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Literary Agents

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Dear Eliot:

I am seeing Wilentz on Friday and will then be showing him a draft of a letter agreement to Grant just to make sure the stipulations they have laid down are covered. I will also ask him about that photographic inquiry to see if they have any line on what might be got for the use of your photographs. The only person I know in this field sells to LIFE and gets fancy prices—but I'll call him after I have talked to Wilentz and then will let you know what opinions are.

Your letter to Mr. Rudden baffles me a little on items (2) and (3). I didn't know Sierra had ever paid you advances on your books and certainly if they ever did those advances must have been more than handsomely covered by royalties earned. And at any rate I don't see your loan to Sierra as being used to offset anything—it's a separate transaction. As for (3) it is my understanding that Ballantine pays \$10,000 as an advance against each book and you have a share of this, differing with the different books, and this share should show up in your royalty statements. I haven't seen any Sierra statements so I don't know if they make this matter confusing or not but on a GALAPAGOS reprint I would imagine they would say \$10,000 paid, less 20% to Sierra for use of their name, of the remaining \$8000 50% to Sierra and 50% to the authors to be divided as per contract—and of course once that \$10,000 had been earned and more royalties were due it would be divided the same way.

As for Sierra estimating what you might get this year they should know now your earnings for the six months ended Dec. 31, 1968—I don't know if they can make any good guess for earnings for the period ending June 30, 1969.

I'll be writing you again this Friday or next Monday after I see Wilentz. I see

Sierra affairs are making the pages of the N.Y. Times. It all sounds very troubling and I must say I am astonished that somehow or other some viable working arrangement with Bower has not been worked out before. I fancy he is a difficult man but he is valuable also

yours

Dismissed