

Amos Currier Museum of Western Art

3501 CAMP BOWIE BOULEVARD, FORT WORTH 7, TEXAS PERSHING 2-2847

July 29, 1963

Miss Laura Gilpin
Box 1173
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Dear Laura:

I am writing this letter to you as I do not seem to have Mrs. Hodge's address and as I know that you are all working closely in this matter, I hope that the other officers of the Indian Arts Fund will forgive me if I send a communication through the wrong channels. I am also sending a copy to Betty.

I have had a chance to read through The House at Otowi Bridge by Peggy Pond Church and find it an extremely sensitive and well written book. Of course, so far as mood is concerned, it is an entirely different type of thing than we have in mind but this is not a criticism but rather a comment upon the author's ability to convey a mood and a personality. I would say that she certainly should be considered as a possible author for the Indian Arts Fund project and therefore, wonder if it would not be wise for you and Mrs. Hodge to submit some sort of suggestion to her. Of course, so far as actual financial details are concerned, we would have to get into this later and I would be prepared to act promptly, especially if she is free at this time to work with us. I think that Betty has gone far enough that there would be some useful time spent between Betty as the coordinator of the information and the author who would of course have to steep herself entirely in the background of the Indian Arts Fund before she could undertake the actual task of writing.

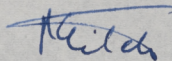
So far as your own participation is concerned, I would like to reach some definite arrangements with you so that you could take advantage of any free time you have to prepare copy negatives, prints, etc. of materials which we are able to unearth. For example, the small but evidently useful pictures

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which I turned up could be sent on out to you. I have yet to check my own files to see if the negatives are available. The one picture of Doctor Mera is, I think, so characteristic of him standing with a sherd bag in his hand as we saw him so many times when he was working on the archeological survey. I think Betty has other photograph materials which could be in process and if we start at a leisurely pace now, it will probably mean that there will be ample time to get the job done properly. I would prefer to do it this way rather than to hold off until some later date and then find that we were in a crash situation with the schedule for the show and your own commitments. As you know, I did put something into the budget for this period of tentative beginnings on the Indian Arts Fund project to permit us to carry out such photographic work as might seem necessary.

After you have had an opportunity to talk with Jean and Betty and any others about this next step in our project, let me know and we can act accordingly. I do hope that we can clarify the problem of authorship of the text in the next 30 days. Fondest greetings to you.

Sincerely,



Mitchell A. Wilder
Director

MAW/ojm
cc Betty Toulouse