

June 23,
1961

Dear Mr. Seymour,

First the contract came which I signed and returned to you immediately. The camera came yesterday and I am sure that I am going to like it. I did not order a filter ring adapter hoping that one of mine would fit, but yesterday I went down town immediately to see if I could find one. I did and when un-screwing it, the whole lens assembly came apart. The preset ring, the diaphragm ring and front lens element. I noticed immediately that there was a small spring and very small ball bearing loose, underneath the diaphragm ring, and on close inspection it seemed as though there should be a small pin which I could not find. So before I was even able to make one trial exposure, I thought it best to return the entire lens to you. I imagine that this was jarred loose in transit.

In the box with the lens is also my Steinhil lens which I wrote to you about. I was hoping that the 180mm lens would come in to day but it has not nor was in in the box with the whole outfit. I went through all the packing very carefully. And I notice that the packing slip has a "0" before the listing of the 180mm lens.

Now, before I went down to get the adapter ring I was looking the camera over and focusing it etc. Somehow I had assumed that the preset was automatic which I find is not the case. If you have not sent the 180mm, I think that now that I have seen the camera, focusing screen etc. That the straight 135mm lens will be what I will need most at the moment. Particularly if I have you mount the Steinhil 165mm. I assume that this will need an extension tube and I don't know what you will advise about the shutter, but let me hear

from you regarding this. Also in a second box I have sent you the Multiscope which I wrote you about before. It has never been used. I took it in with some other equipment I got from a photographer several years ago. Just credit my account for its present worth.

I like the feel and apparent good construction. It is somewhat heavier than I anticipated, but it has a good balance.

I had loaded the roll film adapter to try out. In doing so, I see that this is for a $2\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{7}{8}$ size, not the $2\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$. Your printed announcement gives two sizes, Model AS-23 $2\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$ and Model AS-67 which is apparently the one I have. I would prefer the full $2\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$, not that the fraction is so very important but using everything else the full size it would mean blocking off a bit of the groundglass only when using the roll film.

The lenses were sent it by insured air parcel post. I am very anxious to get this camera into action as quickly as possible and a great deal of summer time has already gone by. This letter follows the packages by a few hours, and I hope reaches you as quickly as the lenses. I enclose the little spring and ball bearing with this letter.

I have just had a call from Minor White of Rochester. He is on his way to California for his summer workshops. I found he had not seen this camera and though I had to show it to him without alens he seemed to like it. As he has many students both in Rochester and in California I hope this may lead to further inquiries to you.

If the 135mm lens needs an extension tube, I assume you will send it. Also an adapter ring for series VL filters.

I regret the incident for the lens coming apart but the adapter ring was evidently tighter than the assembly. However, I am sure there is no damage.

Very truly yours,