

LAURA GILPIN



PHOTOGRAPHER

409 Camino del Monte Sol • Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

March 13, 1972

Mr. Milo Naeve, Director
Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center
30 W. Dale Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Dear Mr. Naeve:

To follow up my telephone conference the other day, Mrs. Da has requested that I send you the following information. First, however, I should add some information about the individuals involved. I am sure that you know who Maria Martinez is, the famous potter of San Ildefonso. Her son, Popovi Da, who died very recently, has been collaborating with his mother and has been doing some very fine work on his own.

For some years he has had a shop called "Popovi Da Studio of Indian Arts" at the San Ildefonso Pueblo. In the beginning he was selling products only from the immediate vicinity, but in the last few years he had expanded to include Navajo and Zuni jewelry and Navajo blankets. His shop has been very successful and has wide clientele. His widow, Anita Da, is carrying on the shop.

As you know, I discussed her reasons for wanting to place a few pieces of both Popovi's and Maria's pottery in the hands of two selected organizations, one being the Indian Arts Fund in Santa Fe of which I am secretary, and the other being the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. I was very happy to negotiate this for you.

Will you be so good as to write her a letter of acceptance of these two items and pre-date your letter December 10, 1971, as we have already done.

You spoke of Mrs. Bunker coming down for an Opera Guild meeting. We will have the two pieces for you packed and ready for her to take back to Colorado Springs. Mrs. Da will send you an appraisal of her gift. I am more than pleased that you will have these. If there is anything that I have not covered regarding this, please let me know and I will make any additions.

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In regard to additional Indian material for the shop at the Fine Arts Center, I find that Mrs. Da is not in a position to sell wholesale. She suggests getting in touch with dealers in Gallup, such as Mr. Woodard and Earl Vance at the Ranch Kitchen. I have heard recently that Don Watson, who has had one of the best shops in the whole Southwest in Cortez, Colorado, has recently sold his shop and is now going in for wholesale work. I am sure that a letter to Cortez will reach him and he would be an excellent person for you to be in touch with.

On my own, I have very good news to tell you; I have just received word from the School of American Research that they are giving me a two year grant to do my book on Canyon de Chelly. This of course is very exciting to me and as soon as I complete my present assignments, I will sail into this hard and fast.

One thing I failed to ask you some time ago was regarding the pictures that I am making for you of the early classes, etc., at the Fine Arts Center. Do you wish me to make this a portfolio or do you want the prints mounted or unmounted? Do you want any glossy duplicates? I shall be starting on this very soon as this is one assignment I wish to finish before I get to work on the de Chelly book.

With kindest regards to you all, I am

Sincerely yours,

Laura Gilpin