

December 23, 1969

Dear Dorn,

Well, 1969 will be closing on a far better note than 1968 did and I want to share some of my optimism with you. You have come closer than anyone but Greta to understanding the quandry I have been in and you have seen, I'm sorry to say, just how defensively I have reacted when my own dilemma has been shown to me.

I am definitely out of Ramparts. The magazine still limps along financially and I still bear the feelings toward it I would toward a deformed child. It has given up its lusting after shock for shock's sake and will spend far more time in the future on ecology and environmental problems than it has in the past, but it was never my métier. If a whole new management with a whole new point of view were to come along, I might participate, but I have better things to do for now.

Not the least of which is the Scrimshaw Press. I hope that you will have seen our new book, Roger Minick's Delta West, by the time you receive this letter. We are terribly proud. We have hand-delivered it to several San Francisco bookstores for a pre-Christmas offering and the reception has been tremendous. It's official publication date is January 29 and I think that it will quickly sell out. Greta's book goes very well, too. It's a word-of-mouth affair, perhaps a bit like Mother and Child in that respect. Everyone who buys one buys another for a friend. We were delighted to see your influence at work in an order from the Hickory Stick. It's nice to be small enough that one can notice that sort of thing.

In the absence of sufficient capital, it's difficult to talk about future projects, but we have every intention of continuing (under a new name--have you any suggestions?) Ansel Adams has shown signs of interest in letting us do a portfolio of some of his previously unpublished photographs and that is the sort of project for which Edwin Land might be willing to lend a financial hand. I know that we are competent and that we will find help when the need arises. And wouldn't a new edition of Mother and Child be wonderful!

There are many other good projects in the air, but my message is a simple one--the Mitchells are well in body and spirit and forever grateful to you for your loving care and understanding. Our lives are, in good measure, a dedication to you.

Love,

Frederick