

1708 Griegos N.W.
Albuquerque, N.M. 87107
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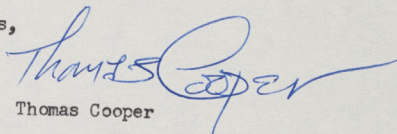
Dear. Dr. Porter,

My name is Thomas Cooper and I am a photographer and graduate student of photography at U.N.M. and am currently studying under Beaumont Newhall.. The purpose of this letter, sir, is to see if you might be kind enough to grant me some visiting time so that I might talk with you about your association with Alfred Stieglitz and receive your impressions of the experience and work that transpired during those times. I am doing this "interview" in conjunction with Mr. Newhall's seminar in "Stieglitz and his times". My particular project is (and most pleasurably so) to trace Stieglitz' association with certain later photographers (yourself, Paul Strand, Imogen Cunningham, Edward Weston via Charis Harris, Ansel Adams, Minor White and Todd Webb) and their mutual influence, if any, on one another. With your permission I would like to tape the pertinent parts of our talk and present it in the seminar with related slides, as I feel "living" art history of photography to be the most interesting and vital experience a devotee can have (outside, of course, the actual photographing itself). In any case, these are the practical reasons for my hoped-for visit with you.

Personally, there are selfish motives in the hopes too. Dr. Porter I am a great admirer of your work and this visit would be an enormous privilege for me to meet, and perhaps become friends with, one of the few people whom I believe to have made truly great achievements in a field and art which has become my life. Your work, sir, has given me really wonder full joy - I would consider it an honour to come to know you. The meeting too, from the proposed tape, might indeed turn out to be the very type of much needed inspiration that this oft-times tired graduate school of photography needs. "Studentness" is today often a moribund thing; my wish is that with yours and the other interviews a few people here might once again regain their sense of Aliveness and begin to see more intensely into something that you and the others so well represent, and what I call the "spirit of photography." Your any help and consideration would be most warmly appreciated.

This coming Saturday the 20th I am leaving to hitch to California to see Ansel and Imogen et al. and probably won't be home for a week or so, consequently, if you could find time to see me sometime after the end of the month it would work out just perfectly. I am, until then sir, at your convenience.

yours,


Thomas Cooper

P.S. - your early reply, ~~it~~ would greatly benefit my planning of this project. —
Thank you!