

Future Projects
Norman Maister

1/10/03

Mailer projects

Dear Norman,

December 18, 2002

Following our dinner meeting in Provincetown on December 15, 2002, I write to summarize our discussion of future publishing projects, as you requested.

The first project is a limited edition of your letters pertaining to *An American Dream*. The volume will be approximately 64 pages in length and will contain 60-70 letters written between 1963 and 1966 dealing with the conception, composition, editing, publication and reception of this novel, both in its serial publication in *Esquire* (January–August 1964), and the revised version published by Dial Press in March 1965. I will write an introduction and you, if you choose, will write a preface. The edition will be published in a signed, limited edition of 110 copies with a total of 25 additional copies for the author, editor and students (13) in my spring 2003 Norman Mailer seminar, who will assist me in producing the volume as part of their assigned work in this three-credit course. The limited edition will sell for \$150 and the net profits (approximately \$10,000) divided between the author and editor. Publication date: late 2003 or early 2004.

The second project is a collection of your writings on God and the Devil, fate, free will, reincarnation and cosmology. These will be drawn from interviews, essays, novels and non-fiction writings, anchored by the 1959 Stern-Lucid interview. It will also contain a new, comprehensive interview with me that will be undertaken in early 2003. I will present you with a preliminary compilation of these writings, which will include complete pieces and short takes from many sources, sometime in early spring of 2003. I will suggest preliminary categories for you, e.g., the nature of God, the nature of the Devil, human participation in the cosmic struggle, choice/passivity, reincarnation, sin, grace, growth, courage, redemption, judgment and history. Estimated length: 200-250 pages. Some editing and re-writing will be necessary, but how much is unknown.

Obvious sources: Stern-Lucid interview, "Cosmic Ventures: A Meditation of God at War," passages from *The Deer Park* (Faye's fantasies), *An American Dream*, *Why Are We in Vietnam?*, *Of a Fire on the Moon*, *St. George and the Godfather*, *Harlot's Ghost*, *Cannibals and Christians* (the two imaginary dialogues), *Advertisements for Myself* ("A Public Notice on Waiting for Godot") *The Prisoner of Sex*, *Ancient Evenings* (history of the gods), *The Gospel According to the Son*, excerpts from the 1968 *Playboy* interview and the 1975 Laura Adams's interview, as well as interviews with Stratton, Medwick and others.

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You will make a decision on going forward with the volume depending on how well *The Spooky Art* fares, and how your other work is progressing, but the very earliest such a collection could be published would be mid-2004. As with *The Spooky Art*, I'd like to serve as editor and, if necessary, provide an introduction. I will give you a copy of my 1982 essay "Mailer's Cosmology," which might be reworked into an introduction.

The third project is a *The Selected Letters of Norman Mailer*, which I have worked on over the past few years. When I retire, I will focus on this project. A volume of 400-500 pages is contemplated. It could be put together in about two years and appear, therefore, in 2005.

Fourth project: a collection of your writings on sex and violence. Off the cuff, I would imagine the volume to be unevenly divided between excerpts from 20 interviews and set pieces on violence (the fire at the river, the psychic darts in *An American Dream*, or the fight with Shago, key chapters from *The Fight*, the battle of Kadesh, *King of the Hill*, hunting scenes from *Why Are We in Vietnam?* the marshal and the Nazi, Grant Park and aftermath, Rip Torn fight) and on sex (crack the whip, Guinevere's script, Lulu's tease, "The Man Who Studied Yoga," "The Killer," tons of stuff from *Ancient Evenings*, *Marilyn*, *Tough Guys Don't Dance*, *Harlot's Ghost*, *GATT* and *Picasso*). This volume would be longer, perhaps 400 pages, and would be put together much later, perhaps five to eight years from now.

Another volume might be assembled from your political writings (see paragraph 3, "Norman Mailer: Literary Will," December 2003) beginning with excerpts from *Barbary Shore*, working through the convention-election narratives and ending with your pieces for the *London Times* and *American Conservative*.

"A most important addition" from Mr. Mailer, December 14, 2003: "If not put out in my lifetime, I propose an additional book to be titled AMERICAN ICONS. It could include all of *Marilyn* and *The Gospel According to the Son*, *The Fight*, plus selected material from the following pieces on: 1) Madonna; 2) JFK and Jackie; 3) Henry Miller; 4) Warren Beatty; 5) Nixon; 6) Carter; 7) Clinton; 8) Hilary Clinton; 9) George Bush, Sr.; 10) George W. Bush."

At one point you told me to write this up and you would sign it—after making, perhaps, various emendations—so that it could stand as a testamentary act guiding

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your literary executors. Remembering your caution to me on Sunday regarding the fundamental uncertainties, I recommend that you do endorse this or a successor document. I stand ready to amplify, amend or clarify the foregoing.

With every good wish,

J. Michael Lennon

12/23/03

Depprow

Adrian Butler 12/23/03

Mr. Ivan Fisher
119 E. 71st St.
New York, N.Y. 10021

Mr. Andrew Wylie
The Wylie Agency
250 W. 57th St.
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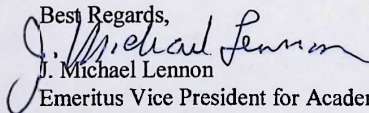
January 10, 2003

Dear Andrew and Ivan,

Norman asked me to send you copies of the enclosed document, which he recently approved. It derives from our discussions over the past year as *The Spooky Art* took shape, and concerns projects he would like to undertake over the next few years. It is also a guide for literary executors, a testamentary statement. It is by no means exhaustive; rather it is a rough summary of the most obvious collections of extant work that could be assembled and published.

As you know, the Mailer Archive is vast, close to 500 cubic feet. It contains numerous unpublished manuscripts. We have been adding 1.1 cu. ft. boxes at the rate of about two dozen a year since the last inventory was drawn up, perhaps five years ago. We will have a new, revised box list ready this spring and will send copies to you. Besides the annual accretions from Norman (and from Judith, me, Andrew's office, Random House, etc.), Norris sends on their financial records every year. In addition, about two years ago, after Cy Rembar passed away, we retrieved perhaps 20 cubic feet of materials from his law office. My wife and I have inventoried them carefully. I mention this only to emphasize that the Archive is a storehouse of possibility.

Norman thought that you might have some thoughts on the enclosed and said he would be glad to have them. Please let me know if I can clarify anything.

Best Regards,

J. Michael Lennon
Emeritus Vice President for Academic Affairs,
Wilkes University

✓ Xc: Norman Mailer

Mailer projects

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December 18, 2002

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Harold's Ghost
GAAT
Ricasso

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With every good wish,

J. Michael Lennon
J. Michael Lennon

This is your endorsement.
12/28/02

Norman Mailer