

February 17, 1927

Dear Mr. Burkitt:

For the past two weeks I have wanted to write to you to tell you some very sad news of Dr. Gordon although you may already have learned of it through the press. On January 29th Dr. Gordon had a fall at the Racquet Club in Philadelphia and sustained a very severe fracture of the skull. He was picked up unconscious and taken to the hospital where he died the following morning at seven o'clock. I am enclosing a clipping from the newspaper which will give you all the details -- indeed it tells all that we have been able to learn of the accident and we will never know whether the fall was the result of a heart attack or vertigo or a stroke. I need not tell you what a blow this has been to us all here. The Museum's loss is an irreparable one and the personal loss to those of us who have been associated with Dr. Gordon for a number of years is greater than I can express to you. I know that Dr. Gordon's death will be a sorrow to you also. He had a deep affection for you and there were no letters or reports that came to the Museum that gave him more pleasure and satisfaction than those which came from you.

We shall have to carry on as best we may but we shall miss very much the able direction of our Chief.

Very sincerely yours

MR. ROBERT BURKITT
Pansos
Via Puerta Barrios
Guatemala

POSTAL TELEGRAPH - COMMERCIAL CABLES

CLARENCE H. MACKAY, PRESIDENT.

RECEIVED PATIN SQUARE
BELL: RITTENHOUSE 477
KEYSTONE: RACK 5741

This is a fast Telegram unless otherwise indicated by signal after the number of words—"Blue" (Day Letter) "N. L." (Night Letter) or "Nite" (Night Telegram)

TELEGRAMS
TO ALL
AMERICA



CABLEGRAMS
TO ALL
THE WORLD

DELIVERY NO.

STANDARD TIME
INDICATED ON THIS MESSAGE

NA44 21 CABLE VIA AAC

1927 FEB 20 AM 2 33

GUATEMALA

WLT ANTIQUE

PHILADELPHIAPA

" THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM,
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
33 & SPRUCE STREET.)

WROTE OCTOBER ADVISING BOWL MILL BOUGHT WROTE NOW FROM CHOCOLA

SENDING COPY AND ASKING FUNDS

BURKITT CONSULADO BRITANICO.

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NIGHT MESSAGE	CABLE LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	WEEK END LETTER

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise message will be transmitted as a full-rate communication.

WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

NO.	CASH OR CHG.
CHECK	
TIME FILED	

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

February 24, 1927

BURKITT CONSULADO BRITANICO
PANSOS GUATEMALA

TELEGRAM RECEIVED FUNDS MAILED TODAY

MCHUGH

PAID -- CHARGE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM

1776

1926

The Sesqui-Centennial Philadelphia
150 Years of American Independence

February 25, 1927

Dear Mr. Burkitt:

We received your cable dated February 20 which reads as follows

a from
WROTE OCTOBER ADVISING BOWL MILL BOUGHT WROTE
NOW, CHOCOLA SENDING COPY AND ASKING FUNDS
BURKITT CONSULADO BRITANICO.

I have just telegraphed to you the following reply

BURKITT CONSULADO BRITANICO PANSOS
GUATEMALA
TELEGRAM RECEIVED FUNDS MAILED TODAY
MCHUGH.

By the time this letter will have reached you, you will have had my letter of February 17 in which I sent you the very sad news of Dr. Gordon's death.

I am now enclosing herewith twelve drafts in the sum of two thousand dollars as follows:

2 drafts, Nos. 4205 and 4206 for \$500. each
10 drafts, Nos. 4207 to 4216 inclusive,
for \$100. each. Under separate cover, we are mailing the duplicates of these cheques. I hope that they will reach you safely and I shall be very much obliged to you if you will let us know of their safe arrival.

Very truly yours

Secretary

MR. ROBERT BURKITT
Pansos
Via Puerta Barrios
Guatemala

Chocobá
Suchitepeques
Guatemala

1927, February 7

My dear Gordon

The last I note you was on October 27, from the town of Saint Cristobers, in the Verapaz, and I've not since heard from you. The last I heard from you was your note of July 13; and I begin to suppose that my October letter has never reached you. I now enclose you a copy of that letter; together with copies, or duplicates, of the catalog, fotografos, and other documents, with which that letter was accompanied.

The fotos 184 and 187, how ever, I'm not able to duplicate. 187 was of no consequence. To supply the want of 184, I now send you 195. The thing marked number 1, in 195, is the thing that was alone in 184.

Since riting in October, I've followed the plan that I indicated. Reaching the Kexaltenango neighbourhood, I vizited a number of colections, which contained among them some good things: or which things, how ever, I hav so far bought none. The owners, as usual, want you to buy their hole colections, and ther was nothing quite good enough to make me buy at that rate. How ever I'm stil in comunication with some of the owners, and they may yet change their minds.

Leaving Kexaltenango, towards the end of November, ^[1926] I came down to the Pacific slope, and to Chooslá: and in Chocobá, ^I was able to begin at once on one of the big mounds.

The mound that I've taken, is the one that on the map of Chocobá, that you hav, is market B. - I had first thought of mound D, as I think I told you. But in the end we decided on B; chiefly because B is that one, of the three biggest mounds, which is most out of sight from the public road.

[The digging when finished, if its finish according to my present intentions, will be a trench from the east side, to the middle or the mound - or a little beyond the middle: the bottom of the trench to be about two metres below the level of the surrounding ground. To make sure of not missing anything like a central burial, the trench, at the bottom, will be four metres wide. - The sides, of course, will slope outwards and upwards. And making the slope as steep as it can safely be, it appears from measurements that the sides of the trench, or pit, round the highest part, will run out from the surface of the mound at about three metres below the top. The digging, consequently, falls into two parts, the first part being to cut off the hole top of the mound, to the depth of three metres. Then comes the second part, in which the digging takes the shape of a pit, or of a trench, tapering to the bottom.

The first part of the job, that of taking off the top of the mound - about

800 cubic metres

800 cubic metres of digging — is now done.

You can follow the progress of that digging, in the ^{figures} fotos 196 to 201, which are numbered in the order of time. They are all taken from nearly one

point, the only convenient point or view there was, which was on a rising ground to the north east of the mound.] You already have a couple of

fotos, I think, of the mound as it was; one of which fotos was taken from ^{near} the same north easterly point or view. [The digging went ahead on

all sides, but of course in these ^{figures} fotos you see only the north and east sides. On the right hand side you see the mound disfigured by a dump. There were two equal dumps, one on the south west quarter and one on the north west; and you see the one on the north west. The foto

^{Figure 7} 202, showing some men at work, is taken from that dump. ^{Figure 8} Foto 203, which has something

the matter with it, is looking in nearly the opposite direction. You stand at the middle of the now flat top of the mound. The dark hillock in the fore ground is mound C.

Such digging as this, of course I gave out by task; the cubic contents of this or that

section, being found in the usual way, by surveying
 the surface. Consequently in the parts to be dug at,
 I know the precise contours of the mound; and in
~~this sketch~~ ^{Plate II} (next page) you see what those contours
 are. The three metre contour is of course the
 present edge of the top of the mound. The
 steepest part of the mound is yet to come, the part
 between ^{Contours three} 3 and ^{even} 7. — And you see now plainly,
 the lie of the mound. The ^{one} 4 metre contour,
 you might say is shapeless. But in the ^{two} 2 metre
 contour, and still better in the ^{three} 3 metre, you now
 see plainly, not merely what you saw before by
 my profiles; that is, that north and south, in the
 mound, is longer than east and west: — but that
 about north and south is longer, and about east
 and west shorter, than any other directions
 what ever, and as practically the axes of the mound.
 That lay-out of the mound of course doesn't
 prove that the mound contains, or covers, a Curial: —
 I suppose the most distinct probability of that, lies
 in the fact of the total absence, in this neighbourhood,
 of the usual small Curial mounds, or of any
 other signs of Curial at all. But the layout
 Page 6 is plan of obelisk.

7

is decisive in its suggestion — especially in coincidence with the similar lay-outs or ^{Mounds} C and D — The suggestion that east and west is the proper direction to try trenching. I might add, that the only thing resembling structure, so far found in the digging, was a pile of stones, about a cubic metre, apparently a guide-pile, in the middle of the east side.

Both this time and last, I have dug in Chocobá only at times of the year when digging in the north would be impossible. The northern dry season is now drawing on, and for the present I'm quitting Chocobá. The digging leaves nothing in the shape of a pit, or anything that might cave in or be damaged by rain, and can be taken up again later. My plan now, till the end of the northern dry season, will be to work in the north, either in the region of Kiriwá, or in the Koopóm region. First of all, however, I'm going up to Guatemala City: partly to pack a stone image that I have there, and want to have ready at any moment: and partly to see the head-men in Guatemala, or the

United Fruit Company, and see what they may say about your digging in their lands.

The funds that I said in my October letter, or better say \$2500, ought now to be sent: my address being (as I said) the British Consulat General. — I shal take this letter to be registered in Guatemala City, and if you get it, I beg you wil wire me. The address for that, wil wil hav to be Burkitt, Consulado General Británico, Guatemala. — To signify that you hav my letter, and ar ritng, you may say Vespasian. To signify that you ar sending funds, you may say Titus. To signify Dont proceed with plans til you get letter, you may say Domitian.

Yours very truly
P. Burkitt

Guatemala City
1927, February 28

My dear Gordon

I wrote you under date of the 5th of this month, from Chocolá: sending you the copy of a letter I had written you in October, and mentioning what I had since done, and what I intended to do: and asking again for funds. I brought the letter up here, and posted it by registered post.

Something I forgot to mention, in my writing, was that I had got your copy, that you sent me, of the Explorers Journal, with a market paragraph. I got that Journal some time in December. By some unusual mistake, or forgetfulness, at the consulat, the packet seemed to have been sent back to Philadelphia; from where it was again sent here, with a new envelope on top of the old one. — And now in Guatemala

City, a day or two after posting my letter, that I speak of, I made a discovery. Overhauling my correspondence, and tearing up old letters and envelopes, I discovered that you had written me on the 10th of November. I found your note of that date, stuck in the bottom of the outer envelope of the Explorers Journal. Supposing as I do, that you never got my October letter, I now felt that my apparent silence since July, together with my continuing silence after this November note of yours, might very well be giving you anxiety. And not waiting for my late letter to reach you, I sent you the following wire:—

Antique, Philadelphia.— Wrote October advising ~~how~~ mill bought. Wrote now from Chocslá sending copy and asking funds.—
Burkitt, Consulado Británico.

It was a week ago yesterday, that I sent that wire: and having still no answer, I suppose it likely that you may be in Europe,

3

or some where away, as once or twice before. Under the circumstances, I've not quite decided what to do. I shall probably spend some time in what is called the West. You may still address me at the British Consulat General.

I may say that I've packed the image that I mentioned in my last letter. The packing consists of two boxes, marked U P B, numbers 3 and 4, and stored along with the earlier boxes 1 and 2. The image will be identified by the fotograf and fragment or catalog which I enclose with this writing.

Yours very truly
P. Burkitt

People still ask me for copies of The Hills and the Corn. I wish you might be so kind as to send me an other couple of copies of it. Also a couple of copies of that Museum Journal that had the Mount Tahumales drawing.

RB

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NIGHT MESSAGE	CABLE LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	WEEK END LETTER

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WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

NO.	CASH OR CHG.
CHECK	
TIME FILED	

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

February 28, 1927

BURKITT

CONSULADO GENERAL BRITANICO

GUATEMALA *city, Guatemala*

VESPASIAN TITUS PANSOS FEBRUARY 25

McHUGH

PAID -- CHARGE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM

Vespasian Am writing
Latus - pending funds

The Centennial
 1776 1926
 150 Years of
 American Independence

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED
NIGHT MESSAGE	CABLE LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	WEEK END LETTER

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CHECK	
TIME FILED	

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

March 12, 1927

BURKITT

BRITISH CONSULATE

GUATEMALA CITY GUATEMALA

LETTER FEBRUARY 28 RECEIVED CLAIM MAIL AND TELEGRAM SENT PANSOS

McHUGH

PAID -- CHARGE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM

1776

1926

150 Years of
American Independence

March 16, 1927

Dear Mr. Burkitt:

Your letter of February 28 addressed to Dr. Gordon reached us on March 12 and I immediately wired you as follows:

BURKITT BRITISH CONSULATE
GUATEMALA CITY GUATEMALA
LETTER FEBRUARY 28 RECEIVED CLAIM MAIL AND
TELEGRAM SENT PANSOS

It is a matter of great regret to me that your instructions for forwarding mail sent by you in your letter of October 26 last, addressed to Dr. Gordon, were not carried out. You will, no doubt, have received my letter telling you of the very sad and sudden death of Dr. Gordon. Your October letter was among his papers and was not found by us until after we had sent off to you at Pansos my telegram and letters, one of which contained drafts totalling \$2,000. I hope these communications have reached you safely. I realize how much trouble it must give you to have mail forwarded to you from one point to another in Guatemala and can only ask your indulgence at this time. As you may readily imagine, our labours have been considerably added to by Dr. Gordon's death and, in the straightening out of affairs, I suppose some details are sure to be overlooked. I am more than sorry, however, that you should have been inconvenienced. It will be a great relief to my mind to learn from you that the funds which we sent to you to Pansos are in your hands.

Dr. Mason, Curator of our American Section, who has worked in Central America, has a special interest in your work. Just before Dr. Gordon's death, he had turned over to Dr. Mason all of your reports and catalogues and Dr. Mason is now at work on your collections.

Dr. Harrison, the President of the Museum, has always taken great pleasure in reading your letters and reports and is eager to have work inaugurated by Dr. Gordon carried on. We shall look forward to receiving word from you from time to time as your work progresses.

Under separate cover, we are sending you three copies of THE HILLS AND THE CORN and three copies of the MUSEUM JOURNAL which contains the drawing of Mt. Taumulco. If you should need further copies, please let me know and I shall send them to you.

Very sincerely yours

Secretary

P. S. I am enclosing copies of my recent communications to you.

Mr. Robert Bunker
U.S. British Consul
Guatemala City

April 12, 1927

Dear Mr. Burkitt:

I have been hoping to hear from you that our letters and remittances mailed to you at Pansos have reached you safely.

There is a matter about which I would now like to write to you. It is that relating to your expense account. Since our payment to you on March 17, 1925 in the sum of \$5,384.11, in full settlement of your account dated March 1, 1925, we have sent you two remittances, one on June 4, 1926 in the sum of \$2,500. and one on February 24, 1927 in the sum of \$2,000.

In the event of our being in your debt for salary or expenses connected with your work for us, would you be good enough to render us an account of this so that it might reach our hands by June 1st? Our fiscal year closes in June and we would like to include in the year's business all of our indebtedness for that period.

Very sincerely yours

Secretary

MR. ROBERT BURKITT
c/o The British Consul
Guatemala City
Guatemala

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its character is indicated by a symbol in the check or in the address.

WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

BLUE	Day Letter
NITE	Night Message
NL	Night Letter
LCO	Deferred
CLT	Cable Letter
WLT	Week End Letter

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at 3038 CHESTNUT ST. PHILADELPHIA, PENN.

43P YR CABLE

GUATEMALIACITY 12 1230P APR 14 1927

LCD ANTIQUE

. PHILADELPHIAPENN (U OF P MUSEUM 34 AND SPRUCE)

ORIGINAL DRAFTS RECEIVED ALSO LETTER TILL MARCH SIXTEENTH

BURKITT

234P

RB OK YR DC 234P

8 de marzo de 1927

QUEDARAN LOS MONOLITOS EN NUESTRO PAIS

Se rechazó la petición de la Universidad de Har- ward para llevárselos a Estados Unidos

La prensa local ha informado de la solicitud elevada por el representante de la Universidad de Harvard, Sr. Spinden, a efecto de que se le permitiera trasladar algunas reliquias

arqueológicas a los Estados Unidos, para sacar copias y devolverlas a Guatemala a continuación.

Gran revuelo causó la solicitud del Sr. Spinden. Muchas gentes veían ya los monolitos de Piedras Negras, convenientemente embalados y viajando en un barco hacia la patria del Coronel Roosevelt. Mas no hay por qué temer. Nuestras joyas arqueológicas no saldrán del país con la aquiescencia de las autoridades; y está demás decir que la solicitud del señor Spinden fué rechazada de plano por la autoridad correspondiente.

Dicha solicitud fué trasladada a la Sociedad de Geografía e Historia, y aquella importante entidad nos envía la siguiente carta aclaratoria que gustosamente publicamos. Hela aquí:

Guatemala, 7 de marzo de 1927.

Señor Director del
DIARIO DE GUATEMALA,
Presente.

Tan luego como esta Secretaría recibió del Ministerio de Educación Pública, el memorial del señor Spinden, citó a los miembros de la Junta Directiva y reunida ésta, con asistencia de los socios Batres Jáuregui, Falla, Villacorta, Sapper y el infrascrito, estando ausentes Rodríguez Beteta, Zamora Castellanos y Guillén, por unanimidad de votos y sin discrepancia alguna, se acordó como consta en punto de acta, declarar en el sentido de que no era posible acceder a la petición del representante de la Universidad de Harvard, de llevar a aquella cuatro monolitos de Piedras Negras. No es cierto pues, que alguno o algunos de los miembros de la Directiva, hayan opinado en contrario.

Suplicándole publicar la presente, me suscribo de usted muy atento y seguro servidor.

Carlos L. Luna,
Srio.

Respuesta al Sr. Spinden Que Fue Negativa

Señor ministro de educación pública:

Herbert J. Spinden, mayor de edad y vecino de los Estados Unidos de América, como representante de la universidad de Harvard, Cambridge, Mass., y como conservador del museo Peabody anexo, ante usted muy respetuosamente vengo a manifestar lo siguiente: existen en esta república, al este del departamento del Petén y en el lugar denominado Piedras Negras, las ruinas Mayas conocidas con el mismo nombre; dichas ruinas están lejos de todo alcance y cuidado de las autoridades por el lugar casi inaccesible donde se encuentran, entre frondosas montañas y escarpadas colinas, expuestas a la intemperie en la margen este del río Usumacinta a unas 35 millas distantes del pueblo mexicano de Tenocique. Entre estas ruinas hay varios monolitos de piedra arenosa que están destruyéndose por la acción del tiempo y falta de cuidado, así como expuestas a la destrucción por manos profanas. En virtud de esto vengo a proponer al señor ministro se me conceda en nombre y bajo la

responsabilidad de la universidad de Harvard que represento, llevar a la propia universidad en Estados Unidos, cuatro de estos monolitos, con el propósito de regresar a Guatemala dos de ellos después que hayan sido restaurados y se haya sacado copias y moldes de los mismos. No se ocultará al señor ministro el enorme trabajo y gastos que tal empresa representa a la universidad, pues habrá que vencer muchos obstáculos para poderlos sacar del lugar donde hoy se encuentran, siendo la única vía factible, por el lado del territorio mexicano vía Tenocique y laguna del Carmen. La república de Guatemala jamás podría lograr hacer de Piedras Negras un lugar de atracción o con acceso para el turismo, debido a lo remoto de su situación y a lo difícil de llegar hasta allá, pero, tomando en cuenta que dos de estos monolitos estarían en perpetua exhibición en el museo de la universidad y que el gobierno

de Guatemala tendría otros dos que la misma universidad devolvería ya restaurados (pues están en estado ruinoso) y colocados por cuenta de la universidad en el lugar de la capital de Guatemala, que se designara, esto sería motivo de gran atracción para el turismo, que siempre desea admirar el arte maya, del que, desgraciadamente carece en la actualidad esta bella ciudad. La exhibición en la capital, de estos dos monumentos, sería motivo de orgullo, de estudio y de admiración para todas las personas que la visiten así como para los estudiantes que indudablemente deberán dedicar gran parte de sus investigaciones y estudios a las antiguas civilizaciones de Centroamérica. No se ocultará al ilustrado criterio de usted, señor ministro, que la universidad de Harvard ha contribuido poderosamente y en más grande escala que ninguna otra institución extranjera, al estudio y desarrollo de la historia de Guatemala, y que, este sólo hecho es la mejor garantía que puedo ofrecer para el gobierno de usted, de que la universidad que represento cumplirá al pie de la letra lo que por mi medio viene a prometer a usted. Sería un crimen imperdonable dejar que estos monumentos de la gran civilización maya, se pierdan para la ciencia y se destruyan en la frondosidad de los bosques sin una mano piadosa que haya intentado rescatarlos de la ruina, de la demolición tanto humana como natural. Espero que el señor ministro, tomando en cuenta la sana intención que guía a la universidad de Harvard, se sirva conceder la petición con que vengo a molestarlo. Soy del señor ministro, etcétera. **Herbert J. Spinden.** — Oído el informe contrario a la solicitud de Spinden, rendido por la sociedad de geografía e historia, y con apoyo en la ley de la materia, la secretaria del ramo dictó la providencia que a la letra dice: «Secretaría de educación pública, Guatemala, 7 de marzo de 1927. Con apoyo en lo prescrito por el artículo octavo, inciso tercero, del decreto legislativo número 1376, y teniendo en cuenta que es deber primordial del gobierno el velar por la conservación de nuestros tesoros arqueológicos, se deniega la presente solicitud. se MORA. Rub. E. Recinos. e

Marzo 8
Mr. Herbert J. Spinden del Peabody Museo, marchó hoy para México.

**— QUE GRINGOS
TAN SIMPATICOS**

Me están cayendo simpáticos
por que he...

QUE GRINGOS TAN SIMPATICOS

Me están cavando simpáticos
los gringos por sus lanadas,
no pueden ser diplomáticos
con sus caras de empanadas...
Ellos toman la existencia
de modo tan especial
que el imán de su conciencia
solo vibra ante el metal.

En Nicaragua se mira:
Atráelos el canal
con sus múltiples promesas,
y allá los tienen en jira
sobre su escuadra naval,
contemplando las bellezas
del paisaje tropical...
En Panamá se metieron
por idéntica razón
más de allí ya no salieron
per secula seculorum...

A la guerra europea
se colaron sin demora
diz que por humanidad,
pero lo cierto es que ahora,
aunque nadie me lo crea,
Europa es su deudora
por una gran cantidad
de procedencia muy fea...

Negocios particulares
tienen ellos por doquiera
y donde echan sus milfares
hacen llegar su bandera...
Por eso es muy peligroso
aceptarles su dinero
porque hay en cada banquero
un feroz fascineroso...

Hoy nos hacen la propuesta
los taimados negociantes
de ponernos muy brillantes
muy pulidos y bonitos
los antiguos monolitos
que yacen en la floresta
de los llanos peteneros. ...
Los ojos como luceros
les brillan frente a las piedras
semiocultas tras las yedras
y nos dicen zalameros:
—¡Mucho ponito estos cuentos
pero mucho suciedad,
nosotros pamos limpiar
con unos nuevos unguentos
que acabamos en inventar
en una unipersitá...

Puros pases de muleta
quieren darnos los vecinos
pero hoy ya somos ladinos
y burlaremos la treta...
Dicen que antes de la oferta
que hicieron al ministerio
sobre de los monolitos,
corrieron los dolaritos,
con cuidadoso misterio
No se yo si sea cierta
esta especie callejera
pero magnífico fuera
que esto en claro se pusiera...

—¡Vaya si nos han saqueado
nuestros antiguos tesoros...
—¡Con decir que se han llevado
cien veces más monolitos
que las docenas de loros
que han mandado a sus hijitos...

Guatemala City
1927, April 20

My dear Miss Mettugh

On the 14th of this month I cabled you from here as follows:

L. C. D. Antique Philadelphia -

Original drafts received - Also letters till March sixteenth - Burkitt.

I have now received the duplicates of the drafts. The letters received, for which I am much obliged to you, were yours of February 17 and 20, and of March 16.

I have also received your three wires. Also Museum Journals for June, September, and December of last year. Only the copies of the Wheat and the Corn, and of the Museum Journal, that you notify me of in your letter of March 16, I've not received.

Your first cable, that of February 24, was delayed I don't know how long, by its being adrest to the British consulate at Panama: where there is no British, or any other consulate. Your next cable, of February 28, was delayed

still longer: owing, as it seems, to some confusion at the cable office, caused by the previous confusion. I didn't get that cable in fact, til the end of March. — My last letter consequently, that of February 28, I wrote without having been able to get word of any kind from the Museum; and next day I quitted Guatemala City. There was some business of my own that I might attend to, while waiting (as I conjectured) for Mr Gordon's return to the Museum.

About the middle of March however, I was overtaken by two communications, forwarded to me by the consulat. One was your cable of March 12; and the other a letter dated February 3rd, from a person in New York, informing me of Mr Gordon's death. — I needn't speak of Mr Gordon's death. It was a shock to me. We had been friends from old times. And he was the only old time friend in North America with whom I still corresponded.

I decided to go back to Guatemala City

and wait there til I got what ever you had ritten or wired me. Almost immediatly, I got your letter ov February 17; and a few days later your letter ov March 16, which had come direct to the consulat. Your letter ov February 28, adress to Pameo's, and enclosing the originals or your drafts, only reacht me just now when I wired you.

As for what I mean to do now, - I should say that in coming back to Guatemala City, this time, I came with the view, not only ov getting your wires and letters, but if those ~~the~~ letters should say nothing against it, or following up my purpose or doing some digging in the neighbourhood ov Kiriwá. During my previous stay here, in February, I had seen the representativ or a certain estate down there, convenient for my purpose, and had made preliminary arrangements. But now coming back, I found that my plans had been upset: unconsciously upset by the action or a person connected with the Peabody museum.

In the early days ov March, as it seems,

Mr Spinden, or that museum, turned up in Guatemala City, with a project of taking certain ancient monuments out of the country: certain monuments at a place called Piedras Negras, or Black Stones, in the province of Petén. The project, so far as can be seen, has totally failed. Mr Spinden would seem to have had hopes, I don't know why, of getting government permission: and lodged a formal petition to that end, at the appropriate government office. Such a petition, in its nature public, the government could do nothing, and did nothing, but deny. And the worst of it was, that the thing got into the news papers. The papers all raised an outcry, publishing the official correspondence, and coming out with leading articles, and with skits, and even ballads on the subject, and making Mr Spinden and his designs the scandal of a week. I enclose you a few clippings from the papers. The paper called the Diario de Centroamérica, which particularly threatens to keep a close eye, for the future, on all such designs, is the semiofficial paper.

That outcry over Mr Spinden has upset, at least for this season, my plans about Kiriwá. My man, that I had arranged with, when I now came back to Guatemala City would have nothing more to do with those plans. My digging would have had no probability of becoming public. But my man, without consulting his principals, who are now abroad, and living as he does, in Guatemala City, under the eye, as you might say, of the news papers, doesn't now wish — at least till the Spinden affair blows over — doesn't wish to have a hand in anything that might look similar.

In the case of the United Fruit Company, in whose lands above and below Kiriwá, as you know, I had seen mounds that I should have much liked to dig at, I had found already that there would be an obstacle of partly the same sort. The Guatemala manager of the company, when I spoke to him about digging, was afraid that his principals in Boston might decidedly object. The president of the company, Mr Cutter, lives in Newton, in Massachusetts; where he has a collection of Central American antiquities. If

any body or your museum by chance saw Mr Cutter, it might be no harm to bring the subject up: though I'm a little afraid, from what I'm told, that Mr Cutter is so much a friend of the Peabody Museum that he may be disinclined to help any other.

In the circumstances, what I mean to do, will be to go back by Keraltenango to the north; possibly as far as the Koopom region. The northern dry season is now far advanced, but there may still be time there for some useful digging. And however that might be, I should then (unless you note me otherwise) return to the work in Chocolá.

You had best continue to address me at the British Consulat General, in Guatemala:—

R. B.

Pda. al Consulado General Británico
Guatemala

I remain
Yours very truly
Robert Burkitt

Hacienda Chocolá

Suchitepeques

Guatemala

1927, August 7

My dear Miss McHugh

I beg leav to send you a short instalment ov catalog. The numbers, az you see, ar 1096 to 1102. And the two fotos that I encloze, 204 and 205 (awaiting which fotos I hav a little delayd riting to you), belong to that piece ov catalog.

The things ov the catalog ar a few things that I bought lately in the cold country ov Kesaltenango. The items 1099 and 1100 ar decidedly curious: but the only item ov any cost, to speak ov, waz the image 1102. The owners price for that image waz at first 350 dollars: but in the end I got 1101 and 1102 together, for 250. Thers no rule about these prices. 250 dollars iz five times what I paid for the some what similar image that you see I mention in comparison, the image 1095. On the other hand I find a wealthy colector who haz paid 200 dollars for an image az nearly az possible the duplicat ov that 1095 - cat beast and all. And I should supoze that this 1102, with its human figure, waz more intresting.

The last I rote to the Muzeum waz my letter to you, ov April 20. A couple ov days later, I left

Guatemala City, az I had intended, for the north and west. But I hav to say, that excepting about the end ov May, when I took a week in Kesaltenango, and bought and packt the things ov this piece ov catalog, I found no opportunity ov doing anything for the Muzeum.

Before I had reacht the Cuchumatáns, where I had thought that I might uze the tail end ov the dry season for a little digging, the rains wer on. So with that, and with the various accidents following Mr Gordons death, and the Spinden affair in Guatemala, I lost the hole ov the northern dry season.

Im now again doing something. About the 20th ov July, when I had been for some weeks in the country about Kiché, I thought it waz time to make a move to the Pacific slope. And I did so: And reaching Chocolá, found in fact, that though not yet August, I could now conveniently dig. I could dig anything that had drainage. It rains now in the after noon and night, but the early part ov the day iz commonly fine: and I began at once what Im now at: that iz to say, what I described in my February letter, az the second stage ov the propozed work, in the big mound that I had started.

Your letter ov April 12 waz duly forwarded, but caught me too late to let me do what you wisht. In stead, you will see that I now encloze what I hope may stil be ov use to you, my acount ov money, with the

Muzeum, til the end ov June.

With respect to things bought for the Muzeum, you will see that I took receipts for the principal payments: and you may wonder who the occasional Brown iz. I am Brown. In Guatemala City and that neighbourhood, in order to escape the notice ov the news papers, and otherwise lessen the risk ov accidents, I ofen took the name ov Brown. So if the late owner ov the mil 1092/3, for example, iz askt who bought that mil, he can only say that it waz somebody calld Brown. And if authorities at the coast should be told to be on the look out//for a Brown, it wouldnt make them on the look out for me.

Your letter ov April 12 iz the last I hav from the Muzeum. I hav to acknowledge the receipt ov Muzeum Journals, the numbers for March and June: in which numbers - aside from your Prezidents notice ov the death ov Mr Gordon - ov course I hav seen with particular intrest the articles ov your Doctor Mason.

But the copies ov the Muzeum Journal, and ov the Hills and the Corn, which you mentiⁿod sending me az long ago az your letter ov March 16, hav never turnd up. I dont know how they may hav been adrest. Probably theyve been stolen. Perhaps you might be so kind az to try again: only an other time, better make two or three parcels ov the things, posting them at intervals ov a

week: and adressing them (az you may also continue to
adress my letters) to the British Consulat General.
You would much oblige

Your most obedient servant

Robert Burkitt

Miss Mc Hugh

The Pennsylvania University Muzeum

Filadelfia

Chocolá, Guatemala

1927, August 1st

In account with R. Burkitt

The Pennsylvania University Museum

DEBTOR

1926

Am. \$

Jan 1:	To outstanding bill of freight on my last shipment to the Museum, namely on boxes 1/9, from Chocolá to Port Barrios. In my last money account the amount was left blank:.....	12.77
Mar 31:	To my time in February and March: see my letter of 1926, March 29. I have lost the dates, but will say one month:.....	300.

1927

Jun 30: To my remaining time to date:-

1926, July 28, till 1927, February 28: see my letters of 1926, October 26, and 1927, February 28: 7 months and 4 days:.....	2140.
1927, March 22, till April 22: see my letter of 1927, April 20. I didnt mention that during that time I was once again in the Kiriwá region. A month and a day,.....	310.
1927, May 26 till June 2, in Kersaltenango: see my letter accompanying this account. 8 days,.....	80.

" " To expenses to date:-

Things bought for the Museum:

Catalogue number 1091: see receipt number I, attached to these sheets, and my letter of 1926, October 26:.....	1100.
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Forward,

3942.77

1927

Am. \$

Back, 5382.48

Jun 30: continued

Harness and mending,.....	5.65
Ditto, Guat. \$1255, at 60,.....	20.92
Carpenters,.....	26.
Ditto, Guat. \$140, at 60,.....	2.33
Extra muleteers, guides (about Kiriwá),.....	6.
Other labour, mostly diggers in Chocolá: Guat. \$6618, at 60,.....	110.30
Wheel barrows, ropes, and other stuff,.....	60.09
Ditto, Guat. \$78, at 60,.....	1.30
" " Debit total,.....	<u>5615.07</u>

---- The Museum, CREDITOR ----

" " By drafts received to date:-

1926, June 23, for Am. \$2500.
1927, April 13, " 2000.

" " Credit total,..... 4500." " BALANCE, in my favour,.....American \$1115.07

E. and O.E.

Nº 184-76

IV

\$ 150.00

Recibí de *Dr. Roberts Burkitt*
la suma de *doscientos cincuenta dólares*
por *salda de dos fincas esculpidas*

Quetzaltenango, 20 Mayo de 192*7*

R. R. Monzon

a sus:
Quetzaltenango
La Democracia
Guatemala

FABRICA DE MUEBLES DE MIMBRE
R. R. MONZON & CO.
EUROPEA

October 4, 1927

My dear Mr. Burkitt:

I have received your letter of August 7 together with the instalment of the Catalogue and your accounts showing that we are indebted to you in the sum of \$1,115.07. This amount will be forwarded to you in the near future; the accounts came too late for last year's business and must now wait until after our first Board Meeting which will be held during the latter part of this month.

I cannot understand why the copies of the HILLS AND THE CORN and of the JOURNAL were not received by you. They were sent to you in the care of the British Consul General, Guatemala City, Guatemala. We will in future follow your instructions and send our publications in separate parcels at intervals of a week. In this mail we shall send you a package containing one copy of THE HILLS AND THE CORN and one copy of the JOURNAL and in the next mails shall send a second and a third package containing the same volumes.

A successor to Dr. Gordon has not yet been appointed and I do not believe any action looking towards the appointment of a Director will be taken in the very near future. In the meantime, we shall carry on as best we can.

I am sorry that so many things interfered with your work during the dry season, but we must expect disappointments of this kind.

I am turning over to Dr. Mason your Catalogue which I know will interest him very much; also the pictures which you were kind enough to send to us. We shall be glad to hear from you from time to time.

Very sincerely yours

MR. ROBERT BURKITT

Secretary

December 22, 1927

My dear Mr. Burkitt:

I am now enclosing herewith ten drafts of \$100. each, Nos. 6009 - 6018 inclusive, and one, No. 6019, of \$115.07, aggregating \$1,115.07, which is the sum due you, according to the statement submitted by you with your letter of August 7th. This statement covers the period January 1, 1926 to June 30, 1927.

On June 1, 1926, Dr. Gordon wrote you to the effect that an appropriation of \$5,000. had been made for your work for the Museum. On this appropriation we have made the following remittances to you.

June 1, 1926. \$2,500.
February 24, 1927 . . . 2,000.

At the regular monthly meeting of our Board held on Friday last, another appropriation of \$5,000. was voted to you for archaeological explorations in Central America. We shall credit towards the sum of \$1,115.07 which we are now sending you the balance of \$500. due you on the appropriation made to you on June 1, 1926, thus completing that transaction, and we shall charge against the new appropriation of \$5,000. made by the Board on Friday last the sum of \$615.07. This will make available subject to your call the sum of \$4,384.93 and remittances will be made to you at such times as you may indicate to us.

I hope that you will be able to continue your good work for us. We have now placed on exhibition the fine pottery and small objects which you have sent to us from time to time, and the collection has attracted much attention on the part of visitors to the Museum.

Wishing you the compliments of the season, I remain

Very sincerely yours

Secretary

Mr. Robert Burkitt
c/o British Consul General
Guatemala City
Guatemala

December 30, 1927

My dear Mr. Burkitt:

I am now sending you the duplicates of the eleven drafts which were mailed to you on December 22, together with a copy of the letter which accompanied the original drafts. These were sent to you care of the British Consul General at Guatemala City.

Very truly yours

Secretary

MR. ROBERT BURKITT
c/o British Consul General
Guatemala City
Guatemala