

my copy

GENTLING

21 March 2001

Dear John,

What an appropriate day to be writing you - the spring equinox! I apologize for taking so long to send the materials I promised you weeks ago, especially the photos of the small figure of Tlaloc as a warrior. I'm also sending along other photos of Scott's models of the Recinto Sagrado del Templo Mayor and various individual models as well as some examples of our paintings and original Aztec and Mixtec art.

I can't tell you what a pleasure it was for Scott and me to meet you and Chantal (sp?), to hear your lecture in Dallas and to spend an evening with you both at our studio in Fort Worth. We really hope that this is the beginning of a long and mutually beneficial friendship. I really mean this, John; if Scott and I as artists can help you in any way whatsoever, we will really make an effort to do so inspite of our increasingly demanding schedule.

The other day Scott received a major commission to paint the president of the United States. Really it's his portrait as governor of Texas, but George (whose wife Laura I know rather well) says that if he is satisfied with the governor's portrait, he will commission Scott to do the White House portrait.

I am currently doing the preliminary research and illustrations for an essay I am going to write on the fascinating black and white Aztec "pulque beakers" that have appeared over the years in various collections. Scott and I own six, and I know of at least six others. Nobody seems to know anything about them nor has anybody seriously tried to understand the iconography. They are even a mystery to Nicholson. I believe that while I may never be able to fix the specific ceremonies for which these vessels with their unique and special symbolism were created, I do believe that I understand what their designs are all about - and its all star stuff! When I'm finished with the monograph I would like to have you look at it and give me your opinion.

Most of the material that I am mailing you is for our eventual book, "The One Reed Year" which some day will be published in two volumes by the University of Texas Press. Scott and I hope that you enjoy them.

Again, let me say how good it was to see you and how hopeful Scott and I are that our friendship will only continue to prosper.

Best wishes, yes, the very best,

Stuart
Stuart Gentling