

12/12/73

Dear Ed,

Thanks to Joanne for the nice note that came today and to you for phoning last night. When I expect to hear and there are long silences, I also get edgy because of the condition of my mail. The last thing from Cesar has not yet arrived, for example. So, it is what for me is normal worries plus the extra concern from uncertainty.

In order to send you stuff immediately I have restricted myself to one page of copying. That one I'll come to. The others are duplicates or won't copy on my machine. The copy of the Bookazine record I read you, showing that Dimonstein had gotten 1,000 of the books we shipped and billed to Bookazine, is not suitable for copying. I gave Held a copy in May. It ever records, "Received check for freight from Dimonstein." I did not know about this until May, when Bookazine gave me the copy when we straightened up with them.

Most of the orders were verbal. The bills that accompanied the shipment usually show who phoned and when. I have not made copies because I do not think you will need them because I have found acknowledgements less than six years old and details showing they do and did owe us.

I have not included the extensive correspondence on the damaged shipment and the efforts we made to help Dimonstein collect, working with a local lawyer, in the hope that this would encourage them to settle up. But I have it, and it does record that the shipment was damaged when it received me. I laboriously went over each book and gave them credit for all I could sell. Enclosed.

To explain the Masham letter of 2/6/68, we had moved in the fall and could not then get a big truck in here, thus the delay. Note that Masham's letter says they want a credit memo "so that we can make payment."

This list they sent us on this, to the wrong place, which delayed our getting it, itemizes 1757 books and has their notation of the terms, 50% off list, and their calculation.

Held's 8/6/68 letter is part of the effort to collect for them from the trucker. Note that it says they got all the books in good condition and describes my shipments as "orders" from them, "Orders shipped to us for your account." (I have the envelope.)

Our undated credit memo covers ~~my~~ salable returns of 1967 and 1968. We credited them with \$2217.60 when I could have rejected the entire shipment.

Our to-date bill of 9/13/70 shows we kept billing and crediting. No answer to this or any others.

This is the most recent of the Aronstein inquiries. Earlier ones show our response that these sales were as billed and shipped as billed. There is another identical with this dated 2/28/69. In response to each we sent an up-to-date bill.

5/17/71 their "accounts payable" department asked for "a current statement of our account," which I would think establishes their knowledge that they owed us money and is their acknowledgement of it. My wife was unable to walk for something like six weeks or more so she could not respond until 7/18/71. She sent the attached transcript and a copy of "the credit memo previously rendered." There is a typo in this bill, but I am sending you the actual carbon. We corrected that typo.

I wrote Herb Dimonstein 1/5/73 and got no response. I was there in May and got promise of settlement after the bookkeeper returned from vacation. I let them copy what they wanted from the file and gave them prints of the stacked, damaged cartons they were to return. They still have not. When there was a lapse of time and I knew you'd be coming, I sent the enclosed certified letter of 10/20/73 and have the receipt.

Ed is not here and my arithmetic is hasty. It seems to come to the old balance of \$3,973.73 plus the \$2,475 for the 1,000 books they got when it was hot from Bookazine, or \$6,448.73. I have actually paid something like \$2,500 in interest on this money, for the full years 1967-72 plus parts of earlier years. The interest amounts to so much that I think if you could get them to refer you to their lawyer or vice versa, if the proof is as good as I think it is, see, please, what they'll do, perhaps include some of the interest. Thanks.

see letter, see card