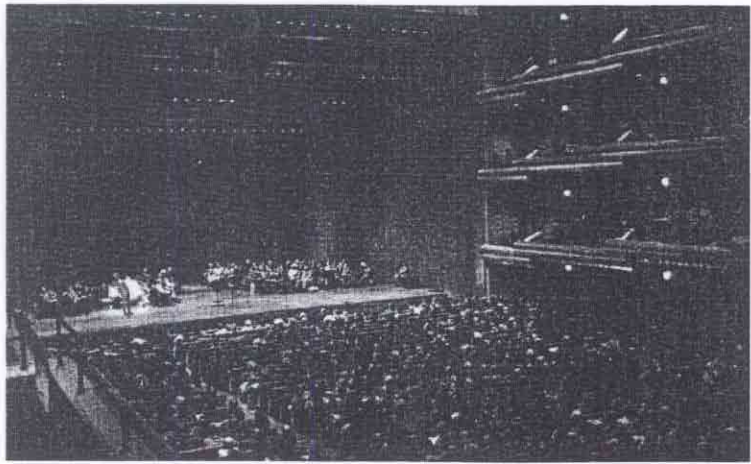
WILEY WITHHOLDS BOOK WITH POSSIBLE CIA LINK

John Wiley & Sons is withholding from further distribution "Chile's Marxist Experiment" by Robert Moss, published by its Halsted Press division in 1974, until allegations that it was commissioned by a CIA front organization in London can be cleared up.

"We're trying to run down the facts on this to determine whether the report is accurate," Richard Schmidt, Wiley's attorney in Washington, told *PW*. "We're just as puzzled as we can be. Wiley and Halsted are naturally very upset if they have published a CIA book and didn't know about it."

A House Judiciary Subcommittee is looking into the matter of CIA book connections. Chairman Donald Ed-

"An Evening with Alex Haley"



Chester Higgins

"There are more people here than in the whole county where I grew up in Henning, Tennessee," remarked Alex Haley as he surveyed his audience in New York's Avery Fisher Hall on January 24. According to the house count, 2542 people, including eight members of a delegation from the Republic of Gambia, came to hear Haley describe the "miracles" which led to "the book that was meant to be." "An Evening with Alex Haley" was sponsored by Doubleday & Company, Inc. which invited all Doubleday employees, employees of the Literary Guild which selected "Roots," employees of Dell Publishing Company which purchased paperback rights, and "friends of the house"

Solzhenitsyn Plans a Publishing Firm in Vermont

Vermont's most celebrated recluse sauntered casually through downtown Montpelier, the state's small capital city, on January 21 and thereby provided an enterprising local reporter with something of a journalistic scoop. Elizabeth Slater's story, reprinted in an abridged form from the Barre-Montpelier Times Argus, follows.

Exiled Soviet author Alexander I. Solzhenitsyn said he will start a nonprofit publishing business in Vermont to distribute literature on Russia in America and abroad. The 1970 Nobel Prize winner, who moved to Vermont last summer, said the business would publish literature on "Russian culture, history and religion." Much of this material, he said, he will write himself.

In the first interview Solzhenitsyn has given since coming to this state, the Soviet author also acknowledged he is indeed living here: "I live in Vermont," he said, smiling—although he shied away from naming Cavendish, the small town in Windsor County he reportedly has settled in.

Solzhenitsyn earlier in the day had visited the office of the secretary of state to pick up papers needed for establishing a nonprofit corporation in Vermont and papers needed for a foreign nonprofit corporation to do business in Vermont. A spokesman in the office said Solzhenitsyn had referred to a Swiss corporation that apparently would handle the Vermont-printed material. The author himself did not comment on that setup.

Asked whether he hoped to distribute the material in his homeland, Solzhenitsyn gestured broadly and said it was for "Westerners."

The Soviet author, accompanied by an interpreter, also made stops in the offices of the Internal Revenue Service and the state Tax Department, where officials said he distributed autographs rather freely and was "just a normal taxpayer asking normal questions."

In an interview outside the Tavern Motor Inn where he had dined, the author said he now spends most of his time writing. "I am always working. There are no holidays."

wards (D., Calif.) of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights told *PW* that the Moss book was commissioned by Forum World Features, a now defunct London-based news service he described as "a CIA-subsidized propaganda operation."

"I'm fascinated," Edwards said. "The CIA seems to be going through the back door to distribute books in the

United States. They have no business doing this. It violates the charter of the CIA, and going to a higher law, it's unconstitutional. It violates the First Amendment."

Asked whether other CIA-commissioned books had been distributed in this country, Edwards said: "I don't know but we will find out." He went on to say that "the people in New York are innocent. I'm sure they wouldn't



During his day in Montpelier, Solzhenitsyn dropped in at the Bear Pond Bookstore, which stocks "seven or eight of his titles and sells 20 to 30 copies a year." Robin Wilkerson, who described herself to PW as "the employee," said the writer was in the store only for a minute and that she saw only his back. After he left, she added, "we moved his books to the window, hoping to lure him back"

have published the book if they had known. They were not told the full facts by the English publisher."

Warren Sullivan, president of Halsted, said the book on Chile, first published in England by David & Charles in 1973, had "come through a normal publishing arrangement. We do a lot of business with David & Charles, and have imported many titles from them—all the way from astronomy to geology to political science. It was a topical book in the political science arena by an author with good credentials. We have talked with David & Charles and they knew nothing about the alleged connection with the CIA. Nor did Halsted Press. This news about the book is news to us as well."

Edwards said that Forum World Features, which closed two years ago, has been replaced in London by Rossiter Publications. "It's the same outfit under a different name. It's also a CIA front."

Only 900 or so copies of the Moss book were sold in the United States. "It wasn't any 'Forever Amber,'" Representative Edwards commented. But he said a Subcommittee staffer produced a copy merely by going to the Chilean Embassy in Washington and asking for it.

SUSAN WAGNER

ROGER KLEIN AWARD FOR 1977: NO AGE LIMIT FOR NOMINEES

Nominees for the 1977 Roger Klein Award for Editing are no longer restricted to those under the age of 40, according to Thomas C. Wallace, editor-in-chief of Holt, Rinehart and Winston, and secretary to the committee that administers the award. Wallace, in a letter that is being circulated to the publishing community soliciting nominations for the award, states: "The award is named for Roger Klein (1937-1968) who during his short but distinguished career in publishing worked at Harper & Row, Coward, McCann, Macmillan and E. P. Dutton. It is our intention to present the 1977 prize to an editor possessing qualities and skills similar to those which Roger possessed, an editor who has made the same total commitment to publishing and to the authors with whom he or she works."

"It is our intention to give the award to a trade book editor who has been in publishing for at least three years. Basically the award is meant to be given to an editor for consistently recognizing writing talent and helping writers realize their full potential. We are discarding our age limitation this year but our intent remains the same—to honor a working editor, not a head of a publishing house or division thereof."

Nominating and seconding letters should be sent to Arnold W. Ehrlich, *Publishers Weekly*, before March 31.