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Dear Richard: I'm sorry to have missed you in New York. I was called to Baltimore - where I have relatives in the Cummings family. Vera was quite ill, and passed away this week, so I wanted to get down and see her. I tried to call Helen, but just couldn't get thru on that line.

I've just got the notice of your new book and sent in an order for it. Congratulations.

I'm working very hard, as I hope to have a show this season. Please let me know when you're in N.Y. again.

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Romare