

Oakland
September 19

Dear Beth:

By now you may have had a chance to look over ECCE AND OLD EARTH: I hope you like it. I am now preparing the outline to CADWALL: III, as yet unnamed and since I have no distractions, other than those connected with staying alive. I hope to get Cad III out relatively briskly. And then? You tell me. I'd like to know. At the moment I don't have an idea in the world.

Two matters: the first we have discussed before and you have always been most indulgent; but I will bring the matter up again, for you to wave in front of your proof-readers, stating: "Vance is a frightful curmudgeon; he thinks his writing is revelation from heaven. He points out that the rabbis don't go proof-reading and fiddling with the Dead Sea Scrolls, and that he doesn't want any similar underlings messing with his stuff, either.

Mention this as well: "Jack Vance adjusts the punctuation in his stuff like a skilled mechanic tuning up a Lamborghini Grand Prix race-car. He examines each colon and semi-colon separately for quality and throws back the rejects.

"The same cautions apply to his spelling, word-usage, and nomenclature unless the occasion is clearly a typo. Hyphens are more 'off-world' and 'off-worlder'."

In regard to spelling I am inconsistent, and in fact see no particular imperative for consistency, in any case. I tend to use the spelling which seems to accord best with the mood of the sentence and attendant circumstances. It is a most complicated business, glamour, honour, armour all must use the u; color sometimes, and maybe some of the others. But they do not have to be all one way or all the other; this is pedantry.

Secondly, I enclose a pair of dedication sheets, which I neglected to send with the MS.

Sincerely

/Jack Vance/