

May 5
1956

Dear Mitch:-

The dummy came yesterday and I thank you for being so prompt. And the charming Williamsburg book came several days ago. I have enjoyed it very much. Did you tell me that this sells for \$3.00? If so I am interested that such a book can be produced for this. But then having a book done that is not done through a publisher where all those expenses and profits have to be counted in is something else again. And about the book being done in England, this I presume holds true again. Were my Navaho done in color this way with actual book cost running to \$5. or \$6. dollars this inturn would mean a book selling for \$12 to \$15 and how many copies would be sold? These are ofcourse the head aches.

Now about your comments on the dummy. I am pleased to have you speak up. First you make me certain that there must be at least some color in this, if not all. You made no mention of my opening section with the air shots of the sacred mountains etc. Nor of the general divisions. All this has been very purposfully done. As I am sure you know everything in Navaho life is in four parts, so to speak, (unlike all Gaul). In beginning with the series of portraits, I have done that somewhat quietly for the reason that that is characteristic of the Navaho. They are always quiet when you first meet them and also I wanted to build up for action later in the book. There may be too many portraits in this section, but I leave them in order to make concessions (for possible color) when final plans are under way! In the text for this section I shall include a number of personal experiences which

number of personal experiences which reveal Navaho character, ~~are~~ humorous, some not so. Some of these pictures can be reduced in size to keep the text moving along, or even delete two or three left hand pages to have the text move along. In the next sections there are sufficient horizontal pictures to carry the text.

Yes, I had correspondence with Mr Lottenville immediately after D.S. & P. broke the contract. He saw the dummy at that time, but it was very far from what it is now. I had nothing in the last two sections. He was interested, but neither accepted nor rejected it. Except the foldout idea. I may have to concede this, but those pictures need to be large and I hate double spreads with sewed through marks or where two plates are used and they dont quite fit. So I decided that the thing to do was to make the dummy as I would like it and then see what would finally work out.

Now, to go back to your showing this to your people, it seems to me that I must finish it complete before anyone else sees it again. Then I can say that I have practically the whole thing in color, and the text would fit either. There would be one important exception, though, I couldn't use any of my early material, and some of that is now valuable. So all in all there are a lot of problems to be decided. The color ofcourse would be wonderful, but is it practical for a book that has to be handled through the regular publishing channels? I dont know. But I shall now pitch in ~~the~~ to wind it all up.

This brings my best wishes and my very sincere thanks for your interest and help. It is now all up to me to pull this into final shape.

As ever,