

the most part. By this the search for sculptured stones was much facilitated, but was futile. Several mounds of ruins, the highest of which I imagined was once the principal temple, were found; also some large stones, which were not carved.

On this expedition I caught an iguana of moderate size and of a rare species, which I had not seen elsewhere. It was black, sprinkled with yellow, white and gray, and had a very high crest on its head and neck, which gave it a curious appearance. I also noticed several times a small, pretty species of lizard with a sky-blue tail. In its brown silk case attached to a bush I found the chrysalis of a large nocturnal butterfly, which I took with me and carefully preserved until six months later, when a beautiful *Attacus* crept forth, which I photographed for comparison with other species of the same family.

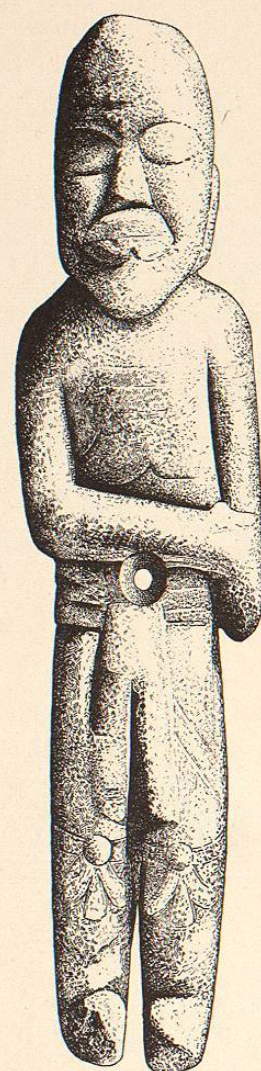


FIG. 33.—SCULPTURE
IN JADEITE, FROM
BUDSILHÁ.

The distance from the ruins to the conjunction of the Budsilhá and Usumatsintla Rivers cannot be more than one to two hours' journey. According to the statement of the wood-cutters, the Budsilhá is said to plunge over precipitous rocks in two small falls, then in a larger one, into the Usumatsintla, forming beautiful clouds of mist, which reflect the rays of the sun in brilliant rainbow tints. Since it would have been useless to have gone down the river to the water-fall with no means of crossing the Usumatsintla in order to gain a front view for a photograph, I had to forego a trip thither.

On the summit of a rock, standing alone not far from the waterfall, some monteros, roaming about some years ago, found a small figure of hard green stone (jadeite), which subsequently, through the instrumentality of Sr. Mejenes came into my possession at Tenosique. In ancient Mexico the manufacture of objects from hard stone was the work of skilled stone-cutters, and this profession descended from father to son. Certain villages were especially famed for such works in stone, which as articles of trade were carried far and wide. As such objects are indestructible, they may belong to the most remote period and place, — wherever they may now be found, — and their origin can be determined only by comparison. At first I was only able to recognize that the little figure from the Budsilhá originated among a people having a head of pronounced oblong shape. Later it proved that the shape of the face, especially the mouth, is similar to that of the figure of the god

from what was once the principal temple of San Lorenzo on the lower Lacantun. The little jadeite figure is 14 cm. long, and represents a man standing erect with his left arm against his waist and his right across his abdomen. He wears a girdle (*maxtli*, *maštli*), the loop of which falls down in front. Small ornaments are delicately incised on his knees and breast. He has no head-covering, and there are no disks attached to his ears. The small hole through the centre suggests that the figure may have been worn on a necklace or attached to some object (Fig. 33).

From the ruins on the Budsilhá I returned with my men to La Mar, where an important discovery awaited us.

IX.

LA MAR.*

SR. GORDILLO had told me that of late years he had planted a large field with maize, about one and a half kilometres to the south of the huts of the montería. This milperia extended over an ancient ruined city, and while there were no longer any standing buildings, yet it seemed worth exploring, since, where there were so many *cuyos*, something of interest might yet come to light. It was Sunday, the weather was glorious, and as Sr. Gordillo was disengaged I accepted his friendly offer to accompany us thither.

Following the brook upstream (right shore) we presently reached the milperia, where in this month the shooting grain was still in the first stages of its growth. Since the whole ground for almost one kilometre in diameter had been most carefully burned out, the least remnant of the ruined city, which we explored in all directions, was exposed to view.

As is invariably the case, it was evident that even the architecture of the smallest cities of these remarkable people displayed artistic development, exactly like that of the large cities, only on a less pretentious scale.

The architectural centre of this city was formed by two temples now in ruins. These temples crowned pyramids standing opposite one another: the western faced east, and the front of the eastern was turned towards the west. The plaza between the two temple pyramids was, in addition, bordered on the north and south sides by smaller buildings, while on the other two

* End of May, 1897. The Spaniards use the words *la mar*, not only for the actual ocean, but also when they are pleased at the abundance of anything. Since the monteros (who, by the way, are not people of great intelligence with high ideal aims, but people with practical ends alone in view) believed that they had found much valuable wood in this territory and the place traversed by bubbling springs looked inviting to them in other respects — there was no dearth of wild boars and deer, while the forest thickets resounded with the noisy flirtations of the *coxotli*, the *Craz rubra* and the *Craz niger*, and from every tree a juicy monkey-roast beckoned — their mouths watered, and overjoyed, they called out ; *Esto si es la mar!* and gave this ridiculous name to their temporary settlement.