

Senahú

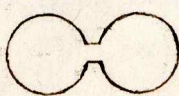
Guatemala

1926, March 29

My dear Gordon


The last I wrote you was at Christmas, acknowledging the receipt, in good order, of the pictures of Maya pottery. I wrote from Livingston. I was then just starting on what has turned out to be a several months excursion: of which something over a month, altogether, has been taken up with business of the Museum: partly in viewing collections of antiquities, and partly in seeing people and places with an eye to future digging.

You have several times spoken of wishing to buy collections. Both in Kesaltenango and in Guatemala City collections exist, which as such things go, are at least well worth seeing. The collections have been made for the most part, by buying things brought in by Indians or ignorant creoles, and the owners can't usually tell you the places, much less the circumstances, in which the things were found. It can be said, however, that the most part of the collections are of things from the Pacific slope, or from parts of the interior next to the Pacific slope; and incline - so far as the distinction is worth anything - incline rather to what is usually described as Aztec work than to what is usually described as Maya. As a rule too, each collection contains many things, which though they interest you while you are looking at them, yet don't afterwards stick much in your mind. At least so it is with me. I remember each collection, as a rule, by a few particular striking things.

For example one collection, I remember mainly by two things. One thing was a sort of double bowl, a sort of Siamese twin thing:  consisting of a pair of ordinary three-footed bowls standing side by side, and joined in one piece by a short open canal, at the level of the rims. I can't imagine the use of such a thing: and it's a miracle it wasn't broken in finding. - The other thing, which took my fancy rather as a work of art than as a curiosity, was an ornamental Indian mill stone: an under mill stone: in which the long foot, the foot next the grinder, was carved in the image of a lizard. - The whole collection, which may have comprised

near a hundred pieces, might probably be had for less than a thousand dollars.

In an other collection of about the same size, what the owner principally valued was some large carved beads: of that green stone that people are used to calling jade. I don't myself much value jade beads, unless the carving is of such an order of carving as that, for example, of my bead 945. But I see that other people, and perhaps museums, do. I see some of these people even put away their little jade things in a strong-box, as if they were diamonds. In the collection I'm speaking of, what most drew my own attention, was not the man's jade (I don't mean a woman), but a pottery bowl: in its nature somewhat resembling my picture pottery: and in fact having in the inside bottom a dim picture: a picture of something like a two-headed snake. And that bowl, the man stated positively was from Nicaragua. The man offered me his collection for \$2000: which in his case would probably signify that he would accept a good deal less.

An other and better collection, that I even made a partial inventory of, was a collection made by a former consul general of Germany, and now offered to me by his agent. The collection contained among much other pottery, a couple of remarkable stamps: some what of the fashion of my Chipal stamp 694, but the fashion much better developed: the cutting-out very deep, and handsomely done. - But again in the owner's opinion, and in this case I dare say correctly, the most valuable part of the collection was the jade. The jade things, mostly beads, might have weighed altogether, some fifteen or twenty pounds. The carved beads were mostly of the usual poor carving: say like ~~xxxxxxx~~ that of my beads 957 and many others. But among the carved beads there were a dozen or more of unusual size, some of them as much as ^{five} ~~six or seven~~ inches long. And besides, much more interesting to me than all the beads, was a plain jade bowl. The bowl, which had a  raised band round the rim, was about this shape, and ~~I~~ ^{suppose} about ^{seven} ~~five~~ inches wide. - I was told by a person very well informed of the case, that the jade things alone had cost the collector about fifteen hundred dollars. The collector, now living in Germany, and since the war, in reduced circumstances, would accept, according to his own agent, 2500 dollars for the whole collection: but I have a notion that he would accept much less: perhaps give the whole collection for the cost of the jade.

An other collection that I found might be bought, had the

peculiar intrest, that nearly all the stuff waz from one place. The collector, or the brother ov the collector, haz an estate not far from Tecpán, that iz to say, not far from the ruins ov Ishimché: and the collection (which the collector haz been at for the last twenty years) iz nearly all ov things from that estate. The bulk ov the collection consists ov a roomful ov big stone things: stone faces and images, and one or two ov thozе so-call'd yokes. But most ov the stone images wer plainly once parts ov buildings, and away from the buildings, greatly lose intrest. Besides many ov them, though not all, ar so heavy, and to me ov such unattractiv workmanship, that I wouldnt hav them az a gift, much less take the trouble to export them. Ov course you might hav fotografs and ~~xx~~ see what you thought. The part ov the collection that most pleazd me, waz a cabinet ov shelvs filld with small things, mostly pottery. And the individual that most struck me, in that pottery, waz a cearse red jar: the jar that you see in this foto, 179. On top ov the jar you see a rule, or three joints ov a rule, each joint being a decimetre. The jar iz a round bottomd thing, with no foot, and Ive put some handfuls ov earth under it, to make it stand up. The main thing, ov course, iz the stuck on imager: az I supoze, the image ov a priest. The image reminds me ov one ov my Roknimá images, in the fact ov the priest having ropes about him, and an infant victim: the victim seeming in this case to hang from the priests neck. The novelty iz in the priests face, or mask (az it iz ~~dx~~ doutless meant for): showing the eyes gouged out and hanging down on the cheeks: the representation, I believ, ov one ov the Mexican divinities.

The owner ov the collection would prefer to sel the hole ov it, but he might ~~xx~~ perhaps sel some part. He couldnt be got to name a price for any thing, but wanted me to make him an offer: which I said I couldnt do without consulting. I waz afterwards told that the man had once made a bargain to sel the hole collection to a Filadelfia merchant, Mr John Wanamaker, or to some agent ov hiz, for 3000 dellars. But the war intervned: ther waz no way ov shipping: and the sale fel through.

Ther ar people who hav not collections, but single things. And one such thing waz perhaps the most attractiv object that I waz any where offerd. It waz an ornamental mil stonev or rather the hole mil, both upper and lower stones. It happend the owner had a couple ov old fotografic negativs, and from them I had these

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
~~prints made~~

prints made, 180 and 181: in each of which you see the two stones. The mil, which is a huge thing, and has the under stones upper surface, and the hole of the upper stone polished, that is to say, the grinding surfaces polished, was plainly never meant for actually grinding, and must have belonged to some ritual. In stead of the usual three feet, this mil has four: and what ordinary mills never have, has a handle - or whatever you may call the astonishing carved ornament. That ornament, as you see, presents the head of a snake or a reptile: possibly an imaginary reptile: but ~~any how with~~ ^{supposed to have} a strong resemblance to the usual representations of the Mexican day Cipactli. The stone is hard, and the hole workmanship excellent: you see at once that the maker was perfectly master of his material. The upper stone (which aside from being polished, is also in its shape not proper for grinding) is 95 centimetres long. The total length of the lower stone is 119, and its greatest width 53. - According to the owner, who inherited the mil from his mother, the stones were found upwards of sixty years ago, in the ^{now} well known ruin place of Saint Lucy Cotzumalwápa (Spanish spelling, Cotzumalhuapa, Cotzumalguapa, etcetera) on the Pacific slope, by a priest digging a trench for the foundations of a church: where along with this mil was another like it, only the lower stone was broken. The owner's mother exhibited the mil in the Chicago exhibition of 1892, and received a medal for it: The medal (which the man still has) is shown in the photo. The agents of the Guatemala government, at that exhibition, stole and sold many of the antiquities exhibited by private Guatemala people: but this man's mother, who herself went with the mil, was able to defeat attempts on it, and fetch it back. The present owner, who also offered me some old Spanish books and other inheritances, is now disposed to sell this mil: and his price for it, which I thought cheap, would be 500 dollars.

I don't know, in your ears, how these prices may sound. What should you say your self that that mil might be worth? What is the most you would give for the pot or photo 189? or for that jade bowl? For my own part I have really no standard. All I have to go by is the price a man asks, and my fancy for the thing. So much fuss has been made about antiquities, of late years, in Guatemala, that if you now want to buy things you must be content to pay something. Perhaps you might make an experiment: be prepared to lay out five or six thousand dollars, or even something less, and see how you liked the

result.

Now about digging. I revizited Chocolá. Doctor Lehmann, the German antiquary, waz lately there, and heard about the stone I had sent you: the disapearance ov which, Im told waz a great pain to him. He waz on hiz way to Mexico. But in about two years he means to come back to Chocolá, if he can, and start digging at one ov the big mounds. In case you decide to dig one ov them your self, however, the manager ov Chocolá wil stil be glad to hav you, and to giv you evry help.- By the by I mentioend to the manager, that you had said that you would prezently send a fotograf ov the Chocolá stone. I hope you wont let the thing slip from your mind. Theze little things help.

An other Pacific slope place that I vizited waz a big nativ plantation, near to that Saint Lucys that the mil I just spoke ov came from. On this plantation, besides some big sculptured stones, now a good while known (none ov them ov quite such good work az your Chocolá stone), the manager haz lately unearht several others, which various people hav fotograft: and I send you a couple ov fotos (182/3) ov one ov the biggest and oddest. Many ov the stones record days and numbers. And the numbers, in evry case but one, that I could see, wer signified in the usual Astec way, by the number ov dots, or circles. But in the case ov one stone, I waz struck by seeing a number signified in the Maya way, by a combination ov dots and bars. If any body should ask you the name ov the plantation, it iz calld Baúl. In that conexion it might be intresting to examin the small hieroglyfics scatterd about on the Chocolá stone. I think that more than one ov them had a strong apearance ov the ~~xxxix~~ Maya style. I had some rubbings but seem to hav mislaid them.- However, what I went to the Baúl place about, waz not so much to see the stones, az to see the owner, or one ov the owners. In Chipál, and in a place next Chipál, ther wer one or two spots, that when I should come to hav an other oportunity, I had stil meant to dig at. It turns out how ever that Chipál, remote az the place iz, haz been bought, within the last year, by the owners ov the group ov plantations ov which Baúl iz one. Several big Pacific slope plantations ar getting to be so hard up for men, that they ar going great distances now, to buy lands with men on them. The men then hav to come down at set times to the plantations to work. So the Baúl plantations hav now bought Chipál and the place next it. And az ther would be some

steward on the place, I shouldn't be able to dig without leave from the owners. The man I was looking for, it happened I didn't find in Baúl: but I found him afterwards in Guatemala City, and he was very obliging, and at once gave me a letter for his Chipal steward.

Of course I have not forgotten the places in the Koopom region. But an other region that I have thoughts of trying is the region of Kiriwá. That whole neighbourhood, up and down the river, has been much explored, lately, by a company of planters, the United Fruit Company. I had word of some sort of new ruins being found, and went to see about them. And what I've found, is that the whole neighbourhood is sprinkled over with mounds, mostly small mounds: and presenting the same sort of appearance and arrangements as for example those mounds of the Koopom region itself, that I've already sent you drawings and accounts of. I make little doubt but the mounds of the Kiriwá neighbourhood contain the same sort of tombs, and things, as these Koopom mounds. I once saw a fragment of picture pottery, for one thing, from so near to Kiriwá as Punta Gerda. And the things would of course have the peculiar interest of belonging to the neighbourhood of the celebrated monuments of Kiriwá. The local officers of the fruit company have kindly said that I should have leave to dig: and I think that the digging could be kept quiet.

If you think you would like me to do a little digging this year at some place that I've mentioned, or not mentioned, according to opportunity, you may send me some funds, as before: and to save a little time, cable me the word Good.

I might say that I have a suspicion that the Museum is perhaps not much interested in knowing many of the details of mounds, and of digging. And in case of further digging, though I should conduct the digging with the same pains as usual, I should purpose to lighten my catalogs by as a rule describing mounds, and structure, and digging, only in the most summary way. And not only so, but unless you spoke to the contrary, I should purpose to lighten my shipments of stuff. In stead of sending you nearly everything I found, or at least samples of nearly everything, as I've done, I should omit nearly everything that I didn't myself think interesting. For instance, in a case like that of the Chiwatál grave, corresponding to the numbers 1031/47, perhaps the only things I should send would be the beads, the looking glass (1037), and the pot 1044. What I think of, of course, is not the mere economy of shipping, but the

economy ov my time and labour, in saving, cleaning, carrying, numbering, packing, re-packing, and cataloguing, such a heap ov (what I should call) rubbishy stuff?

In your letter ov October 27 you spoke ov the Eastman Kodak Company. Ive heard nothing more, and Ive not since ritten them. When you hav a chance you might perhaps stir them up, and ask if theyve made the discevery that they told you they wer on the track ov. They might pay some atention to an institution like a muzeum.

I hav to acknowledge the receipt ov a Muzeum Journal for September. - Let me remind you ov the dezirableness ov adressing my mail in the way I said some time ago: to Fansós, via Puerto Barrios, Guatemala.

Yours very truly

R. Burkitt

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Patrons should mark an X opposite the class of service desired; OTHERWISE THE CABLEGRAM WILL BE TRANSMITTED AT FULL RATES.

WESTERN UNION CABLEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Number
Number of Words
Time Filled

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

April 27, 1926

ROBERT BURKITT

SENAHU

GUATEMALA

LETTER RECEIVED WRITING MILL JADE BOWL INTERESTING DIFFICULT

ASSIGN PRICES THESE SUBJECT ARRANGEMENT

GORDON

PAID -- CHARGE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM

May 3, 1926

My dear Burkitt:

I have your very interesting letter of March 29 with enclosed photographs.

I am glad that you have had a look at the collections that are available for purchase. As you probably anticipated, the things that interested me most are the large stone mill with the carved figure-head and handpieces, and also the jade bowl.

Sometimes one is compelled to buy a whole collection in order to get one desired object and there are occasions when this is justified. I think you are now a pretty good judge of the things we want and you are probably as good a judge as anyone of the value of things.

In my experience, it is impossible to fix prices for antiques. One must either pay what the owner can be persuaded to accept or else give the matter up.

In quoting prices in dollars, I do not know whether you mean Guatemala dollars or United States gold. If you mean the former, the prices that you quoted for the mill is very reasonable; and it would appear as if the jade bowl might be acquired reasonably even if some of the other things had to be taken with it.

Even if you mean United States gold when you give prices in dollars, it would still seem as if you might negotiate these purchases at fair prices. I authorize you to do the best you can on these two objects.

At first sight, it struck me that the jade bowl might possibly be a modern importation from China where jade bowls and various other objects in jade

Page 2

are still made in quantities. On the other hand, I have never heard of a jade bowl of Central American origin. That, however, does not prove anything. I think you would have no difficulty in distinguishing a native Central American product from a Chinese importation. A Chinese jade bowl would be shaped so perfectly as to appear turned on a lathe, and very highly polished, usually with very thin sides. I should imagine that a Central American bowl would not have quite so much regularity of form or so high a polish.

The other objects of jade that you mention as in the same collection would not be so interesting but the bowl would be a really interesting acquisition if you could manage to obtain it.

With regard to the other objects that you mention, I will not at the present time make any comment. I wish that I might fall in at once with your suggestion of making excavations either at Kiriwa or at some other point. It is a question of ready cash with us. We have been spending all of our ready money in preparing for this large Exhibition that we are to open this month. Therefore, I feel obliged to postpone any remittance to you at present for further work. This delay, however, I hope will not be long. Your suggestions with regard to the voluminous and detailed notes on excavations and the saving of every fragment are undoubtedly to the point. I presume some of the detail might be eliminated. At the same time, it is impossible to commend too highly the care and elaboration of your former catalogues. I always read them with great interest. Now that we have a new Curator for the American Section, Mr. J. Alden Mason, who has worked in Mexico and Central America as well as in South America, it will be his business to give his attention to whatever you send in the way of collections. In a short time, he will begin a study of the last collection that you sent and I know that he will find your catalogues

Page 3

unusually helpful.

Doubtless, some of the least interesting fragments might be discarded altogether, which would probably make your task more feasible.

I am aware that I have not replied to your letter of December 25. That is because I have been too busy. Sometime, I will try to give you a definite answer to your questions.

I am sending you under separate cover two copies of a photograph of the stela. Will you let me know whether these reach you safely?

Very sincerely yours

Director

MR. ROBERT BURKITT

Senahu

~~via~~ via Puerta Barrios

Guatemala

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
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Number
Number of Words
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Send the following Cablegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

May 13, 1926

ROBERT BURKITT

SENAHU GUATEMALA

BUY MILL BOWL PROCEED ACCORDING YOUR LETTER MARCH 29

GORDON

PAID -- CHARGE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM

Senahú

via Puerto Barrios

Guatemala

1926, May 17

My dear Gordon

I got your wire ov April 27:- Leeter received writing mill jade bowl interesting difficult assign prices these subject arrangement.- The letter haz not yet come. Ive just now had your second wire:- Busi mil bowl proceed according your letter march 29.- Ive been wondering whether the first word should be Easy or Buy. Isupoze the latter part ov the message refers to digging. I see nothing about funds, which perhaps ar on the way. However thers no urgency. When I sugested cabling, it waz with a view to imediat digging. I thought that if you aproved my projects ov digging I might proceed at once, perhaps to Kisiwá, and make use ov the remaining six weeks or so, ov the dry season. Thats no longer to be thought ov: it wil now be August, probably, before digging wil be any where practicable, even on the Pacific slope.- Az for the collections, thers nothing to be lost by waiting for your letters.

Im reminded ov something. I beg you wil kindly let me know whether the muzeum haz copies to sel, ov your portfolio ov pictures, and if so, whether the price iz sixty dollars for the hole publication, or sixty dollars for the instalment now out. An other thing, I should be much obliged if you could let me hav a copy ov that fairy tale, The Hills and the Corn.

Yours very truly

R. Burkitt

restoration. - Your letter has again been late in getting to me. The direction via Puerto Barrios, should be in the body of the address, not in some corner.

Yours very truly

R. Burkitt

Senahú

via Puerto Barrios

Guatemala

1926, May 25

My dear Gordon

Ive just got your letter ov May 3rd, with the fotografs. I rote you last week, aknowledging your cables ov April 27 and May 15, and hav little to ad. The prices ar United States gold. I wish they wer not. Thoze prices in Guatemala paper, would here, now be laught at.

I think ther can be no dout but the jade bowl iz Central American. The shape iz not exact. The surface iz smooth, but a little lumpy: and the sides ar thick. By the by, the sketch I gave you waz from memory, and ought to hav lookt wider, or shallower. Im now able to say, from my notes, that the bowl iz about 18 centimetres wide, and 6 high.

In case ov buying the bowl, what I had thought ov doing, waz perhaps to hav bought the hole collection that it belongd to. The owner, that I told you ov, stood very wel with certain persons in the Guatemala government, in hiz time; and hiz agent believes it would not be very hard, privatly, to get a government permit for the collection to be exported; in which case my notion would hav been to get the man to include in the collection any thing else that I might pick up, and particularly the mil, if it wer stil to be had. The mil iz heavy. I dare say the big stone, when packt, might turn out to weigh 300 pounds, perhaps more: and my method ov exportation, haz depended on uzing women, at a certain stage, and having light packages: if possible nothing above a hundred pounds. I supoze the mil might some how be managed: but ov course it would be much better to get it out with a permit; and the permit would dependon buying the collection.

Im much obliged to you for the fotos. I shal send one to Choccolá. I supoze the stone iz not on view yet, az I see no label. I see by the fotos that you go in for some amount ov

Director

MR. ROBERT BURKITT
Senahu
Via Puerto Barrios
Guatemala

The right way

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
THIRTY-THIRD AND SPRUCE STREETS
PHILADELPHIA

Mr. Robert Burkitt

Senahu

Guatemala

Via Puerto Barrios

The long way

PHILADELPHIA
MA
6-
19

PUERTO BARRIOS

June 1, 1926

My dear Burkitt:

We had our Opening of the New Wing on the eighteenth of May and since then I have had a little more leisure to give attention to your correspondence and to our interests in Guatemala.

In the last letter that I wrote you, which was dated May 3, I referred briefly to your letter of March 29. I have now read this letter over again. I am much interested in the report that you make on the several collections that you have found for sale. As often happens, each collections strikes me as a whole as undesirable but some of them have single objects in them that one would like to acquire for the Museum.

For instance, I should say that the collection of the former German Consul General would not be at all interesting as a whole for purchase but one object mentioned by you in that collection is especially interesting to me, namely, the jade bowl. The stamps would doubtless be interesting too, but the bowl is something quite unusual. It is so unusual, in fact, that I have been wondering whether there is any possibility of its being a modern Chinese importation which found its way somehow into the collection. This would hardly seem possible and, as I wrote you before, I think you could easily distinguish native workmanship from that of a Chinese, owing to the extreme regularity and high polish of the latter. I do not know whether the owner would be willing to sell this one piece separately. The other jade things that you mention are not really of much interest. You are quite right in saying that only those that have the finer carving are important and these are, of course, very important. The bowl, however, is something that stands by itself and it is difficult to say how

much one might pay. The price mentioned to you, namely, \$2500 for the collection, would be a high price to pay for the bowl; yet, one sometimes has to buy a whole collection in order to get one object. I think one might pay a thousand dollars for that collection for the sake of the bowl, and perhaps a few hundred dollars more in a pinch after bargaining.

In the next collection that you mention, the pottery jar with the curious figure on the outside, shown in your photo 179, is certainly interesting. The story that someone representing Mr. John Wanamaker offered three thousand dollars for the collection is not to be believed. It is a curious story however it got started.

The next object that you mention; namely the ornamental mill with its handpiece is an object that I would much like to acquire for the Museum. Your photographs give a very good idea of it. The sum of five hundred dollars is quite reasonable for this piece and I wish that you would take the earliest opportunity to secure it and have it forwarded to us through such safe channels as you have formerly employed.

Your questions about the actual values of things are hard to answer. As for the pot shown in your photo 179, I might be disposed to pay anywhere from twenty five to one hundred dollars according to circumstances. The jade bowl is, of course, worth much more to me because it is an object about which I have a special curiosity. As you say yourself, there is no standard and there can be no standard for the value of such objects. The lowest price that an owner will accept according to its relation with the highest price that the buyer can pay is what usually determines the amount of money that passes in such transactions. However, when a man names a price which is obviously reasonable, such as is undoubtedly the case with the mill, it is only just and reasonable that he should be as

Page 3

be awarded his price.

I may mention in passing that the stone from Baul of which you sent me two photographs is one of several from the same place of which I had already received photographs from someone in Guatemala. What you write of Mr. Lehmann reminds me that within the last few days, we had a visit from Mr. Erwin Dieseldorff of Copan. The purpose of his visit was, of course, to see the things that you had sent. He was able to see the things that you had sent previous to the last shipment because those things had been placed on exhibition. The last shipment however which had not been placed on exhibition was not mentioned to him by me although he displayed a good deal of curiosity.

Mr. Dieseldorff has recently published in German a book entitled KUNST UND RELIGION DER MAYAVOLKER, of which I have received a copy. The publisher is Julius Springer of Berlin. The book is dedicated to the President of Guatemala. There are a number of illustrations, largely from Mr. Dieseldorff's own collection assembled from Chama and the region about Copan. Some of these are in the Berlin Museum. There are pieces from other regions but his Chama painted vases are the most interesting. I notice that in his discussion of religious beliefs of the Maya, Dieseldorff quotes from your HILLS AND THE CORN. I do not know whether you have seen this publication or whether it can be obtained at some bookstore in Copan. If I can in any way help you to obtain a copy, I shall be glad to do so.

I have just now received your letter of May 17 which shows that you had already received my two wires, but not my last letter. The last wire should read, as you have guessed

BUY MILL BOWL PROCEED ACCORDING YOUR LETTER MARCH 29

Page 4

It is true that the latter part of the message refers to your proposal about digging. We withheld funds pending an acknowledgment by you of our cable in case any change in your plans and opportunities might have come about. We have now arranged to set apart certain funds for your use, either for buying or for digging as you may judge best. I notice that it is now too late to dig before August. I was much interested in your suggestion about digging in the Quirigua region and the result of your inspection of that ground. When I was last there, the place was a virgin forest of very dense growth and I cannot help regretting its destruction. It would be very interesting to try some of the mounds that you speak of to see what they contain. However, with regard to a site for digging, I must leave this entirely to yourself and the circumstances. There are the places you have already dug on the western slope and which you refer to again in favourable terms, and there are many other places of which you have personal knowledge. I do not know whether you have ever heard of the mounds in British Honduras or of the discoveries made there in times past. Dr. Gann, years ago, opened some mounds and later a party from the Peabody Museum of Harvard University opened some more and found the most beautiful pieces of carved and painted Maya pottery that have yet been discovered anywhere, all quite intact. I simply mention this in case circumstances might chance to lead you in that direction. I think there would be no difficulty about digging there or about exporting anything found.

With regard to the funds to be placed at your disposal, I think that the sum will amount to five thousand dollars. Of this, we are sending you now \$2500 in the usual way. The remainder will be sent to you in August or upon your request.

About the Portfolio of pictures of Maya

Page 5

240
pottery, the Museum has copies to sell. The price is \$60 for each part, or \$250 for the four parts. As you know, only one part is yet published, the one of which you have received a copy. The price of that is \$60.

We are sending you through the mail separately two copies of THE HILLS AND THE CORN. You can have further copies of this whenever you like.

I have again written to the Eastman Kodak people inquiring about the behaviour of your camera.

Very sincerely yours

Director

MR. ROBERT BURKITT
Pansos
via Puerto Barrios
Guatemala

II

Jocotenango, Guatemala.

.....de Agosto de 1926.

Recibi de don Roberto Brown \$500.- (Quinientos pesos).oro
Norte Americano, valor de una piedra de moler con su mano.

C. Bendfeldt. V.

3

The man gave me his receipt
before he was paid, and never
filled in his date R.B.

June 9, 1926

Dear Burkitt:

I am sending enclosed herewith drafts in the amount of \$2500 in the following denominations:

2 drafts of \$500 each
10 drafts of \$100 each
10 drafts of \$50 each.

As this is a little more convenient for us than the form that you asked for on other occasions, I trust that it will be equally convenient for you.

I last wrote you on June 1 and you will have learned from that letter what my thoughts have been about buying collections.

If the collection that contains the jade bowl could be bought as a whole with permission to export, it will undoubtedly be the best way and I hope it might be arranged so that the permit will include the bill and anything else that you might pick up.

As a rule we do not go in for restorations. A photograph of the stone was made at a time when we had restored in plaster some bits of the missing design in an effort to work out the pattern. Before exhibition, however, these restored parts will either be removed or else they will be distinguished from the rest by being a different colour.

Very sincerely yours

Director

MR. ROBERT BURKITT
Panos
Via Puerto Barrios
Guatemala

(22 original drafts sent with letter; 22 duplicate drafts sent with copy of letter.)

Something I should like to ask, - What ^{see} insurance, if any, did the American Express Company charge you on my last shipment?

R. Burkitt

Yours very truly,

Senahú
via Puerto Barrios
1926, June 28th

My dear Gordon

Your letters ov the 1st and 9th hav reacht me together, along with the originals and duplicats ov the drafts for \$2500. You had better not send further funds til I rite or cable. In case I cable the word CONSULAT, you wil understand that I want funds to be adrest to me at the British Consulat General:

R B

recomendada al Consulado General Británico
Guatemala

At the consulat they wil know where I am.

Im glad to hav your remarks on the colections. My plans at present, ar to make a move from here, probably within a month: and first see about the colections, and afterwards dig. Where I should first dig, would depend, partly, on hew long it took to settle the buziness ov the colections - what time ov year it waz. Quite likely my first digging might be on the Pacific slope: the weather in the autum, there, being better than on this side.

I think you did quite right in telling Mr Dieseldorff az little az possible about my shipments. I heard some time ago that he waz asking questions. Ive no dout he would like to know about my ways and times of shipment, and I had rather he didnt. To hav other people trying the same methods would only increase risks. Mr D didnt tel you, I supoze, how he tried to get some stuff to Germany from Port Barrios, and the stuff waz nabd. - I must repeat what I said before, that though ov course I uze my best care, yet some day ther may be a slip: and I cant be anserable. By the by a new decree came out last year against digging, a decree adding to the old obstacles, and threatening not only diggers, but land owners who alowd digging in their land. The efect ov the decree, however, remains to be seen.

Im much obliged to you for the copies ov the Hills and the Corn: and also for your riting to the Eastman Kodak Company. I rote them my self a few weeks ago, but hav not yet heard from them.

E. Schaeffer
Guatemala.

I

Received from Mr. Roberto Burkitt
the sum of \$1000.00 United States currency, for
account of Mr. Max Obst and in payment for a
jade bowl in circular shape, with a diameter of
7- $\frac{2}{8}$ inches and a height of 2- $\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Edwards.

Guatemala, August 9, 1926.

III

Por \$ 50.00. Pesos Oro Americano.

Recibí de don Roberto Brown cincuenta pesos americanos por una imagen de piedra.

H. S. Latour
H. S. Latour.

Guatemala, C. A Septiembre 24 de 1926.

DUPLICATE

Guatemala, Guatemala, September 23, 1926.

Mr. Robert Burkitt,
City.

My dear Mr. Burkitt:

Referring to the two boxes, Mark U. P. B., Nos. 1 and 2, which you spoke to me about, I shall be glad to take charge of them until I hear from you. In the meantime they are at your disposal.

Very respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Philip S. ...". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed closing.

Duplicate

Guatemala, Guatemala, September 23, 1926.

Received this day from Mr. Robert Burkitt a package for the Pennsylvania University Museum, said to contain one jade bowl and one bronze medal, packed by him and sealed in his presence, which will be placed in the consular safe to be redelivered to Mr. Burkitt or to his order.

This receipt is not negotiable.



Philip Holland,
American Consul General.

Signed on duplicate

000

---- C O P Y ----

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE

Guatemala, Guatemala, September 23, 1926.

Received this day from Mr. Robert Burkitt a package for the Pennsylvania University Museum, said to contain one jade bowl and one bronze medal, packed by him and sealed in his presence, which will be placed in the consular safe to be redelivered to Mr. Burkitt or to his order.

This receipt is not negotiable.

Signed in duplicate

(signed) Philip Holland
Philip Holland,
American Consul General.

San Cristóbal Verapaz

Guatemala

1926, October 26

My dear Gordon

The last I rote you waz on June 28, from Senahú, acknowledging your drafts. I got your letter in reply to that riting, and left on July 28 for Guatemala City. I hav now come back from the Guatemala City neighbourhood, and am on my way to the neighbourhood ov Kesaltenango.

I encloze you a short instalment ov catalog - numbers 1091 to 1094: together with eleven fotografs, numberd 184 to 194. The foto 184 belongs to the catalog. The other ten, when you ar done with them, ar to be sent back to me.

The instalment ov catalog, which I made out some time ago, doeznt include quite all that Ive bought, but you will see that Ive bought both the bowl and the mil.- About the mil ther waz no trouble. The man took hiz 500 dollars, and I took the mil. It apears that the provincial governor, who had seen the mil, had been trying for some time to get the owner to giv it to the government, or to a nativ antiquarian society which exists under government protection. But the money for the mil waz never forthcoming: and the man undoutedly thought that he had better get rid ov the mil to me, before means wer found ov squeezing it out ov him for nothing.

The bowl gave some trouble. It seems that shortly after my writing to you in March, a Mr Lathrop, or Lothrop, employd by the Heye muzeum, ov New York, turnd up in Guatemala City, and saw the colection, and ov course saw the bowl. And it seems that the agent in charge, who you remember had propozed a price to me ov 2500 dollars for the colection - a price from which he would certainly hav much come down, now askt the Heye muzeum man 3000 dollars. The muzeum man went back to New York, and the agent soon afterwards had a cable from him, making a firm offer ov 2500 dollars: the colection to be held for the muzeum til their man should come for it, which would be about November. I saw the cable. And the agent had already replied, accepting the offer. I sugested splitting the colection; but the agent (who iz not a nativ, but a German, or German American) considerd that he waz now bound to the Heye muzeum, and that for the present, at least, he could do no buziness with me. He could only sugest that I might wait til November, and see if by any chance, the Heye muzeum man faild to appear. I thought it waz a poor chance. Before giving the matter up, however, I thought that I might make a strong bid for the bowl alone, and see what would happen. You had signified that for the sake ov the bowl, an offer ov a thousand dollars might be made for the colection: or even something better than a thousand. I said no more to the agent, but went to a nativ who had the reputation ov an antiquary, and had been a friend ov the colector, and whom in matters ov the colection, I new to hav been the agents great

advizer. I told this man that for special reasons, I was willing to give a thousand dollars for one thing in the collection, namely for the bowl: and in addition, a hundred dollars for himself, if he could talk the agent over. He agreed, and he succeeded: representing, I believe, to the agent, that the person to be considered, was not the New York museum man, but the owner of the collection: to whom a bird in the hand was worth two in the bush, and so on, - and in short I got the bowl, though at a cost of eleven hundred dollars. It's more than I should have thought of giving for the bowl, on my own view. But seeing that the New York museum was willing to pay at least 2500 for the collection in which the bowl was the chief attraction, and that you would probably be disappointed if the bowl got away from you, I thought I had better nail it.

It's now quite possible, I suppose, that the New York museum people will be indignant with the collector's agent, and reject the remainder of the collection. And it may then be open to you to buy that remainder, ^{or some part of it,} at a more reasonable price.

I've again seen the owner of the pot or photo 179. I found he had evidently been talked to by somebody, and had now come to the conclusion, to sell nothing less than his whole collection. But I think that he will again change his mind. By the way, I didn't ask the owner, but my previous informant sticks to the Wanamaker story, about that collection. Mr W, according to him, has, or had, a branch house in New York, and another in Paris: and the Wanamaker agent that appeared in Guatemala - my informant was not able to pronounce his

name - was a comercial agent conected at one time with the Paris house, and at an other time with the New York house. Of course my informant may be rong, but he seemd to know.

The man that I mentiond az the owner ov a bowl from Nicaragua, iz a broker and money lender, and haz many scatterd elients who pleaz him by getting him antiquities. The man himself, however, iz not intrested in antiquities, excepting az things that he can sel. I bought nothing from him, nor even made him an offer. But he took me to see hiz latest aquizitions, and gave me fotografas ov what he considerd wer the chief: and the fotos 185 to 194 ar thozе fotos.

The thing ov 185 iz a heavy clay image, about a foot high, and came from some where a little south ov Kiché. The things ov 186 ar a set ov shels, found in a tomb, on the boundary between Guatemala and Salvador. The two big shels, which ar about fourteen inches long, hav the tail ends cut off: not in the usual degree for blowing through, but with a wider opening, az if for speaking through. And one ov thozе two shels, the left hand one in the foto, haz scratcht round the outside ov it, half a dozen groups ov marks that might be taken to be hieroglyphics. In 187 and 188 you hav two slightly differing views ov that shel by itself: each view showing the same three groups ov marks az you saw in 186. On the back ov 188 the man haz signified thozе three groups by the numbers 1, 2, and 3. Going round the shel, group number 1 haz no other after it: but 2 and 3 ar followd by three others, which

the man calls 4, 5, and 6. And the remaining fotos, 189 to 94, ar near views, in the mans own order, ov the six groups, one by one: beginning with group 1. Group 6, az you see in foto 194, iz on the side the shel lay on, and iz nearly worn off.

On my own judgment, I supoze I might hav taken a chance, and given twenty or thirty dollars for theze shels. But the owner considers that thozе shels ar the most ~~extzerinary~~and-
extrordinary and valuable things in hiz poession, or perhaps that wer ever found in Central America, and worth their weight in gold, or a great deal more. He haz the nerv to ask ten thousand dollars for them, and iz sending copies ov the fotos to all the muzeums he can hear ov. He states that Mr Morley, when he waz last here, saw the~~y~~ shels, and exprest himself az thunder struck: but unhappily while looking at them, waz taken with a sudden colic, and had to rush away. You might enquire ov Mr Morley.

I wisht to rush away my self, but the man held on to me; and it happend that he showd me a fotograf ov something else: a fot~~o~~graf ov a couple ov thozе flint things with branching blades: such az hav been found at Kiriw~~a~~ and else where. These particular ones, az by chance I learnd afterwards - the man himself didnt know - had come from the neighbourhood ov the river Sastún, where somebody had given them az a prezent, to the governor ov the province. That governor, relinquishing hiz post, brought the things with him to the cold country, to the town ov Chimaltenán~~go~~: and there sold them to a lawyer, who in turn sold them to the money lender: who in hiz turn

sold them (according to his own statement to me) to an American collector for a thousand dollars.- The American collector (it may interest you to know) was a man called Hill, who seems to have been here last year, collecting for a museum in the western states - I don't know the name of the museum, but a museum founded, or sustained, or something, by somebody called Payn: you probably know about it. And I find that the same Mr Hill bought at the same time the best part of a collection made by a Kesaltensango doctor, now dead. It was a collection I had once seen, and hadn't thought much of, but Mr Hill I'm told, gave eight or nine hundred dollars for it.

The mil is the only thing that I've packed. It's packed, ready for shipment, in two boxes: marked U P B, numbers 1, and 2. The under stone, which is in box 1, not only was a most unhandy thing to make safe packing of, but makes when packed, a load that takes two men to lift it, let alone carry it. The packing is so managed, however, that without too much trouble, the stone, if necessary, can be unpacked on the beach, and the stone and the box handled separately.

Not having bought the collection that the bowl belonged to, what likelihood there was of getting an export permit, disappears: and I must be ready to fall back on some variation of my old methods. If you've heard of any other feasible way, lately, of getting antiquities out of the country, that is, big packages, I wish you would let me know. I'm told that that Mr Hill, that I mentioned, got his stuff out in a valise: but the stuff was small stuff. And even with small stuff, I

look on the valise method as too risky for any thing valuable. An other American, Toms, just last February, trying to get some thing out in a valise, was caught and had his stuff taken from him. I find that Mr Dieseldorff has kindly sent me a copy of his book, with its dedication to the president: and I dare say he had a notion that that dedication might some day be worth an export permit. Unluckily for him, that blackamoor president, who had lasted since 1921, has just now been poisoned, or at least has suddenly died. Mr Dieseldorff will have to write a new book.

What ever may be done about exportation, the few things I've bought, whether packed or not packed, are at present in safe hands. You will see by the two letters I enclose, that the things cataloged, 1091 to 4, have been very kindly taken charge of, in one way or other, by the American consul general, Mr Philip Holland. And Mr Holland hints a possibility that he may even be able to get the things out of the country for you, under cover of consular baggage.- In case you thought of writing to thank him, however, for any thing he has done or may do, he warns me to tell you not to: as the writing, passing through the hands of clerks, might get him in trouble. A great stink was raised here, not long ago, by the act of a Mexican official who was found exporting antiquities under cover of official luggage, and selling them to some American museum. And I needn't say it's not to your own interest, either, that anybody - least of all in museum circles - should know who helps you to get out your things.

The funds you sent ar not yet uzed up, but you had better now send more, say \$2000: adressing me, az I said before, under care ov the British consulat in Guatemala City.

They wil probably reach me in Chocolá. After buying what I may buy, in the neighbourhood ov Kesaltenángo, I mean to go at once to Chocolá, and start some digging. I went to Chocolá in September, and began to lay out some work, but the Pacific coast autum, this year, turnd out unusually wet, and I decided to leav digging til November: occupying the interval by seeing remaining colections. Ive been much delayd lately, by pack animals ariving late, or ariving sick, but I shal get away from here in a day or two. My plans ar to dig in Chocolá til the beginning ov the Atlantic dry season, and then take the hole ov that short season for work in the neighbourhood ov Kiriwá: and finally make one shipment ov what I may hav bought and what I may hav dug up. Let me know if you want thozе plans any way changed. Ther waz some expression in one ov your late letters, that almost sounded az if you might want an imediat shipment ov the mil.

Yours very truly

R. Burkitt