

January 1, 1978

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

Dear Laura Gilpin:

Marnie Gillett of the Center for Creative Photography has kindly given me your address so that I could check some information that Paul Strand had given me in a conversation on platinum paper.

He said that he had been ordering platinum paper from the Platinotype Company, and that it solarized. In the late twenties he performed an experiment by cutting a negative in half and printing one half on the Platinotype Company paper as it came (rolled in tins and easy to crack, he said) and one half on a piece that he had recoated with extra platinum at the Camera Club. The uncoated print solarized and the other did not, and he was able to convince them that they should add more platinum to their paper, which they did until 1935 or 36. He mentioned that you, Stieglitz and Aaron Martin were the only other customers that he knew of for the Platinotype paper.

I wonder how this accords with your memory of the incident. I gather that Willis and Clemens were the agents for the Platinotype Company. I would be most grateful for any information or recollection you have of the events in question.

I note that Strand once wrote you (in the early twenties I believe) and suggested that you and he get together to discuss some photographs you were showing in New York. Did you, in fact, meet and was there a discussion of interest at that period? Did you know Strand and Beck Strand when they first came out to New Mexico in 1930? Lots of questions, I realize, and I will understand if you find them too bothersome. The platinum question is the one foremost in my mind.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a most happy New Year.

Sincerely yours,

Naomi Rosenblum

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