



Laura Gilpin has produced a fascinating, wonderful book. With minor exceptions her photographs capture the spirit and feel of the land and the people as they have seldom if ever been captured before.

The text, while it doesn't match the photographs in quality, is very good, and has little resemblance to what I recollect of her first effort. It will need some careful editing, but generally it is informative, sympathetic, and moves along in an interesting way. The personal reminiscences of her experiences among the Navaho are particularly captivating; the chapter on "Tradition" was slow going and dull but this may be a reflection of my tastes. I believe this chapter would fit better at the end of Part II.

In general the text is an excellent complement to the photographs though I must confess to being confused about where some of the photographs were supposed to go. For example, in "Navaho Sheep" there are only a few photographs, yet there are superb photographs of sheep in the preceding section.

I find it difficult to be very helpful about a manuscript which I like so much. My other suggestions are minor and follow. I wholeheartedly recommend publication.

A key to the pronunciation of Navaho words would be helpful.

The map, "Navaho Country" should go well toward the front of the book.

June 7, 1966

p. 35. 11 lines from bottom "...are intelligent, capable people judged by the highest standards." Only place I noticed a patronizing attitude; better to say our standards than highest.

p.85. Some items should be footnoted here and elsewhere. Here the myth about coyote, is it a quotation? If so, source?

p. 82. Entitled "Navaho Landscape" - but is mostly taken up with charming story of lost camera equipment and its eventual return. Belongs rather with a discussion of the mores of the people.

The portraits of Navaho leaders are awfully posed, as are a few others. If number of pics has to be reduced in number or size, I suggest that it be done here.