

Jan. 3, 1960

Dear Laura:

Yesterday

We were very glad to get your letter, written Dec. 29 in which you mention the lack of a darkroom. This is very disturbing, not only because it makes it so difficult for you, but also because it seems to indicate certain things about Mr. F. which are even more disturbing. I've been hearing all sorts of tales, some of which can always be discounted, but which may indicate certain trends. It seems that he is one of those people who must keep complete control of everything and will not allow others to do some of the things which should take details from his shoulders. I've heard that he is not accessible to his staff, whose hands are tied because he does not give the word to proceed. I've not seen Joe since his return, but have heard that he was boiling mad. This is just hearsay.

And in my own case, I'm afraid that the situation is not going to be a workable one. Unless he can give me some word to get started on the project, I'll have to make other plans. But the most upsetting thing is that he did not bring before the Board meeting any 10-year plan as he said he was going to. This came out in a casual conversation with Bibah who had not heard a thing about the puppet exhibit, for one thing. She seems very disturbed, too. I was sorry I said anything to her, but assumed of course that F. had done as he said he was going to, and also that she knew all about the various exhibits. I have written to him in Merida, but there has been no reply. Actually, I don't see how he can function as a director by running off into the field, because obviously that means concentration upon one project at the expense of others. I would think a director's job would be to keep the whole ship in full sail, or if he feels that his function is actual work away from headquarters, there would be an active curator to keep everything else functioning. Well, we'll see what develops. I'm much concerned about the puppet exhibit, because of its importance in intercultural relations (just a small detail, of course, but every item counts) and because I talked so much about it in so many places. On the other hand, I don't especially want to be involved in something which is going to be a perpetual headache.

The address you wanted is:

The Color Corporation of America
Box 3366
610 S. Armenia Ave.
Tampa 9, Florida

Telephone Redwood 7-5353

The New York address is:

The Sofia Bldg.
43 W. 61 St.
New York 23

If you want to send the processed films here, we will of course do with them whatever you say. The dark room is cool; it has been very cold, and I've kept just a tiny bit of fire to keep the water from freezing, but it can be turned off entirely if that is better. Perhaps the Florida plant can do it so you can get the film back; it must be very frustrating not to be able to see results.

I've been sending on various bills, which I hate to do, but did not know what else to do. Betsy has paid the fire insurance premium for Howell Earnest, and a \$7.74 bill for county taxes, and the gas and electricity. The Santa Fe Book bill came in after I'd sent off your letter with check, and so did the Camera Shop. Shall I send them on, or hold them? Don't worry about household moneys or anything else here as we are getting on all right, and I have plenty on hand to keep us going. I only hope that the Folk Art doesn't renege on the salary check for you!

I've sent about 5 letters, and wonder if you have received them. Now I will keep track of the dates, and what has been sent. Did you get the correspondence relating to the Meisel refusal to print the McNown films (2), and Peter Krebs letter about the curled edges of the Hott job? They were in the same letter. I have also sent deposit slips totalling \$536.81, including the latest from Anderson of \$200.00. Just in case some have not arrived here are the amounts:

Packard	\$36.05	
McNown	48.15	
Thompson	144.20	
Musgrave	48.41	
Shostal	60.00	
Anderson	200.00	
	<u>\$ 536.81</u>	208.41

Well, I guess that about covers things to date. I have also heard the story about the lost pocket book (or left-behind-one I guess it was), and how you had to taxi back for it. All this sort of thing sounds fantastic! None of this has been told to Betsy.

I do hope things are improving for you and that the trip will really work out well despite its bad beginning.

With love,

Mayorie.