

January 12,
1952.

Dr. Paul Fejos, Director
The Viking Fund,
14 East 71st St.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Fejos:-

At the suggestion of Dr. Clyde Kluckhohn, I am writing to inquire as to the possibility of my obtaining a grant from the Viking Fund. I am at work on a photographic book, with full text, on the Navaho Indians. This is to be somewhat similar to my Rio Grande, River of Destiny, published two years ago by Duell, Sloan & Pearce, now in its second edition. However, the Navaho book will have the accent on the people and their mode of life, with the landscape for the background, rather than the River where the people are incident. I have the contract for the publication of this Navaho book, but owing to inadequate funds and the necessity of spending most of my time earning a living, I am just not getting along fast enough. And time is an all important problem. I have already had to ask for a year's extension of my contract. Last summer, I was also handicapped by the extensive drought in this region. There are certain landscapes which are essential for the book, and during three trips out into the western part of the reservation, I encountered wind, dust and cloudless skies in regions where the sky predominates and where in normal seasons the skies are magnificent. Time is becoming a vital factor in work with the people as changes are coming so rapidly in Navaho life that most of the old life will soon be gone. I have much material on this phase but there are still some gaps to be filled in. I am finding also that certain ceremonial aspects can be photographed only for a price. This is only fair enough, but is a decided added expense.

When I heard that Dr. Kluckhohn was producing a book in collaboration with LIFE photographer Leonard McComb, I went at once to see Dr. Kluckhohn. After seeing my outline, together with the work I had already done, he urged me most emphatically to proceed with my book, and volunteered to speak for me if I sent in my application to you. Off and on for twenty years, I have been

working with the Navaho people. Much of my old material has never been used and I have a plan for its incorporation into this final work, for I want my book to be as comprehensive in its scope as possible. I shall be very happy to go into full detail at your request and to send you samples of what I have already completed.

For references in addition to Dr. Kluckhohn, I am sure that my publishers, both Mr. Duell and Mr. Pearce will speak for me, and for local reference, Mr. George Bloom, President, and Mr. Verner Wasson, Vice-President of the First National Bank of Santa Fe, would vouch for my integrity. As to my photography, I refer you to Mr and Mrs. Beaumont Newhall of George Eastman House in Rochester, New York.

In addition to several articles on photography, I have three published works:-

THE PUEBLOS, A CAMERA CHRONICLE	1942
Hastings House	
TEMPLES IN YUCATAN	1947
Hastings House	
THE RIO GRANDE, RIVER OF DESTINY	
Duell, Sloan & Pearce	1949

As matters now stand, the Navaho book is due in the publishers hands by April first of next year, 1953, to be published in the fall. With sufficient concentrated time I will be able to finish it on schedule.

Hoping that this may receive your consideration, I am

Very truly yours,

Dr. Paul Fejos, Director
Viking Fund,
14 E. 71st St.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Fejos:-

At the suggestion of Dr. Clyde Kluckhohn, I am writing to inquire as to the possibility of my ~~ap-
plying~~ plying for a grant from the Viking Fund. I am at work on a photographic book with full text included on the Navaho Indians. This is to be somewhat similar in format etc. to my RIO GRANDE, River of Destiny, published two years ago by Duell, Sloan & Pearce of New York. I have the contract for the publication of this new book, but my funds are most inadequate for the proper completion of the work.

When I heard that photographer Leonard McComb was publishing a Navaho book with a text by Dr. Kluckhohn, I went immediately to see Dr. K. to see if he thought I should abandon my project. After seeing my outline together with the work I already had, he urged me most emphatically to proceed and volunteered to speak for me in this regard. Off and on for twenty years I have been working with these Navaho people. Much of my old material has never ~~yet~~ been used., and I have a plan for its incorporation into this final work.

I shall be very happy to go into full detail of this work at your request, and to send you samples of what has already been completed. For references in addition to Dr. Kluckhohn, I am sure that my publishers, both Mr. Duell and Mr. Pearce will speak for me, and for local reference, I am sure that Mr. George Bloom, president and Mr. Verner Wasson Vice-President of the First National Bank of Santa Fe, would vouch for my integrity.

Very truly yours,

Published works.	RIO GRANDE, RIVER OF DESTINY	
	Duell, Sloan & Pearce, Inc.	1949
	TEMPLES IN YUCATAN	
	Hastings House	1947
	The PUEBLOS, A CAMERA CHRONICLE	
	Hastings House	1942

It has been necessary to ask my publishers for a years extension on my contract. This has been caused in part by the extensive drought on these trips out this past summer & fall - in region where landscapes were required and where in any normal year there are the most beautiful skies - there was not a cloud to be seen - the wind & dust excessive & certain ^{necessary} pictures still are to be made. I have been finding it difficult enough to keep work going (and saving my lung by photography)

which has rendered certain aspects impossible this year.

ad to ^{work on} ~~do~~ this work as well. Time is becoming a vital
element as ~~the~~ changes are coming so fast in hawaii life
that most of the old life will soon be gone. There are still
some important phases for me to work before it is too late. A
grant would make it possible for me to complete the field
material & have time for the necessary research yet to be done
to finish this project.

LAURA GILPIN PHOTOGRAPHER

Box 1173 • Santa Fe, New Mexico

This petition for a grant-in-aid is presented to the Wenner-Gren Foundation for the purpose of completing a photographic book of the Navaho Indians. The book is already under contract with Duell, Sloan & Pearce, Inc., and was originally scheduled to be published this coming fall. Much work remains to be done. The general outline is contained herein and a set of proof prints of work already accomplished accompanies this petition.

Handicaps, such as the worst drought in many years, have hampered the work, as well as the necessity to halt the project in order to earn sufficient funds to continue. These have made it necessary to ask for an extension of the time stated in the contract to the fall of 1953. This has been granted by the publishers.

Because of the rapid changes coming in Navaho life, time has become a most pressing factor. Unless certain aspects are recorded quickly, they will have disappeared.

The information requested by the Wenner-Gren Foundation for a grant-in-aid is contained herein.

Laura Gilpin
Santa Fe, New Mexico
February 1952.

I. PROJECT DATA

1. LAURA GILPIN
2. Box 1173, Santa Fe, New Mexico
3. THE INDIAN ARTS FUND. Vice Chairman
4. THE INDIAN ARTS FUND, % THE LABORATORY OF ANTHROPOLOGY, SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO.
5. PHOTOGRAPHIC BOOK, WITH TEXT, OF THE NAVAHO PEOPLE.
6. THE NAVAHO RESERVATION AND SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO.
7. PROJECT DATA

The aim and scope of this project is to make a photographic document of the Navaho People, to be published in book form similar to THE RIO GRANDE, RIVER OF DESTINY. The book will contain sufficient accompanying text based on research from sources of information contained in the libraries and museums of Santa Fe, as well as some information from the Navaho themselves.

Twenty years ago, I did much photographic work with Navaho Indians in one area, and learned much of their customs and way of life. The desire to complete such a book as stated herein, has long been in mind. Since the war, it has become increasingly apparent that the transition from traditional Navaho life to an adaptation to our own, is coming with great rapidity. Much of the old life will soon be gone.

The scope of this project is to record through photography whatever still remains of this old life, and to show also the adaptation of the Navaho to existing problems of to-day. Photography is capable of producing this record in a more convincing voice than any other medium.

8. The significance of this work is to make this book as comprehensive as possible in producing this documentation. Through landscape photographs, it will show the character of the land in which these people live. But in complete contrast to THE RIO GRANDE, the emphasis will be on the people rather than the river and the land, as in the RIO GRANDE. This book is to contain 192 pages with a frontispiece in color. There will be many pictures of Navaho types, the way of life of the people, their arts & crafts

and as much of their ceremonials as is possible to obtain. Changes in attitude toward photography are coming and it is now possible, particularly when accompanied by remuneration, to photograph some phases of ceremonials. Much hard work has gone in to building up confidence to obtain such pictures during the past two years. The book will end with a section on the transitation of one culture to another—the extraordinary ability of the Navaho to learn and to adapt himself to our civilization.

9. None
10. May 1950 to be completed and in the publishers hands by April 1st, 1953.
11. Contract with DUELL, SLOAN AND PEARCE, INC. signed April 20, 1950.

II. FINANCIAL DATA

12. To complete this project \$5000. is requested, to be applied for material, travel, fees to Indians, time for research and photographic work during the ensuing year. By devoting full time to the project it can be completed on schedule.
13. INDIAN ARTS FUND. SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO.
14. Advance payment from publishers has already be used (\$250.) \$500 more to be paid within thirty days of publication. Also approximately \$1200. in personal earnings from other lines of photographic work.

III. PERSONAL PROFESSIONAL DATA

15. Graduate of THE CLARENCE H. WHITE SCHOOL OF PHOTOGRAPHY, NEW YORK CITY. 1917. Diploma. Member of the Board of Directors of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 1934-1939. Resigned to become instructor in photography at the same institution. Have practised professional photography in New York and Colorado Springs (birth place) since 1919. Chief Photographer, Public Relations Department of the Boeing Airplane Company during the war. 1942-1945

Practicing some professional photography in Santa Fe, New Mexico, 1945-1951, but major part of time was spent in producing Temples in Yucatan, and The Rio Grande and work on the present project.

16. References contained herein.

17. PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

1. THE PUEBLOS, A CAMERA CHRONICLE 1942
Hastings House, Pub.
2. TEMPLES IN YUCATAN 1947
Hastings House
3. THE RIO GRANDE 1949
Duell, Sloan & Pearce
4. THE NAVAHO, DENIZENS OF THE DESERT
Duell, Sloan & Pearce
Scheduled for 1953

Articles.

PORTRAITURE. GRAFLEX-GRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHY

EXHIBITIONS.

Many one-man exhibitions in Museums throughout the country for many years. Prints in permanent collections in several Museums and the Library of Congress.

WORK YET TO BE DONE.

Landscapes to complete the major sections of the reservation.

Many more portraits of people.

Filling in gaps in PARTS I., II, & III.

Air photographs to illustrate Part I.

Trips to remote sections of reservation in search of material for old way of life to fill in ~~gaps~~.

Completion of PARTS II & III.

Possible inclusion of major archaeological remains on the reservation.

The entire last section, PART IV.

Education

Medical care (a few)

Jobs on reservation

Work by Navahos showing complete acculturation and portraits of these Indians.

There are about 100 prints contained in the books submitted herewith. There should be at least another 300 and from the total the format will be selected.

No finished writing has yet been done, but much information has already been gathered.