

PHILIP HYDE

BOX 205 - TAYLORSVILLE, CALIFORNIA, 95983 - (916)284-2491

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Dear Laura Gilpin:

How good it was to hear from you, and to receive a copy of your review of NAVAJO WILDLANDS. Yours is one of the few reviews I've seen that indicate the reviewer really read the book. It's gratifying to know that you've read the text and looked carefully at the photographs. And you're very generous in your comments, as well!

On the omissions you note--unfortunately I did not have as much control over the final picture selection as I would like. Certainly, I feel the absence of Shiprock, too, and there were several pictures of Shiprock available. And the others....

One of the disadvantages of being published in a Sierra Club book is in the editing. If one really is determined to be in control, you are better off being published by some other publisher, although I suspect that the editing business is one that's prevalent among all publishers.

And as you no doubt are well aware, the economics of publishing books now make it nearly impossible to spend the time that any book should have in all phases of its preparation and printing. --I suppose one should be satisfied that something of a miracle has to take place to have it as well done as it is. I'm torn by these forces that I can't control to the point where I periodically decide that I won't get involved in another book project until I can be assured that time and care enough can really be spent to make it as perfect as possible.

There's always an atmosphere of rushing with a Sierra Club publication and this very nearly balances the advantage of good reproduction that they offer, (and sometimes deliver).

I was definately not able to take the time necessary for an exploration of the Dine, and their relationship to the land, I early realized this, and consciously decided that I had to emphasize the land, rather than do a half-baked job on the people. I still feel apologetic about that. On the other hand, I'm sure I couldn't have done, even with adequate time, the magnificent job you did in your book. --I had some hope that the Sierra Club might publish your book as a kind of companion volume to N.W., but I really think you are better off without that entanglement. --I'm happy to hear that your book is in process. I look forward to seeing it. Will you let me know when it is to be published?

Many thanks again for sending the review. We hope to get your way again, before too long. *Best wishes, Philip Hyde*