

11/7/72

Dear Bob,

God knows whose horseshit you've been taking in to think that I'd get angry at a mere request. I hate to waste time in needless letters, but anger is generally reserved for what warrants it.

I feel I can't sell you any part of POST MORTEM or COUP hot because I think you'd plagiarize but because those with whom you associate have made a practise of it. And worse than the reprehensible stealing is the inevitable misuse.

The most serious problem since the major works first appeared has been the destruction of credibility, followed by rehashing what was well-known. Beginning with Garrison and today in the most sickening way there has been an assault on the acceptability of solid work and everyone's credibility by our own dedicated wrong, notably today by Sprague, Berkeley and their friends. They are under-informed, opinionated and sick on this subject. Their intentions become irrelevant. I know the intentions are the best.

Besides, absolutely nothing has been or will be gained by minor attention and this also means out-of-context use (by nuts, if I intend no offense by it) that at best will take the edge off when contextual use is possible. There is also the added problem, this constant pouring across editorial desk of the insane and the not new has already persuaded even dispassionate editors that we are all rabid and that whatever they see is not new. The same should be obvious.

I have moved our collective knowledge so far past what you and they have been pre-occupied with. But with the constant stealing and undeviating wrongful use I have had to stop informing about all others. Most of these dedicated wrong also consider themselves geniuses, capable of seeing (what isn't there) and understanding what mere mortals ~~must~~ can't and don't. They are irrational on this subject but don't know it. So, there have been many stupidities that have foreclosed further investigation on some of my best stuff. As recently as a month ago two of those I have in mind actually claimed some of this was their work! That much lust for having some accomplishment. Where there really has been none, despite major effort and large expenditures.

I hold another view on all of these. If those who were in a position to help were as dedicated and unselfish as they tell themselves they are and as utterly selfless as they pretend, POST MORTEM could have been printed long ago. But those with money won't spend it. Instead they want the work of others free. None has been without this capability over the years, some are wealthy, and not one has been of any significant help. Nor has any developed anything really new on the subject. They are like cows with all their churning rumen, regurgitating and chewing the same work of other people. And glorying in it. And telling themselves how great they are. But these fantasies do nobody any good and they hurt the only possibility, slight as it is, that I can recoup some of the enormous amount of money all of this has cost me and the cost and toll of 8 years without income.

In all these twisted minds, I become the villain merely because I want the normal, the right to my own work. And call crooks crooks.

So, it is nothing personal about you. Nor about your friends in Belfast who you do not identify. But most of those abroad, also well-intentioned, all feed to the unspeakable Joesten who embroiders with his own special sickness, all to no good at best. And much hurt where it counts.

Had POST MORTEM appeared when it could have if those well able had made it possible, it could have returned its cost by now. Next to WHITENASH we get most orders for it. This also means much wasted time in answering. We have a list of several hundred orders, I think, if we have kept them all, and this without attention. There is no possibility of my ever making money on it, it took that much. So, in making it possible to get printed, others would not have been fattening me. But they are not really dedicated, not really unselfish, not really interested in getting fact out. They are selfish and self-seeking, whether or not they so understand.

I can't be part of anything like this or what to me is utter irresponsibility, the shooting off of mouths in empty or twisted heads. Not even by accident.

Sorry,