

Sept. 18th

Dear Laura Gilpin,

It is odd that I should have just heard of and met Hermine Turner a few days ago. Mr. Steichen dug up her address -- had learned of her first through Ramona Javitz at the NY Pub. Library Picture Collection. A wonderful person -- and was delighted to see the beautiful photographs taken by her mother 40 years ago, so well mounted and as if printed yesterday. Did not know about the collection at the Library of Congress. Is that where most of her work is? Mrs. Turner said that she has a daughter working for a publisher -- forget which one. Do you know her also? She is in charge of the foreign rights.

I looked at ^{two} your books on Friday at the Museum of Modern Art, and was planning to write Charlie Duell to be sure that I had your correct address!

Love that country -- was there in 1942 for several months, and have longed to spend more time along the Rio Grande. Your book freshened my memories. The Temples in Yucatan I've not seen. Is this a book, or a collection that formed an exhibit? Think Barbara Morgan mentioned you had done pictures there, some time ago.

Among the women photographers of early part of the century, have on my list Alice Austin (from 1880-1910), Frances Johnston (southern homes), Alice Boughton (studio NY) Doris Ulmann (Kentucky rural life - collection at Berea College), Elizabeth Buehrmann (portraits and advertising), Annie Brigman (haven't much information, and have seen only a few pictures at the Metropolitan), and Annie Tarbox Beals who did some studies in tenements in NY in 1910 that are part of the Jacob Bies collection at the Museum of the City of NY. There was also a Long Island housewife whose negatives Mr. Culver has who did not publish, but did some nice holiday activity and backyard documentation, and washed her prints at the pump.

Just received a letter from the Journal, about a series which appeared in 1904 called "The Foremost Women Photographers in America", by Frances B. Johnston (mentioned above). Here are some new names - Mathilde Weil, Emma Farnsworth, Frances and Mary Allen, Eva Lawrence Watson, Zaida Ben-Yusaf, and Elizabeth Brownell. Are any of these familiar to you and

do you know if any of them are living?

Among photographers of the 30s - I include Mary Morris Steiner, the first woman to do news reportage, apart from Bourke-White (she is now in advertising), Barbara Morgan, who was working on her dance book then, Louise Dahl Wolfe, queen of the fashion photographers still -- think she may have started with Vogue earlier, Therese Bonney (now living in Paris), Hansel Mieth (now living in Calif. - have not located her address, but wrote care of Life, who have published her work as recently as 1950), and Marion Post - now in Colorado and no longer doing much - most active during period with Stryker at Farm Security Administration. Don't have her address.

The contemporary active people most of whom I have seen this summer are Eve Arnold, Charlotte Brooks, Esther Bubley, Nina Leen (magazine world); Berenice Abbott, Lisette Model - who teach still and remain faithful; Imogene Cunningham, who came out from San Francisco for her show at Limelight. Then there is Dody Weston at Big Sur, who studied with Edward and married his son Brett, and has a definite style of her own, and of-course Dorothea Lange, who is still rated tops but everyone who knows her, and is about to have a story in Life. (You may have seen her Irish Peasants in Life last year.) And Ylla who died a year ago.

This about covers the American scene. Digging up people in Europe is taking a bit longer, but have had letters from a few French and Dutch women photographers, and helpful answers from the British museums about old-timers, but no response from the current practising women photographers. Guess they are too busy!

If you have a chance to mull this over, and think of anyone I've skipped, would love to have your suggestions! Or if you know of any living relatives of any of the old-timers, who might have anecdotes and information not to be found in libraries.

Hope to see your show, and you, and when you have a chance, would appreciate a copy of the working photograph.

All best wishes,

Willa Perreault