

March 29, 1971

MY DEAR Carlotta:

I do hope you will forgive my inability to write you any sooner, and thank you for your handsome Xmas card, and kind wishes..

I finally finished the long 2-year job for the University of Louisville late last September. In October I went to Louisville (to straighten out many questions still unsettled - and also, to lecture to the students there). Although the lecture was on photography, I ended up by strongly attacking the destructive and war-oriented society in which we live -and I think I really got over to the students in a way I have never been able to do before. I then left for Cincinnati, Chicago, and St. Louis (giving lectures to students in the last two places)... During most of November and December I was in New York City -for the first time in almost 3 years.. I returned here, thinking to send out New Year cards, and then start on a book. But -first, I came down with a bad bout of "flu" -which left me quite weak. And then, the City of New Orleans (which owns this huge old bldg. where I live) suddenly decided to raise all rents here (I had my rent almost tripled!) -and this precipitated a financial crises with which I desperately struggled for over a month (it is by no means settled completely yet)- and ~~so~~ because of this, I must give up all plans for working on a book now, and instead concentrate all my efforts, and time, on arranging to sell my large library of over 15,000 books - which is going to be a heartbreaking experience for me. ~~But~~ To do this I must first make a Catalogue of the library -and then approach various universities - so I suppose I shall be here all year -because I must get out of this bldg. by the end of the year - I cannot afford to live in it any longer...

Then, in late Feb., I had a return of the neuritis in my left arm and hand which I had last year, and which became so agonizing that I could not use the typewriter at all till just a few days ago... As a result of all this, I was not able to send New Year cards to anyone -and I have not yet been able to start on the Catalogue... And the pressures on me are evenx greater than they were last year... I do wish there was some way I could see some of

of the pictures you have been doing for yourself. Carlotta, I feel that you should get in touch with Michael Hoffman, Editor and Publisher of Aperture Magazine, 276 Park Ave. South, New York City 10010. Perhaps he will do something about your work - he should, and, of course, you can use my name. I ~~have~~ straightened out my differences with him while in New York City. Be sure and put dates on the prints showing when you made the negatives. He is also, now, Consultant for the new Alfred Steiglitz Photo Center at the Philadelphia Museum of Art - and due to him I recently sold 24 - 11 x 14 mounted prints to the Center at \$35. per print (\$10 more than I used to get). This was over \$800., and the chief thing that helped to pull me out, temporarily, of the financial crisis...

I had practically nothing published last year. But I think that late this year, Aperture may, after all, do the issue on my work - followed by a big show in the Philadelphia Museum..

I must also start making proposals to the University of Louisville as to what I want for my manuscript (there are almost 2,000 sheets of mns., notes, etc.; also, there is the question of who is going to get my master prints; my lantern slides, my traveling shows, and any further negatives I make. (I have not been in the dark room for over 2 years..)

The thing that makes me happiest about your Xmas card was that you indicated that your health is now on a fairly even keel. I would like to come to Denton to see you - but I am afraid there are no more trains to Ft. Worth - and I hate both buses and planes - and never use them except in the last extremity...

So please accept my heartfelt good wishes, and let me hear from you - and try to follow up the Aperture business (you may not hear from him for months - but he will eventually answer - that is the way he is)... I hope you will not feel that I am that way too...

P.S. There is a marvelous

mystery novel that you must

read: Lillian J. Braun: "The

Cat Who Turned On and Off" (Dutton, \$4.50). It is

about cats, old houses, and antiques - and if you

cannot get a copy - let me know - and I will lend you mine...

Affectionately,

*Clarence*

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