Excavation of Nohmul Structure 20

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Introduction (N.H.)

This article reports briefly on the 1978 excavation of Structure 20 at Nohmul by the Corozal Project, as part of a programme of investigation in northern Belize which has been in progress since 1973 under the principal sponsorship of the British Museum, the British Academy and Cambridge University; in 1978 Rutgers University was also a principal co-sponsor, and the project benefited materially from the facilities set up at Cuello for the excavations there under the principal sponsorship of the National Geographic Society. The Department of Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania, assisted Mrs. Chase with travel funds, and the postexcavation analyses (to be reported separately by Mrs. Chase) were carried out in Philadelphia with generous support from the Department.

Structure 20 was first noted as a very low hollow-square edifice during the 1973 mapping of the ceremonial centre of Nohmul, carried out by Richard Bryant, Basilio Ah, Graeme Noble and Rob Thallon; its location in front of Structures 18 and 19, partly blocking access to Structure 19 and disturbing the symmetry of the East Plaza layout, made it clear that Structure 20 was a later insertion (Fig. 1). When test excavations in the Central Plaza by Duncan Pring (Op. 312B: Hammond 1975, 107-108) indicated that the entire layout of the plaza complex

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Fig. 1: The locations of Nohmul and Chichén Itzá, and the position of Structure 20 on the Nohmul ceremonial precinct. Note that Structure 9, shown here rectified to a square plan, proved on excavation in 1979 to be circular.

Fig. 2: Sketch plan of Structure 20 to show Sub-Operations; lower-case units c-j were subsumed into units C and G during the analysis.
in its grandiose final form dated only to the Late Classic, a Terminal Classic or later date for Structure 20 was indicated. Two other structures of similarly late date were excavated in 1973-74, Structures 139 and 141 in the Platform 137 Group lying some 2 km north of the main ceremonial precinct: this was a plaza-like group randomly selected for intensive excavation within the mapped North Sector of settlement. Two rubble-walled buildings were each built over earlier Classic Period structures set on slightly different (5° greater azimuth) alignments; the two later buildings were parallel and lay well into the formal Early Postclassic (Heighway et al. 1975, 71); the initial assessment in 1973 of a Late Postclassic date for the masonry buildings was in error: it was based on an insufficient appreciation of the early appearance of some Postclassic ceramic types, and the relative unimportance of an absence of Plumbate and Fine Paste wares this far north and east in the Maya Lowlands. Subsequent work has enabled the Corozal Project to properly associate the observed continuity of occupation in Structure 139 and 141 with a formal Early Postclassic date, and the excavation of Structure 20 reported here has been of material import in confirming that assessment.

Fig. 3: The southwest quadрат from the northwest, showing the ramp of the western entrance in the foreground and the basal plinth on which the wall is set back. The unexcavated Structure 19 as it rears left.

Almost exactly east-west, Structure 139 on the south side of the patio facing northwards towards Structure 141 (Heighway 1973; Heighway et al. 1975; Hammond 1974). Both were of limestone rubble masonry, of which sufficient was found to indicate that a dwarf wall about 1 metre high clad a timber superstructure, the numerous postholes of which ran down through the walls to penetrate the earlier platform beneath. The front steps utilised vertical thin slabs of limestone, as at Mayapan and on Cozumel, and the overall architectural conception as well as its detail indicated strong Yucatecan influence, dating to a prolonged Late and Terminal Classic period extending into the Early Postclassic (Heighway et al. 1975, 71).

Local stoneware vessels found with burials in Structure 139 supported the Yucatecan influence indicated by the architecture, and at the end of the 1974 season (Hammond 1974) we were able to suggest that Joseph Ball's (1974) hypothesis - of a Terminal Classic southward movement of Yucatecan influence - was corroborated by the evidence from Nohmul. Since architecture, unlike pottery, tends to move only with groups of people we interpreted Nohmul as a site where Yucatecans had settled around the time of the Classic Maya collapse, with continuity of habitation in the Platform 137 Group being indicated by the impo-

Fig. 4: Aerial view from the east of the excavation after the stripping of the northeast and southwest quadrants. Sub-Operation K has just commenced over the southeast corner of Structure 20.

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Fig. 8: North-South profile of Structure 20 and section of interior deposit, along the axis.
sition of the masonry buildings on clean plaster floors. The presence of Structure 20 in the ceremonial precinct suggested that public life had also continued at Nohmul during this period, and one aim of the 1978 excavation was to examine the chronology of Structure 20 and see how far the Terminal Classic/Early Postclassic occupation adduced for the Platform 137 Group might be replicated in the ceremonial centre (although considerably later dates for Structure 20, down to the contact period, were also within the range of hypotheses considered). Mrs. Chase and her husband Arlen F. Chase had a long-standing interest in the Postclassic Period, and volunteered to join the 1978 Corelal Project staff to supervise the excavation of Structure 20. The excavation team included several workers from the Platform 137 Group investigations of 1973-74, notably the Arcario brothers of San Pablo village; assistance with surveying and planning the excavations was given by Mark Hodges and Basilio Ah, and with laboratory processing by Priscilla Wegars, and by Jill Mulholland who also helped in the excavation.

Fig. 5: Structure 20 from the east at the end of the horizontal stripping. The western entrance can be seen beyond the inner patio, and behind it the unexcavated Structure 9. Sub-Operation M is at lower right.

The report which follows has been summarised by me from the excavation report submitted by Mrs. Chase (Chase, n.d.), which will appear in full in the Corelal Project's final report. All drawings are the work of Mrs. and Mr. Chase, while photographs are by N.H. The results of the excavation have already been noted briefly (Hammond 1978, 7; Chase and Chase 1981, 42), while its wider implications are discussed in a forthcoming article (Chase and Chase, n.d.) in association with the results of the 1979 excavation of Nohmul Structure 9. Further evidence on the final period of occupation at Nohmul is expected to emerge from the 1982-84 excavations in the ceremonial precinct and settlement area of Nohmul by a Rutgers University project.

Fig. 6: Plan of Structure 20 as excavated.

The excavation of Structure 20 (D.S.C.)

Prior to excavation, Structure 20 appeared to be almost square, 18 m on the east side, 19 m on the west and 18 m north-south; the western side, where the apparent entrance was located, bowed outwards at its centre. A central line was staked out between the approximate mid-points of the east and west sides, and used to generate a 20 by 20 m grid covering the entire area of Structure 20.
20. All excavations were designated as Operation 313 in the Nohmul series, following on from Operation 312 in the central plaza in 1974; all surface collections were designated under Sub-Operation A.

A 3 by 3 m excavation, Sub-Operation B, was laid out in the west of Structure 20 and north of the east-west centreline, to examine the plaza west of the building (Fig. 2). Two very eroded floors (Plaza Units 1 and 2) were encountered in an area heavily disturbed by roots and animals; this area is designated Sub-Operation 6, and subsequent work in the northwest quadrant was designated Sub-Operation K, and in the northwestern quadrant Sub-Operation L; a 2 m wide trench eastward from G across the depression between Structures 18 and 19 was designated Sub-Operation M.

With the removal of the humus layer, the outlines of walls became apparent, and the outline of Structure 20 was easily recovered; structural features were designated Units (the equivalent of Features in the 1973-74 excavation terminology). An inner patio was defined on its north and west sides, and then on the south and east. It was seen to be slightly longer on the lateral (north-south) axis, 3 m, than on the centre axis of the building, where it was 2.5 m across. The east wall in Sub-Operation G was from 1.2 to 1.5 m in thickness. The east wall of the patio was a slightly lower terrace of Structures 18 and 19 in Plan 20, and to the east and south of these terraces was a well preserved wall of the patio (Plan 20). Excavation at the southeast exterior corner included excavations of the area adjacent and in front of the centreline of Structure 19, access to which is almost blocked by the south side of Structure 20. A fire-blackened plaster area (b in Fig. 3) was found on one of the floors of the centreline of Structure 19. Collapsed masonry from Structure 19 had not been robbed to construct Structure 20 (as seems to have been the case for the platform between Structures 18 and 19), so Structure 19 coevally with that of Structure 20 must be considered.

When the horizontal striping of Structure 20 was completed to these limits (Figs. 5-6) an east-west section was cut along the centreline and extended as Sub-Operation M to the east. The intention was to examine the construction history of Structure 20 and its stratigraphic relationship to Structure 18 and the depression between that building and Structure 19.

In the section (Fig. 7) the threestone alignment of Unit 9 in Sub-Operation G was found to have been intruded through Plaza Unit 3, the floor underlyings Structure 20. These stones may have been back-up supports for large posts supporting the roof and any perishable interior wall; no such intrusions were found in the western or northern parts of the structure, however. Another intrusion immediately east of Unit 9, capped by plaster, was a pit filled with large rubble, perhaps part of the putative post-support system. In the western interior of another intrusion seen as a clear discontinuity in the plaster (Unit 4) merely penetrated to a lower eroded floor.

The east wall and plinth were sectioned and found to be of unitary construction. Below the inner patio was a lower floor (Plaza Unit 1) over a soil rich in sherds, with an overlay of limestone bedrock. East of the trench showed that Plaza Unit 3 was a floor underlying the whole of Structure 20 and abutting the front terrace of Structure 18, thus confirming the position relationship between the two buildings. The lower floor (Plaza Unit 1) seen in the eastern pit ran 5 cm beneath the terrace, antedating at least the final phase of Structures 18-19. Little pottery was found in either the floor fill or the fill of Structure 20.

A second trench, running north-south, was dug across the northern half of Structure 20 down to Plaza Unit 3 (Fig. 8); the unitary construction of the walls and plaster was followed by filling in the interior of the building over Plaza Unit 3, construction of the inner patio, and plastering of the interior surfaces.

Sub-Operation M, the eastern extension of the axial trench, showed a very disturbed area with plinth and insect burrowing, but the baffle between Structures 18 and 19 may also have been robbed of stones to build Structure 20. At the eastern end of Sub-Operation M, behind the common base of Structures 20 and 21, a large cache was found in which the pottery was both slightly earlier and, overlapping in date, that found in the dump behind Structure 20. Some sherds in the upper layers of the former deposit joined with the later fill of Structure 20; the lower layers contained stalagmone and double-mouthed jars and other types indicating a Late Terminal Classic date.

**Deposits**

We had hoped to find one or more primary deposits to help in dating Structure 20, including (1) interior floor deposits, (2) an eastern exterior midden, (3) interior caches, (4) exterior caches, (5) burials in the centrelines, and (6) primary deposits elsewhere in the structures. Only (1) and (2) were found, of which the eastern exterior deposit contained many whole or reconstructable vessels; no burials were encountered. Based on the interior deposits and the exterior dump, the occupation of Structure 20 can be firmly placed in the Terminal Classic-Late Classic period. The context of Structure 20 is not firmly dated apart from being post-Terminal Classic (based on sherds from the fill).

The northeast corner of the building had a laurel-leaf point of chert resting on the plinth and a San Jose V type 'chalice' (a pedestal broad-rimmed bowl) (Fig. 9) broken over the plinth and exterior floor. The distribution of the 79 sherds showed that it had been knocked or thrown from east to west either by the collapse of the
east wall or by human agency. Slateware, Peten type (Tepeu 3) and double-souther jar sherds were found in the deposit, as well as fragments of a serpentinite palette and cracked and burned human bones, including a jaw containing filled teeth; these last may be seen as evidence of cannibalism; similar patterns are present in Terminal Classic funerary (William A. Coe, personal communication).

Excavation at the southeast corner of Structure 20 (Sub-
Operation K) produced a Puuc Slate tripod bowl with 9au
feet, found on the plinth. Part of a greater vessel con-
combing Mama Red type mullin feet with a Cameron Incised
form was also found, as well as a Thin Slate bowl, large
stratified obsidian fragments, a bark beater, a clay spindle
whorl, and many mano/matlta fragments, some of which fit
fragments from Sub-Operation G. A redslipped jar was re-
constructed from rim to base over the same span (of 5 m
unexcavated deposit between G and K) confirming this
scatter pattern in the eastern trash dump.

Fig. 9: "Chalice" of San Jose V type, reconstructed from
sherd dumped behind Structure 20. The light area
within the orange-brown is intentional fire-cloud-
ing.

The interior of the building produced a fire-cracked
matate fragment from the patio area as well as most of
a large vessel, possibly a drum, with censerlike spikes
immediately below the exterior lip; more smashed vessels
were found on the floor against the south wall. In the
south part near a reconstructed "bell-shaped" straited cooking jar,
was found together with a human femur. No pieces of these
vessels were found on or outside the walls, indicating
that they represent the latest use of the structure prior
to abandonment. Small sherds embedded in the patio floor
join with larger fragments and reconstructable vessels
found in the eastern exterior dump, clearly linking that
cupping with Structure 20 and not Structures 18 or 19 and
also indicating breakage in the patio area. The northern entrance is a 3 by 2 m excavation yielding the basal part of a
slateware cylinder vase of Tiluc Thin-slate: Tiluc vari-
bility (Ball 1977, Fig. 14d); more of this vessel probably
lies in the unexcavated northwest quadrant, and it can
probably be assigned to the latest time-span in the use of
Structure 20. All of the material from the interior
helps to confirm the Terminal Classic/Early Postclassic
date for the use of the building.

Time Spans

At least four successive time-spans can be elucidated
for Structure 20:

T.S. 4: Collapse of Structure 20, including rubble
collapse and humus development.

T.S. 3: Excavation of Structure 20, including (a) material
on and associated with the floors; (b) material
dumped behind the building; (c) the upper layer of
material dumped between and behind Structures
18 and 19.

T.S. 2: Construction of Structure 20, including material
within walls and below interior floors, but over-
lying Plaza Unit 3.

T.S. 1: Activity prior to construction, including the
construction of Plaza Unit 3 and material below
1; also the lower layer of deposit between and
behind Structures 18 and 19.

While most excavated lots can be assigned confidently to
one or other of these time-spans, the force of the wall
collapse in T.S. 4 could have incorporated some material
from the wall fill into the dump of T.S. 3(b). All four
time-spans together need not have occupied a long period:
the clean and well-preserved state of Plaza Unit 3 sug-
gests that it was not very old when Structure 20 was built,
and that Structures 19 and 18 which it abuts were still
in use until just before the construction of Structure 20.
The dumping of refuse behind Structure 20 seems also to
have taken a short time, since sherd from the top and
bottom of the deposit join up; this dumping may, however,
have begun after Structure 20 had been in use for some
time.

CONCLUSION

The excavation of Nohmul Structure 20 revealed a buil-
ding of hollow-square plan, 17 m square with a central
patio 3 by 5 m. The building post-dated the construction
of Structures 18 and 19 immediately east of it, and
was built in one operation over the existing East Plaza
floor (Plaza Unit 3) while it was still in good con-
The walls und plinth were built at the same time, of limestone blocks and marl, and the walls probably rose to a height of about 1 m; they were
decorated wholly or partly with pastel stucco, and a
possible stucco adornment was found in the interior
collapse. Wooden posts built into the upper part of the
wall probably supported a perishable roof around an
open patio; any detection of postholes not found in
the wall but penetrating the plinth would require rem-
oval of the wall; this was not done. There is a close
relation, in terms of architectural technique, style and material with Nohmul Structures 139 and 141.

The bedding for the interior floor was mainly of ir-
regular limestone blocks and marl; it had at one time
been completely plastered over, but the surface re-
mained only close to the walls. Sherd material found
on the interior floor, on the patio floor and behind
the structure indicated that the occupation of the
building and the dumping of the refuse was a contin-
uation of the activities in the area. Material from the refuse and the collapse suggest that the latest use was primarily domestic, based on the
presence of utilitarian pottery and mano/matlta frag-
ments, and dated to the Terminal Classic/Early Post-
classic period; the patio had been used to accumulate garbage which was then dumped at the back.

When the building was abandoned, probably after a
fairly short period of use, it was covered entirely
side to side, mainly in the southeast portion.

The occupation of Structure 20 (and, as we now know
from the 1979 excavations, Structure 9) seems to be the
final major use of the East Plaza at Nohmul. The best
parallels to Structure 20 are the 'gallery patio' build-
ings of Chichén Itzá (Burger 1943, 1950, 1955), rough-
ly square in plan with central patio and a frontal colon-
aded gallery; any such gallery at Nohmul must have been
solely of timber. The Chichén Itzá gallery-patio struc-
tures date to the Early Postclassic Classic period at
the site, comparable with the date of Nohmul Structure
20, and the similarities to the Nohmul building raise
again the question of Yucatan influence in northern Be-
lize (Ball 1974; Hammond 1974). A related action is
the extent to which the slat-wares in northern Belize
are a local development, and how far they are Yucatan-
inspired (Hammond 1973, 46); the local affinities are
most obviously San Jose V (Thompson 1939), a site
further south up the Rio Hondo drainage. The final ques-
tion is a chronological one: can we see the Terminal Cla-
sic and the Early Postclassic in northern Belize as being
essentially the same actual period in time, defined
elsewhere by varying phases of a separate, and separation and succession that may be, it seem, illus-
ory?

Acknowledgments

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tro Project is also gratefully acknowledged. The aerial
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Zusammenfassung: Ausgrabung der Struktur 20 in Nohmul (siehe auch nómex III, 5:4-42). Die Ausgrabungs-
beiten im Jahre 1978 legten ein quadratisches Gebäude frei, dessen Seitenlängen jeweils 17 m betrugen. Es be-
stand ein zentrales Patio und an der westlichen Seite einen Eingang. Die Kalksteinwände waren auf einer Boden-
platte mit einer Höhe von etwa einem Meter errichtet worden. Der obere Teil der Mauer muß aus Vergänglichem
Material bestanden haben, doch feuchte Schäden konnten nicht entdeckt werden. Keramik, die innerhalb des Ge-
bäudes sowie auf einem großen Abfallplatz dahinter ge-
funden wurde, 1883 das Gebäude in die Zeit um 900 n. C.
plus/minus 150 Jahre (Ende der Klassik, frühe Post-
klassik) datieren. Es gibt einige Beziehungen zum "San José Y-Komplex" im zentralen Belize. Die Architektur
reflektiert ähnliche Architekturmerkmale in Chichén Itzá. (Die Autoren glauben, daß damit die These yukateke-
en Einflusses auf dieses Gebiet gestützt werden könnten. Allerdings ist ein Umwachshub oben möglich, da die
Patio-Bauweise ein früher datierbarer Baustil in Teo-
túncesco war.)

Resumen: Excavación de la estructura 20 en Nohmul (vea también nómex III, 3:4-42). Los trabajos de exca-
Vación del año 1978 dejaron descubrir un edificio cuadrado, cuyas dimensiones eran 17 m cada una. Poseía un
patio central y en el lado Oeste una entrada. Las pa-
redes de piedra caliza fueron levantadas sobre una pieza
de fondo y a una altura de un metro aproximadamente. La
parte norte de las paredes debía haber sido construida
con material frágil no existente, no se han encontrado
agujeros de postes. De acuerdo a la cerámica que se en-
contró dentro del edificio así como en un basural ubicado
dentro, la estructura puede datar de 900 d. C. ± 150
años (final del clásico, post-clásico temprano). Existe
una relación estrecha con "San José, complejo V", en
Belice central. La arquitectura refleja nuestras arqui-
etechnicas similes en Chichén Itzá. (Los autores
opinan que con ello se apoya la tesis sobre influencia
yucateca en esta región. Sin embargo, también es
posible que la posición contraría pues el estilo de con-
strucción del patio es un estilo arquitectónico tempran-
o en Teotúncasco. La red.)

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DISKUSSION

Die Redaktion behält sich vor, Diskussionsbeiträge gekürzt zu veröffentlichen.

DAS ANTILITZ TLALOC
Funde aus dem Tempelbezirk
Eine Ergänzung zu "mexico", vol. III, nr. 6, abb. 2 auf seite 101

Ulf Bankmann, Berlin


Abb. 1: Nach Selz 1904:855, Abb. 56

In der bildnerischen Gestaltung ist als nächste Parallele zu dem in "mexico" publizierten Neufund auch der einiger der in Paris gezeigten Stücke (Mexico... 1981:58, Nr. 6 - Höhe: 23 cm) jedoch ein 24 cm hohes Steingefäß zu nennen, das schon vor der Mitte des vorigen Jahrhunderts als Teil der Sammlung Luisa Vischer ins Basler Museum gelangte (Abb. 2. cf. auch Baer o.ä.: Nr. 13, Abb. 5). Leider ist über die Herkunft der von Vischer gesammelten Objekte sehr wenig bekannt; eine Fundortangabe fehlt auch für diese Skulptur. Ihre Herkunft ebenfalls aus dem Boden der alten Metropole Mexiko-Tenochtitlan kann nun mit großer Wahrscheinlichkeit angenommen werden.

LITERATUR:

Castillo Tejero, Noemí, y Felice R. Solís Olguín:

A COMMENT TO "EXCAVATION OF NOHMUL STRUCTURE 20"
Diane Z. Chase, Department of Anthropology University of Pennsylvania

Noihmul Structure 20 is 15.6 m square (not 17 m square) and is defined more precisely as a "patio-pot" rather than a "gallery-pot" (see A. Chase and D. Chase 1981; D. Chase and A. Chase 1982). The excavation and analysis of materials from both Noihmul Structure 20 and Structure 9 suggest Yucatec influence and a particularly close architectural association with the site of Chichen Itza. The Terminal Classic - Early Postclassic data assigned to these buildings is primarily based upon their architectural form and upon the association of Yucatec-like pottery with northern Belize ceramic forms (D. Chase n.d. and in press). These data suggest not only the connection of Terminal Classic Noihmul with Tolltec Chichen, but also the need for revision of Yucatec chronologies along the lines of Ball's (1979) schemes of either partial or complete overlap of the Cepec, Cotutú, and Nocaba Ceramic Complexes (see D. Chase and A. Chase 1982). For further information on Str. 20 and the interesting architectural complex of which it is a part, the reader is referred to D. Chase (n.d.) and D. Chase and A. Chase (1982).

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Aztec codex humans and may have seen light first in south-central Mexico, perhaps not far from Cholula. Pottery associated with the discs was clearly Early Postclassic, half consisting of Nicoya Polychromes, with a few Tolita Plumbate and one Fine Orange vase. From such evidence, one is inclined to believe that this assemblage was deposited by the Pipil Toltecs. If true, it is the first direct evidence of a Pipil presence east of the Lempa River. An examination of the fragmentary architectural remains of this site, however, strengthens the supposed Pipil Tolltec connection, inasmuch as building and stair foundations at Loma Chena closely resembled those features at Chilpan, a great Pipil center of north-central El Salvador.

TO THE EDITOR OF MEXICON:

In publishing the preliminary report on the 1978 Rutgers University - British Museum excavation of Nohmul Structure 20 (Chase and Hammond 1982), the German and Spanish summaries were kindly added by the editors of Mexicon. The final sentence of each of these indicated acceptance of a link with Teotihuacan. While each of these sentences was clearly marked off from the rest of the summary by parentheses and its authorship by the editors was specified, I would like to emphasise that no such Teotihuacan linkage was proposed by myself on the basis of any evidence from the Nohmul excavations, either in 1978 or subsequently. Certainly no basis for such a suggestion is contained in the article, either in my introduction and conclusion or in Mrs. Chase’s report of the excavation itself. While links with Teotihuacan have been documented on Belizean sites, and may yet appear in the earlier Classic at Nohmul, there is no evidence for them in the Terminal Classic/Early Postclassic period to which Structure 20 belongs.

Norman Hammond

Reference:

Chase, Diane Z. and Norman Hammond: Excavation of Nohmul Structure 20, Mexicon IV (1): 7-12

Beiträge

A JADEIT AND PYRITE DISCOIDAL ORNAMENT FROM EL SALVADOR

Stanley H. Boggs

During excavations at the small archaeological site of Loma China, near Estanzuelas, Usulutan Department, a small (7 cm. diameter) composite disc-shaped personal ornament - one of a pair of similar objects - was unearthed from Tomb 1 where, along with pottery vessels and obsidian points, they served as funeral offerings. These discs were unusual ornaments, unique among Salvadoran finds, and of a type apparently unreported elsewhere. Both consisted of essentially three parts: 1) A discoidal backing, 2 mm. thick, of grey pottery; 2) A central, green jadeite and turquoise mosaic decoration representing a warrior or god in ceremonial dress holding a serpentine with the left hand behind his back, and a kind of shield with cloth and feather portions with the right, in front. This jadeite is but 1 mm. thick. Unfortunately, the restoration figured in the accompanying photograph may not be entirely accurate regarding placement of facial details; 3) A border or frame composed of thin (1-3 mm.) flat iron pyrite plates.

No perforations of these discs are visible so its possible suspension is doubtful. The skeleton accompanying lay on its right side, loosely flexed, and the two discs were in front of the breast, inverted, as though fallen. They may have simply rested on the chest and during interment slipped down to the side.

A disturbing query regarding the jadeite is that of what technique could the ancient lapidary have employed to solidly sustain and cut such remarkably thin, hard stone. Jadeite is hard to cut in the best of circumstances and the delicate sculpting of lines in this stone appears almost incredible with primitive tools. Moreover, the style of sculpture does not appear to resemble any other yet reported in the zone. Reaching somewhat, the figure looks reminiscent of Mixtec and

EINE MAYA-INSCHRIFT AUS TIZBANCHE, QUINTANA ROO, MEXICO

Karl Herbert Mayer, Graz

In dem im Frühjahr 1980 neuerröffneten Museo Arqueológico Cancún, im Centro de Convenciones auf der Insel Cancún im mexikanischen Bundesstaat Quintana Roo, ist ein bisher unveröffentlichtes Maya-Inschriftenfragment (Fig. 1) ausgestellt, welches die Herkunftssagen "Tizbanché" trägt.


Die Maya-Ruinenstätte Tizbanché wurde im Jahre 1927 vom Briten Thomas Gann entdeckt (1927, 1928, 1935) und ist besonders wegen einer auf einem hülltern Türsturz befindlichen kalendarischen Angabe bekanntgeworden, welche von Sylvanus Morley (1956:351) dem frühen Spätaltikum zugewiesen wurde und möglicherweise dem Maya-Datum 9.5.5.0.0 (618 n. Chr.) entspricht. Im Gegensatz dazu interpretiert Tatiana Proskouriakoff das Datum vorläufig als 9.6.0.0.0 9 Ahau 3 Yaxeb (Harrison 1973:500), ein Katun-Ende im Frühaltikum (554 n. Chr.).

Ein weiteres Inschriftenfragment aus Tizbanché, ein mit drei Glyphen verziertes Jadeitstück, welches heute im British Museum in London aufbewahrt wird, ist signifikant, da es ein sehr spätes Datum im Short Counts trägt, dessen Einhängung in das Long-Count-Datum 10.4.0.0.0 (909 n. Chr.) sehr wahrscheinlich ist. Zusammen mit dem jüngst in Toninda gefundenen Monument 101, welches das Long-Count-Datum 10.4.0.0.0 trägt, zählt es zu den spätesten Steinobjekten mit kalendarischen Angaben im Maya-Gebiet.

Das neuentdeckte Textfragment aus Tizbanché in Cancún ist im Museum in einer Vitrine ausgestellt. Es besteht aus drei zusammengeklebten Steinen aus Kalkstein und ist als Flachrelief gearbeitet. Aus formalen Gründen kann abgeleitet werden, daß von originalen Monument nur die rechte vertikale Seite, welche einen schmalen Rand zeigt, als komplet gelten kann. Die verbleibenden Hieroglyphen sind teilweise kalendarischer Natur und lassen schließ-