

August 27, 1963.

Martin Breslauer, Ltd.,  
2 Weymouth House,  
84 - 94 Hallam Street,  
London, W. 1,  
England.

Gentlemen:

I was very happy to receive your letter last week with its notification that the Atget photographs were to be held for us and now your letter of August 23rd has arrived with the news they are on the way to Chicago.

As soon as they are received you will receive a receipt from the office of the registrar of the museum and I shall try to expedite payment as much as possible. The Committee on Prints and Drawings met about three weeks ago and as I told you, there will not be another meeting before fall.

To anticipate the arrival of the Atgets is a great pleasure for we do not have a single print by this great photographer in our collection. Miss Berenice Abbott owns all the negatives (with many prints) and they are in New York but it would be necessary to buy the entire collection en bloc in order to obtain anything. No institution has been able to do this so far and as photography is a rather new activity here with no permanent purchase funds, it is impossible for us.

Our collection is growing slowly and I am very proud of it. As we were so fortunate as to locate a fine set of Roman views by Macpherson and have the Atget pictures in prospect, both found in England, I am hopeful that there are many other important items available there. I enclose a list of desiderata which I shall appreciate your keeping in mind.

Thanking you again for your letters and the attention you have given our order,

Yours sincerely,

Hugh Edwards, Curator of Photography.

September 7, 1963.

Mr. Martin Breslauer,  
2 Weymouth House,  
84-94 Hallam Street,  
London, W. 1,  
England.

Dear Mr. Breslauer:

Thank you for your kind letter of August 30th. I am sure it will be only a few days now until the arrival of the Atgets. I shall appreciate your consideration of the list I sent and will be delighted to hear from you at any time in regard to photographs.

We have continuous exhibitions of photography here. Although I try to show at least two masters of the past each year, most of the shows are of the work of contemporary photographers. I suppose there are more people in America than anywhere else who seriously working in photography as an independent medium and there are so many famous ones who have never been shown. Our exhibitions are arranged for more than a year in advance and I have a large "reserve" list which is increasing. I should like very much to become familiar with Mr. Deacon's prints as British photographers, other than Bill Brandt and Roger Mayne, are not very well known by our public. If, at any time, he should come to Chicago, I should like very much to talk with him and see some of his work. When we have cleared away some of the shows in our schedule, I may write him in your care.

Thanking you again, I am

Sincerely yours,

Hugh Edwards, Curator of Photography.