

Luten

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA

June 12, 1963

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

Dear Eliot:

Gradually, there has filtered through Dave Brower's hands and into mine, and it has been in my hands for some time now, a magnificent print to show what Dungeon Canyon was like.

First, I think I should apologize to you for my outrageous manners in cadging the print from you. But, in fact, I don't feel at all remorseful. I feel like a cat with feathers out of its mouth, as if I'd brought off something quite worth any cost in public or private reputation.

When I said, and it might have been in Cathedral Canyon, how I'd be glad to take out my pay for hauling that black bag through canyons, I was having a magnificent time and was quite careless of any implications of my words. I should have remembered better the work entailed in producing a color print and what such a print might be like. For I have seen people struggling with color separations and recombinations and I had seen a few of your prints before. These were included in the group shown at the Sierra Club offices last summer. It was they which sent me back to Glen Canyon in September. They made it quite clear to me I probably hadn't seen the Canyon when first there in June and certainly hadn't let my camera see it.

As I think about it now, it is quite clear that my debt to you is greater for having placed those photographs in that place at that critical time than for this gift. But, in a rush, let me affirm my gratitude for the print.

I am still uncertain of course, how much, how well I have seen the Canyon. Aldous Huxley, in *Brave New World*, speaks of the purpose of life being "-- intensification---of consciousness --". How intense a consciousness any man may have is known to him alone and is immune to comparison. But it is quite clear to me that the intensity of my consciousness of Glen Canyon increased vastly again on my second passage. How much further it might have gone, I cannot say; perhaps not much more.

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Finally, it is for me particularly appropriate that this photograph, somber bittersweet, if I may call it so, is of a place I have not seen and will not see. It, therefore, stands to remind me that this world of whose widening horizons we boast, is also a world of narrowing horizons.

For all of these things, I am indebted to you, and I am grateful.

With my best wishes,

Dan Luten

Daniel Luten

DL:MM

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