

June 25, 1950

Mr. Augustin Basave,
Director of "EL NORTE",
Ap. 186, Monterrey,
N. L., Mexico.

Dear Mr. Basave:

I was glad to receive another copy of your article in "EL NORTE", and know you have guessed that I have been away part of the time since my last note and that I could not promptly respond as I wished to write you.

I appreciate very deeply the spirit of friendship which led to your including me in your "gallery" in "EL NORTE" and I feel honored by your expression of esteem which is in such generous terms. It is also a source of pride that you have attained so important a place in Mexico; I realize that this must have come as recognition of both literary and executive ability.

It is a matter of regret that I did not reach Paris when I could spend a year until I was too near the age limit for formal admission to the École des Beaux-Arts, and so I became an "auditeur" at the lecture courses there and at other institutions. Thus were heard the leading art authorities of France; also enjoyed were the opera, art expositions, symphony concerts and so much else the wonder-city stands for. Because of that rich experience I have always urged our graduates who could go on to go abroad for a time.

One of our travelling scholarship holders went to South America and came up through Mexico, for there is so much of the past and present to be learned there as was indicated by Carlos Contreras when he lectured in this country. There is an extensive literature on art in your country and of the vast areas to the south which institutions here must now have. And in return many from those countries have come to our institutions. I have a copy of the beautiful "El Arte en Nueva España" by Francisco Dies Barroso which was sent me by Professor Rodriguez del Campo in 1923 after I had submitted a paper to a Pan-American congress of architects; it was that at Montevideo. This volume has brought me closer to Mexico's architecture than the vaster publications which cannot at a sitting give a somewhat comprehensive view. The great vigor of so many of the architectural compositions have always appealed to me and notably that of the Cathedral of the City of Mexico. That is one of the finest structures in all the Americas.

Of your art institutions I have learned less; they must be staffed by able men in so special a field. Of the museum art world I learned something hearing men at the Louvre, and then at the Art Institute of Chicago where I became general assistant to the director upon my first return from Paris and some earlier familiarity with other European collections. The Chicago Institute has one of the most important art collections in the United States also a comprehensive art school which in my time included a department or school of architecture. If I were younger I would visit your country but as we grow older travel is one of the things we cannot freely engage in, and then in Florida I did not, any more than Ponce de Leon, see the "fountain of youth".

Sincerely yours,

