

Dear Jim,

4/12/71

The three enclosures with your 4/8 are helpful because nobody else sent them to me and I am glad to have them as a matter of record.

This is the first Time the book section of the Times has acknowledged publication of any of my books. The record of the set confrontation with Foreman may be deceptive, for it is likely they didn't tell him, but it does constitute proof that he agreed to appear on the station. And how interesting the downplay of the confrontation with Huie and Dwyer, in a show that was edited by close to him, with the only promos of which I know of Huie libelling me, worse, out of any context.

As you know by now, I am truly delighted with the Sony. I expect to see Oreste Pena soon, possibly at the Washington of Baltimore airport, and will take it then. There was no yellow switch in the package, and I'll soon be writing Sony about that and to make inquiry about some of the extras. One of the questions I'll want to know is whether the external mike increases the range of what can be picked up, another is the cost of the footswitch, another is the availability of adapter plugs, so that, for example, I might use my (very good) Concord mikes as the external ones, or the extra with my Voice of Music cassette machine, added by accident once when the machine was repaired. And I know that when I have the \$\$\$, I'll be getting the patchcords, for direct dubbing and for pickup from radio, TV, which I now do, when I do it, with a mike.

I have to write an unpleasant letter to the publishers about money today. I've not gotten my "advance", asked again last week for at least enough to pay the interest at the bank, was promised this much, and since have had only silence. I am going to have to make a decision pretty soon, and I suspect it will be to let them carry the weight of the book that to date I've been carrying. I haven't had a single word from them on ads or promos, I've asked repeatedly for their plans for this, and have had no word. I made it clear to begin with that this would be intolerable, and I will now also have to make it clear that I expect them to begin to abide by the contract (of which they have yet to return my copy!).

Glad to hear of Hal. I'll write him as soon as I can.

Today, for the first/ time, really, in almost a year, I feel genuine physical tiredness. I planted three more trees in shale yesterday, meaning both pick and shovel, dug up topsoil, carted it and copious buckets of water in, resulting in all-over ache, even in the chest. It is good for me, but right now I don't feel like it is.

Perhaps it is a waste of time to write such letters as that I did about Barkham's finkery. Perhaps I ought take more time preparing them. But experience tells me these never become good guys and then can and often do become silent ones. And, there is always the chance the syndicate will distribute my denunciation. Certainly if, as I hear, it is The Saturday Review there ought be some chance. I used to know about Barkham years ago, but I've forgotten. Somehow I have the notion that he is black.

Thanks again,

8 April 1971

Dear Hal:

Yesterday we took another piece of equipment into our local hifi-TV etc shop for repair, and there was this little Sony, insisting that we could find a good home for it (sob) if we would only try. Wouldn't let us leave until we promised to call you right away and find out. So we did, and we mailed it today.

A couple of things about it: There are smaller models -- Sony itself made a smaller one but abandoned it after running into nothing but trouble -- but in a machine this small space becomes very critical where space for batteries and a motor are concerned. This model is working out well. We have one in the office and it's highly efficient and reliable. It's less than half the size of my old reliable Sony 100, which has never given the slightest trouble, and the built-in mike at least takes the curse off the hand-held mike problem.

We found the tone somewhat thin, but this is because of the small speaker. If you need better quality, patch it into a bigger machine and hear the difference. Full quality reproduction. Also I should say that this has all the features of the bigger Sony 100, with a couple it doesn't have, including the built-in mike (you can also use an external mike, of course) AND the handy yellow on-off switch near the bottom for editing and transcribing as well as cutting out ~~unwanted~~ unwanted stretches while recording. In other words, the yellow button stops the machine while in the recording or playback mode without bothering with the ~~size~~ buttons on the top. And finally, we have tried several other brands at one time or another, and Sony is the only one that holds up consistently. On the whole we presumed to decide for you that reliability was worth more than still smaller size.

Your latest was mailed April 2. It contains a number of items which you ask to have returned. This will be done a bit later.

One thing you might remember: We don't see TV except on rare occasions. We're in a fold in the hills where reception is not good without very ambitious antenna equipment, and it's not worth it to us. We do have a set in the basement at the moment, but it gets little but the sound signal. So when you talk of TV shows, better lead us by the hand.

If you line up any talk show appearances here, even via telephone, do let us know if you can and we'll tape it and dub you a copy. Don't hesitate to call us collect if you need to: (415) 388 2426. We sometimes hear both Eason and Spann, but not too often because of the inconvenient hours (from our standpoint). However taping is another matter and we always can arrange it.

We heard from Hal on the 5th. His new job is working out well, and we hope to see him sometime next week. He has a new place: 735 1/2 Warfield Ave., Oakland (no zip code known here) but no phone yet.

For warranty purposes, your little recorder was purchased at Accurate TV & Electronics, No. 1 Throckmorton Ave., Mill Valley, Calif. 94941, on April 8, 1971.

Your pleasure cannot possibly exceed ours in this deal, and we hope it serves you well.

Best from us both,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'J & J' or similar initials, written over a horizontal line.

J & J