

356 West 22nd St
New York City
March 18th '31

Darling Laurie:

Now that I've at last got some things straightened out in my mind about the Guggenheim matter, I want to write you what I have found out.

It would seem, alas, to be definitely negatived and closed, but I do still believe there may be a loop-hole for next year. Anyway —

When Eliot went to see Dr. Moe last fall he did not know that you had applied. And Dr. Moe was most cordial to him — partly because he's done so well, & partly, I think, because when E returned from Europe, he presented the Guggenheims with one of his pictures.

When E remarked that he wished there were some further way in which he could show his appreciation, Dr. Moe said: "There

2

is a way in which you can help us very much. You live among artists and are apt to hear of promising young ones whom we should like to help. If you will keep your eyes & ears open, & let us know of any whom you deem worthy of a Fellowship, we shall appreciate it."

But at that time, as I say, I didn't know you were applying.

After I had had word with Mr. Eggers, of which I wrote you, I saw Eliot & told him the tale. Whereupon he told me what Dr. Moe had said, & parts off hot-haste to see Moe again.

But by that time the die was cast. Dr. M. expressed real regret - said they had all found your photography most excellent. But what they couldn't make out was why you were possessed to go into "research work" and branch off into what Dr. Moe called "rotogravure"! They felt you should stick to straight photography, etc. etc. Well, when Eliot

reported this, I explained carefully to him what "photogravure" was, why you felt it necessary to master the process - why you ~~wanted~~^{had} to go to Europe to study it - why you wanted to go to Scandinavia, etc.

He was much edified - "Why I see, Ben, it's just as much a part of her job as it would be for you to go abroad to study marble or wood-carving. And more necessary, because you could learn carving over here. I don't believe that jury understood a thing about it. I'm going to see Dr. Hox again - just drop in casually you know, and say I'd just been seeing a friend of Laura's who'd explained it all to me."

So he did - & reported that Dr. Hox was much interested, and seemed decidedly chagrined. "It's too late to do anything about it this year," he said, "but the matter is not definitely closed. I expect to go West this summer, & I shall make a point of going to see Miss Gilpin

and having a talk with "her".

But damn it all, anyhow, - if those numbskulls had just had the gumption to read what you wrote (& it couldn't have been expressed more clearly), they ought to have seen for themselves. Or failing that, if they didn't understand, I do think they ought to have asked some photographer here to explain to them - or else called up Eggers, ~~or~~ or some other sponsor.

It makes me so mad!

I can only hope that next year would be a better year in every way for you to get away, & that perhaps it's as well you're not to go just yet. Sometimes things work out so much better than we think they will. The Fates know better than we.

How have things been going lately?

Poor Dad has had one more loss - Uncle Erving had an operation for kidney - his wife rushed back from Europe, where she'd been settling the affairs of the 3 Geneva sisters - Dad rushed up from

Washington, & hung about ⁵ for week - Uncle
dying too ill to realize him. Aunt Emma
got home just two days before he died.

Dad has now gone back to Washington.
But it is depressing for him. Five - 2 brothers
and 3 sisters - gone within a year!

Aunt Ruth left him the O Street house,
and it's just possible that Shirley, Eliot
& the children may share it with him
next year. Nothing settled yet, however.

He thinks he yearns for a home - so it
seems as though he ought to have a
try at it, at least for a winter. Though
Goodness knows he's never enjoyed it before
when we've all been under one roof!

But he is lonely, & the children, if they
don't get on his nerves too much, will
certainly be good company.

I shall be going down to Washington
the last week in April, both for the
music festival, and to try out cardboard
silhouettes of my "Puck" on the marble
setting - provided of course that it is in

