American Association for the Advancement of Science

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January 22, 1970

Dr. Eliot Porter Route 4, Box 33 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Dr. Porter:

I trust that by this time your marvelous photographs have been returned to you safely from Boston. I don't know whether you have been told that their presence gave a great deal of pleasure to many people. They were mounted attractively by the Sierra Club people in such a way that "Galapagos" and "Grand Canyon" appeared in separate frames. Both were put up in the entrance to the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton-Boston Hotel, where on four successive afternoons there were film lectures by Roger Tory Petersen, Col. Edwin Aldrin, Dr. Eugene Shoemaker and Dr. Bruno Bettelheim, attended by 1,000 to 1,500 people each. Nearly everyone on his way in or out did stop by and look at your photographs. The children, in particular, had the best time by far.

With sincerest regards.

W. G. Berl, Editor AAAS Annual Meeting

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DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

TUFTS UNIVERSITY

MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS 02155

26 January 1970

Dr. Eliot Porter Route 4, Box 33 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Dr. Porter:

I have just received your letter; your prints are on their way back to you via Air Express.

I apologize for not returning the pictures earlier. I had evidently misunderstood you and had thought that you were in Africa; I therefore felt that the pictures would be at least as secure in my apartment as in the Santa Fe express office.

The exhibit was very successful; everyone I spoke to was very enthusiastic about the photographs, and the people from AAAS were very glad to be able to have them. The photographs were exhibited on eight-foot long pieces of plywood and were covered with plastic, Dr. Berl of AAAS locked the exhibit in his room whenever no one could be watching it. Unfortunately, in spite of these precautions, at one point the room in which the pictures were exhibited became very crowded, some sort of scuffle broke out, and two of the boards were knocked to the ground. Fortunately, since the prints were not covered with glass, there was no damage to the prints themselves, but some of the mounting boards were slightly damaged: two of them suffered bent corners, and another two had a long sharp impression left on the boards in spite of the plastic covering (66-441 and 66-504). More unfortunately, the top of two of the mounting boards (66-73 and 66-280) were punctured by nails from the exhibit frame, which had come apart as a result of the fall. I suspect that the punctures occurred as a result of someone picking up or moving the boards after they fell. There is also a very small puncture in the lower right corner of the board of 66-234, for which I have no explanation, but which must be our fault.

I am extremely distressed about your having to get back your prints

with these damages to the boards. I wish I could help in some way, but I suppose all I can do is pay for the cost of having someone remount the prints (part of this cost would be paid by the insurance company). I appreciate, of course, that the greatest loss may be the considerable inconvenience that this causes you. I hope that the knowledge that some ten thousand people enjoyed your photographs is some small compensation.

Once again, my apologies and my thanks.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Wallman

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