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KODAK LIMITED,
KINGSWAY, LONDON, W.C.2

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE:

21/I.D.Wratten/PMW.

20th May, 1940.

WRATTEN

Colonel Salbert
cc

Mr. F. W. Lovejoy,
The Eastman Kodak Company,
ROCHESTER,
New York.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Dear Mr. Lovejoy,

Thank you for your letter of April 26 concerning Mr. Eastman. In this connection I have discussed the matter with my father and I believe that he will shortly write to you giving the substance of his conversations with Mr. Eastman.

As for myself, it is true that I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Eastman on a number of occasions, but the only clear memory I retain of these meetings is that of moisture on the palms of my hands and a numbness of brain. To be brief, I was too young, too inexperienced, to form any clear impression of Mr. Eastman from personal contact with him.

My impressions of Mr. Eastman are, therefore, coloured and shaped only by what I have heard others say of him, and the picture in my mind is of a man of tremendous driving power, capable of quick decisions, loyal both to his assistants and to his employees, but not that of a man who made friends easily.

P.T.O.

Wratten, I. D.

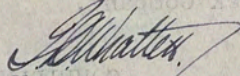
Mr. F. W. Lovejoy.

KODAK LIMITED

KINGSWAY LONDON, W.C.2.

During his life time George Eastman made great achievements by his own efforts. I am proud to be an employee in the great organisation he built up.

Yours very truly,



Manager,
Technical Service,
Motion Picture Film Dept.

Mr. Wratten, Sr.

Leo Sobel

July 24, 1940.
WRATTEN

17, Lyon Road,
HARROW,
Middx.

acked
by full

Dear Mr. Lovejoy,

My son Denis has passed to me the confidential information that a proposition is afloat to compile a new biography of Mr. Eastman. This, to me and I fancy to many other of Mr. Eastman's friends and acquaintances is welcome news.

It will of course have the advantage, not only to cover his life to it's end, but in the absence of his restraining hand, the author will have greater freedom as well as the advantage of a better perspective.

Mr. Ackerman's book while admirable as a technical record seems to me to lack a certain human touch and I have wondered whether this deficiency followed Mr. Eastman's deletions, for to my mind "G.E." was essentially a utilitarian and deficient in the romantic side of life - a side, upon which most of us are more interested.

In the one and only personal interview I had with Mr. Eastman I was fortunate in stumbling upon a topic of mutual interest, the change in the social atmosphere of the plant which had occurred since the early days, a change from a virile individualism somewhat reminiscent of the jungle age to the intelligent individualism expressing itself in the cooperative team spirit. I stressed the importance of this progress and suggested to Mr. Eastman that the efforts he had made, to encourage and nurture, it's growth, while deeply appreciated now (1920), would be even more widely recognised as time advanced.

Wratten, I. D.

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"Perhaps you are right" replied 'G.E.'

An equivocal reply. But nevertheless I felt he had been interested, indeed during one of my references the interjection of one word "Reichenbacher" indicated he was following my line of thought. 'G.E.' had not forgotten.

I would now refer to two matters in Mr. Ackerman's book which I think deserve further consideration.

The first concerns the very meagre reference to Miss Whitney. I cannot help feeling that Miss Whitney, one of the most charming and well-informed women I have been privileged to meet, must have had a great and good influence on 'G.E.' who was a very fortunate man indeed to have such a Secretary. I imagine the partnership may have developed the character of each - that this would occur seems but natural.

The second reference concerns the acquisition by 'G.E.' of the Wratten & Wainwright Company. While Ackerman points out that this was for the purpose of obtaining the services of Dr. Mees (a tribute to 'G.E.'s' sound judgment) I cannot avoid feeling that in connection with this, 'G.E.' foresaw the coming of panchromatic film (Wratten & Wainwright, under Dr. Mees' direction had specialised, and were foremost, in the manufacture of colour sensitive emulsions) and I suggest that a tribute to 'G.E.'s foresight in this matter is deserved.

Wratten, I. D.

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In conclusion my apology for the length of this letter, and my best wishes and kind regards to yourself.

I. D. Wratten.

P.S. Seligman's introduction to Ackerman's book is to my mind simply delightful. It provides thoroughly enjoyable reading and provocation of thought. If the proposed venture comes into being I hope he will contribute.

Wratten, I. D.