

1918

12 December 1955

Mr. G. S. Messersmith
Sierra Paracaima 1285
Mexico 10, D.F.

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I was very pleased to receive your letter of December 8 but, of course, it is regrettable that the death of Dr. Sypherd had to prompt it. He will, as you say, be greatly missed by his many friends. Fortunately, the manner of his going was so easy as to have been a blessing, and, in that respect, we are all happy for him because he had worried a good bit about the possibility of a long illness.

Your interest in the publication of his book on curses is heartwarming. Dr. Sypherd and I had discussed many times, too, publication problems that this book presents. Rod Sharp told me of your interest in trying to secure funds for the book's publication. If Knopf would undertake it as you indicate it would be ideal. Upon Rod's inquiry about the book and the value of its publication, I asked several members of our English Department to read the manuscript to discover what shape it was in. The executor of Dr. Sypherd's estate is the Newark Trust Company, the Treasurer of which is Mr. Edward F. Matthews.

I was delighted to hear that you are working on books growing out of your experiences in Europe and Latin America. They will assuredly be interesting and worthwhile not only to your friends but to historians and the general public as well. You are most kind to think again of Mrs. Perkins and me in connection with a visit to Mexico, and in addition to seeing something of the country, spending a little time with you and your good wife. Sometime we may well do that.

Now when you come to Newark I do hope that you will make our home your headquarters for we would like to assure you that you will have friends here, although you along with all of us will miss Dr. Sypherd greatly.

Sincerely yours,

John A. Perkins

JP/jed