

July 13
1953.

Mr. Walter Frese,
HASTINGS HOUSE
41 E. 55th St.,
New York, 22
New York.

Dear Walter:-

There is not much point in sending my apologies for my very long delay in answering your fine letter. There have been many reasons chiefly a bad virus infection that put me very much out of my stride for some weeks. My intentions have been of the best, but there just seem to be so many more things to do than one ever gets done.

Thank you so very much for sending me the YLLA book. It is very swell. And the reproductions make my mouth water. The beauty of those rich blacks is superb. It is terrible that we cant produce a book of that quality in this country. How serious a matter is it to relinquish copyright and what is the difference between a copyright and "all rights reserved"?

My Navaho book is progressing very slowly. I am under contract to D.S. & P. Have been, of course, since I started it. I appreciate your wanting to see it. Again I have bitten off a big one, but I hope to have it finished this year. Have been working on it now for more than two years.

Is there any chance, as you indicated, that you will be coming this way any time this summer? There are at least two small books that I see to do in this area. The tourists have increased so greatly that I think now these should sell extremely well. The book stores ask me over and over why dont I do them? But, frankly, I have been discouraged over the slow sales of the YUCATAN. I still think that book ought to sell and wish there were something that could be done to stimulate it. And how about the Pueblos? I am also asked continuously about that. I am sure you will let me know if you are considering a reprint. I do so want to get back to the original cover. Turquoise and silver being the key note of this country it is most important.

One of the small books I see on the horizon is one on Taos. The Pueblo, the town etc. There is so much material there and it should be available. The other is the Canyon de Chelly. I have done a great deal of work over there. Some of it will be in the Navaho book, but only two or three pictures, and there is so much more to do. This is becoming more available to the tourist and by next year a paved road will be through, so it seems to the time to be preparing.

I have made two flights photographing both canyons, and have a big series to choose from. No one has any conception of them until seen from the air.

I hope you wont give me too bad a mark for my long silence. I hate to dash off a letter in a hurry, and I have been pressed for time first with moving then much delayed work, a short trip to the reservation, then this infection, which has left me with a stack of unanswered mail that makes me blush.

I do hope that you will be coming out. September is the best month. We have had a horrible spring with this frightful drought. It seems now to be breaking a bit and the next month or six weeks could be very wet. I should love to take you to De Chelly, or met you over there if I should be out on the reservation. If you were here, there are several possibilities to talk over.

With the best of wishes, and again my thanks for the books, I am

Most sincerely