

Sept. 21,
1948

Mr. Walter Fress,
HASTINGS HOUSE, INC.
41 East 50th St.,
New York, 22, N.Y.

Dear Walter:-

The July 31st statement came more than a week ago and I am greatly pleased with the showing made by TEMPLES IN YUCATAN. How do you feel about it? Practically 1200 copies in the first four months seems to me a most encouraging outlook. At that rate, the edition will be gone in a little over a year, with the possibility of a big pick up in sales this coming Christmas season. There are several things I do want to ask you. I notice that my royalty on sales to Mexico is cut in half. I find nothing in the contract to indicate this and it has come as a surprise for I look for a far greater sale in Yucatan this fall. Have you ever heard directly from Barbachano? His sale should be a big one. He was so anxious to have the book and predicted such big sales for it, that I am surprised at only 104 copies to Mexico. Of-course the season down there is just now getting under way and I do hope that good negotiations are under way. If there is any way that I can help, you will surely let me know. Do statement of debit charges has yet come in, and I am anxious to get myself squared up.

Of-course, this statement has set me to thinking of more books! I feel so certain that this is my line and I have been very lost without a definite project since I finished the Rio Grande, which by the way seems to be undergoing worse delays than TEMPLES IN YUCATAN. The new books stand out clearly, now that I have had time to think them all out. One a follow up of the ruins at Copan and Quirigua with a touch of Guatemala in it, the other the Mission Churches of New Mexico with a touch of the native Spanish life about here. This latter book, I should like to go ahead with immediately while I am still in these parts. This native life is so very charming, but somewhat elusive. Nothing has been done of it from the picture point of view for they are very shy. However, I believe that now I can get it. Of-course I have a touch in my Rio Grande, but I am now clearly

visualizing it. I write you about this as I heard recently that another photographer here, (not a very good one, if I may be pardoned for saying so) is contemplating this and is trying to get the Catholic church to back him. He told me about it himself and I told him that I had been contemplating this for some time. As a matter of fact, I have a lot of material toward it already. Whether it would be possible to go Copan in January I do not know. That is the best time of year for skies etc. from the photographic point of view, but I shall be coming east for decisions etc. on the Rio Grande and will probably be in New York in January. The book is due out in the early spring.

These are my thoughts for your consideration and the hope that the book business is surmounting some of its headaches, and that new projects may now be considered. I feel very strongly that I must keep producing and that each new book builds up the preceeding ones.

With best wishes to you, I am

Very cordially