

April 18
1955.

Dear Mr. Abbott:-

Thank you very much for your letter and the information contained. But I have all the equipment I need from 8x10 down. However, I shall pass the news along to some friends at Los Alamos who might be interested. I notice you have had your fine old lenses coated. This is a much disputed question. I have had discussions with Ansel Adams, Eliot Porter, Benice Abbott and several others with the talk going pro and con. I wrote to both Goertz and Zeiss to ask their opinion and they both said that NO. These early lenses were not designed for coating, and that in the case of a fine Zeiss Double Protar (such as my own) that I have had for twenty five years, that it is impossible to coat it. I have known, too, of places where you can have a lens coated putting the elements back together ruined the quality of the lens. So, I have never had either my Protar or my Dagor coated. I also have two coated Ektars, and a coated Voightlander process, and I have never been even slightly convinced that the Protar or Dagor needed it.

Yes, I have had Color Classics do some processing for me, particularly roll film, but I still prefer to do my own unless I am away too long. I would certainly like to get down to see that Lab. I did not know that Esther Henderson was Mrs. Chuck Abbott! I do hope that we may meet up someday. If I ever finish a new book I am working on, I shall come down your way.

With many thanks and best wishes for more fine work from both of you

Very sincerely