

# MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

P. O. Box 1727

SANTA FE

## Research Divisions

School of American Research  
Laboratory of Anthropology

## Affiliated Societies

Archaeological Society of New Mexico  
Historical Society of New Mexico

Dr. Paul Fejos  
Wenner-Gren Foundation for  
Anthropological Research, Inc.  
14 East 71st Street  
New York 21, N.Y.

February 19 - 1952

Dear Dr. Fejos:

At a recent meeting the trustees of the INDIAN ARTS FUND OF SANTA FE considered the application for a grant-in-aid to your Foundation by one of our most active members, Miss Laura Gilpin, photographic artist. After careful examination of her materials, we voted unanimously to give the applicant our whole hearted support.

You are probably already familiar with some of the published works of this artist, among them, RIO GRANDE, RIVER OF DESTINY. The professional quality of all her work is well understood, I think. Our organization can vouch for her sincerity and good character. She is one of the rare individuals who can get along extremely well with the subjects she photographs and studies. She has worked for many years among various Indian tribes - Pueblos, Navajos and Mayas. She has made lasting friendships among all of these people. Miss Gilpin has outlined for you the reasons why she needs a grant-in-aid. All of us who know her feel that she is a particularly deserving applicant.

Those of us who are working with Indian cultures here in the Southwest recognize how important the time element is. Before long many aspects of Navajo culture will be gone forever. Because of the time factor, and because we know of no better or more capable person to record this fast disappearing culture than Miss Gilpin, we sincerely urge the Wenner-Gren Foundation to give the proposed project every consideration.

Recently a photographic book, NAVAJO MEANS PEOPLE, appeared. Numerous scientists, including many anthropologists, feel that this work is incomplete, for it depicts largely the dire aspects of the Navajo. A complete photographic study of the Navajos, such as is to be contained in the applicant's book, will be of far greater value, we feel.

Thanking you for giving consideration to Miss Gilpin's application I remain,

Sincerely yours,

*Mrs. Mary Jane F. Lambert*  
Chairman of the Indian Arts Fund of Santa Fe

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