

Above the group of warriors seven horizontal rows of glyphs are disposed according to the available space. I counted $8 + 8 + 10 + 10 + 15 + 15 + 15$, that is, 81 in all, most of which have unfortunately crumbled away, only about one-quarter of them being well preserved. Below, by the side of the Halachvinic, there is another perpendicular row of three glyphs. Below the base line of the sculpture runs a faintly incised row of eleven glyphs, seven of which are still well preserved. Traces of bright-red color were still to be seen on the border, on the arms of the principal figure, and on the glyphs. All other colors had disappeared.

Stela 32 (Plate XXVI, 1). The height of this stone is 251 cm., 205 of which are occupied by sculpture. Lower breadth, 50 cm.; thickness, 48 cm.

This stone, which from its shape might be called an obelisk, has sculptures on three sides; only the back, which was turned skyward in falling, showed no trace of sculpture. The face, which formerly fronted the square, displays a personage of rank with three large glyphs above his head. I photographed this face, being the one best preserved. One of the very slightly narrower side faces also has a personage of rank; the other has two or three perpendicular rows of glyphs, now very indistinct. None of the faces show any trace of color.

Stela 33 (Plate XXVI, 2). The height of this stone is 275 cm., 215 of which are occupied by sculpture. Breadth at the base line, 75 cm., at the top, 88 cm.; thickness, 42 cm.

Upon a throne ornamented with a conventionalized face, scroll-work, and masks of human faces, sits a personage, presumably a divinity, in Asiatic fashion, whose most conspicuous adornments are three great medallions,—one on the breast and one on each shoulder. The elaborated helmet is of considerable size, and has on the front a kind of conventionalized bird with large eyes.

A personage, possibly a priest, clad in a closely clinging garment, stands before the divinity presenting a kind of helmet, *copilli*. A remarkable feature of this relief is a little fish, *michin*, springing from the head-dress of the priest towards the plume of feathers on the *copilli*. The upper end of the stela is so badly crumbled that it must remain doubtful whether it had rows of glyphs or some other ornamentation.

Above the little fish an L-shaped row of six glyphs, together with the edge of the stela and the lower line of the ornamentation at the top, form a square, within which an oblong character is executed in scroll-work, that may possibly have some chronological significance. 2 + 3 little glyphs behind the personage supposed to be a priest have become indistinct.

This entire bas-relief had evidently been most carefully executed and for the most part covered with red polished stucco, but it is now very much impaired. The two narrow side faces have two perpendicular rows of glyphs, which are now almost wholly obliterated. Probably there was no

sculpture on the much weather-worn back face of the stela. The divinity of this relief seems to be identical with the one on Stela 12. In some respects this sculpture recalls the well-known oval picture in one of the interior structures of the principal palace at Palenque.

Stela 34 (Plate XXVII). In spite of its very considerable thickness, this stone was broken in two pieces, but the delicately executed sculpture, which had fallen face downward, was very well preserved.

Whole height of the stone is exactly three metres, 218 cm. of which are covered by the sculpture. Breadth at the top, one metre; near the bottom, 79 cm.; thickness, 60 cm.

The back of the stela is smooth. One of the narrow side faces once had five perpendicular rows of glyphs; the other is so weather-worn that it is impossible to say whether it was ornamented with glyphs or with a figure.

The broad face which is sculptured is wholly occupied by a single figure, the great warrior Huech (*hwet*) = armadillo. On the heel protectors of his footwear delicately incised bones can be discerned, as an indication that the brave warrior Huech scatters death wherever he goes. A string of beads fastens a small head below each knee. Above his loin-cloth the figure wears an extremely wide band or girdle, which entirely covers the abdomen. The breast-cape of cylindrical and round beads is ornamented with three handsome face-masks,—one on each shoulder and one in the middle of the breast. A large face mask, attached to a strap around his neck, hangs down in front. The warrior rests his right hand on his hip; on his left arm hangs the shield with a pouch or ornament hanging from the shield. Upon the smooth surface of the square shield is delicately incised the horribly masked, fear-inspiring figure of a warrior. In place of the ear there is a small deep hole, intended, no doubt, to hold the round ear-peg. The head is covered by an armadillo, whose head has a human face notwithstanding the addition of ears peculiar to the animal. The armadillo is surmounted by a certain superstructure, which is very badly impaired; a bunch of feathers on top falls over backward. A few miniature glyphs are incised here and there on the edge of the stela. There are traces of bright red on the arms, thighs, girdle, pouch, knee ornaments, buskins, etc. All other colors have disappeared.

Stela 35 (Plate XXVIII). This was broken in one large and five smaller pieces, but, the sculptured side having fallen face downward, the relief was admirably preserved. Some of the pieces had fallen down to the ground in front of the pyramid. The two largest I was able to set up on the terrace. My picture, fitted together under such difficulties, came out very well indeed in the end.

The total height of the stone is 270 cm., 215 of which are covered by the sculpture. Breadth towards the middle, one metre; thickness, 41 cm.

The back is plain. The narrow side faces have double rows of glyphs, which are now mostly destroyed. The bas-relief of the sculptured face is sunk about 4 cm. below the surface of the stone, though the face of the principal figure in front view is executed wholly in high relief. It is, on the whole, a very admirable piece of work, executed on extra-hard, light-yellow limestone.

The warrior holds in his right hand a lance, on his left arm his shield and pouch. Here also the smooth surface of the shield has a delicately incised design. A little head is fastened under each knee with a string of beads. Above the obliquely crossed loin-cloth is the girdle ornamented with sea-shells. To the breast-cape of cylindrical and round beads are attached certain ornaments with five points. The round ear-discs have each a small, deep hole for the insertion of some additional ornament. Above the charming, beardless face an omega diadem ω forms the base of a great, round head-dress, which is obliquely intersected by an ornament having a glyphic oval in the middle. The broad feathers of the wild turkey (called *pavo del monte* by the Spaniards, *cuts* by the Mayas) mingled with feather scroll-work surround the strange head-dress.

To the right of the warrior crouches a captive with arms bound. Above the latter are four glyphs. Remains of bright-red color are distinctly visible on the warrior's face. The sea-shell border of the girdle, the pouch of the shield, and the background are likewise red. All other colors have disappeared.

Stela 36 (Plate XXIX). Height of this stone is 229 cm.; breadth, 95 cm.; thickness, 35 cm. The back and narrow side faces are plain. The front face has four vertical rows of glyphs with eight little squares to each row; but as the initial glyph occupies the space of two, there are actually but thirty-one in all. As the inscription lay face downward, it is in a satisfactory state of preservation. It was covered, as usual, with a thin coating of stucco, polished and painted bright red, of which traces are still visible.

Stela 37. This stela, the largest of the six, had unfortunately fallen with the sculptured face upward, which was therefore wholly destroyed. The back is plain. One of the narrow side faces has two vertical rows of glyphs, still partly preserved; the other has only one row of larger glyphs.

The stone, now broken into one large and several small pieces, must have been about three metres high. Breadth, 126 cm.; thickness, 50 cm.

After having thoroughly examined the terraces and temple described above, my men and I felt convinced that it would be quite impossible to find more stelæ in Piedras Negras, because we had so carefully explored the entire forest in which the ruins lie, unless, of course, another suburb should be discovered higher up the stream from the sacrificial rock.

We had discovered and examined in all no less than thirty-seven stelæ, of which twenty-three were photographed and fourteen were rejected as no longer fit for that purpose.

As for sculptured lintels, we were of the opinion that excavations among the ruins of certain temples might bring to light a few more, but only a few, since a sculptured lintel is always a rarity.

I would add to my report the information that a large thin lintel — which we will call No. 6 — had been previously found by wood-cutters and taken to the *Casa Principal*, where, laid upon posts, it had served as a table. On what was formerly its under side it had an incised design, consisting of a threefold crossing, which intersects a circle of 30 cm. in diameter, or, to express myself differently, a wheel with six spokes, the ends of which projecting beyond the periphery of the circle are, in a certain way, connected. In 1895 I made a copy of this design (Fig. 26).

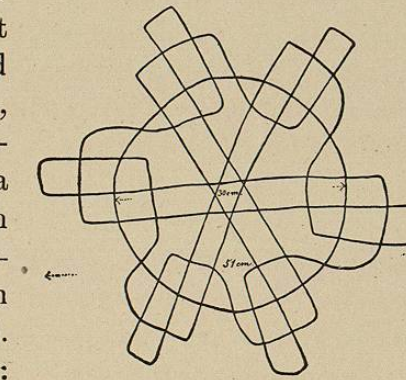


FIG. 26. — INCISED DESIGN UPON LINTEL 6.

I afterwards discovered similar wheels: one on a lintel of one of the five temples belonging to the large five-fold temple at El Cayo; another on the lintel of an edifice built on the southern side of the temple square at La Mar; and still another cut into the smooth horizontal face of the wide rocky shore of San Lorenzo. Lintel No. 6, mentioned above, when found by me, was 134 cm. in length, but it must once have been larger, since it had a piece broken off one end. Breadth, 125 cm.; thickness, 9 cm. When the *Casa Principal* fell in ruins, the lintel was buried under the débris of palmleaves, and is now overgrown by the densest vegetation.

Our life in the wet forests by day and under shelter of the caves by night was full of hardships, and we had repeatedly to contend with dangerous fevers. But our daily bath in the refreshing water of the Usumatsintla, which often rose high above the sacrificial rock, together with ample provisions and now and then a dose of quinine, helped us through. In the beginning of December, 1899, — at the end of the rainy season, — we were able to begin our journey to Yāxchilan, where we were quite as successful as we had been at Piedras Negras.

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