May 3, 1963
New York

Dear Viktor,

Thanks for your letter and for the check. I guess that winds it up and you are in complete possession of a Barker. I send you my good wishes on the occasion and pray the painting will last through your great-grandchildren and their grandchildren as well. It may seem too romantic for their tastes then, I don't know. Or perhaps too simple, but in any case I hope they will find our time in it and at its best, whatever it is.

Thank you also for your agreement to expose yourself in a new and strange role as my friend in a Christian ceremony. I appreciate this very much and I don't think either one of us actually will be stretching either ourselves or the Church too terribly far, being what we are. I have been looking at this particular church very hard lately and find it about the only thing I can relate to when it comes to organized western religeon. It is the church of my Scotch and Irish ancestors on my fathers side who fought the influence of Rome and stuck to their green island life and their Byzantium attitude.

I just want to say this so you will know that this ancient ceremony that you will be part of pleases me and that I understand it and want you to know that you are most welcome and that basically I do not see any great contradiction for either one of us although the outward form will be somewhat strange to both us, it being outside of our experience generally in America, and geographically located outside our immediate life.

The tradition I wanted to stress. It seemed important to me at this stage of life somehow. Especially when I am going into a marriage. After going through many, i.e. traditions in my travels I realize we belong to many traditions and this is one of the many for me, but nevertheless one that relates honestly to me and I know you will honor that in our friendship.

See you on May 15th Viktor. It will be good to see you. Regards to Carolla and take good care not to worrk yourself to pieces.

Wally