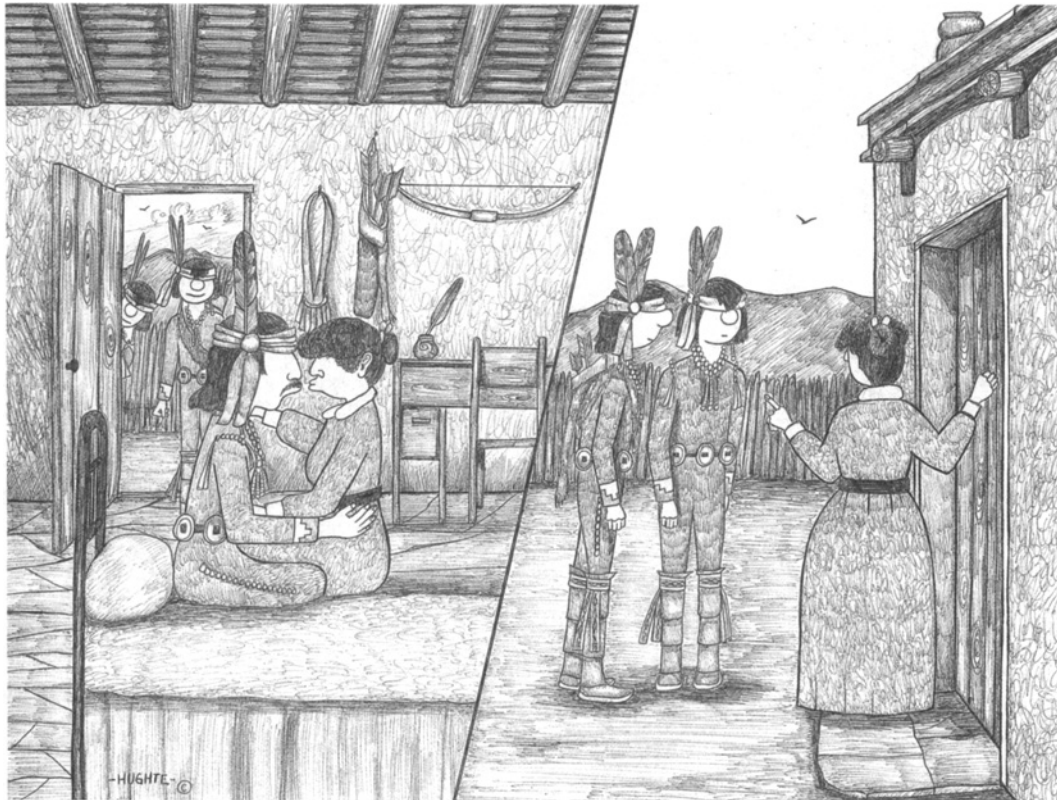


# A Zuni Artist Looks at Frank Hamilton Cushing

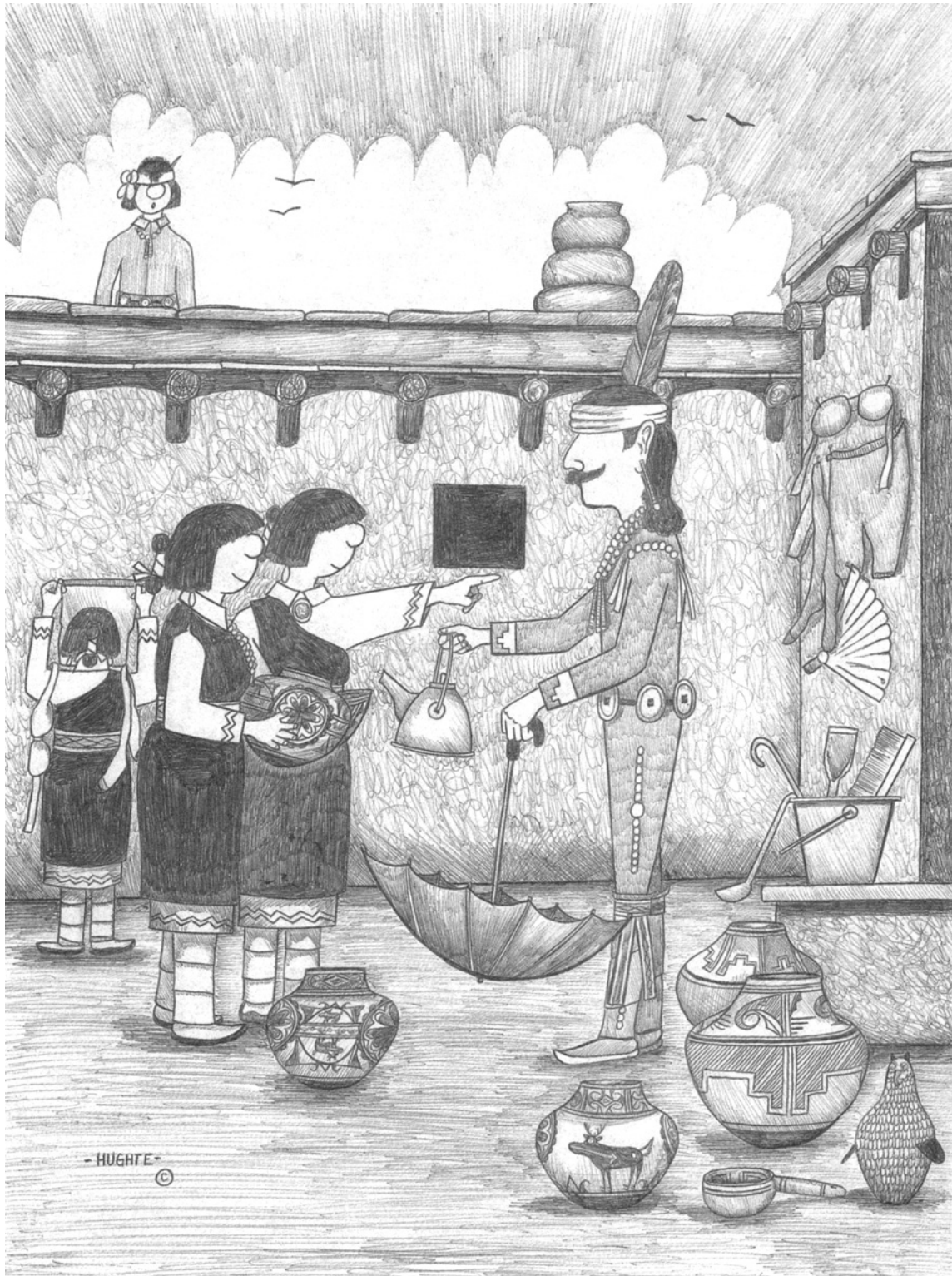
**Editors' Note.** Much has been written about Frank Hamilton Cushing (1857–1900), especially about his fieldwork at Zuni, New Mexico. He once signed a letter to his Smithsonian employers as both “U.S. Assistant Ethnologist” and “1st War Chief of Zuñi,” a contradiction that was, at the time, a real one. His portrait was painted by Thomas Eakins, who worked from a studio photograph that makes Cushing look half like a pow-wow performer and half like the impresario of a Wild West show. Now, more than a century after he left Zuni, Cushing has become the subject of a series of cartoons by Zuni artist Phil Hughte. Four of these, one of which (Figure 3) is based on the same photograph Eakins

used, are reproduced here with Hughte's comments. For all that Cushing may serve anthropologists as the embodied archetype of the fieldworker gone native, the cartoons never leave any doubt as to who the Zunis are and who Cushing is. More than 40 of them appear in Hughte's 1994 book, *A Zuni Artist Looks at Frank Hamilton Cushing*, jointly published by Pueblo of Zuni Arts and Crafts and the A:shiwi A:wam Museum and Heritage Center. For information on the book, write to the museum at Box 1009, Zuni, New Mexico 87327; credit-card orders may be placed at (505)782-4403. Proceeds will be matched by funds from a National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant.



**Figure 1**

**What You Should Do When You Go To Cushing's House.** Cushing brought his wife to Zuni and they lived somewhere near Halona Plaza. Two Zunis are just walking into Cushing's home when Cushing and Emily are making love. Emily gets so upset because she has no privacy and goes out steaming mad and tells the two Zunis, "This is our way. You come to our house and you knock on the door!" So this illustration tells you what you should do when you go to Cushing's house.



**Figure 2**

**Swap Meet.** Cushing is exchanging stuff from the East Coast for pottery. He is exchanging a kettle for a pot and then he also has garments that the Zuni ladies want. And that's what he is doing right now.



**Figure 3**

**The Big Photo.** Here Cushing is getting his portrait done. This is just an artist's perception of what I thought it might have looked like. And here, of course, are some Zuni kids making fun of him, and two Zuni ladies just admiring him the way he is standing.



**Figure 4**

**The Last Supper.** Cushing was sent to the Florida Keys to do his writings. He died in 1900 by eating a fish and swallowing a fish bone. On the bottom there is a black cat screaming at him. Notice that the feather is falling off. That is the end of Cushing. This was a fun drawing to do.