

The Viking Press

VIKING PENGUIN INC., 625 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022 (212) 755 4330

June 29, 1979

Miss. Laura Gilpin
409 Camino Del Monte Sol
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Miss. Gilpin,

I was so happy to hear from Greta Mitchell that you are not planning a book of your work with any publisher at this time, because we, in Studio Books, would be most interested in discussing with you the possibility of producing such a volume. I fell in love with your work the moment it arrived in our offices to be included in Greta's RECOLLECTIONS: TEN WOMEN OF PHOTOGRAPHY. Your platinum prints are especially breathtaking!

I have borrowed three of your out-of print books-THE RIO GRANDE: RIVER OF DESTINY, TEMPLES IN YUCATAN, and THE ENDURING NAVAHO- from the Witkin Gallery to show to our editors and marketing people. Unfortunately, they are so badly printed that it's a bit difficult to get a sense of what they really look like. The other problem is that your early work is not represented in any of these books. I wonder if it would be possible for you to send us (perhaps a dozen or so) examples of your early autochromes, your New York work while at the Clarence White school, your European trip in 1922 or anything else that would give us a feel for your long life in photography.

I see a book of your work as a large, beautifully produced retrospective monograph, probably about 9" x 12" and definitely printed in duotone on high quality paper. The text or biographical material does not need to be terribly long. Naturally, the selection of photographs would be a major responsibility which could be shared between us and your approval of design will of course be sought.

I think we should publish in time for your 90th birthday in 1981 which actually does not give us much time as these special books take a year to produce after all the material has been selected and organized.

Ideally the book should sell for no more than \$25 or \$30 so that it can be accessible to the student. It is always easier to sell books if there is a major exhibition some where, so if you have any plans of that nature it would be useful for me to have that information. Once I have refined these ideas in terms of the number of pages and number of photographs to be included, I will put together some estimates based on what I have outlined above and including royalty, of course.

As I mentioned, I have been excited about your work since some of it arrived at Viking a few months ago, and I hope that my conception of this project is in tune with your own ideas. I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Sincerely,
Gael Towey Dillon
Gael Towey Dillon
Associate Art Director
Studio Books



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