

June 21, 1974

Joanne Mattera
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Dear Ms. Gilpin,

I recently wrote to the School of American Research asking them if they had photographs of Navajo weavers, their looms or their weavings. Although they were unable to help me with the photographs, they did give me your name, with the recommendation that your photography is "incomparable".

Perhaps I can tell you what I am looking for and if you are interested you could help me. I am writing a book for Watson-Guptill Publishing in New York City tentatively entitled Navajo Weaving: From its Tradition to its Application for Contemporary Weavers. The first third of the book deals with Navajo weaving as we know it - the pieces, the looms, women at the loom, the techniques, and so forth. I am particularly interested in the latter three aspects. Since I live in eastern New York State I am about as far away as one could get from the source.

Though there are some good museums on the East Coast with fairly extensive photography collections, I am looking for some original work. I am on a rather limited budget but I could pay the going price which is charged by most museums - two dollars for the photograph and fifteen dollars upon its publication, with credit, of course, going to you. If you would like to help me in this venture could you perhaps send prints or a contact sheet of photographs that you think I might be interested in?

I am hoping to hear from you soon.

Cordially,
Joanne Mattera