

February 24, 1939

Dear Mr. Steele:

Please pardon my delay in replying to your interesting letter of February 16th. I have been very busy since my return from Northwestern Pennsylvania. I came back to find such an accumulation of work that I was obliged to push the Booth inquiry into the corner, but now I am taking it up again with increased interest. The more I know of Booth's movements the more inquiries arise.

What you tell me of the Dramatic Oil Company establishes certain fixed dates. There is no doubt you are right that when the group got together to develop the land across the river they simply called themselves the Dramatic Oil Company.

Thank you for calling my attention to Chester as Izola Forrester quotes him. Chester was examined at the Booth trial and I think - and here I am quoting from memory - that he says Booth approached him again about the middle of February 1864, trying to persuade him to go into the kidnapping scheme. But I am not quoting documents which I would do if I were giving more than an impression. b7

I am glad if I have stirred up your old interest in Booth. You were in a position in the '90's to pick up bits that a renewed interest may bring back to you.

And now about the play that you have in hand and for whom you want an agent. I know nothing of dramatic agents, pure and simple, but I think possibly Flora Mai Holly - her address is 156 Fifth Avenue, New York City - might be interested in your work if she knew your Booth connection. She sold the Forrester book and is convinced that she is the granddaughter of Booth. What do you think about it? There are many things that have to be reconciled in my judgment.

2. G.

I should be glad to speak to Miss Holly about your manuscript but just now she is off on a cruise, not to be back until some time in March. If you do not care to wait for her return you might ask the Lengel Associates, 654 Madison Avenue, New York City, if they would like to consider it. It is a new firm looking for fresh material. How much they do in dramatic work I do not know but all agents now-a-days consider dramatic and movie rights in placing manuscripts. If you wish you could write Mr. Lengel that I had suggested he might care to examine your book.

There are of course many other agents but these two seem at the moment the most hopeful to me.

I shall be glad if there is anything further that I can suggest in the matter.

And again I apologize for my delay in answering your letter. Thank you for it.

Very sincerely yours

Mr. Charles A. Steele
Franklin, Pa.