

McIntosh and Otis, Inc.

18 East 41st Street, New York 17, N. Y. MUrray Hill 9-1050

Mary Squire Abbot • Elizabeth Otis

Plays and Motion Pictures: Annie Laurie Williams

December 22, 1955

Dear Miss Gilpin:

I have your thoughtful letter of December 20th. I have put the matter of the book into Bryan Holme's hands and he knows that he is the only one considering it now. I think you might do well to write him a personal note reminding him of your talk with him. It is very difficult for publishers to line up this financial backing for books such as he spoke of trying to get in Washington. I doubt if he or any other publisher would have any lines laid down for an approach to the American Philosophical Society, or even the Ford Foundation.

I am encouraged about the oil man who is part Indian who is ready to sponsor Indian things. That seems to me the most realistic kind of outside help in the offing. But how would one go about doing it? It is really outside our line of business and also outside of the publisher's. In either case it takes some very careful contact work which is apt to stretch out over a long period of time, especially if it has to be done by letter.

I give you my thinking on this for what it is worth. Rand McNally knew that they had an incomplete text upon which they were basing their judgment. I do remember your telling me about Duell, Sloan & Pearce, but no harm was done by the Little Brown approach. The editor came to my office and said it was not a book which he could recommend, because he felt its market was too uncertain.

I hope you are really over your difficult time with your siatic nerve. Caroline and I both send you our warmest best wishes for the holidays.

Sincerely,

Mary P. Abbot
Mary Squire Abbot

Miss Laura Gilpin
Box 1173
Santa Fe, New Mexico

MSA:ASV

STUDIO PUBLICATIONS

December 30, 1955

Dear Mary:

Thank you so much for your letter, and various notes and messages about Laura Gilpin's THE ENDURING NAVAHO. As you know, and as I told her, I, personally, have a very soft spot in my heart for this subject and for Gilpin's photographs which are so sensitive and worthy of fine treatment in a book. However, I think we all agree that it is a book that would have to be done with outside support of one kind or another. I had hoped that U.S.I.A. in Washington would be interested in sending it abroad, but we can get no great encouragement from them at the present time.

May I keep the book in mind in case some further idea occurs to me? If you haven't placed it elsewhere in the next few months, let's check again.

Sincerely,

signed - Bryan