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December 24, 1957

Personal Privat
Mr. John Farrar
Farrar, Straus and Cudahy Inc. Publishers
101 Fifth Avenue
New York 3 N.Y.

Dear John, -

What a joy it is to have your letter. Actually, I was not at all certain that you were the "Farrar" with "Farrar, Straus and Cudahy Inc.". I only hoped and thought it might be you - strangely, as it now turns out - on account of the acceptance of my small book by your firm.

Please do "sometime write me news of grandchildren and so on"! Grandchildren ? Not really ?!

As you may have realised in the meantime, I hadn't had the faintest idea either of your break with the Rinehart's, or of your novel association. For my part I participated not only in the War (beginning with 1940) but also, as a correspondent way past the shooting business and in the rotten piece that followed. So, I got quite out of touch with the New York Publishers' set and was and remain as ignorant as a bab in the Swiss mountains. Needless to say I am delighted with the idea that "The Last Year" has been planned for August 1958 publication. Equally needless to add I should be very glad of any corrections your editor might wish to make so as to render the translation more readable for the American public. Since I last heard from Joan Daves I've managed to send her a set of the original (4) illustrations. Since, however, she gave me the impression that additional photographs should be welcome, I surged far and wide for pictures which - from one angle or another - might suit the text of "The Last Year". None of which means that I am bent on having the American edition of the book more richly illustrated than was the original edition. All I am planning to do, is this: I shall attach certain photos to certain paragraphs of the galleys so that Harold Vursell might be enabled to decide for himself what he wants to accept, what would fit his idea of the "manufacturing cost". Naturally, the choices of photographs must rest with him and I only ask that all pictures I submit be eventually returned to me. In most cases duplicates do not exist.

This is Christmas Eve, dear John, and so I want to wish you and your seventeen grandchildren and whoever else is closed to you the very best for 1958 and times to come. I am going away on a short holiday tomorrow morning but shall have return to work immediately after. Would you kindly tell Mr. Vursell that I may not be able to return the galleys with whatever minor suggestions concerning possible corrections I might have before the middle of January. The same goes for any "promotion ideas"

that might oddly occur to me. But once again: as the publication of the book is not scheduled before August 1958, I trust that in significant delays such as this will not cause any trouble.

The next time I shall surely get in touch with Mr. Harold Vursell. Please tell him that I was most heartened by his memo. Also, lest it be too tiresome for you, would you perhaps inform him that Miss Joan Daves does not happen to be my agent but is the agent of the S. Fischer Verlag, Frankfurt which latter party seems to have every reason to be glad of this particular connection.

Love

