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January 9, 1972

Dear Nell,

Many thanks for your letters and notes and--how did you possibly manage it--the John Gardner book. I've never read this one and am very eager to get into it. I know that even your reservoirs are limited, but it sometimes seems to me that you have a reserve-for-giving greater than humanly possible.

Your show at the Focus Gallery has been an unqualified success. We enclose a small note from the local paper but more important is the response of Helen Johnson who runs the gallery: the show was "sane," it came at the best possible time, it was honest and felt and just a dream as far as she was concerned. She sold many copies of your book to people who were utterly grateful for the blessing. Greta and I saw the show separately but each felt that there were new strengths we hadn't known before (if that were possible). I hope that we may continue to hold the prints from the book and try to arrange other showings . . .

Already
sent?

We are always chagrined to hear that we have failed to fill someone's order for any book and I am sorry to hear that there have been snarls. I am happy/sad to say that I know where the problem lies: there is another Scrimshaw Press in Massachusetts which refuses to forward mail to us, grumpy as they are that there are two presses using the same name. It would be very natural for a bookstore owner to look for us in one of the older guides and find the other one listed. We will make a special mailing to eastemstores to try to help the situation and keep working for an answer to the conflict in names. It's all so darned silly . . .

As for Of Night and Day, I think that you should have a few hundred copies sent to us and should refer orders to us. We will list it in our next catalogue (the new one is, alas, just finished) and will try to sell copies

in the fall of 1973. (That is, our salesmen will formally carry it them and we will tell the world that we have it.)

I must go. We are healing & working together,
Greta and I.

Love,
Frederick

And a belated Merry Christmas!