

March 3, 1961.

Mr. Duke Ellington,
334 Riverside Drive,
New York City, 25,
New York.

Dear Duke:

In November we are having an exhibition of photographs by Richard Veit whose remarkable pictures of sailing boats have appeared in Sports Illustrated and Yachting. He does all kinds of other subjects equally as well. About two months ago Mr. Veit sent me a large selection of his work for consideration and in it were pictures he had taken of you and the band during a concert in Stockholm. Later, when he came to Chicago, I spoke to him about these prints, we talked a great deal about you and he said he would like very much for you to have a set of these Stockholm pictures. They arrived yesterday, here they are and I hope you like them.

For months I have wanted to write you a long letter and will do so yet. That hour I spent with you at the University of Chicago last summer revived many happy memories and created new ones for the present and future. The music was never greater than it was that night and I am waiting to hear it again. The last time is always the best time with your work and - as in love affairs - that is the way it should be. Your music has been the longest-lived experience of my life, esthetic and otherwise and I am happy there is no termination of it in sight.

I'll write more soon. The Nutcracker was a great event for me (in Arabesque Cookie how wonderfully the spirit of Mood Indigo reappears, strangely metamorphosed) and I must tell you about it. Please remember me to Billy Strayhorn, that night we rode out to the South Side and talked about Baudelaire in your car is one of my best memories.

Good wishes to you always - it makes everything seem right again to send a letter to you. And another one soon,

Sincerely,

Hugh Edwards (I am now Curator of Photography here)

I am very grateful for the Christmas card. I have it pinned up on the wall of my room - it never fails to cheer me up when everything else has failed.