

11/14/67

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

Dear Mr. Porter:

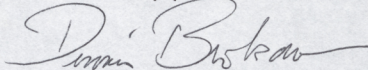
I feel more than a little silly right at the moment. In addition to other projects, for the past two years I have been photographing the shoreline here on the west coast and now have a substantial number of very carefully done shoreline studies that I had ultimately intended to offer for publication. Further, it seemed to me that Rachel Carson's work was eminently suitable for use in such a volume, and mentioned my thought to Ken Brower at the Sierra Club, who in turn advised me that however meritorious the idea, it was not wholly original, indeed that it had been one of yours for some time. As I say, I feel a bit foolish.

My problem is this: what to do, if anything, with the stack of 4x5 transparencies? I gather my shoreline idea and yours were so close as to almost coincide. I suppose I could look to other publishers but I do not in any way wish to take away from the Sierra Club with whose aims I entirely agree. Nor do I want in any way to try, however presumptuous it may seem, to attempt any sort of competition with your work. Not only would I almost certainly come off a bad third, I am personally very much in your debt, not only for your kind comments and advice, but for doing the very work you do so beautifully.

At the same time, it seems a shame not to make some use, to bring before the public for appreciation, my shoreline studies in some manner other than as just biological illustrations. Perhaps you might make some suggestion.

Thanking you for your kindness, I remain

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dennis Brokaw". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dennis Brokaw
2052 Galveston Street
San Diego, California 92110

P.S. If you would care to see any of my work I would be most happy to send it to you so that you might better suggest the best course.