

January 2, 1930

My dear Mr. Burkitt:

I have failed to write you since assuming the post of Director of the Museum although it has often been on my mind to do so. I read your paper on the excavations at Chocoma with the greatest interest and Dr. Mason is going to allow me to read other of your earlier reports. I wish to assure you that we are anxious in every way to have you continue this valuable work for the Museum and that you may count on our support as heretofore.

Dr. Mason is leaving early next month for Guatemala and hopes to see you during his visit, both to discuss your past undertakings and to get your advice regarding future projects in which he is interested. He will write you more fully of his plans and I merely wish at this time to introduce myself, if only by letter, and assure you of our continued desire to cooperate fully with you.

With best wishes for the New Year

Yours sincerely

Horace H. F. Jayne  
DIRECTOR

Palo Gordo

Guatemala

1930, February 27

Dear Mr Jayne

Your letter of January 2nd, together with a letter dated a few days later, from Dr Mason, was duly forwarded to me, though reaching me at a place where I was not at once able to write. I had heard of your appointment to succeed my old acquaintance Mr Gordon, and was very glad in deed to have a letter from you.

Dr Mason Ive already answered: by a note which he will find at the British consulat in Guatemala City. Without waiting to hear from the museum, this year, I had quitted Senahú so early as the 8th of January, with the intention of starting some digging in the neighbourhood of Nebáh, beyond the Cuchumatán mountains. In view of Dr Masons letter, how ever, Im now not going, but am keeping within reach of the rail way (as Ive told him) until his arrival.

I will take this opportunity of drawing your attention, if you will let me, to something I said in my last letter to the museum, my letter dated September 30: adrest to Miss McHugh, and accompanying my last piece ov catalog. It may be that you never saw the letter. I spoke, among other things, of the article 1105, of the catalog: the article on the Chocolá mound: and suggested the utility of having the

*Copy mailed to  
Mr. Jayne*

article in some way printed, possibly in the Museum Journal. My notion would be to entitle the article A mound in Chicolá:  
a fragment of<sup>a</sup>catalog:- and proceed, 1105, and so on, all as the article is: and the various gaps and abruptnesses in it would need no further explanation.

Of course I quite understand that such papers are of little general interest: in fact, excepting to a little circle of antiquaries, possibly of no inherent interest at all. But the thing is that the owners of Chicolá - and the same with many other land owners - are very pleased and flattered by the appearance of such papers in print, papers in which they, or their places, are concerned, and which they can hand about and show to their friends: and I think you don't perhaps fully conceive, at the museum, how in my way of working, with nothing but opposition to expect on the side of public authorities, - how much the good will and example of land owners, especially of extensive and influential land owners, is a thing to be grateful for, and in every little way encouraged.

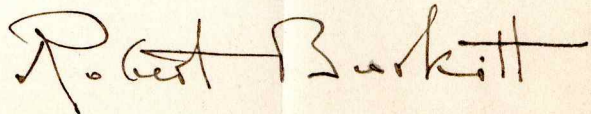
Now something else. I should be glad to hear whether a manuscript volume, the long-lost concluding volume of Father Ximenes's history, has or has not lately been offered to the museum. The volume exists. It was shown to me in Guatemala City, last year, where I helped to ~~to~~ photograph it: a folio volume bound in parchment, and containing 455 numbered leaves (or twice as many pages) of close ~~to~~ writing: all in good order, excepting that the ink, after two hundred years, is

often a little dim. The man who had the volume in his possession, and wished to sell it - a native doctor - considered a thousand dollars an insufficient price, and I advised him to send the volume to your museum for valuation: of course you might also buy it. The man has friends in the government, here, and conveniences for getting such things out of the country. I've now again seen him. He came to look for me, and informed me that he had actually sent the volume some time ago to a confidential agent in New York: who had written him to say that he had written - he the agent had written - to the museum in Philadelphia, but had not been able to get any answer. These people are so full of lies,- you might perhaps be so kind as to let me know, against I see the man again, whether the alleged communication with the museum is a fact. If it is, you might cable me the word Augustus: and if not, the word Tiberius.- According to my information, the other original volumes of Ximenes are in Leipsic, and if you were interested, it might be possible to ascertain whether the volume now in question had not in fact been offered there.

I continue my address at the consulat, and am

Yours very truly

Robert Burkitt



Horace H. F. Jayne, Esq., etc.

The Pennsylvania University Museum

INFORMATION NOTE:

For the period of March–May, 1930 there is additional information on Robert Burkitt in J. Alden Mason's records for the 1930 Mexico-Guatemala trip, carried out to set up the project at Piedras Negras. This correspondence is filed in:

Expedition Records--  
Central America--  
Piedras Negras (1930–1939)--

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED
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

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1206-A

NO.	CASH OR CHG.
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TIME FILED	

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

March 17, 1930

BURKITT

BRITISH CONSULATE

GUATEMALA CITY GUATEMALA

JAYNE ABROAD TIBERIUS

McHUGH

SEND PREPIAD

CHARGE TO UNIVERSITY MUSEUM

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE

April 23, 1930

My dear Mr. Burkitt:

In your letter of February 27 addressed to Mr. Jayne you asked about a manuscript volume of Father Ximenez. When I cabled you on March 17 the word "Tiberius", we had had no knowledge of the manuscript. Now, however, we know in whose hands it is and I am making every effort to have it sent to the Museum for Dr. Mason's inspection upon his return here. Sometime ago, I think it was late in January, a young man, Mr. Emilio Gordon, brought us a suitcase full of old Spanish books and manuscripts, mostly medical and mathematical. I have all these manuscripts here. Upon a later visit Mr. Gordon told me of a manuscript which a friend had turned over to him to sell. This manuscript was in New York and although I tried to have it brought here I was not successful. I have asked Mr. Oliver LaFarge who is in New York to see Mr. Gordon and to have a look at the manuscript. Mr. LaFarge has just written me as follows:

"I saw Mr. Gordon, and inspected the manuscript. It purports to be the Fourth Part, to date unpublished and for some time supposed to have been lost, of the Historia of Padre Ximenez. The title page runs,

'Cuarta/ Parte de la His/toria de la Provincia de/ san/ Vicente/ de/ Chiapa y Guatemala orden de/ Predicadors/ compuesta por el R. P. P. Red. Gen/ Gray/ Francisco Xime/ nez/ Hijo de la misma provin. de orde/ N. Rmo P. M. G. F. Antonio Clo/che.'

" It contains Libros VI, Cap. 1-100, VII, 1-32. The title or argument of Cap. 35 is written on

4/23/30

-2-

f. 455, verso, and the remainder of the page filled in by another hand. Date, "ano 1700." But the history itself, beginning with the year 1699, reaches 1720 several pages before. 1720 is approximately the year in which Father Jimenez compiled this famous history, probably, having brought it to date, he was about finished with it when he got to Cap. 35. Perhaps, however, he intended to go on to 100.

There is no question that this is a manuscript, original, and old. The water-mark on the paper is an ecclesiastical coat of arms. The ink is badly faded, and although the handwriting is clear, it is difficult to read for this reason. It seems to me that the value of the manuscript hinges largely on the question of whether this is the original in Jimenez's own hand, or an early copy. If it is by Jimenez, it is extremely valuable, and a collector's prize, aside from its historical value, which is considerable. If not, it is still worth considering, I believe. So far as my knowledge goes, this, and an incomplete copy made from it by Gavarrete, are the only ones in existence. However, I may be mistaken about this. There is probably information about in Berendt's writings, as he was very familiar with Jimenez's works.

Villacorta reproduces some pages of this manuscript and discusses it in a vague way, in *Anales de la Sociedad de Geografia e Historia de Guatemala*, Vol. VI, No. 1, pp. 76-99, of which Cordon lent me a copy which I can send on in case you have not got it.

The question of authorship could easily be settled by a comparison of handwritings.

Senor Cordon is acting in this matter as the agent of the owner.

The owner has set no price, but wants an offer. If this is Jimenez's own work, I should think it would be

4/25/30

-3-

well bought at any sum under \$250.00. Whatever maximum value Dr. Mason may set on it, I advise that he begin by offering not over half as much.

However, all that is tentative. What I definitely can say is that the manuscript is interesting enough to make it worth while to have Senor Gordon bring it over for inspection."

I am asking Senor Gordon to send the manuscript on to us as I believe it is one that we shall want to have in our collections. If he does not do this I shall ask him to give us the refusal of it.

Mr. Jayne has not yet returned to this country and even if he were here I do not know whether he would want to take any steps in acquiring the manuscript in Dr. Mason's absence. If you should see Dr. Mason after the receipt of this letter will you speak to him about Father Jimenez's history?

Sincerely yours

Secretary

Mr. Robert Burkitt  
c/o British Consulate  
Guatemala City  
Guatemala

Journal sent  
11/17/30

November 13, 1930

My dear Mr. Burkitt:

It gives me pleasure to send you five copies of the latest issue of the Journal containing your two articles "Excavations at Choctla" and "Explorations in the Highlands of Western Guatemala".

I hope you will be pleased with them for we have taken pains to reproduce them in the best possible manner. Some of the places had to be relettered so that the names would be clearer, but otherwise there was, I think, the minimum of change.

Should you wish more copies we shall be happy to send them to you or forward them to any addresses you instruct us to.

May I say again how interesting I think both these papers are and that we hope to be able to publish further articles by you in subsequent issues.

Yours sincerely

Horace H. F. Jayne  
DIRECTOR

Robert Burkitt, Esq.  
c/o British Consulate  
Guatemala City, Guatemala

Rda. al Consulado General Inglés

Ciudad Guatemala

Guatemala

1930, December 1st

Dear Mr Jayne

Under date of February 27, of this year, I wrote informing you, in answer to a letter of your own, that in stead of going to the distant places, which in January I had set out to go to, I would wait for the arrival of Dr Mason.

Dr Masons arrival was delayed till the end of March. My time of waiting, how ever, was not totally lost. I was able to employ a month in business of my own. And in the remaining time I did a little digging in Chocolá: a little digging in the neighbourhood of the mound D.

The mound of my Chocolá report, of last year, was a mound further down hill. And I had found, in the case of that mound, as my report stated, that the true bottom of the mound, the virgin ground on which the mound stood, was about six feet below the present general surface. The original surface was drifted over, to a depth of about six feet, with a soil containing fragments of pottery and other human remains. I suspected afterwards, that in going up the slope towards the volcanos, the depth of that drift - contrary to what is usual in going up hill - would be found to increase. And in experiments that I now made, I found that it did increase. Digging about the base of the

up hill mound, that I now speak of, mound D, I found human remains to a depth ~~of~~ of as much as eight or nine feet. Who ever in the future may dig at mound D (which is a little the tallest of all the Chocolá mounds) may expect the bottom of the mound to be at least eight or nine feet below the present surrounding surface.

From the end of March, when I went up to meet him in Guatemala City, till the 20th of May, in Chocolá, I had the pleasure of the company of Dr Mason. I was in a manner disappointed in Dr Mason: that is, I found him so well prepared for his object, that I'm afraid I was not really able to be of much use to him. However, I introduced him to some people whom otherwise he might not have met, and I took him to see collections. Almost against his will, when his time was nearly up, I still dragged him off to see collections in Kesaltenángo.

And I was able to combine with Dr Mason's visit the execution of a little job for the Museum, that had been for some time on my mind. That was the raising ~~of~~ of that Prostrat stone, that Dr Mason will have told you of: a stone on the Pacific slope of Guatemala, near the well known ruin-place of Saint Lucy Cotsumalwápa.

How I came to know of the stone, was through a chance talk with the owner of the land on which the stone lay. The land is a coffee plantation, which on account of a pile of modern stone buildings on it, is called the Castillo, that is to say, the Castle: and the owner was a Mr Herrera, brother to the former president of this country. Standing

With Mr Herrera in front of a public building in Guatemala City, one day, he had been pointing out to me a couple of ancient stone sculptures, which had come from about Cotsumalwápa, and by his orders had been incrustated in the wall of the building. But why dont you go down to my land of the Castle, he says to me, and see a sculptured stone much bigger than either of these? Dr Lehmann he says (the well known German antiquary) has seen my stone, and says that the sculptures on it are very interesting.

So when I was next on the Pacific slope, and near The Castle, I turned in, and spent a day seeing the antiquities of the neighbourhood, and saw Mr Herreras big stone. It was an oblong stone, with sculptures in relief, and lay flat on the ground, as it had lain since people remembered. And Dr Lehmann and his secretary, the people told me, had taken much pains to copy the sculptures. It occurred to me in looking at the stone, how ever, that besides the sculptures on top, it might have sculptures on the under side. But the stone weighed ten tons, and I had no men..When I was again in Guatemala City, and saw Mr Herrera, I told him what I thought, and asked him whether he wouldnt be so kind as to have the stone raised, and offered to go down my self, and superintend the raising. Very good, he said, lets do that. But its now raining, and that place will be a mud hole. Lets wait till the dry season.

The dry season came, and Mr Herrera was dead.- But now when I was with Dr Mason, as it happened that he some

times had days at a time (in the delays of these countries) with nothing much to do, I took advantage of being again in Guatemala City to see old Mr Herreras sons, and arrange about the stone with them. They were at once very obliging with letters to their factors: and when the opportunity offered, Dr Mason and I went down to the Castle, and the stone was raised. The raising, I may say, took a day and a half, with a gang of fifteen men and their overseers: to all of whom I gave extra pay. And I can tell you that the ~~ix~~ fifteen men and their overseers, with their extra pay, and with all their levers, and timbers, and swearing, would still never have raised the stone, if I hadnt been able to go to a neighbouring plantation and borrow jacks from the Scotch engineer. But the stone was raised: and was actually found, as Dr Mason will have told you, to have quite a nice sculpture on the under side. Dr Mason was enthusiastic about it, and I resign, with pleasure, the description of it to him.

I enclose you a continuation of my catalogue of things for the ~~Museé~~/ Museum. The continuation consists, in form, of six articles, 1110 to 1115, and is accompanied by 26 photographs and a plan. The photographs called for by the first two articles are already (as you see) sent. The present 26, which are numbered, on the back, from 262 to 287, belong to subsequent articles.

The first two articles, and the last two, represent what Ive done on the Museums account since Dr Masons departure. The length of time represented, I find to have

been a total of two months and 29 days: but owing to weather and other accidents, the total was distributed irregularly over a much longer time.

My principal job, of course, was that represented in the catalogue by the last article, article 1115: which is the article that calls for the plan, and that has to do with the images of Monte Alto.- Dr Masons departure was the signal, as it seemed, for the onset of the Pacific slope rains, and for a long time I let Museum work drop. At length, being still on the Pacific slope, I made several antiquarian journeys in the province of Escuintla: and there Monte Alto, as soon as I saw it, captured my intrest.

The work that I saw I should have to do there, and that I did, which was that of photography and surveying, and some accessory digging, was not of a nature that a force of labour could be employed in, even if labour could be had: and in fact was virtually all done by my self and my man. But there were difficulties both of weather and of lodging, and I had to make as many as half a dozen different journeys to the place before that field work was done to my satisfaction.

Now that its done, how ever, and that you have the plan and the photographs, I think you will understand my intrest. Here was something new. The Castle stone, nice as it was, was still the same sort of thing as the many Cotsumalwápa stones in Guatemala City and Berlin. Here was something new. Here were half a dozen mysterious images, which might be simple and clumsy, but were any how quite

different from the known Cotsumalwápa things: and the mysterious images were mysteriously arranged. And the general novelty, as you will see in reading, may be conjectured to include a particular novelty in the representation of the Indian calendar: a novelty in the representation ~~of~~ of the days.

In that connexion you will see that Ive made use of your album of Maya pottery, and have made you a present of my reading of the hieroglyphics on a couple of your own pots.- It happens Ive also made use of pots published by the American Museum of Natural History, and have taken the liberty of disagreeing with Dr Spinden: but I hope not in a manner by which Dr Spinden could be offended.

At the end of my words about Monte Alto, Ive put a few words addressed to the owners. Those words, of course, are with a view to possible publication. I beg the owners to dig. They never will dig. But they might give leave to dig. And it would be a step towards getting that leave, to be able to show them something already published about their land..

With respect to the things concerned in articles 1105 to 9, of my last instalment of catalogue, and in 1112 and 13 of the present instalment, I understand that youre in no haste for those things: and not hearing from the Museum, Ive made no move with them. And unless I hear from you to the contrary, I shall perhaps still make no move with them for some little time.

I believe that I have nothing lately to acknowledge

Included  
in Chron.  
Article  
March 1920

from the Museum, except (whats important) the second volume of your Maya Pottery: for the receipt of which I beg that you will express my thanks to Miss McHugh. She has greatly obliged me. The volume was lately forwarded to me from the Atlantic side of the country, and Ive already made use of it. A pot in that second volume is one of those that Ive brought up in connexion with Monte Alto.

Along with the other things, I enclose you a money account coming down till the end of November. The account shows a balance in my favour, amounting to \$2244.91: which amount, if you find it correct, I beg you will kindly send me in twelve drafts with duplicats: 1 for \$1500, 1 for 250, 9 for 50 each, and 1 for the remainder.

I happen to be in Chicolá, but my address is still the consulat. I wish you and Miss McHugh and Dr Mason a merry Christmas and happy new year: and remain,

Yours very truly

R. Burkitt



Horace H. F. Jayne, Esq.

The Pennsylvania University Museum

Hacienda Chocolá  
1930, December 1st

The Pennsylvania University Museum  
In account with R. Burkitt

1929

U.S.\$

The Museum, CREDITOR

Aug 1: By balance, according to account rendered, 78.37

The Museum, DEBTOR

Sep 30:	To writing catalogue of 1105/9, no charge,	- -
" "	" hire of writing machine,.....	1.50
1930		
Nov 30:	" my time to date (see my letter of February 27 and my letter with this account):	
	January 8 till May 20, 4 months and 13 days: less one month in January and February, 3 months and 13 days,.....	1030.
	July and August, scattered dates, 16 days,.....	160.
	September 3 till November 15, 2 months and 13 days,.....	730.
" "	" expenses to date:-	
	Rail and river fares:	
	Verapaz to Palo Gordo,.....	27.84
	Ditto, Gua.\$309, at 60 for 1,.....	5.15
	Palo Gordo to Guatemala, Gua.\$196,..	3.27
	" " " " and back,	
	fare of a messenger, Gua\$200,.....	3.33
	Guatemala to Quesaltenango, including Dr Mason, #####:.....	11.40
	Quesaltenango to Palo Gordo, including Dr Mason, Gua.\$296,.....	4.93
	Other journeys on the Pacific side (Pantaleón, Aguná, San Victor, etc., mostly with man, saddle, and bedding)	29.06
	Ditto, Gua.\$569,.....	9.48
	Hotels (board and lodging only):	
	Port Barrios,.....	4.50
	Guatemala City (twice).....	120.
	Quesaltenango and Totonicapán, including Dr Mason,.....	24.
	Ditto, Gua.\$80,.....	1.33
	Cocales,.....	7.10

Forward, 2172.89

1930

U.S.\$

## The Museum, DEBTOR

	Brought forward,	2172.89
Nov 30:	To expenses to date, continued:-	
	Cabs, carts, porters, servants:	
	Verapaz to Palo Gordo,.....	3.65
	Ditto, Gua.\$28,.....	.47
	Guatemala, Antigua Guatemala, Quesal- tenango, Totonicapán,.....	5.15
	Ditto, Gua.\$911,.....	15.18
	Pacific slope places: Pantaleón, Palo Gordo, Monte Alto, etc.,.....	1.75
	Ditto, Gua.\$445,.....	7.42
	Treating, so far as noted:	
	Livingston,.....	3.
	Guatemala,.....	6.80
	Ditto, Gua.\$70,.....	1.17
	Quesaltenango, Gua.\$305,.....	5.08
	Pantaleón, The Castle, Monte Alto,etc.	4.86
	Ditto, Gua.\$148,.....	2.47
	Labour, muleteers, etc. (Chocolá, The Castle, Monte Alto, etc.).....	11.75
	Ditto, Gua.\$1780, .....	29.67
	Harness and mending,.....	4.67
	Ditto, Gua.\$460, Gua.\$460,.....	7.67
	Photography,.....	26.57
	Ditto, Gua.\$85,.....	1.42
	Camera mending,.....	3.
	Antiquities for Dr Mason (April 12, I dont know what).....	.50
	Boxes, nails, pencils, Gua.\$157,.....	2.62
	Telegrams, so far as noted,.....	3.85
	Ditto, Gua.\$100,.....	1.67
		-----
" "	DEBIT total,.....	2323.28
" "	CREDIT total (page 1).....	78.37
		-----
Dec 1	BALANCE in my favour,.....U.S.	\$2244.91
		-----

E. and O. E.



Guatemala City  
1930, December 22

Dear Mr Jayne


The post here some times miscarries, and I take the opportunity ~~of~~ of being in the city, to let you know that in the early part of this month I wrote you a letter from Chocóla. The letter, together with a catalogue and other documents, was in a card board tube, and registered.

Ive since been much obliged by your letter of November 15, and by your packet of Museum Journals. With respect to the Journal, no proofs were sent to me, and Ive ~~not~~ not yet fully examined the text; so that Ill only say for the moment that the ~~the~~ photographs look very nice.

I may add, that Ive been in town just now, about the Museum boxes. The people with whom I had stored the boxes were going away, and I had to find a new place.- And that little job, which should have taken only a day or two, was drawn out to a week. It happened that my arrival coincided with a barrack revolt ~~which~~ which upset the government, and paralysed police and business. The general expectation seems to be that the new government wont last; but at present trains are moving, and the town is quiet.

Yours very truly

Robert Burkitt



Horace H. F. Jayne, Esq.  
The Pennsylvania University Museum

January 2, 1931

Dear Mr. Burkitt:

I wish to acknowledge your letter of December 22nd and tell you that while a single plan came for you in a card board tube, the letter, catalogue, and other documents have not at this writing come to hand. Should they not turn up in the course of the next week or so I shall let you know. I hope they are not lost but if they are, I hope you have copies. Doubtless the troubles about which you write have caused the delays.

I am sorry you saw no proof of your Journal articles. Our time was short in getting this issue out and I was reluctant to see the time consumed in sending you the proofs. We attempted to reproduce your manuscript as accurately as possible. I trust you will find it so.

With best wishes for the New Year,

Yours sincerely

Horace H. F. Jayne  
DIRECTOR

Robert Burkitt, Esq.  
c/o British Consulate  
Guatemala City  
Guatemala

Guatemala City

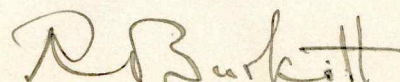
1931, January 31

Dear Mr Jayne

I waz much obliged by your letter ov the 2nd, which caught me in the nick ov time. I waz about starting on a journey.- The missing things wer sent in the same tube with the plan, and wer no dout stolen in the post office ov this town. If the plan luckily reacht you, it waz merely becauz it waz so packt in the tube az to hav escaped the thieves notice. It would be perfectly useless to complain at the post office, and az soon az I got your letter I set about replacing the lost things, which wer partly riting and partly fotografs. Ive just now got the new fotos. Ive put them and the riting in one packet. And by the kindness ov the United States legation Im sending you the packet az far az Washington in a sure way, that iz, in the diplomatic mail.- I hope the plan reacht you undamaged.

Yours very truly

R. Burkitt



Horace H. F. Jayne, Esq.

The Pennsylvania University Muzeum

Guatemala City

1931, February 1st

Dear Mr Jayne

Before leaving town I wish to add a postscript to my letter of yesterday. I see that you advertize a publication called a Bulletin, and another called Discovery. If its not too much trouble to you I should be much obliged if you could kindly let me have copies of what ever numbers of those publications have been issued.

Yours very truly

R. Burkitt

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'R. Burkitt', written in dark ink.

Horace H. F. Jayne, Esq.

The Pennsylvania University Museum

Philadelphia

February 13, 1931

My dear Mr. Burkitt:

I was delighted and much relieved to get your letter of December first which arrived today and in the same mail your letter of February first. As I wrote you we received the plan of Monte Alto some time past, and I had become worried lest the letter had gone hopelessly astray. It is good to know now that it merely lagged behind.

You must have thought it strange until you received my earlier letter at least, that no funds were sent you to settle our account, submitted with your letter, while we supposed that your funds might be exhausted, you will now understand that we did not know your requirements until your letter came. The twelve drafts will go forward to you very shortly, in the sums you suggest with the exception of the last which it will be more convenient for us to make \$255.09 than \$44.91, thus bringing the total sent to \$2500 and leaving us a small credit with you (as of November 30th).

I have read the report of your work at Monte Alto with the greatest interest. It is an unusual discovery, and the maps and their arrangement bring forward problems for which I have no equipment even to suggest solutions. We shall endeavour to include this paper in an early issue of the Journal so that others may begin thinking about it. It is to be hoped that you can continue the work you have started at Monte Alto, and as you suggest if the owners see your persuasions to dig in print it may have a helpful effect. We shall do our best to hasten the publication.

We are in no haste to receive the things mentioned in your articles 1105, 1112, and 1113. Send them only when you consider the time favourable and when it is convenient to you. While we are formally excavating in Guatemala it might be just as well to refrain from shipping things. But your judgment will be sure on this point and it is agreeable to me to abide by it.

I wish to thank you again for the assistance you gave Dr. Mason. I hope he may see you during his present stay in Guatemala. I am sending you under separate cover this year's issues of our Bulletin and of Discovery. I shall put your name on our regular mailing lists in the hope that you may care to continue to receive the copies as published. If you do not wish them, you can write me to stop sending them.

2/13/31

Miss McHugh thanks you for your Christmas and New Year's greetings and sends her best wishes to you in which I am, of course, anxious to join. Please believe me,

Yours very truly

Horace H. F. Jayne  
DIRECTOR

Sr. Robert Burkitt  
al Consulado General Ingles  
Ciudad Guatemala  
Guatemala

February 26, 1931

My dear Mr. Burkitt:

In a recent letter to you Mr. Jayne promised to send you a remittance in the sum of \$2500 to clear up our indebtedness to you and also to leave a small balance in your hands. Enclosed are twelve drafts Nos. 2526 to 2537 in the following denominations:

1.	\$1500
1.	300
3.	250
9.	50 each.

I notice that Mr. Jayne mentioned a sum of \$255.09 for one draft. I do not know how he arrived at this figure. In any case the drafts now going to you total the sum promised. The duplicates of these drafts will go forward to you in the next mail.

Dr. Mason is now on his way to Piedras Negras where we are hoping that good luck will fall to him and to the Museum.

Sincerely yours

Assistant Treasurer

Sr. Roberto Burkitt  
Rda. al Consulado General Ingles  
Cuidad Guatemala  
Guatemala, C. A.

March 7, 1931

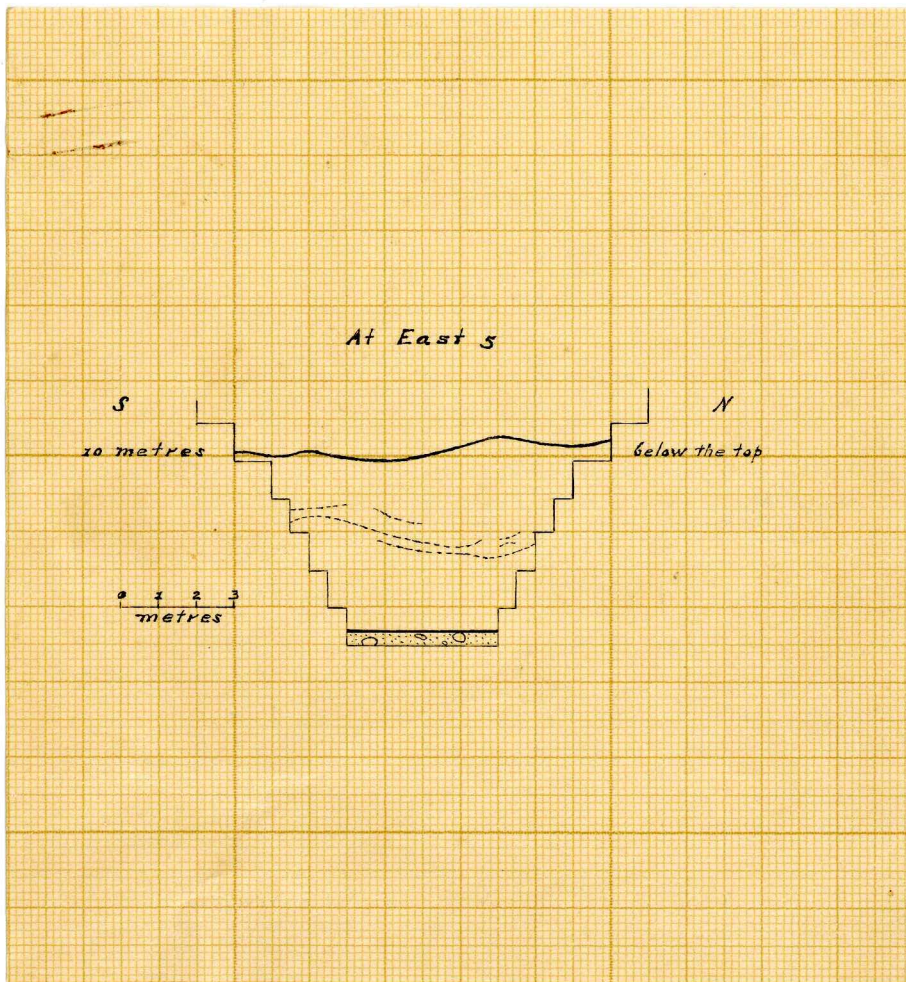
Dear Mr. Burkitt:

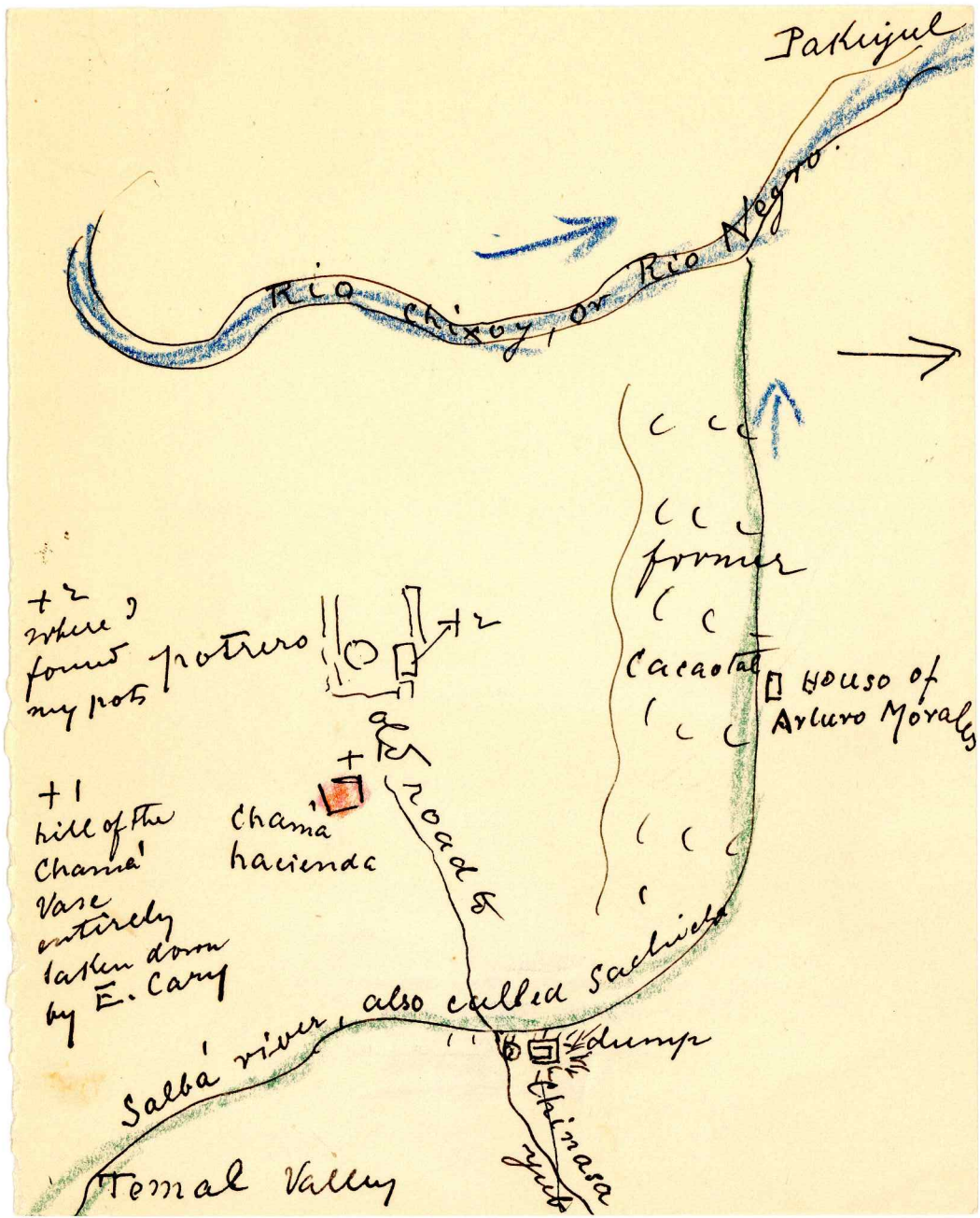
In the last mail  
I sent you twelve drafts on Brown  
Brothers, Harriman & Company, New  
York, totalling \$2500. I am now  
enclosing duplicates of these drafts.

Very truly yours

Assistant Treasurer

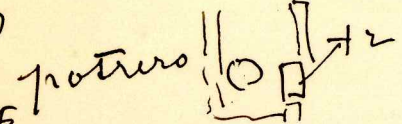
Sr. Roberto Burkitt  
c/o Consulado General Ingles  
Cuidad Guatemala  
Guatemala





+ 2  
where I  
found  
my pots

+ 1  
hill of the  
Chama'  
vase  
entirely  
taken down  
by E. Camp



Chama'  
hacienda

road

former

Cacaotal

House of  
Arturo Morales

Salba' river, also called Sacliveta

dump  
Chinasa

Temal Valley

Pakujul

Rio Chixoy, or Rio Negro

former

Cacaotal

House of  
Arturo Morales

Salba' river, also called Sacliveta

dump  
Chinasa

Temal Valley

Pakujul

Rio Chixoy, or Rio Negro

former

Cacaotal

House of  
Arturo Morales

Salba' river, also called Sacliveta

dump  
Chinasa

Temal Valley

Rda. al Consulado General Inglés  
Ciudad Guatemala  
Guatemala

1931, March 27

My dear Miss McHugh

Im much obliged by your letters of February 28 and March 7, enclosing the originals and the duplicats of the drafts you mention.

Im also much obliged to Mr Jayne, please tell him, for his letter ov February 13. Its plain from his letter, though, that while he got my letter of February 1st, he didnt get mine of January 31: of which I now send you a copy. You, and he, will see by that copy that the missing things were not, as he supposes, merely delayed, but were lost - no dout stolen. I had to make them over: and the Museum receivd them by the kindness of the United States legation. I think it wouldnt be amiss if the Museum dropt the legation a line of acknowledgmet: not posting the acknowledgmet to Guatemala, however, but to the care of your Foreign Office in Washington.

Now something else. Mr Jaynes letter speaks ov publishing a paper of mine, presently, in the Museum Journal: a paper about the images of Monte Alto. The paper haz no title. It may be entitled, The Images of Monte Alto: and should then begin, and say:- Usually, in this country, that is, in Guatemala, when I set out to see ruins:- and then, from the word Ruins, go on in evry particular as the paper stands. The general appearance of the new Museum Journal is decidedly better, in my notion, than that of the old, both in paper and print. But I hope that my Monte Alto plan may not be smudged: and the fotografs, if possible, not be in a pack at the end, but distributed in the text. And respecting evrything, text, plan, and photographs, I hav to beg that I may see the proofs.

If you look at the new Museum Journal dated March of last year, you will see that its composed of two articles under my name. Dr Mason, when he was here, gave me a perfectly plain undertaking that I should see the proofs. That was many months before publication. I never saw the proofs. They were never sent to me. The resulting Journal has now reacht correspondents of mine who have written to me about it: and I'll tell you part of what Ive replied to one correspondent.

The Museum Journal you speak of is a calamity (I say to him), and if you received a copy of it you have to thank the Museum, and not me. The Journal is dated March, but I my self never saw it till December: and so far from wishing to send you a copy, or send anybody a copy, I was in hopes that no friend of mine might ever

see it. The thing is printed under my name, but is not really mine. Its a thing compiled out of my old letters by somebody at the Museum, and full of blunders and forgeries. One of the principal drawings, even, is a total forgery. They were in a hurry, at the Museum, to get out their new Journal, and I suppose found that they had lost my drawing: and not to waste time (as they would have considered) in communicating with me, invented a drawing of their own! You may imagine the state of the text.

So I spoke. I dont know whether its worth while going into a few particulars, but for forms sake I will.

At the end of the book are some photographs, numbered from 1 to 8. No number, after number 3, corresponds with the text. For example (top of page 55), the text, speaking of the place Chichél, refers you to photograph 8, the last photograph. But photograph 8 has nothing to do with Chichél. Photograph 8 is my panorama of Xolchún, and remains without explanation.

There are strange omissions. Why is my account of the cistern of Xolchún included (p. 65, middle paragraph), and my photograph of the cistern neither included nor mentioned? Is it lost? That photograph has now a peculiar intrest, as the cistern has since disappeared.- Then again, after devoting a page of talk (pp. 46/7) to the ruins of the Xoch, where is my perspective drawing of those ~~X~~ ruins? Also lost? It was a more detailed and intresting drawing than any of those included. It was one of the drawings that Mr Gordon caused to be photographed, and I have a copy of the photograph before me.

In the drawings that are included, its a characteristic oversight that while pains are taken to ornament the lettering, and alter trifles of spelling; no warning is given of alterations of scale. For example, the very first drawing, the map of Chocolá, says, Scale, 1 in 8000. The scale was 1 in 8000, in my original: but is not 1 in 8000 in the printed reduction. Speaking of that particular print, I might notice that the mound D has no letter, and the mound H is marked N.

Ive no objection in general, as I told Dr Mason, to your altering my spelling. I write in my semireformed spelling, usually by mere force of habit. Its now a trouble to me - its a trouble to me at this moment - to write otherwise. But there<sup>re</sup> many alterations of my text that dont come under the head of alterations of spelling.

Theres of course an infinity of misprints, or what may pass for misprints, some of them important: North for South, Older for Colder, Mass for Mess, and so on. But when my Arabic figures are spelt out as words, thats not a misprint. In a prolonged arithmetical

argument (p. 22), depending on quantities of earthwork,

I expressed the quantities in figures: and all my figures I find changed into words. Was it the purpose of the change to hinder any human being from following the argument? Its certainly the effect.

In one place (p. 6, par. before the last) Im made to speak, not of the Lie of the ground, but of the Lay of the ground. Im made to speak New England dialect. Printers error? But its not a printers error when I find my English, in many places, turned into somebodys Spanish. For example (p. 59, last par.), I find my White River turned into Rio Blanco. I dislike the alteration,- in the first place because its not English, and hinders the explanation - foaming torrent. In the second place (though its a trifle) I dislike it because, as printed, its not Spanish: River, in Spanish, being Río, with an accented I. I dislike it in the third place, because it disagrees with the plan (opposite p. 58), where my White River has escaped alteration. And finally I dislike it, simply because its an alteration of my language without my knowing. Ive no objection to an editors offering his Spanish, or any thing he considers an improvement, in some such way as by a foot note. But I object, as I think any reader would object, to his silently altering my language.

There seem to be no limits to it. At the end of a short argument I say, Q. E. D. But/ in the Journal (foot of p. § 21) Im not allowed to say Q. E. D. Im supplied with a tinkers translation, and made to say, This seems to prove the point. The alteration might have been tolerable if it had conveyed the sense: if it had said, Which was the point to be proved. But no, it says, This proves the point. It mistakes the cart for the horse, and makes the conclusion prove itself: and as if that were not enough, sticks in the word Seems:- Seems to prove. My conclusion, whatever it may be, is kindly put in doubt.

There are other such alterations. These alterations of language, however, are things that in their nature dont exactly strike the eye. They only strike the mind. And some minds may not be struck. Ill point to an alteration that takes nothing to see it but eye sight.

On a certain sheet of drawings (opposite p. 16) you will see a vertical section of a mound, and a smaller drawing beside it, as an inset. The introduction there of that smaller drawing is in itself a confusion of my arrangement. I had placed that drawing, and had meant it to appear, separatly. But no matter. I will now ask you to look at that smaller drawing, and compare it, for one moment, with this drawing that I send you: which is a copy of my original. You see that the two drawings havnt even the same outline, the same sides: while in the interior lines, both the top line and the dotted lines below, the two drawings are totally different.

The drawing printed is not my drawing. The adjacent larger drawing is a smudgy and illegible, but authentic reproduction of my drawing. The smaller drawing is an impudent forgery.

The Germans and others, here, have had a great laugh at the expense of the Museum. They talk of American science: any thing to make a show,- and take the risk of being found out. And really I dont know what to say to them. And they go on to ask, if theres this forgery in the Journal, how much forgery may there be in your album of Maya pottery? And it happens, theres actually something in this Journal that gives a point to the question. On the front of the cover, as an ornament, is a small drawing taken from one of my Indian picture pots. Whatever intrest the drawing has, depends on the drawings being authentic. Yet even that little thing contains a fraud. A certain space is occupied by a plant. What fingers put in that plant? The same that forged the drawing? The same that doctored the text? Theres no plant on the pot. Is there, in the Museum, a mania for falsification?

Whats now to be done about those supposed articles of mine, I dont quite know. For the Museum, I should suppose the best thing they could do might be to make some excuse and cancel that issue of the Journal. In the mean time the Museum speaks of publishing my paper on Monte Alto - hastening its publication. Excellent. But after whats happened, unless the paper is to be the last such paper that Im to write for the Museum, there must be no such haste as to hinder my seeing the proofs.

The little drawing, when youre done with it, though I could easily reproduce it, I should be obliged if you would kindly let me have back.

My letter has run to a length I didnt intend. With my respects to Mr Jayne and to Dr Mason,

I remain

My dear Miss McHugh

Your most obedient servant

*P. Burkitt*

Miss McHugh

The Pennsylvania University Museum

Bulletins  
+  
Discovery  
sent 5/1/31

Rda. al Consulado General Inglés  
Ciudad Guatemala  
Guatemala

1931, April 16

My dear Miss McHugh

I wrote you under date of  
March 27, acknowledging your letters of February 28  
and March 7, and Mr Jaynes of February 13. I  
omitted to acknowledge the receipt of some publications:  
the Journal for June 1930, the Bulletin for last  
November December and January, and the Discovery for  
last January and February. I find these Bulletins  
and Discoveries not uninteresting: and if its not too  
much trouble to you, I wish you could send me all  
the previous numbers of both things. I should be  
much obliged to you.

I remain

Your most obedient servant

R. Burkitt

Miss McHugh

The Pennsylvania University Museum

complete  
files of  
Bulletins  
+  
Discovery

May 8, 1931

Dear Mr. Burkitt:

Miss McHugh has handed me the copy of your letter to me of January 31st which you have just sent her. This explains that the manuscripts and photographs you forwarded were not delayed but lost or stolen. It put you to an extraordinary amount of trouble to prepare a second set and we are much obliged to you.

Miss McHugh has also handed me your letter of March 27th, the contents of which have, not unnaturally disturbed me very much indeed. At the outset I wish to tell you that I wish to accept complete responsibility for the issue of the Journal for March about which you find much that is displeasing to you. In the light of your letter your displeasure on many of the points you mention is obviously justified, and perhaps all I can do is to offer you my very sincere apologies. And of course take such steps as can remedy the errors; these steps I will take up later. For the moment I wish to offer explanations, where possible, of the more serious objections you bring forward; and I do this not in an attempt to palliate them but to indicate to you that I have given each of them close thought and attention. In the first place, I will ask you to bear in mind that these papers of yours were sent to the Museum some time ago; that they, and the accompanying photographs and the plans were kept during changes of administration in various places by various people since then, and that when the possibility of publishing them last year was urged upon me the whole of your valued records was a considerably confused mass of material. I think it safe to say that I spent weeks sorting this and achieving a degree of order from what was close to chaos. I do not think it entirely unnatural that I assumed what I had accomplished was more perfect than it actually was. I do not say it is excusable. All the more reason, therefore, (you will say) that you should have been sent proofs. Nor is there any adequate defense to be offered for this failure even if I wished to offer one. These are, however, circumstances, local conditions of which I prefer you should at least be aware. You speak of the fact that though this particular number of the Journal was dated March you did not receive your copy until December, with the possible implication that I withheld sending it to you. Actually you received a copy as soon as anyone, allowing, of course, for differences in postal distances. This March number did not come out until last autumn; there were extraordinary and irksome delays in the change of form, in the preparation of the manuscript, in the engraving of the plates (among these one of the chief I shall tell about below), and all these on the midst of an extremely busy season when we were very short handed.

I had selected your papers for this issue of the Journal because I regarded them of particular importance and I wished this first appearance of the Journal in a new guise to be in every way an interesting and pleasing one. I think you will admit my intention was agreeable even if its ultimate success was meagre.

5/8/31

As the difficulties multiplied and the delay increased I was harried from many directions because of the Journal's failure to appear. This accounts largely for the fact that no proof went to you for correction. And upon this fault — which is a grave one — a large majority of your criticisms rest, certainly those that have to do with misprints. Such orthographic changes as we made, notably expressing numerical quantities in words instead of in figures were done in accordance with the usual practice for all our publications. I personally find it more comprehensible when numbers are written rather than figured, and the appearance of the page is improved; had I know your objections to this — as I should have, if you had received proofs — the figures could have been restored. Again, it is personal preference that suggests the Spanish form of geographical names rather than English. They appear, customarily, in Spanish on maps to which readers might wish to refer and to me it seems to complicate things to have them in English.

For the *timber's* translation of Q.E.D., for the mistakes in scale, for the errors of marking on the plans, I have no excuse to offer you and I can only again present apologies and if possible remedies. As to the omission of your perspective of the ruins of the Xoch, this is not lost but preserved together with your other plans. I cannot now refer to your manuscript since these are in Dr. Mason's keeping and I should not wish, unless it were essential, to go through his papers in his absence, but it is my remembrance that you sent Dr. Gordon a later and fuller account of these ruins and I held the plan for publication with this more detailed account. You say in your text 'consequently I have no drawing of the Xoch ruins to give you', wherefore the reader of this article in my judgment, would not feel the need of your perspective. I feel that at least this is reasonable. I cannot verify whether or no we have your photograph of the Xolchun cistern, though I have gone over the files of your photographs. If we had had it, it would certainly have been included, and I can only suppose that it went astray during the periods of administrative changes, and I am sorry. If you will send me your original number for this photograph I could make another strenuous search or perhaps it would be better to send a new print from the negative.

Finally there is the matter of the plan which you call, correctly, a forgery. But you must accept my statement that I did not know it was such until your letter came. Here is what happened; after all your plans, drawings, and photographs were turned over to the engraver and he had started work upon them, he sent word to me that the small drawing attached to Plate VI which he admitted taking was mislaid in the engraving plant and asked me if he could obtain a duplicate of it. I replied that it would be exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to replace this and he must make every effort to find it and I stressed that it was gross carelessness on his part to have lost it. He later told me that he had found it but that it was damaged; he could, nevertheless, restore and redraw it so that it would be perfectly satisfactory. I accepted his assurances, as I think anyone would have in the circumstances, and since I could not carry in my mind eye the appearance of this plan, when I saw

5/8/31

it in proof and it looked foggy I supposed this was due to the alleged damage to the original and not to an entire redrawing of it from imagination which your copy proves it to be. The engraver now admits his actions which are plain enough anyway; he believed that to fabricate the drawing would be better than to admit its loss and hamper his business. He has done the latter anyway, for we have changed engravers, on this score. I am not exonerated by this, since I should have been in a position to detect the falsification and I should have sent you proofs and you would have done so, but I am not particeps criminis.

I regret your expression of feeling about the small drawing on the cover and though I accept your other criticisms fully, to bring this into the discussion is, I feel, somewhat unjust. It is purely a decoration for the cover; no mention whatever is made of its source or that the design is derived from one of the jars obtained by you for the Museum and included in our album of Maya Pottery. Our collections are constantly being used as sources for decorative motives, by our own, and by outside artists and on the whole it is gratifying when they adapt rather than slavishly copy. The flower was certainly inserted in this section of the vase drawing in order to achieve balance which the small decoration might otherwise have lacked, and it is my belief that upon reflection you will agree on this point.

Now as to remedies. Only about four hundred copies of this issue were distributed; it would not be impossible to make an attempt to recall all these and make a fully corrected reprint, but it would be very difficult and even if we received back ninety-nine per cent of the issues the few which we did not get back would be at large and uncorrected. As an alternative I suggest that we issue a complete corrigenda with revision of the maps or plans where need be, and send this to all those to whom the original issue was sent with a note asking them to place it at the beginning of the original and explaining the circumstances under which the errors were made. I should, if such a procedure is agreeable to you, have to ask you to prepare the corrigenda and send me a note of what reprints should be included of plans, etc., and I need not say that before this was finally printed you would have an opportunity to correct proofs of it. It is my hope that such a course would be satisfactory to you, not because it would be the easiest remedy but because it would be a more specific remedy than an attempt to recall the edition.

This has not, as perhaps you will understand, been an easy letter to write. And it has been delayed because I have not had the leisure to write it all at once until now. I hope, nevertheless, that it has with some adequacy covered the various points for I have made a particular effort to do so. I am filled with regret about the whole thing, for I should reproach myself extraordinarily if a matter for which I must accept the responsibility, should seriously disturb the long relationship between you and the Museum which I fully appreciate has been and will continue to be of singular scientific value to the institution of which I am in charge.

- 4 -

I shall wait with anxiety for your reply, and meanwhile ask  
you to believe me,

Yours sincerely

Horace H. F. Jayne  
DIRECTOR

Robert Burkitt, Esq.  
c/o British Consulate  
Guatemala City  
Guatemala

Rda. al Consulado General Inglés  
Ciudad Guatemala  
Guatemala

1931, May 29

Dear Mr Jayne

Im much obliged to you by your letter of the 8th, and by your kindness in going into so many explanations. And Im glad, certainly, to know that the forged drawing was not the expedient of the Museum. My writing as I did, though, I must say, was not by way of asking for explanations (which turn out, in the main, to be very much as I had my self guessed), and still less with any notion of assigning blame, but merely to make plain the consequences of not sending proofs. My concern was with the future.

As for how to remedy what has happened, I had thought of several things. I had thought, for one thing, of publishing an authorized edition of my Chocolá paper in another quarter. On the ground of the forgery I had thought also (I may say) of bringing an action of damages against the Museum. In face of your letter Ive laid aside such thoughts.

On consideration, I rather agree with you in rejecting the notion of recalling that issue of the Journal. I hope you will equally agree with me, though, in rejecting the notion of sending out a list of corrections. Who would ever read it? The thing would remain a mess. Without altogether committing my self, Ill tell you what occurs to me, and you may tell me what you think of it. It would neither be to recall nor to correct the thing, but in a way, to supersede it.

In the first place, I shouldnt deal with the ~~the~~ whole thing at once, but in two parts: the northern ruins, and the Chocolá part. Then some time or other I would publish all the perspectives of ruins together, both those that are included in that March Journal and those that are not. And that would be the occasion for putting out a correct text, with correct ~~the~~ photographs, and scales, and evrything correct.

But that part might wait. Those explorations and those perspective drawings, though I took great pains with them at the time, are now things of so long ago that Ive very much lost intrest in them. I would begin, not with them, but with the Chocolá part: which I think might be publisht as an appendix, or companion, to another Pacific slope paper, a paper that I have in mind. In revising the Chocolá thing, how ever, I shouldnt include, by any means, all that now appears in the Journal. I should include practically nothing but the map, and my final report, of 1929. That report was meant to supersede the earlier ones, and contained, in my opinion, as much about the Chocolá diggings as any probable reader would care to know.

That final report, how ever, includes the main drawing, the drawing that the Journal has opposite to page 16. By the process of inserting the forged drawing, the original of the

main drawing is (I suppose) ruined, and I should have to draw it over. And there comes a difficulty: not any difficulty about my making the drawing over - that would only be a vexation - but about your printing it. Im not a draftsman, but I think my drawings are clear. And I should have thought that in ~~NY~~ Philadelphia there might be plenty of competent engravers and draftsmen. I should have expected ~~that~~ the print of my drawing to be at least as good as the original, if not better. But now look at that print. Look at any part of it. Look at the scale, the figures on the scale, the word Metres, underneath - anything. Is it necessary to say that the print is a disgraceful smudge? If thats the best that can be done in Philadelphia, I might as well have the job done in Guatemala. For that reason I should hesitate about making a new drawing, until I saw what success you might now have with the plan of Monte Alto: which is in your hands, and is drawn on cross-lined paper, just like the Chocolá drawing. Maybe your new engravers are better than the old.

And now a word about spelling, and so on, in case you actually go on with my Monte Alto paper.- Speaking of the plan, I beg you will beg your engravers not to attempt any ornamental lettering.- As for geographical names, that you speak of (or any other names), Ive long come to the conclusion, for my own part, that the only safe rule is to follow your mouth. Let each man write as he speaks. If a man says Río Blanco, why, let him write Río Blanco. I write White River, because (in speaking English) thats what I say. Of course Ive no objection, as I said, to an editors adding Río Blanco in a foot note, if he pleases.

Ive also, as I said, no objection, in general, to the Journals disreforming my spelling: putting an E on my Hav, and so on. Thats not altering my language. But when I say such a thing as Ive, or Thats, I dont wish to be made to say I have,, or That is. That is altering my language. Furthermore, when I say Thats, I follow Mr Bernard Shaw, and others, in not liking the affectation of writing it in this way, That's. I use no hooks. In my Monte Alto paper, these, and other little matters, are all seen to, I believe, and the printer has nothing to do but follow the manuscript.

Something else I think of,- one of the hieroglyphic pots mentioned in my Monte Alto paper is one that was shown in a Museum Journal: and if the plate still exists, I suppose it might be used over.- But I dont wish to add to your many difficulties.

I remain

Yours very truly

*P. Burkitt*

Horace H. F. Jayne, Esq.  
The Pennsylvania University Museum

June 13, 1931

Dear Mr. Burkitt:-

I was glad to receive your letter of May 29th and very much appreciate your generous attitude towards my letter of May 8th.

I agree with you that a list of corrections would not be an adequate remedy for the unfortunate issue of the Journal, and I am fully in accord with what occurs to you to be done, namely, superceding it with later papers in which the texts would be corrected and the maps and plans properly reproduced. It is evidently your wish -- and it is a wholly understandable one -- that neither of these should be begun until you can see how successful we are in printing your Monte Alto paper, both as to reproductions and orthography. I am anxious to do it, for this paper interests me very much, but future numbers of the Journal are pretty well occupied for the rest of the year. If it is possible I want to include Dr. Mason's first report on this year's work at Piedras Negras, perhaps in the March 1932 issue. Would it be agreeable to you to have the Monte Alto paper appear in the same number or would you prefer it in a number by itself? It may have to be deferred again several months if the latter is the case. In any event there will be ample time to send you proofs and make any alterations you wish. You may be certain I shall not fail to do so.

I have not yet taken up with the engravers the reproduction of your plans but I note your criticisms of the similar one that accompanied the Chocoma article. I do know one reason why these reproductions are unsatisfactory, and that is because of the reddish cross-section paper, which presents unusual difficulties in making reproductions, particularly those with the light washes you use, which require halftone reproduction instead of line engravings; the latter are always sharper. I do not know the technical details -- it has something to do with the light filters required to retain both the red lines and the washes -- but time and again I have had engravers lament the necessity of reproducing from this red cross-section paper. I do not suggest that the Monte Alto plan be redrawn for we shall go forward with it -- when the time comes -- requiring exact accuracy on the part of the engraver. When you receive proofs of this you can judge for yourself and if you feel it is needed perhaps you will wish to redraw it.

I have made note of your preferences as to the orthography to be used in the Monte paper and we shall abide closely the the Manuscript. I shall look to see whether the plate of the hieroglyphic pot mentioned still exists, but I doubt it. We could have another made without great difficulty, but I shall let you know about this later.

-2-

6/13/31

I wish again to thank you for the kind tone of your letter which has, I assure you, much relieved my mind.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely

Horace H. F. Jayne  
DIRECTOR

Sn. Roberto Burkitt  
Rda. al Consulado General Ingles  
Ciudad Guatemala.  
Gautemala

January 13, 1932

Dear Mr. Burkitt:-

By a wholly unexpected and unfortunate mischance the usual appropriation to the Museum from the City of Philadelphia has been entirely eliminated. Inasmuch as this represents about one half of our income for all purposes, we are forced to make every possible economy and to insure against any further expenditures. I must, therefore, most reluctantly urge you not to spend on our account any further moneys than you have already received and have on hand, since it might be difficult to make up an unexpected deficit in your accounts to us. Naturally, if you have already overspent the last amount sent you, I shall undertake to see that you are as soon as possible repaid, but if you have not exhausted this, may I ask you to bear in mind our altered circumstances.

This does not by any means imply that we are not anxious, if possible, to go forward with our support of your work. I feel sure you can count on our support even despite the present sorry state of affairs. But it will be necessary, as much to protect you as ourselves, to know what the costs will be of undertakings you plan before these be actually embarked upon.

You will, I think, be glad to know that funds are available for Mason to put in another season at Piedras Negras. His first season was so successful that we are relieved to know this may be continued.

Yours sincerely,

Horace H. F. Jayne  
DIRECTOR

Sr. Roberto Burkitt  
c/o British Consulate  
Guatemala City  
Guatemala

Rda. al Consulado General Inglés  
Ciudad Guatemala  
Guatemala

1932, February 1st

Dear Mr Jayne

Im much obliged by your important letter of January 13th, which Ive just had. I have to say that Im now on the Pacific side of the country, and digging at some burial mounds. Its as yet too early to speak of the work, but the place is Saint Vincents; the same Saint Vincents as I mentioned in my last instalment of catalogue under the number 1114; and showed you the big white image, and other carved stones of, in my photographs 264 to 8.

I see that its a long time since Ive written to you; not since May 29 of last year.-- For a long time I had little Museum business to write of. I received your kind letter of June 13; which, though I much valued it, seemed to need no immediat reply. In the same month June, I went up to Guatemala City for a day or two, to see whether I could be of any use to Miss Baker. I was again in Guatemala City in July; when I had to find new storage for the Museum boxes in my possession, and again had the pleasure of meeting Miss Baker - though then by pure accident. She had just come back from copying the pots of Mr Dieseldorff. She had a few days to spare, and I wisht to carry her off to see collections at Kesaltenángo. How ever, she decided to go some where else; and afterwards regretted it, as she her self told me. For I again had the pleasure of meeting her, and again by pure accident, when she was on the point of sailing. Please give her my respects.

When Miss Baker was sailing, it was the end of July, and I was my self on the way back to the Verapás; where I spent some rainy months. In the beginning of December I took an opportunity of doing something for the Museum. I made a few days excursion into what in an antiquarian way is an almost unknown region; that is, into the Cahabón region, a region of the northeastern part of the Upper Verapás. I visited the

ruins at Yashtunhá, in that region, and otherwise got useful information; and without any work, and almost at no cost, brought back some curious pottery; and along with the pottery a small gold plate, or gold saucer, curiously ornamented; a thing that on the Atlantic side of Guatemala is perhaps unique.

In the Verapás, it was still the rainy season. The rains in the Verapás keep on till March. But for me it ~~á~~ was time, according to my usual plan, to come to the Pacific side of the country, where the rains were drawing to an end. At the middle of December I quitted the Verapás, and went first to Guatemala City, in order to see land owners and others with respect to future work; and early in January made a journey, partly by rail and partly on horseback, along the Pacific slope. In the course of that journey I found and ~~to~~ photographt a new and curious stone, a stone with human, and humanized animal figures on it. Its another stone of the Cotsumalwápa region, the same region as that of that big slab that I lifted year before last, and that you have Dr Masons account of in your Bulletin.

Finally, I came to the place where I now am; which Id settled on, to be my first place of digging, partly on account of the remarkable neighbouring images and earth works; and partly on an apprehension that in another year, owing to changes of ownership, conveniences for work might no longer be had.

Now about the bad news of your letter,- I wish I could have known it six months ago; but that of course was impossible. Im now in two places so far committed that I can't well draw back. But Im in hopes that the case wont be too disturbing to you. I think I can assure you that the balance of account against the Museum wont pass fifteen hundred dollars, and will probably be less. The account wont be presented to you before the end of June, if so early. And I may add, that if ~~the amount~~ of the balance should any way incommode you, I should have no wish to trouble you for payment (provided only that I might have intrest) until you were again on your feet.

Ive been half expecting to have proofs from you of the reproduction of my Monte Alto drawing. I suppose thats still in the future. In the mean time, if its not too much trouble to you, thers something I wish you might be so kind as to let me have a photo of. I should like a photograph showing one of Mr Dieseldorffs pots, the pot with a neck; and showing both pairs of hieroglyphics. I mean of course a photograph of Miss Bakers drawing. I should be much obliged to you. I was very curious about that pot.

My respects again to Miss Baker, and of course to Miss McHugh and to Dr Mason; and I remain

Yours very truly

R. Burkitt

Horace H. F. Jayne, Esq.

Pennsylvania University Museum

*Order transferred  
to Banco 2/4/32*

Rda. al Consulado General Inglés  
Ciudad Guatemala  
Guatemala

1932, February 3rd

Dear Sir

Im much obliged by your letter of January 4th. It was the first intimation I had that my letter to the Times had been published. I dont know what made me write my letter to the Times. It happened that I had nothing to do. And as I wrote simply to the Times and not to the Literary Supplement, which I dont see, Ive not my self seen the printed letter. How ever, Im glad that somebody has been pleased by it.

I shall be happy to receive your work on Shakespear. I wish that I could return the compliment by sending you something of the sort of my own. But Im not what you would call a student, and my only literary performances have been things of the nature of reports.- One of my reports, now that I think of it, was a fairy tale; and came to be printed. I can't send it to you, because Ive not got it. But if you will, you may write to Philadelphia, to the director of the Pennsylvania University Museum, and ask him for a copy of The Hills and the Corn.

I am, Sir

Yours very truly, and as I say,

Very much obliged

R. Burkitt

*R. Burkitt*

George Frisbee, Esq.

2235 Octavia street, San Francisco

February 16, 1932

My dear Mr. Burkitt:-

I wish to acknowledge your kind letter of February 1st which has just arrived. I was naturally, particularly pleased by the generous manner in which you accepted the ill news I had to send you when I last wrote. These untoward events have naturally hampered all our activities, which accounts for the post-ponement of the publication of your Monte Alto Paper. Before all this happened it was my particular ambition to publish as rapidly as possible the various valuable manuscripts and drawings of yours that have long been in our possession. I must now relinquish this hope for the time being. When times improve it will be among my first concerns to go forward with this work, but until then the proof of the Monte Alto drawing and article must be deferred.

I have given the order to make and send you a photograph of Miss Baker's drawing of Diesselderff's pet for which you ask. It should go forward to you in the course of the next week or ten days.

As to the future, particularly the financial aspects of it: of course if any of us had known six months ago the turn of events we could have trimmed our sails accordingly and told those who carry on investigations for us to do so likewise. But it was all very sudden, as, obviously you appreciate. You tell me that your present undertaking will not exceed fifteen hundred dollars, which is no great sum of money, that is, in relation to the sums in which we have to deal. Above all it is gratifying to know that this account will not be presented before the end of June; we can, therefore, charge it to our 1932/33 budget which comes into force July 1st, and this being so, I believe we can perfectly well take care of it. I cannot, however, promise this until we know where we stand as to income for our fiscal year 1932/33, but in any case we shall be only too happy to carry this balance due you with interest -- at to be definite, I suggest five and one half per cent -- if circumstances indicate that we cannot pay it off immediately. It is most generous of you to suggest such a course and it relieves me immensely to know it can be followed if need be. There is, of course, no question but that we shall eventually regain our feet, but it takes time when approximately one half of one's income is ruthlessly removed.

We are anxious to receive further data and especially photographs of the results of your work in the Verapas, details of which you have related in your letter. Also it will be most interesting to learn further of your work at Saint Vincents which has already indicated interesting

2/16/32

possibilities. Let us hear from you at your convenience.

Miss Baker sends you her best wishes, as also does Dr. Mason and Miss McHugh theirs. Dr. Mason is practically on the eve of returning to Piedras Negras, for work at which site we miraculously obtained funds, so that we can carry on there this year at least. I dare not think beyond this year, for if we weather this hurricane we can go forward famously.

Yours very truly,

Horace H. F. Jayne  
DIRECTOR

Sr. Robert Burkitt  
Rda. al Consulado General Ingles  
Ciudad Guatemala  
Guatemala

Rda. al Consulado General Inglés  
Ciudad Guatemala  
Guatemala

1932, March 13th

Dear Mr Jayne

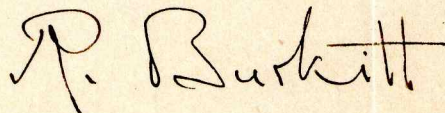
Ive had the pleasure of getting your letter of February 16th. The ~~16~~ photograph youre kindly sending hasnt yet come, but Ive no doubt of its coming.- I forgot to say before, but thers another photograph that I should be much obliged if you could let me have, and thats a photograph of my Chipál bowl number 902 - 902 of my catalogue; with also a photograph of Miss Baker's <sup>11555</sup> painting of that bowl. Miss Baker told me that she'd already made the painting.

I enclose the only photograph that I can as yet send you; photograph number 288, which shows you the gold plate. The photograph is three quarters of the actual size, the diameter of the plate being four inches.

I must say that Im a good deal concerned at what you tell me about my Monte Alto paper. That paper involved two discoveries which were among the most curious that had been made for some time in Central American antiquities; one of the two being of course the Monte Alto images, while the other was the fact of the frequent inscription of consecutive days on hieroglyphic pots. Yet the paper has lain at the Museum for now getting on to a year and a half, without (as it seems) any step at all taken towards publication. You may expect any minute to learn that somebody has heard of the find - at least of the find of the images; and to see them published with the usual horn blowing in some such place as the Geographic Magazine.

Yours very truly

R. Burkitt



Horace H. F. Jayne, Esq.  
Pennsylvania University Museum

*Photos. sent April 14, 1932*

C O P Y

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Rda. al Consulado General Inglés  
Guatemala

1932, May 10th

My dear Miss Baker

Ive just had the pleasure of  
getting your letter of April 4th. You're very kind, and  
Im much obliged to you and to Mr Jayne (please tell him)  
for the batch of photographs.

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: : : : :  
: : : : :  
: : : : :

Your most obedient servant  
(signed) R. Burkitt

Miss M. L. Baker  
Pennsylvania University Museum

December 13, 1932

Mr. Robert Burkitt  
c/o British Consulate  
Guatemala City, Guatemala

Dear Mr. Burkitt:-

Here at last are the prints of Miss Baker's plates for which you asked every so long ago. Miss Baker being abroad, it took sometime to get from her the necessary information as to ~~where~~ she had the originals of these stored, and it took even longer for our overworked and understaffed photographic department to get around to making these up for you. I trust that now you have them, they will be entirely satisfactory.

We are attempting to carry on as best we may during these times which are particularly difficult for scientific institutions since so much money must necessarily be diverted to charitable ends. Our publication program is reduced to a minimum and we are only sporadically issuing such as we have special funds for. This year Monte Alto paper is delayed much to my chagrin for what you say of the need of publishing it soon is obvious to us as well. We are, however, little by little building up a reserve for publication purposes and among the many manuscripts that have accumulated yours will be of the first to be sent to press.

I trust that things go well with you and that conditions in Guatemala are not at least any more difficult than they are here.

Yours sincerely,

Horace H. F. Jayne  
DIRECTOR.