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Eliot Porter
Route 4 Box 33
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Eliot,

Enclosed is a draft of the description of MEXICAN CHURCHES that will go in our seasonal catalogue and on the jacket flaps. Please feel free to make suggestions for changes, and please add the information that should be included on Ellen Auerbach.

I am still assuming that the title will change. Have you had any great ideas? Maybe Donna's essay will contain something that we can use.

Please return this to me as soon as possible. We begin work on the fall catalogue on February 16, so I will need this back by then.

Thanks very much for your help.

Sincerely,

Dana Asbury
Editor

Encl.

Mexican Churches

Photographs by Eliot Porter and Ellen Auerbach

Essay by Donna Pierce

The churches of Mexico serve as cultural and historical documents, providing silent but visual testimony to the tangible environment of the varying epochs of Colonial Mexico. A careful look at these buildings reflects the subtle changes in cultural and political thought, aesthetics, and even economic conditions over the centuries. They provide a glimpse of the setting in which people lived, worked, and worshipped in Colonial Mexico.

These churches have never before been photographed to this extent, with such meticulous attention paid to every detail of their exuberance and splendour. In fact, this book includes photographs of interior statuary and decoration that have never been photographed at all. Under often difficult conditions and low lighting, it takes a master like Eliot Porter to produce such glowing and masterful records.

On an extended trip through Mexico in 1956, Eliot Porter and a friend, New York photographer Ellen Auerbach, traveled thousands of miles and visited several

hundred churches and chapels. Much of what they photographed no longer exists today. Their archive, of which this book represents only a fraction, is a major record of Mexico's most important and beautiful institution.

Eliot Porter has published numerous books of his photographs and is well known throughout the world for his landscape photography and his ardent interest in conservation. Ellen Auerbach

Donna Pierce is curator of Spanish Colonial Collections at the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe.