

Lloyd G. Henbest

2229 Bancroft Place, N. W. Washington 8, D. C.

March 12, 1951

Miss Laura Gilpin
Box 1173
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Dear Miss Gilpin:

The exhibition of your photographs was taken down Friday night, the pictures were checked against our list, and were repacked ready for reshipment. The express man didn't pick them up today though called but I presume that they will be taken tomorrow, shipping them collect and insured for \$500.00.

We were very sorry that you couldn't attend the opening both because those who attended were deprived of the pleasure of meeting you and because you are compelled to depend on my inadequate reporting for information on how much pleasure your work has given. We invited the people whose names you suggested and a large number of others besides the Arts Club members. The attendance was large and I have not attended an opening that went so pleasantly with strangers seeming to feel at home, talking with each other and looking at the pictures. Good photography of that kind naturally leads to that sort of spirit.

We spent a great deal of time organizing the show. Mrs. Chambers, chairman of the Pastoral Photography Committee, the head of the Painting & Graphic Arts Committee, Mrs. Hunt and I arranged and rearranged the Rio Grande series and miscellaneous pictures until their subject matter, compositions, and various other values

were arranged ~~the~~ greatest individual or group advantage. The Central American pictures were kept together as a unit. I took my copy of your Rio Grande book and placed it on display. Your offer to send copies came too late as I used mine.

Though I hadn't intimated ^{beforehand} to Thomas Beggs, the amount of time we had spent arranging the show, he was immediately struck - he said - with its arrangement and has repeatedly expressed his pleasure with the photographic art and the show. He is Director of the National Collection of Fine Arts, Smithsonian. Frances Benjamin Johnston returned some time ago from New Orleans and asks me to send you her compliments and very high respect for your work. She is now 87, as active as age permits, and is organizing things for participation in another book in which her splendid work will be used as illustrations. Several painters of the Club expressed admiration for the show. In spite of the fact that I was and had been desperately busy for a long time, I received a great deal of satisfaction from helping to hang it and in seeing it give so much pleasure.

I hope that the pictures will arrive safely. You will find several of the cover sheets wrinkled or frayed. The Scotch tape - as usual - is ^{an} uncertain adhesive. The pictures were exhibited under glass.

If you would like to exhibit your Navajo work when it is completed let me know. Mr. Schubert & I hope that you will yet find an opportunity to come east this spring and that you can allow us to share your time with your many good friends in these parts.

Sincerely
Fred Schubert