

Dear Dennis,

2/17/96

Those two well-made packages came yesterday late and am I glad to see them!

But unless I hear from you I'm going to delay opening and getting in to them. However, if ^{you} think I should, I'll drop everything I can and do that immediately.

The man who had retyped the Hosty ms. got really uptight when I told him for the third or fourth time to stop his editing and type, picking up typos and misspellings and highlighting anything about which he had any question. He got even with my offending his ego by deliberately preserving all my many typos he could in the last chapters! To show him later I've marked about a hundred of these that are deliberate in one chapter alone and I suspect his errors are more numerous! And his charge has been very excessive. I want to do what I have to get this to him and get it back and forget about it and him. If I can finish this today, and most of what means ^{is} an introduction, he should be able to get it all to me early in the week. I'd rather not have this on my mind or any pages of it around when I do anything else.

I'd also ^{begin} what will be a fairly long ms. on the first Groden book. I'll work on it at least until I get this Hosty stuff back. It will not take me all that long to finish Groden 1 and I'd rather have that off my mind, not to get mixed in with anything else.

So, if I do not hear from you, I'll delay getting into what I'm so glad to have until then.

After that I'll be getting Groden 2 and based on a few pages from Dave, the LaFontaine Oswald Talker. Which, of course, he didn't and couldn't.

It is not easy to understand what this rather nice fellow in his 30s had in mind because he knew I told him my prime consideration was getting this work on paper and retyped, not ⁱⁿ form. When he returned the first two chapters, for which his charge came to about four dollars a page, he had rewritten the first chapter. I repeated all over again my priorities, told him I'd not even read what he had done, and to please just sit down and type, catching what errors he could and highlighting what he could not understand. The next batch he clearly had taken time for which he charged me to read it, to make suggestions and he even marked all the typos he'd have seen as he typed. He also continued some editing, which ranged from pointless to wrong. So again I reminded him of my priorities and what I wanted of him and lo, the next batch he was still marking up in advance. It was when I told him to stop doing that, that he was wasting time I do not have and have no need to pay him for that he went off on the kick above.

I'll get back to that with him when I have the last of it back. So I think you can understand why I want that over!

Best,

Harold