

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

NEW YORK 19

11 WEST 53rd STREET
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900
CABLES: MODERNART, NEW-YORK

26 February 1946

Dr Eliot Porter
469 Maple St
Winnetka, Ill.

Dear Eliot,

Yesterday Bryan Holme of the Studio Publications dropped in to pay me a call in the course of which we showed him your photographs. He was very enthusiastic about them, particularly about the bird photographs, and expressed the desire to do a book in color of the birds. I was very pleased indeed at his interest and I told him that I would write to you, and that I would urge you to meet him when you next come to New York.

You will recollect that the Studio published Ansel's first book, "Making a Photograph" and also the delightful little childrens' book, "Michael and Anne in Yosemite." He has a keen appreciation of photographs and would be a delightful person to work with.

In addition to his desire to work out with you a book of the bird photographs he has an immediate interest in some of the black-and-white prints for use in a book which he is now producing and to which both Ansel and Edward Weston have contributed. This is to be a collection of photographs which, for want of a better description, I might call "lyrical" or "poetical."

He is specifically interested in the following:

Green backed gold finches (488.42)
Meadow lark, Ill., 1941 (486.42)
Waterfall, Supai, Ariz. 1940 (EL 45.788)
Cactus, Supai, Ariz., 1940 (EL 44.2802)
Song Sparrow, Ill, 1941 (482.42)
Eastern gold finch, female, Ill., 1941 (443.42)

I wonder if you would care to write to him about supplying copies of these photographs. I do not know what reproduction fee he has in mind, but I am sure that it will be fair.

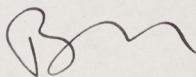
Bryan knows about the proposed book for Duell and has no intention of interfering with this plan at all, which he thinks is a splendid idea. A book on birds only would not conflict with the Maine book, and the publication of some of your things in his current collection would of course be all to the good as far as the Duell book is concerned.

His address is: Bryam Holme
Studio Publications
381 Fourth Ave

All best to you.

Beaumont

PS: I certainly appreciated your fine letter about the proposed reorganization. I haven't written to you about it sooner because the situation is still unsettled. Dave brought a number of the letters which had been written to me to a meeting of the Trustee committee which is deciding this business. They were hopping mad that I had asked anybody outside for an opinion. This surprised me very much because I had at no time been given any instructions to keep the matter confidential and had even received an ok from the exec. vice president about asking for letters. The whole thing don't look good, I am sorry to say. I shall let you know what happens.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, stylized capital 'B' followed by a series of loops and a final upward stroke.