

BYU-NEW WORLD ARCHAEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION

13A. CALLE PONIENTE No. 2
TUXTLA GUTIERREZ, CHIAPAS, MEXICO.

April 29, 1965

Miss Laura Gilpin
209 Camino del Monte Sol
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Dear Miss Gilpin;

I finally arrived back down here in Mexico after a long, straneous, hot, and tiresome trip. Had an accident near Guadalajara which cost around 40 dollars. I enjoyed the trip as far as seeing the different pueblos, scenery, people, markets etc. but next time I will take a month and hope there is some one with me rather than alone and in 8 days.

I really liked the Mountains and scenery around Nayarit, Tepic.

I was so happy to meet you and be able to sit and visit a while and I do hope that your back has improved and that your book will be nearly finished by now. I really look forward to that publication and you can put me down as a purchaser of same. Also I would like to buy the book that you did on the Rio Grande.

Well this week-end will be my first trip to San Cristobal since leaving and I will try to spend the time recording notes and taking photos at the market. Then my later trips can take in more and I can get more done.

I decided to take my time and do a real good job and not worry about the deadlines of publication to the cost of a poor job. That way when I come back in the fall I hope to have some tangible things to show you from Chiapas and then see how you feel about taking photos of the Navajo and also I want to explain briefly what I am aiming at in this paper. But before I start I want to thank you for the suggestion of Mr. George Hight in Gallup and Martin Link in Window Rock and Mr Milt Snow in Santa Fe. I didn't contact them yet as I want to have something to show you first of all and if it isn't possible to work with you then to them.

What I have done to date is a brief Survey of the art and craft production in New Mexico and Arizona among the three culture groups. This survey was an initial step to a study with more depth, information, and illustrations and photos. But as I temporarily had to set that aside and come here to work I am more or less doing the same type of survey in the Highlands of Chiapas. What I hope to do is do a cross cultural comparison between the Highlands here and New Mexico in the States. I want to use the Indigenous groups as a reflector of cultural change and influence. From this I mean I will take the Indian people just before the conquest with a

brief ~~xxxx~~ background on each area (Chiapas and New Mexico). Then show how the Spanish Conquest influenced both areas and the respective Indian groups, then come on up through time to the present. I will use the crafts as a reflector of culture change and a means of interpreting the two culturex areas.

But it is quite interesting to me to see the similarities in adaptation and differences between the Indians here and in New Mexico. To see the Spanish erected churches where the Indian people have cleverly held to their own beliefs as reflected in the ceremonies, to see the changes in the crafts due to new groups of people coming and bringing in new techniques and materials and yet some of the old ideas of the Indian people are still present, and the million and one ways the crafts (or expression) of these people show the stresses and strains of time and foreign influence.

I hope that this publication and the collecting that I will be doing, notes, slides and photos will go towards promoting intercultural communication and understanding.

So very briefly that is the idea. Hope to see you in the Fall and I will keep you posted on how things either do or don't go.

Sincerely yours,



Carole Potter (Miss)
Ethnologist-Lab. Super.