

artistic style of Tulum.

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Zusammenfassung: Die Malereien in Tulum, Quintana Roo: Frühe Fotos. Die Fresko-Malereien der spätpostklassischen Periode (1250 - span. Eroberung) in Tulum sind vor allem in Umzeichnungen veröffentlicht. Da die Malereien bereits ca. 1922 restauriert wurden, läßt sich die Genauigkeit der Zeichnungen nicht mehr am Original überprüfen. Fotos der Malereien von S. K. Lothrop aus den Jahren 1916 und 1922 sind daher bedeutsam, um ikonographische Details feststellen und den Kunststil von Tulum studieren zu können.

Resumen: Las pinturas en Tulum, Quintana Roo: fotos tempranos. Las pinturas al fresco en Tulum del periodo postclásico tardío (desde 1250 hasta la conquista española) han sido publicadas principalmente bajo la forma de dibujo. Las pinturas fueron restauradas aproximadamente por el año 1922; por esta razón ya no se puede controlar la exactitud de los dibujos con el original. Es por ello que las fotos de las pinturas tomadas por S.K. Lothrop en los años 1916 y 1922 sean de gran importancia para poder determinar detalles iconográficos y analizar el estilo artístico de Tulum.



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 benefitted 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 on 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

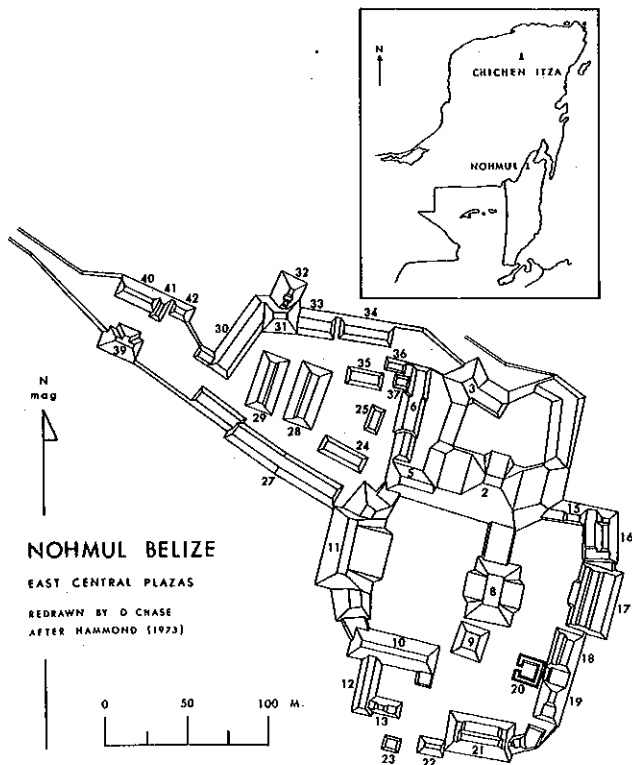


Fig. 1: The locations of Nohmul and Chichén Itzá, and the position of Structure 20 on the Nohmul ceremonial precinct. Note that Structure 9, shown here rectified to a square plan, proved on excavation in 1979 to be circular.

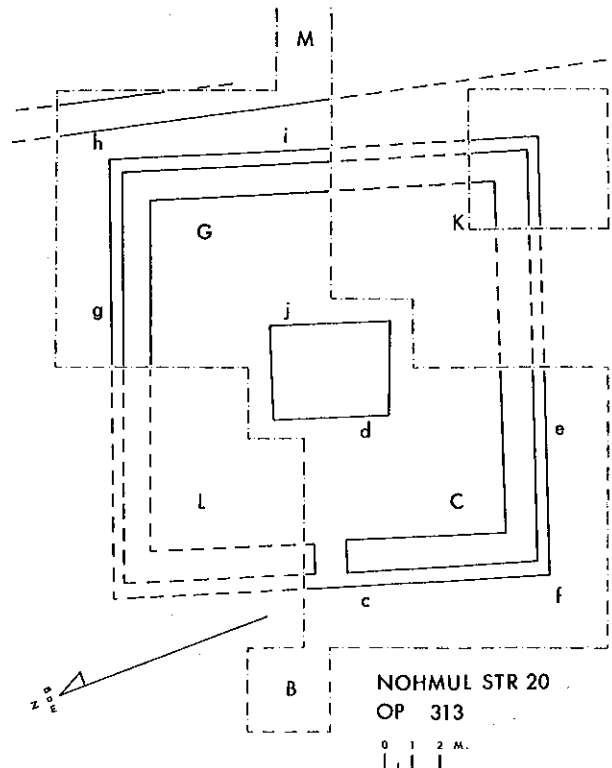
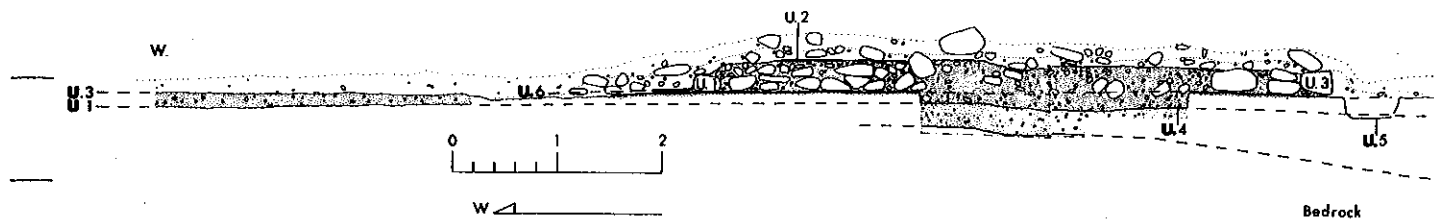


Fig. 2: Sketch plan of Structure 20 to show Sub-Operations; lower-case units c-j were subsumed into units C and G during the analysis.

Fig. 7: East-West section of Structure 20 along the mid-line.



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 *plazuela* 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 Pasto 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 quadrat from the northwest, showing the jamb of the western entrance in the foreground and the basal plinth on which the wall is set back. The unexcavated Structure 19 as it rear left.

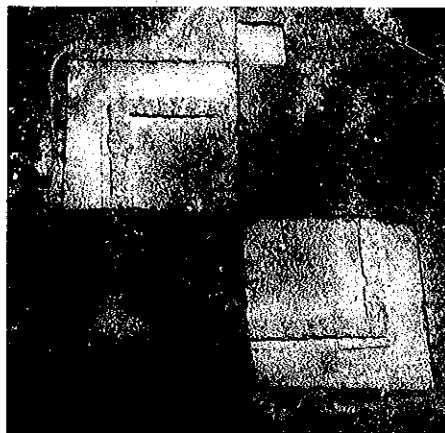
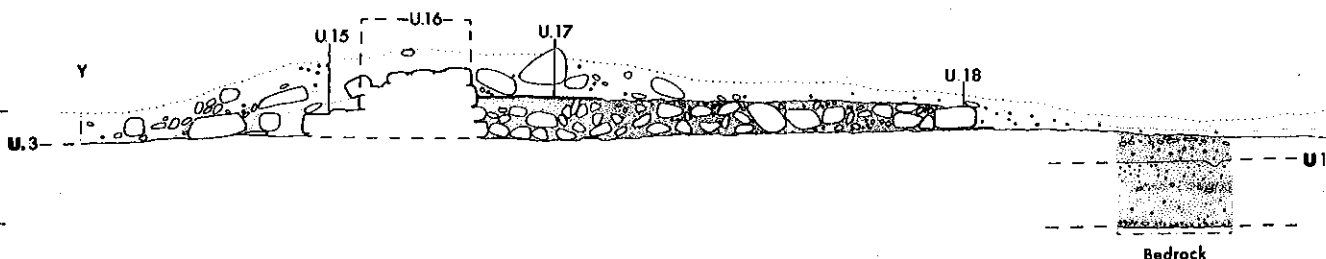


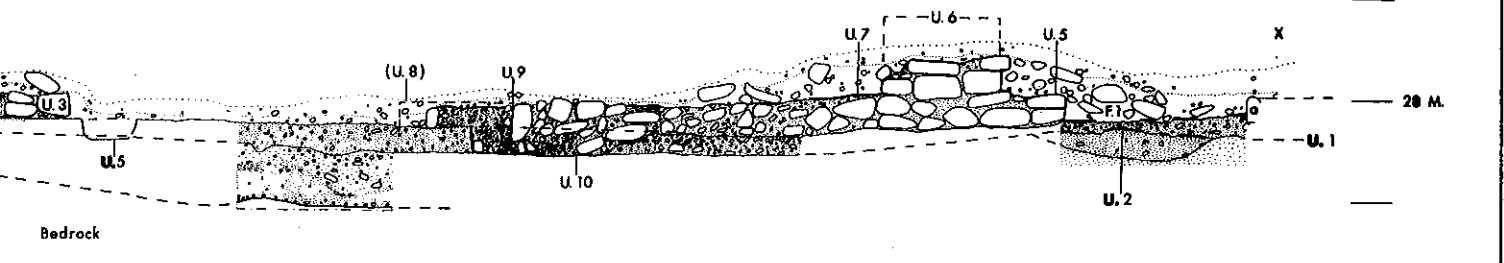
Fig. 4: Aerial view from the east of the excavation after the stripping of the northeast and southwest quadrats. Sub-Operation K has just commenced over the southeast corner of Structure 20.

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

Local slateware 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. 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 Corozal 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 Arcurio 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 Corozal 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.

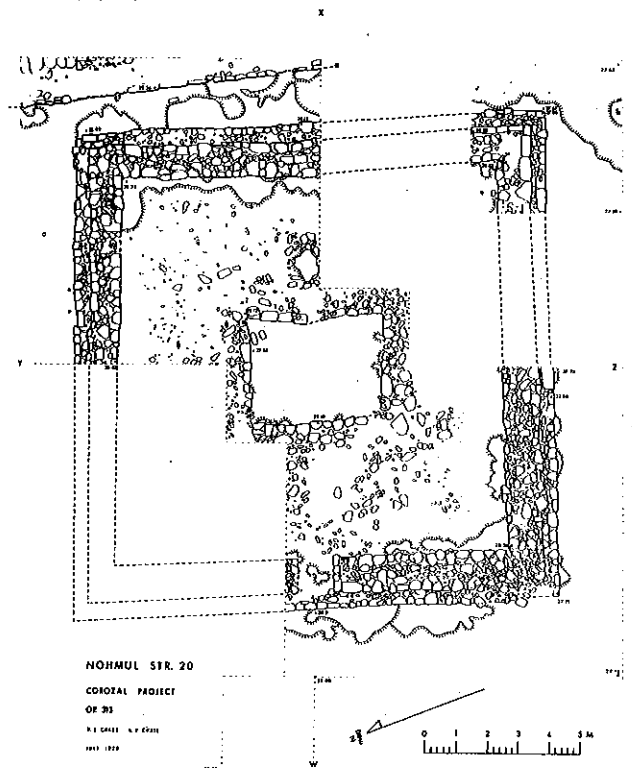
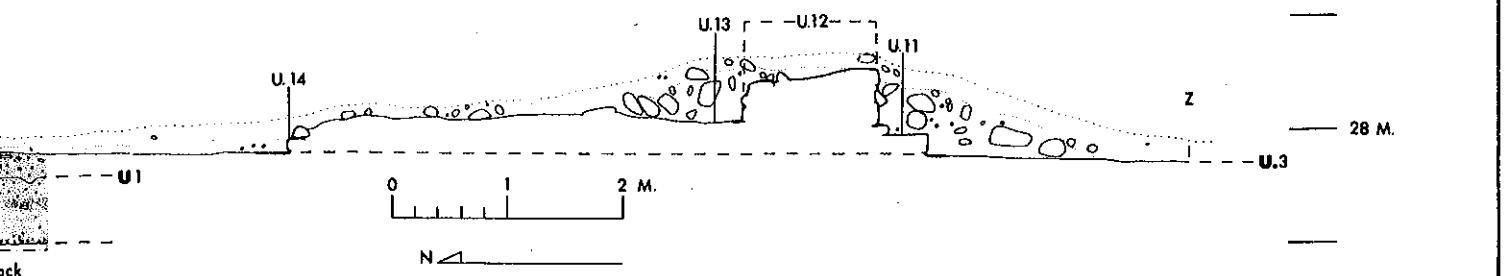


Fig. 6: Plan of Structure 20 as excavated.

The excavation of Structure 20 (D.Z.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 centreline 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. 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 animal burrows. Excavation then proceeded by dividing Structure 20 into four 10 by 10 m quadrats and selecting the northeast and southwest of these for excavation; each was initially divided into four 5 by 5 m areas designated as separate suboperations, but subsequently Sub-Operations C-F were consolidated as Sub-Operation C for the southwest quadrat, and Sub-Operations G-J similarly conflated into Sub-Operation G (Fig. 2). Subsequent work in the southeastern quadrat was designated Sub-Operation K, and that in the northwest quadrat Sub-Operation L; a 2 m wide trench eastwards 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, east and west sides, and then on the south also; 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 found to vary from 1.2 to 1.5 m in thickness. To the east of it the basal terrace of Structures 18 and 19 passed close but at a divergent angle: the terrace lay on azimuth 120°, Structure 20 on azimuth 170°.

After stripping humus and defining the walls and patio in the northeast and southwest quadrats, the collapse masonry on the exterior was removed, revealing a broad lower plinth which formed the base of Structure 20, no more than 25 cm high and 40-50 cm deep to the base of the upper wall courses. The southwest exterior angle was badly disturbed. In the northwest corner of Sub-Operation C the south jamb of the entrance was found consisting of three stones ranging from 21 to 63 cm in length and 8 to 16 cm in height (Fig. 3). Some of the wall stones in the collapse layer were quite large - large enough to have spanned the entire wall width. No vault stones were found, and the amount of collapse indicated that the wall could not have been more than 1 m high - a dwarf wall similar to that used in Structures 139 and 141. A plaster floor (Plaza Unit 6) was found to about the plinth on the west, and to immediately overlie another floor, Plaza Unit 3, which was later found to underlie the whole of Structure 20 and thus antedate it. Both floors are yellow-white in colour, hard but thin, and with a bedding layer of very soft grey-brown powdery soil (decomposed plaster?); they are quite fragmentary and are discontinuous away from the walls of Structure 20. Interior plaster floor fragments were also located abutting the inner faces of the walls, but destroyed further out. In the patio area the plaster floor underlies the patio stones.

When the structural features of the northeast and southwest quadrats were exposed (Fig. 4), we decided to excavate the rest of the inner patio and the north side of the entrance. Two opposing 2.5 by 3 m areas were laid out to encompass the remainder of the patio and a narrow strip north of the centreline was removed in the northwest quadrat. The northern jamb was badly disturbed, as was the south portion of the patio where only a few portions of plaster flooring running under the stone facing were found. The exposed walls were cleaned in search of postholes, but none were found; this suggests that the posts supporting the roof were built into the upper wall during construction, making for a rather weaker superstructure than that found to have existed on Structures 139 and 141.

Sub-Operation K was opened as a 5 by 5 m area (1) to locate more of the trash deposit outside the east wall which had been encountered and sampled in Sub-Operation G; (2) to locate any cache in front of Structure 19 which might aid in dating it and also to define the relationship between Structures 19 and 20; (3) to define clearly the southeast corner, interior and exterior, of Structure 20.

Excavation at the southeast exterior corner included the plaza area adjacent and in front of the centre 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 the plaza floor on 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 area between Structures 18 and 19), so use of Structure 19 coevally with that of Structure 20 must be considered.

When the horizontal stripping of Structure 20 was completed to these limits (Fig. 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 constructional 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 three-stone alignment of Unit 9 in Sub-Operation G was found to have been intruded through Plaza Unit 3, the floor underlying 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 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, which overlay limestone bedrock. East of Structure 20 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 posited relationship between the two buildings. The lower floor (Plaza Unit 1) seen in the patio 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 fills 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 plinth 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 animal and insect burrowing, but the saddle 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 18 and 19, a trash deposit was found in which the pottery was both slightly earlier than, and overlapping in date, that found in the dump behind Structure 20. Some sherds in the upper layers of the former deposit joined with others from the Structure 20 dump; the lower layers contained stoneware 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) corner caches, (4) axial caches in front, in the entrance or in the patio, (5) burials on the centreline, and (6) primary deposits elsewhere in the structures. Only (1) and (2) were found, of which the eastern exterior dump 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-Early Postclassic period. The construction is not firmly dated apart from being post-Late 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 pedestalled 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 west to east either by the collapse of the

east wall or by human agency. Slateware, Peten type (Tepeu 3) and double-mouthed jar sherds were found in the deposit, as well as fragments of a serpentine palette and cracked and burned human bones, including a jaw containing filed teeth; these last may be seen as evidence of cannibalism; similar patterns are present in Terminal Classic Tikal (William R. Coe, personal communication).

Excavation at the southeast corner of Structure 20 (Sub-Operation K) produced a Puuc Slate tripod bowl with *tau* feet, found on the plinth. Part of a greater bowl combining Mama Red type nubbin feet with a Cameron Incised form was also found, as well as a Thin Slate bowl, large striated *olla* fragments, a bark beater, a clay spindle whorl, and many *mano/metate* fragments, some of which fit fragments from Sub-Operation G. A redslipped jar was reconstructed 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.

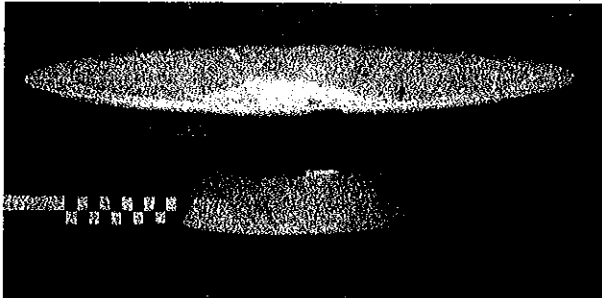


Fig. 9: "Chalice" of San Jose V type, reconstructed from sherds dumped behind Structure 20. The light area within the orange-brown is intentional fire-clouding.

The interior of the building produced a fire-cracked *metate* 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 southeast corner a reconstructable striated 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 dump with Structure 20 and not Structures 18 or 19 and also indicating breakage in the patio area. The northern entrance jamb excavation yielded the basal part of a slateware cylinder vase of Ticul Thin-slate: Ticul variety (Ball 1977, Fig. 14d); more of this vessel probably lies in the unexcavated northwest quadrat, 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: Use 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 overlying Plaza Unit 3.
- T.S. 1: Activity prior to construction, including the construction of Plaza Unit 3 and material below it; 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 suggests 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 sherds 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 building of hollow-square plan, 17 m square with a central patio 3 by 2.5 m. The building post-dates 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 condition. An upper plaza floor abutted the west side of Structure 20. The walls and 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 painted stucco, and a possible stucco adorno 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 removal of the wall; this was not done. There is a close correspondence in terms of architectural technique, style and material with Nohmul Structures 139 and 141.

The bedding for the interior floor was mainly of irregular limestone blocks and marl; it had at one time been completely plastered over, but the surface remained 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 were coeval. Material from the refuse and the collapse suggest that the latest use was primarily domestic, based on the presence of utilitarian pottery and *mano/metate* fragments, and dated to the Terminal Classic/Early Postclassic 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, several vessels were smashed inside it, 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' buildings of Chichén Itzá (Ruppert 1943, 1950, 1955), roughly square in plan with central patio and a frontal colonnaded gallery; any such gallery at Nohmul must have been solely of timber. The Chichén Itzá gallery-patio structures date to the Early Postclassic 'Toltec' period of 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 Belize (Ball 1974; Hammond 1974). A related question is the extent to which the slate-wares in northern Belize are a local development, and how far they are Yucatan-inspired (Hammond 1973, 46); the local affinities are most obviously with San Jose V (Thompson 1939), a site further south up the Rio Hondo drainage. The final question is a chronological one: can we see the Terminal Classic and the Early Postclassic in northern Belize as being essentially the same actual period in time, defined elsewhere by varying criteria which provide an apparent separation and succession that may be, in truth, illusory?

Acknowledgments

Funds for the 1978 Corozal Project were provided by grants to N.H. from the Trustees of the British Museum, the Research Committee of the British Academy, the Crowther-Beynon Fund of the University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge University, and the Research Council of Rutgers University. Mrs. Chase was aided personally by the Department of Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania.

We acknowledge especially the assistance in the field of Arlen F. Chase, who shared the position and duties of site director with D.Z.C., and who has been partly responsible for the drawings used herein and for study of the excavated material. The help of Basilio Ah, Mark Hodges, Jill Mulholland and Priscilla Wegars of the Cueillo Project is also gratefully acknowledged. The aerial photograph, Figure 4, was taken during a helicopter reconnaissance provided by H. H. Forces in Belize; photo-

graphs were printed by Mr. Don Naunton at Cambridge University.

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Zusammenfassung: Ausgrabung der Struktur 20 in Nohmul (siehe auch *mexicon* III, 3:42-44). Die Ausgrabungsarbeiten im Jahre 1978 legten ein quadratisches Gebäude frei, dessen Seitenlängen jeweils 17 m betragen. Es besaß ein zentrales Patio und an der westlichen Seite einen Eingang. Die Kalksteinwände waren auf einer Bodenplatte mit einer Höhe von etwa einem Meter errichtet worden. Der obere Teil der Wände muß aus vergänglichem Material bestanden haben, doch Pfostenlöcher konnten nicht entdeckt werden. Keramik, die innerhalb des Gebäudes sowie auf einem großen Abfallplatz dahinter gefunden wurde, läßt das Gebäude in die Zeit um 900 n. C. plus/minus 150 Jahre (Ende der Klassik, frühe Postklassik) datieren. Es gibt enge Beziehungen zum "San José V-Komplex" im zentralen Belize. Die Architektur reflektiert ähnliche Architekturmuster in Chichén Itzá. (Die Autoren glauben, daß damit die These yukattekischen Einflusses auf dieses Gebiet gestützt werden könnte. Allerdings ist ein Umkehrschluß ebenso möglich, da die Patio-Bauweise ein früher datierbarer Baustil in Teotihuacán war. Die Red.)

Resumen: Excavación de la estructura 20 en Nohmul (vea también *mexicon* III, 3:42-44). Los trabajos de excavación del año 1978 dejaron al descubierto un edificio cuadrado, cuyos lados median 17 m cada uno. Poseía un patio central y en el lado Oeste una entrada. Las paredes de piedra caliza fueron levantadas sobre una placa de fondo y a una altura de un metro aproximadamente. La parte superior de las paredes debe haber sido construida con material frágil; no obstante, 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 detrás, 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 muestras arquitectónicas similares en Chichén Itzá. (Los autores opinan que con ello se apoyaría la tesis sobre influencias yucatecas en esta región. Sin embargo, también es posible la posición contraria pues el estilo de construcción del patio es un estilo arquitectónico temprano en Teotihuacán. La red.)

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Die Redaktion behält sich vor, Diskussionsbeiträge gekürzt zu veröffentlichen.

DAS ANTLITZ TLALOC'S

Funde am Haupttempelbezirk

Eine Ergänzung zu "mexicon", Vol. III, Nr. 6, Abb. 2 auf Seite 101

Ulf Bankmann, Berlin

Als Beispiel aus der Vielzahl neuer Funde im Haupttempelbezirk von Mexiko-Tenochtitlan ist dem Bericht über die jüngsten Grabungen (Broda 1982) die Abbildung eines Steingefäßes mit dem Antlitz Tlaloc's beigelegt worden. Andere Tlaloc-Gefäße und -Gesichter aus Stein und Ton, teils polychrom gefaßt, wurden auf der Pariser Ausstellung gezeigt, die eine Reihe von Objekten gleicher Provenienz erstmals in Europa vorstellte (Mexique... 1981:56-59, Nrn. 4-8 sowie Farbabb. auf dem Umschlag). Aus den Katalogangaben läßt sich lediglich ersehen, daß die Gefäße und Kopfskulpturen verschiedenen Ofrendas entstammen.

Dies gibt den Anlaß, daran zu erinnern, daß bereits am 16. Oktober 1900 in der Calle de las Escalerillas eine "Kugel aus Tezontle, mit dem Gesichte und der Reihfederkronen (*autatsontli*) des Regengottes Tlaloc" zutage kam (Abb. 1. Seler 1904:855, Abb. 56) sowie unweit davon am 26. Oktober 1900 ein zweiter Tlaloc-Kopf aus gleichem Material (Seler 1904:870, Abb. 69). Die Skulptur Abb. 1 war nach Batres (1902:26, cf. auch Abb. p. 27) 12 cm hoch, der zweite Tlaloc-Kopf (Batres 1902:33) 20 cm. Wiederum im Haupttempelbezirk, an der Nordostseite der Kathedrale, haben im Jahre 1966 Eduardo Contreras S. und Jorge Angulo V. eine reiche Ofrenda aufgedeckt, unter deren 116 Objekten sich ein 19,3 cm hohes Steingefäß aus Tezontle mit Tlaloc-Gesicht befand (Castillo Tejero/Solís Olguín 1975:45, Läm. XXIV. Über die Ofrenda allgemein: Angulo V. 1966).

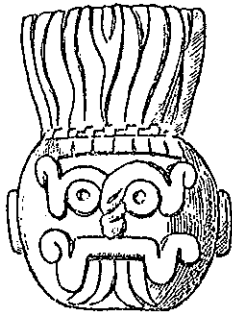


Abb. 1: Nach Seler 1904:855, Abb. 56

In der bildnerischen Gestaltung ist als nächste Parallele zu dem in "mexicon" publizierten Neufund außer einem der in Paris gezeigten Stücke (Mexique... 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 Lukas Vischer ins Basler Museum gelangte (Abb. 2. Cf. auch Baer o.J.: 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.

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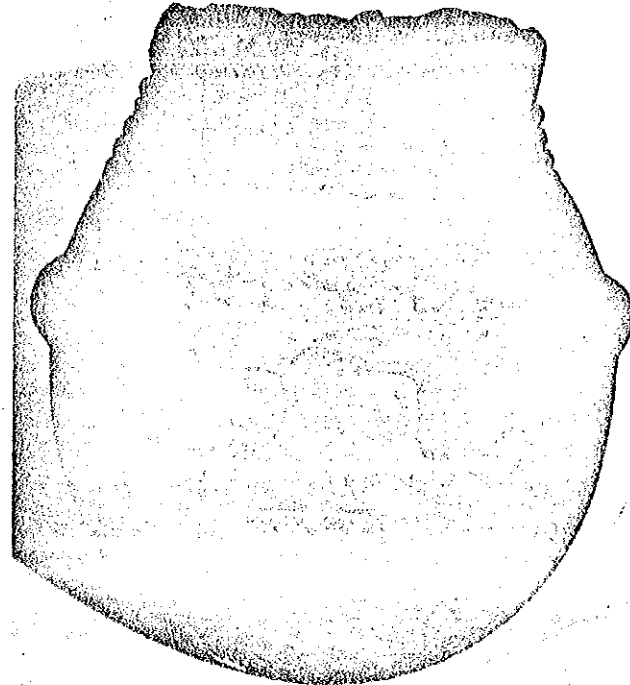


Abb. 2: MfV Basel, Stg. Vischer, IVb 622

A COMMENT TO "EXCAVATION OF NOHMUL STRUCTURE 20"

Diane Z. Chase, Department of Anthropology University of Pennsylvania

Nohmul Structure 20 is 15.6 m square (not 17 m square) and is defined more precisely as a "patio-quad" rather than a "gallery-patio" (see A. Chase and D. Chase 1981; D. Chase and A. Chase 1982). The excavation and analysis of materials from both Nohmul 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 date 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 equation of Terminal Classic Nohmul with Toltec 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 Cepech, Sotuta, and Hocaba 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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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 emphasize 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 JADEITE AND PYRITES DISCOIDAL ORNAMENT FROM EL SALVADOR

Stanley H. Boggs

During excavations at the small archaeological site of Loma China, near Estanzuelas, Usulután 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 funerary offerings.

These discs were unusual ornaments, unique among Salvadoran finds, and of a type apparently unreported elsewhere. Both consisted of essentially three parts:

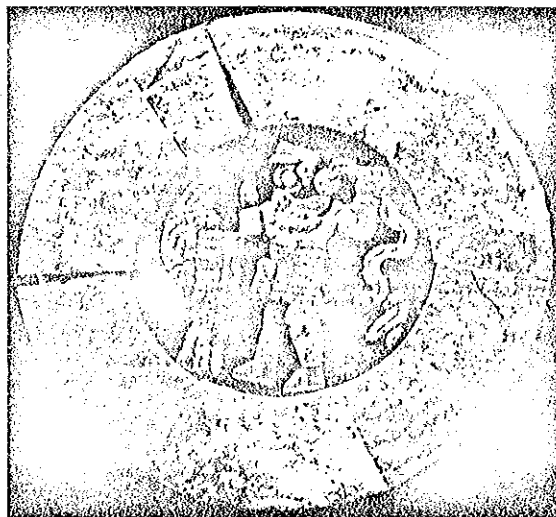
- 1) A discoidal backing, 2 mm. thick, of grey pottery;
- 2) A central, green jadeite and turquoise mosaic decoration representing a warrior or god in ceremonial dress holding a serpent with the left hand behind his body, and a kind of shield with cloth and feather portions with the right, in front. 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 plaques.

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

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 Tohil 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 firm 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 Toltec connection, inasmuch as building and stair foundations at Loma China closely resembled these features at Cihuatán, a great Pipil center of north-central El Salvador.



EINE MAYA-INSCHRIFT AUS TZIBANCHE, QUINTANA ROO, MEXIKO

Karl Herbert Mayer, Graz

In dem im Frühjahr 1980 neueröffneten 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 Herkunftsangabe "Tzibanché" trägt.

Aufgrund einer schriftlichen Mitteilung von María Rocío González de la Mata, von der Delegación Cancún, Centro Regional del Sureste des Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, (April 1981) wurde das Steinfragment von Patricio Dávila, dem früheren Delegado des Centro Regional del Sureste in Chetumal, im Jahre 1979 in den Ruinen von Tzibanché gefunden.

Die Maya-Ruinenstätte Tzibanché wurde im Jahre 1927 vom Briten Thomas Gann entdeckt (1927, 1928, 1935) und ist besonders wegen einer auf einem hölzernen Türsturz befindlichen kalendarischen Angabe bekannt geworden, welche von Sylvanus Morley (1956:351) dem frühen Spätclassikum zugewiesen wurde und möglicherweise dem Maya-Datum 9.9.5.0.0 (618 n. Chr.) entspricht. Im Gegensatz dazu interpretiert Tatiana Proskouriakoff das Datum vorläufig als 9.6.0.0.0 9 Ahau 3 Uayeb (in Harrison 1973:500), ein *Katun*-Ende im Frühclassikum (554 n. Chr.).

Ein weiteres Inschriftendokument aus Tzibanché, 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 Count* trägt, dessen Einhängung in das *Long Count*-Datum 10.4.0.0.0 (909 n. Chr.) sehr wahrscheinlich ist. Zusammen mit dem jüngst in Toniná 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 neu entdeckte Textfragment aus Tzibanché in Cancún ist im Museum in einer Vitrine ausgestellt. Es besteht aus drei zusammengeklebten Stücken aus Kalkstein und ist als Flachrelief gearbeitet. Aus formalen Gründen kann abgeleitet werden, daß vom originalen Monument nur die rechte vertikale Seite, welche einen schmalen Rand zeigt, als komplett gelten kann. Die verbliebenen Hieroglyphen sind teilweise kalendarischer Natur und lassen schlies-