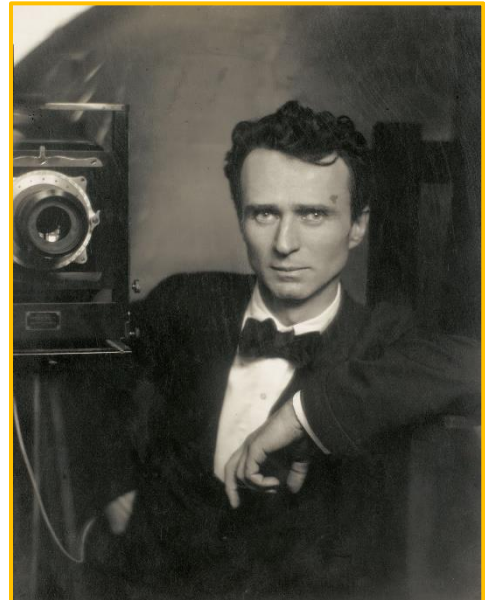


‘The Greatest Photographer’

Edward Steichen, who eventually became one of the world’s most renowned photographers, almost gave up on the day he shot his first pictures.

At 16, young Steichen bought a camera and took 50 photos. Only one turned out. Edward’s father thought that was a poor showing. But his mother insisted that the one photograph was so beautiful that it more than compensated for 49 failures.

Steichen (1879 – 1973) is regarded as one of the most prolific and influential figures in the history of photography. His were the photographs that most frequently appeared in Alfred Stieglitz’s groundbreaking magazine *Camera Work* during its publication from 1903 to 1917 – with Stieglitz hailing him as “the greatest photographer.”



His photos of gowns for the magazine *Art et Decoration* in 1911 were the first modern fashion photographs ever published. From 1923 to 1938, Steichen was a photographer for *Vogue* and *Vanity Fair* magazines, while also working for many advertising agencies. During these years, he was regarded as the best-known and highest-paid photographer in the world.

Quite a successful life, huh? But it was his mother, Marie Steichen, whose encouragement convinced him not to quit when only one photo out of his first 50 turned out. Steichen stayed with photography for all his life, but it had been a close call.

What tipped the scales? His mother’s vision. She saw excellence in the midst of failure. That’s what God does for us. He is our most persistent encourager, and He often uses others to encourage us.

Dr. David Jeremiah, senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in San Diego, California, and author of the book *Turning Points*, says on this subject: “A word of encouragement can be used of God to help a fellow believer reach spiritual success. Jesus prepared His discouraged followers with the promise that He would send them another Comforter.

“Perhaps today God will direct you to being an encourager. First Thessalonians 5:11 tells us: ‘Comfort each other.’ There is no greater joy than to know the Comforter can work through you to comfort others.”

And for those of us in Life Care and Century Park, we have many opportunities every day to comfort those – physically, mentally and spiritually – entrusted to us. What an awesome mission we are on!

– Beecher Hunter