

Hacienda Chocollá
 Guatemala
 1928, January 1st

In account with R. Burkitt

The Pennsylvania University Museum

DEBTOR

1927	Am. \$
Jun 30: To balance, according to account rendered,	1115.07
Dec 31: To my time to date: July 21 till December 31: see letter of 1927, August 7, and the letter accompanying this account: 5 months and 10 days,.....	1600.
" " To expenses to date:-	
Keep of animals, extra, July:	
Guat. \$790, at 60 for 1,.....	13.17
Hotel bill in Guatemala City, October: see letter with this account:.....	27.17
Rail way, cabs, porters, servants, so far as noted,.....	7.78
Wine and treating: Guatemala City: so far as noted,.....	1.75
Shovels, hoes, barrows, tarpaulins,..	31.40
Ditto, Guatemala \$640, at 60,.....	10.67
Photography, Guat. \$650, at 60,.....	10.83
Carpenters,.....	2.25
Other labour, mostly diggers in Cho- collá, Guat. \$16910, at 60,.....	281.83

1928

Jan 1: To balance,..... Amer. \$3101.92

E. and O. E.

R. Gest Burkitt

Part III
[Used Box Musi]
20/1/28

Hacienda Chocolá

Masatenango

Guatemala

1928, January 22

My dear Miss McHugh

I am much obliged by your letters of December 22 and December 30, and by the receipt of drafts to the amount you mention: with the slight difference of two cents.

I have also to thank you for your letter of October the 4th, and for sending me those publications. I received all three parcels: and besides got the September number of the Museum Journal.- You may keep on addressing me at the British consulate general. And if you have no objection, it would be as well to address me in the Spanish language. After writing my name in whichever language you please, the succeeding formula is this:

Rda. al Consulado General Británico

Guatemala

If you wish to know what RDA means, it is short for the word Recomendada. The address in Spanish, not only diminishes the chance of mishap, but in case of mishap, prevents the post office from saying in excuse that the address was in an unknown language.

The last I wrote you was on August the 7th, from this place. I had then lately come down from the highlands, and

again taken up work for the muzeum.

In the early part ov October I went up to Guatemala City for a few days, about the muzeum boxes. I waz made aware ov a peculiar chance that seemd to offer, ov getting the boxes exported direct from Guatemala City. Ther waz also a small colection ov antiquities, that I might buy. I rejected the colection, how ever: and az for the boxes, the person who might hav managed the exportation, drew back, when it came to the pinch: and the chance came to nothing.

Excepting for thozе few days, and with the usual interuptions ov feasts and drunks, M my ocupation since that last riting, haz been the one monotony ov digging. The digging consists, az you know, in driving a big trench into one ov theze big round mounds. The mound, iz that mound, which on the map that I sent long ago to Doctor Gordon, ^{is} waz markt az Mound B. The trench, it waz decided, should go into the mound on the east side: and measures, or iz to measure finally, between extremes, about eighty feet wide, forty feet deep, and a hundred and fifty feet long: and iz now about three quarters done.

The first stage ov the digging, ~~az Ive explaind, had not the apearance ov a trench, but took the shape ov cutting off the hole top ov the mound, to a level ov three metres below the top point.~~ [page - figures 1 to 5] That's the work that youve already seen, in the fotografs 196 to 203. The subsequent and much greater part ov the work, which I took up in July,

and am still engaged in, is the trench proper: and the fotos ^{figures 15 to 24}

~~I'm now sending you, 206 to 221, hav to do with that part.~~

The numbers ^{figure 15} 206 to ¹⁸ 214, ar taken from near the same north easterly point ov sight, az I made use ov before, in taking ^{the photographs shown in figures 8 to 13!} 196 to 201: and like them, ar numberd in the order ov time. † Looking at the mound, in these pictures, the level top that you see, iz the new top, the top left when the original top waz cut off. And on the left hand side ov the mound, which ov course iz the east side, you see the mouth ov the trench.

In ^{figure 15} 206 to 9, the advancing trench iz at the level ov three metres below the new top: six metres below the old top. The road that you see cut round the side ov the mound at that level, iz the road to one ov the dumps. Az before, ther ar two dumps, a north westerly and a south westerly: ov which, az before, only one, the north westerly one (here on the right hand side ov the mound), iz in sight. The line markt by the foot ov that dump - I mean the foot that runs down the slope - iz very nearly on the north and south line through the middle ov the mound.-

[In 209, ther iz a sign ov the south westerly dump: I see a wheel-barrow man starting on the road.]

In ^{figure 16} 210, the trench ^{at the three metre level} iz so far in, that the working face iz out ov sight: and ^{work has been started on} ~~preparation iz making for the trench to be lowerd. You see the new dump road at the lower level: or you see the clearing for that road: and may be able to see one or two men working there. The new level: iz~~

the nine metre level: three metres below the last, and nine metres below the original top.

Figure 16 to 18
 In ~~211~~ to 14, you follow the progress of the nine metre digging. *There is now a lower dump for this level.* This dump now has so little height that it quickly extends, and makes a long run for the wheel barrows. Of course the dumps, whether upper or lower, might have been brought nearer to the mouth of the trench: but I didn't wish to encumber, more than might be unavoidable, any part of the eastern half of the mound.-
 In *Figure 18* 214, the working face of the trench is again out of sight.

Figures 19 and 20
 The fotos 215 to 17, are views of the mound and work, taken from further off, and from an other direction. You stand on top of Mound C, and look about south.] The museum already has a foto,- I don't remember the number of it: but a foto that went with the instalment of catalog, that covered the sculptured stone from Chocolá: a foto giving the same view as these do, but showing the mound still untouched. In these of now, [the top of the mound is already cut off. And in the new top, you see the top of the trench, or so much of it as the bush doesn't hide: and you see how far in, the top of the trench goes -- almost to the western brow of the mound.

The first of these pictures, *Figure 19* 215, is nearly contemporary with *Figure 16* 210, *except that* that you saw. The road to the bottom dump is ready, but digging (as you can see by the men) is still at the upper level. You notice that from this point of

sight you see not only the near dump, that you saw before, but also the extremity of the far dump. You can make out a man, there, who seems to be emptying his barrow.

At the right hand foot of the mound you see the small hut that I put up as a tool house, and for a shelter during showers. The path that goes down from the near dump, is the path to that hut.- Just above the near dump, and in fact surrounded by it, you can still make out the bulge of the old dump: the dump that received - or one of the two that received - the original top of the mound. But the old dumps are already much covered with bush.]

In 216, which is a trifle earlier than 212, that you saw, the six metre digging is done with: and on the left hand side of the mound you can make out the mouth of the lower digging. On the new dump road you see a number of wheel-barrow men traveling, and the new dump has already crept round the foot of the dump above.

[In ^{figure 20} 217, which is nearly contemporary with ^{figure 18} 214, the new dump has spread out like a fan. And looking beyond the tool house, you now see the tip of the companion dump, on the far side of the mound.

The ^{photographs in figures 21 to 24} remaining photos, 218 to 21, will give you a notion of the digging at close quarters. In ^{figure 21} 218, you stand at the northern end of the top of the mound, and look about south. You look across the width of the trench. The bare flat place on top, with stakes in it, and with a fringe of bush, is the three metre level, the new top of the

mound: nearly the hole width ov which top, the trench iz now cutting away. The trench iz traveling from left to right. On the far side, in the shadow, you see how the side ov the trench comes down in shelvs. Each shelf iz a metre wide and a metre high. At the bottom, at the furthest left, iz the floor ov the trench: then at the six metre level.- The work on the digging face iz also conducted by shelvs. The man near you with a pick ax, and the man further off (probably also with a pick), stand on a shelf ov their own digging, a metre below the flat top: and wil keep digging along that shelf til the block between them iz gon. The earth iz let fall to where you see it, that iz, to the shelf below: from which the dump men, az you see in the far corner, pull the earth into their barrows. In the corner below you, out ov sight, other men ar doing the same thing.

In ^{figure 22} 219, you again look across the trench, but look north. The mountains ar completely hidden by clouds. The hil iz ~~M~~ mound C: ov which the aparent apex, how ever, iz in fact the apex ov ~~M~~ mound D, beyond. On the floor ov the trench, work iz going on in two corners, ov which you see one. The floor iz stil, az in the last picture, at the six metre level.

In ^{figure 23} 220, the trench haz been lowerd to nine metres: and the view, which iz south easterly, iz partly like an enlargement ov that that you saw further off in ^{figure 17} 213. You see the trench az it enters the side ov the mound. You stand on the six metre floor, and can see at the left hand

bottom corner of the picture a little of the floor of nine metres. The active part of the trench is of course between the two floors: but excepting for the two top men, that you can see, the activity is all hidden.

~~24~~ ^{Figure 24} is a view, nearly in the opposite direction. You stand now on the nine metre floor, in that part of it that you could just see in the last picture: and look about north west. The gap in the side of the mound, is where the road to the dump went out, when the trench was at that level. It may strike you, in this picture, that the side shelves, and the floor of the trench, seem to rise a little as they go away, and in fact they do: the trench having a slight slope for drainage.

So much for the pictures.- The mound, so far, has been practically all earth. The artificial nature of the mound is constantly brought to mind by the turning up of some pot sherd, or piece of obsidian, or bead. But there has been nothing, so far, worth mentioning, of a structural nature: excepting perhaps some stones, here and there, so situated that they might have been guide stones, in building:- and also excepting (what has just lately come to light) an extensive layer of ashes, with occasional charcoal. The digging struck that layer just on top of my nine metre floor: where these ashes were found to cover a patch as much as twenty feet in diameter, about the middle of the mound. The thickness of the ashes, was in most parts one or two hands breadths above the floor. But the layer of ashes, or table of ashes, disappears into the floor,

and the total thickness iz yet to be seen.

Az I rite, Ive just come to the end ov the nine metre digging, and digging at a lower level iz about to be open. If the mound iz anything like others that Ive dug, I shouldnt expect now - not having found any burial between the three and the six metre levels, where the mound waz steepest - I should hardly now expect to find any burial (supozing burials to be present) til some what below the level ov the natural ground. How ever that may be, my intention iz to keep on now without stopping, til the hole projected digging iz done: which all things considerd, will likely not be much ~~if~~ at all, before the end ov March.]

And my inclination then, whether I had added or not added, either by buying or digging, any thing to my colection, would perhaps be to try and export the colection without more waiting: whether waiting for the results ov other digging, or waiting for some extraordinary chance ov exporting. If I made no move with the stuff this dry season, I shouldnt much care to try it until the next dry season: which on the Atlantic coast, would not be til next Cristmas, or after. What I think ov particularly, iz the weight and unwieldiness (for my management) ov the package containing 1093. Things that might be feazible with dry ground and fine nights, might otherwise be very troublesome, and very risky. How ever, thers time enough yet for me to make up my mind, and the muzeum may hav something to sugest.

I encloze a money acount, accounting til the end ov

the year. I take notice ov the calculations in your letter: and I think it would be a good plan at once, to send me \$2500: in which should be included half a dozen drafts ov fifty dollars each.

Im much obliged by your kind new-years wishes, which I hope its not too late to return: and I remain,

Your most obedient servant

Robert Burkitt

Miss McHugh

The Pennsylvania University Muzeum

February 28, 1923

My dear Mr. Burkitt:

I have received your interesting letter of January 22 which I have turned over to Dr. Mason, the Curator of the American Section, who, I believe, has been in communication with you.

We are sending you herewith drafts in the sum of twenty five hundred dollars as follows:

Drafts Nos. 6363 F - 6372 F inclusive, \$100. each
Drafts Nos. 6393 F - 6402 F inclusive, \$50. each
Drafts Nos. 6403 F and 6404 F. . . . \$500. each.

I hope that these will reach you safely. The duplicate drafts will go forward to you in the next mail.

Dr. Mason has made an interesting exhibition of the pottery which you have sent to us and we have recently had from the Board an appropriation for the third part of MAYA POTTERY which will contain the very fine jar which you found for us -- it is the one of the chief being carried by his attendants -- which has made a very beautiful plate. The second part of MAYA POTTERY is now being bound and when we receive the edition from London, we will send a copy to you.

With best regards,

Very sincerely yours

Secretary

MR. ROBERT BURKITT

March 12, 1928

My dear Mr. Burkitt:

I am sending you enclosed herewith copy of a letter which I wrote to you on February 28 together with the duplicates of drafts totalling \$2500. of which the originals went forward to you with my letter of February 28.

Very truly yours

Secretary

MR. ROBERT BURKITT

Hacienda Chocolá

Guatemala

1928, April 1st

My dear Miss McHugh

Ive receivd your letter ov February 28, and now also your letter ov March 12. So also the drafts and duplicats, all az you mention: and Im much obliged ~~to~~ you.

Im very glad to know that publication ov your album ov pottery haz not come to a stop: and I shal see the second volume, that you kindly promis me, with great intrest.

About my digging, I wil only say for the moment, that it continues. Its just about reacht the stage that I anticipated, for this date, in my letter ov January. But its become vizible (you may inform Dr Mason) that the work should be carried a short stage further: and weather permitting, I shal now try and get to that stage, and wil then again rite.

I remain mean while

Your most obedient servant

Robert Burditt

Miss McHugh, The Pennsylvania University Muzeum

Balize
British Honduras
1928, June 9

My dear Miss McHugh

Just a line to catch this mornings boat, and say that the various things I bought for the Muzeum, ar all safe here in Balize. The catalog numbers ov the things ar 1091 to 1102, and you hav the catalog.

I hav to ad, that along with thoze things bought, ther ar now two things lent. Ive numberd them 1103/4: and ~~they~~ described them in the piece ov catalog that I shal encloze here with. Thoze two things, in my opinion, ar not worth the trouble ov opening the box to look at them: you may judge from the fotograf. But I accepted them az a loan to the Muze um, in order to do a favour to the British consul general, who iz a friend ov the owner, and had been waiting a long time for some chance ov getting the things out ov the country. The consul had the things packt acording to my directions: and for receipt, I gave him a card, with this inscription:

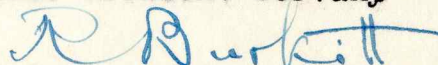
MUSEO DE LA UNIVERSIDAD DE PENSILVANIA
Números Provisionales 1103/4
Lent to the Museum by Dr Hugo de Böckh, and
accepted by me for transmission, without
responsibility for delay, damage, or loss:
charges to be paid in Philadelphia by the owner,
who will present this card.

Robert Burkitt

Guatemala, 1928, May 5.

In all, ther ar seven boxes. Ive only arived, and hav made out no shipping documents. But I encloze you a sheet which iz the dummy ov what my consular invoice wil be, and shows you my packing list, and the values, box by box, that I mean to declare. Thoze values, az before, ar merely nominal: and meant to be so much, az without temting theft, may be enough to make the carriers take reasonable care with what they carry. And any how (az before) I hav no notion what the Muzeums own valuation ov the things might be. Mr Gordon seemd to be particularly intrested in the bowl 1091. Possibly the bowl may be unique in Central American jade. Yet if I should trust my own judgment, I should fancy that the mil, 1092/3, might be worth half a dozen ov such bowls. My present intention, iz to conzign the boxes (az I did last time) to the American Express Company, and telegraf them to insure for the declared value. But the boxes can't leav here, az Im informd, til this day week: so that the Muzeum wil probably hav time to take its own aditional steps, if it wishes, in the way ov insurance.

Your most obedient servant



Miss McHugh
The Pennsylvania University Mu ze um

Balize, _____

INVOICE of seven packages

Consigned by Robert Burkitt, of Senahú, Guatemala
To the Pennsylvania University Museum, of Philadelphia, U. S. A.
To be shipped by the s. s. _____

containing

INDIAN ANTIQUITIES of Stone and Pottery
from ruins and excavations in GUATEMALA:
the description in detail being according to
the catalog which the said Museum will present:
and the packing and nominal value being as follows:-

Mark, U P B			Gross weight, lbs	(Value (nominal) \$
Numbers				
1	1 box	18 x 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 53" containing the Museum catalog number, 1093:	316	150.00
2	1 "	7 x 7 x 37 containing the Museum catalog number, 1092:	45	25.2
3	1 "	10 x 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 29 containing the Museum catalog number, 1095 (part):	75	35.
4	1 "	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 7 x 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ containing the Museum catalog number, 1095 (part):	25	15.
5	1 "	11 x 11 x 27 containing the Museum catalog number, 1102:	80	50.
6	1 "	12 x 12 x 15 containing the Museum catalog numbers, 1091, 1094, 1096/9, 1100/1:	40	25.
7	1 "	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 35 containing the Museum catalog numbers, 1103/4:	125	75.
<hr/>				
	7 packages		706	\$375.00

E. and O. E.

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.
14P YR 38 WIRELESS

NS BELIZE BH NFT JUN 12 1928

LCO ANTIQUE

PHILADELPHIA (PENN) (UNIV OF PENN 33 AND SPRUCE ST.

THINGS BOUGHT ALL HERE SEVEN BOXES AM CONSIGNING BY LYSEFJORD
ON SIXTEENTH TO AMERICAN EXPRESS MOBILE DECLARED VALUE 375 DOLLARS
BETTER ADVISE EXPRESS ABOUT INSURANCE WROTE ON NINTH RADIO
ME HERE WRITE SENAHU

ROBERT BURKITT

1014A

RB OK YR SN 1014A

Belize
British Honduras
1928, June 14

My dear Miss McHugh

I wrote you from here on the ninth, enclosing an instalment of catalog to cover the numbers 1103/4: and informed you that I had brought all the numbers, 1091 to 1104, to Belize: and that they made seven boxes. I added a packing list, with the values that I meant to declare, the total being \$375: but pointed out that the Museum, if it thought proper, had time to insure the things according to its own valuation.

On the 12th, day before yesterday, I telegraphed the American Express Company, at Mobile, that by the steamer Lysefjord, sailing on the 16th, I was consigning the boxes to them: and I mentioned the declared value and asked them to insure. At the same time I telegraphed the Museum (with the address Antique, Philadelphia): so that the museum itself might further instruct the express company.

This morning I got the bill of lading: and I've just written the express company, enclosing them that bill, and a copy of the consular invoice. The freight to Mobile is paid. My letter to the express company, and this to you, will go by the same boat as the boxes.

To you, I enclose a copy of what I've written the express company: together with a copy of the bill of lading, and the necessary duplicate of the consular invoice.

The American consul here, is not the old man (who was himself a Pennsylvania University man), but a new man, who is inclined to be very strict and precise, and was not easy to please. He picked out a new form of invoice, which he said was the form I must employ: and the thing had to be written out twice before he was content. From the beginning he thought it very irregular that I had not a consular invoice from Guatemala. Why should I have come here? The difficulty was smoothed over by the explanation that you see. The man was evidently unaware that the exportation of such things as mine, was contraband: and I couldn't tell him, or he would have been capable of refusing me an invoice, - so I judged. Then while he was showing me just how the printed form must be made out, I noticed that the form began by saying Invoice of Merchandise: and below, in small letters, Not Purchased. Now it so happens that the things 1091 to 1102, though doubtless things from ruins and excavations, precisely were purchased. However, by that time, I was afraid of opening up any new vista of difficulties to the man, and I said nothing: and the form being as it is, I dare say you, at your end, had also better say nothing.

I shall write you again, probably from Senahú:
Remaining your most obedient servant

P. Burkitt

Belize
British Honduras
1928, June 14

The American Express Company, Mobile

Dear Sirs

I am sending some packages to the Pennsylvania University Museum, and by direction of the Museum I consign the packages to you. I telegraphed you on the 12th. The packages are seven boxes, mark U P B, and numbered from 1 to 7: gross weight, 706 lbs: contents, Indian Antiquities of Stone and Pottery. I enclose you the original of the Bill of Lading and the quadruplicate of the Consular Invoice.

The packages are to be forwarded to Philadelphia in bond. For any other instructions and for payment of all charges, please address

The Secretary

The Pennsylvania University Museum
Philadelphia

I shall be much obliged.

Yours very truly
Robert Burkitt

June 15, 1928

American Express Company
18th and Market Streets
Philadelphia

Dear Sir:

We are expecting to receive from Belize, British Honduras, by way of Mobile, seven cases which are assigned to the Pennsylvania University Museum of Philadelphia. It is our understanding that they are leaving Belize on the sixteenth of this month and are consigned to your Company. This consignment has been insured by the shipper for \$375.; we would be obliged to you if you would increase this insurance to \$1,500. Will you instruct your agent at Mobile to be on the lookout for this shipment which is coming from Robert Burkitt, and have the boxes delivered to the Museum as soon as possible? The consular invoice and the necessary papers will, no doubt, be in the hands of your agent before the arrival of the collection.

Very truly yours

Secretary

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
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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 Western Union Building, 230 So. 11th St., Philadelphia, Pa.

132WS B 15 WIRELESS VIA WS

ZB BEZIL 1100A JUN 16 1928

LCO HARRISON

PRESIDENT UNIVERSITY MUSEUM PHILADELPHIA (1520 LOCUST ST)

TELEGRAFT MUSEUM TWELFTH CONSIGNING CARGO AMERICAN EXPRESS MOBILE

BWK ICC

630P

July 3, 1928

My dear Mr. Burkitt:

This is just a line to let you know that the seven cases have arrived safely in the Museum and have just now been unpacked and examined by the Customs Authorities.

The pieces are most interesting and Dr. Mason is preparing to place them on exhibition. We are wondering how you managed to get the Metate out to the Coast.

We had a visit from Mr. Dieseldorf a week or two ago who was much impressed by our collection of Maya vases which he said he believed to be the best in existence.

Very sincerely yours

Secretary

MR. ROBERT BURKITT
Senahu
Alta Verapaz
Guatemala

11882

THE MUSEUM
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

July 10, 1928

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. MASON

The objects numbered 1103-1104 in the lot sent recently by Mr. Burkitt are not to be catalogued as the property of the Museum. They are a loan by Dr. Hugo Boorkh.

The following are abstracts from Mr. Burkitt's letter with reference to this loan.

"I hav to ad, that along with thozе things bought, ther ar now two things lent. Ive numberd them 1103/4: and described them in the piece ov catalog that I shal enclose here with. Thozе two things, in my opinion, ar not worth the trouble ov opening the box to look at them: you may judge from the fotograf. But I accepted them az a loan to the Muzeum, in order to do a favour to the British consul general, who iz a friend ov the owner, and had been waiting a long time for some chance ov getting the things out ov the country. The consul had the things pakt acording to my directions: and for receipt, I gave him a card, with this inscription:

MUSEO DE LA UNIVERSIDAD DE
PENNSILVANIA

Numeros Provisionales 1103/4
Lent to the Museum by Dr. Hugo de
Bockh, and accepted by me for
transmission, without responsibility
for delay, damage, or loss: charges
nto be paid in Philadelphia by the
owner, who will present this card.
Robert Burkitt
Guatemala, 1928, May 5."

THE MUSEUM
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

Page 2

1103/4: lent to the Muzeum by Dr. Hugo de Bokh (whoze adress iz Care ov the Anglo-Persian Petroleum Company, Limited, in London.) The two carvd stones shown in foto 222. The stones ar said to be from the province ov Huehuetenango: and in my opinion may quite likely be things stolen from the former Kanter colection, in Chacula. See the Muzeum Journal for June, 1924, and the fotografs there shown, or mentioned.

Catalogued in July, 1928, as N.A.11882 and 11883.
Numbers removed from specimens and entries erased
from catalog August 23, 1928.



Part IV

[Used 80% of article 2005.25]

Received 8/15/28

Pansós
via Puerto Barrios
Guatemala
1928, July 26

My dear Miss McHugh

I last wrote you on the 14th of June, from Balize, when I sent you a consular invoice. On the 18th I got your radio advising me that the shipment was expected.

On the 16th, however, which was the date of sailing, it had occurred to me to think that possibly the museum was now closed for the summer, and nobody was there: and I sent a particular radio that day, to your president Dr Harrison. I thought, if I didn't catch one person, I might catch another. I beg you will be so kind as to explain to Dr Harrison: he must have thought it strange of me to have addressed myself to him.

I've sent you the things bought: but the Chocolá digging is still pending. - I go back to my letter of January 28. I said that I had then finished what I called the nine metre digging: the digging by which the trench was deepened to a level of nine metres below the original top of the mound, or six metres below the new top. *twenty second*

Figure 23 The photo 222, which I now send (it was not then printed), shows the last moments of that digging. The floor is the same floor as in the previous photo 221: as you may see by counting the shelves from the floor up: which, in each case are six. But you stand higher than in 221: and the digging face, three shelves high, has been carried in to its termination. As soon as the top men finish clearing the shelf they stand on, the nine metre digging will be done.

When it was done, the digging returned to the mouth end, or east end, of the trench. The floor was again lowered: and the photos 223 and 4 (in both of which you look due west) are views of the work at the new level. The lowering this time, as you may notice, was not three metres, but two: so that the new floor was eleven metres below the original top. *figures 26 and 27*

The next, and what is so far my last lowering of the floor, was to a depth of another two metres: making that the thirteen metre digging: and the photos 226 to 7, show stages of that digging. In 225, the point reached by the advancing floor, is 19 metres east of the centre of the mound. In 226, it is 3 metres east of the centre. In 227, its 5 metres west, and the thirteen metre digging is finished. *figure 30*

Three

The appearances of wall, that you may notice, on some side shelves, are merely my mendings of places where the shelves had given way. The maintenance of the side shelves, was a matter of consequence in the drainage. - And in the last photo, the inclined planes that you see dug in the side shelves, were merely to get up and down by.

When I wrote you on the 1st of April, the completion of that thirteen metre digging, was the stage that I had just about reached. And it was the stage, that riting in

January, I had supozed might bring me to the bottom ov the mound, and the end ov the job. Looking at the Mound-B profiles, that you hav at the muzeum, you see that at thirteen metres below the top, I must be at the level, or even below the level, ov the lowest out side surface any where imediat to the mound: and that I might hav hoped to be down to natural ground.

It turnd out that I waz not. At the circumference/ov the mound, that iz to say at the mouth ov the trench, it apeard for a little, that on the level ov my thirteen metre floor, I waz down to natural ground. But a short distance in, on that level (to be precise, at about 28 metres east ov the centre), I began again to find pot sherds. And stil further in, it turnd out, that not only waz I not down to natural ground,- I waz not even at the bottom ov the ashes: thoze ashes that in my letter ov January, I had spoken ov having lately encounterd.

The ashes had apeard, at that time, az an iregular patch about the middle ov the mound, emerging from the nine metre floor. I remarkt that the thickness ov the ashes remaind to be seen. And now in April, it stil remaind to be seen. The thickness ov ashes had continued from the nine metre floor down to the eleven metre floor, and now again to the thirteen metre floor, and stil went down.

In the advancing vertical sections ov the digging, the thickness ov ashes waz seen to be intersperst, iregularly, with layers and pockets ov other stuf: some times sand, some times earth, some times clay, and most remarkably, some times leavs: the leavs being in thin patches, or sheets: and though caked together with the pressure, and rotten, stil showing their green colour. Evrybody spoke ov them az green.

The ashes - az they wer denominated on first sight, by who ever inspected them - the ashes themselvs, when not dried to the colour ov dust, seemd to be predominantly ov a bluish, or blackish colour. The digging, at a little distance, had the apearence ov a coal mine. And when fresh, it stank. It stank like a freshly open'd ash heap, or heap ov ashes and garbage.

The general shape ov the extrordinary pile waz seen to be that ov a mound, the pile expanding az it went down. The ashes, which at the nine metre floor wer only some six or seven metres in diameter, at the thirteen metre floor, not only fild the hole width ov the digging, but wer seen, in the length ov the digging, to hav a reach ov az much az sixteen or seventeen metres from the centre ov the mound. Ther waz a mound within a mound. The mound ov earth coverd a mound ov ashes: with respect to the height ov which it could only be said, that the height waz now seen to be more than four metres - more than thirteen feet.

But though the bottom ov the ashes waz not yet in sight, the bottom - and the natural ground - could not realy be far away. And to get down the remaining distance, waz the

short stage further, that riting in April, I hoped that the weather would stil allow me to reach. It didnt allow me. The day I rote you, waz Palm Sunday. Then came the interuption ov work by Holy Week: and then came the rain. Not that the mere daily or nightly showers ov April would in themselvs hav much matterd: the thing waz, that in getting down, az I had done, to my thirteen metre level, I had got to the limit ov drainage.

Let me say, that ever since the end ov the nine metre digging, I had done no dumping ov earth on the sides or skirts ov the mound. I waz too low. Ther waz no depth left, in that neibourhood, for dumping, and my new dump waz a gully: a gully that you may see the situation ov, in the muzeums map ov Chocolá. The water course there markt, a little east ov the mound, may be taken to indicate the gully, *Figure 31*

The foto 228, which iz from the same point ov view as figura 15 to 18
~~az 206 to 14,~~ waz a little after the start ov the eleven metre digging. The two long dumps on the right ar the old six and nine metre dumps. The new dump, at the gully, iz a long way to the left, and not in the picture. But the two men that you see near the end ov the trench, ar wheel barrow men, and ar traveling on the road that leads to the new dump. You dont see the road itself, nor the mens feet, becauz coming from the new floor, the eleven metre floor, the road waz for some distance a sunken road. Out to az far az the line ov bush, the road waz itself a trench: a narrow branch ov the main trench: and the drainage ov the main trench waz by that branch.

In figura 32 In foto 229, you stand in that sunken road, but the road iz stil more sunk. The floor ov the main trench iz now the thirteen metre floor, and the road sinks to meet it. Coming out from that floor, the road now slightly rizes. The near barrow man, that you see coming, iz coming a little up hil.

But thers stil a remnant ov drainage. The far barrow, just turning out ov the trench into the road, iz at the lowest point ov the work: and along the side ov the road, from that point, though you hardly notice it, thers a shallow drain. The drain ov course doesnt come up hil, with the road: but it haz now absolutely no fall: its level. And the water ov the trench waz carried by that level drain to the lowest existing outlet. The lowest existing outlet waz on a level with the thirteen metre floor.

So for any further lowering ov the work, ther waz now no natural drainage. And to lower the existing outlet to the gully, would hav been a great deal ov trouble. But it happend I had been able to borrow a traveling pump. My plan waz to pump out in the morning, what ever water had gatherd in the evening or night, and then go on digging. The days wer stil mostly fine. And I began by a new sinking ov the road. But I had not got to an end with the

road, when the new digging struck a strong current of water: water coming through the earth, no doubt from the rain soaked hollow that there was, on the north and east of the mound. The soaking water followed the diggers down. The pump was useless. The digging became a mud hole, and I stopped the work. The work would have to wait till some such time as Christmas, when all difficulties of drainage would be removed by the drought.

The trench remains in the stage, in which you saw it *is seen in figure 30* in ~~foto 227~~. I put the existing drainage in as good order as might be, to withstand the rains: making arrangement for an occasional caretaker: and also planted some quick-growing hedges, to be a help in screening the work from observation. And in the last days of April I left for Guatemala City.

In my letter of January, you remember, I had said that in the end of the dry season, I might try and get my existing collection out of the country. The time was now come. Although it was raining on the Pacific side of the country, on the side of the Atlantic it was likely still dry. And the museum having signified nothing against it, the exportation of that small, but long-delayed collection, became my next job.

In Guatemala City I had my last remaining boxing and packing done: and also accepted the box number 7, that you know about. And I despatched the boxes to the Atlantic coast. And on the 10th of May, when I was advised that the boxes were about to arrive at the port of Livingston, I myself followed them.

I found my usual people, down there: and found means to handle the heavy box of the mil.- But I've always warned the museum, in that business, to be prepared for loss. The business is risky. And in fact, I and my boxes, this time, had a narrow escape.

Wind of my boxes came to the Livingston custom house. How wind could have got out, we never quite knew: some careless word might have been overheard in a shipping office. Anyhow, one day, after I had been only two or three days in the port, all the chief authorities, the collector of customs, and the magistrat, and the port captain, with police, called on me in a body, demanding sight of my seven boxes: and I must say, that things looked black.

By chance it happened, that at the moment of my visitors arrival, I was bathing. They had to wait for me. And I was advised of their waiting, and had a moment to think. When I saw them, I saw, as soon as they opened their mouths, that the information they had, was incomplete. It was possible to take advantage of an almost incredible coincidence, and put them on a false scent, for the time being: and in the end, to balk them.

But from then on, my job was uneasy. I remained under strong suspicion. Places where it was thought that I might have the stuff stowed, were nightly watched. I had to be very deliberate: and if there was no further misadventure, I had very much to thank the fact, that the collector of customs

waz a man who had no friends.

Hiz watching and endeavours came to nothing. The boxes wer conveniently landed on the coast ov British Honduras: and my self wel soakt with sea, but with the cargo aparently dry, on the 8th ov June I saild into Balize harbour. Next morning I rote you about insurance. After getting your radio ov the 18th, I took the first steamer to Guatemala. I reacht Senahú on the 27th, and my muzeum employment, for the time, waz ended.

I encloze you a money account dated the 1st ov July: and I wil make two remarks.- First, about the amount chargeable to box 7,- in case the contents ov that box should be calld for. The amount I should think ov charging, would be simply the amount by which that box may hav put the muzeum out ov pocket. The way I should make out the bil, would be like this:

	Proportions by weight
	\$
Management, no charge,.....	- -
Cartage, Guatemala City,.....	0.89
Carriage to Port Barrios,.....	2.47
Barrios to Mobile, freight and handling,.....	9.64
Consular invoice, and other fees and stamps,.....	1.57

Total,	14.57

to which would be added the sea insurance, if any, and the charges from Mobile on.- The item 9.64, I might say, iz the proportional parte ov the sum ov theze: 17.80, 3.16, 2.50, 1.10, 13.40, and 16.50: all but the last being items from page 1. But I should decline to giv the particulars in the bil. The particulars would giv too much information.- You wil perhaps let me know when the bil iz complete, and I wil notify the owners friend in Guatemala.

And secondly, about the balance in my favour, which appears to be \$2032. 47. Looking back to your letter ov December, and to the amount you speak ov az Appropriated, the prezent remainder ov that amount, by my arithmetic, would be \$1884.95:- so that Ive over run the apropriation by near a hundred and fifty dollars. I had expected to under run. But the delays and accidents ov the bay ov Honduras upset my calculations. If you find my account corect, I should be much obliged if I could hav, at your convenience, the amount that the remaining apropriation permits, so that I may not lose the intrest: leaving the amount by which Ive over run, to be settled by future apropriation.

Speaking ov future apropriation,- I understand that your apropriations ar deliberated upon in the autum. And

if I might offer an opinion, I think that enough ought certainly to be appropriated to finish the Chocolá digging. The hole expense (including my wages, az they ar) would probably be covered by less than fifteen hundred dollars. The mound iz the first ov its kind any where, so far az I know, to be investigated: and I think the muzeum ought at least to hav the satisfaction ov getting to the bottom ov it.

With regards to Dr Mason (whoze letter ov March 31st I duly receivd),

I remain

Your most obedient servant

R. Burkitt

Miss McHugh

The Pennsylvania University Muzeum, Filadelfia

1928

Jun 30: continuation

Brought forward,

Am.\$
5302.24

Carib captain,.....	40.
Backers and beach men,.....	16.50
Receiver, 10, Watchman, 1,.....	11.
Cash to wharf officers,.....	5.50
Treating and presents (not cash), so far as noted:	
Chocolá,.....	41.70
Chocolá again, bills for Conception, Christmas, New Years,.....	49.80
Guatemala City,.....	29.95
" " Guat.\$175: at 60,...	2.92
Bay of Honduras; rum and cigars,....	62.
" " " presents to women, mostly,.....	19.17
Balize,.....	2.
Guatemala registry, 2: Balize visa, 2:..	4.
Consular invoice, 2.50: Certificat of origin 3.25:Other stamps and fees, 3.12:,. .	8.87
Ditto, Guat.\$460: at 60,.....	7.67
Carpenter, Guatemala City,.....	5.
Tarpaulin, 5.65: Straw valise, padlock, 3.20: Rope and other stuff, 4.55:.....	13.40
Jute bags: no bill yet,.....	- -
Photographic stuff and printing, Guat.\$330: at 60,.....	5.50
Radio telegrams to Mobile and Philadel- phia: 7.98, 7.22, 2.85:.....	18.05
Other telegrams, so far as noted,.....	2.25
" " DEBIT TOTAL,	5647.52

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

" " By drafts received since January 1st:-

Dated 1927, Dec 22,.....	Am.\$1115.05
" 1928, Feb 27,.....	1000.
" " " 28,.....	1500.

	3615.05

CREDIT TOTAL,	3615.05

Jul 1: BALANCE, in my favour,.....Am.\$2032.47

E. and O. E.

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.

BY WIRELESS

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

July 18 1928

19

To Robert Burkitt

Street and No. Belize *British Honduras*

Place

Wireless received. Shipment having our attention

Jane McHugh

Paid Charge University Museum

SENDER'S ADDRESS
FOR REFERENCE

SENDER'S TELEPHONE
NUMBER

The Mexican specimens of which Mr. Burkitt sent the four photographs look unusually good and desirable. They are apparently from a region not well known and of unusual types. Most of them seem to be in excellent condition. If there is any possibility of securing it, the owner should be asked for a complete catalog and for his valuation.

John Mason

Senahú, Guatemala
1928, August 12

My dear Miss McHugh

I'm much obliged by your letter of July 3rd, and glad to know that the things have reached Philadelphia.

By the time you have this, you will already, I suppose, have had my letter of July 26. I find that in that letter I made a small mistake. I sent some photos, and started the numbering of them with the number 222: forgetting that I had already used that number. 222 was already the number of the photo that went with the instalment of catalog that covered the things 1103/4. To prevent a future confusion, I beg you will alter the number of that earlier photo, both in the catalog and on the back of the photo, and in stead of 222, put 221 A.

I have to acknowledge one or two late Museum Journals, forwarded to me by the consulat. Anything adrest to the consulat will reach me: but I might say that my quickest address, for the present, would be this:

Sr. D. Roberto Burkitt
Pansós
vía Puerto Barrios
Guatemala

not mentioning either Senahú, or the Verapaz.

Now something else.- A man in Mexico, a German trader and land owner, has been writing to me about a collection that he has, of Indian antiquities, Tarrascan antiquities, as he informs me, which he would like to sell.

The collection, according to what he writes, may amount, between pottery and stone (but not counting beads), to something like a thousand pieces: and is the result of his own digging, continued over a long course of years, and partly in his own land. His digging was among burials. The things he found, which were variously from half a metre to as much as two or three metres deep, were always in company with bones: and are mostly, he says, in admirable preservation. The stone things include things of obsidian. The pottery is partly what he calls idols: and partly vessels, of many shapes and colours. Aside from the usual brown kitchen ware, he speaks of what he calls fruit dishes, flower pots, censers, clay spoons: things black, red, yellow, and of rich colours: things of curious work. One of the fruit dishes, he says, different from all the rest, has a copper, or perhaps a gold incrustation: a metallic incrustation. He considers that there is no similar collection, at all equal to his, in the country. The Mexican national museum, hearing of his finds, sent and had digging done on their own account: but working with forced, and consequently unfriendly labour, had small success. And what similar specimens the museum has, are much inferior to his in beauty and variety, and especially in state of preservation. He invites comparison.

And now he would sell. He or his digging, as it seems,

*acked
Aug. 29/28
Photo are in drawer
in Room 204*

waz once already denounced to the government, and ther waz a dezin to confiscate hiz colection: and though the dezin waz not fulfild, he's in fear that one day it may be, and he wishes to sel hiz colection while its stil hiz.

I rote and askt the man whether he couldnt send me some fotografs ov hiz colection: and askt him to say something about the price ov it, and about the chances ov being able to get the colection out ov the country. And he haz now anserd.

Az for getting the ~~stuf~~ stuff out ov the country, he suggests usual expedients, which might or might not be feazible. About price, he's noncomittal. Come and see the things, iz what hiz anser amounts to, and we'll soon come to an under standing.

Az for fotografs, after some delay, he sends me the four bad fotografs that you see. He apologizes for their badness, and says he waz unwilling to call in a professional fotografer, az the fact would at once hav been publisht, and comented on: and he made use, in stead, ov a countryman ov hiz, who happend to be there with a camera:and theze things wer the rezult. How ever, theyre better than nothing. They reprezent, he says, a small part ov hiz colection. Its to be under stood that the pottery in them iz all what he calls colourd: while az for the size ov the things, the height ov the shelvs iz one foot. I number hiz fotos from 230 to 233: and translating hiz Spanish, I wil set down for you the scanty details that he adst-

In 230, in the middle ov the top shelf, ar two vessels reprezenting eagles. On the second shelf, at the left hand end, and on top, iz a fruit dish: which I laid on its side, he says, in order to show the pretty dezin on it: ov which, how ever, nothing at all comes out. At the middle ov the shelf, iz an oval fruit dish, with a round one above it: and on top ov that, a vessel in the shape ov a bird. On the bottom shelf, in the middle, iz a very od thing with two leopard heads: and further to the right iz a tripod, also quite an oddity, in which they probably burnt incense.

In 231, on the top shelf, and underneath the big tripod in the middle, iz a candle-stick thing, ov a round shape, with two snake heads: probably also to burn incense. On the second shelf, the bottom vessels ov the second and third piles, represent tortoises: while in the second pile, the vessel next above the bottom, haz the head ov a leopard. On top ov the fourth pile, iz a little triangular tray (so he calls it), very od and atractiv. In the bottom row, in the middle pile, and showing a cross in the pattern, iz a thing that must probably, hav been either a hanging flower pot (considering the holes in it), or else some ornament for the head. On top ov that, iz a kind ov oval flower pot, putting you in mind (he says) ov the Chineze style.

In 232, at the left hand end, the second object, which iz the lid ov something, iz a monkey. Next iz a stone mask, partly transparent, ov noble and corect lineaments: and after that come two idols: the taller ov which, black and white in colour, haz a very shiny finish. In front ov them, iz a deer, and a curious hollow animal with perforations, probably to alow ov throwing incense on the sacred fire.

In foto 233, which iz the worst foto (he says), you can distinguish nothing but out lines: and what you least ov all see, iz the semicircle ov little idols, which ar seated about a chieftain with an enormous head dress.

I make no comment oñ these descriptions. Much ov the mans collection might turn out to be rubbish: but I make no dout he haz some things worth seeing. I my self hav no time to go and see them,- certainly not just now. Possibly the muzeum haz some agent in Mexico. I shal tel the man that Ive prezented the matter ov hiz collection to the consideration ov the muzeum: and then if the muzeum takes an intrest in the matter, you can let me know.

I remain your most obedient servant

Robert Berkitt

Miss McHugh
The Pennsylvania University Muzeum
Filadelfia

In foto 833, which is the worst foto (he says), you can distinguish nothing but out lines: and what you least of all see, is the semicircle of little idols, which are seated about a chieftain with an enormous head dress.

I make no comment on these descriptions. Much of the mana collection might turn out to be rubbish: but I make no doubt he has some things worth seeing. I myself have no time to go and see them, - certainly not just now. Possibly the museum has some spent in Mexico. I shall tell the man that I've presented the matter of his collection to the consideration of the museum: and then if the museum takes an interest in the matter, you can let me know.

I remain your most obedient servant

Robert H. Lowie

Mr. Museum

Miss McHugh
The Pennsylvania University Museum
Philadelphia

August 28, 1928

My dear Mr. Burkitt:

At this writing I am simply going to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of July 26 which reached us August 15th. I have turned this over to Dr. Mason together with the photographs; he is much interested in the accounts which you give of your work.

We have a note from the Oil Well Engineering Company, Ltd. asking that we send the two images which you included in your shipment to us to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company Ltd. in London. This we will do. Your card is attached to their letter, so it gives the proper authority for shipping out the box.

On or about September 1st we shall send to you drafts in the sum of \$2,032.47 which will cover our indebtedness to you in accordance with the accounts rendered. We have our first meeting of our Board on September 21. At that time I shall ask them for a further appropriation for your work, which I hope they will grant.

With my best regards, I am

Very sincerely yours

MR. ROBERT BURKITT
Senahu
Alta Verapaz
Guatemala

Copy sent to Guatemala City.

Copy sent to Pansos August 29.

August 29, 1928

Dear Mr. Burkitt:

Yesterday we placed in the mail a letter of which I am enclosing a copy, addressing one to you in care of the British Consulate and a copy to Senahu. Today I have received your letter of August 12 giving me your Pansos address.

We will make the corrections which you indicate in the numbering of the photographs. I shall discuss with Dr. Mason the matter of the Mexican collection; we will probably hear from the owner.

For some time we have had in the Museum on approval a large Mexican collection consisting of very remarkable pottery figures, two dog-headed figures about two feet in height which are quite unique, pots of all shapes and sizes, beads, etc. It belongs to a Dr. Munday of Mexico City who is now asking \$9,000. for it. Have you ever heard of this collection? Dr. Mason and I are anxious to acquire it for the Museum, but we have not yet succeeded in getting an appropriation for it.

Very sincerely yours

MR. ROBERT BURKITT
Pansos
Via Puerto Barrios
Guatemala

September 10, 1928

My dear Mr. Burkitt:

In my letter of August 28 I told you that we would send you drafts on or about the first of September. I am now enclosing herewith the following drafts:

No. 7497F and 7498F, \$500. each . . .	\$1,000.
No. 7499F and 7500F, \$100. each . . .	200.
No. 7501 F	32.47
No. 7502 F to 7509 F inclusive, (\$100. each)	<u>800.</u>

totalling \$2,032.47
which covers our indebtedness to you for the period
January 1, 1928 to June 30, 1928.

At our first Board Meeting of the year, which will be held on the twenty first of September, I shall ask that an additional appropriation of fifteen hundred dollars be granted you. I feel sure that this appropriation will be granted by the Board. I shall write you immediately after the meeting.

I have talked with Dr. Mason about the Mexican collection of which you sent us photographs. Dr. Mason feels that the collection is an interesting one but it would, of course, be necessary for some one to see it before we entered into any negotiations and we should have some idea of the price which the owner is asking for it. As you know, the asking price in some cases is quite ridiculous. The Monday collection of which I wrote you some time ago was first offered to us for twenty five thousand dollars; the price then dropped by thousands until it reached nine thousand dollars; even this we feel is more than it is worth. If you can get the owner to name a price we might go further into the matter with him. Probably he could send a catalogue which would

help us to form an idea of the extent of the collection; the photographs are really too poor to judge of the value of the specimens.

Very sincerely yours

Secretary

MR. D. ROBERTO BURKITT
Panama
Via Puerto Barrios
Guatemala, C. A.

September 17, 1928

My dear Mr. Burkitt:

I am sending you here-
with duplicate cheques Nos. 7497F
to 7509F amounting to \$2,032.47.
The originals of these cheques
were mailed to you on September
10 together with a letter of
which I am enclosing a copy.

Very sincerely yours

Secretary

SR. D. ROBERTO BURKITT
Pansos
Via Puerto Barrios
Guatemala, C. A.

September 26, 1928

Dear Mr. Burkitt:

At the meeting of our Board of Managers held on Friday last, the report of your work was presented and at the same time I asked for an appropriation of fifteen hundred dollars for a continuance of the work on the mound. This was granted by the Board and you may now call for the money at any time that you may need it.

With my best regards, I remain

Very sincerely yours

Secretary

SR. D. ROBERTO BURKITT
Panos
Via Puerto Barrios
Guatemala, C. A.

Pansós
vía Puerto Barrios
Guatemala

1928, October 7

My dear Miss McHugh

I hav had the pleasure ov getting your two letters ov the 10th and 17th ov last month, together with the originals and duplicats ov the drafts, all az you mention. I am much obliged to you.

Ive also had your letters ov August 28 and 29. In your letter ov August 29, you speak ov corecting the numbering ov the fotografas. Ther waz only one fotograf to be so corected: the one fotograf - now I supoze, ov no intrest - which showd the two stones belonging to the man in London.

Az for the man in Mexico, Ive ritten to him in the sense ov your letter.

Your most obedient servant

R. Burkitt

Miss McHugh
The Pennsylvania University Muzeum

Senahú

Guatemala

1928, October 27

My dear Miss McHugh

This iz to thank you for your
letter ov September 26. I shal keep
in mind what you say ov the apropria-
tion: and continue to be

Your most obedient servant

R. Burkitt

Miss McHugh
The Pennsylvania University Muzeum

amount of your appropriation I suppose indicates, that any such notion at present, is not to be considered. - In what ever case, I wish you a happy new year, and remain
Your most obedient servant

R. Burkitt

Senahú
Guatemala
1928, December 31

My dear Miss McHugh

I expect in a few days to start for the Pacific side: its time to take up the Chocolá digging. You may consequently send me the appropriated money. The money should include ten drafts of fifty dollars each. My best address will be as before:

Sr. D. Roberto Burkitt
Rda. al Consulado General Británico
Ciudad Guatemala
Guatemala

Since last writing to you, which was on October 27, I've heard again from the man in Mexico. He now signifies a price: and the price he signifies would be about five thousand dollars - your dollars, for the pick of his collection. I suppose he might come down a little: though if his price turned out to look reasonable, I shouldn't perhaps be disposed much to haggle with him - unless on the score of the difficulty of getting the stuff out of the country. He speaks of having been written to about his collection, lately, from two or three quarters, one being the museum of Berlin, which already has a stone necklace that was once his. He had made a present of the necklace to somebody, who after the war, became necessitous, and sold the thing to the museum.

I might say that without having any plans, I had begun to have a notion, that after finishing the Museum job in Chocolá, and perhaps doing something else, I might then, if the Museum was agreeable, go on from the Pacific side, and see, and possibly buy, this Mexican collection. But the

Rda. al Consulado General Británico
Guatemala

1929, January 31

Dear Dr Harrison

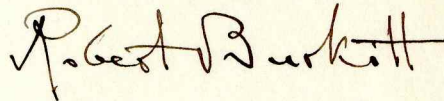
The sheets I send you under cover with this, were intended as the beginning of something which I believe would have much interested Mr Gordon: and it is possible that what I might put together on the subject, might in your opinion, be suitable to the Museum Journal.

The subject, as you will see, is the existing Indian calendar, the ancient calendar in its present state. I have been acquainted with this existing calendar for many years. I have lately made some experiments in throwing my acquaintance with it - or part of my acquaintance - into something like orderly form. I think that what I have in mind to say, could be said in some ten or twelve thousand words: and that my payment, whatever the number of words, and putting past and future time together, might be reckoned as about the payment for three years work. My writing, if I wrote, would be done by instalments: probably without rule, at intervals of several months, depending on my other engagements: and my payment would be by similar instalments.

I have not much expectation that you will be able to accept my proposal, and I shall be no way put out if you do not, - though in that case I might beg to have the enclosed sheets back. But if by chance you accept my proposal, I should be glad if you would kindly let me know soon.

I am actually in Chocóla, engaged in some work for the Museum: but my best address will be as you see on top.

I am
Yours very truly
Robert Burkitt



Charles C. Harrison, Esq., LL.D., etc.
The Pennsylvania University Museum
Philadelphia

mailed 2/8/29

February 4, 1929

Dear Mr. Burkitt:

I have your letter of December 31 and am enclosing herewith ten drafts for fifty dollars each and five drafts for two hundred dollars each, which I hope will reach you safely.

I have taken up with Dr. Mason and also with the Acting President the matter of the Mexican collection of which you write. We are now negotiating for a large Mexican collection which was assembled by Dr. Monday of Mexico City. For this reason we feel that we could not appropriate a sum approaching five thousand dollars for another collection from that country, although to be sure the objects are from quite different localities. Later on we may be able to take this matter up again with you but for the present I think we must devote what resources we have to acquiring the Monday collection.

With my best regards, I remain

Very sincerely yours

Secretary

SR. D. ROBERTO BURKITT
Rda. al Consulado General Britanico
Ciudad Guatemala
Guatemala

Drafts enclosed

Nos. 8306F to 8315 F inclusive, \$50. each
Nos. 8317F to 8321 F inclusive, \$200. each.

February 18, 1929

Dear Mr. Burkitt:

I am sending to you enclosed herewith a copy of my letter to you under date of February 14 and the duplicates of the drafts which accompanied that letter. These are Nos. 8306F to 8315 F inclusive for \$50. each, and Nos. 8317F to 8321F inclusive for \$200. each.

Very truly yours

Secretary

SR. D. ROBERTO BURKITT
Rda. al Consulado General Britanico
Ciudad Guatemala
Guatemala

February 27, 1929

Dear Mr. Burkitt:

Your letter of January 31 addressed to Dr. Harrison has been received. I know that you will be sorry to hear that Dr. Harrison died on February 12 after a long and trying illness.

I have discussed with Dr. Mason the matter of the publication of your article on the Indian Calendar in which we are both much interested and I wish that it might be in our power to undertake its publication. As you may readily understand, Dr. Harrison's death is a great blow to us. It was he who collected the funds for the work of the Museum and since his illness our resources have been cut down considerably. Our funds for publications has suffered the most, I think, and I can see no way at this time of providing for the article of which you sent a few pages.

You may be interested to know that S. K. Lothrop of the Heye Museum of the American Indian read a paper on the Indian Calendar at the meeting of the twenty-third Congress of Americanists recently held in New York. This will be published in its PROCEEDINGS which should appear this year. If you would like to have a copy of the article, I am sure that I can procure one for you.

I hope that you have received our drafts safely.

With my best regards, I remain

Very sincerely yours

Secretary

P. S. According to your request, I am returning the sheets which you sent us.

Hacienda Chocolá
Guatemala
1929, February 28

My dear Miss McHugh

Ive had the pleasure ov receiving your letter ov the 4th, with the drafts az you mention, and Im much obliged to you.- Im also much obliged to you for letting me know your mind about the Mexican collection.

Az for the Chocolá mound, Ive nothing more at present to report than steady digging. I quitted Senahú on the 15th ov January. In Guatemala City, and on the way up, I waz delayd a few days by the atempted revolution. At the mound, how ever, Ive not been interupted either by revolution or by rain, and I hope soon to be done.

I continue my adress at the consulat: and remain, your most obedient servant,

R. Burkett

Miss McHugh, The Pennsylvania University Muzeum

March 6, 1929

Dear Mr. Burkitt:

The enclosed sheets should have accompanied my letter to you of February 27. I am sorry that they were overlooked when the letter was put in the mails.

Very sincerely yours

Secretary

MR. ROBERT BURKITT

Senahú, Guatemala
1929, August 1st

In account with R. Burkitt

The Pennsylvania University Muzeum

DEBTOR

1929

Am. \$

Jan 1:	To bil receivd for Jute Bags (see last years account, where the amount waz left blank),.....	1.67
" 22:	To payment on account ov last years shipment:- The colector ov customs who gave trouble last year (I may say that he haz since been removed) waz very vext at having been got the better ov, and after I came back from British Honduras, again tried to giv trouble: but put himself in the rong, in a way that enabled me to lodge a complaint against him. The complaint took efect: and to the person in Guatemala City in charge ov the complaint, I had promist and now paid this honorarium:.....	25.
Jul 31:	To my time to date(see my letter ov February 28, and my letter with this account): January 15 til April 3, 2 months and 19 days,.....	790.
" "	To July 4 til July 17, 14 days,.....	140.
" "	To expenses to date:-	
	Rail way and river fares,.....	54.39
	Ditto, Guat.\$387, at 60 for 1,.....	6.45
	Hotels (board and lodging only), January and July:	
	Port Barrios,.....	7.50
	Guatemala City,.....	67.50
	Carts, cabs, servants, muleteers, so far az noted,.....	13.05
	Ditto, Guat.\$151, at 60,.....	2.52
	Labour in Chocolá, Guat.\$3491, at 60,.....	58.18
	Fotografy, Guat.\$252, at 60,.....	4.20
	Carpenter, Guat.\$70, at 60,.....	1.17
	Muzeum catalog numbers 1106/9: see the anext receipt, and my letter with this account:.....	250.
" "	To balance to date,.....	78.37

		1500.00

The Muzeum, CREDITOR

Feb 26:	By drafts dated February 6 (Brown Brothers),.....	1500.00

Aug 1:	By BALANCE IN FAVOUR OV THE MUZEUM,.....Am.#	78.37

R. Burkitt

HÉCTOR MONTANO

GUATEMALA

DIRECCION CABLEGRAFICA

MONTANO-GUATEMALA

A. B. C. 4ª Y 5ª EDICION

Guatemala, 6 de Julio de 1929.-

He vendido á Don Roberto Burkitt cuatro artículos de fábrica antigua indígena como sigue :

1o. - Una llamada hacha de piedra representando una calavera.
Largo 28 cm.

= 1109

2o. - Una escudilla de barro pintada, con tres patas, cada pata representando una cara grotesca.
Alto como 10 cm.
Ancho " 16 cm.

= 1107

3o. - Una vasija de barro pintado representando un armado.
Alto como 13 cm.
Largo " 21 cm.

= 1105

4o. - Una escudilla de barro pintada por dentro y por fuera con varios dibujos, entre ellos algo como una culebra con dos cabezas en el fondo de la escudilla.
Alto como 9 cm.
Ancho " 20 cm.

= 1106

Recibiendo del Señor Burkitt en pago total por les cuatro objetos la suma de Q.250.00. (DOS CIENTOS CINCUENTA QUETZALES 00/100.-).

HÉCTOR MONTANO. N.

Héctor Montano

A quetzal iz equal to a U. S. dollar

RB

Senahú, Guatemala
1929, September 30

My dear Miss McHugh

Im just up from the hot country.- Under cover with this riting I send you a money account and a piece ov catalog. The money account shows a small balance at your dispoz_al. The catalog covers the numbers 1105 to 9, and includes some drawings and fotografs: the numbers ov the fotografs being 234 to 43.

Its a long time since I rote you. And aside from what you may find in the account and catalog, I believ thers not much for me to say.- I got to an end with the Chocolá mound,- and I wish it had been otherwise, but that digging, az you wil see in the catalog, gave me practicaly no plunder.- The Chocolá buziness took me til April the 3rd. Then for three months (so far az the muzeum waz concernd) I waz disengaged: and my return journey to Senahú waz from July 4 til July 17.

My return journey included the purchas and packing ov thozе catalog things (which I hope you wil like) 1106 to 9. All four things hav points ov intrest: but what imediatly atracted me waz the ax 1109, which both in workmanship and conservation iz the best ov its kind that Ive seen. The owner began by wanting four or five hundred dollars for the lot, but you see by hiz receipt that he came down to two hundred and fifty. I waz not distinctly authorized to buy any thing for the muzeum, this time: but having a little ov your money left over, I thought it would be a pity not to take this advantage ov it. The things ar packt for shipment, and stowd in a safe place in Guatemala City.

This piece ov catalog that Ive been finishing, consists mostly, az you wil see, ov one article, the article 1105, which iz concernd with Chocolá. And Ive now been thinking,- I dont know how such an article might look in the Muzeum Journal, but the owners ov Chocolá ar extensiv and influential land owners in various parts ov Guatemala (besides in Mexico and South America) and that article in print, in any way, would greatly pleaz them. Among the fotografs, if you wisht, you could make it pat to insert a fotograf ov the sculptured stone, the stone that Chocolá made you a prezent ov. It happens that Ive mentiond the stone in this article.

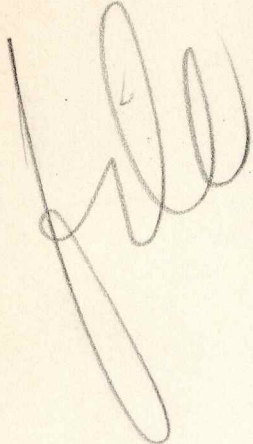
I waz much obliged by your letter ov February 27, in anser to mine ov January 31: and sorry to learn ov your prezidents death. I hadnt known that he waz il. I beg you wil thank Dr Mason on my behalf, for a letter ov hiz dated May the 7th: which waz duly forwarded to me and containd some intresting information. I hav to acknowledge the receipt ov one or two Muzeum Journals. I continue my adress at the consulat, or at Pansós.

And I remain

Your obedient servant

Robert Burkhitt

Miss McHugh
The Pennsylvania University Muzeum
Filadelfia



Pansós, Guatemala

1929, October 7th

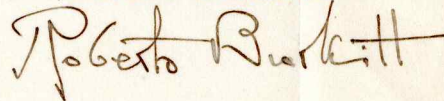
My Dear Miss McHugh

This iz merely in case ov miscarriage
to let you know that I rote you with some
enclosures under date ov September 30th.

I remain

Your most obedient servant

Robert Burkitt



Miss McHugh

The Pennsylvania University Muzeum

Filadelfia