

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Circle 5-8900 Cable: Modernart

Department of Photography

August 9, 1965.

Nell dear:

Herewith the beautiful Recommendation for Promotion, with thanks for having shared it with me. Chris is in every way magnificent, and it is almost unbearable to think of him - and all the others - in Vietnam. Why, and for what, and how long, Good Lord, how long? One feels so helpless, so useless, so futile in the face of everything....

It would be good to see you both, but please do not urge Chris to give up his precious leave time visiting with me. I will understand, and we can always look to a reunion once this too has passed, as pass it must.

I have come to the unhappy conclusion that Western Civilization is reaching its end - did you read about the Gin in Tiffany's windows?

Yes, Miss Johnston was quite a gal - I have found an 1892 article about a photo-essay she did in a coal mine by flash; she had a portrait studio in Washington; was a photo-journalist (one of the first ladies in that branch of the profession; and in 1917 she turned all her interests into documentation of the architecture of the American South, and garden photography. It is the "seeing pity" aspect of her work that interests me, and our album of her Hampton Institute photographs is a gem. Strange that you and she did not meet, for although she was born in 1864 she survived until 1952, spending her final years in New Orleans.

I love you, too -

Grace