

good state of preservation; it was raised to its former position by Owens and Saville in 1891, when it was moulded and photographed for the first time. The four sides of this stela are shown on Plate VII.

Stela 7, which lies in the bush to the west of the modern village, is fallen and broken. It was moulded and photographed in 1893. The face, which consists of a full-length figure, is very much broken, and no mould was made of it. The other three sides are covered with hieroglyphs.

Stela 8 was found by Mr. Owens in 1893, lying in the bush to the northwest of the modern village. It seems to have stood upright, supported on either side by two other stones of an equal size with it, but lying flat.

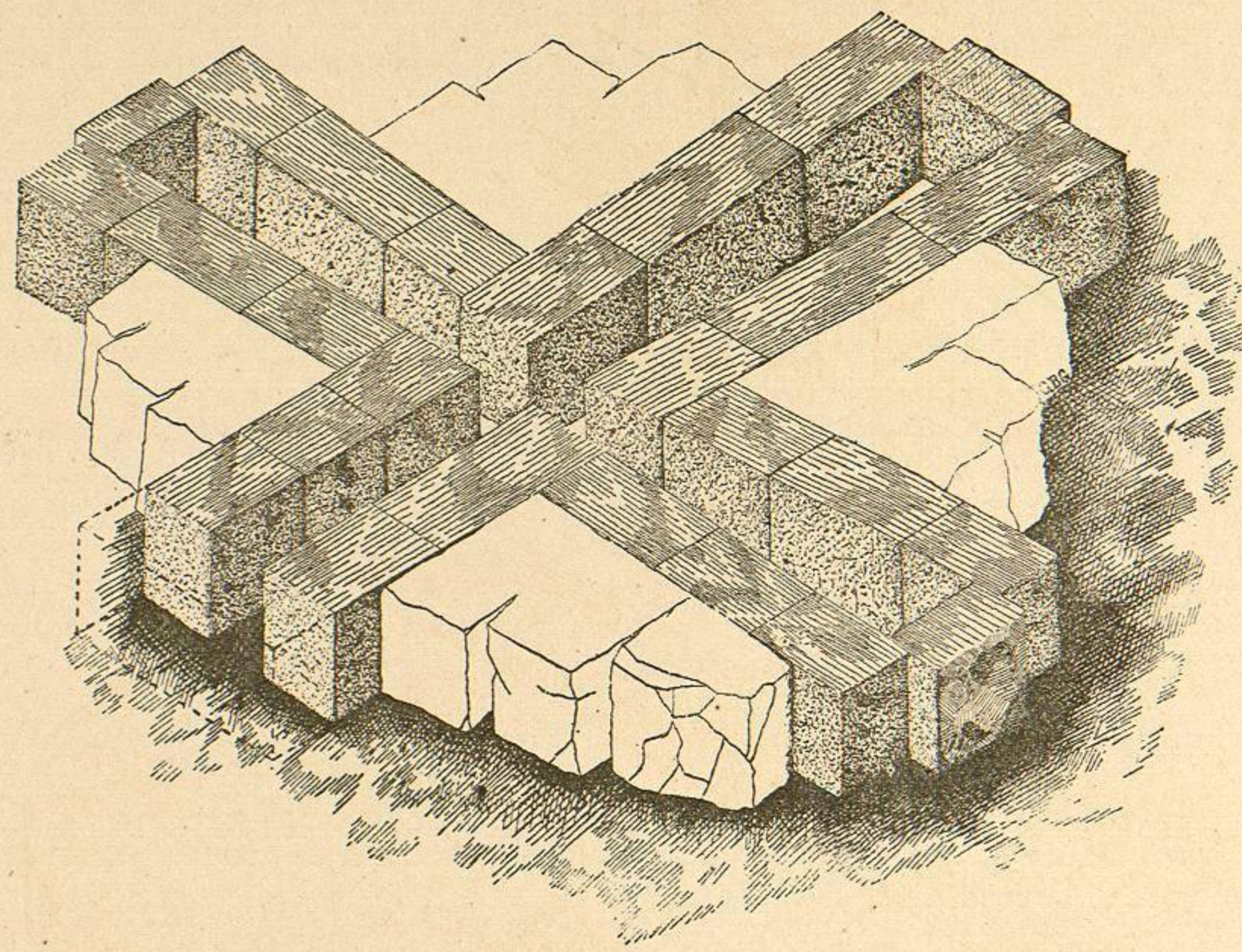


FIG. 5.—VAULT UNDER STELA C. Isometric projection. Scale 1 inch = 3 feet.

One of these (9) had originally hieroglyphs on all four sides, — two of these sides being well preserved, while the others are almost totally destroyed. The same is true of 8.

An excavation was made by Owens beneath the place where these were found, but it revealed nothing except a few rough stone beads. Moulds were made of both stones.

Stela 5 stood near Stela 6, but is fallen and broken in many pieces; it had a full-length figure on either side, and in front of each was an altar with an inscription, now almost totally destroyed.

A small cylindrical column, dug up in 1892 in the passage to the east side of Pyramid 16, and called Stela 11, has on one side a full-length figure, with the face turned in profile. The marked manner in which the forehead recedes amounts to deformity; the nose is large and aquiline; the

teeth and lips projecting, and the chin bearded. A large double plume attached to the headdress extends behind the figure, and a winged scroll derived from the head of the "plumed serpent" extends in front, another above, and a third at the side of the head. This figure and the associated symbolism occupy three-fourths of the surface of the stone; the other fourth is covered with a hieroglyphic inscription (Plate VIII).

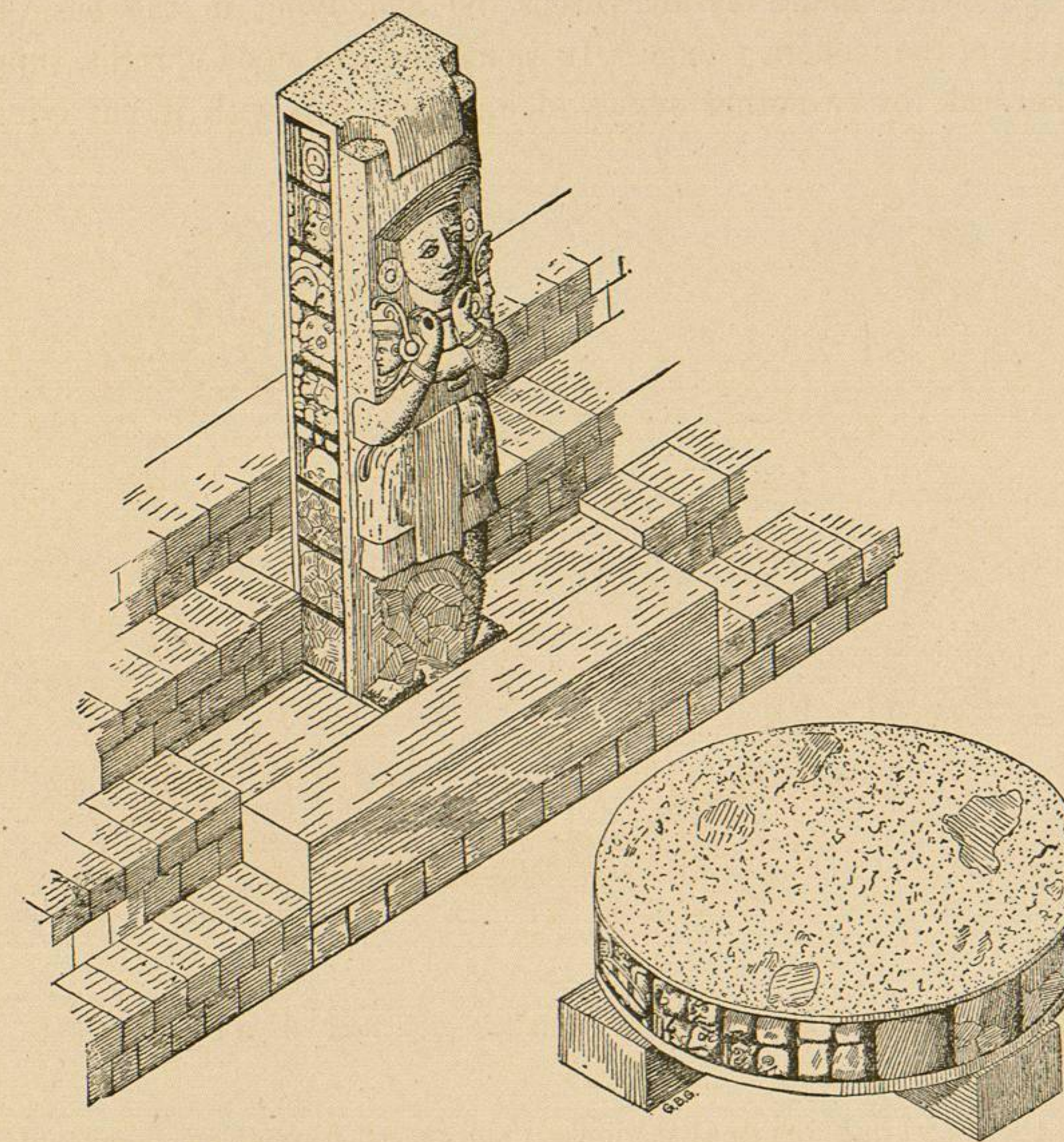


FIG. 6.—STELA 1, AND ALTAR (restored), showing position of Stela in Stairway of Mound 9.

The second class of monoliths, called altars, take two characteristic forms. The most conspicuous form represents in each case some fanciful and grotesque animal, or else each side of the altar presents a grotesque face after some conventional type. The decoration is usually very elaborate; but in some cases the design is quite simple, as in Fig. 7, an altar lying to the west of Stela C. The body resembles a turtle, although the lines do not correspond in direction to those on a turtle's back, but run diagonally. The edge is almost a perfect circle, 7 feet in diameter; the under side is flat, the top

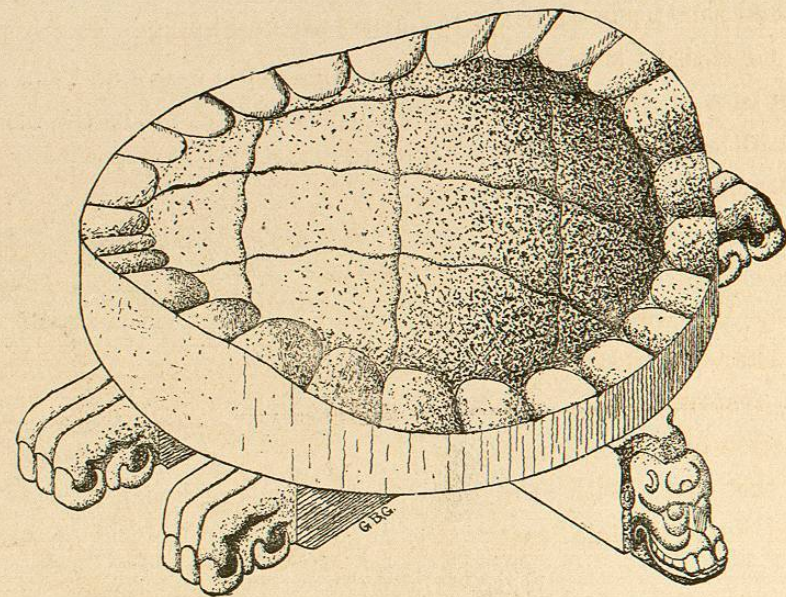


FIG. 7. — ALTAR OF STELA C (restored).

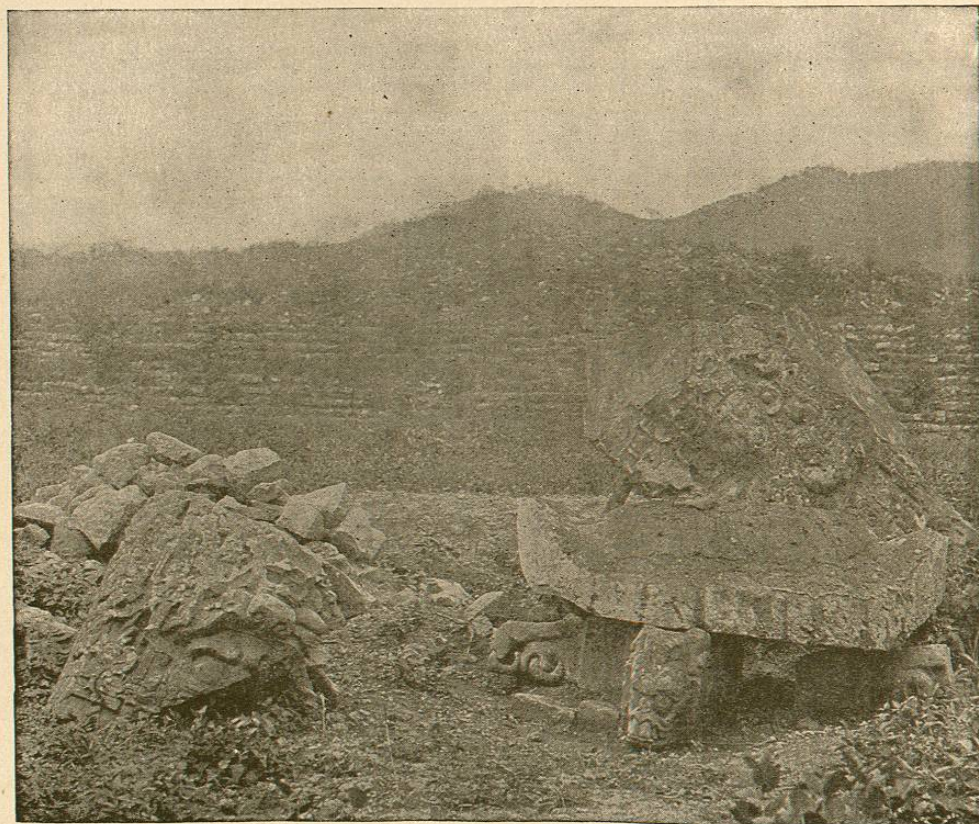


FIG. 8. — ALTAR OF STELA C, WITH FALLEN STELA BEHIND IT.

rounded towards the centre, and raised at both sides over the legs. The head and claws are cut from separate pieces of stone, the former being the usual conventional Death's head, while the claws are unfamiliar. It faces the west, but near the eastern side some fragments of a grotesque head were noticed, which in all probability formed a second head on the animal, facing towards the stela. Fig. 7 is from a drawing by Mr. Gordon showing the altar in detail with the parts restored. Fig. 8 is a reproduction of a photograph showing the altar with the fallen and broken stela east of it.



FIG. 9. — FRONT OF SCULPTURE Z.

The other form of altar is a flat circular stone, sometimes as much as 7 feet in diameter; the top is plain, but the cylindrical edge has one or more rows of glyphs running around it (Fig. 6).

There is still another class of monoliths which have also been designated as altars, and sometimes as tables. They are square or oblong blocks of stone with flat tops, and seldom exceed two feet in height; they are usually carved on the four sides, and sometimes on top, either with an inscription or some other design. Most of these have been described by Maudslay.

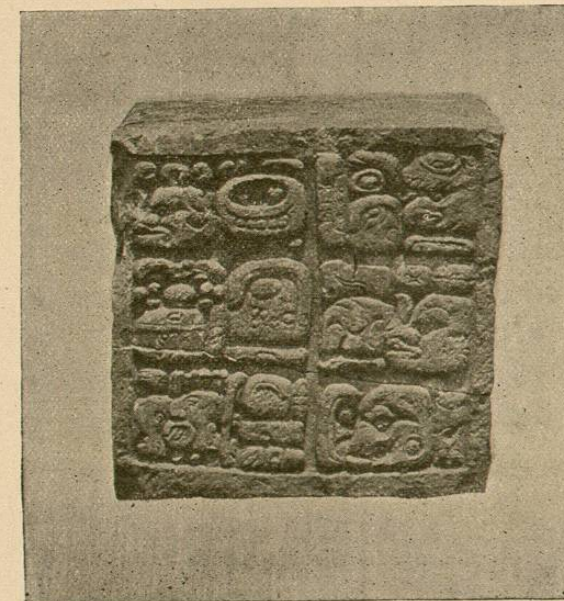


FIG. 10. — BACK OF SCULPTURE Z.

Altar L, mentioned on page 20, is 3.7 feet square and 2.6 feet high; on one side is a design in medium relief representing two seated human figures with a vertical row of glyphs between them. A drawing of this side is given by Maudslay on Plate 73; but he makes no mention of the opposite side, which is more

weather-worn, but retains the outlines of a similar design only partially executed. The other two sides and the top are plain, which is unusual; and it is probable that the sides at least were to be carved.



FIG. 11. — SIDE OF SCULPTURE Z.

Somewhat resembling these altars, are several sculptures, of which Z, discovered in April, 1893, upon elevation between the Eastern and Western courts, is 2½ feet high; the top, which is plain, measures 18 × 22 inches. The front (Fig. 9) is a grotesque face; the back (Fig. 10) and sides (Figs. 11, 12) are covered with glyphs.

Sculpture Y was dug up in the Plaza, near Stela 4, in 1894. It was entirely buried, and seems to have been placed in its underground position to support the stela. The design of this sculpture seems to represent a square bundle tied with flat bands. One band, passing across the top and down the ends, divides the stone lengthwise; another similar band divides it crosswise, and two others parallel to this encircle it near either end. Each of the latter, at the point where it crosses the longitudinal band on top, is tied in a knot. On either of the longer edges of the stone a band, running lengthwise, is tied in a knot at the centre; behind this band appear two figures wearing masks and facing each other; the right hand of each figure is raised and extended toward the other; on one of these sides a dragon's head appears in the design. On either of the shorter edges is an inscription divided into groups of four glyphs by the band that passes down the centre.



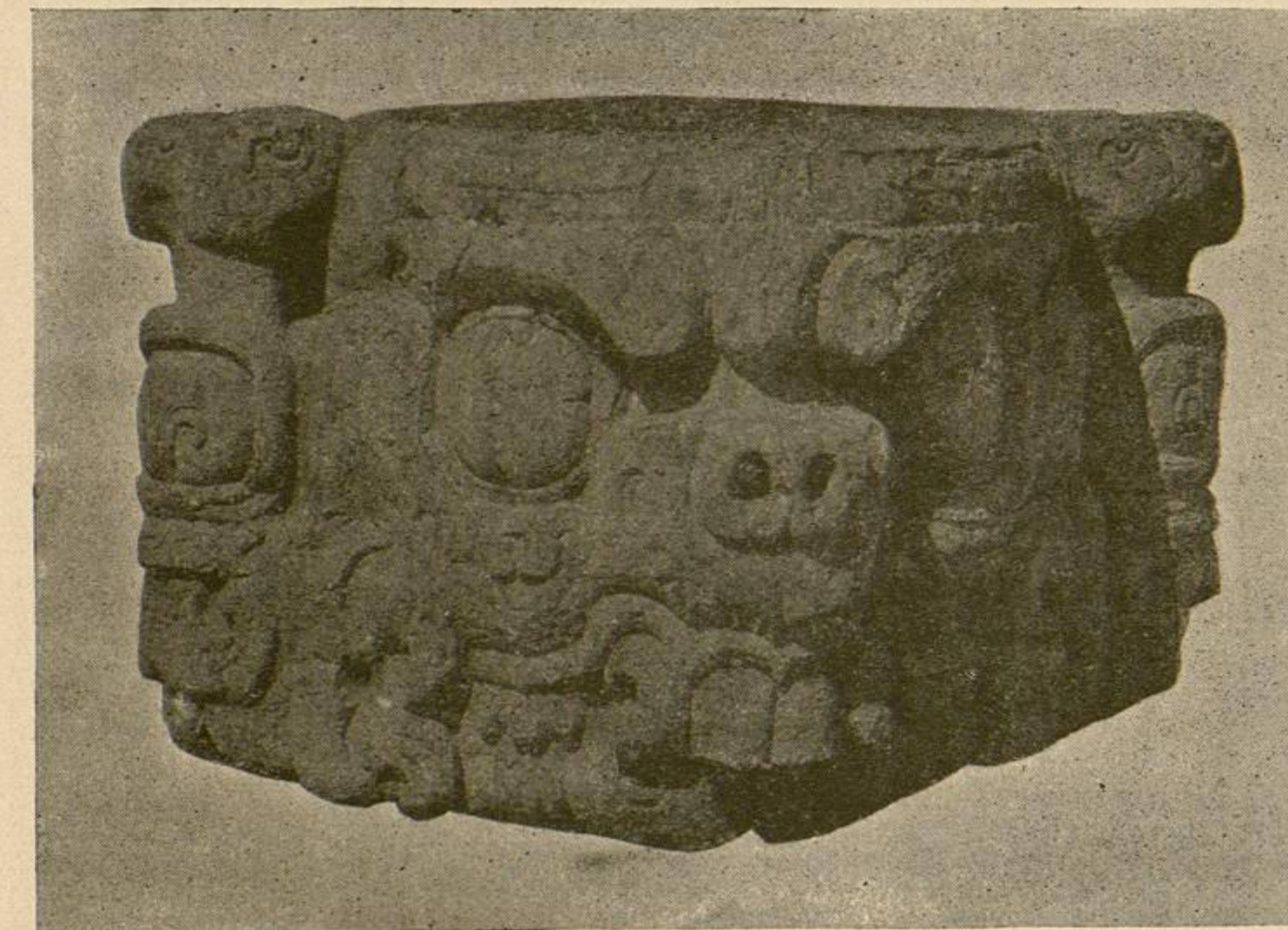
FIG. 12. — SIDE OF SCULPTURE Z.

Sculpture X was discovered in 1895 near the fallen Stela 5, of which it had formed the pedestal. The design is precisely the same as that of Y. This sculpture was also found beneath the pavement.

These two sculptures differ from those previously known at Copan; the relief is very low, the character of the sculpture is peculiar, and the design new. The stone itself seems older than that of any of the sculptures already known; it is more decomposed and readier to crumble. Both were buried not by accident, but by the people who set up the monuments with which they were found associated, and it would seem that they were consigned to these comparatively insignificant uses, when the use for which they were originally designed was no longer understood or appreciated.

Either they were obsolete relics of a former people or period, when these later monuments were being set up, or they were condemned as imperfect or undesirable sculptures.

The first theory seems the more plausible from the fact that nothing like them is found where it could possibly have been an object of use or ornament in the later days of the city's history.



ALTAR IN FRONT OF STELA D.