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Thursday, Jan. 2

Dear Lee:

First of all....a very happy new year to you and your family. I read that wonderful review of Bob's book in the Times. How impressive!

I just spoke to Barbara Benziger at Parents, where Roger Crater has been for over three months. I called to inquire....she was very nice and apologized. She put it aside when it came and then never got back to it. I was hoping it was because they might be interested. Anyway....she'll probably remember me now. (She's the reader)

Effie Popper came back from Little, Brown with a long and very nice letter. (John says enough of these lovely letters....he'll take a not so lovely acceptance. I believe I'm getting more and more patient about it and he is getting less so!) Caroline Soule did ask to see more of my work. And the reason she gave for rejecting Effie was because it was told more from the Mama's point of view and they don't buy that.* She did say it was clever (hooray!) Of course I used your name....maybe that's why she was so kind.

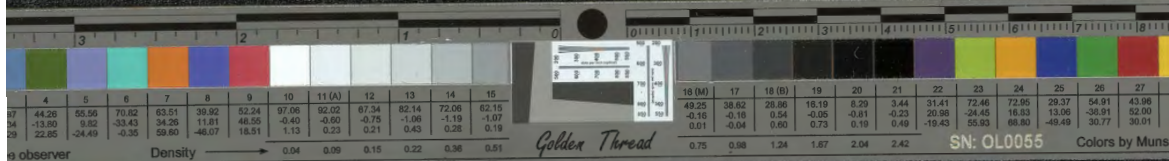
Iggie is still at Doubleday, where it has been about a month. No work yet. And I have one at Houghton too. And the Green Kangaroo is at Reilly and Lee....would you believe a year will be up next month. I'm going to write them now.....a year is enough time to decide.

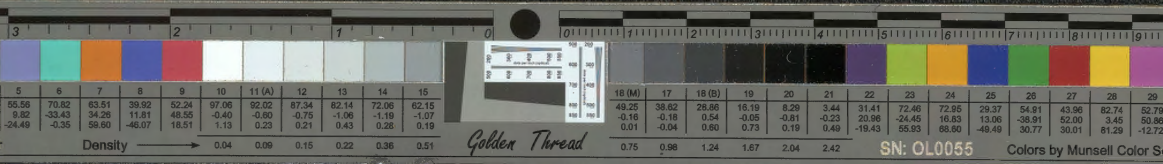
You should be able to tell from this letter that I haven't been typing in a month. When I finished the first draft of my new book I put it away...knowing that I had to wait until Jan. to get busy on it again. My plan is to begin on Monday. Once I take it out... I stay with it till its done. Definitely this winter. I find I get less upset if I know just what I'm going to do. And between Thanksgiving and now I was totally immersed in UNICEF work. And family things of course. My brother and his wife and children are here from Texas for the week. And Randy and Larry got all my attention over school holidays. Today they started back. We've been doing work on our house. I lived

To school.

*
Point of
view.
That's.
I am
sending
it to
Athens
next.
I like
their books.

Bought
Jan 17, 1969
Judy
phoned
eventually.





for seven weeks with workmen underfoot all day. But they're finally gone and we have a lower level here that is really nice....basically for the kiddies. But as I tell my friends who ask "where are we going this winter?"...You can find us during the month of February in our new downstairs. Unless of course I sell something! When I sold those serial rights to Iggie I told John I was going to France....he said on \$300 I better settle for Bradley Beach! (Ha!)

But with it all.....I can't wait to finish my new book and I have plenty more brewing. ^{in my head} I am not giving up. I am serious about it! Of course, when I was doing picture books I could turn them out a lot faster and have more things to send around. This kind of book takes a lot more time. But I figure in the next few years I should have enough of them to send around too! Hopefully someone will "discover" me by then.

Lee, thanks so much for suggesting my name to the ~~WNA~~ ^{WBA}. I joined and got a lovely letter from Elsa Russell. It made me feel really professional. And I was honored! I'd still like to make it to class one Friday. I read a great article on Norma Ainsworth in Writers Digest. I'd love to submit there. Do they buy anything like Iggie?

So.....Hope you are well and have avoided the flu bug. My Aunt has it now and without ever leaving her bed she's got pneumonia with it.... She's feeling quite awful.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Fondly,

Judy



