

February 4,
1968

Mr. Mitchell A. Wilder,
Amon Carter Museum of Western Art,
Fort Worth, Texas.

Dear Mitch:-

For weeks I have trying to get a letter off to you. But before I get into other matters, I am enclosing a Christmas card I sent you and Sally, which came back to me. You must have moved. Sorry you didnt get it on time.

The day after Christmas my manuscript came back for T.U.P., and I got a shock when I saw the amount of blue pencilling! But after a first going over it I realized that it wasnt too bad. My capitalization is very poor indeed and I was often at a loss about Navaho dieties etc. So in doubt, I used caps. I was pleased to find that there were no cuts either in the number of pictures nor the script, and most corrections were minor. I never had done much research before, and ofcourse I failed to put down page number and sometime year of publications. So I have learned the hard way. The one important change Mrs. Spielamn wants to make is the cutting out of my dividing the book inot four parts. I thought hard and long about this as to why. There is plenty of precedent for this treatment. I decided I had nor made my reason clear: the wish to carry the Navaho symbolic "four" into the book. Also the material naturally fell into four parts. Also my headings were poor and unNavaho. So I have requested that my plan be kept and I reworked the headings and rewrote part pf the Preface with an explanation. It has taken me a whole month to go through all this, and the script went off on Friday. In addition to all my first erros, I found several that were missed by Mrs. Spielman, and one bad one that got by me in the beginning. I know I have been through the whole works a dozen times or more.

The blurb copy for the jacket has just come in and I am not happy about this. Part is O.K. A quote from the Dockstader letter from the Nationa Arts & Crafts Board. But the rest is not too good. It sounds as though I have never done anything but phptgraph the Navaho. I suggest to Mrs. Spielman that you

could be of help here. She is thinking only of the pictures as illustrations for a manuscript. After fifty years I hope I do have some standing as a creative photographer. I will hunt out a review of a show or two where the approach has been quite different. I hope Mrs. Spielman will send you a copy of what she sent me.

The main purpose for a letter is to ask you how you want me to mount not only the photographs you have ordered for your permanent collection but also print for the show. I have seven of the twelve you ordered ready to mount and will finish the others in the next couple of weeks. I may send these seven on as you suggested whenever I needed to bolster the exchequer, which seems to be now. I have literally done nothing for over a month but work on that script. Now I want to wade in to getting all these prints made and ready for you. For your permanent collection, I shall mount the two 11x14s as I usually do, but the 61x20s you may prefer to have mounted flush with the margin. Perhaps I can have these twelve all ready by the time I hear from you.

One thing more. Did you see the exhibition that Mr. Forrest had here of Artist of West, 1800-1880? Just before it came down, I was asked to prepare a complete set of 35mm color for a possible film strip. Fortunately I made these on the color negative material. I delivered a complete set in a file of positive. Also I got a quote from two good establishments who prepare filmstrips. The making of a master is expensive. The Museum thought it too high, and without my knowing it, my slides were turned over to a local photographer who made a short filmstrip for sale here. It was very poor and, I understand, has never sold very well. Just yesterday I was hunting out something else and found this complete set of negatives. It has now occurred to me that perhaps you might want a set of these for your museum. I think they should be reprinted. I don't know just how permanent the negative material is. I am sure you must have loaned things for this exhibit. Perhaps there might be some other museum who might want a set. In any event, I want to have a set made for myself, and thought I would pass this along to you for your consideration.

What has brought this all to my thoughts was a call the other day from a member of the staff of our museum here who wanted know if I had any duplicate transparencies (4x5) of work I had done for the museum over the past 15 years. There were a great many in the first place. It seems that nothing can be found of all that work. Many were used in catalogues, and many were for the record. But- Now I shall find out if the 35mm of which I have spoken are still here at the Art Museum. It is somewhat discouraging. The sum total would amount to a good many hundreds of dollars.

How is your back? I am somewhat better, though I am still on crutches. About four or five months ago after receiving contrary opinions from two doctors I heard about a very good osteopath here and decided to give him a try. The result seems to be that it is my back more than my hip which has me on crutches. I go for a treatment once a week and am decidedly better. There are times when I can almost walk without the sticks, so I am waiting to see what will develop before I have any operation. Thinking of you, I asked Dr. Sorensen if he knew of a good man your way and he gave me the name of a Dr. Beckerrin Dallas. (I think that was the name, I thought I had the card in my purse but I can't find it. I will get it again when I go for a treatment on Wednesday. Sorry). Betsy is very frail. Fell not long ago and cracked two ribs, but is about over that now.

One item of local interest. Bertha Dutton is doing a splendid job at the Navaho Museum here. Has remodeled it, got a good staff including one Navaho. A young fellow who has great talent in watercolor. I am sure you would be interested from the one thing I have seen. He seems to sell everything as fast as he produces it. At last this is being handled right as a museum. It is just two years since she took over.

This brings my best to one and all, and the hope of seeing you before too long.