

CARTON 2:37

WILD TREES PRESS

CORRESPONDENCE

1984-1985

WALKER, ALICE

2017/193  
c

# THE BLACKSCHOLAR

Journal of Black Studies and Research

BOX 7106 • 300 BRANNAN #501 • SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94120 • (415) 541-0311

ROBERT CHRISMAN  
Editor & Publisher

6/19

Alice Walker  
WILD TREES PRESS  
378 P.O. Box  
Navarro, CA

Dear Alice,

I was pleased to learn in today's SF CHRONICLE that THE COLOR PURPLE is being made into a film.

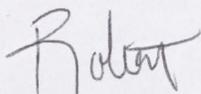
When it is ready to be released, THE BLACK SCHOLAR would like to arrange a premiere viewing of the film, to help us raise funds,

Ideally, we would hold the premiere either in San Francisco or Oakland, at a good sized movie theatre, with a surcharge on each ticket: \$25, \$50, \$100, etc,

And we would like very much if you could put in an appearance at this proposed premiere.

I hope that you would be interested in such an effort. Perhaps other groups have already contacted you--if so, we would be willing to try to work something out, perhaps with a separate viewing several weeks later.

Wishing you the best, and thanking you and Bob for showing Nancy such a fine time. Yours



Robert Chrisman

Dear Robert

Thank you for your note

The book is being made into a film, and there have been other requests for permission and benefit drawings. However, I am not ready to think about such proposals until after the film is completed, and ~~then~~ <sup>no doubt</sup> it will have to be discussed with the distributor as well.

We had a wonderful visit with Nancy, and we're glad she enjoyed it.

Best wishes,

June 18, 1985

Mr. Hubert Nyssen  
Editor & Publisher  
ACTES SUD  
Mas Martin  
BP2-73520  
LE PARADOU  
FRANCE

Dear Mr. Nyssen:

On the recommendation of Nancy Morejon, I am sending enclosed for your consideration a copy of our first book, A PIECE OF MINE.

As you can see from the enclosed clippings, this book has been very well received by reviewers. Sales have also been quite good. We printed 3,000 copies in December and by March all of these were sold. We are now 2/3 of the way through a second printing of 3,000 copies. Most recently, The Women's Press in London has made us an offer on the U.K. rights, and if all goes well they plan to bring out a British edition in early 1986.

I hope you enjoy reading the book. Please let me know if you have any interest in publishing a French edition.

Sincerely,

Robert Allen

— novelist himself

HUBERT NYSSSEN

Publisher and editor

ACTES SUD

Mas Martignon

BP2-13520

LE PARADOU

FRANCE



**The Elliott Bay Book Company**

101 SOUTH MAIN STREET SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104  
First and Main in the Heart of Pioneer Square  
(206) MAin 4-6600

June 6<sup>th</sup>

Dear Robert and Alice,

Here this is — your call was nice to get, coming as it did at the end of a long first day back from the convention and what were then some relatively quiet days in San Francisco. And, assuming you were calling from Navarro, I had some sense of where you were — I was driving back north and had a friend to drop off at a conference near Mendocino — and could see how beautiful that country that country is. What a contrast to conventions, big cities and busy bookstores.

So — enjoy. Let me know what you think.

All best wishes,

Rick

June 18, 1985

Andrea Newman  
Creative Artists Agency, Inc.  
1888 Century Park East  
Los Angeles, CA 90067

Dear Andrea:

I'm glad you enjoyed reading A PIECE OF MINE. Sorry you didn't find anything that might be suitable as film material.

I am taking the liberty of sending enclosed our second book, a novel which will be published in October. We are very enthusiastic about it, and I think you will enjoy reading it.

Let me know if it is of any special interest to you.

Sincerely,

Robert Allen

Dear Alice and Robert,

Thank you from the top and bottom of my heart for giving me a detailed critique of "Dream President." I feel honored to have received this loving attention from you. Please let me know when I can be of help to you.

After Alice's initial positive response to DP, I was ready to kick back, roll an endless reefer, & let Wild Drees Press make me rich & famous. The rejection plunged me into one of my "why did I drop out of law school?" moods. I've never under the worst circumstances been able to sustain a long-term depression, & what with the beautiful family, beautiful environment, fairly successful seaweed business, etc., this one burned off like the morning mist from the redwoods. Besides, as Eleanor reminded me, I really wasn't cut out to be a lawyer.

Now I'm into the rewrite. I believe you've slapped some life into Alaria at last. There she was, a vapid and sanctimonious aspect of the author's psyche, dead as a nit. Now she's gotten stocky, has bad teeth, etc.

Thank you Alice for pointing to the misogyny in the fellatio scene, which is being revised along the lines you suggest. Now to work on that deep place in my white male psyche that gave rise to it!

Eleanor and I do not believe it is immoral to use the Kennedy family saga as a fictional device. I have written a statement that, though characters in the novel bear the ~~xxx~~ names of national personalities or have the same life histories, they are entirely creations of my imagination. I believe the Kennedy myth, like Reagan, Teller, Falwell, etc., is part of the collective national mind, and fair to be used by novelists as long as the fictional nature ~~ix~~ of the use is made clear. I don't believe there is any invasion of privacy, and know that court interpretation of ~~ixixix~~ libel laws allow great latitude in commenting on national political figures.

The idea that I might be somehow stealing the souls of my closest friends has hung me up as a novelist for years. This seems less of a problem as the characters take on their own lives, become less ~~of~~ a simple description of people I know. I want to own up to the fact that yes, I am exploiting the tragic Kennedy story to help make a gripping story, that what I am doing is morally questionable.

Do I loathe Bruce Anderson so much because I am so similar to him?

I doubt that any revision of DP I'm planning now would

make the novel appropriate for publication by Wild Trees Press. Connally isn't becoming Cannelli yet; being Irish is rough enough for him already.

Taking your point of view as well as I can, I don't think it would be a good idea for Wild Trees to publish DP. The vibrations it would stir up could create problems for you. I very deeply want your publishing endeavor to succeed, and even more so for our lives to unfold together in harmony and bliss.

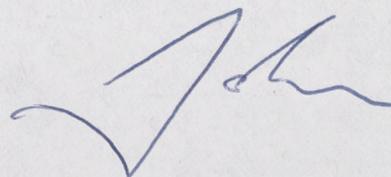
You and Jan Wax are talking about juice fasting, my friend Bump City Al in Oakland is asking me about what really happened at Port Chicago--Dream President is already doing its work!

I'm hoping that DP has worked a lot of polemic, a lot of cartoonery out of my style, and that I can get on to doing a real novel ~~and~~ about real ~~xxx~~ people. As a writer I really feel like a placer miner, and there's a lot of gravel around the nuggets. I look forward to submitting a more down-to-Earth work to you in the future.

Meanwhile, we intend to tone up "Dream President" and float it around some more. I'm a real babe in the woods when it comes to marketing, and would appreciate any leads you might have to offer. Do you know any publisher or agent who might find DP appropriate? I will understand if, for moral or other reasons, you don't want to have anything else to do ~~xxx~~ with the work.

The royalties aren't pouring in yet, so I'm spending a lot of time these days harvesting seaweed. I'd love to see you anytime. Drop in or we'll get together when the time is right.

Love,



John Lewallen

Box 372

Navarro, CA 95463



Alice Walker + Robert Allen  
Wild Trees Press  
Box 378  
Navarro, CA 95463

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# Feminist Bookstore News

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Called me  
OK  
6/13

June 5, 1985

Robert Allen  
Wild Trees Press  
Box 378  
Navarro, Ca 95463

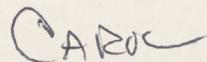
Dear Robert,

Enclosed is the ad rate card you requested. Please note that we have a special rate for movement presses. If your new book is coming out in October, you may want to advertise in the September issue to give bookstores a chance to place their orders prior to publication date.

I talked to Sheila MacCallum about the listing for the cards and posters. She was more than willing to run the ad, splitting the cost with you, but didn't have time to write the copy for it. I said I'd draft a copy subject to your approval, then realized that I didn't have a phone number for you, and then, in the writing of it, realized that I was working from having seen the cards a couple months ago at Womencrafts, and the poster in the blur of ABA. Not the conditions for writing good ad copy, to say the least! So I'm enclosing a draft with the required terms, etc. I'll be glad to run it, or a revision from you. If you haven't the time for it either, I'll have tried, anyway! If you want to run it, please let me know by the 12th. If I'm not here, you can leave the new copy on the phone machine, and I'll pick it up from there.

I'm certainly looking forward to your new book!

Yours in spreading the words,



Carol Seajay

## CARDS

Alice Walker notecards and poster! Eight B&W photo-cards in a series, blank inside, Walker's poems on the back. Poster is a beautiful 4-color poster. We've had a wonderful response in stores across the country. Cards 7.50/dozen (\$1.25 retail), Poster \$6 (\$12 retail). Minimum order \$50, first order prepay or COD. Published by Wild Tress Press, distributed by Pegasus Press (A woman-owned company), 1611 Edith St., Berkeley, CA 94703.

## Who Reads FBN?

The Feminist Bookstore News is the in-house publication of the feminist bookstore movement. Begun as a newsletter in 1976, FBN has grown from a six page mimeograph to a 40 page news magazine. It is read with a fine-toothed comb in the 100 + feminist bookstores in the US and Canada.

FBN's articles focus on the concerns of feminist booksellers. The "Books" section of the magazine announces and reviews new titles from both the feminist press and the mainstream press. The letters column discusses and debates the issues and controversies of the feminist book world.

FBN is also read by a growing number of librarians, women's studies teachers, feminist reviewers, and feminist review journals, as well as by feminist booksellers in Europe, Australia, and New Zealand.

*"The News is literally where I find half of the new books we order. It is THE communications tool of the feminist bookstores — the publishers don't know how lucky they are that FBN exists!"*

Mary Farmer  
Lammas Bookshop  
Washington, DC

*"FBN is an incredible resource for feminist bookstores. It's FBN that keeps us informed of new releases from major publishers and hard-to-find small press titles. It's great reading, too."*

Jesse Meredith  
A Woman's Place Bookstore  
Oakland, California



P.O. Box 882554, San Francisco, California 94188

Feminist  
Bookstore  
News 

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# Feminist Bookstore News

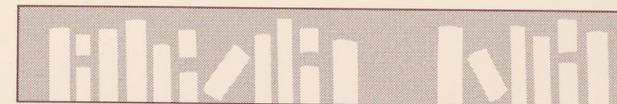
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## Advertising Rate Card

Effective April 1985

"The Publishers Weekly of the feminist bookstore world."

The Feminist Bookstore News  
PO Box 882554  
San Francisco, California 94188



## Rates - Standard

Full Page .....	\$300
Half Page .....	175
Quarter Page .....	85
Per Column Inch .....	25

## Rates - Contract

Full Page .....	\$270
Half Page .....	158
Quarter Page .....	77
Per Column Inch .....	23

Contract rates apply to 3 + ads reserved at one time. Ads may be placed in any issue or combination of issues within 12 months to qualify for discount. 10% position premium.

## Schedule

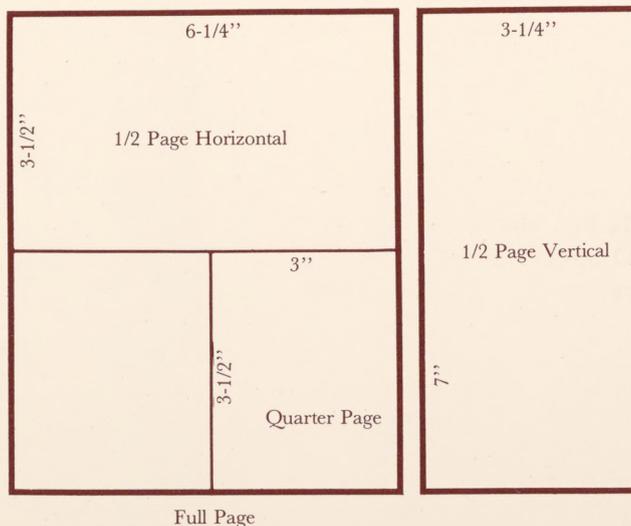
Issue	Reservations	Copy
Jan/Feb	Dec 15	Dec 26
Mar/Apr	Feb 15	Feb 25
May/June	Apr 15	Apr 25
July/Aug	June 15	June 25
Sept/Oct	Aug 15	Aug 25
Nov/Dec	Oct 15	Oct 25

## Mechanical

Preferred artwork is camera ready, actual size, with art in position. Screens up to 110 line. FBN production work will be billed at prevailing rates.

## Specifications

	Width	Height
Full Page	6-1/4"	7"
Half Page (Horizontal)	6-1/4"	3-1/2"
Half Page (Vertical)	3-1/4"	7"
Quarter Page	3"	3-1/2"
Column Inch	3"	1"



## Discounts

15% standard agency discount to recognized ad agencies. 2% of net allowed for payment within 10 days of invoice date. Invoices not paid within 60 days lose all discounts and entire list price is then due upon demand.

## The Fine Print

Advertiser assumes all responsibility and liability for all claims arising from their advertisements and will protect publisher (FBN) from same.

FBN reserves the right to reject or cancel any advertising that does not conform to the standards of the publication.

Please inquire for mailing list rental rates.

Subscription rates are \$35 per year.

Carol Seajay, Managing Editor

The Feminist Bookstore News  
 PO Box 882554  
 San Francisco, California 94188  
 (415) 431-2093

For UPS and courier delivery:  
 The Feminist Bookstore News  
 456 14th St. #6  
 San Francisco, CA 94103

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# Feminist Bookstore News

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## MOVEMENT PRESS AD RATES

No Muss, No Fuss  
No Contracts  
No Tricky Little Discounts

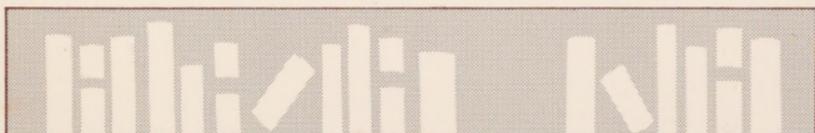
just

**A FULL 50% DISCOUNT**

Full Page . . . . .	\$150
Half Page . . . . .	88
Quarter Page . . . . .	43
Per Column Inch . . . . .	13

Plain & Simple (& Cheap)

*Payment Due with Ad Copy*



Sent 6/6/25

WTP

Publishers of  
Alice Walker notes and  
+ poster, A Piece of  
Chin, short stories by  
J. C. Ruyter, Escape  
From Billy's Bank for  
(novel) by T. D. M. Grant  
Write in Catalog

from Anne

Blomberg Review

PO Box 8928

Denver, CO 80201

\$135 for three mos Jul  
Sept  
Oct  
Sent \$75 with order/1930

June 1, 1985

Carolyn J. Green  
10320 Joy Rd. #2  
Detroit, MI 48204

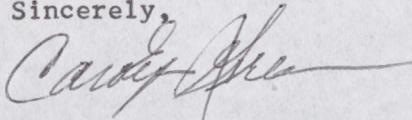
Alice Walker  
c/o Washington Square Press  
1230 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, N.Y. 10020

Dear Alice:

Congratulations! The success of your books is certainly an inspiration to other black writers, myself included. I read in yesterday's Detroit News about your life and literary success. We have one thing in common, I too lived in Africa. My son was born there and the situation I lived under was so terrifying I thought I'd never see home again. That is the subject of my first novel.

You have a true fighting spirit. How do you do it. If you ever find the time, please drop me a line. Maybe by then, I too will be published.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Green

✓  
asked her  
to send  
me  
more

*Melita Easters Hayes*

6068 GRAND FOREST COURT • NORCROSS, GEORGIA 30092

*Porter  
+ 310*

May 30, 1985

Mrs. Walker,

I am organizing a gallery of famous Georgia women to be displayed at a reception for the National Women's Political Caucus Convention hosted by the Georgia Women's Political Caucus on Thursday, June the twenty-seventh. I would like to include you in the gallery with your permission. Other women featured include: Juliet Gordon Lowe, Coretta Scott King, Margie Pitts Hames, Rosalyn Carter, Joanne Woodward, Charlene Hunter Gault, Lena Horne, Rebecca Latimer Felton, and Wyomia Tyas. Each woman will be represented by a poster-sized photograph and a short biographical sketch. If you would, please have a picture and a biographical sketch sent as soon as possible to:

Melita Easters Hayes

6068 Grand Forest Court

Norcross, Georgia 30092

After the reception the posters and information will be donated to the local school system. Thank-you for your co-operation.

Sincerely,

*Melita Easters Hayes*  
Melita Easters Hayes

*Sent  
4/17*

28 May 1985

NO  
6/4

Ms. Mardi Verne  
Post Office Box 2444  
Hendersonville, NC 28739  
704/685-9359

Ms. Alice Walker  
Wild Trees Press  
Post Office Box 378  
Navarro, CA 95463

Dear Ms. Walker,

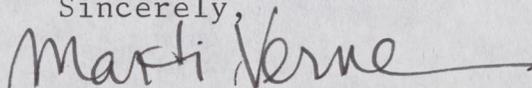
This letter is to make contact with you and make sure that I've uncovered the correct address for Wild Trees Press.

I shall be sending along a book proposal on Thursday of this week, but there is more that I need to speak with you about. I have two sons (15 & 11) who are also artists and need better schooling for their last few years. For this, I'm hoping to move to California this summer, but as yet have no firm plans. I am, however, close to the end of my savings, and would appreciate it if you could treat the forthcoming proposal with expedience. (...remembering the short cash situation of a single-mother-writer's life.)

Also, since I can reach noone at the business phone number which was given me, I wonder if you need some office assistance; perhaps I could be of help. I've done free-lance editing for years, along with the more traditional office-work skills. Though I hope that soon my writing will pay the bills, I would enjoy in the meantime helping you in your endeavor and also in helping myself get relocated.

I know I am meant to work with you; we are both so deeply involved with the struggle for human rights. I knew it as soon as I read In Search of Our Mother's Gardens. More details follow with the proposal; I would appreciate you contacting me so that we might talk further. In the meantime, I anxiously await your reply.

Sincerely,

  
Mardi Verne

21 May 1985

Rahmond  
6/21

Ms. Mardi Verne  
Post Office Box 2444  
Hendersonville, NC 28739  
704/685-9359

Ms. Alice Walker  
Wild Trees Press  
Post Office Box 378  
Navarro, CA 95463

Dear Ms. Walker,

I find I spend more and more time with you these days; pick up your books and always find something new. Established writers tell aspiring newcomers to learn their craft by studying good authors, to pick out what makes it work and reproduce that success in one's own style. I've found many fine authors to learn from ... you are my favorite; In Search of Our Mother's Gardens, to me, your best. The way you put words together makes them sing, makes them magical and delicious ... it's too good. I am a newcomer, and your writing is inspiration, makes me better. Like Zora Neale Hurston is to you, you have become to me, my mentor. And I thank you.

The interview with you in New Age Journal was right on time. Explains, more, the many ways we are connected; our thinking (on religion, groups, racism, Reagan, so many things) is remarkably the same. It shows even better the need for the work we do; that two women with such different backgrounds can come to the same place in the heart. (And manage to get it down on paper.)

I have been living the research for a book, entitled What Goes Around, Comes Around, for eighteen years. It is time for its' completion and getting it in print. I noticed, with great pleasure, that you have Wild Trees Press growing. How encouraging that I may now submit a proposal for this book and know it will be understood, that someone will even know what the title *means*; or care.

Therefore, following this introductory letter is:

- that book proposal
- Chapter One
- Chapter Two
- Chapter Three beginning -> -> a general outline
- six original poems
- partial bibliography
- a picture .. give you my face to put with the rest
- some inspirational words ...

... all for your review.

Again, for your outstanding contributions to our lives, we thank you; for myself, that you encourage me to reach forever upward. Justice and Hope. Yes, my friend, those are the answers.

Sincerely,

Mandi Verne

CHOICE

MAY '85

Language and  
Literature

English and  
American

COOPER, J. California. *A piece of mine*. Wild Trees Press, 1984. 124p 84-051985. 7.95 pa ISBN 0-931125-00-6

This is Cooper's first collection of short stories and each of them is memorable for, among other things, the fine manner in which she conveys the speech patterns and idioms typical of rural black women. Each story is narrated by a woman who is a close friend and confidante to the woman whose tale is being told. In some cases the reader is being asked to eavesdrop on a conversation, in others the narrator speaks directly to the reader, but in either case we are impressed with the narrator's craftiness—or her skill in keeping us thoroughly engrossed in what she is saying. By focusing on the rural black folk experiences, Cooper is writing in the tradition of Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, and Alice Walker. In fact, this collection bears a striking resemblance to Walker's *In Love and in Trouble* (CH, Jan '74) in that it recounts a series of oppressive situations in which black women often get caught when they try to find and maintain a relationship with a man. The intriguing title, *A Piece of Mine*, with its accompanying cover photograph of a colorful, homespun crazy quilt, functions as a metonymy for Cooper's intimate understanding and sympathy for her women characters, and the absurd situations through which they struggle. Recommended for college and university libraries with large collections in Afro-American and women's literature.—A. Deck, *University of Illinois at Urbana—Champaign*

# The New York Public Library

Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations

*Sent 6/1*

The Branch Libraries

JEFFERSON MARKET REGIONAL BRANCH  
425 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10011  
212-242-5233

May 24, 1985

Wild Trees Press  
P.O. Box 378  
Navarro, CA 95463

To Those Concerned:

The Notable Books Council of the American Library Association is now considering titles for inclusion in its list of Notable Books - 1985 (published between December 1, 1984 and November 30, 1985). The titles listed below have been nominated as of June 1. Nominations come from Notable Books Council members, and several participating public libraries.

Members of the Council come from a variety of libraries in diverse parts of the country, and all nominated titles are not always readily available. In the past, many publishers have been very generous in sending review copies to Council members. We are asking you to provide copies, if possible, to the librarians listed on the attached roster.

Unbiased consideration of each title will not be affected if you are not able to send the books; however, by sending them you are assured that each Council member has seen your publications. The Council meets in July, October, and in January 1986, when the final list is produced.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter. I would be happy to answer any further questions that you might have regarding the work of the Notable Books Council.

Sincerely,

*Marcia Lane Purcell*

Marcia Lane Purcell  
Supervising Adult Librarian

Cooper, J. CALIFORNIA: A PIECE OF MINE

American Library Association  
NOTABLE BOOKS COUNCIL, 1985-86

The Addresses provided below are to be used for mailing review copies to members of the Notable Books Council.

Dorothy Nyren, Chair  
Central Library/Special Services  
Brooklyn Public Library  
Grand Army Plaza  
Brooklyn, New York 11238

Jeri Cole Baker  
Dallas Public Library  
9495 Marsh Lane  
Dallas, TX 75220

Anne K. Halderman  
San Francisco Public Library  
Civic Center  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Jane K. Hirsch  
Montgomery County Public Libraries  
99 Maryland Ave.  
Rockville, MD 20850

Donald Jacobsen  
Mine Hill Road  
Roxbury, CT 06783

Diane Gordon Kadanoff  
225 Flagler Dr.  
Marshfield, MA 02050

Margie A. Knoedel  
Program Office  
12601 Ridgedale Drive  
Minnetonka, MN 55343

Teresa M. Portilla  
1342 ~~1246~~ S. Wellsley Ave. --no. 12 Apt. 207  
Los Angeles, CA 90025

Marcia Lane Purcell  
The New York Public Library  
Jefferson Market Regional Library  
425 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10011

Dorothy Rasmussen  
Skokie Public Library  
5215 Oakton St.  
Skokie, IL 60077

Donald E. Wright  
Evanston Public Library  
1703 Orrington Ave.  
Evanston, IL 60201

Robert Wagenknecht  
Chesterfield County Public Library  
9501 Lori Road  
Chesterfield, VA 23832

Cooper  
p. 8x 7431  
DCK 94601

~~Harold A. Koebel  
Cahoto Community Library  
8807 Portland Ave. South  
Bloomington, MN 55420~~

ard Lowitt  
Hickok Reports on the  
me provides an excellent introduction  
on the lives of ordinary citizens through  
primary sources written at the time, one by a  
by nearly 200 individuals indicating their  
d emotions as they grappled with a crisis they  
brought great anguish to their lives. McElvaine  
ely 15,000 letters to provide a  
vides into three sections: The Early Depression  
Thirties, and Reactions to the Depression. The  
ed into eight chapters, six of which are includ  
g the stark reality of life experienced by millions  
trations in conjunction with the letters—their  
g, and capitalization unchanged—further conve  
ynicism of the various groups represented: mid  
children, rural residents, and blacks, among  
duction and in brief statements introducing ea  
vides a basic historical outline to place the letters  
e, plus an incisive discussion of responses, and the  
delineates various types of responses, and the  
leanor Roosevelt, and occasionally other pr  
of the New Deal, and in  
s. agencies

NOTABLE  
BOOKS  
1983



*Radosh, Ronald, and Joyce Milton. The Rosenberg File: A Search for the Truth.* Holt. Were Julius and Ethel Rosenberg guilty of treason? An exhaustive analysis of interviews and newly available government material provides thought-provoking answers.

*Rockwell, John. All American Music: Composition in the Late Twentieth Century.* Knopf. Musical forms, from classical through salsa, are analyzed in twenty essays focusing on representative American composers.

*Rushdie, Salman. Shame.* Knopf. A chimerical tale set in a country that may or may not be modern Pakistan, where everything is seen at a slight angle to reality.

*Silverman, Jonathan. For the World to See: The Life of Margaret Bourke-White.* Viking/Studio. A photobiography of the photojournalist who recorded important social and historical events of the recent past in her magnificent pictures and poignant prose.

*Song, Cathy. Picture Bride.* Yale Univ. Pr. Colorful and luminous poems gracefully and quietly etch memories of childhood and the lives of people journeying into the world.

*Theroux, Paul. The London Embassy.* Houghton. In eighteen short stories, the narrator, an American diplomat, observes the humorous eccentricities of both American and British colleagues at his new post.

*Updike, John. Hugging the Shore: Essays and Criticism.* Knopf. A collection of brilliantly conceived reviews and essays from the noted American writer.

*Warner, William W. Distant Water: The Fate of the North Atlantic Fisherman.* Atlantic/Little. The plight of the beleaguered fishermen of five nations, who toil heroically under adverse conditions, and an indictment of the factory-ship system.

*Wideman, John Edgar. Sent for You Yesterday.* Avon. A richly allusive novel of conflict between individualism and family connectedness as experienced growing up black in Pittsburgh.

*Wilcox, Fred A. Waiting for an Army to Die: The Tragedy of Agent Orange.* Random. Against the indifference of government bureaucrats and chemical manufacturers, Vietnam veterans battle for recompense for the physical and emotional damage to them and their children.

*Wright, Stephen. Meditations in Green.* Scribner. A gut-wrenching, drug-drenched Vietnam War novel, juxtaposing the horror and banality of military life with the unique pain of adjustment back in "the world."

**Notable Books 1983** is compiled by the Notable Books Council, Reference and Adult Services Division of the American Library Association. Council members are chosen for their experience in the critical evaluation of adult books and service to adult readers. The members of the Notable Books Council of 1983 were: Kenneth L. Ferstl, chair, School of Library and Information Sciences, North Texas State University (Denton, Tex.); Jean Adelman, The University Museum, University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, Pa.); Jeri Cole Baker, Dallas Public Library (Dallas, Tex.); Lillian H. Barker, Prince George's County Memorial Library System (Laurel, Md.); Katherine A. Golomb, Westport Library (Westport, Conn.); Anne K. Halderman, San Francisco Public Library (San Francisco, Calif.); Jane K. Hirsch, Montgomery County Public Libraries (Rockville, Md.); Margie Knoedel, Hennepin County Library (Minnetonka, Minn.); Dorothy Nyren, Brooklyn Public Library (Brooklyn, N.Y.); Dem Polachek, Stark County District Library (Canton, Ohio); Marcia Lane Purcell, New York Public Library (New York, N.Y.); and Bill Ott, consultant, *Booklist*.

The Notable Books Council gratefully acknowledges the help of the Council's participating libraries and the support of the Carnegie Reading List Fund.

Many of the books on this list are available in braille, talking books, or large type. Consult your Regional Library for the Blind.

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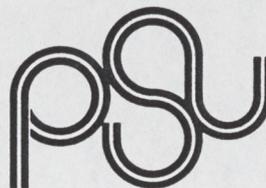
ISBN: 0-8389-5661-0

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American Library Association  
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1001-5000, 40%; 5000+, 50%

May 20, 1985

Ms. Magazine,  
The Editor



### An Open Letter To Alice Walker

Dear Ms. Walker;

When one of my students brought me an article about China in Ms. Magazine written by a favorite author, I was pleasantly surprised, and immediately prepared myself to be delighted and educated by your excellent prose. After all, I had enjoyed The Color Purple in a way that I rarely enjoyed any kind of writing; it was a book I could not put down until I had read it from cover to cover.

After I read the article, however, I was very disappointed. I felt very strongly that China had been misrepresented and distorted in your article, and as a specialist in Chinese language and literature, I would like to point these misrepresentations and distortions out to you.

One of the many facets of your article which struck me was your romanticization and idealization of China through the use of imagery and seductive language. The trees of Beijing, which supposedly indicate a "disinterest in war," are actually something of an illusion in a country that has been deforested so badly that much of the land, including Beijing, turns into dustbowls in the spring. The "mellow" light of Beijing at 40 watts is the result of a lack of electricity so severe that it hinders much-needed industrialization and construction. Buildings are the "backdrop" to people in China only because the economy has prevented development that would provide more housing and work sites. Most people in urban China live in conditions Americans would find intolerably crowded. And Ding Ling, who claims in every public appearance with foreigners that she regrets nothing but lost time, in your article becomes the idealization of everything that is Chinese; actually to many, she has become only a spokesperson for the government, abandoning all of her earlier ideals and fighting spirit.

The next aspect of your presentation that was disconcerting was your insistent condescension towards China and Chinese people. This was clearly indicated in your comments on The True Story of Ah Q, where your "quizzical disbelief" quickly changed into a negative judgement: the story is "exceedingly dull," and the author "can't.....believe a peasant capable of understanding his own oppression." The implication of your immediate judgement, and your lack of reflection on the aspects of Chinese literature, history, society -- everything, in fact -- which must be understood in order to comprehend this story, shows that you put yourself in a position of absolute literary objectivity; your

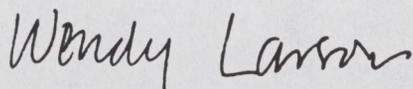
PORTLAND  
STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
p.o. box 751  
portland, oregon  
97207

offhand dismissal of the story implies that someone trained in Western literature has all of the skills necessary to evaluate the writings of a foreign culture, even if this "critic" knows next to nothing about that culture and reads not a word of its language. Strangely, you don't pause to wonder why you cannot see the value of a story the Chinese claim as a masterpiece; you don't suspect that there must be a world of perception that escapes through the gaps of your ignorance about China. In other words, you have put yourself into the role of master towards the object, and ended up doing exactly what you accuse Lu Xun of doing: condescending to your "character." Also, Ah Q is not the first portrayal of a peasant in Chinese literature.

Your condescension is clearly indicated in many other parts of your article. Perhaps "Old Black Joe" is the only song about blacks the Chinese could sing for you, but its "reactionary nature" is an American cultural phenomenon, not something that is attached to the song in China. Can you sing a single Chinese song? Perhaps the Chinese sought out your white friend to ask questions about blacks, but did you seek out anyone Chinese to ask questions about China before you embarked on your trip? China's "years of isolation" has certainly limited its people's knowledge of the "black people's struggle in the United States," but what is your excuse for having missed the Chinese people's struggle? Your consistent linking of Chinese phenomenon to the black experience is not only a distortion, but also shows an unwillingness to let go of your own safe haven of cultural experience and reach out into something you will not understand. In this light, your travel companions' hesitation of whether to choose Coca-cola, Orange Crush, beer or mineral water appears admirable in contrast to your own arrogant confidence.

I want to clarify my own position in making these criticisms. I do not object to your traveling to China, not even to your lack of background work to prepare yourself to understand what you see when you arrive. But a trip should be just that, a trip; it does not qualify you to write about China in a nationally distributed magazine. China is a real place, populated with real people who deal with real problems; it is not a place that exists solely within your perceptions or impressions. If you are going to write about China in an influential magazine, you have a responsibility to ensure that your audience sees some of this reality, and is not misled by distortions, misrepresentations, and idealizations. China has suffered such abuse at the hands of foreigners much too long.

Sincerely,



Wendy Larson

Asst. Professor  
Chinese Language and Literature  
Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literatures



May 20, 1985

PORTLAND  
STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
p. o. box 751  
portland, oregon  
97207  
503/229-3609

Ms. Alice Walker  
Wild Trees Press  
PO Box 378  
Navarro, CA 95463

Dear Ms. Walker;

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I have sent to Ms. Magazine. It concerns your recent article about China published in this magazine. I have also sent a copy to Susan Kirschner, who I have met and heard speak here in Portland.

I hope the magazine will publish my open letter, but if it doesn't I still hope you will consider the issues I have raised and let me know your ideas.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wendy Larson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Wendy Larson

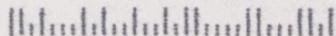
Asst. Professor  
Chinese Language and Literature

Larson, FL

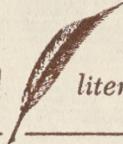
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Ms. Alice Walker  
Wild Trees Press  
PO Box 378  
Navarro, CA 95463

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FRANCES GOLDIN

 literary agent

---

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May 16, 1985

Robert Allen  
Wild Trees Press  
Post Office Box 378  
Navarro, California 95463

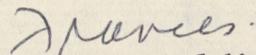
Dear Robert:

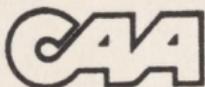
I was pleased to receive your first published book, and even more pleased after I started to read it. California Cooper is, indeed, a talented writer and it was wise to kickoff your list with her work. I'm glad it is doing well, and hope it does better and better.

Thank you for the information and enclosures on JoAnne's book. The blurbs from well-known writers are impressive and the schedule you have laid out sounds good to me. I am delighted that we are all optimistic about JoAnne's work and are supporting it to the best of our combined abilities.

I hope your trip to London with Alice was smashing and that you had some fun, as well as the hard work a tour always is. One of these days I look forward to an in-person meeting.

Sincerely-

  
Frances Goldin



**Creative Artists Agency, Inc.**

May 6, 1985

Dear Robert:

Thank you for the run down on Navarro. Being from Santa Rosa, and missing all the "green" of up north; it was nice to hear about it all.

Best of luck with your present/future projects.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Christine'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a blue oval scribble.

Christine Mugridge  
Assistant to Andrea Newman

CM:ms

# Creative Artists Agency, Inc.

Literary and Talent Agency  
1888 Century Park East  
Los Angeles, California 90067  
(213) 277-4545  
Telex: 688467 CREART LSA

*Send  
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May 6, 1985

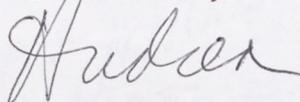
Robert Allen  
Wild Tree Press  
P.O. Box 378  
Navarro, CA 95463

RE: PIECE OF MINE by J. California Cooper

Dear Robert:

I am returning the above mentioned book that you let me read. I was moved by this collection's authentic and often brutal portrait of Black society. However, I could not find any one story that offered enough in plot or character to warrant it as film material. I think J. California Cooper is an exceptional writer. Once again, thank you for letting me read this special selection of short stories.

Best Wishes,



Andrea Newman

AN:cam  
Encl.

Mr. William Gross, Editor  
Simon and Schuster  
1230 Ave. of the Americas  
New York, NY 10020

March 15, 1985

Dear Mr. Gross:

At the suggestion of Alice Walker I am sending you under separate cover a copy of A PIECE OF MINE, the first book published by Wild Trees Press.

The book has been getting excellent reviews, some of which I have enclosed. Publication date was December 15, 1984, and within three months we sold out the first printing of 3,000 copies and have now ordered a second printing. Most of our sales were here in the Bay Area.

We feel that this book will do well in a national market. ESSENCE magazine has bought one of the stories for an upcoming issue, and we are working with other national publications, such as MS. Magazine and MOTHER JONES, to secure additional reviews and publicity.

Next Fall we will be publishing ~~two new books~~ a first novel entitled ESCAPE FROM BILLY'S BAR-B-QUE (a poignant and humorous story about a Southern white woman living in Boston in the late 1960s), ~~and an emotionally powerful collection of letters written by readers in response to THE COLOR PURPLE.~~

Alice said you mentioned the possibility that Simon and Schuster might be interested in working with us on distribution of one or more of these titles. If so, I would like to follow up on this with you. We presently have non-exclusive distribution agreements with Bookpeople, Publishers Group West and Inland Books.

Please drop me a note if you are interested in pursuing this matter. I can also be reached by phone at (707) 895-3681 (Navarro) or (415) 569-4647 (Oakland).

Sincerely,

Robert Allen

RLA/ea

# Fawcett Books

201 East 50 Street, New York, NY 10022

212-751-2600

March 1, 1985

Mr. Robert Allen  
Wild Trees Press  
Box 378  
Novarro, California 95463

Dear Mr. Allen:

I have just read about Wild Trees Press in Small Press magazine (January-February 1985). I am an Associate Editor at Fawcett Books and would like to see the Wild Trees books for consideration as paperback reprints.

I wish you success in your new venture and look forward to seeing the books.

Best wishes,



Nancy S. Alderman  
Associate Editor

NA/ks

Nancy S. Alderman  
Associate Editor  
Fawcett Books  
201 East 50th Street  
New York, NY 10022

March 18, 1985

Dear Ms. Alderman:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the possibility of Fawcett Books doing paperback reprints of Wild Trees Press titles.

Under separate cover I am sending you a copy of our first book, A PIECE OF MINE by J. California Cooper. The book has been very well received by reviewers (see enclosures). It was published on December 15, 1984, and we have already sold out the initial print run of 3,000 copies. Most of these were sold through local distributors in the San Francisco Bay Area. A second print run has been ordered. We definitely feel that this book would do well in a national market.

Next Fall we will publish a second book, ESCAPE FROM BILLY'S BAR-B-QUE, a poignant and humorous first novel about a young white Southern woman growing up in Boston in the late 1960s. If this book is of interest to you I could forward a copy of the manuscript and cover art.

We would be open to discussing various ways in which Fawcett and Wild Trees might cooperate on distribution of our books

I look forward to hearing from you. I may also be reached by phone at (707) 895-3681 (Navarro) or (415) 569-4647 (Oakland).

Sincerely,

Robert Allen

RLA/ea

3/15/15

Dear -

I am very pleased to write a letter of recommendation for Linda Shipp.

Linda is one of the most ~~and~~ capable students I have taught. She took two of my classes, Black History and Ethnic Heritage in America. In both classes she wrote ~~for~~ excellent papers and made high grades on ~~exams~~. <sup>Although she sometimes appears a bit quiet & withdrawn</sup> She is an articulate and highly motivated young woman. She is a clear thinker and ~~she~~ is able to hold her own in open discussions. ~~I was quite impressed~~

I was quite impressed with her <sup>intelligence</sup> seriousness and <sup>her</sup> enthusiasm for learning.

I would rank her among the top 10% of all students I have taught. I have no doubts about her ability to successfully undertake graduate study, and I give her my highest recommendation.

# SMALL PRESS

*The Magazine of Independent Book Publishing*

called 12/10/84

November 28, 1984

Robert Allen  
Wild Trees Press  
P.O. Box 378  
Navarro, CA 95463

Dear Robert Allen:

Thanks so much for the copy of A Piece of Mine.  
The cover is attractive and the text well designed;  
Wild Trees is off to a great start!

Enclosed is a copy the short piece I wrote up  
after our conversation at the Writers Conference.  
We plan to run it in the Names column of January  
issue. However, my editors feel that since Wild Trees  
is a partnership, the piece is lacking without quotes  
from Alice Walker herself. Could Ms. Walker give us  
a comment or two on such things as how she likes her  
role as publisher, how active is she in the running  
of the press, her reactions to the manuscripts that  
have been submitted, her expectations for the press,  
etc. Nothing lengthy, three or four sentences would  
be fine. To have both your voices would truly give  
balance to the piece.

I know you are very busy people and I appreciate  
any help you can give me. Since my deadline is Dec. 10,  
Ms. Walker can jot down her thoughts and send it to me  
before then, or I will call during that week and get  
the quotes over the phone.

Thanks so much again. I look forward to reading  
A Piece of Mine.

Sincerely,

Marianne Yen  
Marianne Yen

921-7276

# Heyday Books

Post Office Box 9145 ★ Berkeley California 94709 ★ Telephone 415 549-3564

November 9, 1984

Dear Robert and Alice:

After the printing, cometh the printer's bill, and here it is.

I had it put on my account, so you'll have to make the check out to Heyday Books. And before the end of the month, please, so I can get the check deposited and then send Edwards Brothers payment before the due date of 12/5.

Thanks and warmest regards,

  
Malcolm Margolin

P.S. Could we order books directly from you at what discount? Several of the people around here would like to get ten or so copies each to give out as Christmas presents, and I could probably get together an order for forty or fifty books, if you'll let me know the price.

\$ 3,591.62

pd 11/26  
to Heyday  
ck 193

9/29

Hello Alice -

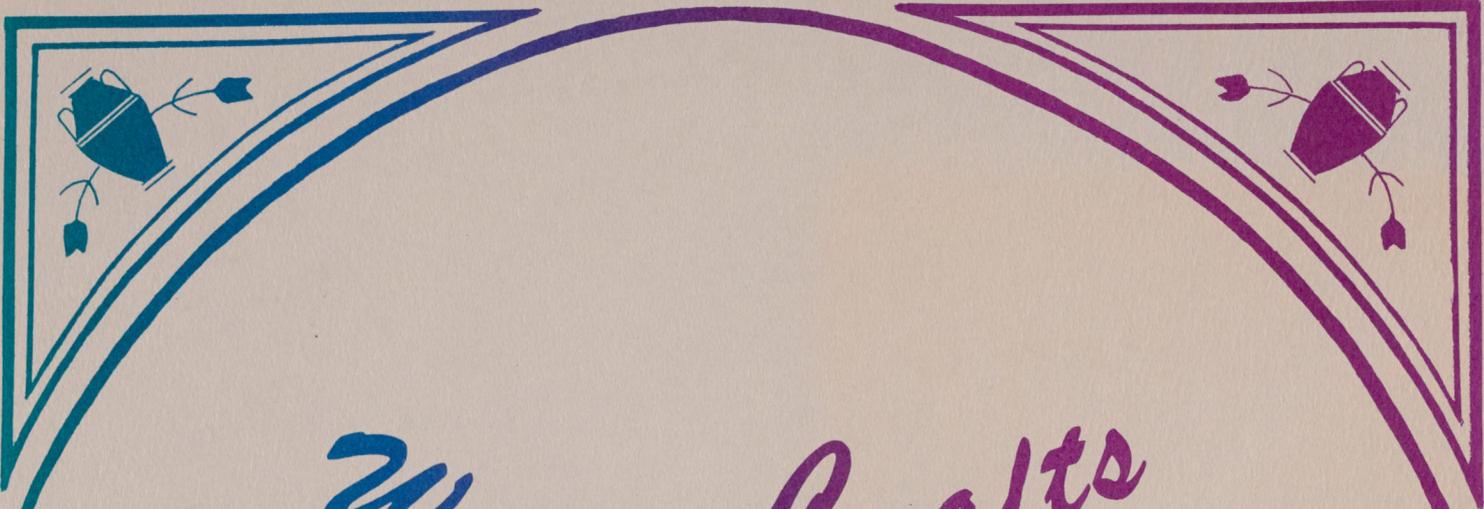
Seems that your 895-3472 # gives no refusal -  
anyhow - wanted to order more cards from you  
since they have been "discovered" here.

2 dz. each of: #001, #002, #007 & #008 also #004. We  
spoke of my having an exclusive in this immediate  
area - like, the street, the mission? Possible? If  
not ok, but I always ask.

Have been wanting to tell you about a 93-year  
old black man named James Downs who lives  
here in the city. Looks like 69: a memory like a  
19 year old (no kidding!) he played the first  
black Uncle Tom on Broadway. Worked his  
way through college as (yup!) a Pullman Porter -  
has many books filled with news clips about  
himself. Totally interesting. Showed his pictures  
to Robert (Allen) a while back. Anyhow, I  
somehow feel you'd find him super-interesting.  
His memory will astound you - a gentle man.  
He was at the Apollo when Etta Ethel Waters did her  
first stage thing. He has stories for days. ???  
Nothing like writing to a writer - whaba-mash!

This was an order  
for more cards -

Pell for WeW



*Woman Crafts  
West*



*Mary Collins  
83*

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of year



Aug. 9, 1984

Dear Bob,

I've missed you by phone  
several times - hence the note.

County business licenses  
annually cost \$30 for retail  
and services, \$42 for wholesale.  
The penalty for not having one  
is a \$500 fine and/or 6 months  
in jail (the woman informs me  
that she's never seen anyone  
do jail time over a license, thank  
god).

The county assessor's offices  
scan such diverse documents  
as new business license lists and  
the yellow pages to pick up people  
to other tax. The tax on business  
property is akin to a property  
tax i.e., 1.2% annually on  
equipment and  
structures.  
-over

(They no longer tax business inventories.) That means there'd be a \$24 tax on a \$2000 word processor. They adjust this value annually as the item depreciates but, e.g., the feds might use a 3 or 5 year schedule to fully depreciate an item and the county on the same item would use 12 years, thus keeping their tax base up. Additionally while they're depreciating an asset for its use they're appreciating it to reflect its new cost, e.g., a \$2000 word processor in year 2 may have depreciated to \$1833 but <sup>10%</sup>inflation over that year means they value it at, say, \$2017 so second year tax is still \$24.

You can't win.

Regards,  
Berri R. L.

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

11150 EAST BOULEVARD AT UNIVERSITY CIRCLE  
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44106 CABLE ADDRESS: MUSART CLEVELAND  
EVAN H. TURNER, DIRECTOR TELEPHONE: (216) 421-7340

6 August 1984

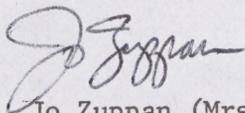
Mr. Robert Allen  
Wild Trees Press  
P.O. 378  
Navarro, CA 95463

Dear Mr. Allen:

While I am happy to help you obtain duplicate color separations of the plate V in our book The Afro-American Tradition in Decorative Arts, you still should, and indeed must, make every effort to contact Richard H. and Kathleen L. Hulan, the owners of the quilt. I don't think I made that clear enough when we talked on the phone on Friday as I was in the middle of a conference with an author here. I can't take it upon myself to act in their behalf, though we can give you permission to use our photograph, when you have their approval.

If the address (1201 Tinnin Ford Road, no. 128, Austin, TX 78744) fails to locate them, perhaps John Vlatch could help. I think the people at the University of Indiana Press could help <sup>find him?</sup> if he no longer teaches at the University of Texas at Austin. Of course it is also possible that someone at the University of Texas at Austin could even help locate the Hulans. Professor Vlatch is probably your best bet, though, and there must be academic directories where he would be listed.

Sincerely yours,



Jo Zuppan (Mrs.)  
Associate Editor of Publications

JZ:hs

Sent second mailgram 8/12

Called Univ. of Texas (Austin) Watch

8/21 512 471-3434  
3365

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Hollow - not at U. of Texas

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Mr. Robert Allen  
1414 Texas Press  
P.O. Box 328  
Tevano, CA 91267  
Dear Mr. Allen:

While I am sorry to hear you of this, I hope color separation of the plate  
to our book, The Afro-American Tradition in Decorative Arts, you still should  
and indeed must, take every effort to contact Richard H. and Eleanor L. Johnson  
the center of the matter. I don't think I made that clear enough when we talked  
on the phone on Friday as I was in the middle of a conference with an author.  
I can't take it upon myself to act in their behalf, though we can give you  
permission to use our photograph, when you have their approval.

If the address (1201 Tenth Ford Road, no. 122, Austin, TX 78744) fails to  
locate that person, John Watch could help. I think the people at the University  
of Illinois could help; if he no longer teaches at the University of Texas  
at Austin, of course it is also possible that someone at the University of Texas  
at Austin could even help locate the Helms. Professor Watch is probably your  
best bet, though, and there must be academic directories where he would be listed.

Sincerely yours,

To: Susan (Mrs.)  
Associate Editor of Blackboard

Yours

But record newspaper 8/15

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ROBERT ALLEN,  
GENERAL MANAGER  
WILD TREES PRESS  
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NAVARRO CA 95463

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RICHARD AND KATHLEEN HULAN  
1201 TINNINFORD RD APT 128  
AUSTIN TX 78744

REQUEST PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE DETAILS OF QUILT OF YOURS WHICH  
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PAGE 138. REPRODUCTION WOULD APPEAR ON COVER OF NEW BOOK WE ARE  
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ALICE WALKER, RA  
PO BOX 378  
NAVARRO CA 95463

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RICHARD AND KATHLEEN HULAN  
201 TINNIN FORD RD #128  
AUSTIN TX 78744

REQUEST PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE DETAIL OF QUILT OF YOURS WHICH  
APPEARED IN "THE AFRO-AMERICAN TRADITION IN DECORATIVE ARTS," FACING  
PAGE 138. REPRODUCTION WOULD APPEAR ON COVER OF NEW BOOK WE ARE  
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JA

Wild Trees Press  
P.O. Box 378  
Navarro, CA 95463  
August 6, 1984

Ms. Frances Goldin  
305 East 11th Street  
New York, NY 10003

Dear Ms. Goldin:

As per our recent conversation with JoAnne Brasil I am sending you enclosed a proposed publishing agreement between her and Wild Trees Press.

If this agreement is acceptable she should sign it and initial each page and return both copies to us. We will then send a signed copy to her.

If there are any questions you may call me at (707) 895-3681 or in Oakland at (415) 569-4647.

Sincerely,

ra

Robert Allen, General Manager  
Wild Trees Press

July 30

Re: Joanne Brazil

We are to call on Sat. or Fri night  
re: dinner with her & friend Myra

Agent: Send contract to:

Frances Goldin

305 E. 11th St.

NYC

10003

212-777-0047

called  
Frances  
8/21  
contract ok  
with app

hardcover edition - to reviewing

4. p. 2 should minor reviewed by  
Shelby if author reviewed above

OK

9. a) wants small hardcover edition

Ask  
Publisher

want advance - \$5,000  
10% on first 5,000

\$1,500 - 2,000 OK

9 a) { 12 1/2% for next 10,000  
15% after 15,000

OK

9 d) Change 48 to 50%

OK

9 e) following wording:

OK

author will have first option  
to buy all or part of remaining  
stock at remainder price

10.

OK

100% of first serial, translation rights  
TV, video, movies, dramatic  
& British rights belong to publisher

public

reprint, second serial, book  
CLB 50/50  
with  $\rightarrow$  right to approve by author  
approval of subject design & layout

20%  
to publisher  
on  
British  
rights  

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from  
agent to  
handle  
British  
rights

14.

OK

insert: 25 copies to agent  
for use

At.

new ~~revised~~  
- all rights not being contracted  
shall be reserved to author  
specifically granted <sup>to</sup> publisher

OK

approval of jacket design  
& copy

OK

- flow through clause: <sup>now by</sup> any <sup>means</sup>  
in subsidiary right shall  
be held to author within  
30 days <sup>after</sup> advance ~~received~~  
out.

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- Content on paperback side, not  
to be unreasonably withheld  
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- Best seller: 2, or if on '10-15  
3, or 3-9

NO  
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in paperback edition, unless approved  
(to however to be split)

OK