

Princeton University

DEPARTMENT OF ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY

MCCORMICK HALL, PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY 08540

Peter C. Bunnell

David Hunter McAlpin Professor of the
History of Photography and Modern Art

May 6th 1973

Dear Laura:

I am very sorry for my delay in writing you - first to let you know the photographs arrived in perfect condition and second to say how disappointed I was at not being able to see you in New York. The dates you were in town proved to be simply impossible for me. Between my teaching at Princeton, another seminar I am giving at Yale, and everything else, I just wasn't able to get into the City. I trust your visit was pleasant and that you were able to do all you wished.

I have shown the photographs to Mr. McAlpin and he is delighted with them. We will meet next week to make a final selection and then I will be in touch with you again for a proper invoice, &c. We are thinking serious of between four and six prints. The remainder I would like to take to John Szarkowski at The Museum of Modern Art. The last meeting of their Acquisitions Committee is next week and they already have a full agenda. Therefore, he probably could not make a final decision until the fall. He might, however, be able to make a preliminary selection from the group and then, if you wish, I could take the remaining prints to John McKendry at the Metropolitan Museum. Let me know what you think of these ideas. You may rather let Lee Witkin handle these other contacts.

As for your Clarence White and Kasebier prints, I am not sure we are in a position to purchase them. Our funds are limited and we must collect in a wide area. The White family has offered us the opportunity to select from their holdings (you recall I selected the White retrospective exhibition from their collection) and also we have recently been given some Kasebier prints by her niece, Mina Turner. The White Collections does not however, include many important pictures. Of your holdings I would be interested most in three items: "Pipes of Pan," the photograph of Mrs. White on the cliff with the glass ball, and the formal sitting of portraits of your brother. Perhaps we could discuss these some more. Of the Kasebier pictures, in looking over my list of your holdings I think we have represented now in the collection pictures of a similar nature and quality. I can certainly understand your thoughts regarding income for the future, and you should feel free to discuss the sale with Van Coke.

I managed to get up bright and early and I arrived at O'Keeffe's at 7:30. She had already left Abiquiu for the Ghost Ranch. I went on up there and had breakfast and lunch with her. Unfortunately [this is all just

between us] Doris Bry, her representative in New York, assistant, and kind of "daughter" was there. I suspect O'Keeffe flew her out especially to be there when I came, knowing I wanted to talk to her about restrictions on the Stieglitz material. While the morning was very pleasant it proved utterly frustrating and indeed I came away feeling the chances of myself or anyone else doing serious work on Stieglitz is not possible. O'Keeffe seemed well, and she was very pleasant. The ranch was incredible and though the specifics of our conversation were disappointing, the visit itself was memorable.

It was wonderful to see you again.

My warmest regards -

AL

Laura Gilpin
409 Camino del Monte Sol
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501