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WESTERN UNION



CABLEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Number
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Send the following Cablegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

January 12, 1925

ROBERT BURKITT

SENAHU GUATEMALA

SHIPMENT RECEIVED MONEY SENT

GORDON

Paid -- Charge University Museum

Belize
British Honduras
1925, January 30

My dear Gordon,

I write you from here on December 18, sending you a small packet, and expecting, as soon as quarantine was lifted (which was just after Christmas) to go back to Guatemala. In waiting, I changed my mind. I took a notion to go up what is called the Old River, and see the neighbourhood or the frontier between British Honduras and Petén. The journey, from which I am now back, was not on any purpose of the Museum; but it happens that in the course of the journey, and talking to Indians, I have picked up a few notions about your Chilam Balam.

As for the word Balam (or which the proper spelling is, Baalám, so) that word is an every day word with the Maya Indians, and there is no uncertainty about its meaning. It doesn't mean (as it does in most Maya languages) a Leopard, nor any other cat beast, but means a divinity considered to be the

lord of the woods (u yumil akaax). He is to be heard in storms, and whistling in the wind: and is even spoken of, some times, as a wind: but when seen, which is by glimpses in the woods, has the appearance — unless he changes his appearance — of a human being. Several people have declared to me that they have seen him. Every place is supposed to have its presiding Gaalám; and it is the custom, especially at the time of planting corn, to make prayers and offerings to the Gaalám of the place. The offerings may be incense, and flowers, and honey, and game; and the prayers, for rain, or fine weather; and the little ceremonies go through, as conducted by a particular sort of doctor, or priest, called a hmén; which is to say, a Doer.

But Chilam Balam, though it involves that vocable Gaalám, is nothing that the Indians associate with that worship. I've spoken to many Maya Indians, not only of the British Honduras neighbourhood, but of other parts of Yucatán, both north and south, and found not all of them, but many of them, familiar

with at least the name, Chilam Balam; catching at it as soon as I spoke it. But their tradition or what it was, though rather various and confuzed, was never any thing to do with that worship or the Gaalám, but something to do with wars, and calamities — often with the end of the world; the end of the world being something that was to come on with a wild, universal war, extending even to birds and animals. Chilam Balam, according to one man, I remember, was a particular Gaalám, or divinity, who should rule at that time; but with others, and most, was a book, or a writing, hard to read, containing the prophecy of such a time, or of such times. According to one person, an old woman from near the town of Valladolid (I think it was), the writing of Chilam Balam was on a stone, on a certain hill. The stone was partly sunk in the ground: and once upon a time some bishop (as she called him) tried to dig to the bottom of the stone, and read to the end of the writing. But it was not permitted that he should read the end. The stone each night sank in the ground, as much as the bishop had dug by day; and at length sank out of sight.

As for your published Cholan Balan Book, that you had reminded me of, I dropt it into my valise, and I've taken opportunities of showing it to Indians who could read and rite: and the result, I must say, has not been very encouraging. As you may suppose, the men have no remembrance of their ancient calendar; and when they see this, Katun, for example, all it makes them think of is an upper mill stone (skar-tun), which in the spelling of the Book, would have the same appearance. Katun. — And aside from forgotten words (which perhaps are not altogether many) the reading seems to be still every where hard. There are plenty of words and phrases, that once used to the riting, the man can read without the least pains: but to make a continuous sense, almost any where, seems to take a great deal of poring. I suspect the riting is like so much Indian riting that I've seen; so unscold, so full of unconscious abridgments and omissions, as often not really to represent speech, or to represent it only in a very stammering way; fully intelligible only to the riter.

The best man I showed the Book to, happened to be a man at the little Indian village of Teokós, on the Mopán river, just inside the British Honduras boundary. He was a man

5

Born near Mérida, but had lived in various parts of Yucatán and Petén, and besides speaking Spanish, ~~which~~ and having some practice of reading and writing in his own language, had the curious advantage of being himself a hmén - one of those rustic priests, that I said. He thought that among the first pages of the book he recognized something of his own business. It was that man's opinion that two or three people together, might with patience, make out most of the book. What one didn't think of (as he said), another would think of.

My own opinion is less hopeful. No last work on the book would not be all lost work. The book would not be as bad as the bishops' done. You could get to the end of it, and something would be made out. But it would be a long job, a job of ^{months} ~~(5m afraid)~~ probably; and when done, would at best, be very unsatisfactory. However, it might be a job for some rainy season.

Besides my little trip into the west, I had thought of a trip to the north, and to Big Santa Cruz; but I find I should have to wait for an uncertain boat, and for the present I go back to Guatemala.

My cameras lately, as Gewitcht. I'm
 posting you a little camera, quite new, that
 I've had direct from the makers, the Eastman
 Kodak company. I beg you will kindly see
 the enclosed letter, and take charge of the
 camera, and send it back to me in the same
 way as you have sent me other things; that is to say
 through Eggers and Steinlein, 59 and 61 Pearl St.,
 New York, asking them to forward it with their
 next shipment of cargo to their correspondents
 Messrs K. Champney and Company. Parcel
 post to Guatemala is useless.

The usual experience of people here,
 sending a camera to the makers to rectify, is
 that the makers do a little perfunctory tinkering,
 and send the camera back, worse than it was
 before. And now whether they mend this
 camera, or whether they send a new one (which
 would probably be better) ^{what I beg} ^{is} that you would
 have some fotografer take his time, and expose the
 camera to the bright sun, and test the shutter,
 and finder, and every thing, by actually taking some
 pictures. Let me know the charges, and
 please excuse this repeated trouble.

Something else. The Jesuit mission
 in British Honduras is getting up some little

exhibit to send to the Vatican, and Kekchi
being a language of the colony, they would
like a copy of the Kekchi fairy tale, that
you published, The Hills and the Corn. They
have been very civil to me, and I should be
obliged if you ^{would} kindly post a copy of the tale,
with my compliments, to

Father Alan Stevenson, S.J.
Belize,
British Honduras

Yours very truly
P. Burkitt

mailed

As for the word Balam (of which the proper spelling is Baalam, so) that word is an everyday word with the Maya Indians, and there is no uncertainty about its meaning. It doesn't mean (as it does in most Maya languages) a leopard, nor any other cat beast, but means a divinity considered to be the lord of the woods (u yumil ikaax). He is to be heard in storms, and whistling in the wind: and is even spoken of, sometimes, as a wind, but when seen, which is by glimpses in the woods, has the appearance - unless he changes his appearance - of a human being. Several people have declared to me that they have seen him. Every place is supposed to have its presiding baalam; and it is the custom, especially at the time of planting corn, to make prayers and offerings to the baalam of the place. The offerings may be incense, and flowers, and honey, and game; and the prayers, for rain, or fine weather; and the little ceremonies gone through, are conducted by a particular sort of doctor, or priest, called a hmen; which is to say, a Doer.

But Chilam Balam, though it involves that vocable baalam, is nothing that the Indians associate with that worship. I have spoken to many Maya Indians, not only of the British Honduras neighbourhood, but of other parts of Yucatan, both north and south, and found not all of them, but many of them, familiar with at least the name, Chilam Balam; catching at it as soon as I spoke it. But their tradition of what it was, though rather various and confused, was never anything to do with that worship of the baalam, but something to do with wars, and calamities - often with the end of the world; the end of the world being something that was to come on with a will, universal war, extending even to birds and animals. Chilam Baalam, according to one man, I remember, was a particular baalam, or divinity,

who should rule at that time: but with others, and most, was a book, or a writing, hard to read, containing the prophecy of such a time, or of such times. According to one person, an old woman from near the town of Valladolid (I think it was), the writing of Chilam Balam was on a stone, on a certain hill. The stone was partly sunk in the ground: and once upon a time some bishop (as she called him) tried to dig to the bottom of the stone, and read to the end of the writing. But it was not permitted that he should read the end. The stone each night sank in the ground, as much as the bishop had dug by day; and at length sank out of sight.

Senahú
Guatemala
1925, March 2nd

My dear Cordon

I encloze you my money account. If you find it corect, I beg you wil kindly let me hav the balance in five ov Brown Brothers drafts for \$1000 each: and the remainder, az near az may be, in fifties.

I rote you last on January 30, from Balize. I got back a few days ago, and found your letter ov December 30. With your letter wer the drafts you mention, the copies ov the Muzeum Journal for June, and your book: for all ov which I am much obliged.- Its a satisfaction to me to hav your articles in the form ov a book. When the articles wer coming out in the Journal, ther wer some that I mist. Im very ignerant, but I supoze your book may be almost the only American thing ov its kind since Washington Irving.

The colourd plates that you kindly wish to send me, I think had best be shipt by Eggers and Heinlein. I supoze the plates will be in something ov the nature ov a box, which E and H can be instructed to put inside some box ov their own. E and H should be informd ov the value and net weight: and whether the plates ar loose, or in the form ov what the customs here call a Libro empastado, that iz to say, a bound book. A mistake in description iz liable to cauz a fine.

Im glad to know that my shipment haz reacht you. You dont say whether you hav got the post parcel, containing the pencils and other things - the parcel I spoke ov in my letter ov December 18. The parcel waz registerd, and I encloze you the receipt. By the by the small packet that I spoke ov having mislaid, I found and posted by itself az a registerd letter on December 23. I ad the receipt for that, and also the receipt for the parcel containing my camera.

When you come to open the boxes, I should like to know how the packing in Indian corn husks haz done. I cant usualy get wood wool, and Ive been afraid that Indian corn husks lose their spring, and the packing gets loose.- And Ive noticed that insects or something, sometimes eat away my tickets. In case you find the tickets hav disapeard from the parts ov the stone 788 (which iz in boxes 1/8), I may tel you that the packing ov the parts waz az follows:

box 1 containd	N	box 4 containd	L	box 7 containd	U
" 2 "	D	" 5 "	P	" 8 "	B C E F G H
" 3 "	A	" 6 "	Q, V		J K M R S T W X

Yours very truly

R. Burkitt

Senahú, Guatemala
1925, March 1st

The Pennsylvania University Museum in account with R. Burkitt

		Dr Am. \$	Cr Am. \$
1922 Jan 1	To balance according to account rendered,	315.	
" " 7	By Brown Brothers drafts dated 1921, December 8,.....		1000.
" Aug 1	To my time to date: January 27 to July 10 (see my letters of 1922, May 14 and December 27): 5 months, 14 days: at \$300 a month,.....	1640.	
" Sep 24	By Brown Brothers drafts of August 4,.....		1000.
1923 Dec 27	" " " " " November 7,...		1000.
" " 31	" camera and things: value according to Eggers and Heinleins invoice,.....		91.
1924 Mar 1	To my time to date: 1922, August 12, to 1924, February 13 (see my letters of 1922, December 27, and 1924, April 13): 18 months, 2 days,.....	5420.	
" " "	" various expenses to date, namely: Cash payments to land owners or stewards, for leave to dig, and for the labour they furnisht. - In some places, as in Chocólá, there was no charge for leave. Mostly there was. The leave, however, was usually lumped with the labour, and the two cannot be distinguished. In the case of three payments, it happened I took receipts: which I attach to these sheets. Guat. \$5913, at about 59 for 1, 100.22 Am. \$,..... 240.65	340.87	
	Forward,.....	7715.87	3091.

		Dr	Cr
	Back,.....	7715.87	3091.
1924 Mar 1	continued		
	Treating, tips, Christmas boxes:		
	Guat. \$786, at 55 for 1 (for 1922),	14.29	
	" "1311 " 59 " " " 1923/4	22.22	
	Am. \$.....	<u>50.50</u>	87.01
	Labour paid directly: mostly diggers, but also carriers, canoe men, guides, car- penters, and others;		
	Guat. \$1700, at 55 for 1,.....	30.91	
	" 6668, " 59 " ".....	<u>113.02</u>	143.93
	Two extra pack animals, and keep:		
	Guat. \$2650, at 55,	48.18	
	" 2300 " 59	<u>41.82</u>	90.
	Materials: Shovels, hoes, barrows, baskets boards, etcetera, etcetera,:		
	Guat. \$629, at 55,	11.44	
	" 1356 " 59,	22.98	
	Am. \$,.....	<u>24.22</u>	58.64
	Photographic stuff, printing, enlarging, etcetera: a great deal of printing was bad, and had to be ordered two or three times over:		
	Guat. \$929, at 55,	16.89	
	" 853, " 59,	15.51	
	Am. \$,.....	<u>21.93</u>	54.33
	Telegrams noted,		2.27
" May 21	To the amount the museum recovered from a photographic dealer, as stated in a letter (C. B. C.) of this date,.....		9.
" Sep 28	To finishing the drawings and catalogues which I sent on April 13, and on this date:		
	Forward,.....	<u>8161.05</u>	3091.

	Dr	Cr
		3091.
	8161.05	
1924 Sep 28 continued		
as usual with me, I took probably too much time and pains with those things: I will charge for only two months:.....	600.	
1925 Feb 19 By Brown Brothers drafts dated 1924, De- cember 31,		1000.
" " " To expenses of exportation, namely:		
Freight and portorage, from Saint Chris- tophers to Livingston, 16.29		
From Chocolá to Port Barrios, bil not yet received, - -		
From Port Barrios to Livingston, <u>2.80</u>	19.09	
Carib captain and men, cash,	48.50	
Rum, cigars, presents to women, etcetera,	51.35	
Tarpaulin,	2.80	
British Honduras freight and lighterage,	12.	
Consular and Custom house fees, with typing,	13.75	
Porters, cars, boys, servants,	10.87	
Cables and postages,	6.20	
My fares to Balize town and back,	26.25	
" " " To my time: 1924, November 12 to December 25 (see my letters of December 18 and January 30), and subsequently 8 days getting back here: 1 month, 22 days,	520.	
" " " By balance to date,.....		5380.86
	9471.86	9471.86
" Mar 1 To balance in my favour,..... American	\$5380.86	
----- E. and O. E. -----	3.25 <u>5384.11</u>	
By camera expenses, following on my letter of January 30,		?

372 5 Mar
1066 Mac
242 Edel
509 3. 307.

R. Burkitt

5300
4200
1100

March 24, 1925

My dear Burkitt:

I received your letters of December 13th and January 30th from Belize. I have already acknowledged the safe arrival of the 22 boxes. I ought before this to have acknowledged the receipt of the small package you sent by post from Belize and the later the envelope containing some small fragments. As all our men have been very busily engaged upon the installation of new Egyptian collections since the arrival of your cases they have not yet been opened. Anxious as I am to look at them they will have to remain until the present job is completed.

I have read with great interest your account of your trip up the Old River. I may wish to print your notes on Chilam Balam in the JOURNAL and I presume that you have no objections.

I notice by your accounts that the Museum owes you \$5,380.86. This sum will be sent to you in the way you indicate as soon as the Treasurer can have the drafts issued by the bankers.

I thank you for your memorandum regarding the boxes and their packing. Just as soon as I can have these opened I shall write you about the condition in which I find them.

Very sincerely yours

Director

MR. ROBERT BURKITT
Senahu
Alta Verapaz
Guatemala
Central America

copy entire

Senahú

1925, April 14

My dear Gordon

I've just had your letter of March 24. I'm glad to know you got the packet with the Indian pencils.

Looking over my letter of January 30, that you speak of, I see there's something I didn't bring out quite as plain as it was in my own mind. On the third page of the letter (in case of my notes being used in the Journal), you might make an alteration. After the words **SUCH TIMES** (about half way down the page), go on in this way:

And I was struck by the fact that more than one person thought that the riting of Chilam Balam was a riting on stone. According to one such person, an old woman from near the town of Valladolid (I think it was), the stone of Chilam Balam there, with its riting, stood on a certain hil.

Then after **CERTAIN HIL**, go on as I wrote.

You may look at a few pictures I snapped, though they have nothing to do with my notes.

175: Balize Harbour: Fort George point, from the Government House quay.

176: Balize: Night fall on the swamp at the wireless towers.

177: Christmas morning in pajamas: Mahogany men and a Doctor. - You see very plain in this one the effect of the leaky shutter.

178: A mahogany landing on the Old River.

Please let me remind you of the copy of the Hills and the Corn fairy tale to send to the address at the end of that letter.

Yours very truly

R. Burkitt

This is for the parcel containing the camera.
No. **6452** **BRITISH HONDURAS PARCEL POST.**



Stamp

Received this 2nd Day of February 1925

From R. Burkitt Esq. (Senahu, Guatemala)

A Parcel Addressed to George B Gordon Esq.
Pennsylvania University Museum,
Philadelphia
U.S.A.

Signature of Officer
receiving the parcel

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'W. H. ...', written over a horizontal line.

NOTE--- The Colonial Postmaster will (not in consequence of any legal liability, but voluntary and as an act of grace) give compensation to an amount not exceeding 20 shillings for the loss and damage of parcels sent by Parcel Post between British Honduras and the United Kingdom. Compensation if any will be given for parcels from and to other Places in accordance with the regulations for the exchange of parcels between British Honduras and those places.

April 27, 1925

My dear Burkitt:

I have your letter of April 14th and have taken note of its contents. I shall make the corrections according to your text. I thank you for the photographs of Belize.

There was no delay in sending a copy of your book, THE HILLS AND THE COVE to Father Alan Stevenson, S. J., Belize, British Honduras, but I am afraid I forgot to mention it to you in my last letter.

The Eastman people decided to send an entirely new camera. I have had this tested by our photographer who pronounces it excellent in every way. I am sending you the negatives which he made in his tests. The camera is going forward to Messrs. Eggers and Heinlein with the request that they forward it with their next shipment to Messrs. K. Champney & Co.

Your drafts are going forward by the same mail as this letter.

Very sincerely yours

Director

MR. ROBERT BURKITT
Senahu
Alta Verapaz
Guatemala, Central America

April 28, 1925

My dear Mr. Burkitt:

I am sending you herewith drafts on Messrs. Brown Brothers & Co., New York nos. 9658 F to 9670 F amounting in all to \$5,330.86 in full settlement of the account rendered by you dated March 1, 1925. The duplicates of these drafts are going forward in this mail under separate cover.

Will you be kind enough to acknowledge the receipt of the drafts?

Very truly yours

Asst. Treasurer

MR. ROBERT BURKITT
Senshu
Alta Verapaz
Guatemala, Central America

This is for the parcel containing 918/9, 921.

No. **2480** British Honduras Registered Parcel Post

Date



Received this day from

R. Dinkitt

A Registered parcel addressed to

George D. Green Esq.

Pennsylvania University Museum, Philadelphia
USA

Signature of Officer
receiving the parcel

Alfred [unclear]

NOTE--- The Colonial Postmaster will (not in consequence of any legal liability, but voluntarily and as an act of grace) give compensation to any amount not exceeding 20 shillings for the loss and damage of any parcels sent by Parcel Post between British Honduras and the United Kingdom. Compensation if any will be given for parcels from and to other Places in accordance with the regulations for the exchange of parcels between British Honduras and those places.

Senahú
Guatemala
1925, May 18

My dear Gordon

I have just had your letter of April 27, along with the drafts for \$5280.86, for which I am much obliged.

And I am much obliged to you for your kind trouble about the camera; and for sending the book to Balize.

Yours very truly

Robert Berkitt

June 8, 1925

My dear Burkitt:

We are now in process of unpacking and mending your last shipment of twenty two cases. Everything was found in excellent condition. The stone from Chocola went together quite perfectly and only a few small chips on the face are missing. I will send you a photograph of the stone when we have it mended.

The two pots Nos. 955 and 1086 have also been mended and I am glad to find that they are in so many pieces, almost everything is preserved. They go together very well and make a very good appearance. The picture on No. 1086 is a remarkable one and I believe differs from any other known example in that it shows what is apparently a common incident in the life of the ruler. It shows how he was going on a journey and how he would be attended. I am quite convinced that the use of the fan in this picture corresponds to our idea of a fan's use and although it is made exactly in the same way as the *soplador* which is not used in this way, the personage in the picture is evidently using it either to fan himself or to keep away the flies. In certain islands of the South Seas *hefly* whisk is a prerogative of a chief and an emblem of his chieftainship. Possibly this use of the fan is something similar. I will write you more fully when the mending of the collection shall have been finished.

They all right

I shall be glad to hear from you at your leisure whenever you have anything to say. Are you thinking of going on another journey for us?

Very sincerely yours

MR. ROBERT BURKITT
Senahu
Alta Verapaz, Guatemala

Director

July 15, 1925

My dear Burkitt:

We have made good progress in repairing and putting in order your last shipment. The work is interrupted at present while people go on their vacations. A little later I hope to send you some photographs that may be of interest to you.

Two of the looking glasses, a round one and a square one, have been repaired and the pieces seem to fit together quite perfectly. The others are incomplete. I find that the plates of mineral ¹⁹²⁵ pyrites which the surfaces of the mirrors are ~~Canadian~~ ^{made in his} possession large crystals of pyrites from which he sawed the faces. The sawed surfaces were then ground down so that the plates were of an even thickness and fastened to the stone tablets with the natural faces free. The edges were coaxed together and where the natural forms did not exactly fit, the maker helped them by grinding the edges.

During the long burial, the surfaces of the plates had become oxidized and therefore changed in colour from bright yellow to dark brown or black. The interior of the plates ~~are~~ still unoxidized and consist of pure iron pyrites or sulphate of iron.

I am assuming that your guess is right in calling these objects looking glasses for I cannot imagine any other use for them. Certainly when they were new and the surfaces polished, they would give a brilliant reflection. They are the only objects of the kind that have ever been found. Polished tablets of obsidian have been found in Mexico and Central America and have been called mirrors, but these are the first examples of a very different kind showing great ingenuity and skill.

Regarding the black pitchlike substance which you found with the mirror, I do not yet know whether this substance placed over the surface of the mirrors at

at the time of burial for protection or whether it was the cement which was used to attach the plates to the ~~surface~~ stone. Can you give me any further information on this?

With best regards

Very sincerely yours

Senahú

via Puerto Barrios

Guatemala

1925, July 20

My dear Gordon

Ive had your letter ov June 8. Im glad to know that my packing turnd out right. Wer the Kishpék mirrors unpacket without mishap? I remember I waz afraid ov them.- When you come to the pottery fragments 897/8, I should be glad to know whether you hav any good specimens ov that style ov riting.

Ive had my time taken up, and Ive done no more digging: though ther waz a moment in the dry season when I came near digging. I had vizited some mounds, and engaged a man to send some labour, but when the time came that I might hav uzed the labour, ther waz none to be had. When the rains ar over I may dig again in some ov the old places.

I hav to acknowledge a couple ov Muzem Journals: one number for last December, foll-
owd just now by the number for last September.

Im sorry to see in some news paper that one ov the Muzem staff iz lately dead.

Yours very truly

P. Burkitt

Senahú

via Fuerto Barrios

Guatemala

1925, August 4th

My dear Gordon

Ive just had your letter ov July 15th, about the Kishpék looking glasses.- That the Indians had looking glasses ov some sort, I think ther cant be much dout, becauz they hav a word for looking glasses in their languages.

About this black pitchlike substance, that you say I found with the mirrors, Im at a loss to know what you hav in mind. You seem to speak ov the stuff az if it waz something I had sent you. What iz its number? I remember that grave quite well, and I remember nothing like pitch in it. Ther waz nothing on top ov the mirrors but a film ov mud, az you can see in the fotograf.

Az for the cementing ov the money to the plates, all I know about it Ive put down in my catalog, under the head ov 1084. I should judge that you had not yet come to that number.

Im intrested to know what you say about the sawing ov the mineral, and the use ov the natural polisht surfaces. And I should like to hear more: particularly en two points. If the polisht surfaces ov the money are all natural, how iz it that ~~xxxxxxx~~ some ov them ar not quite flat, but decidedly curvd? In my catalog I didnt separate the instances ov that, but I know ther ar several. Im not sure, but I almost think thers an instance included in the lot 1090.

And again if the polisht surfaces ar natural, how iz it that thers ofen slate close under the surface? I spoke ov that slate formation under the numbers 1014 and 1022: which perhaps also youve not yet come to.

Yours very truly

R. Burkitt

August 7, 1925

Dear Burkitt:

Numbers 897 and 898 are different from anything we have. These panels undoubtedly contain initial series in some form of hieroglyphics but I cannot make anything of them. The conditions under which they were found and the antique appearance of the fragments lead me to suspect that they may not have been made by the people who buried them but that these may have acquired them as fragments or as relics and kept them on account of some particular association. The fact that no other parts of the vessels could be found would seem to confirm this idea.

You wrote at one time that the Indians at the present time use pottery in some of their witchcraft or ceremonies at their fires, but I did not understand the reference. Could you give me anything further along this line?

With best regards

Very sincerely yours

Director

MR. ROBERT BURKITT
Senahu
Alta Verapaz
Guatemala

September 4, 1925

My dear Burkitt:

Your letter of August 4 came to hand.

I was wrong about the dark substance wrapped up with the mirrors having any pitch in it. It was simply dark mud as I found by placing it in water. I have not yet come to No. 1064 as I have been interrupted in the unpacking of your collections. When I shall have resumed it and taken up again the study of your catalogue, I will write you more.

We have now ready a portfolio of twenty five plates of Maya pottery, some of them obtained through you. I have a copy of this portfolio for you but do not know how to send it without your instructions. I should be sorry to have it lost in transportation as it is an expensive business and the price at which we are compelled to sell it to our subscribers is sixty dollars.

The Museum wishes to present you with a copy and I only await your instructions regarding the means of transportation.

Very sincerely yours

Director

MR. ROBERT BURKITT
Senahu, Alta Verapaz
Guatemala

Senahú
via Puerto Barrios
Guatemala
1925, September 7

My dear Gordon

I hav had your letter ov August 7, and Im much obliged for what you say about 897/8.

With respect to your question about my speaking ov pottery at fires, perhaps you wer thinking ov something I said under 1059. I dare say it escaped your notice that that 1059 waz found at a fire place. I had spoken ov the fire place under 1051/63. Indians at their witch fires ofen uze pieces ov broken pottery for wind breaks and ash pans. And it simply ocurd to me to offer that az an explanation - if an explanation waz wanted - ov the state ov 1059. 1059 waz a stray fragment, without other parts: and found at a fire place.

Speaking ov 1059, what do you make, at the muzeum, ov the geometric picture which waz the intrest ov that piece? The picture recurd on other pieces, the best example being that ov 902:- Something else I should like to know, iz what the green pencil, 919, iz made ov. I supozed it might be malachite.

I shal be glad to see the fotografs you kindly speak ov sending: and a fotograf ov the stone 788, when the stone iz set up, would be very dezirable to send to Chocolá.

If you adress letters to me az you see on top, it wil some times cauz them to reach me a week sooner.

Yours very truly

P. Burkitt

F. S. The camera you kindly sent me, duly arrived, and I've been trying it. I'm afraid your fotografer didnt test it for the particular defect in question. I enclose you a couple of negatives. You see the dark circle in the middle, just the size of the lens. Whenever there is an interval of a week between two pictures on a roll, the second picture invariably has that dark circle. Usually, an interval of two or three days is enough to produce the effect: and I've once or twice noticed it, though faint, after only one day.

I've tried putting a cap on the lens, but the same thing happens: and it happens while the camera is shut. I've made trial by winding off a piece of film without opening the camera, and the blank negative, afterwards, had the usual dark circle in the middle.

I've never had the thing happen with other cameras, but now it has happened twice over with these, and I begin to think it is something constitutional in this brand of camera, which is an Eastman Number 2 C Special. This 2 C, without being a miniature thing, is a very neat size to hang on your saddle. The post card size is a little too big. But of course with this thing happening, the camera is almost useless. It may be that there is some easy remedy, if I only knew it: and I should be much obliged if you would kindly pass the question on, to the makers, or to somebody who knows about these cameras.

The makers will probably try and put you off by asking to have the camera sent to be examined: but there's no way to send it from this country without taking more trouble than it's worth: and if there's no easy remedy, perhaps you might be so kind once more as to send me another camera: either one of these, fully tested for the defect, or some other roll camera of about the same quality. Perhaps the Eastman Number 1 A Special (advertized at about \$56.) has nothing the matter with it. The camera should come with a colour filter and portrait attachment and a couple of dozen rolls, and an extra cable release, as they call it, but no leather case. But I would much rather have a remedy for the other camera.

R. B.

Senahú

via Puerto Barrios

Guatemala

1925, September 28

My dear Gordon

Ive just had your letter ov September 4. Im much obliged to you for wishing to giv me a copy ov your valuable set ov plates.

The way to send them to me, wil be through Messrs Eggers and Heinlein, ov 59 and 61 Pearl street, New York: asking them to put the packet inside some box ov their own, in a shipment ov cargo. Isupoze you wil send the packet to E and H between thin boards, or something ov the sort, fer protection against other things in their box. I wouldnt complicate matters by mentioning my name, - simply say that you ar sending the thing to their customers, Messrs K. Champney and Company, ov Guatemala: whom ov course I shal advize.

You must tel E and H the value ov the thing, and the net weight, including the weight ov the cover (if ther iz a cover): and describe the thing az containing so many sheets ov lithografs (or fotografs, or whatever they may be). I supoze, from your saying portfolio, that the sheets ar loose. But if they ar permanently bound together so az to make a book, then call it a book, a book ov lithografs. A fault ov description iz liable to cauz a fine.

The way to send ordinary fotografs or pictures here, too big to put in a letter, iz to put them between the leavs ov some pamflet, and put the pamflet in a card board tube, and send the tube by common post, not registerd. And thats much quicker than by cargo. The advantage ov sending by cargo, iz not perhaps that its much safer, but that if a thing iz lost, you can claim insurance: az happend not long ago in the case ov that camera you sent me. - I look forward with much pleasure to seeing your pictures.

Yours very truly

R. Burkitt

October 27, 1925.

Dear Burkitt:

I am sending today to Eggers and Heinlein of New York the package containing the Portfolio of which I wrote you recently. I have already notified them of my intention and am conforming strictly to the instructions that they have given me, supplying them with invoice in triplicate on which the value and the net weight are given. I am writing to Kensett Chamoney and Company of Senahu, Alta Verapaz to look out for this package and to deliver it to you.

As soon as I received your letter about the camera, I wrote to the Eastman Kodak Company, who replied that they had already heard from you on this matter and that they were making investigations to ascertain the cause of the trouble. They believed that they were on the track of a discovery which would enable them to tell you how to avoid the trouble in the future. It appears to be certain that this behaviour is caused by the climatic conditions in Guatemala and is one which rarely occurs. I hope that you will hear from the Eastman people and that they will be able to make good.

Very truly yours

Director

MR. ROBERT BURKITT
Senahu, Alta Verapaz
Guatemala

P. S. In the invoice I have described the article as a portfolio containing loose plates of collotype engravings, valued at \$60. There are 25 plates enclosed in the portfolio together with a printed list of these plates. The whole is enclosed in a printed paper jacket and is protected by a heavy portfolio.

November 10, 1925

Dear Burkitt:

Eggers and Heinlein have informed me that they will ship my package containing the portfolio of 25 plates in their next shipment to Champney & Company, which will go forward on the 14th instant. I would like to hear from you upon its arrival as to whether it is received in good condition and whether all the 25 plates as well as the index and title page are safe.

Very truly yours

Director

MR. ROBERT BURKITT
Senahu
Alta Verapaz
Guatemala

KENSETT CHAMPNEY & CO.

FINCA "SEPAQUITÉ" SENAHÚ.

Address for Foreign Letters:

PANZOS, ALTA VERAPAZ, GUATEMALA

Cable address:

"SEPAQUITÉ GUATEMALA"

A. B. C. CODE 4TH, 5TH & 6TH EDITION.

Sepacuité November 13th 1925.

G. B. Gordon, Esqr.,
The University Museum,
Philadelphia.

Dear Sir:-

In view of your letter of the 27th ulto., we will attend to the package you are sending through Messrs. Eggers & Heinlein, Inc. and ourselves to Mr. Robert Burkitt, turning it over to him without opening as soon as received.

Yours very truly,

Kennett Champney

Senahú

via Puerto Barrios

Guatemala

1925, noviembre 24

My dear Gordon

This iz just to say that I hav
your letter ov October 27. I look forward
with great intrest, az I said, to seeing the
pictures: and the arival ov them wil ov course
be lookt out for.

I also hav to aknowledge the receipt ov a
Muzeum Journal for June.

Yours very truly

R. Burkhitt

Livingston
Guatemala
1925, December 25

My dear Gordon

This iz to let you know that Ive receivd your twenty five pictures, together with the index and cover, all in good order. Its very kind ov the muzeum to send me theze things. Im sure Ive done nothing, and dont expect to do any thing to dezerv it. Az for thoze fine pictures, you must hav had many congratulations on them, and you **certainly** hav mine. In the case ov picture pots with long pictures, or with double pictures, and in fact in the case ov almost any thing except image work, thoze representations ar more convenient to look at than the original pots. --I should like to know whether the printed colours ar fast, or wil be afected by a damp air.

I spent a couple ov hours looking at the pictures. Most ov them, though not all ov them, decidedly reminded me ov one or/ other ov my own finds. To mention one thing, I waz reminded ov my bowls 937 and 8, and the pattern on them. I waz struck by seeing elements ov the same pattern (az I thought) re-apearing, with variations, on your XIV, and XIII, and most plainly, on the rim ov XXV. I should like to ask what antiquaries make ov the geometric picture on XIV: and whether you would consider it to be a transformation ov the geometric picture on my 902 and 1023. I supoze thers no end ov such questions.

Yours very truly, and wishing you a happy new year

Robert Burkitt