

August 17 1975

Dear Eliot, I have just read "Antarctic Experience" which I couldn't interrupt. It is beautiful; accurate, transparent, and without rhetoric; I think it will become a classic. I could almost illustrate it in color from your descriptions. I was given it by Steve while I was at Steve and Marcy's trying to make a watercolor portrait of Marcie and Matthew. Marcie said you felt that your trip to the Antarctic was the most profound experience of your life--is this right? I suppose that is what makes reading it so absorbing. I think the significance of made things cannot be abstracted from them and that all one can say is that it results from the close attention of the artist: anything to which he pays close attention will communicate an inexplicable sense that its meaning, that cannot be expressed in any other way, counts profoundly.

Anne and I expect to visit Katie and Dan in Albuquerque this fall. I hope it will be before you have gone back to the Antarctic.

Affectionately,

*Fairfield*