

RUSSELL & VOLKENING, Inc.

Literary Agents

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DIARMUID RUSSELL
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Dear Mr. Porter:

The other letters I send today are business letters with copies--and this is more personal and with no copy. It's quite obvious to me at this point that ~~it~~ while you like and admire Mr. Brower you feel aggrieved by the contract terms. Exactly the same can be said about Mr. Brower--he likes and admires you but feels aggrieved since he thinks Sierra has something to do with your present repute.

My own feeling is that all the trouble is due to one thing--that no agreed ~~on~~ contract was signed before the projects, that too much was talked about and that both parties understood or misunderstood the arrangements ~~according to~~ according to their own interests. How much can be done at this point I don't know--I can certainly clarify and knock out some of the more objectionable clauses in the contracts but feel dubious any substantial changes can be secured in the monetary end. As far as I can find out the book as a whole probably can't carry higher royalty rates--and I think a good many publishers would offer less. The real trouble arises less here than in other people imported into the work--and whether or not this was known beforehand and agreed to, both as to the people and the terms given them. In a bunch of correspondence Mr Brower gave me I could not find anything as to how Eiseley, Kenneth Brower and the Conservation man were introduced into the package. Perhaps there are letters about this and they simply were not put in the letters I saw. Perhaps there were talks but since I gather Galapagos was your idea and you were keen enough about it to advance your own funds to get it going it seems quite improper to me that you wouldn't be consulted as to the nature of the final publication. From Sierra's

point of view they had been doing all this before and couldn't see why all these shares weren't regarded as normal. In the future I can certainly see that all this will be avoided.

But this brings me to the fact that I feel uneasy about being an agent for both books---I don't think I can do enough to justify a commission on both works and thought that I should only take commission on one, whichever you pleased. For the future I can do better since I will know about all from the start

yours sincerely

William Russell