

in 1892. A stairway leads from the court on the north side to a narrow landing in front of a thick wall in which a doorway gives access to a gallery which runs around the eastern, northern, and western sides. The southern side of the structure is broken away, and it is uncertain whether or not the gallery continued on that side. It was probably roofed, and it has a thick floor of cement. The inner chamber, separated from the gallery by thick walls, has a cement floor raised a foot above the floor of the gallery. Some of the blocks, forming the steps in the stairway already referred to, had been removed by some former visitor, disclosing a deep vault beneath.

The other members of this group seem to be oblong foundations of the pyramidal type, with casing in the form of steps, and apparently supported buildings of some kind.

Mound 36 was excavated in 1892. The following account is compiled from notes made by Mr. Owens:—

Before excavation the mound presented a very insignificant appearance. It was quite impossible to say exactly where the mound began and the general level of the Plaza ended; but approximately it was 130 feet long by 30 feet wide.

The slope of the mound rose very regularly from the sides and ends to the centre, where it was about 3½ feet high; its surface was covered with large cobble-stones.

The excavations revealed pieces of cemented floors, laid above a foundation of water-worn pebbles. On these, low walls were found, which did not appear ever to have supported roofs. Upon these floors were piled what appeared to be a heap of refuse mingled with cobble-stones and earth; large quantities of potsherds, obsidian knives, some whole pots, arrow-points, and remains of human skeletons were scattered throughout the entire mound. Among the potsherds are specimens of every quality of Copan pottery, from the roughest undecorated ware to that of the finest quality and workmanship. Some of the fragments are beautiful, and show a high degree of artistic merit.

The skeletons were so nearly destroyed that only a few fragments could be preserved. Ash beds were found at different points, and in them many bones of deer and other animals, as well as a number of bone implements.

Some of the bodies seemed to have been thrown indiscriminately among the refuse, while in other cases some attention would seem to have been given to burial rites. Of the first three skeletons only slight traces were found. The following is a list of such as were fairly well preserved, or of especial interest, with a description of each, and the conditions under which it was found.

Skeleton No. 4. Found at a depth of 5 feet; lying on left side, facing east; feet south; knees doubled to chin; hands near head. Some of the teeth were filed, and could be removed only in fragments. Nothing of interest was found with it.

No. 5. Depth, 4.5 feet; on left side, facing south; skull crushed, portions fairly well preserved, and very thick. Two of the teeth were filed. Some fragments of what seemed to be a child's skull were found with it, together with a small painted vase.

No. 8. Badly disintegrated; one tooth has a setting of green jade; two have lost similar settings, and two others are filed.

No. 13. Only a few fragments of the skull and bones were preserved. By the skull was a rude earthenware vase, and between the jaws were found several small disk-like jadeite beads.

No. 16. Apparently placed in a sitting posture; the legs almost upright, and the skull crushed down upon the pelvis. Near by was a small vase of dark brown color.

No. 17. Depth, 4 feet; skull badly decomposed; one of the teeth, which are very large, has a setting of jadeite.

No. 19. Depth, 3.9 feet; head to the west, lying on right side; hands at the head; skeleton almost entirely disintegrated, and few teeth could be found. At the feet were portions of a child's skeleton. With the skeleton were found eight perfect vases and part of another. Beneath the bones were ashes and charcoal, in which were found a jadeite bead, some obsidian knives, and a piece of antler. Above the skull were two flat stones supported by two rude stone walls, running east and west, one at either side of the skeleton.

No. 20. Depth, 4 feet; found associated with a number of bones of deer, and a single earthenware vessel.

No. 21. Depth, 3 feet; head toward the east; lying on the back; arms folded over chest, and knees doubled up above chest. The skeleton lay on a bed of burnt clay, surrounded by a row of large river stones.

No. 24. Almost entirely disintegrated; was surrounded by a row of large stones. It seems to be the skeleton of a child. Close to it was found a single vase.

Nos. 25 and 26. Below the walls of the structure. The bones of these two skeletons were intermixed. Two of the teeth of No. 25 had settings of green jade, and the bones are very large; a single bowl was found associated with the bones, and a piece of silicified charcoal about 9 inches long, which before being broken was nearly cylindrical, and 7 or 8 inches in diameter.

No. 27. Depth, 3.7 feet; appears to be the skeleton of a child, much destroyed; with it was found an obsidian knife and a shell.

No. 28. Depth, 3.5 feet; lying on right side, and doubled up. A few teeth were saved, which were covered with tartar. Under the head was found a jadeite bead, and beside the skeleton were five earthenware vessels of different shapes; two of these were decorated.

No. 29. Depth, 5.5 feet beneath floor of structure; only portions of the larger bones and three molars remained. There was no apparent form of grave, and no objects of any kind were found associated.

No. 30. Depth, 4 feet. Child's skeleton, of which very little remained; no form of grave, and no associated objects.

No. 31. Depth, 4.9 feet; head toward the north and turned on right side; rest of skeleton on back; cranium almost entirely destroyed, but jaws in fairly good condition. Just below the lower jaw in front, where the neck would be, was found a large jadeite ornament, 4 inches long. It was pierced longitudinally, and lay as it would if suspended from the neck. Near the head was an earthenware bowl.

No. 32. Depth, 3 feet; fragmentary remains of a child's skeleton; two jadeite beads, a shell disk, and a number of small shell beads were found with it; no form of tomb.

No. 33. Depth, 4.2 feet; head toward the southeast; lay on left side with left hand under head; bones in a fair condition; no form of tomb.

No. 36. Depth, 5 feet; head toward the east; very little of the bones remained, but the teeth were in a fair condition; the two inner incisors (upper) filed and ornamented with little disks of jadeite set into cavities made in front, as in the case of others mentioned.

The group of unexplored mounds, comprising Nos. 37 to 40 inclusive, presents the appearance of large rough heaps of stones and debris. They probably represent buildings of the usual type with pyramidal foundation.

Immediately to the southeast of this last group is another group, consisting of Nos. 41, 43, 44, 45, and a few small mounds, which look like rounded heaps of water-worn pebbles. Of this group, No. 41 has been partly explored. When the outer walls had been cleared, the structure turned out to be a long, low building, with a number of small chambers, each having a separate entrance from a narrow platform, reached by a flight of three steps in the centre, running along the west side which faces the court. The northern chamber is divided from the rest of the house by a gallery which connects the platform in front with the smaller one at the back. None of the chambers have ever been cleared out. On the eastern side, which may be called the back, a platform occupies a little more than half the length at the southern end. It is terminated at the north by a wall, which abuts the building at right angles and runs to the east. To the south of the wall are two pits, about five feet deep, sunk beneath the level of the pavement and walled with stone. In these pits were found what appears to be the remains of fireplaces, and a large quantity of broken pottery. The largest of these pits was 32 by 40 feet. If they ever had walls above them, these must have been of some other material than stone.

Mound No. 43 shows distinctly the remains of a stone house above its pyramidal foundation, with slopes in the form of steps. A stairway leads from the court on the southern side. The character of the other mounds in the group is not so apparent.

Somewhat less than a mile from here, in a southerly direction, the river turns rather abruptly and flows to the west. The intervening plain, to within five hundred yards (approximately) of the river, is covered with the remains of stone houses, arranged for the most part in groups in a manner similar to those just described. Among these are found a number of sculptures, including portrait-like heads and grotesques. None of these mounds have been explored, and very little can be said about them. They continue in a westerly direction for more than a mile to the edge of the plain, but never approach any nearer the river.

To the northeast of the Main Structure the ground rises about two hundred yards from the river bank in the form of a terrace which, approximating the direction of the course of the river, continues some distance up the stream. The ground between this line and the river has no remains, but the higher ground is covered with ruins which have not been explored. To the northwest of the Plaza, extending as far as the foot-hills of the mountains, is a larger group of mounds buried in a dense thicket. To the west of the Main Structure is another large group, or number of groups, occupying almost all the plain between the Main Structure and the modern village of Copan,—a distance of about a mile and a half. Among these are to be seen many scattered fragments of sculpture, particularly in the vicinity of two mounds occupying central positions in their respective groups, and conspicuous for their great size.

At a distance of more than half a mile to the north, near the river, is another prominent group hidden in the thicket. One mound, standing at the southern end of a courtyard in which are several pieces of sculpture, is particularly noticeable.

Scattered remains are to be seen along the course of the river as far up as the modern village of Sante Rita, a distance of eight or nine miles. Among these different groups, and particularly numerous toward the extremities of the plain, are the remains of stone foundations, without any trace of superstructure. It seems probable that upon these stood wooden houses of which every trace has disappeared.

On the slopes of the foot-hills on the eastern side of the river are a number of ruined stone houses, and on the top of a table mountain, called Albonete, to the northeast, whence a fine view of the ruins is obtained, there are some scattered remains of stonework. On the slope of a mountain to the east, at a distance of 1.50 miles from the river, are the remains of a stone structure of some kind, and the fallen and broken Stela 12, with an inscription on each of its four sides. 2.75 miles to the west is a mountain peak commanding a splendid view of the whole valley; on its summit is Stela 10, fallen and broken; this is similar to the one on the east. A line joining these two stelæ passes very close to the southern slope of the Main Structure (see line indicated by arrows *a b* on plan), and bears N. 86° 46' west (magnetic).*

The quarries from which the stone was taken for the monuments and buildings are in a ridge to the northwest. The rock is a trachyte, and outcrops along the ridge in abrupt ledges. Deep excavations are to be seen, and large quantities of chips and flakes are found, together with some quarried blocks. Several detached stelæ are found at different points of the valley. They are all fallen and broken, and much less elaborate and striking in appearance than those in the great Plaza.

So far no regular burying-place has been found at Copan, but a number of isolated tombs have been explored. Two were found just south of the Main Structure, under the surface of a level court (see plan), one under the steps of Mound 32, some in the level valley farther south, and others to the northeast and to the northwest. At different parts of the ruins, tombs were found under the steps of what would seem to be ruined houses.

Those found in the open plain were marked by scarcely perceptible elevations in the general level of the ground. In each case loose building stones were strewn around, but they had more the appearance of having been left there by the masons after the work was finished than of having formed any structure above the surface. The tombs are small chambers or vaults built of cut stone beneath the surface of the ground, and covered with slabs of stone laid across them. These latter are sometimes on a level with the ground, or at a slight elevation above it, and sometimes several feet below. There are usually several niches in the interior of the walls. The following account of these tombs, explored in 1892, is taken from reports of M. H. Saville and J. G. Owens:—

"Tomb 1, situated 90 feet south of the Main Structure, and about the same distance east from Mound 36, in an open court, consists of a large chamber, lying

* The magnetic declination at Copan was found to be 6° east.