

1/7/68

Dear Ray,

For whatever it may be worth, here is a tape of a TV broadcast today by Thompson. It was on "Capital Clockroom", WTOP-TV, moderator Roy Meacham.

I think it has several values. The one to which I direct your attention is that he didn't contract the book until November-December 1966, that, although he claims to have worked earlier, he didn't "discover" the shoulder dip until after he had his contract, after he had his editor (who he phoned when he "discovered" it to say there now was no book).

In short, it is clear he did not begin to write until after the publication of at least my second book and your monograph.

It seems to me that this crook no longer has any innocence left.

I have now read his book. The errors should be clear to you. They cannot be accidental. Nor can his thievery be, nor his intent at thievery. Where there is a major publisher involved, as with Lane, he gives credit. With me, save in a few rare cases where he apparently feared not to, he doesn't. However, I think I have the wretch repeating one of the few mistakes I made and crediting it to a source that corrects the mistake instead! I have to take time to check it out.

He has no significant thing from the archive that I didn't either publish or tell others, like Vince, about. All of these things of mine he merely describes as "recently discovered in the archives", as though by him. The odds against this are really great, particularly from the time he claims to have spent there. There is one exception. Please say nothing about this to anyone except Steve Burton or Maggie, because it may be the thing we need. There is one of a pair of memos I'd been trying to get for some time. I've got the story of that written in POST MORTEM, when that is published. The Archives kept delaying me, for quite some time, then delayed the release date when it arrived, until about the first of October. That is in his book. I just do not see how it could be unless he had been given it in advance. Therefore, anything anyone learns about the date he finished writing his book can be important. There are internal evidences of last-minute changes, as in the index, and the top-careless parting up for offset reproduction.

Sincerely,

P.S. Sorry the reel is too small. All I have.