

GEORGE EASTMAN HOUSE

900 EAST AVENUE, ROCHESTER 7, N. Y.

December 17, 1959

Mr. Hugh Edwards  
Art Institute  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Hugh:

I congratulate you on what must be a record appropriation for photography by an art museum! Herewith my invoice, and a copy of my letter to Jammes, which I hope will do the trick but I have the impression that he is a somewhat tricky character and he may write that the quotation was made so long ago that it is no longer valid. But I am sure that you can negotiate.

I am delighted with your success. I feel that it is important for other centers to collect photography. With what you are getting you will have the best collection of 19th century things next to us.

I'll keep you posted about Photography at Mid Century. Off hand I should say that a November date would be splendid.

It was a disappointment indeed not to have had the day with you. I had to return to Rochester via New York City---it was a long and tiresome do. I arrived at Idlewild at 2 A.M., took off next morning at 7:55. The jet which was to have taken off from San Francisco at 2:15 didn't get off the ground until 5:15! Air travel is great when it works!

All best, and again sincere congratulations.

Beaumont

December 21, 1959.

Mr. Beaumont Newhall, Director,  
George Eastman House,  
900 East Avenue,  
Rochester, 7, New York.

Dear Beaumont:

This is my day off but I came down for a few moments to see how the Metzker show is going, so I have just found your letter and read it. Thank you so much for writing - I am much elated over the prospect of the things we may get and reading your words made me even happier. I am very grateful you have already written Mr. Jammes and I shall send him a letter tomorrow, mailing a copy to you.

I have asked Miss Perce, our secretary, to start your invoice through its processing and you should have the check before the end of the week. I am delighted we are to have these things of yours. I remember you spoke once of the possibility of finding a duplicate of O'Sullivan's Ancient Ruins in the Canon de Chelle - do you think there is a chance that we might get one somewhere?

I shall write again tomorrow. I am very cheerful these days and I was pleased that Mr. Maxon, the Director, made such a noble gesture in the direction of the Jammes collection.

All good wishes and more soon,

Sincerely,

Hugh Edwards.

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December 24, 1959.

Mr. Beaumont Newhall, Director,  
George Eastman House,  
900 East Avenue,  
Rochester, 7, New York.

Dear Beaumont:

Forgive my haste every time I write lately. It is noon and we are all trying to get away for the holidays. I shall go home and dream about the things we have acquired - and the possibilities of Jammes. I wrote Jammes yesterday and am enclosing a copy of my letter to him. Just as soon as I have a reply, I shall let you hear.

So far, it looks like a happy New Year and we owe a lot to you. I'll write more soon. I have been reading a great book of Italian short stories by a new writer, Italo Calvino, which I'll send along later. I'll never forget how happy I was that night you spoke of your liking for Leopardi.

All the best to you and to Nancy - I miss you and wish I could come back soon.

So Happy Christmas and New Year - I'll think about the coffee in your house and the photographs in the living room and all those magic spices in the kitchen.

Yours,

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January 9, 1960.

Mr. Beaumont Newhall, Director,  
George Eastman House,  
900 East Avenue,  
Rochester, 7,  
New York.

Dear Beaumont:

I am enclosing a copy of the letter we have had from James. This is what Moravia calls the "expected surprise" and although I was almost certain that after all this time we would not obtain the collection, I feel we have lost the best opportunity we will ever have to put things here on a good foundation. Thank you always for all the trouble you have taken with this matter and for the help you have given.

I am grateful also for the tips about Lowdermilk and David McGee. Mr. Maxon, the new Director of Fine Arts, has been most coöperative and encouraging about obtaining things and I should like to write for the Talbot Sun Pictures. However, after calling the Chicago Public Library, I have the report that they do not find Lowdermilk in the Washington directory and David McGee is not listed in the San Francisco book. Perhaps Lowdermilk is no longer in business and McGee's shop may be under another name in the telephone list.

A few days ago Mr. McGraw sent us his Westons. There are 204 prints and these are all he had. Mr. McGraw states Weston made a personal selection for him of what he considered his best. On the back of each mat is a printed label which indicates six sets of 830 prints were made. In one of Mr. McGraw's letters he mentions that Nancy was present at the time the selection and I wonder if she remembers anything about this. Doubtless Mr. McGraw felt he did not have room for 830 prints - and that a selection be made. If there were six sets, do you know what was done about disposing of them?

What a bother and nuisance I am! You must dread the arrival of the mail every day with all these letters from Chicago.

As we have quite a stack of exhibitions before us and will want to show some of our new accessions, I'll have to wait until later to say anything definite about Photography at Mid-Century. The Metzker show is quite a success and we have more and more visitors to the Print Study Room to look at photographs. Not one day has passed since we acquired Adams' Portfolio Two that we have not had at least one visitor to see it.

All good wishes to you and thanks again for everything.

Sincerely,

January 11, 1960.

Mr. Beaumont Newhall, Director,  
George Eastman House,  
900 East Avenue,  
Rochester, 7, New York.

Dear Beaumont:

Your letter came just after I had mailed one to you. I do hope you have not been too embarrassed by our intervention in the Jammes affair. I am enclosing a letter I sent Jammes after hearing the sad news.

I am grateful we had this experience because I have been able to learn the attitudes of the Committee on Prints and Drawings and the Director in regard to photography. Mr. Maxon has urged me to try and get news of anything that is available and told me he would support (with funds) what was needed and came to hand. As we have a committee meeting during the second week of February, I should like very much to present the Talbot Sun Pictures and shall do so, if I find David McGee.

Last evening has become memorable because I spent it with This is the American Earth. Nancy's text and the pictures form the most moving association of words and photographs I have ever seen. The book is beautiful in every way. There is nothing else like it and its perfections are all imbued with the right kind of humanity and discrimination.

I noticed on the book's wrapper that Ansel Adams' Portfolio Three is announced. so that I must send off a letter - we need it here to take some of the strain of popularity off Portfolio Two.

All good wishes. I still regret that you could not stop that Saturday. Last Saturday night I had dinner at Henrici's and saw the last Chicago performance of West Side Story. You are the one person with whom I wish I had seen that show and I missed you.

Sincerely,

P. S. About two-thirds of the people who come to the Print Study Room come to see photography.