

Phone 703-463-4507
Mr. Hobart Durham, Jr.,
R.F.D. Treemont,
Lexington, Va. 24450

March 8
1975

Dear Mr. Durham:-

Richard Rudisill of the Museum of New Mexico gave me your name and address as a chemist who could make me some ferric oxalate, the light sensitizer for making hand coated platinum paper. I have waited to write until I saw enough free time ahead to work on this process, which I have used greatly in years gone by. It takes a very small amount as neither the chemical nor the solution stay fresh long enough or get a larger quantity. But I have work planned ahead now so that I may be doing a great deal of this work in the months ahead. 100 grams at a time would be ample to begin with. The most important thing in hand coated paper is that the ferric oxalate be perfectly fresh. As I remember what I used to use a good many years ago, I got it in the form of a grey green scales.

At the present time there is quite a revival in the platinotype process. I have seen work by a number of young photographers, but as yet I have not seen a truly good black value in their prints. I used to get this with ease and have numerous prints to prove it. I have been told in the past that it was not difficult make. I have tried some from a present day chemical house, but it does not look the same nor at all the same. If the difference has been added and which may have made this difference.

I am enclosing my check for \$5. in the hope that you can make me a small amount for me to test out. If this is not enough for a sample try just let me know. If we can get started on this I know others who will doubtless send you orders.

Thanking you

Sincerely your,

telephone (505) 982-0032

LAURA GILPIN



PHOTOGRAPHER

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