

ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA

342 MADISON AVENUE

SUITE 702

NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

WILLIAM BENTON  
PUBLISHER & CHAIRMAN

May 23, 1958

The Honorable and Mrs. Herbert H. Lehman  
820 Park Avenue  
New York, New York

Dear Herbert and Edith:

*File*

I am sending you a new book. I hope you can find time to read it because I think you will enjoy it. It is an advance copy of "The Great EB: The Story of Encyclopaedia Britannica." It is written by Herman Kogan, dramatic critic of the Chicago Sun-Times, who is distinguished for such successful books as "Big Bill of Chicago"; "Lords of the Levee"; "Bet a Million: The Story of John W. Gates"; and "Give the Lady What She Wants." It is to be published by the University of Chicago Press and will be released officially on May 27th.

"The Great EB" tells a fascinating story of business and of the intellectual development of the west since Britannica's launching by a "Society of Gentlemen" in Edinburgh 190 years ago. I am especially partial to the adventures of the two enterprising American book salesmen, the Messrs. Hooper and Jackson, who took over control of the Britannica in London at the turn of the century, and who later played a decisive role in the history of the London Times. It was Mr. Hooper who worked out the agreement under which the famous eleventh edition, published in 1909, carried the imprimatur and seal of Cambridge University.

The section dealing with World War II and subsequent years, which tells of my own and the University of Chicago's association with Britannica, begins on page 245. This story of Britannica's fifteen-fold growth in fifteen years may be of special interest to you.

Sincerely,

*Bill Benton*  
William Benton

0057-0178-001

Ten editions of 'Encyclopaedia Britannica', issued from 1768-1903, in 231 volumes. Originally issued in 100 weekly parts (3 volumes) between 1768 and 1771 by publishers: Colin Macfarquhar and Andrew Bell (Edinburgh); editor: William Smellie; engraver: Andrew Bell. Expanded editions in the 19th century featured more volumes and contributions from leading experts in their fields. Managed and published in Edinburgh up to the 9th