

GEORGE EASTMAN HOUSE

900 EAST AVENUE, ROCHESTER 7, NEW YORK • Browning 1-3361

Director
BEAUMONT NEWHALL
Curator of Motion Pictures
JAMES CARD

February 25, 1960

Mr. Eliot Porter
Route 1, Box 33
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Dear Eliot:

I'm glad that your beautiful show is going to San Francisco. We are looking forward to having it here from July 15 to September 15. I was on the point of writing you if we could have it in May, to open with a spring festival of our gardens - but it is obviously too late for a change.

The print boxes which we use are the standard "Solander Cases" made for museums by Spink and Gaborc, Inc., 26 East 13th St., New York 3. They come in the following sizes and prices:

14 1/4 x 19 1/4	7.50 (less than 6)	6.50 per dozen (each)	Depth 2 1/2 "
16 x 22	8.50	7.50	
15 x 23			
19 x 24	9.25	8.25	Hold 50 prints
22 x 28	10.25	9.25	

According to the folder they also make to order special sizes.

I feel honored that you should feel such confidence in the work we have begun to wish to leave your collection to the George Eastman House. Other photographers have expressed the same desire. We will, of course, gladly accept your collection, but I wonder if you should not consider setting up some trusteeship to control its use.

It is my belief and hope that Eastman House, which now owns the largest collection of fine prints, will continue forever. As you know, we operate entirely on funds supplied by the Eastman Kodak Company. I am proud to say that under my directorship we have been able to maintain high standards of collecting and exhibiting. The support I have from management is liberal and whole-hearted. I have every reason to believe that this happy sponsorship will continue, and that my successor will enjoy the same support, and will maintain equally high standards of collecting and

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preservation.

I shudder to think of it, but it could happen that future management of both Kodak and Eastman House might have no interest whatsoever in the kind of photography which all of us esteem. While it is unlikely that your collection would be neglected, certainly we should take steps to prevent such an eventuality. I would therefore propose that you appoint a self-perpetuating committee - executors, trustees - to hold the collection and deposit it at Eastman House on a loan basis so that, if it is not properly cared for, it can be placed elsewhere. Also, in fairness to your heirs, a provision should be made so that the collection could bring them revenue from reproduction fees.

We are all getting on, and obviously the executors should be of a younger generation. I don't see any yet. But if you were to ask, say, Ansel, Nancy and Minor, you'd have a start, and they could name younger people to take over.

If we can start a pattern, others could follow. I know Ansel and Paul Strand are concerned about their own work; Brett about his father's.

Maybe there is another solution. What I think is essential is that full control should be in the hands of people who know and care about fine photography - and they are few.

All best,

Beaumont

Beaumont Newhall

BN/msw