

Allá venenos. — Many thanks  
for yr expressions. I shall  
be glad to hear from you again.  
— Yr friends the Owens are  
now in Guatemala City.

Yr obed servt  
R. B. Burkhitt.

Mr J. B. Gordon,  
University of Penna.,  
Philadelphia U. S. A.

Senahu, A. V. P., Guatemala,  
Aug 21 /04

My dear Mr Gordon,

yours of Jy 30 by last  
mail; but without the print  
you speak of. — If you publish  
things in my line I dare say I  
could contribute now & then, ac-  
cording to my leisure. Investi-  
gating Indian grammar in my  
own way, I have seen things  
wh. I fancy have not been  
seen before, and wd be of  
interest to philosophical linguists.

used in print, but it must be either above or below the letter (not after it, as in the Anthropologist). If above, it must not be any mark that wd be confounded with the dots of i or j, or with the usual marks of accent, quantity, elision, etc. — A dot below the letter wd do very well (as in transliterating Hindostani etc). Only it might be troublesome to print under letters with tails; and in MS. it interferes with underlining. — I object altogether to turning letters upside down, as I have seen in some text of a North Amer<sup>n</sup> language. There is no good in making the sounds of Indian look more outlandish than they really are.

In case of publishing anything for me I shd be glad to hear first whether your printers can print as I have said. If they can, I shd

Senahu, Alta Verapaz,  
6th Set. /04.

Dear Mr Fordon,

your Transactions by last mail. many thanks. I'm no archaeologist of course, but some of the papers quite readable. Particularly interested in your own. Hope you will write again on the subject, with detail of evidence quoted, inscriptions etc. — How often will yr magazine come out?

You spoke of yr Berendt collection. I have a catalogue of it. Of Dr Berendt's writings, however, I have seen nothing; except a short quotation or two in a book on Indian by a man Powell of the Smithsonian. And those quotations led me to think that Dr B's analysis of Maya sounds — at least of the palatals — was imperfect.

But who is, or was, this Powell? His English and his Spanish didn't encourage me to trust his Indian.

I have had a sort of paper under way lately, explaining the alphabet I propose for a Maya language. I speak also of accent; and in so doing, indicate briefly a theory of atonic words - proclitics & enclitics - which, if I had leisure to carry it further, wd strike at a good deal of nonsense that I fancy has been current about 'agglut. inative' languages. - But this paper is short. - I am not sure where to publish it. I don't like the Anthropologist's printing of my MS. The Indian looks like a forest of exclamation marks.

There are sounds wh I distinguish in MS. by a tilde, over certain letters,  $\tilde{K}$ ,  $\tilde{P}$ ,  $\tilde{Q}$ ,  $\tilde{R}$ ,  $\tilde{T}$ . Now I am not particular about the shape of the diacritic to be

be tempted to scratch other papers  
for you, perhaps a series.

Yr obed servt,

R. Burkhitt.

Mr. J. B. Gordon,

Free Museum of Science & Art,  
Philadelphia, U. S. A.

nel to be brought from the states  
or picked up here? Dates?  
The woodcutters make their  
land journeys by Cajabón from  
Peten in Feb, March, & April,  
the least rainy months. - I  
dare say we can arrange. I am  
just now on the way to Rabinal  
(Baja Vera Paz) and shall be there  
I expect for some time, arranging  
memoranda of the Kekchi' language -  
and shd like to hear from you about  
printing them by thy in your transact-  
ions. Address me care of  
Dieseldorff y Cia,  
Salamá, Baja Vera Paz.

Salamá,  
Baja Vera Paz,  
Guatemala

13<sup>th</sup> Jan'y /05.

Dear Mr Fordon,

I have just met Mr.  
Owen here on his way to the  
Alta Vera Paz. He says you  
asked him to speak to me  
about taking an expedition to  
Peten for your Museum. But  
he can give me no particulars.  
What is the purpose of the ex-  
ped-? Terms, etc? Person-

They have charge of my  
correspondence whether  
by wire or post.

Yours in haste  
R. Burkhitt.

Mr J. B. Gordon  
Dept. of Archaeology  
University of Vienna -  
EE. U.C.

(Horrible pen in this inn)

grab free, and before the week's out he's wanting to get home, full of anxiety for his family, and for the state of his cornfields. — In the market place of Cobán corn is worth now \$100. per a quintal, or about \$22 silver. Rice the same. Beans are also very scarce. How things may be in Peten I don't know, but probably better, at least in respect of corn. The people about Flores grow corn, and keep hogs, for a living. Beans, & Coffee, & Salt used to be rather dear there.

All Peten, as you know, is a hot low country, and there are very few people in it, Indians or others. The wood cutters along the Pasión river are

P.P.S. If you wish to Cable, the address 'Burkitt, Rabinal, Guatemala, Guat.', will reach me. — You can use A.P.C. or sex. — Send letters to Sal. amn, as before. R.B.

Rabinal, Guatemala.  
10th March 1905.

Dear Mr Gordon,

Yours of date Feb 7 (posted apparently Feb 18) reached me a couple of days ago. — Peten is very little known, but it is probable, as you say, that there are many ruins in that country besides Tical. In the southern part of British Honduras there are ruins said to be 'large' — at all events they have attracted the notice of the wood cutters. — I have a sketch map of the situation of these ruins. — The Alta Verapaz is full of ruins wh ought to be explored as a whole. None of them are very extensive so far as I know, nor contain inscript-

ious on stone. But they are interesting.  
— In front of one small pyramid I found a great long stone lying down; there was evidence that it was once upright; the same sort of arrangement as you find more elaborated in Copán.  
— It is curious to me that the great Indian ruins should be in hot country. Copán is only 2000 ft and of course the Quirigua and Yucatan ruins are lower still. And yet the modern Indians are a cold-country people. Any body who knows them will tell you that. The high table lands like the Alta Verapaz are their natural places. When they go down to the hot lands they get sickly, and die off, and make no lasting settle-

ments. The Cajabón Indians are an exception, and a puzzle. They speak Kekché, and yet in body and dress they are quite distinct from any other Indians of the Vera Paz or Quiché.  
As for exploring Ticalá etc I have no doubt that what you want can be done, tho' everything is very difficult here just now on account of the great want of corn. The want is almost a famine. Planters and authorities are importing corn, but it doesn't seem to do much good.— Try to hire an Indian for a journey; in all likelihood he's engaged to some plantation and can't go; but if he can, you find he hasn't corn for next day's tortillas. Give him his

Tical is at a low level. I don't know how low, but a good deal less than 250 metres. I have a tracing of Sapper's map, with Tical on it, and he draws the nearest 250 metre line at about 25 miles to the South, in the Yaxhá neighbourhood. - Judging from yr letter, yr plans won't be ready much before the rains.

The rains begin about the end of April or beginning of May; sometimes sooner; and seldom as late as the middle of May. The rains don't stop any ordinary plantation work in the Alta Verapaz. How far they might stop your digging at Tical, wd depend very much, I shd think, on the

drainage of the spot.

You have made no business proposals, so I can't say whether I shd go in for the job or not. But if I did, I have a notion of what I shd do. I'd go to Cobán and buy tools and tarpaulins etc and some tinned victuals, and hunt up men to pack them. If I cd get additional men up to a total of 12 or 15 so much the better, and I'd give them packs of beans and other provisions. I'd engage each man separately for as long as possible - a month, or a fortnight, or less, or more; but at least as far as Flores. Once in Flores I'd find out what subsequent arrangements to make, both about men, and grub; and about routes and shipments. - I happen to

P.S. I haven't had a camera for a long time, but I'd like to get one in Belize.

know the Peten manager of the Franco-Mexican wood-cutting company. He gets provisions and money through Belize; and certainly any shipments for Tical should be consigned to Belize. By that route also there should be nothing to stop sending things from the ruins.

As for monthly cost of a dozen men I can only guess. Suppose you paid them \$1. silver a day, and had to give them their grub. Besides beans & coffee, &c, a man eats a quintal of corn in a month. A man will cost you then at least \$60 a month and a dozen, \$720, silver; say \$300 gold.

As for tools, etc, and other initial expenses in Coban, say \$100 gold at the most, and probably less. —

In very obed servt  
R. Burkhell

ind-natives: they are mostly a riff raff brought from the jails of Mexico. — There are some few hamlets in the south, and places with names; but the only proper village is Flores (or Peten), which is an island in the lake. It has a courthouse, and so forth, and a wine to Chisee and Coban; and the wine sometimes works. — From Coban to Flores is about a week on foot, and Tical a couple of days further.

What little I know of Tical, I have from Mr Sapper, and the late Professor Rock. — Both spoke of towers as the main thing in sight. — Rock had some theory about them, argued from the swampy nature of the surroundings.

least for a time. At the prices current in the Vera Paz, this wd about double your bill, and bring it up to \$750 silver; or \$300 gold. That wd be a safe outside <sup>estimate</sup> limit, and as prices of corn, etc, are likely a great deal lower in Peten than here you might find  $\frac{3}{4}$  of that estimate enough.

An american axe here is about \$4 silver; a hoe about \$2½; and I said that \$100 gold wd amply cover the outfit expenses in Oban, including tools, tarpaulins, medicines, etc.

In obed servt.

R. B. Burkhitt.

Mr. G. B. Gordon,

Free Museum of Science & Art,  
Philadelphia, Pa. U.S.A.

Rabinal, Guatemala.  
26th March 1860.

Dear Mr Gordon,

I replied to you at some length a fortnight ago, but there were no stamps to be had here then, and I don't know whether my letter went through, tho' I paid for it.

I answered yr main question much as follows: suppose you took a dozen men to Tical, paying them a dollar aday silver, or its equivalent: that gives you a minimum monthly bill of say \$370. But in the present state of things you might have to find them in corn & beans, at

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working small mounds. — It would not pay to work with less than a dozen or 15 men at a time, and I should try of course to have as many more as the nature of the work allowed.

I am not very clear about the sort of things your museum wd wish to explore, or to find. — The once fine ruins about a mile from here have been nearly demolished, I suppose you know, to make buildings in the modern town, and the earthenware images, etc., have also disappeared. — Cuncén, on the way to Uspantán, and Nebaj, 2 or 3 days journey north of here are probably rich fields for exploration, from what I'm told of great painted pots, and earthen images. — Beyond Nebaj there are said to be ancient gold mines of which the Indians keep the secret. It is only lately that 'ladinos' have begun to penetrate to Nebaj, and it seems they don't venture much further, the Indians being unfriendly. — In Chichicastenango the other day (about 4 leagues from here) I was told of Indians having small ornamented gold axeheads; and I saw a fine copper axehead wh. I measured;  $5\frac{1}{4}$ "

Quiché,

July 14<sup>th</sup> 1905.

My dear Mr Gordon,

in answer to yours of May 27: with your expenses limited to \$100 a month, it is useless to think of going to Petén, or in fact of doing steady exploration anywhere. However, I see you don't mention Petén, but say 'Central America'. The only way that I might spend \$100 a month for you, as far as I can see, wd be to spend it where I am; that is, in the Kekché or Kicheché country; and do a week or ten days' work in the month, as the money lasted.

Paying my own ordinary expenses, I should charge you ~~a pound~~ \$5. a day. — Men working where they live can be hired without much trouble anywhere in Quiché or the Baja Verapaz for \$2. a day paper, and find themselves; say 20 cents a day gold at the most; Exchange is not likely to drop below 10 for 1; and this estimate wd leave you a margin, I think, enough to cover any extra pay to foremen, in case the men were scattered in gangs, as they wd be in

long and 1 1/4" wide at the edge; quite sharp and unworn; much bigger than one I saw in Balize. — You know about the terraces and painted pots of Chamá, which is a valley about 1000' high, between Quiché and the Alta Vera Paz. The most curious object I remember seeing there was an earthenware mould for making images. It was found accidentally, I did no digging in Chamá; nor anywhere else, to speak of, tho' I have had many invitations. The Alta Vera Paz is sprinkled with Indian ruins and remains; but in my opinion they should be explored not as individuals, but as a whole, or at least in groups. — A ruin with an odd sort of double staircase you might get an idea of, if you wished, by dropping in to see some drawings of mine at the N.Y. Museum of Nat. History. They were to be published, I heard, but I don't know when. — Without being an archaeologist at all, I should think that the remains in the Chamá district would be an interesting study; and perhaps still more, those of the Cajabón district; espec-

ially in view of the puzzles of race and language presented by the Cajaboneros; they speak Kekché (tho with some <sup>very</sup> variations) but are as different in body and dress from all surrounding Indians, Kekché or other, as an Italian is from a Swede.

In a business way, I suppose what you would like perhaps at once, would be portable 'finds' of some sort, to make a showing with; burial mounds would be the ticket for you, in the way of small things; so I have always heard; and without knowing much for certain, I should decidedly recommend Rabinal. The valley, or plain, is strewn with mounds, large & small, and most of them easy to get at. The people are nearly all Indians (speaking Kekché) and the mounds have not been rummaged, at least very few. But the results of those few would be enough to justify more digging. Shortly before I passed there, a visiting priest had opened a small mound on top of a terrace, and carried off, besides the bones of two persons, a pair of stone images about 2' long, the tenant told me. And at least one vessel painted with designs was found.

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Whether the designs were hieroglyphics or not I could not be sure from the description; but I think they were. Among minor objects were a couple of large quartz crystals, one of wh<sup>ch</sup> was left behind. It was about 8" in diameter. You might give the place a trial; and if it turned out to your mind, I think you wd get more done by spending double money one month and none the next, or so on, than by spending equal small amounts each month. The good weather there begins in October they tell me. It is a dry climate, tho unfortunately malarious. I've run away from it for a while, to the Quiché side of the mountains. Those valleys of the Baja Verapaz (Rabinal, Cebaltes, Xococ, etc), according to tradition, were the object of incessant wars between the Indians of Quiché and those further east; and there - as also in Cajabón - botanical evidence, I believe, shows that the human occupation of the places has been continuous for a very long time.

6.

As for an article for yr Transactions, my writing is so subject to delays and interruptions that I cannot promise anything for a given date. When I have something I'll send it to you. At present I have not had a chance to unpack more than my saddle bags. - You gave me no assurance about the printing of those special characters for Indian that I wrote you of. But I have had some proofs lately from the Anthropologist and there seems to be no real difficulty.

For the present address me:-

c/ Sres. Rubín y Tendás,  
Quiché, Guatemala,

I am yr obed. servt.,  
R. Bushkett.

Mr. G. B. Jordan,

Dept. of Archaeology, Free Museum of Sci. & Art,  
Philadelphia, E. S. U. S.

In the bush, near Taquincó  
Alta Verapaz, Guatemala -

1909 July 21

Dear Gordon

I've just got your letter of  
June 10th. - I could accept your  
proposal in about 3 months from now,  
but not now. I'm in the middle  
of a survey which may take me 3  
months to finish. - Please write  
me more and address me at Senahú  
Alta Verapaz. - Hoping you are well,

I remain

Yours truly

R. Burkitt

Mr G. B. Gordon

Pennsylvania University Museum  
Philadelphia, U. S. A.

you will be so kind, the next time you write. I want a bit of information. You know, perhaps, that in writing the Indian languages of Guatemala, it was fashionable, at one time, to use a couple of hieroglyphic letters: one of them something of this shape,  $\xi$ ; and the other, this,  $\theta$ . Now among the pieces of Guatemala Indian in your museum, could you kindly tell me what is the earliest piece in which those letters appear? It is not a question of any consequence. But I have got involved - absurd to say - in a correspondence about those letters, with a person in Paris: and I daresay you have somebody about you, who can look the matter up. It needs no knowledge of the languages.

Yours very truly,

Robert Burkhitt.

George B. Gordon, Esq.,

University of Pennsylvania, U. S. Am.

Senahú,

Alta Verapaz,

Guatemala:

1911, October 8th.

My dear Gordon,

I am a bad correspondent. I got your letter of a couple of months ago. But if I don't answer a letter on the spot, I am apt to put it off to Saint Tub's eve. And I can't promise to reform. But it is only the other day that I got your letter of September the 12th.

What have I been doing, you ask. I suppose you mean, in the way of Indian. Nothing that would interest you, I think. And not much of any thing to show. I might say, I suppose, that one thing I have been at, lately, is going through my notes of various Indian languages - saddle bag notes, that I have had about me; and making indexes to them. A tedious job. I have been taken up with it, off and on, for, I believe, many months.

I see you are full of projects. Your pub-

lication ov the Berendt collection is, ov course, the crowning ov Doctor Berendt's labours; and the collection, publisht, wil be very useful, by degrees, in the proper quarters.

My opinion ov Doctor Berendts own knowledge ov Indian - I mean, ov Maya Indian - would be to say, perhaps, that his knowledge, wide as it may hav been - and was - yet must hav been, essentially, ov a second hand nature; at least on many points. His account ov what he calls the cut consonants, that I hav just come across, is pure rubbish. I should say that he came to the hearing ov the languages too late in life. But there is no dout about his conscientiousness - which is more than you can say ov some late professors ov Indian; and his industry and enthusiasm wer great. I was about to say, they wer worthy ov a better cause. But I suppose, one cause is az good as another.

If you ar so kind az to send me a copy ov the forthcoming instalment ov the Motul dictionary, I shall, ov course, be much obliged: and I shall see it with much curiosity: though I know very little, dir-

ectly, ov the particular language ov the dictionary. I believe I hav made a mistake. I see, on second looking at your letter, you dont say that you ar about to print the Motul dictionary.

3 By the by, Doctor Brinton makes a remark about that work. He speaks ov its being very valuable, if I remember rightly, for showing the Maya language ov the age ov the conquest. He seems to signify that the language haz materially alterd since then. And now again, in your letter, I catch this idea ov change: you speak ov modern Maya. My privat notion about most ov these languagez iz, that notwithstanding the unintelligible appearance, and, in fact, un intelligibility, ov many old recordz, yet there haz been no change ov language, to speak ov. The Indian ov now, iz the Indian ov then. That is my notion. If you can tell me that one, at least, ov these languagez, haz really changed since the conquest - even az little az Spanish haz, in the same time - it woud be a fact, for me, ov decided interest.

I wil take advantage ov this correspondence by troubling you to do a small commission for me, if

Senahú

Guatemala:

1912, March 20

My dear Gordon,

I reply to your letter ov February 29.

I think that a propozal ov the sort you indicate - and az far az you do indicate it - I shoud be likely to accept. And if I did, I hav little dout that I shoud be at your dispozition, practically, az soon afterwardz az you pleazd.

I dont know how you might wish to begin. You might begin perhaps on a small scale: make tentativ examinations ov small ruinz in different districts, and see how they promist: before settling down on one ov the big placez. The hole country iz coverd with small ruinz. There ar one or two little thingz under my noze, almost, that you might like to hav a dig at: one ov them that that I described a long time ago in the Anthropologist. Then I hav heard storiez, that I shoud be inclined to giv attention to, about findz ov hieroglyfic pottery in the Rabinal district. In the north ov Quiché, in Navaj, I saw some piecez ov ornamental antique pottery, and I waz told ov large pots, with "picturez" on them, having been found in that neighbourhood; and objects ov some sort described az "idolz". Then, az you say, there ar the Chamá moundz. I hear that somebody haz been rummaging there again; and iz now having difficulty in smuggling hiz thingz out ov the country. If it waz any point with you to circumvent the government, I shoud say the Petén region woud hav great advantagez.

I see that I waz not explicit enough in my question about the hieroglyfic letterz. They wer uzed, ov course, az you may say, from the earliest timez. But the point, with me, waz to find out what thoze earliest timez wer: to assign a date, if possible. The letterz wer the rezult ov a certain evolution, and I waz curious to know when it waz that they began to make their appearance: or at least what date might seem to be authorized by documents in your muzeum. I know it iz not a question that you woud be interested in; and neither shoud I, in that question itself. But it waz connected with another: How soon did there begin to be imposture in the use ov thoze letterz? In many documents thoze letterz ar uzed with great ignorance and uncertainty; and the use ov them, in some documents that I hav seen, iz simply an impudent sham.

I hav been remiss in acknoledging the periodical that you hav been kindly sending me. One number in particular, I remember, in which all the most readable articlez seemd to be signd G B G.

Yourz very truly

Robert Burkhott

George B. Gordon, Esq.,

Muzeum ov the university ov Pennsylvania.

Senahú

Guatemala

1912, August 20

My dear Gordon,

your letter ov July 25.

I hav to suppoze that mine ov  
March 20 never reacht you; and I am en-  
clozing you a copy ov it. I dont know  
that I hav anything to add to it just now.

How iz the publication ov the  
Berendt collection getting on?

Yours truly,

*Robert Burkitt*

George B. Gordon, Esq.,

Muzeum ov the university ov Pennsylvania.

for systematic exploration. — In order to make a choice among these sites, however, or any way advise you about them, I should have to make special visits, see the owners, if possible, and consider the ruins more attentively than I have been accustomed to, as a casual traveller.

You spoke, I think, of buying up private collections. It is a very good idea. There are many private collections in the country. The larger ones are probably beyond your reach; but there are numbers of small ones you might pick up; and very often

Huehuetenango.  
Guatemala

1912 September 27

My dear Gordon

I wrote you the other day from Senahú answering a letter of yours, and enclosing you a copy of a previous letter of mine, which it seemed that you had not got.

It occurs to me to add that if you wish to begin on some extensive ruin site, there are several I know of; which, judging from their appearance and the finds that have been made in them, would be proper subjects

3  
Some single article of interest.

Of course the owners sometimes have exorbitant notions of what their things may be worth; and here and there you would meet with competition from wealthy collectors.

By the by, do you know what became of the Guatemalan collection of Indian antiquities that was exhibited at Chicago in 1892? The collection was due, in great part, to work undertaken by the late Colonel Garcia Elgueta, of this country. I was talking to one of his sons the other day. His father was to have received \$500,000

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for his work and collections, but never got a penny of it.

It is probable I shall go on to Chiapas in a few days, but if you write to me, address me at Venahu'.

Yours truly

Robert Burkhitt

Geo. B. Gordon, Esq.,

Director of the Museum  
University of Pennsylvania

SENAHU, GUATEMALA

1913, JANUARY 30

MY DEAR GORDON,

I GOT BACK FROM MEXICO LAST WEEK, AND RECEIVED YOUR THREE LETTERS: OCTOBER 19, OCTOBER 22, AND NOVEMBER 20, THE DATES. ALSO YOUR WIRE OF NEWYEARS.

I AM MUCH OBLIGED TO YOU FOR HAVING SENT ME THE BOOK OF CHILAM B'ALAM: BUT I AM SORRY TO SAY, IT HAZ NOT COME. IN SENDING ANYTHING OV THAT SORT AGAIN, BETTER NOT POST IT IN AN OPEN FLAP ENVELOPE, BUT ROLLDUP INCONSPICUOUSLY IN A NEWSPAPER.

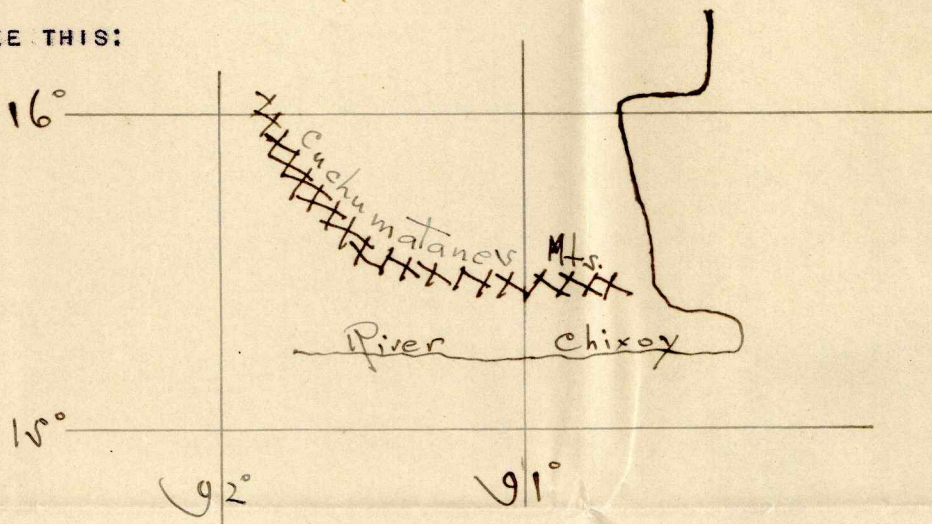
I ~~AM~~ HAV NO FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE OV YUCATEGO, BUT I AM INTERESTED IN ANYTHING THAT HAZ A BEARING ON THE FILOLOGY OV THEZE LANGUAGES. IN MY RECENT TRAVELS, I MADE PARTIAL VOCABULARIES OV ALL THE INDIAN LANGUAGES, OR DIALECTS, THAT I HAD A CHANCE TO: ABOUT THIRTY VOCABULARIES IN ALL. I HAV NOW BEFORE ME THE TASK OV TABULATING THEM.

YOUR ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROPOZALS.. - YOU OFFER ME \$100. A MONTH. I SUPPOZE YOU MEAN A 100 A MONTH AND ALL EXPENSES, AZ IN YOUR LETTER OV FEBRUARY, LAST YEAR. PAYING MY OWN EXPENSES - WHICH OV COURSE WOULD SAVE ACCOUNTING, I SHOUD WANT 50 A MONTH EXTRA.

YOU SPEAK OV PERHAPS TRYING BRITISH HONDURAS. THAT REMINDS ME, I WAS ONCE PREZENTED WITH A SKETCH THAT SHOWD THE SITUATION OV SOME RUINS, SAID TO BE LARGE, IN THE SOUTHERN PART OV THAT COLONY. I GAVE THE SKETCH, SOME YEARS AFTERWARDS, TO MR BOW-

DITCH. I WONDER IF THAT IZ THE PLACE NOW, OV THE HARVARD AFFAIR AFFAIR YOU MENTION.

THE COUNTRY THAT I SHOULD FIRST FAVOUR FOR EXPLORING WOULD BE - SPEAKING WIDELY - THE COUNTRY OV THE CUCHUMATANES MOUNTAINS, IN THE NORTH WEST OV GUATEMALA. THE SITUATION ON THE MAP IZ LIKE THIS:



AND THE FIRST THING TO GO AT, IN MY OPINION, WOULD NOT BE DIGGING, BY ANY MEANS; BUT GETTING HOLD OV THINGS ALREADY FOUND. I HAV SEEN A LOT OV THINGS FROM THOZE PARTS - SOME THINGS IN COLLECTIONS, OTHERS SINGLY - WHICH I AM SURE YOUR MUZEUM WOULD BE GLAD TO HAV, AND THE OWNERS WOULD SELL, I THINK, AT REASONABLE PRICES.

IN BUYING THINGS, OV COURSE I SHOULD GET WHATEVER INFORMATION THE OWNERS COULD GIV, ABOUT WHERE THE THINGS CAME FROM. QUITE OFTEN THE OWNERS DONT EXACTLY KNOW: OR IF THEY DO, THEY CAN'T TELL YOU THE NATURE OV THE RUIN, AND SO ON. IN IMPORTANT CASES I SHOULD TRY AND VISIT THE PLACE.

THINGS I BOUGHT, I SHOULD FOTOGRAF, AND PACK: AND SEND

FOR STORAGE, PROBABLY TO SOME EXPORT HOUSE. ARRANGEMENTS THERE COULD BE MADE AFTERWARDS FOR GETTING THE STUF OUT OV THE COUNTRY.

THIS TENTATIV BUSINESS - LOOKING UP SPECIMENS, BUYING, FOTOGRAFING, AND SHIPPING THEM, AND VIZITING RUIN PLACES - MIGHT TAKE, I CAN'T SAY HOW LONG, PERHAPS TWO OR THREE MONTHS. AND I THINK THE REZULT, EVEN IF YOU DID NOTHING MORE, WOULD BE SATISFACTORY. WITHOUT COMMITTING YOURSELF TO DIGGING, YOU WOULD HAV SOMETHING TO PUT ON YOUR SHELVES, THAT WOULD GIV PEOPLE A NOTION OV THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL VALUE OV THE REGION: AND WHAT IN THE END MIGHT BE MORE IMPORTANT, YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO DOT NEW POINTS ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MAP.

THEN, AT SOME SELECT SPOT, IF YOU WER PLEAZD WITH THE COUNTRY, YOU COULD BEGIN DIGGING. IN THE PREZENT STATE OV THINGS IN GUATEMALA, IT IZ NOT VERY EAZY TO GET WORKMENS ~~BUT~~ BEGINNING ON A SMALL SCALE, YOU WOULD GRADUALLY WORK UP A GANG: AND BY AND BY PERHAPS, HAV WORK AT SEVERAL PLACES AT ONCE.

I SHOULD BE READY FOR BUSINESS WITH YOU, ANY TIME AFTER THE MIDDLE OR END OV MARCH. AND I THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER, FOR THE PREZENT, NOT TO MAKE A LONG ENGAGEMENT. INSTEAD OV CONTEMPLATING A YEARS WORK AT ONCE, OR AN INDEFINIT TIME, BETTER SAY SOMETHING LIKE THREE MONTHS, TO BEGIN WITH, AND SEE HOW IT WORKS. I SHOULD PROBABLY WANT AN INTERMISSION ANYHOW DURING PART OV THE RAINY SEAZON.

AZ FOR FUNDS, SUPPOZE YOU SEND ME £100 FOR A STARTER, AND LET ME DO WHAT I CAN WITH IT. THE BEST WAY TO HAV MONEY HERE, IZ IN LONDON SIGHT DRAFTS FOR SMALL AMOUNTS, SAY £10 EACH. THEY SHOULD BE DRAWN ON SOME KNOWN HOUSE, SUCH AZ BARING BROTHERS: AND DRAWN BY

SOME KNOWN HOUSE. THEY SHOULD BE PAYABLE TO MY ORDER: I SIGN ROBERT BURKITT. AND THEY AR BEST IN DUPLICAT. OR IF SINGLE, THEY SHOULD BE MARKT SO. NEVER SEND MONEY OR DRAFTS TO THIS COUNTRY BY REGISTERD POST: JUST PLAIN POST.

ANYTHING YOU MAY SHIP ME, SEND TO EGGERS AND HEINLEIN, 59 AND 61 PEARLI STREET, NEW YORK; TELLING THEM TO SHIP IT ON TO KENSETT CHAMPNEY AND Co., PANZOS, IN THEIR USUALI WAY.

THE ONLY THING I THINK OV JUST NOW, IZ A CAMERA, AND ACCESSORIES. THE TRIPOD, A FRENCH TELESCOPING, METALI TRIPOD. IN SENDING ME A CAMERA, I SHOULD SAY - FOR THE PREZENT AT LEAST - LET IT BE A SMALLI ONE: SOME LIITTLE 3. BY 4: COLLAPSING THING, THAT ON EMERGENCY YOU COULD SLIIP INTO A SADDLE BAG. AND OV COURSE NOT GLAS PLATES, BUT THEZE WHAT THEY CALLI FILM PACKS. SMALLI PICTURES WILI DO PERFECTLY WELI TO IDENTIFY THINGS, AND GIV YOU A GOOD NOTION OV THEM: AFTERWARDS WHEN THEY AR COLLECTED IN ONE PLAGE, I COULD EAZILY FOTO- GRAF THEM OVER, IF YOU WISHT, WITH A BIGGER CAMERA, WHICH I COULD BORROW OR HIRE. THERE AR PLENTY OV FOTOGRAFERS IN THE LAND.

YOURS VERY TRULY,

Robert Burkitt

GEORGE BL. GORDON, ESQ.,

MUZEUUM OV THE UNIVERSITY OV PENNSYSVANIA,

FILADELPIA, U. S. A.

SENAHÚ

ALTA VERAPAZ

GUATEMALA

1913, APRIL 1

MY DEAR GORDON

I GOT YOUR LETTER OV MARCH 7 BY LAST  
POST, WITH ORIGINALS OV DRAFTS FOR £100. I SUPPOZE  
THE DUPLICATS WIL SHORTLY FOLLOW.

I SHAL KEEP IN MIND WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT  
INDIAN WEAVING AND SO ON. BOWS AND ARROWS, THOUGH,  
HAV NOT BEEN UZED BY THEZE PEOPLE FOR TWO OR THREE  
GENERATIONS, AND ONLY OL D MEN KNOW EVEN THE NAMES  
OV THEM. BUT THER AR OTHER THINGS: INDIAN BLOW GUNS,  
NETS, GRINDSTONES (IMEAN FOR GRINDING CORN), HOUSE-  
HOLD POTTERY, CLOTHES, MASKS, AND WHAT NOT.

YOURS TRULY

*Robert Burkhitt*

GEORGE B. GORDON, ESQ.

*Director of the Pa. University Museum.*

E D 118-8-12

MEMORANDUM OF EXCHANGE  
FROM **BROWN BROTHERS & CO.**  
FOURTH AND CHESTNUT STREETS  
PHILADELPHIA

Duplicate drafts  
@ \$

for  
University of Pennsylvania

SENAHÚ

ALTA VERAPAZ

GUATEMALA

1913, MAY 15

MY DEAR GORDON

YOUR LETTER OV APRIL 17. I AM AFRAID I MUST ASK YOU TO SEND THE DUPLICATS OV THE DRAFTS YOU SENT, THOUGH IT MAY CAUZE A LITTLE DELAY.

IT SEEMS TO BE USUAL ABROAD TO ACCEPT SINGLES OV DUPLICAT DRAFTS: BUT NOT HERE. I HAV HAD TROUBLE WITH THEM. \*\* IT IZ NOT MERELY THAT A MAN LIKES TO HAV A DUPLICAT DRAFT HERE IN CASE OV THE POST MISCARRYING: IT IZ THAT SINGLES OV DUPLICAT DRAFTS AR LOOKT ON WITH SUSPICION. THE LAST MAN I HEARD OV, OFFERING SUCH DRAFTS, WAZ ARRESTED. IT IZ A COMMON SWINDLE TO SEL THE ORIGINAL TO ONE MAN, AND THE DUPLICAT TO ANOTHER. THE SWINDLER IZ SOME TRAVELING STRANGER, GONE NOBODY KNOWS WHERE, MAYBE TO THE NEXT REPUBLIC. I WOULDNT THINK OV TRYING TO PASS AN ORIGINAL THAT I COULDNT SHOW THE DUPLICAT OV. I SHOULD HAV WARND YOU OV THIS, I SUPPOZE, BUT I DIDNT THINK OV IT.

I AM SORRY TO SAY THAT I TOOK NO CAMERA WITH ME TO CHIAPAS. I AM LIKE MOST FOREIGNERS OV MY ACQUAINTANCE, I HAV GIVEN UP TAKING FOTOGRAFS.

I SUPPOZE THAT ABOUT THE TIME I GET YOUR ANSER TO THIS, THE CAMERA YOU SPOKE OV SENDING WIL BE TURNING UP, AND I SHOULD BE ABLE TO START SHORTLY AFTER. OV COURSE I WIL RITE

YOU THE DATE. MY PLAN IZ TO GO FIRST TO COBÁN, AND TO SAN CRISTÓBAL VERAPAZ. I MAY BE ABLE TO PICK UP SOMETHING IN BOTH PLACES. AND IF IT WAZ CONVENIENT, I MIGHT AT THE SAME TIME TAKE A LOOK OUT AT CHAMÁ, AND SEE WHAT MAY HAV BEEN DOING THERE, LATELY, OV INTEREST. FROM SAN CRISTÓBAL, MY NATURAL COURSE WOULD BE TO CROSS THE CHIXOY RIVER, AND STRIKE FOR USPANTÁN: IN WHICH NEIGHBOURHOOD I KNOW OV AN IMPORTANT RUIN PLACE. THENCE, BY WAY OV CHUUL, I SHOULD CROSS THE CUCHUMATANES WATER SHED INTO THE NEBAJ BASIN. THENCE, CROSS BACK AGAIN TO AGUACATÁN - THER AR RUINS THERE TOO - AND ON TO HUEHUETENANGO AND CHIANTLA. CHIANTLA WOULD THEN BE MY BASE FOR TRIPS TO SOLOMA, PAYJIL, AND OTHER NORTH WESTERLY POINTS OV THE CUCHUMATANES.

THAT IZ AZ FAR AZ I CAN PROFESS TO SEE AHEAD. MY ROUTE MAY BE SOMEWHAT ALTERD. I SHAL HAV TO FIND OUT IN SAN CRISTÓBAL ABOUT THE STATE OV THE RIVER, THE CHIXOY, AND INSTEAD OV CROSSING IT, I MAY DECIDE TO GO ROUND IT: GOING BY SALAMÁ, RABINAL, JOYABAJ, AND QUICHÉ. WHATEVER WAY I WENT, I SHOULD GO QUITE LEISURELY, RAKING MY STOPPING PLACES FOR ANYTHING WORTH PICKING UP; AND PERHAPS MAKING DIGRESSIONS.

I WIL TRY AND KEEP YOU POSTED, AZ I GO. BUT I SHAL NOT EXPECT TO HEAR FROM YOU, WITH ANY REGULARITY. AFTER I LEFT HERE, THER IZ ONLY ONE PLACE TO WHICH YOU COULD RITE TO ME, WITHOUT FURTHER ADVICE, AND BE SURE THAT SOONER OR LATER YOUR LETTERS WOULD FIND ME: AND THAT IZ HUEHUETENANGO.

3.

SR. DON ROBERTO BÚRKITT

RECOMENDADA Á LOS SRES. ASCOLI Y CÍA.

(PASARÁ EL INTERESADO)

HUEHUETENANGO

GUATEMALA

WITHIN THE SPACE OV A FORTNIGHT AFTER I LEFT, IT IZ POSSIBLE A  
LETTER MIGHT CATCH ME AT SAN CRISTÓBAL:

RECOMENDADA Á LOS SRES. THIEMER Y CÍA.

(PASARÁ EL INTERESADO)

SAN CRISTOBAL VERAPAZ

GUATEMALA

BUT IF A LETTER SO ADREST HAD ANYTHING OV CONSEQUENCE IN IT, YOU  
HAD BETTER DUPLICATE IT TO HUEHUETENANGO.

YOURZ VERY TRULY

*Robert Burkitt*

GEORGE B. GORDON, ESQ.

DIRECTOR OV THE MUZEUM

UNIVERSITY OV PENNSYLVANIA

To Mr J. M. McHUGH  
UNIVERSITY MUZEUM  
FILADELFIA

SENAHÚ, ALTA VERAPAZ

GUATEMALA

1913, JUNE 30

DEAR SIR

I HAV JUST GOT YOUR LETTER OV JUNE 6, WITH THEI DUPLICATS  
OV THE DRAFTS FOR £100.

I OUGHT TO TEL YOU, THAT WHILE THE ENCLDSURE ARRIVED ALLI  
RIGHT, THE ENVELOPEI IT WAZ SENT IN' WAZ DECIDEDLY NOT STOUT ENOUGH.  
IT WAZ VERY TATTERD AND FRAYD, WHEN IT GOT TO ME, THE EDGES WORN  
THROUGH, AND ONEI END ENTIRELY OPEN.

YOURZ VERY TRULY

Robert Burkitt

Cobán, Alta Verapaz  
Guatemala  
1913, July 27

My dear Gordon,

I acknowledged receipt of the draft duplicates under date of June 30. On July 7 I was able to start traveling; and I suppose you may count my engagement from that date.

Previous to starting, I left directions for samples of Indian weaving etc., which I expect will be ready when I get back. - On the way here, I stopt at the place of a person who has worked up a little trade with foreigners, in making dolls, and other miniatures, representing the dresses and customs of the country. I left orders there for a few things; figures of Indian women pounding cotton,

2,  
weaving, etc., which I think will be more useful than mere photographs. Of course I mean these dolls to accompany the actual apparatus.

I got to Cobán on the 12th, and I've been about Cobán ever since. I've been getting some pottery. I found there were several small collections here, and I have been able to get hold of nearly everything in those small collections. I enclose you a catalog of what I have so far got; about a hundred specimens. Most of the specimens, as you will see, are small and fragmentary; but they show quite plainly the sort of work that was common here in past times.

There is one large collection here, but the owner is now living in Germany. He was the great collector of antiquities in Cobán

3  
for many years, and must be well known in antiquarian circles. His name is E. P. Dieseldorff. The best part of his collection he has removed to Berlin, where the things have been much studied, I believe, especially by Dr Seler. But what Mr D. has left here is still a large collection, occupying the four walls of a room about 15 feet by 8 to a height of about 8 feet, and containing a number of interesting pieces including some small things from Chamd. It might possibly be worth your while to write to Mr Dieseldorff - he speaks English perfectly - and see whether by any chance he might be inclined to part with some of the things he has left here, things perhaps that he may happen to have several of, that are more or less alike. - His address is E. P. Dieseldorff,  
Hindersinstr.  
Berlin, N.W. 40.

4  
I am not sending you any photograph of the pottery that I have so far got. - Your camera arrived all right, and I have it with me; but it has no ground glass for short distance focussing, and even if it had; the specimens are too small, most of them, to show to advantage in the picture that this lens makes. But I think you will find that my catalog descriptions fully identify everything; though of course you will remember in reading it - or rather, no doubt, you will be continually reminded - that it is written by a person who has no particular knowledge, either of pottery or of archaeology.

The cost of the specimens I have got - the cost in direct buying at least - has been very little. The owners of collections are of course apt to be people who will either make you a present of the things, or will not part with them at all; and in fact most of the pieces

that I hav, hav been very kindly given to me.

In cataloguing pieces that has been so given to me, I have been careful to put down the givers name. I think it would be a good plan if you could do something of that sort in print; print some sort or provisional catalog, perhaps as an appendix to your monthly affair, or perhaps as a loose sheet — you know best, but something in print that would connect the givers names with the things, however trifling, that <sup>they</sup> happen to give. The print could be brought to their notice, and they would see that they wer remembered; and they might remember your museum in the future themselves. People living here ar continually picking up little things that they send home to Germany or somewhere, that their museum might just as well hav.

6  
That reminds me of something. I enclose you a couple of very interesting little fotos; fotos or two small collections here. The interesting thing is, that every single article in them, excepting the one dish market X, is (at least in my opinion) a modern sham. Foreigners here have always been willing, or course, to pay something for old curiosities that might be brought to them; and the demand, slight as it is, has created a fake supply. Ther is, I believ, a factory or sham antiquities in Mexico; but who could hav dreamt or finding such a thing in a little, out of the way place like Cobán? But ther is. Cobán is up to date. Ther is an enterprizing native, I mean a Spanish native, who has thought of this way of exploiting the foreigners. I have not actually located his factory, and I am not

quite certain that he has it just in town; but he lives in town, and it does not take him many days to find things when he hears that anybody wants them. I have had a couple of chats with him myself. He makes trading journeys to Peten now and then, and his story is that he gets his antiquities out of certain caves, and mounds, that he knows or in that part of the world. He has not been at the bazaar very long, but he seems to have done quite well at it. There is hardly a foreigner in the place but has some of his stuff, and a quantity of it has already gone to Germany. I tell my German friends that the stuff is not market made in Germany, but is made for Germany. - But indeed they were already a little suspicious; and in Germany the stuff is being inspected by men of science, who will no doubt

8  
has a laugh over it. - A sham, however may be just as interesting as a reality, in its own way, and I have included a couple of shams, as I consider them, in the pottery I have collected for your museum. One of them is down in the catalog as No 51; it is similar, in a general way, to those that you see hanging on the wall, in one of the pictures. The other is down as No 22; it is that very pot that you see ~~on the left~~ market 0; it happens to be of a different origin from the other fakes.

I have been in Cobán longer than I expected. There was more to be done, as it seemed, than I had expected; and of course it takes you a day here to do a quarter or an hour's business; or not to do it; as the case may turn out. And there are always unexpected delays. I lost

✓  
my attendant the other morning; and after  
some hours I found him in jail - It  
appeared that he hadn't all the passports  
and certificates and affidavits that a  
native traveling in Guatemala has to have.  
I got the man off somehow, but when it  
came to making out the missing docu-  
ment for him, it turned out that one of the  
needful authorities was off on a drunk,  
and it was three days before the thing  
was settled. And so on. Just now  
I have heard of a certain pot that I may  
be able to see, if I will wait a day; and  
maybe I will. But anyhow I hope to  
get away tomorrow or next day, and go  
on to San Cristóbal.

Yours very truly  
Robert Burkitt

Mr Geo. B. Gordon

Pennsylvania University Museum.

P.S. In another envelope I am sending  
you some very good picture postcards showing  
Quirigua's ruins, etc. - R.B.

San Cristóbal Verapaz  
Guatemala  
1913 August 5.

My dear Gordon,

I wrote you from Cobán under date of July 27. I came here on the 30th. I have not been able to do much about here, in the neighbouring village of Taktik, which I visited. I started an intelligent Indian gathering things that might be found in field work, and I shall see what they are like when I come back. Tomorrow I start for Uspantán and Cunén. It appears that there is a place where the river can be crossed, without danger to animals, tho' it involves traveling a day on foot.

I enclose a continuation of my catalog. The best things, I suppose, are the statuettes numbered 108 and 109. They are part of a lot (101 to 115) that I bought from a native for about £5. He began by wanting £20. The man has a piece of land where the

2  
things came from, and he undertakes to have more things for me when I come back. — The pot numbered 116 is a curious thing; at least I have seen nothing like it in any collection. Both that and number 100 (also a good thing) were presents, as I have stated. And I continue to think it would be a good plan to print some brief list of the things collected, mentioning the names or any givers.

Since last writing, I was able to borrow a small camera with a portrait lens arrangement, and got a very good group picture of the larger specimens that I had; also some of the smaller. I left the negative to be printed from, but I have not yet got a print.

Speaking of prints, by the by, I should like to correct something I said, about the two little prints I sent you. Besides the article marked X, I think now, that two others in the same row may be genuine; the

one after the next one, on each  
side of the market one. It is as  
well to be exact.

Yours very truly  
R. Burkill

George B. Gordon

Pennsylvania University Museum

FROM LETTER ROBERT BURKITT TO G.B. GORDON, JULY 27, 1913

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I enclose you a couple of very interesting little photos; photos of two small collections here. The interesting thing is, that every single article in them, excepting the one dish marked X, is (at least in my opinion) a modern sham.

I have included a couple of shams, as I consider them, in the pottery I have collected for your museum. One of them is down in the catalogue as No. 51; it is similar, in a general way, to those that you see hanging on the wall, in one of the pictures. The other is down as No. 22; it is that very pot that you see marked O; it happens to be of a different origin from the other fakes.

FROM LETTER ROBERT BURKITT TO G.B. GORDON, AUGUST 5, 1913

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Besides the article marked X I think now, that two others in the same row may be genuine; the one after the next one, on each side of the marked one. It is as well to be exact.

San Cristóbal V.  
Guatemala  
1918 August 6

My dear Gordon

Since posting my letter of  
yesterday I have got the print that I  
mentioned, and I enclose it to you.  
I am not so much pleased with the print as I  
was with the negative. I have pricked  
pinholes through the pictures of the several  
things and written the catalogue numbers  
at the back.

Yours very truly  
R. Burkhitt

Mr Geo. B. Gordon  
Penn. University Museum  
Philadelphia

San Cristóbal V.  
Guatemala  
1913 August 6

My dear Gordon

I sent off a letter to you  
about half an hour ago saying  
that I enclosed you a print.

I find that I did not en-  
close the print, but I

do now, though I am afraid  
<sup>it will</sup> get to you by a different post.

— By the by the rule laid on  
top of article N° 100 is one foot.

Yours very truly  
R Burkitt

Geo B. Gordon, Esq.  
Pa. University Museum

Chiantla  
Huehuetenango  
Guatemala

1918, October 20

My dear Gordon,  
just a line to let you know that I am alive. I shall write you more fully in a few days. I am greatly taken up just now with my attendant, who has gone mad. - I wrote you last on August 5 and 6, from San Cristóbal Verapaz. From then til now I have been occupied mainly in the ruin part of the business; looking up ruins in the eastern Cuchumatanes; and now in making necessary drawings to send you. What took me most time - as much as all the rest together - was the great ruins of Xolchán, near Aguacatán. I have measured them and made a plan of them. - For the moment, I en-

close you a couple of pictures I have at hand. Both from ruins in the eastern Cuchumatanes. Both pictures or images. The one with a cutlass leaning against it, is a stone and mortar image, on a ruin in the woods on the Chahúl river, about a day SE of Chahúl. The other is a sort of low relief cut on one side of a slab of stone; standing among ruins in a place called Chi Xoch, about a day NE of Uspantán. I took two views of each, and I enclose the four. - Unusual rainy weather last two months, but now some signs of getting better.

Yours very truly  
P. Burkitt

Mr George B. Gordon  
Pennsylvania University Museum  
Philadelphia, U. S. A.  
P.S. No letter from you since that of April 9. - P.B.

LETTER ROBERT BURKITT TO G.B. GORDON, OCTOBER 20, 1913

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I enclose you a couple of pictures I have at hand. Both from ruins in the Eastern Cuchumatanes. Both pictures of images. The one with a cutlass leaning against it, is a stone and mortar image, on a ruin in the woods on the Chahul river, about a day southeast of Chahul. The other is a sort of low relief cut on one side of a slab of stone; standing among the ruins in a place called Chi Xoch.