

of the museum had written to Niven in November regarding the results of the museum's investigations into the Valley of Mexico tablets. "I must confess," Hay wrote, "that we are a little doubtful as to the genuineness of the larger pieces . . ."

Collinson, after one of Colonel Churchward's visits to his home during the holidays, reported to Niven, "The more I and my wife see him, the finer a man he appears to be . . . a gentleman, a rare individual these days." Churchward told Collinson that he had several wealthy backers and that he might be able to publish Niven's book. Churchward agreed that Niven had not been given the credit or publicity due him. Collinson gave Churchward four more jade beads to be made into cufflinks. Collinson would have some made for himself as well.

In early 1928 Churchward gave a radio talk, "Prehistoric America," on WNYC in New York City. Among other topics, Churchward discussed William Niven and his important discoveries in the Valley of Mexico. The publicity was encouraging, so Niven sent Churchward an additional two hundred drawings and some photographs for possible inclusion in his forthcoming *Colonies of Mu*.

Cornyn cautioned Niven not to go "too strong on the Colonel . . . The only really interesting part of the book was the description of your own excavations. This was well enough until the Colonel began to interpret the finds . . ." Although Niven found Cornyn's assessment "disappointing," he valued his opinion.

Collinson wrote to Niven in late September 1928, "I have not heard or seen Col. Churchward for a long time and cannot understand why. Have you?" Niven replied that he received a letter from Churchward about once a week. The colonel was hard at work deciphering the carved stone tablets from the Valley of Mexico. Niven had sent him rubbings or photographs of about twenty-five hundred of them, of which some 150 would find their way into Churchward's new book on Mu's colonies.

Niven had also heard from George C. Vaillant of the American Museum of Natural History. Vaillant, who was studying pre-Classic figurines from the Valley of Mexico, wanted to visit with Niven concerning his excavations at San Miguel Amantla and Santiago Ahuizotla. Niven told Collinson, "I suppose he sneaked down last winter to work without my knowledge and found my workings . . . filled up and used for corn fields and maguey plants and now needs my assistance," he confided. "I will be 78 tomorrow . . ."