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## The Photographs of Edmund Teske for Frank Lloyd Wright Taliesin and Taliesin West 1936—1942

To the memory of Eugene Masselink devoted disciple and secretary to Frank Lloyd Wright of whom it was said, "He is to Frank Lloyd Wright as Baltrafio was to Leonardo Da Vinci."

*Taliesin and Edmund Teske were brought to life in 1911. Just seven years later Teske began to use a Scout 2-C to take family photographs. It was not until 1932, however, that he purchased his first camera which he used in the theatre department of Chicago's Hull House. In 1936 Teske began a 2-year fellowship with Frank Lloyd Wright at Taliesin. Aline Barnsdall invited him to live in Studio Residence B where he met Man Ray, D. W. Griffith and others.*

From the far south side of our residence

in Chicago to the downtown heart and central Loop area of that city was a one hour's run in the big lugubrious No. 4 street car of Cottage Grove Avenue. My mother often made the run with her three children. This child, yours truly, E. Teske, seven or so by now, would always be sure to be on the right side of the street car—and what was the right side of the street car? The side from which he could experience the Midway Gardens of Frank Lloyd Wright, at Sixty-Second Street on Cottage Grove Avenue. The Midway Plaisance of the 1893 World's Fair Columbian Exposition, campus now of the University of Chicago.

It was of an evening in the summer of 1936. Gene Masselink picked me up at the Meyer Hotel in Spring Green,

Wisconsin, where I had arrived by train from my hometown Chicago. He ushered me into the presence of Frank Lloyd Wright, in the loggia of Taliesin. I was filled with a sense of the ineffable wonder and beauty everywhere eminent. Mr. Wright looked at my folio of photographs and said to the fellows of the Taliesin Fellowship that were present, "Let's keep Teske here to do portraits of us all." I thereupon became an honorary member of the Taliesin Fellowship—establishing the first photographic workshop in which photography functioned for the organic architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright, and the indigenous life of the Taliesin Fellowship.

