

Caro Néstor:

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GUESS what I did this afternoon??????????
Bought a Bolex-Paillard 8-16 movie camera, with three lenses, a rangefinder, automatic winding mechanism, pistol grip handle, 5 (or maybe it's 4) speeds, with a case to carry it in and 15 rolls of Kodak color film with a case to put that in, all for 400 dollars! Can you believe it? I just happened to be in a certain camera store here a Parigi, when a man came in, obviously an American, and began to enquire to the clerk there if they would buy a Movie camera, a Bolex, from him. I pounced upon hearing that, said I was interested in buying a good movie camera, talked to him about it, found out the story behind it and the price, and the upshot was that I bought it this afternoon. The man seems to be a second-rate film maker, travel type or TV or something of that sort: anyway he never heard of Maya Deren, so you see he isn't much interested in the artistic angle. Anyway, he'd bought this camera 2nd hand in the USA before coming over here, had seen it gone over thoroughly in the Bolex factory, then soon after he got to Europe was in an Automobile accident which landed him in the hospital for sometime, with the result that he came out with no money, or not much, left, is obliged to sell his camera to have enough money to get home on. I have his address, saw his passport and all that and looked at the camera thoroughly, so I am sure he's honest and so on. I am amazed at the price, though: all that colored film alone would cost over 100 dollars, so that I'm paying around 250 dollars or so for the camera, which is in excellent condition! I wished you could have been here to advise me, but since you aren't simply HAD to write you and tell you about it. Do you think it was a bargain? Just think what movies I can make now! If you have any useful tips about moviemaking that you haven't already told me (remember that I was using a camera with only 2 speeds and one lens on it) please

de tell me. The trouble with taking still photographs of a city like Paris, I have discovered to my frustration, is that every time I see something that would make a good photo, I simultaneously see in my mind's eye a photo that has already been taken of it that is either commercially on sale as a postcard, or that I have seen in photography books. It's so DAMN frustrating: but I have seen very few good movies of Paris, so I'll see what I can do in that line.---This is all grazie a te, tu sai!

Hettie mi disse prima di partire per Vassar che è on probation quest'anno, e allora non potrà essere la presidentessa di Film Club. Mi promesse, pero', che troverebbe un'altra, ma non ho sentito niente fin'ora. Spero che Film Club non morirà, specialmente dopo tutto il lavoro che abbiamo fatto insieme per farne una buona cosa. Se avessi Hettie e Marilyn per i miei attrici qui a Parigi....!

Allora....cosa fai? Spero che tutto va bene. Veramente ho dovuto dirti queste notizie meravigliose: è stato tu che mi hai introdotto alle potentialità artistiche del Cinema.

Ciao!

Lucia