

SOUTHWEST FOUNDATION FOR AUDIO-VISUAL RESOURCES

223 EAST PALACE AVENUE • P. O. BOX 522 • SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501 • TELEPHONE (505) 988-1678

January 7, 1974

Miss Laura Gilpin
409 Camino del Monte Sol
Santa Fe, N. M. 87501

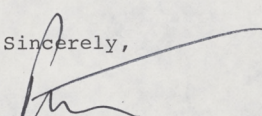
Dear Laura:

We are all sorry that you do not feel able to accept honorary membership in the Foundation. I brought this matter up at our December Executive Committee meeting, and all of us hoped you would reconsider. Since we had voted last spring to extend this token of our warm regard for you and your work at the time of our first elections, I can only feel that it was my fault not to have somehow arranged a closer meeting of the minds! I remember talking with you last May on the telephone about it, and of course again in October, but I'm afraid I must not have expressed the point adequately.

Please be assured that our intent has only been to recognize and pay homage to the magnificent work you have done and are doing in documenting southwestern culture and landscapes. We had no intention of obligating you to do anything for the Foundation: our honorary memberships do not involve being a member of the Board of Managers.

For your information I am enclosing our brochure, since you have not received one. Speaking for all of us, I am very sorry that you cannot accept the token honor which has, in fact, been voted to you unanimously by our membership during the election period just concluded, but this in no way dims the warm regard for you that I have come to feel in our many past associations. I am eagerly anticipating your talk for the School in March; in the meantime, best wishes for the New Year!

Sincerely,



Peter Dechert

PD/nw

SOUTHWEST FOUNDATION FOR AUDIO-VISUAL RESOURCES



WHO WE ARE . . .

The Southwest Foundation for Audio-Visual Resources is a tax-exempt, non-profit public foundation incorporated in the state of New Mexico. Founded early in 1973 by a widely representative group interested personally, civically, and professionally in preserving records of the many aspects of life in the Southwest, its goal is stated in the Bylaws:

To assemble as a resource for public education and scholarly research, conducted by itself and with others, a continuing photographic and audio-visual record of the people of the Southwest, their arts, their crafts, their ways of life, and relationships between their ways of life and the land on which they live . . . The Corporation will interpret its corporate purpose to include working closely with smaller groups, . . . in order to assist in preserving records of their traditional ways of life for their own future use in educating their youth, encouraging the continuity of aspects of ethnic culture which are important to their beliefs . . . Information collected by the Corporation will be made available on the same basis to everyone who desires to use it.

The Foundation's Board of Managers, elected by the membership at large, includes residents of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado. Involved are representatives of various Indian and Hispanic traditions, professional points of view ranging from museum administration through archaeology and anthropology to education, as well as businessmen, photographers, and many others.

The Foundation is a cooperative undertaking. It expects to engage in joint programs with other institutions and groups in order to produce mutually beneficial results.

The membership at large of the Foundation directly controls its administration. In order for the Foundation to work, it must involve as many members of our community of interest as possible. This is your invitation to belong.

Peter Duchert, President

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an invitation to join in our programs . . .

WHAT WE ARE DOING

The concerns which led to the design of the Southwest Foundation for Audio-visual Resources involved four interdependent and mutually reinforcing areas of program activity:

Resource Identification

Audio-visual records of many aspects of southwestern culture exist in a large number of museums, agencies, and individual collections. To locate specific items involves almost random inquiries to many possible sources.

The Foundation has developed a plan for a central Audio-Visual Resource Index, and a pilot implementation program has begun. The Index will enable users to determine what material exists and where it is, what material is being developed and by whom, and — by omission — what work needs to be done to fill the gaps.

Resource Gathering

Widespread appreciation of the products of southwestern artists and craftsmen has led to substantial increases in the prices they command. Unfortunately this situation, coupled with new sophistication and experimentation in the arts themselves, has made it virtually impossible for any one agency to collect representative contemporary examples.

The Foundation has begun a program of photographic documentation of major work before it is scattered on the marketplace. This record will be important to the artists themselves, to educators, to art historians, and to collectors and the general public. It is a much-needed area resource.

At the same time, we are seeking out remaining examples of traditional lifestyles for documentation while they still exist. Since transition is a never-ending process, this work will be a continuing challenge to the Foundation.

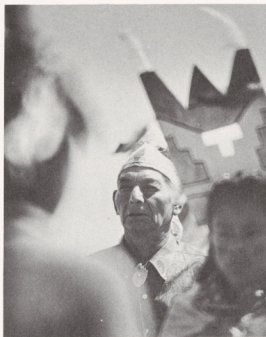
Cooperative Documentation

Many organizations whose interests are allied with ours do not have access to the equipment or skills needed to document their own work. Our plans include cooperative efforts in which we can either work together on joint projects or educate members of such groups in the methods of audio-visual documentation that will satisfy their needs.

To the extent that we can, we also support important documentary projects submitted to us by individuals. One such project now under way is a record of the landscape and way of life along the High Road to Taos by an Española photographer, working with one of our Board members who is also a native of the area.

Public Education

None of these programs will be fully successful until they benefit the larger public. Specialists are becoming aware of our activities, but there is a great potential of general interest that must also be reached.



To meet this challenge we propose to engage in programs of public education. When we are able, we will issue publications. We will assist other publication projects. And we will sponsor public activities.

Our membership program provides the framework which can maximize the value of our work. It is here that we count on your support.

WHAT YOU CAN DO . . .

Your help will further the Foundation's objectives in many ways. The most obvious one, of course, is by becoming a member of the Foundation: we invite you to join.

But our members give a great deal in addition to financial support. For example, many have opportunities to visit areas and see events which the Foundation's staff and fellows cannot cover. Your photographs of such activities can become an important part of our documentation.

Many of us have collected outstanding examples of southwestern arts and crafts on our own. Members contributing \$50 or more may arrange to have a number of such items among their collections photographed by the Foundation at no expense. These slides provide valuable records for insurance purposes, as well as becoming, anonymously if you wish, part of our documentary resources.

Annually the membership of the Foundation votes for and elects the Board of Managers. You have a direct, important voice in selecting the people to carry out our objectives, and in shaping those objectives themselves.

Programs of illustrated talks, field trips, films, and other events are of course also part of the Foundation's plans. Further details about these events will be sent in future mailings.

Your support can obviously involve you very personally in helping to attain the Foundation's objectives. As a member you will participate directly in our programs and governance. We hope that you will accept our cordial invitation to do so by completing the membership application now.

Please accept the enclosed contribution to further the work of the Southwest Foundation for Audio-Visual Resources.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Founding Donor	\$2,500
<input type="checkbox"/>	Patron	500
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustaining Contributor	100
<input type="checkbox"/>	Business Contributor	100
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family Contributor	25
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual Contributor	15

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contributions qualify for tax deduction as specified in existing federal laws. Founding Donors will receive life memberships. Memberships for other contributors will expire December 1974. Please return to:

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The Foundation is grateful for your interest and support.