

5/20/71

Dear Mr. Thompson,

Relet 14, received today, book going separately. Thanks.

It is difficult for me to respond to your inquiries in a way you will find acceptable, but I'll try with generalities.

There are relatively few of us doing any work at all, and of this handful, even fewer doing original, meaningful work. You have no way of knowing these things and, indeed, as a bibliographer, it is, in a sense, not your concern. But you speak of the most wretched people, those so entirely without character, as though they were decent, working responsibly, worth of a second thought. Skolnick, clearly a man sicker in mind than in his poor twisted body, is one. Marcks, a charlatan, a literary thief, an utterly irrational man who has done nothing but take the work of others and torture it with his special aberrations, whatever they may be, is another. What surprises me with him is that if you have read his swill, you have not detected it.

But if these are not your concerns, they are mine. If they are beyond your comprehension, they add heavily to the already too-great burden I bear. And without exception, each of these weird people makes more impossible the establishment and the rediting of truth. They spend their hours seeking that upon which they can embroider, seeking realities they can twist to their special preconceptions, each convinced that he alone has the genius to fully understand. This ~~is~~ is one of our tragedies as it is one of our needless obstacles. Merely undoing the harm they do is beyond the capacity of any one of the few of us who do legitimate research and seek to commit it to paper in a way that may of value, if not now, at least in the future.

There is not enough time to do the work that must be done to spend any of it tending off or defending ourselves against the damage by these nuts. This is one of the reasons I do not want my limited editions listed. What may be more comprehensible to you is that I simply haven't time to spend in pointless correspondence. I have reach a suddenly very old 58, with much work to do. Had I nothing to divert me and were I to be able to work at my accustomed pace, and if I did no more research, it would take several of the longest, hardest years to write the books I've already researched. Therefore, I ought not have to spend time writing those of either evil intent (that to them is something else) or the idly curious about books I cannot provide them. It was a mistake to list POST MORTEM in the new book and it has already cost me much valuable time.

The time you waste on Skolnick is a total waste. He has done nothing but add his wildest and most irresponsible imaginings to something he was able to steal from COUP by deceiving a fine young man who was helping me with it. One of the consequences is that he helped the government materially, for his excesses resulted in a favorable press for a rotten man who was thus aided in escaping indictment for terrible crimes. "Who's Who in the C.I.A." is a Skolnick-like work from East Germany. I have it, and it is worthless. Farewell America is an elaborate fraud designed to ruin Garrison before his files were stolen. It probably has bi-country intelligence auspices. You deceive yourself about the GSA-family agreement. I've made the most careful study of it and have had a case based in part on it pending in federal court in DC for months. If you give what I have published on the Z camera, if you really want one, to any reputable camera store, and if a second-hand one becomes available, they can get it for you. Bell and Howell doesn't

have any. The model was discontinued years ago. They probably regard you as a nuisance. The serial on mine would be valueless to you. It is from the description I published that I was able to get the one I have. It took several years. They are not common. They were overpriced and few were made.

Please believe me, there is almost no responsible work being done, and I do not think you want to help any other kind. But if you regard me as paranoic, there is nothing I can do about it. Some of the finer of us have not been able to take the pressure, and where they are otherwise rational and reasonable, on this subject they have crossed the thin line and are wild men. Few have the knowledge to be able to understand it, for almost everyone knows only what he has read and is not in a position to judge.

I do hope you will honor my wishes, whether or not you agree. When, as this morning morning, I got up at 4:30 to start working, can you imagine how unwelcome the waste of any time for any reason is to me?

Those who are doing serious work have access to my work, published and unpublished. The rest I simply cannot concern myself with now. And, frankly, our finances are such that even the stamp is a burden.

Sincerely,