

sawed-off stone lay near by, we were in doubt as to what had become of it. An examination of the heap of ruins at that spot resulted in finding out that the back of the lintel had been hacked off with an axe, which still lay close by, in order to lessen the weight of the sculpture. By this rude process the inscription on the exterior face (probably eight characters) was unfortunately all broken to pieces. The chips were lying all about!

Lintel 25, sculptured on under side and exterior face. It was not very difficult to find out what had become of this stone. The enormous mass of frieze and masonry which it had been necessary to take down in order to get at the precious stone lintel, formed a mound reaching to the top of the central doorway, which has a span of 121 cm. At the foot of the mound lay the stone sought for, with the inscription and the relief on the exterior and under faces very neatly sawed off.

Lintel 26, sculptured on under side and exterior face (Plates LVIII, LIX, 1). As the wielders of axe and saw had apparently done their work most thoroughly, there was little hope of finding the stone lintel belonging to the third entrance. At this part of the building the vaulted ceiling and the frieze had already fallen down. But as we found no sawed-off stone nor chips, I set to work to fathom the heap of ruins. Our excavation resulted in finding the sought-for stone, which was broken in two. The lower half of the sculpture was considerably weathered, but the upper half was remarkably well preserved. Length of stone, 215 cm. Height of sculpture, without the border, 108 cm. Breadth of stone, or breadth of sculpture with the border, 85 cm. Thickness, 25 cm.

Undersculpture: A woman of rank presents a tiger's head, prepared as a helmet, to the sacrificial priest. The woman has on shoes, her cuffs are of scale-work, her tunic (*huipilli*) shows a reticulated pattern, her head-dress is of medium size and adorned with conventionalized flowers, her ear-ornaments are very distinct, and a line of small dots borders the lips and ends in a scroll on the cheek turned toward the spectator. Below the face is a necklace of stone beads, with a medallion in front. The woman carries with both hands a tiger's head, with a great plume of feathers, probably meant as a head-covering for the priest. I must also add that a pendant ornamented with tassels hangs from the woman's hands down to the ground.

The priest has buskins, leg-bands, and striped cuffs; his jacket shows a tasteful pattern in lines, and is ornamented with six rayless stars; a broad sash of shell-work reaches from his neck to his knees; the ear-ornaments are peculiar. His head-dress, with handsomely executed flowers, has a grotesque face on top, and out of the knot at the back falls a plume of feathers. In his right hand the priest holds a sacrificial knife, and his left hand lies against the front of the tiger's head.

A T-shaped inscription of nine characters executed in very fine detail is above between the two personages; six miniature glyphs (Fig. 53) in low

relief are seen on the background near the head-dress of the priest, while about six glyphs, which have become almost invisible, lie between the left thigh of the priest and the pendant described above. The projection of the beautifully executed relief is only about 1 cm., but the background is sunk $3\frac{1}{2}$ cm. There are traces of blue color plainly visible on the background, the head-dresses, the garments, the tiger's head, etc., for which reason I am inclined to believe that the whole sculptured lintel was once painted sky-blue.

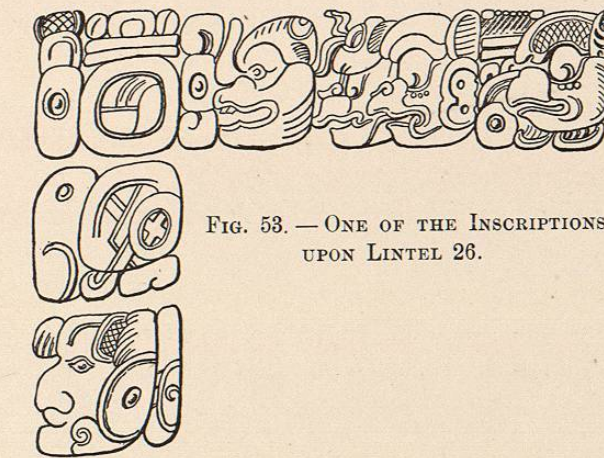


FIG. 53. — ONE OF THE INSCRIPTIONS UPON LINTEL 26.

Exterior face sculpture (Plate LIX, 1): Eight rounded-off glyphic characters, most of which seem to be composed of four glyphs, ornament the exterior face of the lintel. Some of these have been battered off, but a good deal of the inscription can still be recognized in my photograph. The tiger's head occurs repeatedly among the glyphs.

Structure 24. The Transverse Structure with Lintels 27 and 28 sculptured on the exterior faces. Near the left flank of the Tiger Temple a structure placed transversely closes in the terrace. In the heap of ruins we found another lintel with an inscription in two rows on its exterior face. An examination of the ruins brought me to the conclusion that the structure must have had two entrances in the east-southeast façade, the one still in evidence being the left-hand one. I made an excavation which corroborated my supposition, for I found the right-hand lintel with an inscription on its exterior face.

Lintel 27, sculptured on exterior face (Plate LIX, 2). Length of stone, 200 cm.; length of inscription, 107 cm.; thickness of stone, 35 cm.; height of inscription, 20 cm. Two horizontal rows of eight glyphs each—sixteen glyphs in all—fairly well preserved.

Lintel 28, sculptured on exterior face (Plate LIX, 3). Length of stone, 205 cm.; length of inscription, 108 cm.; thickness of stone, 37 cm.; height of inscription, 20 cm. Two horizontal rows of eight glyphs each—sixteen glyphs in all, not so well preserved as in Lintel 27. I carefully brushed and washed this lintel, and painted it over with clay, so that the photograph turned out better than I expected. These two lintels had no sculpture on the under side.

Back of this transverse structure the terrace continues in the direction of the Labyrinth, but it has no more monumental edifices.

For a better comprehension of the whole, I would remark that the magnificent structures on the slope of the mountain should be regarded as corresponding to those on the curved embankment below, as follows:—

The Bird Temple has Structure 5, with the stairway of the inscriptions as a corresponding building.

Temple 21, with the sculptured lintels sawed off, has as a corresponding building, Structure 7, adjacent to the Red Shore Temple, the transverse Structure 8 being between the two.

The Stone Stairway with the stela of the warrior with arms cut off is opposite Structure 9 with the circular altar, and the column with lattice-work design; between the two is Stela 1.

Opposite the Structure of the Inscriptions and the Tiger Temple lies the Great Palace 10, with the five lintels sculptured on the under side.

III. SECOND CHAIN OF STRUCTURES SITUATED SOMEWHAT HIGHER ON THE SAME NORTHEASTERN SLOPE OF THE MOUNTAIN RANGE OF THE GREAT AND THE LESSER ACROPOLIS.

Structures 25 and 26. Leaving the platform of the stone stairway described above—upon which once stood Stela 2 of the armless warrior—it is no longer possible, in order to reach the upper terraces of the Temple of the headless Ketsalkoatl, to proceed along an imaginary line passing through the centre of the collection of buildings, but one should ascend the remains of a stairway of small steps on the right, which leads to the left wing of the terrace with the stalactite column.

It may be assumed that a projecting (lower) row of chambers abutted against the retaining wall of the northeastern side of this terrace. These chambers have now fallen down, it is true, but the mass of stones of which they were probably built is still to be seen. At any rate, there is a step (a terrace) in front of this heap of stones, and their right wing is adjoined by two small structures (Nos. 25 and 26 in the general enumeration) at an obtuse angle to the imaginary line of the reconstructed front of this side.

The ground-plan and elevation of the structure (No. 25) lying nearest the corner of the right wing of the ruined chambers mentioned above are of very elegant proportions, and I am of the opinion that it must have been a little temple. I drew the plan of this pretty little edifice, as it is still very well preserved (Fig. 54). Its façade (Plate XLI, 2) faces almost due north—that is, the line of its façade forms, with that of the main temple, an angle of 137°. The base and the main wall surfaces are, as usual, simply treated.

The frieze has a lower and upper cornice, and certain stones projecting from its surface indicate that it was once adorned with images. The roof-comb, which formerly crowned the structure, is now wholly fallen down.

Three entrances covered by a stepped arch lead to the vestibule of the temple, which is only 132 cm. broad by 1057 cm. long. Its height is about 458 cm. By way of sanctuary, this apartment has in the middle a transversely placed open chamber 177 cm. in breadth, and on either side of it

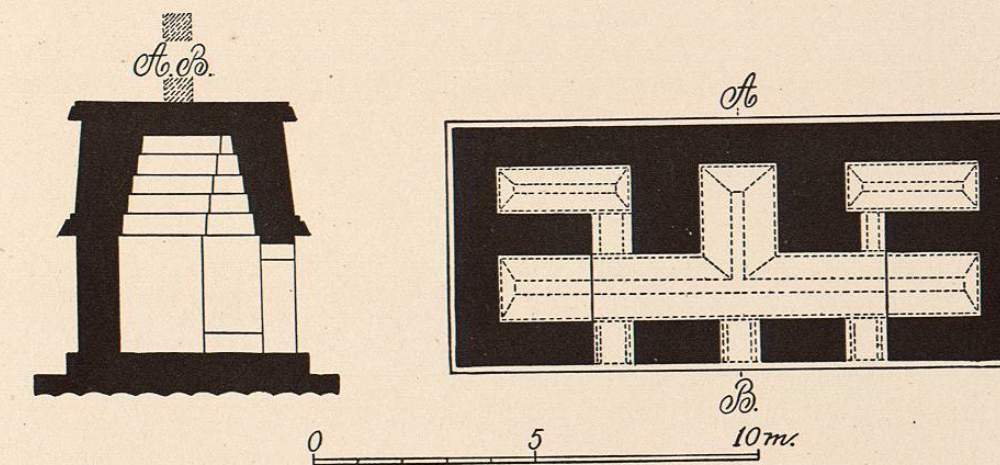


FIG. 54. — STRUCTURE 25: SECTION AND GROUND-PLAN (RESTORED).

a small rear chamber 96 cm. in breadth, the doorways of which lead from the vestibule. The latter, as well as the transverse chamber, are covered by a graceful vault formed of five steps.

I would remark here that the wedge-shaped, slightly stepped, vaulted ceilings of Yaxchilan present most tastefully executed, positively classical forms of vaulted ceilings, which are scarcely if ever found in such perfection in any of the other ruined cities.

At each end of the vestibule there is a great stone bench. The outside length of the structure is 12 m. 37 cm.; outside breadth, 4 m. 93 cm.; height (exclusive of the former roof-comb), 5 m. 80 cm.

Structure 26 stands closely adjoining the right flank of Structure 25, which it resembles in measurements, though it is in a much more advanced stage of demolition. I examined all the lintels in search of sculpture, but found none. Let me mention here, by the way, that by descending the steep slope leading from Structure 26 one comes out exactly at the back of the Bird Temple.

Structure 27. Below the terrace of the stalactite column, near the left hand corner of its substructure, lies the fairly well preserved ruin of an edifice consisting of a single large chamber with three doorways in the north-northeast façade. The lintels over these entrances are without sculpture. The friezes are very much injured. Above, on the flat roof, I found the remains of an airy, threefold roof-comb, the lowest row of openings of which,