

March 29
1954

Mr. Walter Frese,
HASTINGS HOUSE, INC.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Walter:-

My problem child will be home again in a few dyas. In has been in the hands of Mr. Lottinville at the University of Oklahoma Press. Again many fine words of praise, but again the problem of cost of production. Oklahoma would require a grant-in-aid, particularly as they had already contracted another Navaho book, text only, few illustrations, by an anthropologist. Had I known this I would not have sent it there, but was urged to do so by one of their best authors who lives here. Her entheusiasm over the dummy prompted a telephone call to Mr. Lottinville immediately who in turn called me, so that it went off to him the day before I received your wire. He has kept it a long time.

Do you still want to see it, and is there any chance that you might be coming out this way say within a month's time? If not I shall bring it to New York. You, understand I am sure, that the book is not yet finished. I had sent it in to D.S.&P for the purpose of diciding process of re-production, the face and size of type, etc. I want to build the text to fit the format. I spent six weeks rewriting the text on RIO GRANDE to fit a certain type measure, and then it wasnt used after all. It seemed to me much more practical to make these decisions first and then fit the text, as

text-picture relation is of vital importance to me in book design.

The text of THE ENDURING NAVAHO will not be as long as the RIO. It is essentially a photographic portrayal of the Navaho and his changing world. I know that this book is far beyond anything I have yet attempted both in concept and photography that it was a real jolt to have the decision of D.S. & P. I think in all probability the answer to its production lies in having it printed abroad. I still look at your publication of Ylla's ANIMALS with longing for what a similar printing job would do for my Navaho.

All those to whom I have shown the dummy, including such people as John Adair, Alice Marriott, the Museum people here, friends in Colorado Springs where I have just been showing my color slides of this whole thing, conclude that it must be published.

I know that I must go through this dummy and the general plan etc. with whoever considers it, in person. About the first of May, I should have the first section complete, text et al. If you are not coming west, I shall come to New York, that is, if you still wish to consider it.

Marjorie McPharlin has become one of my good friends and I see a lot of her. She is a most capable and talented person. I think a lot of her.

With best wishes and the hope that we may soon meet again, I am

Very sincerely