

Jan 21, 1979

Dear Laura,

Just returned from Florida where I spent two weeks over Christmas and - spent some time with Margaret as you probably know - she said she was going to call you. She looks very well. Warm weather seems to do her good. I hope my life is always blessed with people who have that much life and spirit in them. I showed her my first Platinum prints ^{and she liked them} and she mentioned that you had some trouble with today's materials and where to get them fresh, etc. Because of my involvement with the New School (I'm ~~not~~ now Head Technician for Parsons which is owned by the New School and I've just been asked to teach at the New School - an advanced course in Landscape Photography starting next week - if it gets the enrollment - that was a beautiful stroke of good fortune!) I was able to take a course with Alan Newman (not Arnold) on Platinum. Between him and Lois Connor (not Linda) I seem to have ~~run~~ stumbled onto two of the most ~~knowledgable~~ knowledgable experts on Platinum in the country. With Parson's 20 foot long Xerox machine I copied a stack of papers for each student. Included was a bibliography which I am sending to you. I didn't think you needed a stack of papers (one more) so I've marked all the articles which I have available. For some reason I had ~~decided~~ decided to make an extra copy not knowing for who it was for. Perhaps its for you. Like I said - its an extra set waiting for a friendly ^{or all} home. Anyway, let me know if you would like any of the articles available and I'll send them on to you.

In addition I have a paper written about 50-015, ^(KODAK) the film most popularly used for copying small negatives up to 8x10. It is easy to use, ~~very cheap~~ reproduces the qualities very well and develops in Dektol. Though its very unstable and consequently must be fresh and kept refrigerated. I am also sending you a list of sources. As far as the Ferric Oxalate is concerned, Ventron (ALFA) is very good. (I've been using it and its very fresh) and Matthey Bishop has the most inexpensive prices on the Chloroplatinite. Last month it was \$5.65/gram in large quantities (73g or somewhere close to that if I remember). There seems to ~~be~~ be an agreement that the Elegant Images stuff, though they've gotten better, is not up to snuff. I also have a sheet on the various papers available, but as I don't have a copy I'll write it out for you. As I offered before, I'd be glad to help you get any of the materials you need that are available in N.Y. (paper, glassware, etc.) and any questions that you have - if I can't answer I'll forward them on to my two friends the experts and either get back to you or put you directly in touch with them. I realize that you probably know more about this than I will ever know, but Margaret said you were having some trouble with the materials, so I thought to put this at your disposal might be of some use to you. - And last but not least - I'm planning a trip this summer out west to photograph - in a car this time with my 8x10. I intend to pass through Santa Fe anyway so I thought perhaps, since I know you want to get those portfolios out for Within, having someone around who knew about Platinum could be of ~~so~~ some use to you. I could stay for a month or so and help you get started and maybe defray some of the costs of such a trip. Its just an

idea I'd like to throw out as a possibility for you to think about. I think it could be very beneficial for the both of us. With all these resources at my disposal and at the rate I'm turning out Platinum prints I should be an expert soon (at least in 20 years). Anyway, although it is something I would really like to do, I only mention it lightly because the friendship is much more important to me and God knows you probably have too many people asking you for almost everything conceivable. Though I'm sure I could gain greatly from the association, I would like to think of others in this situation. I think I could help you to get those portfolios together but I don't want to ~~exist~~ ~~any~~ be just another person asking for this or that. Anyway - keep in touch - either way and if you need a paper sample or need to know where to get certain of the papers or anything I can do for you let me know. Margaret tells me your hip is better and I'm glad. May you just get better and better. Take care Be well,

love,
Lenny Eiger

Papers for Use in Platinum Printing

100% rag

(There are more - I copied this from Alan Newman)

Bienfang BP Graphics # 360

Translucent, very thin avail. in pads

delicate tones, good blacks

more neutral color

will take on color of backing paper

I've used 24 drops metal with success for 8x10

Use underside

Dry slowly - sprinkle with atomizer before drying or expect wrinkles

Southworth Parchment Deed # 2 (weight)

Similar to Bienfang

avail. 8 1/2 x 11 and legal size

Watermarked

Strathmore Drawing 500 Med. Surface 1-ply

Cool tones

Good blacks

More absorbent

less sharp

Avail. 30 sheets 11x14, sheets 23x29 5.00 pad 50 & 64.

Strathmore Drawing 50 High Surface 1ply

sharp

good blacks

warm tone

must use half palladium for good adhesion

too much sensitizer produces uneven tones

20 drops metal/8x10 good start

RIVES BFK Heavyweight says BFK France only

Good Blacks

Crush in dry mount press when dry to get sharpness

Cold with pure Platinum

Absorbent 30-40 drops metal/8x10

widest range contrast ~~contrast~~ control since paper tends to mask grain

Fabrizio Classico 140#

Whitest of the papers

smoothest of the heavy papers

(good for contrast)

get hotpressed

avail. in sheets (53#)

only 25% rag

there is a 100% rag version of this which seems to have the same qualities but I have not tested it as yet. I've only found it in one store only and will test it ~~probably~~ very soon

Strathmore Carillon

Similar to high surface 500

but warm tone paper

almost impossible to find

Cranes all rag kid Finish

similar to drawing 500 med. surface

watermarked

8 1/2 x 11 sheets only

Absorbent

matte

good for over contrasty negs