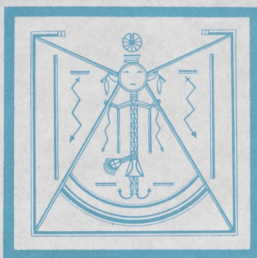


POLLEN BOY
As depicted in the
Red Antway: a pollen painting
for fertility



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MUSEUM OF NAVAHO CEREMONIAL ART INC.

Holidaytime, 1969-1970

Dear Miss Gilpin:

Seasons greetings from the trustees and staff members of the Museum of Navaho Ceremonial Art.

Friends and patrons of the museum are taking increased interest in the development of our expanded program, and we thought you should know something of our progress.

Since we are assembling items in all categories that can elucidate Navaho culture and its significance, numerous individuals, companies, and other agencies are realizing the advantage of giving appropriate things to the museum; this is advantageous to us as the receiver of valuable materials, and to the donor as recipient of tax writeoffs justified by professional appraisals. By this means the museum has received photographs, negatives, and color transparencies; rugs, blankets and other textiles; jewelry, beadwork, basketry, pottery; archaeological items; tapes and records; paintings, books, and articles of attire. A few additions needed for the collections are purchased. Non-Navaho specimens are used for comparative purposes or to demonstrate cultural differences--each important in that this is a research institution in the first instance, followed by meaningful exhibits, publications and lectures which make the Navaho better known.

One of the trustees, Mr. Glenn L. Emmons (former Commissioner of Indian Affairs) has donated Indian headgear and outstanding examples of adornment. Mr. Edward Schwartz of Los Alamos has given one of the largest sandpainting tapestries known. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. E. Fair of Gallup have contributed a small Ye'i rug. Mr. Byron Harvey III of Phoenix, Arizona, who serves us as a knowledgeable consultant, has donated jewelry and other examples of silver and lapidary work, basketry, carved figurines, textiles, paintings, and various other specimens, each year from 1966 onward. Mrs. Walter B. Driscoll purchased a beautiful double-face Ye'i rug for the museum.

Mr. Harvey was instrumental in getting a loan of carefully selected jewelry from Fred Harvey, Inc., Grand Canyon, Arizona, which was placed on display here in the spring of 1968. Recently, with the demise of the Alvarado Hotel and its well-known Indian museum and gift shop, in Albuquerque, many other fine articles have been added to the loan collection. Presently, textiles loaned by the Southwest Archaeological Center, Globe, Arizona, also are exhibited.

Another trustee, Mrs. Frank O. Packard, Sr., has loaned sixteen superb medicine bags made of leather and highly ornamented with silver--in one case with beadwork also. A number of fine books and rare pamphlets, serials, and

related publications have been donated to our library (which has been in charge of a professional librarian for the last four years). Mr. and Mrs. John Gaw Meem gave the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE, extending from 1941 on, though some issues are missing. Other people have contributed valued and appreciated gifts.

Memberships and cash donations supplement the income from our small endowment established by the late Mary C. Wheelwright. Although the majority of members are classified as Contributing (making annual contributions of ten dollars), a recent count shows that 69 are Sustaining (\$25), 14 are Guarantors (\$100), one is a Patron (\$250-500), and 11 are Life members (\$1,000 or more). We endeavor to increase the number of members, and encourage the advancing of one's classification.

A local sculptor, Eugenie Shonnard, has rendered a bas-relief likeness of Miss Wheelwright and presented it to our museum, where it has been hung in the library. In appreciation of this generous gift, a reception honoring Miss Shonnard was held on 19 November. Some 150 friends of the famous sculptor and of the museum came to greet her and view the terracotta bust and current displays.

Another item in our paperback series is being printed, and other manuscripts are being edited. Two new, multi-color serigraphs (Beautyway and the Big Starway) have been issued, and two more are being prepared. These and related books, slides, cards and note papers, dolls, looms, pottery, paintings, etc., are sold in our gift shop--at a discount of 10 per cent to members. This venture keeps our publication funds rotating to some degree. Visitors average over 1,000 per month. Among these we have many youth groups, and people from the world over.

During each of the last three years we have been awarded a small grant by the New Mexico Arts Commission for the inauguration of a music project. We have bought good audio equipment for recording and play back of Navaho chants, prayers, narrations, and songs. High quality tapes are being made for a master file, and cartridges are being prepared for use by interested persons.

Our staff includes five full-time and eight part-time paid individuals, each trained and experienced in his or her particular work (anthropology, art, audio techniques, business, maintenance, music, publicity, and visitor information). Some twenty faithful volunteers aid in all aspects of our activities; without them our program could not be maintained.

If you have suggestions or questions, we shall be glad to hear from you. We hope you share a common concern in the work that we endeavor to carry forward.

Gratefully yours,

Bertha P. Dutton

Bertha P. Dutton, Director