

RUSSELL & VOLKENING, Inc.

Literary Agents

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DIARMUID RUSSELL
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Dear Eliot:

Here's your copy of the Grant contract and a cheque--1% to Sierra and 90% of what's left for you. So that's one item cleared off. Now on to Reader's Digest Books. I had lunch yesterday with Barnard and a man named Carruth, who's higher up. They are interested in any one of 3 ideas, named below in the order of appeal to the Digest

- (a) Birds
- (b) Your favourite nature pictures
- (c) Your photos to illustrate an anthology of nature writings

As to birds they say they would prefer a representative selection of birds from all over America but if you don't have pictures at hand or cannot with ease cover what's missing they would be happy to consider some other general idea about birds. As to the anthology they say you could pick the selections or they could collaborate with you.

The one thing they are quite firm about, even if you cannot go to work immediately, is that you would have to commit yourself immediately. If you felt you could not consider committing yourself now, but might a year or so from now, they would not wish to contract on that basis. They would want to feel free to go elsewhere or do other books. In short they want a schedule of books under way and fairly exact delivery dates--evidently the need for this is all mixed up with the demands of a large mail order operation. I might add we have run into the same situation before with books for American Heritage and Time.

The books would sell for about \$10 mail order and somewhat more in bookstores. They tell me they sent you a copy of one of their books and that while colour work would not be of utmost perfection they would expect colour to be somewhat better than in the book you have. The firm who does the colour work is Barnes, of whom you have some knowledge.

The money involved in this is of the order of \$50,000.00--wouldn't be less and might be more. I did not ask at this point in what way this would be paid out. They would expect

to use some 200 photos and after their use all rights would be returned to you so that you could use them in other works. If you had to be involved in expense they would take care of that.

This is all I could get out of them at the moment but if you feel you could contract now for one or the other then no doubt much more will be revealed in the clauses of an actual contract

yours

Diamond