

In I are three restorations, one joint coming in the middle of the second glyph and one in the middle of the third. The other comes in the eighth glyph, this being the extreme right-end glyph on a step. The number expressed in glyphs 7 and 8 is 6.18.18.

In J there is one restoration in the fourth glyph, and in K there is one in the second glyph. J 4 a is 6 Cimi, and K 1 is ? Chicchan, in all probability, as has already been intimated. It is quite likely that there was an initial series made up of glyphs of the same character as those in K 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and it is not unlikely that O 6 is the Tun glyph belonging to this series, and O 7, of which only a fragment remains, the Uinal glyph. K 1 would be the day glyph, and the month glyph would come after a series of supplementary glyphs.

In R can be seen the beginnings of four initial dates.

On Plate XIII are additional fragments of the inscription. The fragment P seems to be a part of an initial date, and to read, 9th Cycle, 14th Katun. N is another fragment, possibly of the same initial date, although the block in N is somewhat thicker than that in P, and has a border along the bottom, which is wanting in the other fragment. As all of the steps found in position have this border at the bottom, it is conceivable that in fragments where it is absent it had been supplied by a thin slab of stone placed beneath, and this would make the fragment in P the same thickness as that in N. Since the plates were made I have discovered that the fragment shown on Plate XII, D, last fragment, should follow N on Plate XIII, giving the Kin sign, as shown in the drawing, Fig. 25, and the sequence reads: ? Tuns, 16 Uinals, and 5 Kins. If the fragment P belongs to the same sequence, we would have

9.14.?.16.5.

The fragment D has a number as follows: ? Kins, ? Uinals, 15 Tuns, and 1 Katun. In the third glyph is seen the symbol which Förstemann and others have called the Venus sign. Here it is enclosed in a cartouche and is accompanied by the number 7. It has the characteristics of a day sign, although the support underneath differs from that commonly associated with the day signs. It is probably 7 Lamat. Compare the head which precedes it with the heads preceding day signs on Plates V and VI, already pointed out.

In J is seen the date 8 Oc or Chicchan 3? There is little doubt the day is Oc and not Chicchan. It should be mentioned that some of the fragments on this plate are shown on a somewhat smaller scale than others.

On the fragment Q appears ? Ahau 18 Tzec.

It will readily be seen, by the foregoing inspection of the glyphs, that this inscription contains considerable chronological matter of some sort, embracing long periods of time; how many years we are not able to say because many of the dates are lost. Leaving aside all dates except those in that part of the stairway still in position, the lower part, which according to our estimates is not more than one-sixth of the whole inscription, there occur four initial dates in progressive chronological order, just as dates would occur in an historical record. According to the interpretations set down in these pages the second of these dates differs from the first by 2.18.12.5 = 17,525 = 48 years and 5 days (allowing 365 days to the year). The third date differs from the first by 3.15.5.4 = 27,104 = 74 years and 94 days. The third and last of these dates differs from the first by 2.7.10.2.9 = 342,049 = 937 years and 44 days.

Whether or not the initial dates in the preceding portions of the inscription led up in regular chronological order to the first of these (Date I), it seems impossible at present to determine with anything like assurance.

If by any chance this should prove to be the case, it is not inconceivable that the retrospect may have extended to an era as remote as that apparently denoted by Date VI in any one of the three earlier of the five readings given on page 32, an era which, however imaginary in its scenery, is well within the bounds contemplated by the time count and in every way consistent with the scope of the calendar in use among the Mayas.

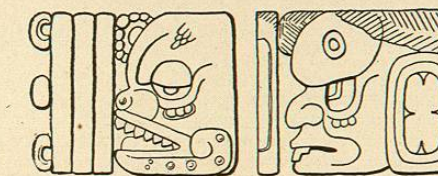


FIG. 25.

How near the beginning of the inscription Date VI was, it is not possible to say, but the great quantity of sculptures found *underneath* the landslip would seem to indicate that the part of the inscription where it occurs was well up towards the top of the stairway. The reasons have already been given for believing the date which presumably followed the "beginning glyph," on Plate XII, E 4 (Date V) to have preceded Date VI in position.

Each of the long inscriptions at Copan, and elsewhere, whether on stela, altar, temple walls, or steps, begins with an initial date which is regarded as the date on which the corresponding monument was erected or dedicated. It is impossible to tell whether the inscription on the Hieroglyphic Stairway began in the same way or not, but according to the same theory it may be inferred that the concluding date is the one that refers to the stairway itself, the date on which some ceremony connected with its completion or possibly the inauguration of the work was performed.

This makes the stairway, with one probable exception, the latest monumental work at Copan, which is not surprising, for the elaborate architecture, the evolution of the ornament, the finish of the sculpture, and the highly artistic quality of the glyphs, all seem to argue an advanced state of development. It may be a matter for some surprise that it should be separated from all the other monuments with known dates by so great a period of years. The next latest date is that on Stela N, which reads 54.9.16.10.0.0, and is therefore 730 years earlier than Date IV, or, to be exact, 266,329 days. The probable exception referred to is Stela C, Copan, which has on the south side an inscription having a date which would seem to be not far removed from Date IV, and it is not unlikely that when the dates on Stela C are understood, this monument will be found to belong to the same period as the Hieroglyphic Stairway. The two monuments have certain technical affinities in the carving, as though they might have been the work of the same master.

Next to Stela N the latest date is that on Stela M, which is 54.9.16.8.0.0, making the stela about 5 years older than Stela N. From its association with the stairway, one would be led to suppose that this stela belonged to the same period, but it appears otherwise. It would seem to have stood in front of the older edifice, that served at last as a foundation for the Hieroglyphic Stairway with its temple, for centuries before the latter was built.

The centre of the stairway was located with special reference to the position of Stela M, but this may have been for architectural effect entirely, or with this end in view, Stela M may have been moved at the time the stairway was built. Anyway, it is not necessary to suppose that the erection of the one had anything to do with that of the other. What we must suppose is that a long period of comparative inactivity elapsed between the setting up of Stelæ M and N on the one hand, and the erection of the Stairway and (presumably) Stela C on the other hand.

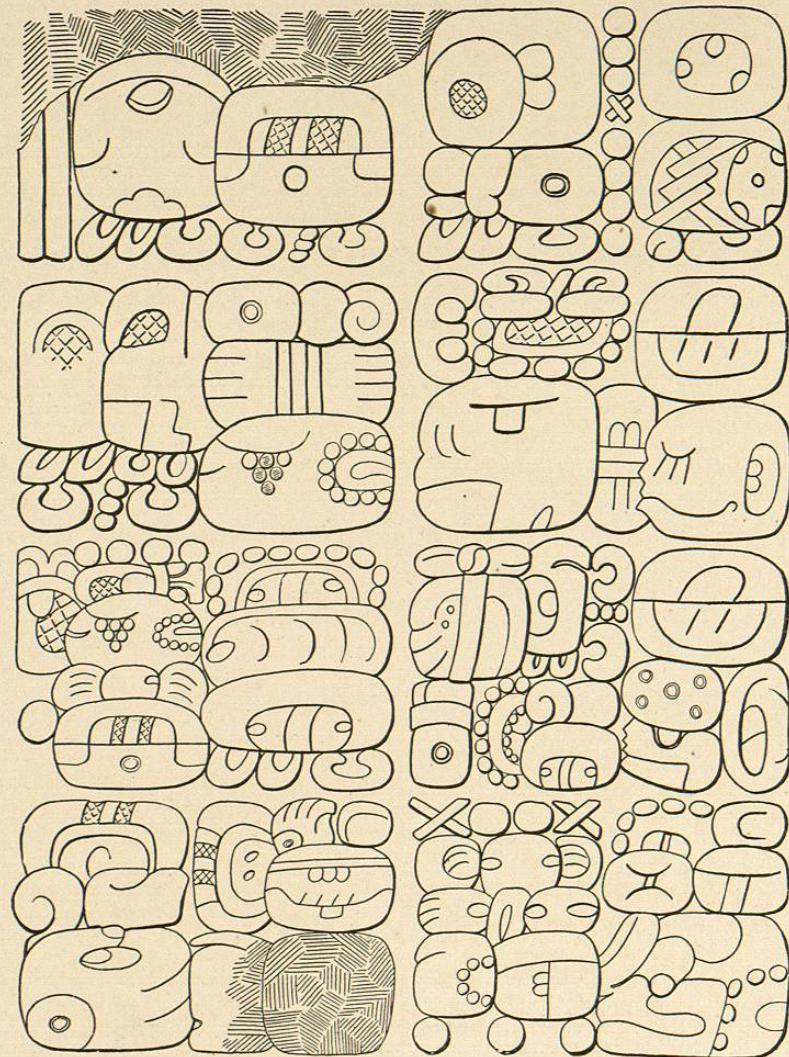


FIG. 26.—INSCRIPTION ON A SMALL STONE PILLAR FROM COPAN.

INDEX TO VOLUME I.

[After page 48, the end of the first memoir, the pagination of the volume is at the bottom of the page.]

- Adams, Henry, 52, 76
 Agave fiber, instrument for preparing, Labna, 83, 84
 Ahau, day sign, 170-184
 Akalches, natural basins, Uxmal, 79
 Alamo tree, Labna, 84
 Albonete Mountain, Copan, 29
 Alluvial strata, on banks of Uloa, 99, 100
 Alta Vera Paz, Guatemala, 112
 Altars, Copan, general description, 23, 33; Altar Q, 15; L, 20, 41; of Stela 1, 39; of Stela C, 40; of Stela D, 43; of Stela M, 164; of the Hieroglyphic Stairway, 157, 158 (see plan of Ruins following page 48)
 Alvarado, 127 (*note*)
 American Antiquarian Society, 4
 American Museum of Natural History, iv, 117
 American Philosophical Society, 31
 Ames, Frederick L., iv, 52, 76
 Amory, Charles W., iv
 Anderson, J. T., 7
 Andrew, John F., 52, 76
 Animal, Grottesque, sculptured, Copan, 39, 164
 Animal, mythological, as whistle, Uloa, 114, 115
 Animal bones, ruins of Copan, 14, 26, 31; caverns of Copan, 141, 147; Loltun, 60, 61, 66; Labna, 82-91
 Animal figures, in stucco, Labna, 82; in painted pottery, Uloa, 122-125
 Animal heads, in terra-cotta, Labna, 82, 87-90; Uloa, 115; in stone, Copan, 167
 Animals, interment of, 24
 Antiquity of the ruins of Copan, 10, 151; of the caverns of Copan, 146
 Arch, characteristic, of Central America and Yucatan, 30
 Arches, Copan, 12, 17, 32
 Archaeological Museum at Cambridge, England, 5
 Artistic development, Copan, 26, 30, 36; Uloa, 111-125, 130
 Ash beds in mound, 36; Copan, 26
 Avila, Gil Gonzales de, 126 (*note*), 127 (*note*)
 Baboon, black, in Uloa valley, 108
 Ball Court Temple at Chichen Itza, 167
 Ball of calcite crystal, Labna, 89
 Balustrade, Hieroglyphic Stairway, Copan, 159
 Barbasco, vine used in native method of fishing, Uloa, 109
 Bark cloth, implement used in manufacture, Uloa, 111
 Barricades, Cave of Loltun, 54, 55
 Base or pedestal, of stelæ, at Copan, 35
 Bead, crystal, Labna, 82
 Beads, bone, Labna, 82
 " burnt clay, Loltun, 61, 68
 " crystalline limestone, Uloa, 105
 " iron pyrites, Loltun, 70
 " jadeite, Copan, 13, 21, 24, 27, 30, 37; Loltun, 68; Labna, 85; Uloa, 126
 " lime cement, Labna, 82-91
 " shell, Labna, 82-89
 " stone, Copan, 24, 38; Loltun, 66; Labna, 88, 89
 " terra-cotta, Labna, 83, 88
 Bed of the Uloa, 99
 Beds of trachyte in Copan, 139
 Beetle in terra-cotta, Labna, 89
 Berlin Museum, 118
 Bird, in stucco, 84; in effigy, 86; in form of whistles, 91, 114; handles of vases, 123; symbol, 159, 161, 167
 Bishop Las Casas, 126 (*note*)
 Blake, Francis, iv
 Blake, Stanton, 52, 76
 Bogran, General Louis, President of Honduras, 5
 Bone, fragments, polished, Copan, 15
 Bone awls, Loltun, 66
 Bone beads, Labna, 82
 Bone implements, Copan, 26; Loltun, 66; Labna, 82
 Bone needles, Copan, 13, 30; Loltun, 66, 68
 Bone ring, Labna, 83
 Bones (see Human bones and Animal bones)
 Bowditch, Charles P., iv, 5, 6, 51, 52, 76, 96, 152, 168, 175
 Bowditch, Ernest W., 52, 76, 96
 Bowditch, J. Ingersoll, 52, 76
 Brimmer, Martin, iv
 Brinton, Daniel G., 146
 British Museum, 3
 Buildings, Copan, 50, 13-15; 19, 16
 Building material, Copan, 19-21, 23, 26, 29, 34, 35, 131, 139, 153, 163; Labna, 75, 81
 Bullfrog, form of whistle, Uloa, 113
 Burial, method of, Ruins of Copan, 26-28; caverns of Copan, 146, 147; in Loltun, 59, 60; in Labna, 92; in Uloa, 128-130
 Burial, secondary, Labna, 76
 Burkitt, Robert, 7
 Burnt clay, platform of, Uloa, 104