

PÁL KELEMEN
NORFOLK
CONNECTICUT

September 12, 1952.

Dear Miss Gilpin:

We returned early in the summer from the long lecture trip and, although we have visited 18 towns, we still give a special place of honor in our hearts to Santa Fe. The place has a unique richness of landscape beauty which gives special focus to the distinguished intellectual and artistic group living there.

Concerning the calendar of the Mayas, that we discussed on our pleasant meeting, I write in my "Battlefield of the Gods", (written in 1933-34 and published in London, 1937; page 60) as follows:

"Near the Nunnery stands the Caracol which probably served as an observatory. At the time of the Conquest, the Maya time-count and calendar was more accurate and nearer that of our present day than was the calendar of the Spaniards. The European calendar approached its modern form only after the Bull of Pope Gregory XIII, which was issued in 1582. When we realize that in 1521 Cortez was already established as Governor of New Spain, the thought is worth consideration that, in the space of a half-century, some suggestion may have reached the Vatican from the astronomical calculations of the New World, through the records of the many missionaries and friars concerning the native civilization here."

Thus, as you see, our thoughts were parallel and it is a honor for me to be in such good society!

A few days ago, we received from Mr. Long the excellent picture of Cristo Rey -- and it will be a pleasure to use it in connection with the article on the reredos. However, there will be some delay, since I still have one article to finish, for the Unesco publication "Museum."

The first semester of 1953 will find us in Austin where I am giving a graduate seminar for the University of Texas. We hope to return to Santa Fe soon -- because there is always much to call us back.

My wife joins me in best wishes and cordial greetings.

Sincerely yours
Pál Kelemen