

April 16
1956.

Dear Mitch:-

Your very good letter reached me yesterday and I do appreciate beyond words your effort in my behalf. I had just received a letter from Mrs. Abbot saying that she had never heard from you, and I was worried for fear someone was ill or something, and I am relieved to know that all is well. I am glad that you have not shown the material to anyone as yet for I also feel very strongly about having it complete before showing again. The only reason I did was because I had long planned that trip East and had fully expected to have the book finished. Betsy's illness made that impossible and as I was committed to show the slides, I had to make the trip. It seemed best to me at the time to establish myself with a good agent and if possible interest someone in the book. When I left N.Y. I had been given the understanding that it was all set. Mr. Holme of Studio-Crowell felt so sure of the U.S.I.S. aid that he did all but sign up. He did not tell me which U.S.I.S. At first I thought it was the Indian Service, I believe now that it was Information Service. I imagine that this year's budget balancing had at least something to do with it!

I am writing with this mail to Mrs. Abbot to send you the dummy to Williamsburg. I want you to see the layout and give me any criticisms you see. She is to return the rest of the material to me which consists of two portfolios of finished prints ready for reproduction. I need to make one more trip to the reservation to fill in certain holes. I really need the dummy with me, but

the portfolios will do just as well if I take good care of them. I don't know just yet how soon I shall go, I should like to get a goodly part of text ready first. Mr. Holme wrote me, I believe I told you, that he figures the need of 2500 copies assured before he could go ahead with it. I have even thought of going to the Tribal Council. They now have two motels owned by the tribe, a possible new one to go up at Canyon de Chelly, a new store for the Arts Guild on Highway 66. They might very well give a substantial order with a 40% profit in view. The Navaho response to the dummy has pleased me more than I can say and if they are behind it, I do truly believe that a big sale would take place in the reservation area.

Now to answer your questions, I have planned the book as you will see for black and white, hoping for the very finest reproduction. I have certainly suffered from poor work in the past. I hope for at least two color plates. O'Keefe says I must have two, one landscape to give the color of the country, one figure, the color of the people. Now, you did not say whether the two gentlemen with whom you discussed the book were pro or con on color, and now that you have seen my slides you know somewhat of what I have in color. Also I have quite a few 4x5s with just this in mind. This would all be a matter of costs, I've got the material. Possibly there could be one (or more) color plates in each section.

When you go through the dummy, please bear in mind, that I am now working on a rewriting of the Creation Myth. I do want that introduction with the four air shots. And I still have to do two of these. Mt. Taylor and the S.F. Peaks. As what I

have are not good enough. The proofs are in the dummy just for the layout. Get the scale related is very difficult. Now I want to try to get a Kisan ruin in the foreground of Mt. Taylor if possible, and some ruin the Chaco area should do it. Parts I & II are pretty complete. I need a water hawling picture. Don't know how I have failed to get that. I shall try also for a sheep shearing or dipping set from which to chose when I go out. And possibly one more agriculture. This for Part IV. I have some squaw dance material, but not sufficient to use, and of course nothing of the real ceremonial part of it. So I have stuck to the Yiebichai and will cover the others in text, though only slight mention. Then I have dozens of action pictures from the Gallup Ceremonial, Window Rock & Shiprock Fairs. These need a composite double page or two. I don't want to get too many either.

I still want to get a portrait of Paul Jones, now that he is Chairman, and of old Manuelito Begay as a third councilman. Those big heads I feel strengthen Part IV which must be the strongest section. Now from your distance something I have missed may hit you hard. Tell me what it is and what should be deleted. Some people say that I must cover the alcohol problem. I have held off on this. First because it has been thoroughly covered in Leonard McCombe's book. Also I know how the Navaho feel about it. To me no one seems to have portrayed the very fine Navaho Dignity. The alcohol problem is bad so is ours! Why should we pick on them any more than ourselves. Changes and developments are coming so fast that I think it would astonish you to see it.

If there are any other questions you have let me know, and I shall answer them. I leave it to you about showing this dummy

in its present form, and keep it as long as you need it. In the mean time your letter has given me a big boost and I shall put on full steam on the text now and try to have it complete in a couple of months. I still have to keep a pot boiling at the same time, but I am girded for the final assault.

Will all of you be coming out this summer or do you stay in Williamsburg? How are the Jamestown archaeologists getting along? There is lots doing out this way.

My very best greetings to you both,

Did I tell you I am booked for a show of 75 to 100 prints of Navaho at the American Museum of N.H. for next Nov. to Jan 4.? I was delighted the way they snapped it up and booked it for a two months show at the best time of the year. The show will then go to Geo. Eastman House. These will be prints from the book.