

HIEROGLYPHIC RESEARCH

SECTION OF ABORIGINAL AMERICAN HISTORY

DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH

January 30th, 1946.

APARTADO POSTAL 385
MERIDA,
YUCATAN
MEXICO

Miss Laura Gilpin,

P.O. Box 448, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Dear Laura: Your letter of January 24th reached me only 3 days later

(27) and I have delayed answering only until I could have contacted Don Antonio Canto López, Director del Museo Arqueológico e Histórico de Yucatán (Calle 58 con 61, Mérida, Yucatán Mexico) to see if it would be feasible to hold an exhibition of your photographs of Chichen Itza at the Museum some time during the latter third of February.

As I suspected he was delighted and he showed me a room about 22 ft. by 16 lighted by artificial light with entrance to the street which would be excellent for the purpose. It is inclined to be darkish, but there are two hanging cords which divide the room longitudinally into thirds and these could be fitted with powerful globes which would give you all the illumination you would require. They have 6 very neatly looking frames each of which holds a long frame set $2\frac{1}{2}$ meters long by 35 centimeters high, the height of the frame being such that the picture frame part of the arrangement is about eye-level. As these picture frame are too faced you could get 3 and possibly four pictures on each side or 6 or 8 to each support and since there are 6 they would carry 36 or 48 of your pictures. In addition to this if you are bringing down more than 48 prints for the exhibition, there is plenty of wall space in the room. I'd suggest that you arrange to open the exhibition before you go out to Chichen Itza so as to leave it out all the time you are at Chichen Itza and Chankom.

Don Antonio said he would take care of the newspaper publicity, notices on the paper, etc. and I suggested they had an invitation opening. I'd suggest, however, that you write him immediately selecting, if you can, a day in advance for the opening. If you are coming over on Monday the 18, it seems to me that you better not have the opening before the afternoon of Wednesday Feb. 20 as you will need a day and a half or 2 days to install your photographs. I'd suggest your writing Don Antonio as soon as you receive this letter, advising him of your tentative selection of a date so that he can get out the corresponding advanced publicity. I shall see him within the next few days and tell him that I've advised you that I've suggested Wednesday Feb. 20 as a good opening day. I'd also tell him the outside dimensions of your photographs and also the number you will exhibit.

One other thing. I'm today writing Don. Eustaquio Cene, my compadre, asking him if he will put you and Roberta up for a week in his house at Chankon and provide horses for you two to ride from Chichen Itza to Chankon. You'll have to get hammocks here at Merida for sleep at Chankon as they have no beds. I shall tell him mas o menos from Feb. 26 or 28 to March 6 or 7 or thereabouts.

One more thing. The Mayaland now charges \$ 10.00 U.S. per day, whereas Dona Victoria Manjarrez, at the little lodge just outside the gates of the Hacienda which the Carnegie Institution occupied as its headquarters, charges only \$ 20 pesos a day or a little over 4 dolls. per day a person. Not knowing how you and Roberta are "heeled" I thought it better to let you the range of prices. Also a private automobile will cost you about \$.75 pesos to take you to Chichen as we have a bus line that makes two trips a day each way which charges \$ 3 pesos each way, or \$ 6 pesos the round trip. As ever

Cordially yours

G. J. M. 9. M. 1917