

has ruins of stone edifices and numerous magnificent stelæ. The ruined city on the left bank of the Usumatsintla, near the upper side of the embouchure of the Chixoy, — to which I gave the name "Altar de Sacrificios," — has earth-works and no stone structures. The stones for the one circular altar and for the very few stelæ had to be brought from a distance.

On the 29th of April, 1696, after an absence of fifty-two days, Alzayaga returned to Dolores with his men.

Barrios soon returned to Guatemala with the main body of his men, leaving Dolores under the guardianship of the Dominican monks, for whose protection a small detachment of troops remained behind.

All endeavors on the part of the Dominicans to keep the Lacantuns in Dolores were futile. One family after the other withdrew, preferring the free life of the tropical forest to the delights of Spanish rule. Soon the Spaniards also forsook the depopulated place. To-day there is no one, I believe, in the State of Chiapas, who can tell where the long-forgotten Dolores was once situated.

During the sixties of the nineteenth century the Mexican Government accorded to one Encarnación Carrillo a wood-cutting privilege on the banks of the Usumatsintla in the immediate vicinity of our Yāxchilan, thus for a few dollars giving up this city of magnificent ruins, probably unknowingly, to the vandalism of a band of wood-cutters!

When on my way from San Cristóbal de Las Casas in 1877, I visited Palenque — where I met Mr. Bernoulli, who was returning to Guatemala by way of Tikal and Peten-Itza — I heard mention made for the first time of the ruins of Yāxchilan, but at that time I was not prepared for so difficult an expedition.

In the meantime — amply provided with funds by the French Government and the American millionaire Lorillard — M. Désiré Charnay undertook an expedition to Yāxchilan in 1882. Finding on his arrival that Mr. Alfred P. Maudslay had anticipated him, he limited himself to making an examination of the principal buildings, and to taking photographs and moulds of some of the finest carved lintels. The results of his explorations are included in his interesting volume "Les anciennes Villes du Nouveau Monde."

Mr. Maudslay's work at the ruins was continued for some time, and to my great disappointment I found that he had removed many of the carved lintels, taking them with him to England. However, I do not doubt that in the splendid work now being published (*Biologia Centrali-Americana, Archæology*), Mr. Maudslay will give an interesting account of the condition of the ruins as he found them, and that all the sculptures at that time available will be reproduced by phototype process for the benefit of students.

Yāxchilan was thus far less interesting to me, and if I had not succeeded in uncovering numerous stelæ on the terraces and esplanades in front of the temples, in excavating sculptured lintels lying unsuspected beneath enormous

piles of débris, and in discovering the magnificent South Temples, my subsequent expeditions to Yāxchilan would have been utter failures, especially as some of the remaining sculptured lintels had become badly disintegrated by the careless building of fires beneath them.

Not until I had explored the ruins of Seibal and Altar de Sacrificios in 1895, did circumstances take me to Yāxchilan, where I remained two days (July 14th and 15th). At that time the river was very high and only the topmost stones of the little *cuyo* appeared above the water, so that we were doubtful as to whether we had arrived at the site of the ruined city or not. Fastening our *cayuco* to a tree and walking a short distance, we reached the Templo de la Ribera, in which we took up our quarters. I took no photographs on this occasion, because to do so always necessitates elaborate preparations and incurs great expense, and I had no men and no provisions with me. I limited my activity to an inspection of the principal buildings, and to drawing plans of the Templo de la Ribera and of the Temple with the headless figure of Ketsalkoatl. I dismissed my *cayuco*-men, or *vogas*, a short distance beyond the ruined city, and went to Tenosique by land, by way of Mr. Torruco's *montería*, situated at this point, and of El Cayo and Piedras Negras.

When after many eventualities fate once more brought me to the glorious banks of the Usumatsintla, I was able on the 30th of June, 1897, to leave the *montería* of Anaité and embark in the *cayuco* I had borrowed, with my five men and the necessary baggage, this time to undertake the serious exploration of Yāxchilan.

There must have been heavy rainfalls in distant Guatemala and Eastern Chiapas, for the Usumatsintla was excessively high, having risen to the very edge of the high banks, which made progress up the river exceedingly difficult, since the poles by which the *cayuco* is propelled could not reach the hard bottom. Under such circumstances forked branches are made fast to the end of the poles, and with these *horquetas* the men seize the overhanging branches of the trees and shrubs and thus push the *cayuco* forward, while those not occupied with the poles, grasp the branches, if possible, with their hands, and pull with all their might. This procedure is exceedingly laborious, and progress is slow. In this manner it took us a day and a half to overcome the short distance between Anaité and Yāxchilan (about thirteen kilometres). When the river is in this condition no one ever attempts to go upstream, the labor and the danger are too great. In point of fact, we had a terrible struggle. We had to force our way through branches of trees projecting out of the water, and often we had to use our machetes to remove the obstacles impeding our way. In spite of all our exertions, we were frequently whirled round by the force of the current and carried downstream. Masses of trees which reached far out into the river could not be surmounted, nor powerful rapids overcome, without two or three successive attempts.

The trees which grow on the banks of the river are chiefly of the kind that is here called *huitz*, their Aztec name being *cuauhxicuil* (kwauhshnikwil). They have blossoms formed of great white stamens and the seed forms in long green pods. There are besides a great many *amatl*, which are here called *chimon* (tsimon). On the low shore different kinds of grass, reeds, and *guadua* make up for the absence of trees.

When we rested at night we fastened our cayuco to the branches of a great *chimon* and protected ourselves and our baggage as well as we could with oiled cloths against the heavy night rains. It was not possible to go on shore, as everything was flooded. At noon of the second day we finally arrived at the ruined city, the location of which one of my men recognized by certain signs. The *cayo* on the low shore, which generally serves to mark the spot, had entirely vanished under the water. We now breathed more freely, and, glad of having thus far surmounted all difficulties, we fastened our cayuco to a tree. My men admired each other as heroes, and each one asserted that had it not been for *him*, we never could have come up the river.

In the mean time we sought shelter in the neighboring "shore temple." But as the entire stone structure was soaked with rain and all the ceilings dripped with moisture, my men constructed for themselves a palm-leaf hut, *una champa*, while I, after discovering the "Labyrinth" (Edifice 19), settled myself within its walls with my most important baggage, for the ceilings were dry, and the great stone benches were very convenient for sleeping purposes or for spreading my things out upon them.

It was rather dangerous to spend the nights quite alone in that solitary ruin on account of the tigers. But fortunately we escaped all collision with these felines, which are always to be greatly feared. We were so fortunate as to have a month of glorious weather, which greatly lessened the difficulties of my work among the ruins. It generally rained at night and hardly ever by day. Even the Usumatsintla soon sank again to a less dangerous level. But we had another trouble to contend against. Our stock of provisions had run very low, because the men when living at some one else's expense eat enormously and know no moderation. I therefore hastened all my preparations for photographing the façades and sculptures.

Keeping one man to assist me, I sent the rest as soon as I could spare them, in the cayuco to the nearest ranchitos to buy food, in which they were only partially successful. No one in this country, upon which nature has so lavishly bestowed her gifts, is willing to sell food to another. In spite of this luxuriance of nature a regular famine prevailed, which naturally affected us also. My men shot birds and monkeys, or frequently succeeded in catching a fine large fish of the scaleless kind called *pezado bobo*. In this manner we got along as best we could.

Working incessantly and exploring the forest in which the extensive ruined city lies, in every direction, I convinced myself that I had found

everything worthy of note, with the exception perhaps of objects that were lying too deeply buried under the ruins. Plans were drawn of all the important buildings. I succeeded in discovering three magnificent temples, never yet visited by Europeans, at the southern end of the mountain range of the great Acropolis. I photographed with magnesium light at night under great difficulties the lintel sculptures still in position over the entrances to the temples. Others, already fallen to the ground, and some wholly buried and excavated by me, I placed in such positions that they could be photographed in sunlight. I also prepared a dozen mortuary or deity stelæ for photographing. Of these stelæ I found only one still in an upright position; all the others had fallen to the ground; many were broken in pieces and sunk in the earth. Notwithstanding the lack of provisions which greatly hampered us, the result of my explorations (July and August, 1897) may be said to have been on the whole very satisfactory. Leaving the excavation of additional pieces of sculpture for a future occasion, I returned for the time being to Yucatan by way of Tenosique and El Cármen.

After I had completed my second exploration of Piedras Negras in December, 1899, I continued my voyage up the river. In El Cayo I procured a cayuco, had the necessary paddles made, and, leaving my animals behind, embarked with my men and my baggage.

The voyage to Yächilan was again fraught with very great difficulties. The dangerous *Raudales de Anaité* had recently claimed several human lives. Besides this, several cargoes had been sunk, the oarsmen, however, having been able to save their lives. Instead of blasting away the most dangerous rocks, the authorities at Tenosique preferred to forbid the shooting of the rapids on pain of a heavy fine. As the forest trails are in an unheard of condition, the pack animals cannot survive on them. It is almost an impossibility to convey a *carga* by land. In spite of all dangers, therefore, most of the wood-cutting firms prefer the water-way.

I had succeeded in bringing my rather old and fragile cayuco as far as the *Raudal grande*, where we all disembarked, leaving the baggage in the boat, which my men, who had climbed up on the rocks, now slowly and carefully towed along by means of long ropes. It was a very difficult piece of work, because the cayuco, gliding along at the foot of the sheer rock, remained invisible to those handling the ropes, which had every now and again to be slung over projecting angles of the rock or bushes, which threatened to impede progress. We finally reached the last headland, down which we clambered and made the cayuco fast. I then had it unloaded and everything placed on the lowest rocks, for at this point the water dashed over half-concealed boulders with such force that we could not think of towing the boat through with its load. The sight of the stupendous walls of rock, which we had just passed, the din of the water, forced between rocks and