

Great Spruce Head Island
Sunset, Maine
04683

4 July 1968

Mr. Diarmuid Russell
Russell & Volkening Agency
551 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Russell:

I got tired of writing about the Sierra Club yesterday so I stopped, but there were more things to say. I will try not to be too long winded.

It annoys me that Dave constantly refers to what the S.C. has contributed to my repute. He seems to feel that I owe him something for my success which never would have come about with the help of the S. C. I have always given him personally the credit for being the first to publish my work, and I have always and frequently expressed gratitude for his appreciation and confidence. But how far must I go to satisfy him? Does he want me to remain subservient to him and the Club as long as I continue to photograph? I think he does because he resents it that I have gone to other publishers. He wants me to remain enthralled to him and the Club. What he doesn't see is what I in turn have done for the Sierra Club and for his reputation through my Photography. It has not been a one way process by any means. He doesn't take into account the heavy cost that my kind of work involves - much more than just sitting home and writing or editing. Nor does he consider my age and all the years during which I worked without compensation or even the prospect of compensation because what I was doing was more important to me than profits. He does not consider that I probably have only a decade ahead of productivity and must make the most of the present opportunities for reward and enjoyment of my success. He does not consider that because of my age and diminishing vigor the kind of work I do is becoming more costly.

I resent equally intensely Dave's propensity for shifting ground when we get into a dispute over the distribution of rewards; his unannounced way of introducing new terms into a project and new participants; his refusal to communicate his decisions and plans until the last minute when he presents me with a fait accompli and pleads insufficient time to make the changes I request or to reconsider the ones he has introduced arbitrarily ~~with consultation~~ without consultation even though he has promised to consult with me. This has been the situation from the beginning with the Galapagos books. Why am I always the one who has to give in? Why can't he also make concessions? The reason is that he is such an egocentric individual that he can hardly conceive of himself being wrong; and I do admit, he gets things done because of it. But I have one trump card which is my right to refuse to sign a contract and stop publication. I do not want to exercise this power because it would create nothing but hard feeling, and knowing this he can take advantage of me.

I do not like one bit the extent of the participation he has given to the Conservation Foundation and its representative John Milton. I suspect that he is motivated to some degree by the expectation that allowing this participation will elicit participation in other ways from the Foundation on other projects. So it becomes a calculation

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which operates to the disadvantage of the Galapagos project but justified by future expectations. My feeling is that no such compromise is justified, that each project must be carried through on the highest possible level with no thought except for the beauty and persuasiveness of the publication. Mr. Milton's contribution does not fulfill these criteria and should therefore be made less conspicuous.

Now I come again to the matter of paperback rights and royalties. These undoubtedly will be the most important and profitable of the rewards from this publication. I propose that after deducting a fixed fee for supervision, specified as to amount, that Ballentine pay 10% royalties to the Sierra Club of which the Sierra Club pay to the authors one half or 5% of the retail sale price of the paperback volumes; that the authors' share be divided 10% to Eiseley, 5% to Kenneth Brower, and 85% to me. The question of whether Kenneth Brower has been paid compensation for his editing over and above his expectations of royalties from the hardback edition has never been answered. The answer bears on the distribution of paperback royalties. No royalties should be paid to the Conservation Foundation from the paperback edition.

Again I repeat that it should not be forgotten that aside from originating the Galapagos expedition, I led it in the field, made all the arrangements while in the islands, and took all the responsibility for the success of the expedition. Not only did I loan the S. C. \$10,000 interest free to help get the expedition underway, I spent considerable sums on my own to make the undertaking possible. Of the \$10,000 the S.C. will repay only \$8,000, but the \$2,000 difference is less than my total personal expenditures which included among other items money for equipment, supplies, film, processing. Brower and Milton contributed precious little help to me with the photographic work. Milton was even a hindrance at times. Brower went off hiking and hunting on his own. Assistance with my heavy photographic gear was given almost exclusively by my son, which indeed was his function, although help from others would have been welcome at times.

A lot of this letter is perhaps repetition, but I thought I ought to put it all down once and for all for your information. There remains little left to add now. I hope an agreement can be reached soon without acrimony, which is your function.

Of the two books I should think you would wish to take a commission of Galapagos, unless Krutch entering the fray changes the situation.

I have other books, however, of which the one on Greece is the most immediate. My original idea was to use excerpts from classical Greek literature for the text as was done in IN WILDNES. Macrae has suggested Lawrence Durrell, but in what capacity I am uncertain. I don't want him as sole author, because this would change the nature of the book entirely. If Macrae doesn't like my plan for the book lets go elsewhere, even to the Sierra Club. I think Dave wants to do it. Also Harper and Row is interested. See Tony Clark there.

Another book I have been trying for a long time to interest a publisher in is one with pictures of Mexican church interiors and interior details. The text here is the problem. Its hard to describe so when I return to Santa Fe next month I will send you a small dummy containing about 20 pictures which will give you the idea of its content.

Yours sincerely,

Ed Porter