

distinguished, while the other elements, consisting of thin slabs of stone covered with stucco, have assumed very indefinite shape in the course of demolition.

In regard to the frieze of the Shore Temple, I think it had no sharply defined upper and low cornices, but, projecting beyond the wall surfaces, it immediately developed its ornamentation, which consisted of three large serpent-heads executed in stone and stucco, — the largest one over the middle entrance, the two of lesser size over the unbroken wall surfaces to the right and left near the side entrances. Between the three projecting principal heads (the middle one of which can be seen distinctly on my photograph here reproduced) there were low and broad niches, also containing fantastic but more receding faces.

The friezes on the two narrow ends of the building probably had no large head decorations, only niches, but were nevertheless ornamented with faces and scroll-work.

We will now turn to the vestibule on the south-southwest side. This hall is 910 cm. long by 192 cm. broad. The arch of the vaulted ceiling has pleasing lines and is slightly flattened at the apex. Three wide entrances once led into this chamber, — the middle entrance, 170 cm., and the two others 140 cm. wide. But probably owing to the great age of the building and the powerful lateral pressure of the vault, increased by the weight of the superstructure, cracks and apertures made their appearance, whereat the people lost confidence in the strength of the southwest wall, and walled up the three entrances, after having removed the wooden beams. In place of the three entrances a door, 80 cm. wide, was broken through each of the narrow ends of the building. By this means the vestibule of this temple no doubt lost a good deal of its distinction, and the rear chamber, notwithstanding its wide entrance, was darkened. This entrance is 190 cm. wide and was formerly spanned by three wooden beams, which have long since been torn out by mischievous hands. The rear chamber is 117 cm. broad by 864 cm. long.

This monumental building is particularly interesting, owing to its singular, hollow superstructure in two bodies, the lowest of which is well preserved, while the upper one is completely broken down. Two parallel walls with stepped sides, inclining towards each other, 146 cm. apart at the base and perforated by windows, form a covered, airy upper story, — no inconsiderable architectural achievement for the time.

The ruined upper superstructure was presumably built on the same plan as the first. Whether or not a third body once crowned the whole structure, cannot now be determined. The windows in the longitudinal walls are of two sizes, arranged in six vertical rows, as seen in the photograph, Plate XL, 1. The plain wall-surface between the two central rows of large windows was probably once ornamented with figures. The narrow ends of the hollow structure were quite open toward the top, having below only a kind

of breastwork perforated by three narrow windows and three openings underneath the latter, as I proved to my satisfaction from certain remaining indications.

Length of temple, 11 m. 46 cm. Breadth of temple, 8 m. 29 cm. Height, without superstructure, 5 m. Height of superstructure still remaining, 4 m. The total height of the edifice must once have been about 13 m.

A careful examination proved that all the exterior parts, principal wall surfaces, friezes, and superstructures had once been colored bright red, while the chambers, as usual, show only white stucco.

One can easily imagine what a fantastic spectacle this bright red temple with its airy superstructure must have afforded during the most flourishing period of the city, in the blaze of the tropical sun, while at nocturnal feasts numerous firebrands and incense vessels shed abroad their light from the windows above. My plan, together with the photograph of the northeast façade, gives a fairly good idea of this edifice.

*Structure 7.* Separated by a passageway scarcely five metres in breadth from the northwest narrow end of the Red Shore Temple, stands a neighboring temple consisting of only two chambers placed back to back. Each chamber, on its façade side, has three entrances, once spanned by wooden beams, and a connecting door in the middle of the partition wall. The pretty ogive vaults of the two chambers are slightly truncated at the apex. The exterior of the building is very much impaired, the frieze alone, with its niches on the northwest narrow end, being still in a state of partial preservation.

As the partition wall between the two chambers is very thick, it is justifiable to conclude that it once supported a perforated roof-comb.

*Structure 8.* The curved embankment is intersected by a long structure placed at right angles to the south-southwest side of Structure 7. It has a massive substructure with a central stairway on the side of the northwest façade. As this structure is of the same type as Structures 4 and 5, I shall not describe it further.

*Structure 9.* Returning from Structure 8 to the line on which stand Structures 5, 6, and 7, we come to Structure 9, the southeastern narrow end of which is separated by only a narrow space from the northwestern end of Structure 7. The façade of this wholly demolished building fronted south-southwest; that is, it faced the esplanade of the curved embankment. On this side I could prove to my satisfaction that there had been three entrances. Whether these all belonged to a single vestibule, or to three chambers into which the latter had been divided, I could not determine. It is possible also that the structure had rear chambers.

The three lintels of the entrances, which were excavated from among the ruins and examined, proved to be without sculpture. Upon the terrace before the central doorway I found a large circular altar, and a few steps farther a once pretty column with a lattice-work design, forming raised and sunken surfaces. Upon the raised surfaces I think I discovered traces of small designs, but so weathered it was impossible to recognize anything definitely (Fig. 40).

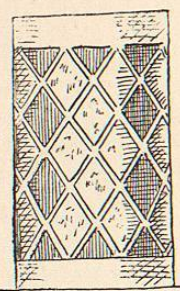


FIG. 40.—COLUMN IN FRONT OF STRUCTURE 9.

*Stela 1* (Plate LXIX). If an imaginary line should be drawn from the central doorway, or from the great circular altar of Structure 9, to the middle entrance of the Temple of the headless figure of Ketsalkoatl (Structure 33), which covers the opposite eminence, this line would correspond with the centre of the whole plan of that imposing structure. Leaving the circular altar and the lattice-work column and proceeding in the direction of the imaginary line, one comes to one of the most magnificent stelæ in Yāxchilan, to which in my general enumeration I have given the number 1. If the whole plan of the Temple of Ketsalkoatl is rightly comprehended, this stela should be considered as a part of it, though standing on the circular embankment, inasmuch as this part of the embankment forms the lower esplanade of the temple.

Pursuing this imaginary line somewhat farther, a great stone stairway will be reached, which must be regarded as the lowest stairway belonging to the temple in question. Upon the platform of this stairway stands Stela 2, — the warrior with the arms cut off.

In connection with the description of Stela 1, it will be well to remark once for all that the stelæ of Yāxchilan which may be regarded as mortuary monuments have one wide side devoted to the memory of a person of rank, — generally some great warrior with his prisoner, — while the other is reserved for the representation of a divinity (Ketsalkoatl?), — generally a beneficent god distributing the good things of life to supplicants. I, therefore, for brevity call one side *the human side*, and the other *the deity side*.

The deity side of the Yāxchilan stelæ *without exception* faced the temple to which it pertained, while the human side was turned toward the city or the people. In other words, whoever leant his back against the temple façade saw the deity side of the stelæ, but whoever looked at the façade from a distance saw the human side of the stelæ.

I would further remark that the low relief of the human side, though very nicely executed, shows as a rule less projection than that of the deity side, the work of the latter side being invariably much bolder.

The fallen giant Stela 1, formerly stood upon the platform of a little substructure, before each of the longitudinal sides of which a circular altar was set up. The diameter of these altars was not great, but they are quite high.

There must also have been a reptile stone of considerable length at each of the narrow ends of the substructure. On one of these stones the head of the reptile is stretched forward in the natural position, while on the other it is treated like a human death's-head, and stands erect (like that of a sphinx). The mouth of the death's-head is sealed with the nose-tablet, a sign that the stela serves as a memento to a departed soul, who in life may have borne the name *Ayin* (Cayman), and whose lips are now forever sealed. Near this cayman figure with human skull, I found the supplementary stone showing the serrated tail of the alligator. The two stones representing the reptile are so badly weathered that they could not be photographed.

The huge stela in falling to the ground broke into a large lower and a smaller upper piece, and between the two a very acute-angled triangular piece was broken into splinters, causing a hiatus which is very much to be regretted.

The deity side fell face downward and is admirably preserved, with the exception, of course, of the triangular piece, and also some injuries on one of the narrow side faces. The human side having fallen face upward is almost entirely worn away by the action of the elements.

With great exertions and reinforced by José María Jiménez's men, we succeeded in setting up the large lower piece on one of its narrow side faces, and the photograph taken of the deity side in a favorable light turned out very satisfactorily. The missing upper part was nowhere to be found in spite of a careful search. Not until we explored the terrace of Structure 9 at a distance of more than fifty paces, did the missing top of the stela make its appearance, much to my surprise. There is not the slightest doubt in my mind that some persons, inspired for the moment by the sight of the beautiful decoration which finishes the top of the stela, determined to drag the fragment to the river and there put it on board of a boat. As long as they could drag the stone over the level surface of the curved embankment, all went well. But when they came to the high barricade formed by the débris of Structure 9, they were evidently unable to drag the stone over it. Before, however, they abandoned the stone to its fate, they luckily turned it over, whereby the sculpture nearly completing the deity side was preserved. This removal of the piece must have been many years ago, — perhaps when the wood-cutters of Encarnación Carrillo, before alluded to, made such havoc among these ruins, — for I found the stone completely sunk in the earth.

I estimated the total height or length of the stela at about 410 cm., 75 cm. of which belong to the lower plain portion, for the most part sunk in the platform. Breadth, 117 cm. Thickness, 25–26 cm.

Both the narrow side faces had rows of glyphs which are now partly worn away and partly broken off.

The worn-off flat relief on the human side displays a symbolical design serving as a base, upon the upper edge of which stands a personage of rank