

Jan. 10,
1946.

Mr. Robert T. Hatt, Director
Cranbrook Institute of Science,
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Dear Mr. Hatt:-

As long ago as 1933, my photographs of the Maya ruins of Chichen Itza were on exhibit at your Museum, and were subsequently purchased by the Museum. Ever since my first trip down there, I have been wanting to return to complete the set, for in 1932 restoration work prevented my work on the Great Ball Court, and one or two other ruins. In the winter of 1946 I finally did return after securing a contract with Hastings House, Publishers, of New York, for a book on Chichen Itza. This was due off the press last October, and is now promised for sometime this month. It contains 114 reproductions in gravure of the entire set of photographs, and the accompanying text I have written more or less under the sanction of Dr. Sylvanus Morley; at least he has checked my material and the book goes forth with his blessing, so to speak.

I am wondering if your museum would be interested to acquire the rest of the set of originals. If I remember correctly, the prints I sent to you were made on the beautiful Cavoluxe paper, which seemed ideally suited to the subject matter. However, I have found on a similar set of prints which have been widely exhibited in this country (and in Yucatan) that the paper is too easily marked unless it is handled with great care. This paper is once more available, though somewhat costly, and so far I have not made prints of the new material other than those that have gone in for reproduction. You may prefer to wait to see the completed book before making a decision about this, and I hope that the next two weeks will see the book out. We also been thinking about the possibility of making fine lantern slides of this complete set. I have the material of the 1933 set in thin-carboned slides, (a process producing wonderful rich blacks) and if I could secure orders for a dozen sets, I would undertake the making of the entire set.

The process is not easy, but the results are very worth while.

In the event that you are interested in either the balance of the entire sent in prints or in a set of slides, I should be happy to hear from you. For many years I have been extremely interested in archaeology, and it is my hope to continue my work as a sort of liaison between the scientist and layman.

Formerly, my home was in Colorado Springs, but I have moved to Santa Fe, which is now my permanent address.

Sincerely yours,