

Dear Laura Gilpin:

Orgeval 78
August 19-1969
Yvelines, France

Please let me skip the apologies for
none are really adequate, for this very late
acknowledgement of your book. many times
looked at - many times filled with the
warmth and true humanity which it com-
municates on every page. The "Enduring Navajo"
have, through you, an enduring book
which reflects their spirit as it needed
to be recorded. Truly and without
patronizing or sentimentality. Clearly
it is a life work, this book of yours.
which like all true things will live
through the years, a monument to your
love and understanding of these people -
There are many fine photographs

2 memorable images of both the country
and the people. Hazel who has read
the text - (always the first to read in
this family) was very impressed and
moved by it also. You must and
certainly should feel happy that the
book has been born - is out in the world
where it should be, thanks to you -
thanks to the Navajo themselves.

Thanks also for your kind inscription
in our copy. I know you have not
been well and send you my hope that
you are better, always able to be at work.
If you never received a copy of "Living
Egypt" which was mailed to you by
the publisher in Dresden, please let

3 me know, so that a copy can reach
you surely - With very warm greetings
from me. I give this page over to Hazel
As always Paul Strand

Dear Laura Gilpin -

I have been "at" Paul for
some time - He is a slow reader and has
always such a stack ahead of him to read - that
he has only glanced at the text. In spite
of it being a bit heavy in weight for bed
reading, which is where most of mine is
done - I could hardly put it down. I first
came to Santa Fe in the 30s and proceeded
to buy silver like mad - also a reket skirt and
pleated skirt - all of which I still wear and
some of my friends have borrowed for costume
parties. I wore always four silver bracelets and
at one point when we were invited more or less
off the street to join a wedding supper in Romania
I gifted the bride in all her Regalia (folk costume
with twenty or thirty handsome gold pins making
a crown in her braids) with a pair of them -
Then when I was in New York some the Hunt
to find more - So you can see how fascinated
I was with your chapters on the craft work,
and ceremonials, dishwashing and bread making -
you and Betsey weaving through your many experiences
and your many friends bring out so clearly these
people whom so many of us probably think of
as silver workers and skin dancers. Thank you
for a wonderful book and an insight into a
wonderful people. Sincerely Hazel Strand