

July 29, 1977

Miss Doris Bry
11 East 73rd Street
New York, New York 10021

Dear Doris;

Please forgive my delay in answering your letter. It is a very busy summer. I studied the proofs with much interest; there is beautiful detail in all of them. But somehow they lack a certain brilliance that I think is necessary to convey the effect of the original. I appreciate your great effort in trying to reproduce the platinum print, and you certainly have the scale. The reproduction of the platinum print which is Shiprock with the distant storm to the right, I think is the best of the lot. This is the one platinum you did; I think there could be greater separation in the dark values. The print of the "Storm from La Bajada" is beautiful in the light values. The sky beyond the valley with the distant white clouds shows this, but the dark just doesn't seem to snap out enough. The deepest values in my own prints are considerably darker than in these proofs. These proofs are on a beautiful soft paper which may account for some of this loss of values. I will try to find someone who is more informed than I on modern reproduction methods. I question as to what is the best kind of print for me to make which will yield the best final interpretation of the original.

I have talked these over with Will, and we both feel that it is the dark values that need opening up somehow. I do not know if you received an invitation to "Five Photographers". This was an exhibition at Horwath Galleries. Eleanor Caponigro arranged and did all the work for this show, and it was quite a success. She used my

"White Iris" print on the cover and reproduction was made from a glossy print, and somehow it retains the quality that I was striving for in the original print. In case you have not seen this, I am sending you one. It is some time since I have worked directly in the preparation of producing the right kind of print for a publication and there have been so many improvements that I need to know more about myself before I can advise anyone else. In the meantime, I will try and find one or two other experts in this line and see what they have to say. Thank you for sending the prints and I hope that these proofs will aid you in securing a publisher. With best wishes, I am,

Very truly yours,

Laura Gilpin

LGsm