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ATLANTA, GEORGIA, U. S. A.

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Mr. Arnaldo Mondadori  
Arnaldo Mondadori Editore  
Via Corridoni, 39  
Milan, Italy

Air Mail

Dear Mr. Mondadori:

Your letter of November 7, 1945, arrived in Atlanta in late December. I regret that I have been unable to acknowledge it until now. At Christmas time my husband fell seriously ill and he has been in the hospital until recently. He is at last recovering, and so I hasten to take up your letter and sales report which I have delayed answering for so long.

First, let me thank you for the catalogue you sent me ("Extracted from the *Giornale Della Letteria*"). It was beautiful and interesting. I note that "Scene With the Wind" appeared in your Omnibus Series. For some time I have wished to tell you that I liked the pictures on the dust jacket of "Via col vento." Please tell the artist that the house which appears on the back is very typical of houses in North Georgia in the Sixties and at present. Many people think all houses in our Southern section had white columns and Greek pediments. This is far from true in the Hill country where I live. The artist has well portrayed the rural architecture of our section.

The wartime copy of the twentieth edition of "Via col vento" arrived safely. I was surprised at its good quality, as I realized the difficulties of paper shortage under which all countries struggle now. Thank you for sending it to me. It will be an interesting souvenir which will have a valued place on my book shelves. I congratulate you in your plans for a special edition of "Via col vento," which you wrote me would be in larger size than the present edition and would be illustrated. To attempt an edition such as you contemplate, in a country so lately torn by war, is courageous. My good wishes go to you and I hope that you will have success with it. Of course I will be interested in seeing a copy of your special edition when you have produced it, and I hope you will send me one.

I read with pleasure your good news that when you returned to Italy you discovered that most of your office equipment and files were safe and that your typographical shop was almost undamaged. That is most excellent news and I know it must have been welcome news to you on your return from exile. As it is almost impossible to get new typesetting equipment in this country now, I know what a disaster such a loss would be in Italy.

So your two sons are safe and have returned to Italy, and your daughter has married! Thank you for telling me of these happy occurrences. As each family in the post-war world returns to the happy and normal ways of life, such as taking up life work or marrying, so will the whole world return, I hope.

You wished to know if "Scene With the Wind" had already been published in the German language, as you wanted to resume the task through the Helicon, our Swiss correspondent. Yes, there was (and is) a German edition, and I understand from those who read German it is an excellent one. Dr. Henry Goverts, of Hamburg, is the publisher and his first edition appeared on October 15, 1937. There was also a special edition in German which appeared at a later date. The book was enormously

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successful in Germany up until the war, when I understand it was banned or suppressed by the Nazis. Because of the relations between my country and Germany, the situation in regard to my book is complicated and one which I do not wish to discuss at present. I can only say to you that I am not interested in an edition in the German language to be brought out by Helicon in Switzerland.

I read what you wrote in your letter about Helicon and was interested in your statement that "from this day, any purchase of Anglo-American rights shall be made by myself directly, without interference of the Helicon, that will limit its publishing activities within the Swiss territory only." At this great distance from the scene, I find the affairs of your publishing house and Helicon very confusing. At this great distance I will not try to grasp all the details of this affair. I will only repeat that I have no connection with Helicon and no legal obligation to them. My contract is with you, "Casa Editrice A. Mondadori, S.A.," and it is with you that I have done business in the past and expect to do business in the future.

You were kind enough to ask if I am at work upon a new book. No, I am not busy with a new book at present. For almost six years my time was occupied by the illness of my father, who died a year-and-a-half ago. During the war much of my time was given to the Red Cross. There was no opportunity for literary work.

I thank you for the detailed sales report and royalty statements covering the twenty editions of "Gene With the Wind" in Italy. I have studied them and am turning them over to my auditors. (I think auditors are called "chartered accountants" in England and in parts of Europe.) I am glad to have the year-by-year details of the sales, for they supply the information I need. I will look forward to your reports of October 31st and April 30th in the future.

I would like to congratulate you on the excellent sales of my book in Italy. I cannot help being curious as to its status under the Germans. In some occupied countries "Gene With the Wind" was suppressed entirely, in other countries editions already printed were not suppressed but the Germans refused permission for further publication of it. I cannot help but wonder what your problems were.

You wrote me, "As you see, your credit amounts to 147,206.60, what should have represented, before the war, more than \$50,000." I realize, of course, that with the depreciation of money the sum I eventually receive will not be \$50,000.00. That is sad for you and for me but it is a part of what happens in a war. You wrote that you had consulted the United States Embassy in Rome about an authorization to pay me the money you owe me but they had told you to wait for further instructions. You wrote, "I propose to keep the money at your disposal, or to pay it on your behalf to a Banking House, till the American authorities authorize the money to be transferred to you." I thank you for your efforts to get the money into my hands. I will now tell you what disposal I want you to make of my royalty monies which you now hold for me. I want you to deposit such money as you owe me with the American Express Company in Milan. Or, if the American Express Company has not yet reopened its office in Milan, deposit it with the American Express Company in Rome. Please deposit it in my name, Mrs. Margaret Mitchell Marsh, 1266 Piedmont Avenue, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.A., and ask the American Express Company to send me a receipt for this money, made in my name and giving the above address. When you have done this your responsibility for my money now in your hands is at an end. This letter I am now writing you is your authority to deposit my royalties in my name with the American Express Company in Italy, and should you be asked for my authorization to do this, please show this letter.

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I request you to make this disposal of the funds because agents, authors and publishers in this country have been advised by authorities in Italy that this is the most practical disposition to be made of such royalty monies. Should you wish further information on this subject, please consult the representative of the United States Office of War Information in Rome and USIRA (U.S. International Book Association). I understand that a Mr. Philip Hodge is the Office of War Information representative in that city--or he was a month ago. It may be that he can make helpful suggestions.

When you have deposited the money with the American Express, please tell them, of course, to notify me whenever it is possible for money to be transferred from Italy to the United States.

If there are any questions in your letter which I have not answered satisfactorily, please write to me and I will try to answer them.

Sincerely,



(Mrs.) Margaret Mitchell Marsh

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Fondazione Arnaldo  
e Alberto Mondadori