Porter, Eliot. “The Living Canyon”, *The Place No One Knew: Glen Canyon on the Colorado*. 1963.

Eliot Porter attempts to describe the otherwise unnoticed attributes of the Colorado River in an effort to open the eyes of readers to the “smaller, more familiar, more comprehensible objects” (p. 381), Porter describes an intimacy with the river that “comes partly from your being able to travel through it by boat” (p. 381) Throughout his journey Porter creates a symbolical connection with the Glen Canyon, in my mind it is as if Glen Canyon was an actual person – whose first name was Glen, and last name is Canyon - describing the tapestry of the sandstone walls, if it were a “face on the canyon walls” (p. 382) Comparing the fallen boulders to: “pupilless eyes of marble statues” (Page 382) Due to the nature of the sandstone walls, it is perfectly logical to describe them as “1.9-billion-year-old” (Lopez, p. 44) layers of “Swiss cheese” (p. ?); the holy grail of cheese lovers - or in our case of the American South West.

Within the wealth of the Colorado, Porter discriminates the false riches of early gold seekers, claiming their ignorance is bliss and only “materially motivated” (p. 385) His intentions are clear when he draws from the past, that of which the early gold seekers returned to their homelands empty handed. He claims that the “The wealth of the Colorado this time is its power” (p. 385), confronting issues in what at one time was a U.S. Government’s struggle to provide power to Utah, Nevada, and California. Porter values the timeless essence of the Glen Canyon. After reminiscing his voyage through the canyons along the Colorado River, he leaves a message to his readers conscious: “To put the world, and yourself at the same time, in a valid perspective you must remove yourself from the demands of both” (p. 391) Which is a reluctant task that will timelessly be ignored by those whom are living in the present.