

^{win} My brother Stuart and I are professional
fine artists and have made our livings
from our own efforts for more than twenty five years.
We are not commercial illustrators. ~~the~~ The
paintings we have done ^{you have seen} on the subject of the
Aztecs represent a ~~very~~ focused but nevertheless
a side interest quite apart from most of our
other work (^{perhaps} influences do spill over) We do them
simply because of an intense desire to visualize
the written descriptions of such chroniclers as
Bernal Diaz del Castillo, Fray Diego ^{Alvarado} ~~Watten~~ and
Bernardino de Sahagun and others, because
also it has never been done even competently and
~~because~~ ^{is with} presenting, not only a ^{very} palpable opportunity
~~to~~ but a challenge as well. To blow ^{out} ~~my~~ horn
a bit, ^{I must say that} as far as I know ~~the~~ that, unique combination
^{of skill, ability and motive.} of skills, interests, motives and ~~accompanied~~
by an independence operating independently
of any outside agenda or influence is unheard
of, giving us a decided advantage

Of course to accomplish that ~~yet~~ simple
goal of visualization requires

Of course I don't have to tell you what ^{one} ~~you~~ ^{has} ~~have~~ to know even to approach this subject, ~~that~~ ^{often} and that such study never ceases but grows deeper with each effort becoming richer as more connections ~~after connections~~ are made.

As for the paintings reproduced in the Denver catalog, two of those three were very early, tentative, explorations of the subject painted more than a decade ago and ^{now} ~~not~~ representative of ^{our} ~~current~~ knowledge or even ^{on present} ~~skills~~. Slides of these works were sent to the museum quite unknown to me and by the time they called me for permission to use them, things were already in the works so much so that all my efforts to ^{persuade} ~~try to get them~~ to use ~~more~~ ^{more accurate} ~~and~~ recent works proved useless. ~~We~~ ^{we} were honored anyway and so decided not to press the point.

I think here I should explain ^{something of the} the nature of our collaboration. As in all our other work Stuart paints his pictures and I paint mine, but ^{these are the products of a} ~~they are~~ the products of a ~~deep~~ and profound and lively interactions of ideas and theory ~~between~~ ^{we} constantly tossed back and forth between us. There are ^{specific} areas of this study in which Stuart's better knowledge is of particular help to me and ^{visa versa} ~~or that this~~ ^{visa versa} ~~or that this~~ ^{and} ~~so that a combination~~ this coupled with the fact that we sometimes disagree vehemently on certain things keeps us both to maintain our own personal perspectives and so ^{to} go each his own way and yet both together.

Book

Since we are independent and so are fully aware of how costly this project can be in terms of time taken from our other work, our progress has been ~~intermittent~~, of necessity, intermittent and slow. In fact it was only a year ago that we decided to commit ourselves to the creation of a book which in its visualizations of ^{the} chronicles and conquerors would be unprecedented and certainly unrivaled.