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1 April 1948

Dear Eliot---

Think you have analyzed Charles with absolute correctness! I went down to DS&P to look at Laura Gilpin's book and got roped in on discussing yours too. What Charles said then doesn't exactly fit with what he wrote you. My impression was that we were still discussing Maine Island,---asking for a little more about you and the people and your experiences in the text and maybe some more photographs to go with this, from what you already have. The Island was still the central theme and the birds a feature thereof. This general approach is new to me. Charles will lose all his authors if he doesn't change his tactics. If he would come out frankly and say I can't afford this now; have patience, or do anything but this slippery desperate sort of thing, one could respect him and return to him when conditions improve.

When I was down there, they asked if all communications should go through me as your agent and I said no. I was happy to advise and help if I could and hoped to be kept abreast of developments, but said they could and should deal directly with you. So when you write them, just say that you prefer to stick to the book as now outlined and have asked me to see if there's some one else who would be interested in it on this basis.

Looking forward to "ethnicus and Stonington and fisherman and color!"

Best,

