YALE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Dr. Froelich Rainey, Director
The University Museum
33rd and Spruce Sts.
Philadelphia, Pa.

April 15, 1961

Dear Dr. Rainey:

I understand that you are now engaged in a program to test various kinds of instruments used in archaeological prospecting, and I would much appreciate some information on this subject.

Next January I will be leaving for a second field trip to the Pacific coast of Guatemala. This region is completely alluvial, at least in the part nearest the sea, and any stone appearing there was introduced by man. It has struck me that this zone would be ideal for resistivity surveying. One of the biproducts of this season will be, I hope, the discovery of additional Cycle 7 monuments in the Izapan style at some sites; this is exactly where resistivity equipment would be most useful. I am also much interested in the feasibility of prospecting with a proton magnetometer; the various reports on this method in Antiquity and in Archaeometry suggest that it might work very well in early habitation sites. Lastly, I intend to use a soil auger to test very deep levels in sites, such as the one I dug two years ago, in which the occupation continues below the present-day water table, in hopes of finding pre-Ocós materials.

Matthew Stirling writes me that you have perfected the resistivity meter used at Cerro de las Mesas. I would very much like to know where such a meter could be procured, and whether there is any possibility of obtaining a proton magnetometer in this country. I believe that the Japanese are now manufacturing equipment of this nature.

Sincerely yours,

Michael D. Coe

Michael D. Coe

Argd T. Drngko

April 21, 1961

Dr. Michael D. Coe
Department of Anthropology
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut

Dear Dr. Coe:

We do now have a Center for research and development in archaeological techniques and are experimenting with three or four different kinds of prospecting instruments. We are also working with the Texas Instruments Company trying to develop an entirely new one.

We have on hand a British proton magnetometer and a German resistivity instrument, which are the best instruments so far. We are ordering other instruments and I shall be very glad to loan you one or more for work in Guatemala, depending on just when this is. We already have promised instruments to Giddings, Young and so forth. Each one takes some training and when Linington gets back from Tikal we shall try and work out a time to have you meet him. I've taken the liberty of putting you down as one of our collaborators for next year and hope we can schedule the instruments for you at the right time. Do let me know when this will be.

Very best wishes,

FR:ah

Froelich Rainey
Director

YALE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Dr. Froelich Rainey, Director
The University Museum
Philadelphia 4, Pa.

April 27, 1961

Dear Dr. Rainey:

I am very pleased that you will be able to loan me one or more instruments for my work next year in Guatemala, and am happy to be one of your collaborators.

My current plans are to leave for Guatemala in late January, 1962, just after I finish correcting final examinations for the first semester. We will dig on the coast until the rainy season sets in, probably about the end of april or beginning of May. I hope to be able to stay in Guatemala through the following summer to work up the material, returning to New Haven in early September. However, the instruments can be returned to Philadelphia at the end of the dig, in April or May.

I am looking forward to meeting Dr. Linington and training with him. Many thanks again for your very welcome support.

Sincerely yours,
Michael D. Coe
Michael D. Coe

Archival Technique

YALE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Dr. Froelich Rainey, Director
The University Museum
33rd and Spruce Sts.
Philadelphia 4, Pa.

May 9, 1961

Dear Dr. Rainey:

It would be perfectly feasible to me to be in your office at 10:00 A.M. on June 1st, and barring unexpected events, I will be there.

I heard Glenn Black's talk on the use of the proton magnetometer at the Angel Mounds site when out in Columbus the other day, and it was certainly impressive. If this is the kind of thing that can be done, archaeological prospecting has a bright future.

I am looking forward to seeing you next month, and thank you again for your kindness.

Sincerely yours,

Michael D. Coe

Michael D. Coe

YALE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Dr. Froelich Rainey, Director
The University Museum
33rd and Spruce Sts.
Philadelphia, Pa.

June 16, 1961

Dear Froelich:

This is just a brief note to tell you how much I enjoyed and profited by the fine conference on archaeological prospecting which you arranged several weeks ago. I came to the conclusion that in my area of field work, the proton magnetometer would be fairly useless, but that the resistivity surveyor would be extremely practical.

The future of the seismic surveyor interests me greatly, for I think that in the region of the Pacific coast of Guatemala it would be the ideal instrument. I would much appreciate hearing about any advances made on the perfection of a working model.

Many thanks for a most enjoyable and profitable day. We regret having to leave so unceremoniously, but we had to run for the train to Washington.

Sincerely,

Mike

Michael D. Coe

YALE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Ralph

Dr. Froelich G. Rainey, Director
The University Museum
33rd and Spruce Sts.
Philadelphia 4, Pa.

December 4, 1961

Dear Fro:

We will be leaving for Guatemala in or about the third week in January, and intend to stay at least until June in that country. Next summer we hope to combine a holiday with work in Mexico City, and will return to the States in late August.

As I gathered from the conference at the Museum last spring, the resistance apparatus would be ideally suited to our work on the Pacific coast, but the proton magnetometer would not. The reason is that our sites are often pretty deep, beyond the effective range of the magnetometer. Sonic equipment would of course be ideal, because of the fact that we are on an alluvial plain, with any rock occurring in the sites having been brought in by man.

Thus, I really need only the resistivity surveyor. The ideal time for me to pick this up in Philadelphia would be during the Christmas holidays; would this be suitable?

We would be delighted to have Miss Ralph try out the sonic equipment with us. I think it would be best if she could visit us on the south coast about half way through the season, when we might have located one or more sites suitable for testing. This might be in late February or early March. Most interesting would be to look for sites which might have early stelae, for which the sonic method of prospecting would be ideal.

I hope that this will fit in with your plans.

As ever,

Mike

Michael D. Coe

December 5, 1961

Dr. Michael D. Coe,
Dept. of Anthropology,
Yale University,
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Dr. Coe:

Dr. Rainey has given me your letter, so I am taking the liberty of replying to it.

Unless our resistivity instruments are delayed in shipment, we should have one ready for you to pick up during the Christmas holidays. If they aren't returned here as scheduled before then, I'll let you know.

I hope, also, that we shall have the new sonic devices in operation by March. Your sites on the south coast do sound appropriate for it. Perhaps, we can be more definite when you come here during the holidays.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth K. Ralph

EKR:LF

February 28, 1962

AIRMAIL

Dr. Michael D. Coe
Inst. of Anthropology & History
Edificio #5 "La Aurora"
Guatemala City
Guatemala, C. A.

Dear Dr. Coe:

In discussing the testing of our new sonic instrument with Dr. Rainey, we considered the possibilities of various sites for this purpose. A nearby one is the Independence Hall area in Philadelphia where there are buried walls, eta. at known locations and depths.

Since time is getting short before we have to leave for Italy on April 1st, I am wondering if I should plan to test it locally rather than join you at your site in Guatemala. Another consideration is that local sites will be near the laboratory where repairs and changes can be made if necessary.

If you have had any success with the resistivity instrument, we should be glad to include this in a report of our NSF grant progress, which we plan to prepare before April 1st.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth K. Ralph
C-14 Laboratory

EKR/deh

5?

c/o Instituto de Antropologia e Historia
Edificio No.2, "La Aurora"
Guatemala, C.A.

Dr. Elizabeth K. Ralph
C-14 Laboratory
Department of Physics
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia 4, Pa.

March 3, 1962

Dear Dr. Ralph:

I think that you are probably right about testing the new instrument in the Philadelphia area. If we had been able to locate a site by now which definitely held promise of large monuments, it would be very exciting to try it out on the south coast of Guatemala; but, as yet, we have had no luck in our reconnaissance.

If you do plan to come to Guatemala, I think that it might be more feasible to try the sonic instrument out at Altar de Sacrificios in the Peten, where Gordon Willey of Harvard is now working. This site is on pure alluvium and very definitely has monuments in profusion.

So far we have not used the resistivity intrument, but now that we have fairly large cuts in a very early mound (ca.1500 B.C.), we plan to employ it as soon as possible.

We are all hoping for great things from the sonic device.

Sincerely yours,

Michael D. Coe

Michael D. Coe

Send instru.
to ? NG - Rainey

Yale University *New Haven, Connecticut 06520*

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

6 June 1969

Dr. Froelich Rainey
Director
The University Museum
University of Pennsylvania
Thirty-Third and Spruce Streets
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104

Dear Fro:

The Geometrics proposal sounds extremely interesting--I hope that you are going to follow it up. I still think that more attention paid to the ridges will bring better results next season.

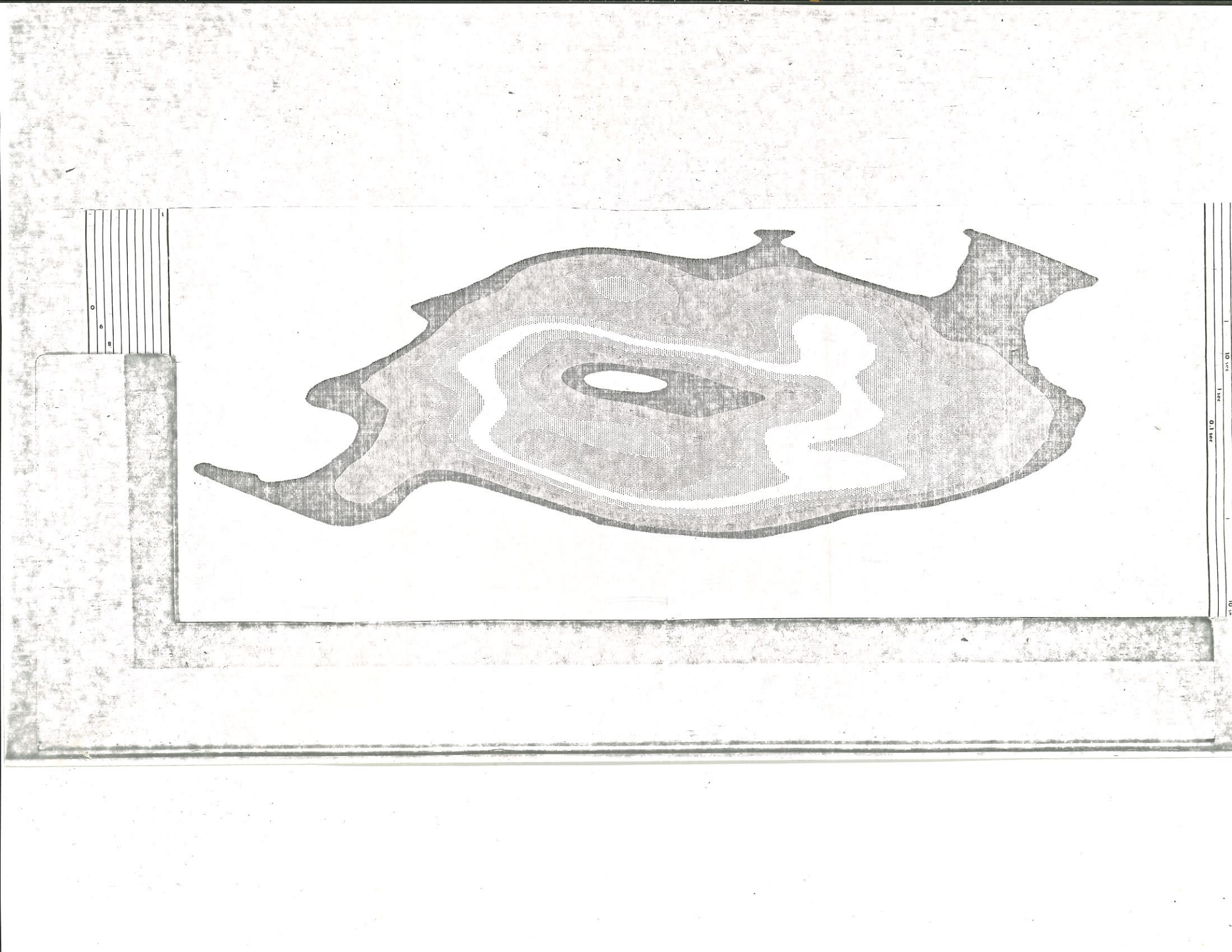
Paco has sent me photographs of some of the new monuments. The new head is really pretty good, and would look even better if it was righted and photographed in proper light. The stela with the Olmec fish on it is absolutely unique and a find of firstrate importance. Frankly, for these two alone, the season would be a success.

Best regards.

As ever,

Michael D. Coe
Chairman

MDC:jms
P.S. I am working on the Ayoub business with our archaeological colleagues.



Yale University *New Haven, Connecticut 06520*

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

January 7, 1974

Dr. Froelich Rainey
Director
University Museum
33rd and Spruce Sts.
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104

Dear Fro:

I am writing to ask if MASCA would be interested in running thermoluminescence tests on two bricks and one potsherd from what is supposed to be the site of Fort Shirley, in Heath, Massachusetts.

This fort was occupied from 1744-54, during the French and Indian War. I will be excavating it this coming summer. There is nothing to be seen there now except the gravestone of the chaplain's daughter and the well, which is permanently filled with water. The samples were fished out a few years ago from the well by a local aficionado, and turned over to me.

The question is, are the bricks and potsherd (the usual nondescript red ware) from the mid-eighteenth century? As far as I know, there was no later occupation of the place after the abandonment of the fort, but it would certainly be a help to know beforehand that this is the Fort Shirley site. Your help in solving this problem would be much appreciated.

As ever,

Mike

Michael D. Coe
Professor

MDC/cd

January 11, 1974

Professor Michael D. Coe
Department of Anthropology
Yale University
New Haven, Connecituct 06520

Dear Professor Coe:

Fro is abroad, so I am replying to your letter of January 7 in regard to thermoluminescence tests of pottery from Fort Shirley.

Unfortunately, the uncertainty in thermoluminescence dating is ± 100 years at best. When we test pottery at the "modern" limit of the time scale, we usually report the date as "within 200 years." Therefore, I do not think that thermoluminescence dating could solve the problem of your fort which was occupied from 1744-54.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth K. Ralph

EKR/c

Yale University *New Haven, Connecticut 06520*

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

January 24, 1974

Dr. Elizabeth K. Ralph
Museum Applied Science Center for Archaeology
The University Museum
33rd and Spruce Streets
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104

Dear Beth:

Thank you very much for replying to my letter of January 7th. I agree with you that with such an uncertainty in thermoluminescence dating, there really isn't much point in submitting the pottery and bricks from Fort Shirley. We'll just have to figure some other way out of dating this site.

Sincerely yours,

Mike

Michael D. Coe
Professor

MDC/cd