

December 15

Dear Aline and Eliot -

This letter has been "in my head" for some time. I've been thinking of you, and hoping to find a way to express what my summers in Santa Fe meant to me.

The enclosed card will give you an idea of what I've been doing lately. I had served a term on the Commission from 1977 to '81, but was not reappointed by a new administration. Our present Governor appointed me in his first year in office - at a time when the whole structure of the Commission needed

review and re-focus. That has been accomplished, and we're ready for a new decade. I would not have been ready for this job if it weren't for the opportunity for work and study and reflection at your house. A family situation here at that time made "time out" impossible when I was at home. So, when you called - out of the blue, - needing a house-sitter in 1976, it was almost truly a God send.

But - there was something else that made summers at your house particularly meaningful to me. As I came to know your home, and the life lived there, it made me think of the homes and

lives of my grandparents. If you recall my telling you, my mother's father was a painter, and my father's a botanist. Both had been on the KU faculty. Both used photography in their work. Both had large families - and there was always something going on in those households - creative work, people coming and going, music played and enjoyed, interesting ideas expressed and sometimes hotly defended, and so on. When my mother and father spent some time with me in your home, they recognized the atmosphere immediately, and thoroughly enjoyed it.

4.

I'm looking forward to having my mother and father here for Christmas. They are doing well. My father decided in June, that, at the age of 90, it was all right to retire from practice of law. When the weather is good, they have been enjoying the walks, picnics, and excursions to familiar places in their area, that they have enjoyed all their lives. The pace is just a little slower.

Give my regards to your family - Pat especially, and Jonathan and Zoe whom I enjoyed meeting, and those whom I knew only over the phone. - And to Anabel, who is a friend - muy simpatica.

5

It's possible that I'll be in Santa Fe the last of April, for a meeting. If so, I'll give you a call, and if it's convenient for you, perhaps we could have a visit.

Fondest regards

— Cindy



LUCINDA FOSTER
PRESIDENT

913/296-3335

Kansas Arts Commission
Jayhawk Tower, Suite 1004
700 Jackson
Topeka, Kansas 66603-3731

Detail from THE DREAM OF SAINT CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA
by Lodovico Carracci
National Gallery of Art, Washington
Samuel H. Kress Collection



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*May you be blessed
with a wonderful Christmas.*

Cindy and Ben Foster

600 Longford Lane
Wichita, Kansas 67204



Mr. and Mrs. Eliot Porter
Route 4, Box 33
Santa Fe
New Mexico 87501