

21 Watersland Road,
Merville,
STILLORGAN,
Co. Dublin.

Sunday, 23 October, 1960.

Dear Leslie,

Many thanks for your interesting letter of the 19th. As regards AS2B, I did not have a copy to send. When I went to see about getting one, I was horrified to find that there were none in the shops and that their repeat orders had not been filled. Several butties of mine gave out to me about the situation. I complained to the publishers, who said they had miscalculated the demand and that there had been delay at the binders'. I understand that supplies are again available but there must have been losses in sales in view of the reviews (bad English!), for the critics seem to have gone off their rockers. There was not a single snarl. I hope to send you a copy next week, with suitable endorsement.

Your information about a collector of MSS, proofs, etc., is most interesting. I got no proofs from Fitzgibbon & Kee because the book was produced by that process that obviates fresh type-setting. I am nearly certain I have, however, what is far better - the original manuscript, which is nearly all typescript. When I got married abruptly some 12 years ago and left the ancestral home, I left a lot of papers and odds and ends behind me, including B.A. and M.A. scrolls, medals for public debate, and God knows what else. Since then the death of the mother and other marriages caused the break-up and sale of the family seat. One or other of the migrants must have my personal relics, probably stuffed away in a box or trunk. A search would mean turning upside-down a maximum of 5 households, and I would be shy of undertaking this save on the basis of an unambiguous contact from your contact. Would £100 be too much to ask for? I enclose a bundle of the reviews which you could show him. IT IS MOST IMPORTANT that I get the cuttings back, as I have no copies. Status as Unpaid Agent would be improper; you would clearly be entitled to 10%. A trip to London to collect would be a good idea. I know that you can safely say the MS exists, and the reviews should establish the fiction that it is very valuable. When it comes to matters of literature it is clear that the Americans are insane.

I give my blessing with a heart and a $\frac{1}{2}$,

Brian O'Nolan