

May 12, 1941.

Mr. Walter Frese,
Hastings House,
67 West 44th St.,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Frese:-

Your fine letter with its good news came yesterday, and I am delighted over the prospect. Being a photographer and not a writer, I have worked so hard over the text in the hope that it might be, as you so kindly put it, a graphic story for the layman, and I am greatly pleased if you feel that it fulfills.

I have gone over your letter with great care, and I believe that if the book is to be called the Story of the Pueblos, it would be best to leave out the few Spanish American pictures. After all, there is the beginning of material for another book, and I have a good deal more that could go with it. I withheld my Acoma series feeling that a small book might be done just of Acoma. However, this group is my latest and best work, and may be it would be best to add it at the close if this volume for Acoma is the Pueblo of Pueblos. I shall send these prints, there are seven or eight of them, for your decision and should you wish to add them, I can quickly prepare the text to go with them.

What are your plans for procedure? Do you wish to go to press as soon as possible? I ask this as I shall in all probability be going down to New Mexico later this month and I should like to add another Frioles picture and a Puye. These by all rights should be included, and for that matter there is no reason why I could not go down very soon to get them.

The Canyon de Chelley picture which is now in the book takes in almost the entire canyon wall. No I have only those two as the time I was there, I was caught in an awful wind storm that lasted for some days and those were all that I was able to do. As for Shiprock, it is much more effective from a distance than close. It is so high that it is difficult to get the scale at all. It is three times as high as the Canyon de Chelly at the White House. I have one somewhat newer that I can send you for consideration, but it loses the Ship illusion when one gets near.

I think the appendix suggestion excellent. I can prepare this, but all the information is in the New

Mexico Guide book. However, I had best get the up to the minute accomodation information from Santa Fe.

As to size, the seven by nine¹ seems a very nice size and I hope would be a saleable price. Before I return the signed contracts may I ask a question regarding paragraph 10. A possible "cheap" edition. May I ask some particulars about this as to method of reproduction and quality of reproduction if such an editon should ever occur?

Yes Mr. Maloney wrote me some time ago about a possible Lens League Book. I sent him a list of possibilities, but to date have only had a line from him saying that he would write soon in detail. One thing I mentioned to him as a possibility but one which I am inclined to think he would turn down, is my series of Chichen Itza Yucatan. I have a set of fifty prints, but they are incomplete until I can get back there to finish the series. One important ruin was under reconstruction when we were there and I could do nothing with it. I shall send you what I have just to see. My good prints have been widely exhibited, they were the first showing of so called Pictorial Photography at the Museum of Natural History. They were shown and a set of prints purchased by the Cranbrook Museum of Detroit and the Print Division of the Library of Congress. I know that with the interest in Latin America that is now so rapidly rising that this book would really sell well. The only reason my series is incomplete is that I have not been able to get back there to finish it.

Just as soon as I hear from you regarding Paragraph 10, I will return the signed contracts to you. Also I await with interest your decision about the Spanish American Villages and Acoma. Maybe leave out both?

Again thanking you for your letter and assuring you of my earnest co-operation, I am

Very sincerely yours,

P.S. Would you send me the page numbers or titles of any prints you think too soft? Were you considering any other reproduction process than the gravure? Have you seen, (maybe you made) the beautiful gravures in the last U.S. Camera Magazine?