

Sept. 22,
1950

Dear Wally:-

I was just on the point of sitting down to write to you when your letter with the proofs came in. So first about them. For a mild person, my reputation seems bad indeed. Have I made so many "violent objections?" Have I offended by insisting on the change on page 237? Does it offend your book design to have the half title on the left hand page? I know well, it shouldn't be, but is it the lesser evil? What we need is two more pages. I have very great respect for your ability and I don't like ever to run contrary to your good judgement. Would you rather cut out the Spanish word pronunciation beginning at the bottom of 243 and then move all the Appendix along so that the half title would come on page 239? This would be OK for me if you would rather have it that way. As I wired you I found an error which no one has yet seen on page 239. It should read "Battle of Brazitos". Then I wonder why the proof on page 84? No change that I know of, and I see no change of position. I think I recall your wanting to space the halftitle pages differently, and more uniformly. I presume that these proofs are for that. I return only pages 84 and 239. Do you feel satisfied with the sale of the book for its first year?

Now as to Navaho. A short time ago I had a call from a charming young couple by the name of McAllester on their way to record Navaho music and make some further study. They were to see Dr. Kluckhohn. I had been wanting to see him to see if he thought there would be any possibility of my getting a grant from the Viking Fund to help along on this job. They promised to let me know when he was leaving to go back to Cambridge. I had a postal saying that he would be there for two weeks longer and that he was working on a book similar to mine. This concerned me greatly, and I went to see him on my way to Red Rock for some more work. I had such a nice visit with him. He told me that he was reluctantly doing a 40 page text for a book of Leonard McGomb's photographs to be published next spring by the Harvard University Press. He had a dummy and I went through it very carefully. I remembered the pictures which were in LIFE. McGomb has a lot of interesting sociological shots- the funeral which was in LIFE, a series on drunkenness and police court, one series on Ceremonial (Puberty) practically no landscape, no real portraits as I see them. I outlined my plan to Dr. Kluckhohn and showed him the pictures I have, and asked

him very frankly if he thought I should retreat. He was very emphatic in his desire to have me go ahead and said he thought the overlap would be very slight. He also gave me to understand that if he had known I was at work on such a book, he would not have gotten in on the one he is collaborating with. He urged me to continue and then told me that the Viking Fund's main source of revenue had been cut off (Mexican Oil) but if it had revived somewhat for next year he would be delighted to recommend me for a grant. So here you have the story. I see also that Hastings House is coming out with a small Navaho book by Miller (Monument Valley region). All this I wanted to tell you the minute I got back. What do you think? I feel in the position that Paul Horgan must have been in when we got out ahead of him. His Rio Grande seems still in the offing. Please think it over and let me know what you think. Move it along for '53 publication, continue as per plan or what? I have had a very frustrated summer. Coming in after the Gallup Ceremonial with my camping trailer on the back, I was flagged down in a heavy rain by a wrecker in the road. It was raining so hard I couldn't see if there was a wreck in the middle of the highway, so I stopped. A crazy kid came over the brow of the hill driving 60 mph and hit the trailer, turning his car over on its head, completely demolishing the trailer and doing \$150 damage to the rear of my car. Of course the only insurance I don't carry is collision and it looks as though I can never get a cent out of him. He didn't even have a driver's license. I made him wait for the patrol and I hear the cop say "you'd better get yourself a license, and checked him off as having one! We are just in from another trip, this time curtailed by rain, but we are so thankful it has rained over on the reservation a delay doesn't matter too much, except I had planned to go to de Chelly and didn't get there. Had some more car trouble and I am going to have to do something about that. May I ask at this point about what my Dec. royalty will be?

I do have quite a lot of new material and much in my head, and hope to get both down onto paper before so very long.

My best greetings to all

Sincerely