

The Scrimshaw Press
149 Ninth Street
San Francisco CA 94103

April 27, 1972

Dear Nell,

Today's problem is, like the others, pleasantly creative rather than anti- and it has to do with the mechanical requirements of the printer.

We think of printing books in 8-page or 16-page signatures, that is, on sheets of paper having either 4 pages on one side and 4 on the other (as in an 8-page signature) or 8 pages on one side and 8 on the other (for a 16-page signature). (I know that you know all about this, but I am checking out my own reasoning.)

We see in Mother and Child a logical sequence of 6 signatures of 16 pages (equalling 96 pages) plus one more of 8 pages (for a total of 104 pages). Now you have designed a book with 102 pages of text. This does not count endsheets but everything lying between them. We have to ask you to add two pages to the book or eliminate six.

We are thinking that since we have been having design problems with the verso title page and the way the information on it will collide with the dedication to Bets, it might be wise to add the pair of pages at that point. The verso title page and the right-hand page facing it could be done with one of your abstracts or with a neutral 50% gray tint; we'd then pass on from it to the next page, another abstract with the dedication.

Another possibility would be to add two pages at the very back of the book. Scrimshaw could then add its colophon there--the details of who designed and what papers and typesetters and so forth. But this will still not help us solve the conflict ~~back there~~ ^{up front} between verso title page and dedication. So I'd opt for the latter.

So would Margareta, who finds that working with us on Mother and Child is just the tonic she has needed. As we solve the problems of the book, so do we solve our own. It has become an extraordinarily important and beautiful project.

Love,

Frederick

Friday - Andrea Williams
3 p.m.