

temple hut which was concealed in the forest at some distance from his dwelling. This I foresaw and looked for the path to this little hut, which having found I followed with rapid steps. After about three hundred paces I came to a small clearing adorned with flowers. Here was a small open hut in which large cooking utensils, mill-stones, etc., lay around. On a wide, thick plank which rested on small stakes, Chanvin's solitary sacrificial vessel was displayed. I examined it on all sides. It was of the largest kind that is made, and the decoration was the most beautiful I had ever seen. But the god's head on the rim was insignificant, as is usually the case on the larger incense vessels, which always have small heads, while the smaller vessels have large ones. In its ornamentation, however, which consisted of round flowers executed in broken lines, this vessel was superior to all others of its kind, inasmuch as a portion of the decoration was incised work, while the rest was in relief. But in this instance too, it should be noted that the beautiful design had no glyphical import. I returned the vessel carefully to its place, and hastened back to my men.

The question naturally arises whether vessels of this kind are still made and where? Chanvin or his wife probably obtained their vessel from other Indians.

Chanvin's huts are about two leagues from the ruins of San Lorenzo. But we rowed two additional leagues upstream to the montería "La Estrella," which also belongs to the Schindler concession and is managed by Sr. Joaquin Cetina. This establishment lies on the left bank of the Lacantun. Being very kindly received by Sr. Cetina, with whom I had previously become acquainted at Tenosique, we rested here one day and gathered interesting information concerning the condition of affairs in this locality. Cetina's woodmen had never seen actual ruins. However, we discussed the possibility of reaching the ruins on the Lacanhá River from this point at some future time.

Sr. Cetina told us that not far from this montería there lived an aged, isolated Lacantun, who was childless and had a wife who was also advanced in years. This man is celebrated as an herb doctor (*yerbatero*) and sometimes Indians from a great distance come to consult him in difficult cases. Unfortunately—Cetina said—this man and his wife are both so shy that when one attempts to visit them, they forsake their hut and do not return until the visitor has departed.

It is a pity that such great difficulties stand in the way of any explorer who might wish to gain a more intimate knowledge of the customs and manners of this race, which is now on the verge of extinction.

With the excursion to the montería "La Estrella" my expeditions came to an end for the time being, and we started upon the return journey to Tenosique, or, strictly speaking, to Mérida.

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