

MIDDLEBURGH
Schoharie County
NEW YORK

—Summer address. Let's
hear from you!

June 12, 1961

Dear Mr. Edwards:

Barbara & I have been discussing at length the big news of your being offered the chance to succeed Edward Steichen at the Museum of Modern Art. It is, of course, no business of mine to poke my nose into other people's affairs, but this is such a big chance, such a great opportunity that I will run the risk of offending by doing it. We think you should take the job. If, after trying it out for a year or two, you decide that it isn't to your taste, you can resign.

But, you thenceforth could always say that you had held the biggest photographic curatorial job in the country and that you voluntarily relinquished it because the pace & the demands didn't suit your temperament and interests. And, if worldly honors mean anything to you, you would have the feeling, for the rest of your life, that you had reached the top.

But, on the other hand, you might thrive in the position, with the department about to expand and home quarters &

facilities which you would
never dream of getting at
the Art Institute. You might
well be able to do a great work at
the Museum of Modern Art.

You have, evidently, some doubts about
being able to fill Mr. Steichen's shoes.
Anybody else who took the position might
well have similar doubts. But I am not
so sure about these great men. It may
well be that you would do a better
job than he did, with your younger and
fresher approach. Besides you would have
this wonderful little gal, Miss Mayer, who
admires you greatly, to assist you. I'm
quite sure that she has shouldered most
of the burdens and responsibilities of
the department in the last few years.
You, too, could cultivate flowers, like
Steichen, in some New York suburb
and, like he, avoid many of the social
involvements which he probably doesn't
like either.

I am quite confident that your museum
colleagues would love you and that the
public would come to respect your work.
This is a chance of a lifetime & I wouldn't
turn it down if I were you.

Cordially, Howard Deans Hyde