

# THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

MICHIGAN AVENUE AT ADAMS STREET CHICAGO 3 ILLINOIS TELEPHONE CENTRAL 4-3640

March 12, 1960.

Mr. W. Eugene Smith,  
821 Sixth Avenue,  
New York City, New York.

Dear Eugene:

I have wanted to write ever since I came back to Chicago last week. Caligula and the time I spent with you were the most memorable hours I had while in New York and I wish I could have stayed long enough to have seen Caligula with you and have been in the presence of both at the same time.

Since returning I have learned there will be another meeting of the committee on April 12th. This is sooner than I had expected and I should like very much to bring up the acquisition of your photographs which were selected the day I visited you. Would it be possible for you to ship them express collect, addressed as follows:

The Art Institute of Chicago,  
Department of Prints and Drawings,  
Michigan Avenue at Adams Street,  
Chicago, 3, Illinois.

Attention: Hugh Edwards, Curator of Photography

When they arrive you will be sent an official receipt and I shall notify you of the committee's decision, immediately after the meeting. I am very anxious to have you represented in the permanent collection here and hope it will not be too much trouble for you to get the shipment off to us soon. Also, I should like to know about the prices and if your representative could inform us, that would also be appreciated. In any case, it will be a great help if we can have the photographs and price information by April 1st at the latest. So any time the shipment is made before that date will be good. I assure you the prints will receive the most careful attention and handling while here and it will be quite an event for us to have them in our midst. Of course it is understood the photographs sent at this time are those you have for showing and that others will be made later for the collection here.

I hope all this does not seem too complicated. We talked about it in New York, but I thought you might like to have some record of it in a letter. I am very grateful for the time spent with all of you and I left your place much elated from having encountered again - in a world of robots - a group of people who are actually human and individual. I had been afraid I would never find you - anyone I know is great always seems inaccessible to me - and now it makes me very happy to have passed that time with you. So my best to you always and give my regards to Tommy, Teddy and Mrs. Teddy. I hope, someday, to see all of you again.

Sincerely,

Hugh Edwards  
Hugh Edwards, Curator of Photography.

*Jerry Malwick, who has a warehouse full of thousands of books, is looking for Philip Barrows' More Come The Clocks. No indication will find it and I shall read it to you, if he does.*

# THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

MICHIGAN AVENUE AT ADAMS STREET CHICAGO 3 ILLINOIS TELEPHONE CENTRAL 4-7540

April 4, 1960.

Mr. W. Eugene Smith,  
821 Sixth Avenue,  
New York City, 1,  
New York.

Dear Eugene Smith:

The photographs arrived today, in fine shape, and it is surely good to see them again.

On unpacking the case we found twenty-eight prints, whereas Mr. Schiffer mentioned thirty in his letter of April 1st and I was under the impression I had selected thirty. As there are three among those received today which I do not remember putting aside, it may be some mixup occurred and prints from one stack were shifted into another. You will receive an official receipt for the prints within a few days.

When the shipment came I had just sent off a letter to Mr. Schiffer and was about to write one to you that we were notified today the meeting of the Committee on Prints and Drawings has been postponed until May. As yet, I do not know the exact day, but it will be early in the month and I shall let you hear as soon as the date is fixed. I regret this and hope it will not inconvenience you for I should like to keep the photographs here, in view of the fact there will not be another meeting until fall.

I am very grateful you sent the prints - there is a great satisfaction in being able to look at them again and again. Their wonders multiply as one knows them better and this may have been a small selection from all those I saw, but they - as well as all the others back in New York - are undeniable masterpieces and you should be very happy to have created them.

Sincerely,



Hugh Edwards, Curator of Photography.

# THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

MICHIGAN AVENUE AT ADAMS STREET CHICAGO 3 ILLINOIS TELEPHONE CENTRAL 6-7086

May 12, 1960.

Mr. W. Eugene Smith,  
821 Sixth Avenue,  
New York City, 1,  
New York.

Dear Eugene Smith:

The committee on prints and drawings held its meeting yesterday and it was decided to purchase eight of the photographs which you so kindly consigned to us and have so patiently let us keep here for more than a month. I regret very much we could not acquire more of the prints and it will be sad to see them go back to New York. I have made a list of all the subjects and hope that in the future we will find some way to acquire more.

I know you are very busy with work on the two books, but we would greatly appreciate receiving the eight prints as soon as possible. They will be a great addition to our collection and I shall always be grateful to you for that visit on that afternoon in March and for having allowed us to have the prints for consideration. When the eight prints are sent, will you please include an invoice made out as follows:

The Art Institute of Chicago,  
Department of Prints and Drawings,  
Michigan Avenue and Adams Street,  
Chicago, 3, Illinois.

Attention: Hugh Edwards, Curator of Photography.  
And if it is not too much trouble, will you be so kind as to include on this invoice the titles and dates of the subjects as this information will be of great value in cataloguing. When the invoice is received, I shall rush it through the business office so there will be as little delay as possible. In Mr. Schiffer's letter of April 1, 1960, he stated the price you had asked him to quote was \$ 50.00 for each print. All copyright, publication and use rights are reserved by yourself.

I wish to thank you again for all the consideration you have given this matter and for all the trouble you have taken in our behalf.

Sincerely,

*Hugh Edwards*

Hugh Edwards, Curator of Photography.

P.S. While writing the above, I received the telephone call from your assistant. The shipment will leave tomorrow morning by prepaid express with the prints desired in a separate wrapper in the case. I hope these reach you safely and soon. Best regards now and I shall write again soon.

# THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

MICHIGAN AVENUE AT ADAMS STREET CHICAGO 3 ILLINOIS TELEPHONE CENTRAL 4-2940

June 22, 1960.

Mr. W. Eugene Smith,  
821 Sixth Avenue,  
New York City, 1, New York.

Dear Gene: The prints have arrived in fine shape and I cannot tell you how happy I am we have them here. It is the cause of much regret to me we could not acquire the entire group. The five you sent have inexhaustible riches for the long moments of contemplation when I stay here in the evening and I do beg you - before I go farther - to be sure and send the other three. As for the Spanish subject you included, it has long been a favorite of mine and hardly anything has ever happened to me which has touched me so much. I do hope to thank you someday with more than words typed on a sheet of paper. This print has already meant more and helped me more than I could ever make clear to you in words. I live a solitary existence (my choice) and there is nothing like the contemplative companionship of great photographs. No other form of picture making brings the same compensations. Thank you always for having lived to be one of the great ones and with all the obstacles that exist for a human being in our world, to have done these great things which put all the modern and scientific endeavor to shame. Forever I have been hounded and berated at by my own introspective self and my total incapacity so far as money and practical matters are concerned - I am always on some sort of griddle - and now that I have the Spanish print here on the bookcase in the print study room, I want you to know it will be a little easier to get through some future bad times. What an honor to have this in the room with me! I shall return to it again and again as I write you. And there are many who will come to know you better through its presence here and I shall tell you about them.

For the subjects already sent, I have started the order for payment through the mazes of the business office and a check should go off this week. If you are anything like myself, it should have gone off even sooner than immediately. But there is the inflexible rule here which states nothing can go out until the full order has been received! However, I was happy to see the name of W. Eugene Smith speeded signatures up considerably and it should not be long now. I'll send it air mail <sup>the</sup> moment it comes through. This is about all I have time to write today, but there will be more soon. A propos of nothing, I wrote Grace Mayer a few days ago that André Gide once said the most wonderful thing about life is that nothing is it could endure. That has carried me through many sleepless nights and in these days, when the most simple and understandable things are made so complicated - and often impossible - I suppose all of us can find a strange sort of courage in that thought. Well, I am still looking for Here Come the Clowns by Philip Barry - I thought it would be easy to find in Chicago, but I have not had any luck yet. It will come. Meanwhile, all good wishes to you.

Sincerely,

  
Hugh Edwards.

*Will send back your carrying case soon.*

THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

MICHIGAN AVENUE AT ADAMS STREET CHICAGO 3 ILLINOIS TELEPHONE CENTRAL 4-7040

July 25, 1960.

Dear Gene, during the last few weeks I have wished many times you were here or that I could be there to see you. There is a great French film, "The Four Hundred Blows" by Francois Truffaut and I wish you would see it. I don't know where it is in New York but it is being shown somewhere and as soon as I find out I'll let you know. I have seen it about thirty times and each time I have thought of you. That stream of photography to which you add Walker Evans and Robert Frank (along with all of my favorites) has found another tributary in this picture. You will be much taken with it, so be sure to go.

In September we are having a show of selections from our collection at the next year end (over)

can supply me with some your prints  
to buy. I hope you haven't for-  
gotten the other three. The one you  
sent me has now been handsomely  
matted in black and put under glass  
and stands on the book case here in  
the print study room. It becomes  
greener and more alive every day  
and has many admirers. So I am  
very greedy and look forward to the  
three prints to come.

I hope to come to N.Y. C. in October -  
be sure to let me come to see you.  
Best wishes to all at you there!

Sincerely,

Hugh Edwards.

I'll send your carrying case soon.  
There are some books I want to  
send in it and that is why there  
has been the delay.

I don't miss "The Four Hundred Blows".