

THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

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CHICAGO 3 ILLINOIS TELEPHONE CENTRAL 7080

DEPARTMENT OF PRINTS AND DRAWINGS

CARL O. SCHNIEWIND, *Curator*

February 13, 1948.

Mr. Walker Evans,
441 East 92nd Street,
New York, 28,
New York.

Dear Walker Evans:

I am sending you a list of the prints which we have shipped to you (at Fortune Magazine address) by express. As you will see, the two prints which Mr. Schniewind and I kept are noted at the end of the list. I wish this could be the long letter I want to write you about the exhibition and how happy it has made me to own one of your photographs. I have Sunday and Monday free and I shall write you then. It will really have to be the letter I have delayed for eight years. I am very grateful to you and your work did have a good influence here, so I have a great deal to write you.

Best regards now and I will write very soon.

Sincerely,

Hugh Edwards —
Hugh Edwards.

THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

MICHIGAN AVENUE AT ADAMS STREET CHICAGO 3 ILLINOIS TELEPHONE CENTRAL 6-7080

April 28, 1962.

Mr. Walker Evans,
163 East 94th Street,
New York City, 28,
New York.

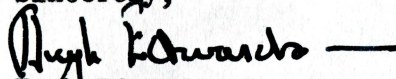
Dear Walker Evans:

In accordance with our telephone conversation yesterday, will you please send us the survey group of your work which we have discussed on various occasions? This is to be composed of from twenty-five to thirty prints and the price for them which has been agreed upon is \$ 1,200.00. There is a meeting of the Committee on Prints and Drawings on May 8th and I wish to present your photographs at that time as future accessions for our permanent collection of photographs.

For a long time I have been much concerned that we have an adequate representation of your photographs in this museum. You have always had many admirers in the Middle West and your exhibition here in 1948 brought one of the largest, most sincere and honest responses we have ever had to an exhibition of photography. I assure you your work will be seen here by as large a public as it could find anywhere. Our collection of original photographs is available at any time for enjoyment and personal experience by any visitor to the Study Room for Prints and Drawings. I feel the influence these great photographs of yours will have on taste and understanding by their being privately accessible is fully as significant as showing them in exhibitions. And it will always be an advantage to have your work to include in any display we may make of photographic masterpieces.

With best regards,

Sincerely,


Hugh Edwards, Curator of Photography;
Associate Curator of Prints and Drawings.

THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

MICHIGAN AVENUE AT ADAMS STREET CHICAGO 3 ILLINOIS TELEPHONE CENTRAL 6-7080

May 4, 1962.

Mr. Walker Evans,
163 East 94th Street,
New York City, 28,
New York.

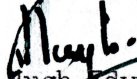
Dear Walker:

As I told you when I called you on the telephone this afternoon, this is the happiest day of my life at The Art Institute because of the arrival of your photographs which are to become part of our permanent collection. I am very grateful to you for this, but that says nothing of all these pictures have meant to me since I saw them first in 1939. There is much to say to you and I shall try to write some of it and send it within a few days. And I assure you there are many people who will feel greatly rewarded that these prints of yours are in Chicago.

Right now I want to send you the address of Mrs. James Ward Thorne which is 232 East Walton Place, Chicago, Illinois. The book stores which should be reminded of the reappearance of your book are Kroch's and Brentano's, 29 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago (they have six large stores in the Chicago area, but this is the main store), Main Street Book Store, 642 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Paul Theobald and Company, 5 North Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Woodworth's Book Store, 1311 East 57th Street, Chicago, Roosevelt University Book Store, 430 South Michigan Avenue, Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, 18 East Chestnut Street, Buckingham Book Shop, 65 East Van Buren Street (these are the dealers in old postcards), all of the last are - of course - in Chicago. There are others I shall remember and send the names.

Forgive my haste. The day is almost over and I want to have one more careful look at the prints before I leave. ~~the day~~. All good wishes to you and to Mrs. Evans. And thank you again for the excellent selection you made of your work and all the care you gave to this transaction which is so important to me and to many others.

Sincerely,



Hugh Edwards, Curator of Photography.

I am enclosing the letter of which I spoke and will be grateful indeed for the new invoice.

WALKER EVANS
BEAVER BROOK RD.
OLD LYME, CONN.

BEAVER BROOK ROAD
OLD LYME, CONNECTICUT

THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

MICHIGAN AVENUE AT ADAMS STREET CHICAGO 3 ILLINOIS TELEPHONE CENTRAL 6-7080

May 12, 1962.

Mr. Walker Evans,
163 East 94th Street,
New York City,
New York.

Dear Walker:

I have just tried to call you but you are doubtless out of town today, so I am writing and hope this letter reaches you on Monday morning.

The Committee on Prints and Drawings met on May 8th and their approval of the acquisition of your photographs was accompanied by their delight for our having them in the permanent collection. I had hoped to have payment in the mails by this time, but the minutes of the meeting must be passed by the trustees and there are other red tape formalities which must be observed. The check should go to you early in the coming week and I feel most apologetic for this delay. I am so happy about the possession of these photographs that I have seldom felt better in my life about everything in general.

We are planning to mount them handsomely and I trust drymounting will not be objectionable to you. I have decided finally that it is much the best method for photographs in the rather humid and neurotic climate of Chicago as I find that prints always curl slightly when hinged only with Japanese paper hinges. We plan to mount each print on Arches paper, then place them in mats. Each mat will have a front and back with an opening in the front and a guard sheet of Strathmore parchment for each photograph. Each of the guard sheets will be stamped, Do not touch print, (people love to rub their fingers, exuding sulphuric acid, over photographs). I am sorry we have to cover your pencil notations of book references and the rubber stamp authentications. Perhaps, someday, if you come to Chicago, you will bring the stamp with you as I feel it is important to have the photographs stamped.

These prints are the first, final and just word in the great chapter so many others have tried to compose on quality and I shall always be happy with the excellent selection you made.

I shall write again soon and you will hear from the business office after a few days. All good wishes to both of you.

Sincerely,


Hugh Edwards.

May 28 1962

Dear Huck, -

I should have given you my telephone number for Connecticut, where I retreat. Way back on May 12, according to one of your letters, I could have received your call, and been in better and more accommodating correspondence. You reach me here at General 4 7131. The code is 203.

Now I may assume I acknowledge your letters May 12, May 4 and June 16:

You saw the Mrs. Thomas address, and I have written her. I am sending her, also, the new edition of "American Photographs" some many of the prints I sent the Chicago Art Institute are reproduced therein. You too will get a copy of it from the Museum of Modern Art, then from me direct. I think I asked them to mail you one, but this may not have done so.

Thanks for the Chicago bookstore addresses.

Your letter of May 16 enclosed the Art Institute of Chicago check for \$1,200. I much appreciated that, and I returned the Institute form-acknowledgments (I believe) anyway. I deposited the check immediately, and your accounting department will perceive from this that the thing arrived. It is to you now that I gratefully acknowledge it. I need hardly say it was a joy to have.

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Your plan for drymounting the prints is entirely satisfactory to me. I think nothing is lost in sealing away whatever is on the verso, and I'll be glad to re-do that rubber stamp for you, later, as you suggest.

I still hope to visit Chicago before the summer heat. You would tell me again just when you plan to vacate the place. I think I could come for a few days in June if possible. I'd like to do some photographing, and you may be able to find a cheap, agreeable place for me to stay. I'll probably telephone you in weeks you about this soon. Do just send me a note now about the date of your ~~absence~~ absence, and tell me whether your museum has had or wants to have copies of the new edition of my old book for sale. It seems to be going out now.

Isabelle - and I send best regards.

Wm

Walter

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I go back and forth between here and New York. The mailing address is Connecticut is Beavertuck Road Old Lyme, Conn. - but telephone is better if you want to reach me. Just call either place, person to person.

W. E.

September 20, 1966.

Mr. Walker Evans,
Old Lyme,
Connecticut.

Dear Walker:

Your book arrived several days ago and I telephoned Miss Mokanson at once to send copies to Marjorie Kovler and Kenneth Anger. Also, I have made sure that Kroch's and Brentano's and the museum store will stock as many copies as possible. I have been so stimulated by the surprise and quality of this book that I have thought of little else since it came. There is nothing that can be said of it since it lies here before me and is its own testimonial to everyone. For some time now I have been certain you are the only photographer who ever lived and now I find this is the most beautiful book of photographs that has been published.

I have wanted to say so much to you. How can I thank you for this gift which is one of the few treasures I have and with it is your inscription which I value more than I would a Ph. D. It is privilege enough to have you in the world and be in it at the same time. Forgive what must seem an effusion to you - anything it may be is not sufficient to thank you.

I shall write again soon. This week I am harassed more than usual by photographic youth and all its dull blunders. It is frustrating to realize this waste of time has prevented letting you hear from me before today. All good wishes to you and to Isabelle and there will be more after a few days.

Sincerely,

Hugh Edwards.