

356 West 22nd Street
New York City
October 14th '33

Darling Laurie:

The proofs did come, bless you,
and your letter, too, but a tangle of circumstance
has prevented a real letter from me until now.

And now you may be, (and I hope are) up at
the cabin, getting a much needed rest. You
have worked hard - my eye! Such a lot
accomplished. Makes me feel like an utter
slacker. I haven't really accomplished a
single worthwhile thing since my show last
February. And I can't blame pupils for
taking all my time & energy, 'cause though
I've sent out about 600 of those notices,
I've only got one and a half pupils so far!
It's rather discouraging. The one pupil is a
Mrs Twichell of New Haven, who is enterprising
enough to commute from there twice a week.
She's very nice, & has had some experience.
The half is - guess who? - Ruth Anderson's
young sister, student at Barnard. She's never
done any modelling, & never intended to, but
she hopes eventually to be a photographer, and

Ruth thought it would be a good idea to develop her sense of form. She can only come once a week, so I fear she won't get very far, but I'll give her all I can in the way of tying up all the arts together - maybe throwing in a little music by way of illustration. There is one more prospect in sight, she may turn up next week, but I'm not counting on it. So don't picture me making my fortune at teaching!

I'm awfully glad you finally persuaded Betsy to put her Indian experiences in book form, & O how I hope the publishers do take it, & push it. Am sure it must be charmingly done, & your pictures must be a great addition.

And speaking of pictures - here are the proofs all spread before me. I only take 'em out at night, so I guess they won't fade too quickly. The Ship-rock & Clouds ones are simply glorious, my dear. Can't tell you which I like best, they're all so beautiful. Like the Indians, too. The "Medicine Man" is a stunning pattern. The "Merry Widow" groups are a tour-de-force, really. Would love to see those enlarged. And should think they could be, to almost any size, the details are so crisply perfect. Wish I could see some of the individual players. You took some, didn't

you, just as you did of "Camille"? Was this year's performance a financial as well as artistic success? Hope you got decently paid for all your work?

And now the ones of the Petri: - May I speak "straight from the shoulder"? I like immensely the front view, with his hands on his knees, & that eager look. Vivid, it is, & must be a speaking likeness, as well as fine composition & everything else. But to tell the truth, most of the profiles (playing) trouble me not a little. I've been trying to analyze why, & think it must be the lighting. It's such a curious face, with that baby upper-lip & the ridgy-out nose. I can't help wondering if an overhead light might not have brought out his good points, whereas the flat front light seems to accentuate the piggish qualities! An overhead light would accentuate the forehead, which is fine; enrich the modelling around the eyesockets, bringing out the intellectual quality of the man; catch on the upper lip, which is so characteristic and so musical; and send into shadow some of that jowl, which is not attractive, yet which strikes the eye in most of the pictures. Have I here all that you took? Maybe ~~these~~ you did try the overhead light in others.

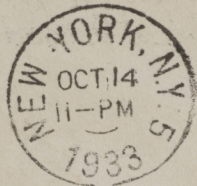
Now if this is an unfair criticism, just

forget it, please. Remember, I've never seen the man,
and am just telling you what hits me.

~~That~~ The hands are splendid in all of them.

I'm wondering, Laurie, if you pictorial
photographers are going to have to join up
under N.R.A.? We sculptors find that if we
don't work out a code for ourselves, we're
going to be classed with ornamental
plasterers, etc. So the N.S.S. is very busy,
& as I'm Secretary this year, I'm busy, too,
and my old bones ache after hours & hours
of sitting on a horribly hard little wooden chair
listening to the various members of the Council
wrangling over details. Of course, the code
will apply only to those of us who employ
assistants, or enter competitions, etc., so I
personally don't have to worry much. We
are probably to be grouped (with our separate
code) with the "Arts & Crafts", & I suppose
you photographers will come under that
head, too. ^{Washington} They are begging us to make
the groups as large as possible, so that
they may not become too multitudinous
to handle.

Now I must be off to bed, as Ernestine
Shepard & I are going tramping tomorrow up
in Van Courtland Park, & want to start early
to avoid the Sunday trippers. (Does trippers
remind you of Clovelly? Darling spot!)
Night - dearest -
your Brendie



Miss Laura Gilpin,
317 Cheyenne Road,
Colorado Springs,
Colorado

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