

Flann O'Brien  
ms.1997.027

Dalke, Leslie  
1960 October 19

19 Prince Albert Rd.,  
N W 1

19.10.60

Dear Brian:

Your Holiness's silence is as sporadic as your communications. It distresses.

I hope your fortunes are improving. Nonetheless, it occurs to me that you may still be interested in a fairly quick way of raising the wind without stress or strain. IN STRICT CONFIDENCE (Baile Ata Cliat being Blaw Klee'a) I am revealing to you that twice this year when I had to get a ready £50 and £100, or be mawled, I brought to a reputable dealer in such filth, my own MSS of past books, radio-scripts, and whatnot. He is especially keen on typescript copies with corrections, corrected, or uncorrected page-proofs, or galleys, correspondence with publishers, and ordinary letters from Great Writers.

He pays on the nail, the minute his client says "interested": and this salvationst word is usually cabled as his business comes mainly from Amurrican libraries, universities and private collectors.

I would be prepared to act as your Unpaid Agent as I always look in on your man when I go to the meat market, once a month, to browse in his office. I didn't mention your existence to him but I know that Irish scribblers, of the first rank, fetch a good price. So, if you can raise the postage, send registered what you've got handy - and I would stake my ancestral bargaining skill (white corpuscles only) to get you the max.

Also send clear instructions as to how payment should reach you without unduly bothering your Bankers! A single-ticket Aer Lingus hitherwards might be one way and you could then collect from me and/or him, sovereigns, reichmarks, swissfrancs, zloties in hardcash - or just simple Irish hardstuff if soft currency has no appeal for you.

Need I tell you that the looked-forward-to copy of A.S.T.B. never arrived!.....

As ever, with heart scalding for you,

Leslie Dalke



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Pipe smoking  
horn-mimic species  
pines - veg  
sugar in tea.  
" on porridge  
head in soup  
jam over buttered bread  
grass at heels,  
man with put bl