

JOHN LILLY JR.

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LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

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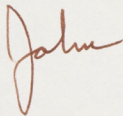
Dear Scott and Stuart:

Enclosed is a reproduction of Dr. Ignacio Alcocer's 1935 plan of Tenochtitlan superimposed over downtown Mexico D.F. I am not sure whether you told me if you already have access to this, and as I had the opportunity to copy it, I figured I should take a chance. The various sheets do not precisely meet at their edges because the color Xerox machine I used slightly alters the angle of lines at it's edges. I have also copied a few pages out of other parts of the book just in case they might contain something you don't already know about. The book was state-of-the-art for the early 1930's, and I guess some of the newer discoveries have altered a small percentage of the information.

Things are progressing well here, with a July deadline for us to begin filming the jungle and desert sequences in Mexico. The Producer (Blalack) is talking about beginning the planning for the recreation of Tenochtitlan in the course of the summer. We have been explaining to him that there is some possibility that the two of you might be interested in supervising the construction of a very large, very complete model of the city for use as the basis for the Aztec section. We have even suggested that the Mexican Government might be very helpful if some arrangement were to be made for eventual display of the model in Mexico, perhaps as part of a traveling exhibit (such as we talked over with you last year) to include paintings, or even a permanent display at the Museum of Anthropology. I would appreciate any thoughts you might have in this area, we are tentatively talking about using Mexican model-makers and bringing the whole city up here in small break-apart sections for the opticals and motion-control camera work. Real water could be used if it is treated chemically to reduce the surface tension to the appropriate scale, and then the camera's speed is adjusted to make small waves look totally realistic.

I have suggested the use of real water (even though this slightly complicates the materials that can be used) because the movement of miniature boats can add measurably to the realism of course. I think we are talking about a shallow tank (maybe only a few inches) with a dark bottom. It could be quite large, so that the effect of the lake stretching off in all directions would look convincing. I would like to know your thoughts about all this at this formative stage of the decision-making so that any special ideas or needs you might have would be incorporated into the plans. So far all the thinking is very loose, so that anything can be changed to suit your needs. Please let us hear from you when you have time. I will be sending more material later this week.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and a trailing flourish.