Lecture subject, photography of nature, natural scene

do not disparage preoccupation of other photographer with the social scene. my interest the out doors rather than the cities. but anyone could become interested in another themethan his chosen one, this I photographed architecture in Mexico following a visit in 1951 returned in 1956 to photograph the folk art of country churches as well as the monuments of 16th century architecture. when one is interested in photography any subject can be interesting and engrossing but it is not possible to photogrph everthing and I settled on the out doors.

nature started with birds for me which led to color and from there to other more general subjects. because birds are a narrow aspect of the natural scene my approach to other subjects was preconditioned to be that of a close examination, of the details of nature rather than broad views and landscapes. That's the way it stated but I do take landscapes when landscapes express best the emotional reaction that a place arouses in me. very important to be aware of all levels of the aspects of a place or subject. In photography when it serves as a means to respond emotionally to a situation, a place, a subject matter can hardly not stimulate a habit of seeing, of looking for subjects and relationships. relationships are very important in fact almost the main thing as far as subject matter goes and what one decides to photograph.

in recent years most work in color. in certain respects choice of subject for color differs from that form B&W . example blue sky and skylines give an effect of banality- shapshot quality - or unplanned randomness to a photograph not so evident or present in B&W. it has something to do with color. this is very personal with me. but not a hard and fast rule since whensky is overcast with white or dark or scattered clouds I don"t feel,so repelled. However, Antarctic pictures contradict this for as you will see a large number of Antarctic pictures are somewhat conventional landscapes. explanation: the way the scenery affected me emotionally . One must not deny ones own feelings. you hope your feelings are not entirely superficial and common place and that they can be expressed in a revealing and individual way. this is something that comes spontaneously not consciously or willfully though based on experience, practice, effort, constant searching for revelation subconsciously mostly.

the absence of skylines in Glen Canyon photographs has been criticized as not portraying the true character of the canyon - a slot in the plateau. but to me that was too literal not that I decided that it would be too literal to show the rim. It wasn't what I saw. The rim and tops of the buttes were not the emotional aspect of the canyon. they were implicite, however, in the details of the flowing water, the narrow side canyons, the reflected light. A supporter of the dam spoke of the 300 feet of water as trivial, not destroying the beauty of the canyon. To him the character of the canyon was the rim not the aspects I saw.

What moved me in Antarctica first was the awe inspiring ruggedness of the ice covered mountain range of the Antarctic peninsula. A landscape of rock and snow and blue glacieal ice and penguins and seals where man was at a minimum was a foreign note , and intruder. except for the research stations the evidence of man was at a minimum also. his polutions and dstructive proclivities had notm arrived yet although they were on the way. The beauty of this pristine part of the continent was overwhelming

the clarity of the atmosphere in which mountains 100 miles away appeared to be 50. the refracted and reflected light from clouds and from ice of slowly setting sun lasted for hours. It was a fairyland of physical phenomena in which organic events - life - was greatly reduced and sequestered. in this respect Antarctica was like volcanic areas. Antarctica is a continent from which man has been excluded since before the beginning of history by barriers of ice and storm tossed seas until very recently. now his foothold is dependent on the more temporate environment he has been able to bring with him.

In my second excursion the vastness of the continent was its most impressive aspect. even the small part I saw partly ice free less than 1 percent of the continent was large from the point of view of man's unaided locomotive ability. the evidence of life was still less here on the land . it included the lowliest invisible forms, microscopic organisms. in the sea the situation was reversed. the waters around antarctica arem the richest in living things in the world.

Natural Scene — Playboy
America in 1972
Social Scene — Architecture, Archeology, Man

Color — Color vision, man, birds, Insects
B + W — dimension of Color — expanded
Bird — To the atmosphere

Thesis
Glen Canyon

Choice + Commitment
Response to action
Habit of seeing
Relation design the whole thing
Conservation + Preservation

Lens + photog
Aesthetic expression
problem of Conflict
Posture
Key.