

433 Ben Oaks Drive, East  
Severna Park, Md. 21146  
August 6, 1968

Dear Mr. Porter:

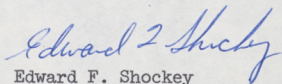
I have just had the opportunity to see your magnificent Sierra Club book "The Place No One Knew". I think your photographs are among the finest I've ever seen. As an amateur who has recently rekindled his interest in photography, I find your style one I greatly admire - that is, the style which uses photography to do the things it alone can do (such as reproductions of fine detail, delicate shadings of color and texture, etc.) thereby elevating it to an art form which compliments rather than imitates the older visual art forms.

I am sure there is nothing I can say that would add to what other, more qualified people have said, so I won't try. If you can possibly spare the time, however, I would like to know something of your working techniques and philosophy. For example, do you use a large-format camera, negative film, and long exposures at small f/stops? Do you try in your selections of filters to duplicate nature or to get renditions which simulate the psychological impact rather than the literal nature of coloring? Is much manipulation of the final print usually necessary?

I am also very interested to know if original prints or projectables transparencies are available for sale. If within my means, I would very much like to have a large print, both as an art work for my home and as a standard of comparison for my own feeble efforts at photography. I particularly like numbers 12, 14, 17, 20, 21, 31, 37, 45, 46, 50 and 60 in the book.

I hope you will be able to find time to reply. In any case, please accept my admirations and thanks for having produced a book which is such an eloquent statement for both the art of nature and the art of photography.

Sincerely,

  
Edward F. Shockey