

Nichols

8 December

Dear Eliot-

We wanted to go to the Sierra Club's anniversary dinner but there were several things that had to keep us at home. I hope you were there and had a good time. It must have been a good show.

When I saw Dave and Ken last month they thought it best to develop the story of your book before working on the script of the movie. They have probably told you this already. I left all of the film with them, in the hopes that Eiseley would have the opportunity to view the rest of it. Bob Golden asked me to send him an account of what I have paid out for the work prints of the movie. It is not a small figure and I told him not to be too concerned about it.

Chanticleer Press has sent me their South America book, just published. There are six Galapagos pictures of mine and several by Rolf Blomberg. Is that the same Rolf who was working at the Station? We are not in agreement with some of the text but then, as Mary Jane says, she has found discrepancies, with what she had observed, in all of the publications about the Islands. The publishers sent me a payment of \$390 which I am crediting to the Club toward the film processing.

We had a nice letter from Carmen, telling of Karl's trip to Guayaquil for a showing of his paintings, and making a big hit at a cocktail party by demonstrating finger painting. Julian, who is now the proud father of a baby boy, born at the new hospital, is in partnership with Mike Castro having fixed up Mike's old boat for charter. Carmen and Fritz went with them to take Bob Bowman's party to Alcedo. They went across Alcedo and down the other side to Bahia Urvina where Fritz met them. They described the mountain as absolutely beautiful with most trees red and yellow as autumn in New England. The hot water lake was perfect for drinking and bathing. Bowman was most excited about finding the mud slides of the Galapagos which everyone thought had not existed since Darwin's time. But there in the crater they slide down the steep slopes on paths of slick mud. This must be around the hot spring area. Bowman & Co. are making a series of 20 films for educational institutions. The Beagle has been scrapped and the Nixe remodeled with new deck, engine, and head, and a higher cabin roof. There is no charter business in sight right now so the Angermeyers are going to Quito for Christmas.

The Baja book is truly beautiful. I think that, next to In Wildness this is your best work. I have not seen Summer Island. We hope to come to Santa Fe for a short visit in January or February.

Our best wishes to you and Arline

Tad