

ONE THOUSAND AND FORTY  
PARK AVENUE

January 8, 1940

Mr. David Smart  
919 N. Michigan Ave.,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear David Smart;

Nothing is simple, it seems. When I talked with you regarding the pictures for "Esquire" I thought it was as good as finished but when I tried to get the release from my model I ran into trouble. Funny, at the word "Esquire" I got the same reaction from several—just plain "No thank you!" This came as a complete surprise to me. I got out your Christmas number (which I consider a very fine job and something to be proud of) and which they admitted but their contention was that Esquire tends to exploit women for men's pleasure and that was that. They simply refused to allow their pictures to be used and there's nothing either you or I could do.

I am sending you, however, some prints which I have permission to use. From these you can make your selection. All are numbered and if you will make comments on the back of each one and return them to me I will print immediately. Some of the prints I have made various tones just to get your general reaction about each, keeping in mind that the final print can be an improvement over these.

I have also included a few pictures of quite another kind. They might possibly be material for Coronet rather than Esquire. When I start pulling out prints I find many that I wish I might show you. Time is the thing that prevents.

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I have been holding up this letter trying to get a definite date from Mr. Dorr. It looks as if he may have to go to Porto Rico the eighteenth of this month, to be gone several weeks. The Western trip would be pushed ahead into February. What I'm hoping is that it might be possible for me to come to Chicago January eighteenth and have these two weeks work there, providing this would be convenient for you. The Graffs are very keen about it and ready to cooperate in every way. I get so excited just thinking about it with so many new ideas and taking such definite form that I can hardly contain myself. I talked a bit with Lillian Gish who is my close friend, and she was equally enthusiastic. She is opening in Chicago in "Life With Father" this next month and wants me to stay with her but I should prefer to simply concentrate on the work without any interruptions. I will know in a very few days what Mr. Dorr's definite plans are. Meanwhile, if you will o.k. the pictures that you know you want and return them to me I will get to work immediately on them.

I am not sure about Mrs. Lehmann. Mr. Lehmann has had an operation and their little girl has had a fractured arm but she is so keen to come that even this may not stop her.

Let me know how this seems from you end. Believe me ever sincerely.

VND/HF