

## HENRY GEORGE INSTITUTE

5 East 44th Street  
New York, N.Y. 10017

August 4, 1987

Ms. Barbara Bruce Williams  
Houghton Mifflin Co.  
One Beacon St.  
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Ms. Williams:

Thank you for your letter of July 27 and a copy of the book "The Entrepreneurs." It is a handsome book with many interesting stories, and it will make an interesting addition to our library.

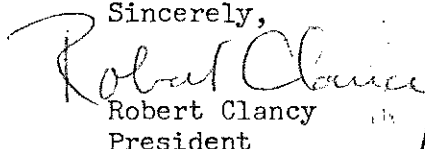
But I'm afraid your explanation and that of David Sicilia about the "Monopoly" story does not close the case. Most of the entrepreneurs dealt with in the book were either inventors or improved on an idea or product that is traced to its source. Charles Darrow is given credit in the book for inventing the game "Monopoly." Mr. Warsh legitimately wondered how, after much research, the real origin of the game by Elizabeth Magie Phillips could not have emerged.

A comparative situation would be if in the chapter on "Men of Lightning" Samuel Morse were omitted entirely - after all, he was only an inventor, not much of an entrepreneur - and only Hiram Sibley were mentioned.

Darrow did steal the game. His biggest "contribution" - besides changing the name, assuming it was he who did - was eliminating the Single Tax moral, which was the whole idea. Parker may have been relieved at that and thus allowed the Landlord's Game to slide into oblivion and feature Monopoly.

The "Monopoly" chapter does, after all, end on a note of "invention": "Charles Darrow never invented another game." Of course not - he didn't invent any game - and he died a millionaire. The real inventor, Mrs. Phillips died poor and unknown, a mild woman with no ability or inclination to fight over having the rug pulled out from under her. The true story will be definitively told some day.

Sincerely,

  
Robert Clancy  
President