

February 6, 1926.

My dear Mr. Babcock:-

For two weeks I have hoping for an answer from Mr. Detterer about types, so that I could pass on a final word to you. But I expect he is either very busy or away, as it is now a month since I wrote to him. However, as much as I should like to buy special type for the book, I don't believe it would be a wise venture until we know whether we are to have a second edition or not! So it resolves itself back to the samples I sent to you originally, Caslon Oldstyle.

Your drawings have come, and I must say that in most respects I am delighted with them. The drawing itself is charming in its spirit, and so excellent and sure in its execution. It is all that I could wish. I have a suggestion or two to make regarding the rest of the cover. I like immensely the yucca symbol in the little squares. But do you not think the black a little too insistent? It takes your eye away from the letters. And regarding the letters I do not feel them to be as sure as the lovely drawing. I would prefer the pure letter form^s to the squared ones. Also these will carry out the typographical idea. Do you find it easier

to make your letters the actual size or considerably larger and have them reduced? I am sending you a book I have had much pleasure, interest and instruction from, Goudy's "Alphabet". You may have seen it, but if you have not, I am sure it will interest you. In the "Notes on the Plates" you will find that No. 10 is Caslon Old Face which is the type we will use. These enlarged letter forms have been a great help to me to go by, and this is the letter form that I should like on the cover. I was presuming that you were waiting to hear from me regarding type before you went ahead with the lettering, and I hate to make any changes now after all the work you have put on it. Do you feel that the little squares at the corners of the drawing are an asset? My love of simplicity makes me prefer just the simple line without ornamentation. I too prefer the black letters to the reversal for the bottom lettering. I am not sure that I like the line around, it seems to separate it from the rest, but I do not know what to suggest.

The little Yucca for the title page is a great success. It will have to be reduced a little for as it is the area of black is a bit too heavy for the type. I send you a proof of the title page as far as I have gone with it, there may still be some slight changes in spacing. I should be glad for your criticism on it. In making a cut out to see how the Yucca looks on the title page I think the little circles at the corners do not go with the type. Again I would prefer the simple line, and would it not

be better a sixteenth of an inch closer to the heavy line? I believe so. This would also tend to elongate the design which would be a help when it is reduced a little bit. Where the inside drawing is an inch and three quaters, I would think it could be reduced to an inch and a half. I think this will make a beautiful design for the title page. I am very pleased with it, and only hope that I can live up to it in a careful arrangement of the few lines that comprise the page.

The seal is also very much to my liking. But alas for you I have yet one more suggestion to make! Would it not be better to keep the same letter forms throughout? The letter could be elongated without harm, but this type of letter with even lines, no thick and thin lines, will not be used anywhere. Would it be a great deal of work to do it again with letters as suggested on a slip with your drawing?

In reading over my letter it seems that I have had a great many suggestions to make, but they are all of minor importance to your very fine drawing of the Peak. The charm of design with which you have broken the blacks is wholly satisfying.

To go back to the Yucca symbol in the squares at the top, could you in some way lighten the blacks or how would it look with just the outline?

It is all coming along splendidly. I am sure that just a few slight changes will

Pull it together as a whole more satisfactorily, and then it will be covered that should sell the book in large quantities, and then I will be doubly grateful to you.

And I am ever so grateful not for all the work you have put on these drawings. And if you are not convinced by my suggestions don't do them.

With best wishes, and many thanks,

Most sincerely yours,

I haven't gotten my Christmas card yet;