

Feb. 17, 1970

Mr. Peter Bunnell,  
Museum of Modern Art,  
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Bunnell:-

It is my recollection that I told you about the loss of my Navaho show immediately after it had been shipped by the Riverside Museum in N.Y. destination The Western Heritage Center, Oklahoma City. For five months and over my lawyer has been trying to get some satisfactory answer from the Emery Air Freight regarding my claim. Now they are wanting to know the name of one or more "reliable sources" as to the value of my work. I have just written to Ansel and now to you.

There was a declared value on the shipment of \$7500. The show consisted of 151 prints sizes 8x10, 11x14 and 16x20. Plus 14 photo murals made by Irwin Welcher in San Francisco.. The murals, however, went through to Oklahoma City and are not involved in the claim. I sent in replacement values on my prints of \$25, \$40, \$75, and a few at \$100. The latter being 16x20s that were difficult ones to print. As the costs of materials are up as well as the time involved, I am very reluctant to think about doing this show all over again. With the short ~~amount~~ of time that I have left for active work, I want it for new efforts.

The whole purpose of this Navaho show was a promotion for the book. Now with six months already gone down the drain and the better part of year's work to replace it, the gap is certainly detrimental for the book. The loss of the Oklahoma City show was a bad one. The Western Heritage Center awarded the book as the best non-fiction for 1969. Sales there would have been good for both books and prints. Only one other museum had been definitely booked with others pending, but of-course those had to be dropped. Now my one desire is to start all over again, on something new.

So when the Emery Air Freight either writes or talks to you would you be so good as to back me up, that is if you think my prices are fair? I have sold a lot of Navaho prints during the past year at prices from

\$25. to \$75., and I do feel that with present costs and the difficulty of producing the special few that I have valued at \$100. that these prices are not out of line of line.

Apparently the two cases of prints were stolen, for no possible trace seems to have been found, and I now hope that my claim can be settled soon and without the necessity of filing suit. All a lot of hard luck, but the sooner it is forgotten and new work is underway, the better.

It was very nice to see you again when you were here last. And I am grateful to you for showing me Minor's book which ~~is~~ simply great. I sent for one immediately and I spend many hours looking at it. What complete mastery he has of his medium. And what a fine message he has to give. I am just recovering from a bout of flu-pneumonia and the book has been a great source of pleasure.

I am getting to-gether with Lazoric and Rudisill very shortly on doing some hand coated platins. It will be good to get back to this wonderful printing medium. Hope I will have some new platins to show you when you come again.

I hope that I am not asking too much of you to speak a word for me in regard to this claim, and that it will all be settled soon.

With best wishes for the coming year,

Gratefully