

Zohmah Charlot: Interview on Chich`en Itza, Yucatan¹

1) How did Jean Charlot get Chich`en Itza job?

Not certain. It might have been through Frances Flynn Paine. After his work with the Ministry of Education ended, he probably needed a job. Paine was a good and life-long friend.

2) Did Charlot ever go back to Chich`en?

Yes, we went back the year Jean had his big show in Mexico City (March-April 28, 1968)

3) Do you have any memories of what Charlot said about Chich`en.

He was amazed to see the changes when we looked again at all the places he`d stayed (back in 1924), on our `68 visit. The “Sacred Well,” where they used to swim had *not* changed! He was upset by the big tourist hotels which had been built.

He`d worked three seasons there—in the hot sun—and ever after, was cold. Even the *warmest* Hawaiian weather had him in a sweater.

¹ I supplied the questions, and my mother`s helper, Suzi Byrnes, wrote down her answers. This was probably to gather information for Donald McVicker`s “El Pintor Convertido en Arqueólogo” in Milena Koprivitz and Blanca Garduño Pulido, *México en la obra de Jean Charlot*, Consejo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes, Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes, Mexico, 194, pp. 58–72. Lightly edited.