

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

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March 9, 1963

Dear Bill, -

thank you ever so much for your "interim reply" of March 4th.

From what you say matters stand exactly as I supposed them to stand from the very beginning, i. e. neither Helen Lowe-Porter - if she were still among the living - nor her daughter would have anything to do with the proposed dramatisation. Just as the Vaughans wouldn't require any quitclaim from the translator of the book. What they do require is a quitclaim from Alfred A. Knopf Inc. permitting them to base some of their dialogues on the translation owned by Knopf.

I've just had a letter from Kay Brown (formerly MCA, now Ashley-Steiner-Famous Artists) who is representing The Estate. Kay is telling me that unless the quitclaim is available, the Vaughans will have to base their play - insofar as its dialogues are based on the novel - on a new translation which they are ready to order. Personally I should deem this most regrettable. More, I shouldn't be surprised if any such new translation would damage the play to a degree that might produce a flop where otherwise there might have been a success.

Possibly, Alfred would want somehow to participate in any thinkable profit. If so, we should be most grateful if he'd take the following under consideration:

1. As for the Vaughans I feel they should not in all fairness be asked to pay more than they would have to pay for those parts of the novel which they now think of having newly translated. And concerning The Estate, a small percentage of our own possible profits should have to do. Were Helen's translation not to be used, nothing whatsoever would be deducted from what we might eventually earn. In addition and as stated before, a successful production of "THE HOLY SINNER" would certainly mean quite a bit of welcome publicity for the book, a work the dramatic or motion picture rights are *in which* vested in The Estate.
2. In view of all this I don't see why you should get in touch with Mrs. Fawcett. To do so could only complicate matters at a moment when all is set for the Vaughans to go into production.

Thanks again for your kind letter and let me hope that everything can be straightened out.

Yours always cordially,

