

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.

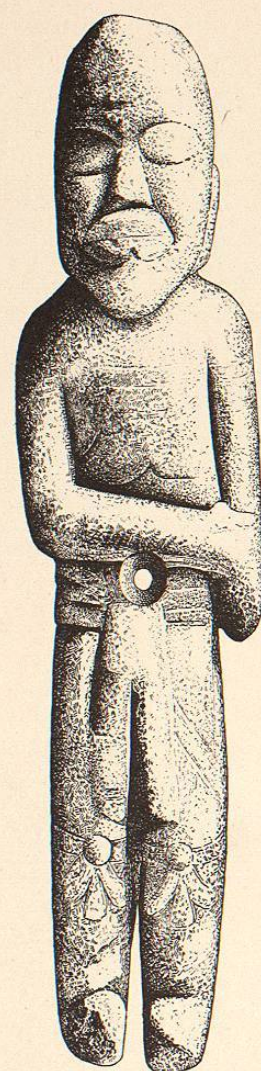


FIG. 33.—SCULPTURE
IN JADEITE, FROM
BUDSILHÁ.

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 *coaxitli*, 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 sí es la mar!* and gave this ridiculous name to their temporary settlement.

sides some banks of earth or elevated causeways adjoined the temple. On the south structure of the temple square, fronting north, I excavated a lintel which had a cross (Fig. 34 *a*) on its under surface, like those found in Piedras Negras (Fig. 26), El Cayo (Fig. 27), and later in San Lorenzo (Fig. 34 *b*), inserted here for comparison.

Stela 1 (Plate XXXVI, 2). On the plaza itself, almost exactly in the centre between the two pyramids, on a base, 1 m. high, I discovered an interesting stela lying on the ground and broken into two large and two smaller pieces. The sculptured face of the stela, which had turned up-

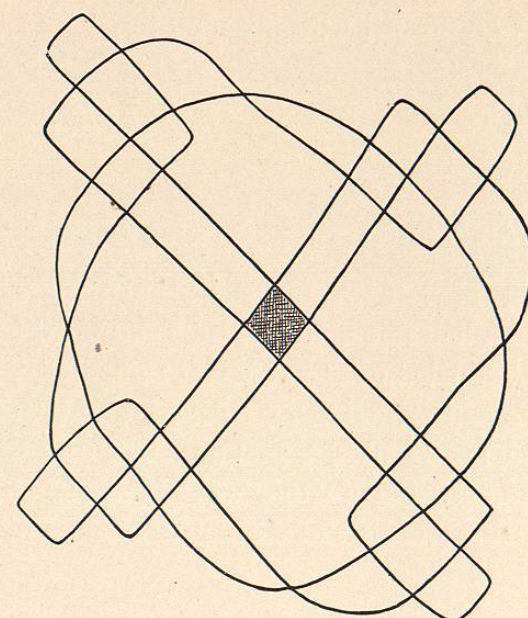


FIG. 34 *a*. — INCISED DESIGN ON STONE LINTEL AT LA MAR.

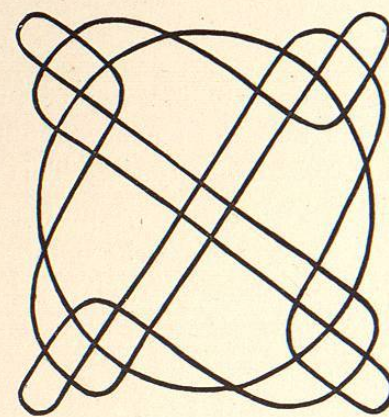


FIG. 34 *b*. — CARVING ON ROCK ON RIVER BANK, SAN LORENZO.

ward in falling, was entirely worn off, but that turned downward was well preserved in spite of its low relief.

The total height (length) of the stone is 215 cm., 167 cm. of which contains the sculpture, and the rest was sunk in the earth. It is 22½ cm. thick and 76 cm. broad. The preserved broad face is divided, by a horizontal raised portion resembling a bench, into two bordered fields, the upper somewhat higher than the lower. On the lower, two kneeling personages clad in a garment like a shirt or cloak are represented: one has his hands crossed on his breast, and the other holds up in both hands a kind of pouch. The lower part of the bag is ornamented with three glyphs, and the clear space between the two figures is filled with three other glyphs.

On the front bench of the upper field a personage of high rank sits cross-legged, in Turkish fashion. He is arrayed in a double collar, large, round ear-disks, and has wide cuffs on his wrists. The head-dress is of only moderate size, but unfortunately this is destroyed for the most part, owing to the fracture crossing this part of the stone. The man holds an ornamental pouch in his right hand, while the left rests against his hip. The entire

left side of the upper field is occupied by two vertical rows of glyphs, eleven in each, making twenty-two in all. These little glyphs display fine detail and come out distinctly on my photograph. Of the few glyphs which are in the one row at the right of the head-dress, only the two top ones are preserved. The right border of the upper field was also covered with glyphs, a part of which are lost owing to the break in the stone. On the left border four little glyphs are discernible. There are no vestiges of color.

Stela 2 (Plate XXXVI, 1). The embankment of earth and stone adjoining the north side of the western pyramid forms an elevated causeway about two metres in height, with a flight of steps leading to the temple square. This bore structures of smaller proportions, and here I found several smaller stelae wholly weather-worn, and also a large one broken into many pieces. The sculptured side of this beautiful monolith formerly faced the east, that is, the plaza. The back and narrow faces were plain. In falling, the stela broke into six pieces, five of which fell with the carved face to the earth, and therefore the reliefs and the colors were preserved; but the sixth, the top piece, fell with the sculptured face skyward, and hence was entirely weather-worn and worthless.

There can be but one opinion relative to this stela, namely, that the carving on this stela, serving only for the ornamentation of a small city, belongs to the most perfect creations of the Maya sculptor's art. In the attitudes, full of life, of the five personages whose pictures are preserved, in the graceful outlines of the limbs drawn in various postures, in the position of the head, in the accessories, and in the delicate carving in general, this stela shows an actual advance and great superiority over other works of art of these people.

The sculptured surface is divided by two horizontal base lines into three fields. Three men of rank stand in the lowest, two also in the middle one, and I believe that two can be also recognized in the top field, which is weather-worn.

The color of all the figures is bright red over the entire body. All wear crossed loin-cloths, green for the most part, with large bows hanging down in front, which are red and sometimes blue. The wide anklets are always green; the cuffs of some are blue and of others green. All wear necklaces of large dark blue and green stone beads, and the rectangular breast disks of the two persons in the middle field are likewise dark green. The color of the round ear-disks varies between dark blue and dark green. On the helmet the scroll and feather work are green, but all the jaw and eye designs are invariably red. Each of the five men holds in one hand a small object resembling an "oval stone," common in all these ruins, and two streamers hang from the depressed border of this object. Each of the men seems to offer it to the other. As is usually the case, the clear spaces on the dark-red ground were filled with small glyphs, which were also painted red.

There is no yellow to be seen. It may be that this color was not used, or that it has disappeared. The colors, which are preserved in spite of the fact that the sculptured faces of the broken pieces were sunk deep into the soil, must be of indestructible mineral origin, for organic substances would scarcely have endured.

For the complete understanding of this sculpture I must refer to my photograph, which was patched together with difficulty. The total height of the stone—inclusive of the upper piece, which is wanting on my photograph—is 377 cm., 302 cm. of which contain the sculpture and the rest for the most part was let into the ground. The average breadth is 90 cm. and the thickness is 17 cm.

Having finished my work in this place of ruins, which had never been visited before, I had to forego the pleasant hospitality of Sr. Gordillo and begin the return journey to El Cayo, which was distant about 34 km. This time, however, we did not take the route leading later along the Usumatsintla River, but cut across through mountain and valley. On this return trip we saw many beautiful diurnal butterflies, and I was able to add a few rare species to my collection.

X.

EL CHILE.*

From Tenosique to Anaité the Usumatsintla is navigable only here and there, owing to dangerous rapids and rocky narrows, and it is thus necessary for the traveller to advance sometimes with pack animals and sometimes with cayucos. This renders the journey most difficult, because when one arrives at a place with pack animals he has no cayucos there, and when he comes in cayucos he has no mules; thus my progress from El Cayo to Yáxchilan was extremely difficult. From El Cayo I could hire a cayuco only as far as the abandoned montería of "El Chile," situated some eight kilometres up stream, and from here on I had to travel by land to Anaité, in order to avoid the very dangerous rapids between El Cayo and Anaité. On reaching El Chile we settled ourselves comfortably for the time being in the Casa principal, which had but recently been abandoned.

About half a kilometre down stream from this settlement on the high left bank I explored a small group of ruins, the principal building of which proved, after more careful examination, to be a double temple, which rested with its massive substructure of three terraces against a mountain slope. The lowest terrace, faced with high retaining walls, supports a second somewhat receding terrace, faced with sloping walls as in the first, but of less

* Mexico. Left bank of the Usumatsintla. Beginning of June, 1897. Chile in the pure Mexican form is *chilli* (tšilli): the *Solanacea* named *Capsicum* by the botanists.

height, which in turn supports two, also receding, but separated, platforms, again of less height than the second, and faced with vertical walls; each of these platforms being crowned by a small temple. The space between the two temples measures exactly three hundred and twenty-five centimetres. Both temples are exactly alike, and consist of but one room having only one entrance in front. A monumental stairway of three divisions leads from the

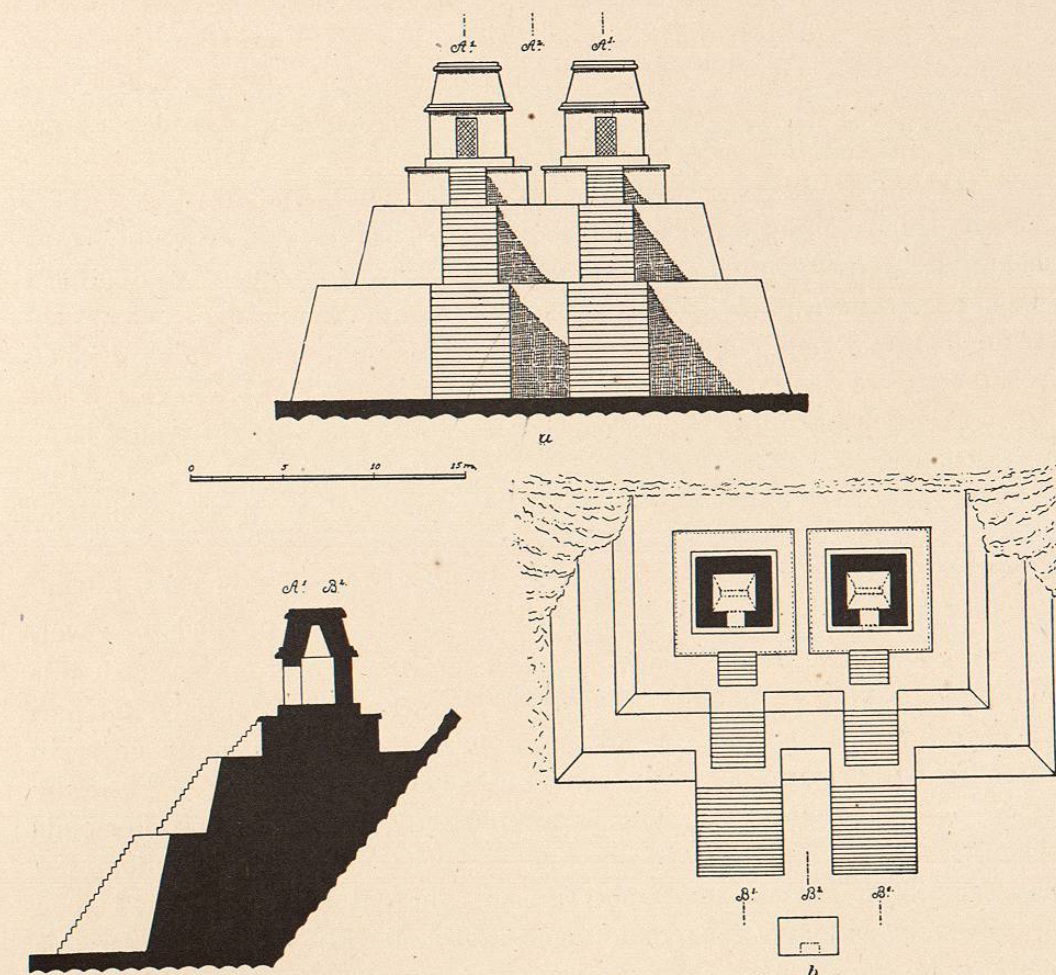


FIG. 35. — PLAN OF DOUBLE TEMPLE AT EL CHILE (restored).

ground up to the platform of each temple. Unfortunately the temples are half destroyed, but all the other parts of this interesting group of buildings are distinctly and well preserved. It was not, therefore, difficult to make a restored plan of the entire group, to which I refer for a better understanding (Fig. 35).

The lintels of the entrances lay among the débris. As a matter of course I examined the under side of both lintels, but to my regret they had no bas-reliefs.

The structure faces the north. The river flows close by below, and