



Vice President's Office

Colonial Williamsburg

Restored by John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

Williamsburg, Virginia

April 25, 1956

Miss Laura Gilpin
Box 1173
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Dear Laura:

This is to let you know that the dummy arrived safely on Monday from Mrs. Abbot. I took it up at once with one of our people who is in a good position to be able to judge such problems and we discussed the book at some length, although neither one of us had time to read the text which I felt in this case was a secondary problem and could wait for a while.

The first reaction other than the obvious interest in the subject and enthusiastic appraisal of the photographs, was the unfortunate lack of color. Having seen the color slides, I too shared his feeling and could wish that there was some way to overcome this difficulty. As my colleague put it, an Indian book without color is scarcely in the market these days. While this may be an exaggeration, it at least represents one point of view. Another comment was the static quality of the photographs which could possibly be overcome by rearranging so that the moody pages and the more exciting and dramatic interludes are interspaced in order to give a better pace to the book. I think what I am trying to say is that there are too many physical types and portraits without a change in the tempo. This is a difficult problem, as the subject is a social document and does not tend to lend itself particularly well to action pictures, or at least the emphasis is not in that direction. Incidentally, I would say that you would be well advised to pass over the alcohol problem as it only tends to pick up more of the sociology and I do not believe would contribute greatly to the reader's understanding of a Navaho and his problem. I am wondering about the captions which go with the pictures - how they will be written, how long, and do they comment upon the picture or take off in a direction suggested by the picture and bring in some more subjective information. These captions could

be one of the most important facets of the book and would, I think, be of great concern to any publisher.

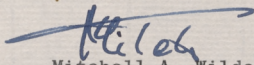
One last thought for this letter which is written in some haste and really more than anything else to acknowledge receipt of the dummy and let you know that we are not really dead at this end of the line, but merely sleeping. Is there any merit to the thought that a book of 50 or 60 pictures in color could be produced in hard covers to sell for less than \$3.00? A color booklet, even though small in size, is very apt to achieve spectacular popularity. As an example, I am sending to you a copy of WILLIAMSBURG IN COLOR. I know this is a far cry from what you are attempting to cover in your volume, but it might be the way to combat the color problem and split the treatment into topical headings, which could be illustrated by a very few separate pictures.

\$1.50
retail

It is a real delight to see a volume of your work again, even if it is in proof form. It seems to bring back some very fond memories of the southwest which are stirred up only by the visual impact of these photographs. I shall not hold on to the dummy for long but should know where you wish me to send it. I am not clear as to whether you wish it in Santa Fe or returned to Mrs. Abbot.

Congratulations on the show at the Museum of Natural History, ~~that is,~~ it will be in a swell location and going on to George Eastman's house is a real feather in your hat.

Yours,



Mitchell A. Wilder

P. S. I received a wire from Freda Douglas Monday advising me of Eric's death. Apparently it was a blessing that it happened when it did.

M. A. W.