

CRAWFORD H. GREENEWALT  
DU PONT BUILDING  
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19898

February 23, 1973

Mr. Eliot Porter  
Rt. 4, Box 33  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Mr. Porter:

Thanks for your letter of February 14. I must say that your trip to Egypt leaves me without any envy at all. I suppose the photographic possibilities are good, but I don't think I would particularly care to go there.

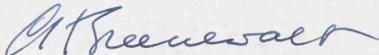
Now as to the strobe, the voltage is indeed 2500, and the capacitors are paper-foil made by G.E. The short duration is obtained in part by dividing the output between the three lamps. There is always some ambiguity in specifying the flash duration since it depends a good bit on what part of the light curve one takes. I can assure you, however, that the flash of these units is fast enough to stop any avian wing beat.

As to the lighter unit which Harold Edgerton designed for me, I cannot offer you one of mine, but perhaps you could persuade Harold to build one or more of them for you. The units came about through my pestering Harold for something lighter that I could more easily carry at my advanced age, and he finally put the problem up to some of his students who worked out a satisfactory solution. The development that made the unit possible is a new electrolytic capacitor developed by Sprague Electric, which has an exceedingly low internal resistance. There is also a special flash lamp made of quartz and with a fairly large diameter. The capacitors (4 of them)

are in the lamp housing and the power supply is the one obtainable commercially from Braun and designated as their F80. The three lamps in their case with power supply and battery weighs about 17 lbs. and has about the same guide number as the unit which I offered you. As you can imagine, it is a lot easier to carry around.

You are still welcome to the heavier 2500-volt unit if you want it. The suitcase can simply be shipped to you without special packing, or perhaps you could pick it up when you are next in the East.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. Breuninger", written in a cursive style.

CHG:S