COMMENTS FROM LETTERS REGARDING

"MOTHER AND CHILD"

This book of pictures represents an America that is not measured in terms of Hollywood, of materialism, or of McCarthyism, the three qualities of our country which seem largely to be exploited abroad.

Eugene Exman
Harper Bros.
May 26, 1954

I must have a longer perspective before I talk much about it. At the moment--under this first impact, it leaves me dumb and breathless--like birth and death--I must sit under the sky a bit and try to think.
Your text and the pictures evoke by suggestion what lies deep hidden in the reader's mind--that quality of the masterpieces of art. It is just paint or printer's ink--OR, it is the strong solvent that cuts through the coating of commonplace life to the shy heart beneath.
It is very timely. I should like to put McCarthy in solitary confinement with a copy of this book and refuse him food until he knew it by heart!

Arthur Rushmore
The Golden Hind Press
May 31, 1954

Note by JVND: Mr. Rushmore was for many years the greatly beloved "Head" of Harper and Brothers, the publisher of the American Edition of "Mother and Child" which comes out in September 1954.

This is the loveliest book I have ever seen. It seems like something from another world, half a fairy world and yet so brimming with humanness, a thing of exquisite beauty and pathos. It is all true poetry as I see it and as such--a thing of beauty.
It will never fade into nothingness--but still will keep a bower quiet for us and a sleep full of sweetest dreams and health and quiet beauty. (Or perhaps it is more like some strain of heavenly music that transcends and doesn't need words--so I won't and indeed can't go on trying to add words to words--but I do indeed, indeed thank you for this great privilege of being allowed to see it. Of course you seem to me like someone from another world!--but what world it is and where it is, I cannot at present feel sure--something very primitive, in truth primeval and yet so civilized--?

Lady Bullard
July 5, 1954

These are not photographs, they belong with the great Masterpieces.....But this is Vermeer.....These are to live with, not to look at.

Dr. D'Ailly
Burgomeister of Amsterdam

Technically this is a gem....But there is so much more than technique.

Mr. Keigreiss
Publisher at Stuttgart

But this is not photography, this is painting, This is are--a medium of its own....I must paint these. Do you mind if I paint some of these?

Mr. Edward Dietz
Artist in Paris

It is a religious experience--like the music of Bach.

Paris

I can't believe this is photography. It is poetry, music, true art.

Professor Henicker
Stuttgart

It is entirely out of our line but it has a peculiar quality. I would like to study it. I would not like to say no without further study. I would like to have a copy.

Mr. Morley Kennerley
Faber and Faber
London, England

This is so beautiful.....words are not necessary. This can never be a money making venture. It cannot possibly be sold without subsidizing, but have you been to the State Dept. This is more valuable than their Voice of America. I should think they would realize its value and help to publish it in Europe where it really belongs. Once it is published in America, I believe far seeing Americans will realize its value and help make possible its publication in Europe. It will not be easy financially but I feel it must be done. What seems impossible is a challenge and a way to publish it in Europe will be found.

Victor Gollancz
Victor Gollancz, Ltd.
London

I have watched with interest the instinctive reactions of folk who have been here and casually picked up "Mother and Child" from the library table. Some read the title and put it down--what could be new in <u>that</u> title. Some leaf through it; cannot get beyond the grim fact that Queen Anne's Lace is just wild carrot (and a damn nuisance!)--put it down.
Then there are two more kinds of people: those who know life, its ecstacy and its agony; and the others are those who are emotionally geared for the good life but missed it through happenstances. Both these groups love the book, lingering through it page by page.

Arthur Rushmore
Golden Hind Press
August 26, 1954

Nell Dorr, who both dances and sings with her camer.

Carl Sandburg

It is a sacred and beautiful book. Nell has in an extraordinary degree the qualities and lights of a mother and a child. With the camera she is both poet and philosopher; her finest personal gleams come through. This latest work of hers shall stand among the books I keep and love. Her life gives richer than ever with affirmations and blossoms.

Carl Sandburg
September 10, 1954

The lines are beautiful in their almost Biblical simplicity--their English is pure and luminous--a feeling of inspiration in every line.

Sir Harold Hartley

What an incredibly subtle and beautiful use of the camera.

Kay Graham
Washington
September 21, 1954

It is a beautiful thing and a joy to have. The photographs are made with such loving care and exquisite detail.

Mary Martin
September 21, 1954

I have never seen a collection of more beautiful photographs. Although I try to make photographic pictures myself, I had not realized that the art could approach so close to poetry.

Gilbert Highet
Dept. of Greek and Latin
Columbia University October 4, 1954

We were impressed by the high quality and sensitivity of the photographic illustrations.....

Arthur Goldsmith, Jr.
Features Editor
PHOTOGRAPHY Magazine
September 29, 1954

Your book is truly a thing of beauty. It will, I am sure, be a real source of inspiration to the mothers who see it--and the fathers too.

Mrs. Dean A. Clark
Cambridge 38, Mass.
October 2, 1954

Her hauntingly beautiful photographs have caught the very essence of motherhood and the true spirit of childhood. Nell has shown once again that in the hands of an artist the photographic lens can capture the inner spirit as well as the painter's brush.

H.V. Kaltenborn
New York City
September 8, 1954

Its beauty and charm will give pleasure to many.

Edith Kirby
Carnegie Free Library
Tucson, Arizona
October 15, 1954

It is a great book, I think--truly great. I showed it proudly to my friends at the Plain Dealer, and was particularly interested in the reaction of the news photographers. They're a bold and hardy lot--not easily impressed by other peoples photographs....isn't it interesting that your work spoke to both of them of God! The "yes" in your pictures rings out loud and clear.

"Mother & Child" is not a book--it's God in a graphic form.

Eddie Solotko

This book will eliminate a lot of athiests in this world.

Dudley Braumbaugh

Claire McCardel
Cleveland Plain Dealer

What magic you create with your camera! And what a story you tell of life, of joy, of sorrows in the picture poems you have created.

Bob and Nathalie Clothier

These new pictures bring joy, that surmounts grief, and renews the past, as the young forms fill out the quaint dresses of yesteryear, so lovingly embroidered and tucked and tatted!! by grandmothers very different from Nell--but just the same too! As for the babies! I do not see how you achieved such modelling of curved lips and wondering eyes! And your text speaks eloquently for both sides of you--the artist and the woman.

Marion Rous
New York
November 9, 1954

"Mother and Child" I have read and poured over again and again. It is so heart-searching and poignant. Unquestionably it transcends time and space. The photographs are in some ways beyond my reach. But the words, the true, deep poetry, are enough to lift any volume out of the ordinary--far out of the ordinary. For me they breathe and live. I feel the very timeless heart-beat of them, as much so as the heart-beat throbs in the photographs.

Rt. Rev. Edward M. Cross, S.T.D.
Spokane, Washington
October 3, 1954

Thank God for the beauty you have put into life.

Edward H. Hume, M.D.
New York, N.Y.
October 5, 1954

It is absolute perfection. The text and the pictures together are exquisite. You have given the world a beautiful and moving gift.
Each photograph is so lovely one wants to linger with it. There is such a real and tender quality in each. We adore them all.

Betty and Ralph Sollitt
Westport
November 8, 1954

It is so lovely. It gives one a most wonderful picture of a quality as substantial and enduring as the earth itself but with such an ethereal visual approach created by the gossamer fabric of dreams--I find myself going back to it constantly to reassure myself of some special mood.

Martha D. Thompson
Wellesley, Mass.
November 2, 1954

Words can't express the deep feeling of the world unfolding within a mother's heart--forever old--forever new.
It could be (an expression of) any people any place any time--because the wonder and eternal beauty that comes with birth and the young innocence is an intangible feeling deep in the heart of all mothers.

Mrs. Russell Dorr
Washington, D.C.
December 1, 1954

The little book is a joy--a joy forever, in its appeal to the best we have in us.

Emily Fearhall
New London, Conn.
October 18, 1954

Since I started my career as Editor of Gevaert Photo-Producten N.V. more than 30 ~~XX~~ years ago, I have never been moved so deeply by a photographic publication as by your sublime "Mother and Child". The Gevaert Company of America, Inc., New York, were kind enough to send me a copy. I haven't the slightest hesitation calling it the finest book of photographs I have ever come across. Yours is really a new style and compels us, much to our delight, to revise some of our conceptions about artistic photography. From beginning to end you have succeeded by means of the purest photography to make every page of "Mother and Child" pulsate with life and poetry.

Mr. M. Craeybeckx
Manager Editorial Dept.
Gevaert Photo-Producten N.V.
Septestraat 27, Mortsel
Antwerp, Belgium
January 5, 1955

Your lines are most beautiful in their biblical simplicity. I should have liked to have read them back to you myself. They grow on me. Their English is so pure and luminous, there is a feeling of inspiration in every line. And the more I look at the pictures, the more I enjoy them. They are such exquisite subjects they touch the pictures of an old master--especially one in which you are holding a tiny baby in your long delicate expressive hands. I love to look at them.

Sir Harold Hartley
England
March 8, 1954

K R Leedom
Jan. 17, 1955

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Mother and Child
by Nell Dorr

For a book of sheer inspiration, we heartily endorse Nell Dorr's latest book of photographs. Herself a mother, a grandmother and godmother, Mrs. Dorr has captured with her camera, moments and attitudes of life with babies and children that are much too rare to be translated into words. *Harper and Brothers.* $4.50.

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Baby Talk
May 1955