

jhs



ABBAY OF GETHSEMANI  
TRAPPIST, KENTUCKY

April 13, 1960

Dear Victor:

Just after I mailed my letter yesterday I received your note about the copyright. The copyright line you showed me before, for the Stamperia del Santuoccio, is perfectly all right. You will have to get Form A from the copyright office at the Library of Congress, fill it in, have it notarized and send it in with four dollars. If you like, I ~~will~~ could save you this ~~expense~~ bother by taking out the copyright in my name and doing all that here. But as to who has the copyright that is indifferent. You might as well.

I am no expert in the law. J. might be able to give you more information. As I understand it, once a thing is printed, no matter how it is printed, and once it is distributed, if it is not copyrighted, the author has no protection if someone else wants to print it. Printing a thing without copyright is tantamount to relinquishing one's right to exclusive publication of that text. Whether pro manuscripto makes any difference, I cannot say. There might be some legal angle. But then, I don't even know what would be the situation if a manuscript in circulation were taken and printed.

Strictly speaking, a non-copyrighted book that is printed by someone else is not pirated. Piracy in this matter would seem to involve a real violation of legal rights, the publication of a copyrighted book illegally (As happens when a book printed in another country is reprinted somewhere else, clandestinely, in such a way that it would be morally impossible, or too expensive, to prosecute.)

But, as I say, I am no expert.

Again, all blessings.

In Christ Our Lord

*Jm Louis*