

January 28,
1952

Dear Charles:-

Many thanks for your letter. I am extremely sorry that there was any confusion over my book order with Little Brown & Co. I just assumed that the books would be put on my account. I had a very busy fall out in the Navaho country, then the Aspen Conference, and then moving my goods and chattles to a new abode, and I neglected many things at my desk.

There seems to be aother mix up somewhere. While my prints were in Wichita Kansas, the Wichita Art Association, presenting my exhibition sent a wire to Mr. Hurdon for 24 books on consignment. These and two copies that I had with me were sold right off the day of my talk and some twenty more were ordered. Mrs Schollenberger immediately ordered more, and these were to be sent here to me to be autographed and then I was to send them back to her. They have never come. I assumed that they had gone direct to wichita by mistake and only Saturday I had a letter from her saying that the order had never been filled and what did I know about it. I presume that she again either wired or wrote to Mr. Hurdon for these. I certainly learned from this exhibition that books will sell at the exhibition along with a "personal a pearance" (which I hate but I guess it pays off). If I arrange any more showings I shall certainly have plenty of copies with me. If they had been on hand, I believe we could have sold a hundred copies that one day.

At the moment I am getting Navaho material ready to send in to you to see. I am on the verge of sending in a application to the Wenner-Gren (Viking Fund) Foundation for a grant-in-aid on this book. I am thinking this through carefully as to the very best manner of presentation. I can get the backing of the Laboratory of Anthropology here which would doubtless have much weight. Also Dr. Kluckhohn offered to speak for me, as a matter of fact it was he who suggested that I apply. I need four letters of recommendation and one from you would be of great importance. The book is progressing, but the increasing difficulty of earning a living and getting enough ahead to proceed with this work has slowed me up too much. Here is the opportunity to record a transition of one way of life to another

and it is all happening very fast indeed. I am sure you have seen the Leonard McCombe-Kluckhohn book. It has some remarkable pictures, but -- it is so grim! That is only one phase, and a small one. There is plenty that is grim among our own people but they do not represent the whole. The Navaho are characteristically a happy people, and a people to whom the land in which they live means everything. In that book not one landscape! But, my observation is that LIFE photographers never see landscape, nor its effect on the people, nor its importance. I don't want to sound too critical of that book, but I see it all so differently. I'll be showing you soon.

I would appreciate greatly any advice you may have as to the very best way to send in this application. Twice I tried for a Guggenheim. Once I was up against Edward Weston, then Ansel-. I need that break and it would free me to finish this up. It is very hard to get going on a job and then have to drop it for other kinds of work. Along with all the black and white for the book, I am also making a set of color slides for lecture purposes. I have a very good start on this and have some unusual subjects. This will all help to put this book over well, I hope. Proper timing and presenting of both a show of the book originals and the slides should give it a good start. All that we can talk over when the time comes, but I want you to know how aware I am of this phase of it.

May I bother you to look up the missing order for Wichita and see that it gets sent out as quickly as possible? To me and I will do the autographing and send them back.

With best wishes to you both,

Most sincerely yours,

What of Wally? Not one word have I heard from him since all his troubles.