

Dear Dick,

3/5/81

Your offer to make self-publishing of my planned King book possible gives me a real lift. Many thanks!

I respond in haste, with random thoughts as they occur.

I can't give you the costs, not even approximately, because I've not printed anything since a 1978 reprint of my third book. Also, I can't estimate the size.

My 1975 printing of the 662-page Post Mortem was about \$10,000 for the printing alone. Another large cost for me is a mailing, to about 5,000 on our list, which returned about 10% last time.

Do you think it is possible to get someone to do what Helen Meyer conceived and then screwed me over, exploiting my history and selling the book? (I printed over 8,000 for Dell and got paid for about 500 of them only, the others not even returned. Would I love to have them!)

If possible I'd prefer to avoid self-publishing. But on the other hand, the long delays and often pointless changes publishers want to make do present me with a problem at my age, in my condition, and with what else I want to do.

(Next would be Agent Oswald, in the sense of with a questionnaire, a book that could read like a spy story; then Tiger to Ride; the Untold Story of the Cuba (no error) Missile Crisis, this really a story of JFK and his administration. Years ago, when I gave Walter Glasse the draft of several chapters, he and the fiction editor at Bantam like it but Bantam had no interest.)

Maybe the success of the lousy and evil Lifton book I mentioned would entice one?

Before I heard from you I wrote Walter, who is associated with but not employed by Bantam, and Jerry Agel, to see if either had any ideas. I've not heard from either. I really meant a publisher who might be interested and both are well connected.

There is little prospect of selling any of my books now through any of the wholesalers of the past, all, without exception, having gypped me. Some wouldn't even make claims for damage and shipments when I could not.

I got back the cost of producing my fourth book, without leaving home by radio appearances in which I broadcast by phone and was able to give my address. Generally they do not permit this. If I could make Good Morning America or Today, I doubt they'd permit it. So that kind of promotion would be futile, I think, unless I could overcome that limitation. In what I say about the fourth book, I should include the productive mailing list.

We still sell all the old books, without any selling effort other than listing in Books in Print. Not a lot, but regularly. The first, the, can I say historic one? is almost out of print. (The one on which Dell never returned their unsold copies.) It remains one of the two basic books, three if the faulted Lane one is included. *Shirley on in print*

Unless there is an exceptional stroke of good fortune, the book probably won't return its costs today because of my limitations and those imposed by the TV shows, the few that could be available to me now, when I can't figure on travelling.

The only one of my books that did not return a profit, if meaning those I published, is Post Mortem. I mailed the offset film on it to Banta and then went to the hospital with the venous thrombosis, so I could do little to promote it. I've never bothered to check to see if I've gotten the costs back.

Distribution like Whirlwind's guarantees a loss for me.

We deal with Baker and Taylor and Dalton and others like them all the time, without any trouble, but I don't know if they'd stock. They don't now. They order as they get

orders. Some Walden business, but many of their stores think they can't order without ~~my~~ prior approval from the home office. The local store, for example, doesn't carry any of my books, doesn't take orders for any, so I sell them directly to local college students. The books are used in colleges now. There are many assassination courses, but most are by irresponsible nuts and idle theorists of the Lane perspective.

I'm trying to think of all the liabilities and problems. This is not because I don't think the book will be important and worthwhile - and durable. I do. Especially if blacks and liberals get interested.

I think that while I won't even try to approach most reviewers, based on past experience, I can get some in major papers, maybe news stories, too.

3/9- I was interrupted by a number of matters, including FOIA and medical and was not able to think about this further. I will when I clear some things up but I'll mail these immediate thoughts, off the top of the head, so to speak, to let you know I do appreciate your offer and to inform you of the problems I see on the chance you do not and they are material to you.

Good to know that your always promising young men are doing well. As you say, it is hard to believe so much time has passed. Best to Jill

and many thanks,

Richard Gallen & Company, Inc.

8-10 WEST 36 STREET NEW YORK NY 10018 212/947-8244

Dear Harold,
You are a tough old goat, but
I have always known that. I am very
proud of you.

I would be pleased to provide
you with some working capital to self
publish. I would be repaid only
~~after~~ from sale of the book
so that the money advanced would
not be a loan. After expenses
are returned we can share profit
equally. How much is needed?
What do you think?

Jill is fine. So are the boys.
Jon is a junior at Princeton - I am
a freshman at Oberlin. They are
fine young men. 21 & 19. Hard
to believe.

I have built a successful book
producing & publishing investment operation

We create paperbacks & have them distributed
thru Pocket, Dell & Pinnacle. I also
have been very active in raising money
for publishers through tax shelters.

Hope your health continues to
improve.

It was good to hear from you

Love.

Dad.