

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

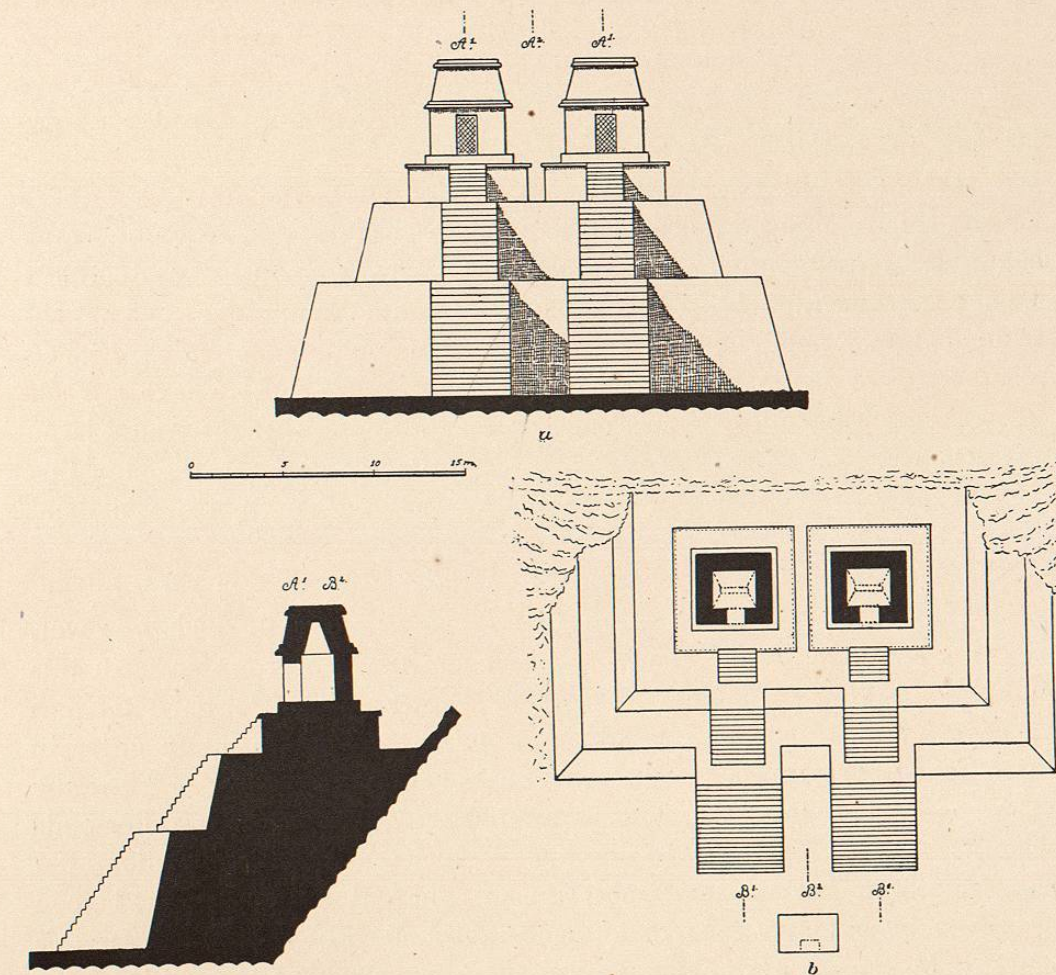


FIG. 35. — PLAN OF DOUBLE TEMPLE AT EL CHILE (restored).

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

its high bank affords a narrow esplanade upon which a small massive foundation about one and a half metres high, built of limestone slabs, forms a platform, intended perhaps for sacrificing. On the north side near the ground there is a sort of niche in the masonry of this platform or altar.

The left flank of the double temple faces the transverse valley running along here, but adjoined to the right flank are ruins.

XI.

ANAITÉ II.*

A STREAM entering the Usumatsintla on the left side bears the name *El Arroyo de Anaité*. The halting-place at the confluence is briefly called Anaité. About three kilometres inland from this halting-place lies a small group of ruins, which thus far has yielded nothing of interest. I have called this place *Anaité I*. The dreaded rapids below Anaité, which have already cost so many human lives, are called *Los Raudales de Anaité*, and a large inland lake, *La Laguna de Anaité*. To the southwest of the west end of this lagoon lies a quite extensive ruined city, which I visited from El Chile and to which I gave the name *Anaité II*.

From El Chile inland the road led first through the transverse ravine, which soon passes into a beautiful valley, the meadows of which, however, at the end of the rainy season stand two metres under water. In this event the valley is no longer traversable, and it is then necessary to climb on rocky paths along the mountain slope on the right hand, in order to enter the road once more at the end of the flooded valley. When the valley has been conquered in one way or the other, then the traveller finds that the path branches off on the left to Chicozapote, but if he follows the path straight on, southwesterly, he reaches the western end of the lagoon of Anaité, which may be five kilometres distant from El Chile. In this journey we passed over a large heap of ruins, which obstructed the way. The next break in the forest brought us to an extensive meadow forming the transition to the waters of the lake.

Before we entered the savanna, we had occasion again to admire the beautiful *flor de pato*. This time the creeper grew around a large dead tree and was full of immense blossoms in all stages of development. It was truly a beautiful, fantastic sight; a picture for a fairy tale or a magic opera. In crossing the savanna I secured a rare species of serpent about two metres long. It was black and thickly strewn with grains gleaming like gold. I

* Mexico. Left bank of the Usumatsintla River, about eight kilometres inland. Beginning of June, 1897. Anaité is the name of a plant, and it is said to refer to the white lilies (a true bulb) which flourish on the banks of this river.

gave it the temporary name of "the black serpent with golden grains." We advanced to the water of the lagoon, the western end of which is rather shallow and abounds in fish and turtles. My men succeeded in catching a few of the turtles, which enriched our evening meal. They belonged to the beautiful species striped black and yellow, which the Mayas call "dsibil'ac" (turtle with marking). I had previously examined this species in the aguadas in the territory of X-Kanhá (š-kanhá), in the south of the peninsula of Yucatan.

We saw large white and gray masses of rock, some of which were along the edge of the water and others protruded from the dark green of the neighboring woods. They looked like temples and castles. We did not allow ourselves, however, to be deceived by them, but took the road to a miserable "galeron" (open hut), which was erected at some distance from the lake for the accommodation of the neat-herds (*los boyeros*) of the montería of El Cayo, since the oxen, when not at work, are accustomed to graze on these savannas near the lagoon. Near the huts of these herdsmen there is an enclosure (*un corral*) with a large ceiba in the centre. As it was impossible to finish our work in one day we decided to camp here, that we might be able to explore the neighboring ruins on the next day in a somewhat rested condition. I might mention incidentally that interesting diurnal butterflies of the species preferring the open fields to the closed woods fluttered around our hut, among them the beautiful small black, red, and blue catagramma, a few of which I was able to secure for my collection.

On the morning of the next day a guide, sent by Sr. Mejenes, appeared among us, who led us to the ruins hidden in the forest of high trees, which were about two kilometres to the southwest. In this ruin, never before visited, we found many buildings now fallen down, but their massive substructures with their walls of stone slabs are for the most part well preserved. With my men and the guide I explored all the buildings and the esplanades most thoroughly for circular altars, stelæ, and sculptured lintels, but could find none. The architectural centre of Anaité II. consists of a great terrace about four metres high and rectangular in shape, the retaining walls of which are well preserved. On the top of this terrace are the ruins of several small buildings, among them the massive substructures of two small ruined temples. I regret to say that also on this terrace there were no sculptured stones. But excavations on this terrace might yield interesting results, especially as the substructures of these two temples have the appearance of sepulchral pyramids. Most of the other buildings are grouped around the large monumental terrace.

Having finished our work in these ruins, we returned to El Chile.