

March 30
1954.

The Honorable Boaz Long, Director
Museum of New Mexico
Santa Fe, N.M.

Dear Mr. Long:-

It gives me great pleasure to send you a short statement regarding the qualifications of Mr. William J. Lippincott. I have known both Mr. & Mrs. Lippincott for about fifteen years. As you doubtless know they operated the Navaho trading post at Wide Ruins Arizona, and also shortly before their leaving the reservation, the post at Pine Springs. Any one who operates successfully a trading post on the reservation is bound to have excellent executive ability. I know that his methods were methodical, careful, very fair, and with an understanding of the people with whom he dealt. He majored in college in anthropology, so did Mrs. Lippincott, and it was doubtless this great interest in a so called primitive people, that led them to undertake their operation of the trading posts. He did a great deal to further the improvement of both weaving and silver smithing in his area. The quality of Navaho rugs from any area always show the taste and discrimination of the trader in that area. The quality of both rugs and silver coming from the Wide Ruins and Pine Springs area, are outstanding. Mr. Lippincott has also served on the National Board of Indian Arts and Crafts and his knowledge of all Indian craft work is very extensive.

It was my privilege to visit Mr. & Mrs. Lippincott shortly before they left Wide Ruins. On the night preceeding a large ceremonial, there was a gathering of several hundred Navaho to say good-bye and to thank the Lippincotts for all they had done while they were on the reservation. This was quite an impressive affair, and I shall long remember the feeling of friendship exhibited by the Navaho to the Lippincotts and the fine speech he made in return to their demonstration. If he could speak eloquently to people of a foreign tongue, I am sure that he would make an excellent talk under any circumstances.

His acquaintance is very wide. He seems to know many of the Museum people throughout the United States, and to know well, many scientists and artists and writers all over the country. His straight forward

and completely honest personality should
and completely honest personality could only be
a great asset to anything he should undertake,
and I for one, feel great confidence in his judgment
and ability.

It is a great pleasure to me that Mr. & Mrs. Lippincott
have moved to Santa Fe. Whatever he may find to do,
will be a contribution to our community, and whatever
position he should hold, he will do it with ability,
with dignity, and above all with complete honesty.

With best wishes, I am

Very truly yours,