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Literary Agents

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Dear Mr. Porter:

A number of things. First of all to make you feel unhappy I flew up with David Rockefeller and his wife a week ago and went up to a place called the Cow's Yard, up east, met there a lobsterman called Beale (whom I have met before) who said he had built a 40 foot boat for a man called Porter in Great Sprucehead Island -- in the summer, the year before?, I wouldn't know, but thought how odd to be in a lonely place up East late in Sept. and come across this. I did gather the boat must have been built for a brother of yours or a relative. But maybe this doesn't make you unhappy and you're just as glad as can be to be in Santa Fe this time of the year. (My sec. is away, hence the irregular typing).

Secondly I am sending under separate cover the mailing item going out on Galapagos--they said originally to go to 66,000, but now they say many more members are growing. Sorry to have had to fold a little, but it is evidence of what they are sending out, & something like this with colour costs, as I well know.

On the contract the one matter in dispute is the question of how much Sierra will take for foreign rights--they had asked for ~~40%~~ 50% and I had suggested 20% after they had recovered costs. Well, I am going to suggest going along with their 50% for this book, no precedent. Mr. Wilentz showed me what had been handed out at the Frankfurt Book Fair--a folded item which has on the front the picture of the setting sun over the sea, and on the back a photo of turtles (tortoises?--excuse ignorance) which in the middle had a text printed in the following languages (I saw these)--French, Italian, Russian (I guess), German, English, Norwegian (I guess), Spanish and Japanese. I asked if they had costs on these and none available--but my own feeling is that on this book (which they are playing up as the forerunner of international editions) the question of your letting them take costs and there--after taking 20% is going to be very little different, if any, on their having 50% and

paying costs. I've talked to Paul Brooks about this matter and he feels we will be better off since Sierra is indeed using Galapagos for an initial publicity item on foreign editions and if this whole cost is to be charged against you this isn't good, and there seems, at this point, no reasonable or easy way of splitting matters up. At any rate it's clear to me from a monetary point of view, it's likely to be equal, and so I suggest settling for this work on their 50% arrangement—I have told Sierra that this established no precedent on future works

Let me know if this makes sense to you and then we can have the contract drawn up and this whole confusion finished—the future will be a clearer world, at least for this end of affairs, if not for others

yours

Diamond Rivers