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Dearest Eliot,

Thank you for sending the slides and separations. I admire the order in your vast enterprise. To be able to know, where something is gives me a lot of trouble. And with me it is a tiny fraction compared to your output. Are you printing China?

I am struggling in the darkroom and fighting my old gloomy thoughts, that these pictures are not much good because they have no message or social significance. It is almost funny how divided a person can be. I can be very critical if I see photographs with too much "Weltanschauung". In order to get feedback I pester my friends by showing them my latest output and it is always very favorable. Then I think: "What do they know?" You see, it's typical Mongele stuff. Forgive this lament. I guess it is mainly Xmas depression. Happy New Year! Did you get my UnXmas card? Which brings me to a question: In my categories of pictures to be printed is one called: Famous People! I have a small collection of pictures of one famous Eliot Porter. Starting in 1939 in G.S.H.I. I would like to make a series of it. Mainly you in the process of taking birdpictures. The most personal one would be you with Aline and Jonathan in 1939. Would you object to it? If you wanted it I would send you a set before I gave them to the Sanders, so you could voice any objections. Please, let me know.

The cold here is according to the announcers, BITTERLY! As soon as they give the windchill factor they start positively drooling.

Once more the best of new years to you and Aline!

Much love
B