

1959

MARGARET WENTWORTH OWINGS
BIG SUR
CALIFORNIA

August 18th

Dear Laura,

Our delay in responding to the arrival of your fine photographs has not been due to lack of enthusiasm but more because I have been in the hospital...an operation on my eye....which set me back for two weeks but which I am now almost back to where I was to begin with. Enough of that.....

Needless to say, we have gone over and over the photographs....and since Nat and I rarely agree on anything (to begin with) we have to always have a settling period during which both of us melt a little and come to a complete agreement.

There are a number of pictures which are superb! And many or most or, I might go so far as to say "all" of the details close-ups are artistic delights. I agree that the colored shots of the interior are the best for disclosing the contrasts and warm-wood feeling.

Within a few days we will be sending the proofs back with notations on all those we wish, etc. (I thought the shot of the open front door with floor pattern and carving and iron knocker was quite superb.) Didn't you? As for photographs of myself, I have come to the shattering discovery that the day has passed when I allow my photograph to be taken. (Often realize with a start that I still think of myself as I was twenty years ago...ah me.) Vanity! And now that I have my eye sewed up like a button in a sofa cushion !empty laughter....but, I might add

the world around us continues beautiful and peaceful and serenely majestic. I'm so glad you had a chance to see it and be here at least long enough to flavor its passage of moods. (Thought that black and white shot you took of the porch with fog rolling up and me looking through the glasses...~~wxxx~~ actually smelled of the Big Sur.)

I must stop now but want to add that we are thrilled that your book is moving into the hands of a competent...and enthusiastic agent and that you can now move with more certainty toward the goal. Nat was, of course, secretly very pleased that a suggestion made by him was considered worthy of aiding in the solution of the ending of the book. In short, we are happy in every way to have studied and thought about the book before it reaches the public as a finished and completed work of art.

You will be hearing from us shortly!

With love from us both,

Margaret

P.S. The name of our place is:

"THE WILD BIRD"

rather than "THE BIRDS"...which made us feel kind of feathery.







