

MARGARET MITCHELL MARSH ESTATE  
22 WALKER TERRACE, N. E.  
ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA, U. S. A.

DEBRA ANDREWS PEACHTER

and circulated it among her friends. From the facts stated in your letter, I am quite willing to believe that Miss Pascarelli had no intention to violate the law, so I hope you will explain matters to her. It would be unfortunate if she proceeded in a course of action that forced us to take legal action against her.

November 14, 1951

Doctor Antonio Lisongelli

Via Stamira 21

Como, Italy *Arredio Manfredini*. Those rights as the Italian publisher of "Gone With the Wind" are also involved.

AIR MAIL

Dear Doctor Lisongelli: I am sending a copy of this letter to her and my situation, and my best regards.

Your two letters of September 1 and November 4, addressed to The Macmillan Company, New York, have been forwarded to me. They were sent to me because Margaret Mitchell Marsh, the author of "Gone With the Wind", was my wife, and I am Executor of her estate. Matters such as you have outlined are under my control. Macmillan has no authority over them. Of course, I am also the person most interested if your friend, Miss Pascarelli, saw my dear wife and heard her voice in a vision.

cc: Mr. Arnaldo Mondadori, Milan

Miss Elene Penco I am sorry I must give you bad news. Your proposal that I assist Miss Pascarelli financially, in order that she may write a continuation of my wife's novel, is one I cannot accept. Furthermore, I must forbid her to write any continuation of "Gone With the Wind". For her to do so would be an infringement upon the copyright and upon my wife's literary rights. Also it would be contrary to my wife's wishes. This I know, regardless of what the vision may have seemed to tell Miss Pascarelli.

Of course, I am honored that Miss Pascarelli desires to carry forward my wife's story -- or write a "sequel", as we call it. But it must not be done.

This same question arose many times during my wife's lifetime. Many persons in various parts of the world, wished to write sequels and wrote to my wife and asked her permission to do so. These requests my wife invariably refused. She gave the reason that if anyone wrote a continuation or sequel to her novel, she alone was the one to do it. She felt that no one else was able to carry forward the lives of the characters she had created.

She felt very strongly about this and now that I am the executor of her properties, it is my duty to her to preserve this same policy. The story in "Gone With the Wind", the scene and setting, Scarlett, Rhett and the other characters were conceived by Mrs. Marsh in her own mind and were created by her. They were her own property just as much as a house or a piece of land, and no one else has a right to make use of them. For these reasons, it would be an offense punishable by law for Miss Pascarelli to write and publish her continuation. It likewise would be an offense if she merely wrote it

and circulated it among her friends. From the facts stated in your letter, I am quite willing to believe that Miss Pascarelli had no intention to violate the law, so I hope you will explain matters to her. It would be unfortunate if she proceeded in a course of action that forced me to take legal action against her.

I am sending a copy of this letter to her and also to Mr. Arnaldo Mondadori, whose rights as the Italian publisher of "Gone With the Wind" are also involved.

My thanks to you for bringing this situation to my attention, and my best regards.

Very truly yours,

  
John E. Marsh

cc: Mr. Arnaldo Mondadori, Milan  
Miss Elena Pascarelli



Fondazione Arnaldo  
e Alberto Mondadori