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April 28, 1976

Ms. Laura Gilpin
409 Camino del Monte Sol
Sante Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Ms. Gilpin:

I was delighted to receive your letter dated April 27 concerning early photographic printing processes, particularly platinum prints. In the meantime I expect you have received my second letter about Clarence White. I hope you will not think that I am pestering you too much with questions, but you happen to be involved in things which are central to my own thinking and research.

I do hope you will be able to write me something on Clarence White, no matter how sketchy and informal it might be.

As to the techniques, would you be willing to talk into a cassette tape recorder (assuming that you have one) about some of the printing techniques that were popular earlier in the century. I am enclosing a list of these from the back of the Painterly Photograph catalogue from the Metropolitan Museum, which might be a useful starting point. If you would care to comment on any or all of these techniques, I would be very grateful.

What I am looking for is not so much the technical or mechanical side, although your comments on that would be most welcome, but more the expressive and sensual aspects of these procedures. In other words, I am interested in why you feel platinum, for example, is a worthwhile printing process--what kinds of effects can be attained with it, what sort of a feeling does it give you. If you can do the same with the other printing

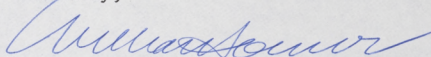
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processes it would be wonderful.

I was glad to hear of your Guggenheim Foundation fellowship grant. I was a Guggenheim fellow myself in 1972-73 for research on Stieglitz and the artists of his circle.

Finally, I wonder whether you have any works by Clarence White or the photographers of the Stieglitz group. I have some lovely vintage Whites in my own collection which I treasure. I will look forward, with great interest, to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William I. Homer", written in a cursive style.

William I. Homer
Chairman

WIH:sr
Enclosure

P.S. If you are willing to do a tape on printing techniques but do not have the necessary equipment, please let me know. I might be able to work out a solution.