



enterprises

724 Pool Road, Biddeford, Maine 04005

dialog records

March 12, 1971

Mr. Eliot Porter
Tsuque
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Porter:

I am working on developing a series of black & white reproductions of Maine photographs to be offered in bookstores, gift shops, etc. If you are familiar with the Studio One series, you will have an idea of what I mean. If you aren't, let me describe my idea a bit more clearly: 11 x 14 photographs reproduced by sheet-fed gravure or photogelatine, flush-mounted on boards.

It should go without saying that as one vitally interested in photography and especially in making fine photographs more generally available, I am impressed by your work. SUMMER ISLAND is simply a beautiful book. It is also, I'm sure, obvious to you that I would like to include some of your photographs in the series. The picture on page 18 of SUMMER ISLAND, "Penobscot Bay, Southwest from Eagle Island," is one perfect example of the kind of photograph I want. There are others in your book and I'm certain you have still others that have not been published. In general, I'm looking for photographs which say "Maine" and "humanity" in the same breath and are powerful visual statements. I won't settle for anything less.

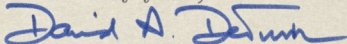
Let me go further and impose upon your time for another moment. What I am trying to start here is only one step toward my ultimate goal: to meld the photographic series into a general photographic arts quarterly that might be a worthy successor to ~~Alfred Stieglitz~~ Alfred Stieglitz' CAMERA WORK, a quarterly which would be boxed rather than bound, thus offering photographers, teachers, and others photographs in a format much more conducive to enjoyment and use than the present one. I am hoping that the Maine series will help finance the quarterly.

It is probably presumptuous of me to pour out my soul like this to you in what is supposed to be a business letter. Reading you, however, leads me to believe you will at least take me seriously whether you agree with what I am trying to do or not and whether you would be willing to share your work with me or not. Maybe I also feel a need for someone experienced to respond to my idea.

To come to the nub of the matter, then, I would like to ask you for the use of several of your photographs in the Maine series. They would be treated with the respect for quality they deserve. Payment for their use would be on a royalty basis negotiated between us. You would retain the right to use them for other purposes, except for a promise not to make the same photographs available for the same use to anyone else -- a gentlemen's agreement I know you'd understand.

I will look forward to hearing from you, Mr. Porter, and I would truly enjoy meeting you and talking to you when you are in Maine. Our Maine winter has been hard and I envy you the warmth of New Mexico, except that our winter has also been magnificent and I'd regret having missed that -- we had snow last night and in these early morning hours the trees and bushes outside my window are puffballs of white.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "David A. De Turk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "De Turk" clearly legible.

David A. De Turk