

January 4,
1950

Miss Miriam W. Richmond,
Archaeological Institute of America
Andover Hall,
Cambridge, 38, Mass.

Dear Miss Richmond:-

My very sincere apology for being so very long in answering your letter of December 2nd. I was away at the time, in Dallas, and when I returned Dec. 18th, I was so swamped with Christmas work that I am only just getting my head above water. As I have no secretary, I got sadly behind with mail. Also I wanted to talk to Marjorie Richy before writing to you, and I was delayed some days in making a date with her.

I appreciate very greatly the recommendation of the group here in Santa Fe and your consequent invitation. But I want you to understand at once that I am not a scientist. I am deeply interested in the findings of the archaeologists. My first interest was aroused by attending a lecture some twenty five years ago on the ruins of Mexico, both the ruins in the Valley and also an early lecture by Dr. Morley whom I later came to know very well. As a pictorial photographer, I felt then that I wanted to present pictures of the ruins in, shall I say, a more artistic (though I shun the word) and less scientific manner. This led me for many years to the ruins of Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico, and later to Yucatan. What I have to present is the LAYMAN'S point of view but substantiated by scientific fact and approval. You may have seen two small books of mine published by HASTINGS HOUSE, New York. The first, representing much very early work of mine, THE PUEBLOS, A CAMERA CHRONICLE, and a year and a half ago, TEMPLES IN YUCATAN, A CAMERA CHRONICLE OF CHICHEN ITZA. I have made pictorial toned slides of both of these, that is, the PUEBLOS complete, CHICHEN the work of my first trip but I hope this winter to complete that set. These slides are Thiocarbamide slides. You can see from the text the manner in which I present this. At the moment, I am wanting to remake the PUEBLOS in color slides, standard size. If it is possible I shall do it this coming year. My new book RIO GRANDE, RIVER OF DESTINY, does not fit into your pattern as I understand it, and as yet I have no slides, but my prints are now in circulation at

several Art Museums here in the west.

I shall keep your questionnaire until I hear from you. I imagine that your schedule is now full for this year, but perhaps at some future time, I might fit in to some program. My chief aim has been, and will I hope continue to be, to interest people in the work of archaeologists. Sometimes the approach from a fellow layman gets across with some audiences better than the too scientific approach.

You see, I want you to understand just what my position is. I hope I have some reputation as an artist in my field, and my endeavor has been to coordinate a series that has a greater meaning than just the individual picture.

Thanking you again, for your enquiry, I am

Cordially yours,