

December 6, 1962.

Mr. Pirkle Jones,
2279 Fortieth Avenue,
San Francisco, 16,
California.

Dear Pirkle Jones:

Just as I was about to write you this morning, your letter came and I am very pleased to have heard from you. A letter to you has been on my mind ever since we resumed photographic exhibitions here in 1959. Ansel Adams, Minor White and the work of yours I have seen have encouraged and kept alive my interest and I have unwillingly deferred communicating with you because of the innumerable distractions of this large museum which has become almost a public thoroughfare. So many people who mean much to me and who have never heard of my existence have had to be neglected.

The meeting with Dorothea Lange last week was a surprising and important event for me and the possibility of showing Death of a Valley has made me very happy. Seeing this sequence in Aperture is enough to convince one there is nothing else like it. I hope the exhibition of January 19th through February 24th will not press you too much. If possible, we should like to have the photographs here by January 2nd. Please ship them by Express Collect - Insured and address the shipment as follows: Department of Prints and Drawings, The Art Institute of Chicago, Michigan Avenue and Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois, marked Attention: Hugh Edwards, Curator of Photography. As for the making of the case to contain the exhibition, please send an invoice for whatever the costs may be and address it also as above. I assure you that while here the photographs will receive the most careful treatment and they will be returned as soon as possible after the exhibition.

I hope some occasion will bring you to Chicago for I should like to meet you and talk with you. Perhaps you might send us a selection of your work for us to see at some later date. This, I feel, is a large favor to ask, but I should like to see more and no other way seems possible.

There is much I should like to write today, but I want you to have this without further delay. Thank you for your letter and for the welcome assistance you have given us.

Yours sincerely,

Hugh Edwards.

P. S. I am delighted you are to include a prints of the subject shown on the cover of Aperture. Please notify me if there are any charges for this. And if there are any costs for the loan of the exhibition, be sure to let me know.

Mr. Pirkle Jones,
2279 Fortieth Street,
San Francisco, 16,
California.

Dear Pirkle Jones:

We had the exhibition open on Friday and there was excellent attendance over the weekend (more than 700 on Sunday afternoon from one until five o'clock. Everything has worked out well in that long gallery and we have followed the hanging shown in your photographs as much as possible. The response to the photographs in the show has been warm and enthusiastic and I look forward to the four weeks to come.

I am sending herewith several copies of the news release which was issued last Friday as well as a notice which appeared in Chicago's American on Sunday. I hope there will be more to send within a few days.

Thank you again for your help,

Yours sincerely,

Hugh Edwards, Curator of Photography.

January 30, 1963.

April 3, 1963.

Mr. Pirkle Jones,
2279 Fortieth Avenue,
San Francisco, 16,
California.

Dear Pirkle Jones:

I am guilty indeed for not having written you sooner. The success of Death of a Valley was so gratifying that both of you deserve quite a panegyric. On Sunday afternoons the attendance rose to more than 800 and many people came to the Print Study Room to express their gratitude.

I hope it does not inconvenience you too much that the show is leaving here later than I had expected. It will be packed up (in your case) this week and shipped out. Everything is in excellent condition except one copy of Aperture and I am ordering a new one for you to replace it. We had the Death of a Valley number available here for visitors who wished to obtain reproductions; all were sold and we could have used more if it had not been too late to order them. I am sorry about this copy of yours, but it was used in the arrangement of the show and has suffered a few finger prints. But you will have a new one soon.

I am delighted with the handsome view of San Francisco you sent and which has been greatly admired by the many people to whom I have shown it. I regret we have such a long list of scheduled exhibitions to get through as I do want to do something about your work here. After a few more names are cleared from the "books" I shall get in touch with you.

Allow me to thank you again for all the assistance you gave us in making possible one of our best efforts. I trust that all goes well during transit of the exhibition and that you have not been too inconvenienced.

Best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Hugh Edwards, Curator of Photography.

October 22, 1963.

Mr. Pirkle Jones,
2279 Portieth Avenue,
San Francisco,
California. 94116

Dear Pirkle Jones:

It was good to hear from you today and I appreciate very much your sending the photographic layout of the exhibition Walnut Grove. It is impressive and handsome and I should like to keep it in mind as one of the exhibitions we would like to have. However, our schedule is filled for more than a year in advance and it would not be feasible to consider more shows at the present time.

I hope you understand this because the exhibition would have much interest, both to photographers and the general public, and I regret my enthusiasm has caused me to run so far ahead into the future with our plans. It has been a privilege to see the layout and I am grateful for the opportunity. The package will be sent back to you today and I trust it reaches you safely. I assure you I shall keep the show in mind and I hope you will not object if I recommend it to others.

I continue to look forward to a visit you may make to Chicago. Our visitors still inquire so often about Death of a Valley that it seems it should be on permanent exhibition here.

Sincerely yours,

Hugh Edwards, Curator of Photography.

February 13, 1970

Mr. Pirkle Jones
663 Lovell Avenue
Mill Valley
California
94941

Dear Pirkle Jones:

Portfolio Two arrived in excellent condition and has far exceeded my already high expectations. I am delighted that - at last - you are represented in the collection here and so handsomely. It is one of the best portfolios I have ever seen. Not a print in it one would not want to own. A number of visitors have already seen it and next summer I hope to show some of the prints in a survey of photography's history. I wish I could look at it with you and talk about each print.

Did I explain to you that we will have to wait until the next meeting of the Committee on Prints and Drawings for approval of acquisition? Just as soon as this formality is over, the check in payment will be sent you and I can assure you there will be no question or delay at that time.

Also, I shall return the set of transparencies at last. They have been very useful to have here as I have shown them to several parties who were interested. I apologize for having kept them so long.

It has been good to be in touch with you and you will hear from us again.

Sincerely,

Hugh Edwards.