

SCHOOL OF AMERICAN RESEARCH

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DIRECTOR

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Dear Laura:

Two weeks ago we took possession of our new Indian Art Building and what a fantastic addition that is to the School. On the outside it is beautiful. On the inside it is both functional and astonishingly attractive as you can see from the enclosed photo. As those of you who have already seen it know, it will serve the purpose of storage and research in a way that I feel will be unparalleled perhaps in the world. Within the next month we will begin to move the collection into place, the Indian Arts Fund materials will finally have a home of the type they have always deserved. Furthermore, the School's program then will be rounded out in a way that will fulfill the promise of its beginning seventy years ago.

As I mentioned at the membership lecture the other night, our program is supporting and influencing scholars from throughout the United States. We have just completed a fascinating seminar on the factors influencing human growth and development and we are about to embark on our third seminar for the year, this one concentrating on an assessment of research on Southwestern Indian music and dance. These two seminars are so different in concept and in their scholarly makeup and that diversity characterizes our current scholarly program. Our Resident Scholars are reaping important benefits from their opportunity to be at the School and contributing in areas of Indian religion and linguistics. Our contract archaeology program is continuing to be most active and as you will see when Discovery is published next month, the work at Abiquiu has indeed produced fascinating results. The summary of four years of research there points with ever increasing precision to that area as the original departure point from which the Navajo and Apaches split to spread throughout the Southwest.

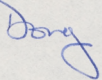
Of course, none of these activities would be important unless the ideas became available to other scholars and the general public and our publication program is accomplishing this in a high quality way. A new Advanced Seminar book on Ethnoarchaeology has just been published; in May the second of our Southwest Indian Art volumes will come off the press; we are just sending to press our first Arroyo Hondo volume and readying for the press the first Grand Canyon volume.

While I will be talking about each of these areas in detail at the upcoming Program Committee meeting, I simply felt compelled to let you know that with all of these programs and our new Indian Art facility, the School's eighth decade promises to be a rewarding one.

Thanks again for your help in making these endeavors possible.

With warm personal regards.

Cordially,



Miss Laura Gilpin
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