

Dec. 31,
1950

Mr. Frank Waters,
Taos, New Mexico.

Dear Frank:-

First my many congratulations on MASKED GODS. To date I have not had time to do more than scan it and long to settle down in front of the fire and loose myself in it. My friend Elizabeth Forster who is here with me, had a birthday on Dec 23rd and wanting your book very much for myself, I gave it to her. She used to be a field nurse in the Navaho country back in 1932-34 and all my own Navaho work is due to her. She is deep in the book and I may truly say that I have never heard her so enthusiastic over any book as she is over yours. And she has most excellent judgement and taste. At the moment I can only pass on her enthusiasm and high admiration. She says your description of the deer dance at Taos is superlative. Later, I shall write you for myself.

About a month ago Mabel phoned me about the Taos issue of the Quarterly Review. I promised to send you material by Jan 1. Here it is Dec. 31st and the negatives are still on my work table. I had hoped to come up to do some new things but I have had a very busy month capped by a stepped up wedding on the Dec. 22nd which completely upset my schedule. I will get these prints up to you by day after to-morrow and I hope that this will be time enough. I shall send several landscapes and for a figure subject, I am sending several prints of studies I made of Victor Higgins which I had planned to use in the RIO GRANDE But which were deleted, I mean one was, by D.S. & P. at the very end. I wanted Taos represented there as the Art Colony. But those are the things over which we sometimes have no control. I hope that right now will be a very good time to have one of these appear. I shall send the one I had selected for the R.G. and also one or two others for your selection. I know that Mr. Ortega wants prints that have never been published before and this somewhat limits my choice.

I am deep in my Navaho book and shall probably be bothering you for checking information later. I am going out next week as I hear of a fire dance. I doubt than any in the year 1951 could equal the one I saw at Lukaichukai in 1932. But perhaps I can wangle permission to work.

This brings my very best wishes and congratulations on such a monumental accomplishment. Most sincerely