

The main surfaces of the wall are smooth, but on both sides of the entrance I could discern traces of a scrolled border; besides this, close below the projecting slabs of the cornice, along the entire façade, ran a red band of hieroglyphs, and below this another red band, which was intersected by the lintel. Even on the smooth surface of the front wall vestiges of red color were perceptible, so that it may be assumed that the entire front surface of the main wall, together with the edge of the door and the band of glyphs, was painted fiery red, with the exception of the small squares containing the hieroglyphs — of which only three are preserved — and these it seems

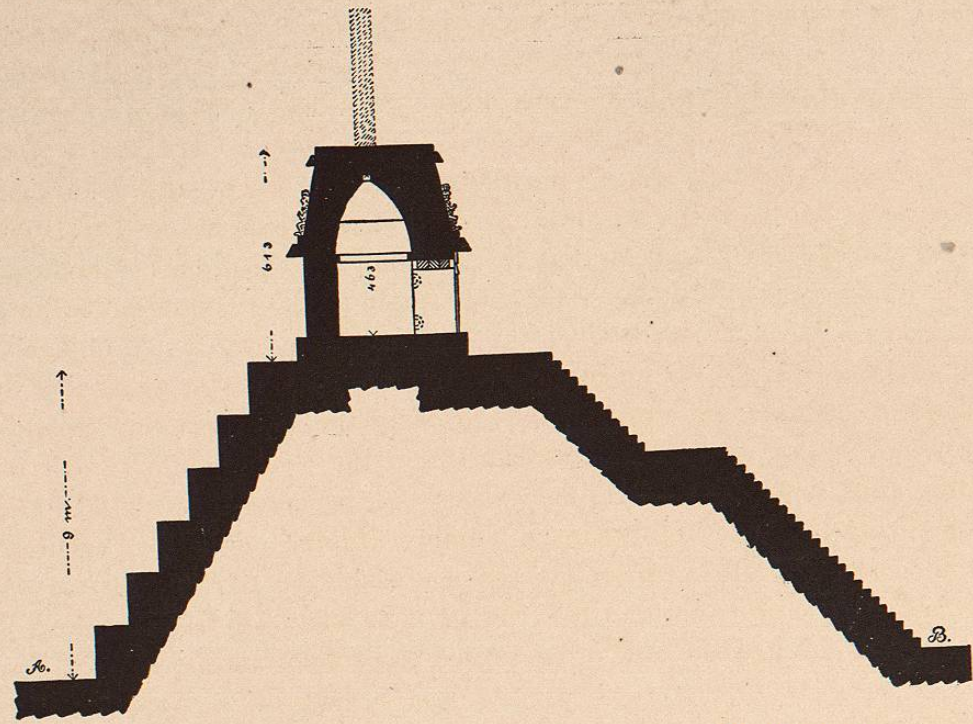


FIG. 3. — CHÁNCALA: CROSS-SECTION OF TEMPLE AND SUBSTRUCTURE.

to me were left white so that they might form a contrast to the red background. The glyphs did not form a closely consecutive series, but were separated by rather wide intervals. One of the little pictures shows two charming faces in profile, one placed half over the other, surrounded by some explanatory signs. The other two glyphs consist of tangled scrolls.

The frieze has a heavy cornice, composed of strongly projecting bevelled slabs, and above this lies a somewhat receding course of stone. The steeply sloping surfaces of the frieze were probably ornamented at the corners and at stated intervals with sitting figures in stucco, measuring about two-thirds of the height of the frieze (Fig. 3). Only the stones forming the bases of these figures are preserved, while the greater portion of the stucco has fallen off. The upper cornice of the frieze is like the lower, but less heavy.

I am sorry to say that it was no longer possible to tell whether the temple had been formerly crowned by an ornamental coping or not. The height of the exterior of the temple from the platform to the upper edge of the cornice, I calculated at about 6.13 metres. The length is about 5.90 metres and the breadth 4.65 metres.

On the third day we again returned to the ruined city to photograph the temple (Plate III), which was rendered very difficult by the unfavorable light. As a matter of course, we also explored the ground at the western side of the temple to see if we might not find a sacrificial altar, or a stela representing a god or marking a grave, but we searched in vain. This region of ruins is also variously traversed by brooks, whose water, ice-cold at this season, greatly refreshed us while we discussed our roast monkey and other provisions with a keen relish. All the streams are filled with edible snails, *Melania levissima*, = *xot* (*so't*) of the Mayas. The shells of the dead snails are soon covered with a thick calcareous crust, which continually increases as the years go by, forming cones of various sizes until the uninitiated would hardly suspect that the resultant mass had once been a snail-shell. A day was also devoted to photographing the magnificent waterfall (Plate IV). In order to descend the steep walls of the ravine in front of this waterfall, we had to tie ropes to the trees. In this way alone were we able to accomplish the descent and to carry the photographic apparatus down uninjured. Setting up the camera on the rocks below, I took two photographs, one of which was very successful, in spite of the difficulty in harmonizing the dark trees with the blinding whiteness of the waterfall and the blue sky. Further on, below the waterfall, the river forces its way between high cliffs, affording a series of very picturesque scenes.

Having finished our task, we returned to La Reforma.

#### IV.

#### XUPÁ.

*Xupá* (*šupá*) = Brook of the Ants. In Yucatan the army ants are called *xulab* (*šulab*).

We left Reforma on the 4th of February, 1898, crossing the Chacamax in a cayuco and loading our animals on the left bank. We took the road to Palenque, and the first settlement we reached was the montería, La Nueva Esperanza, which had been recently established close to the left bank of the Chacamax. The proprietor, Don Luis Gónzali of Comalcalco, received us very kindly.

Sr. Gónzali was formerly in the employ of the firm of Romano, and directed the building of the road from La Reforma to Tzendales, which



established the communication between two widely separated settlements. In this vast stretch of wilderness the workmen did not once encounter a ruined city; however, about eight leagues from Tzendales, at a point which the men called *Champa de San Pedro* (not far from the San Pedro River), during an excursion into the forest to the left of the road, Sr. Gónzali, accompanied by Rafael Naranjo, came upon a temple which crowned a small cerro (presumably a pyramidal substructure). As it was already late in the evening and these gentlemen and their mozos were obliged to hasten back, they made only a hurried inspection of the edifice. They remembered, however, that its ground plan showed a rectangular passage. □ They also saw earthen vessels in the interior, but they did not attempt a further exploration of the ruined city, which is doubtless in the vicinity. I temporarily gave the name *Naranjo-Gónzali* to these ruins, which I hope may some day be explored. Furthermore, in connection with a land-survey which certain engineers made on the Lacanhá River (which runs parallel, so to speak, with the Usumatsintla, but in the opposite direction, flowing into the Lacantun), ruins were found to which I gave the name *Ruinas de Lacanhá*, though as yet I have been unable to undertake an expedition to them for lack of more definite information. Later on Sr. D. José Némecke — an experienced man in the lumber-business — told me that the edifice discovered by Gónzali forms part of the ruined city near the river Lacanhá, and that no other ruins exist in that region. I am inclined to agree with this opinion of Sr. Némecke.

On the following day we went to the rancho Sulusím, belonging to Mr. German Koller, whom I fortunately met on the road and having interchanged greetings with him, I communicated to him my intention of visiting the ruins of Xupá from his rancho. We had formerly been acquainted, having met in 1877, when I visited the ruins of Palenque; Mr. Koller, therefore, consented most courteously to my plan, and promised to accompany me in person, as soon as he should return from a short trip which he was obliged to make at that moment.

About one and one-half leagues from Palenque, we turned aside to the left of the road and passing over the remains of a very ancient city, we soon came to the rancho picturesquely situated on the left bank of the Chacamax, where we were very kindly received by Mr. Koller's wife.

We remained here two days awaiting Mr. Koller's return, and employed the time in exploring the ruins in the neighborhood, which was the easier inasmuch as large milperias had been established here in recent years and the ruins therefore lay exposed in the abandoned stubble-fields. We did not succeed, however, in discovering a single sculptured stone; not even in the vicinity of what was once the principal temple, and which is now reduced to a moderately large heap of ruins. But in one place we found large gutter-tiles of baked clay deep in the ground.

Meanwhile Mr. Koller had returned, and on the 8th of February we left the rancho in his company, crossing the Chacamax at a little distance from the huts. Our path now led through the mountain spurs of this region, until, after travelling about two and one-half leagues, we reached the brook of Xupá. Here we found a small palmleaf hut, or champa, where my men unloaded the pack animals and put the camp in order, while I myself with Mr. Koller crossed the stream in search of the principal edifice of the ruined city, as Mr. Koller wished to return to his rancho on the same day. We succeeded in reaching this edifice, blazing the direction thither by cutting off branches, so that on the next day the thorough exploration might be carried on without interruption.

Our camp by that bubbling brook was very comfortable, but about midnight the piercing scream of a panther awoke us from our light slumbers. This animal is not directly dangerous to man, but its repeated shrill cry somewhat disconcerted my men, who were not exactly heroes. It seemed to have the same effect upon a troop of howling monkeys. They had enlivened the stillness of the night with their loud howling, but at the first cry of the panther they were struck dumb, and from this I inferred that the *Stenor niger* and the *Felis concolor* are not on good terms.

The ruins are situated on the right bank of the Xupá and are of considerable extent. Nearly all the buildings appear to have had great substructures built of good hewn stone. The superstructures are almost without exception in ruins, but in all directions there are massive substructures many of which are of considerable size. I have explored very nearly all the buildings and the ground in front of them for sculptured stones, but in vain. The principal temple, once a noble edifice crowning a large pyramidal substructure, alone still exhibits parts of rooms and remains of walls.

I therefore directed my attention chiefly to the examination of this building. The temple with its façade faces the east. On this side were the flights of stairs, the terraces forming broad steps, and apartments, now in ruins, adjoining the temple at its base, which were reached from the place in front of the temple. On the west side, on the other hand, the steps of the pyramid formed an ascent to a plateau (west terrace), and from this additional steps rose to the platform.

As the façade of the temple proper, the right wing, and the middle part are almost entirely in ruins, I had great difficulty in understanding the ground plan of the temple, but I finally discovered that it was similar to that of the three well-known temples of Palenque, — the Temple of the Trophy and the first and second Temples of the Cross, — which proves beyond all doubt that Xupá was very intimately connected with Palenque. Accordingly the temple consisted of a finely vaulted vestibule with four pillars (strips of walls) in front, whose corresponding three entrances were spanned