

(1103-1104?)

p?

1105-1109

rec'd
April 1937

5 objects
~~sent~~ sent out to
1835
Jan

Card enclosed in letter Sep 30, 1929

Things for the Museum

1/1090, in Philadelphia.

1091/4, things bought.

1091 (see 1091/4), the bowl mentioned in my letter of March, of 1926, and shown in the tinted photo, number 184, where you will see the measurements: a flat-bottomed bowl, of a pale green stone: both in size and shape very like a sort of earthen bowl, of which you have examples from Chamá and Chipál.

This bowl, as I've told you, belonged to the collection of a former German consul: and as I now find, was bought by him from that Mr Luna whose name you see on the back of the foto, and who has kindly given me the photo. And Mr Luna states that he himself bought the bowl from an ignorant person who had dug it up in some small mound, in the neighbourhood of Samayác: a village of the Pacific slope, close to Chocolá: a story which is quite probable. I've seen other jade things from an other village near Chocolá.

1092/3 (see 1091/4), the mill mentioned in my letter of March, of 1926, and shown in the photos 180/1.

The mill, according to the late owner, as I've told you, comes from Saint Lucy Cotsumalwápa: where it was found about the year 1850 (so he now says) in the course of digging a trench for the foundation of some church building: where along with this mill, was found an other like it, only smaller and broken in two. The priest of

1092/3, continued

of the place made a present of both mills to a German settler of the name of Bendfeldt. That Bendfeldt afterwards gave the broken mill to a native provincial governor, or ex-governor, , who in turn gave it to some museum in Spain: according to one of the governors grandsons, whom I lookt up, probably to the museum of the Indies, in Seville: while the good mill, which is this mill, remaind in the Bendfeldt family. In 1893 Bendfeldts widow, a Belgian woman, the mother ov the late owner, had the mill exhibited, along with some other things, at the Chicago international exhibition of that year: where attempts, as Ive told you, were made to steal it. The mill, however, was safely brought back: and the bronze medal that it won at the exhibition, is now my number 1094.

Considering the size and hardness of the stone, and what the tools may have been, the workmanship of the mill is excellent. The only fault to be found with it, is that as usual with all Indian work, whether pottery or stone, the shape is not quite true. The deviation from truth, or symmetry, is most violent where it is least visible, that is, in the situation of the feet. You will find that the cross section of the hand stone, how ever, is nearly an exact circle. And the hand stone lengthwise, fits the hollow camber of the under stone with unusual neatness.

I might say that the mill in my possession, before packing, was seen severally by half a dozen or more women,

1092/3, continued

creole and Indian, accustomed to grinding: and the first question every one of them asked, was What is this stone? Even when the hand stone and under stone were put together, the women could hardly be made to believe that the thing was a mill. An immediate objection with all of them - not to speak of the stones being polished - was what seemed to them the stones absurd size. What woman could grind at that stone? To be in proportion to the stone, she would have to be a woman ten foot high. But the women's grand objection to the notion of the stones being a mill, or even the ornamental imitation of a mill, was the sculptured figure head: a figure head at the stern: a projecting figure head at the grinders end of the mill. An Indian mill is some times set on the ground, and the woman kneels. Commonly the woman stands, and the mill is on some sort of stand, at about half the woman's height. In either case the figure head would seem to be in the worst possible place. It seems intended to prevent grinding. It seems intended to keep the woman away from the stone. One of the women remarked, laughing, that in order to grind at that mill, she would have to get the figure head between her legs. And what ever may have been the ritual of the mill, I make little doubt but that woman's laugh points out an important element in the meaning of the figure head.

1092 (see 1092/3), the hand stone. Length, 85 centimetres. Middle diameter, 10. Weight, said to be 28 pounds.- A

1092, continued

chip gone from one end.

1093 (see 1092/3), the under stone. In my letter, my saying that the stone had four feet, was a mistake. I spoke on that point from memory, confusing this stone with an other. This stone ~~has the usual~~ has the usual three feet. Length over all, 119 centimetres. Length of the figure head, 85. Middle width, about 53. Weight, said to be about 180 pounds. One corner of the stone has a natural flaw in it. And ther seems to be a small chip lost from one of the reptiles horns.

In its journey to Chicago and back, the stone, according to the late owner, was stowd on deck and on the cars without any packing. Its now in a box. In unpacking, take off the side screwd on. The figure head will be seen to be wrapt in rope. On each side of the rope is something like a box, each with a screw in the top. Take out the screws, and without taking off the rubber cushions, pull up the box things: and with a person at each end the stone can be lifted out.

1094, the medal mentiond under 1092/3. The womans name, Clara de Bendfeldt, is spelt by mistakewithout the last D.

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NA
11871

11872-73
11873

1092/3, continued

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11872

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11873 A

5 M
1095

— Things for the Museum —

Continuation

1095, bought for the museum from the cousin of the finder, and said to be from the province of Sololá: where it was found about a year and a half ago, amongst ruins on an estate called Hermosilla.

NA
11874

Two pieces fitting together. The stone image shown in foto 204. The upright jointed rule is one metre. — The image is the image of a cat beast, seated on a square block: that block being the top of a tapering shaft. The beast has a tall head dress: and what is not seen in the photo, the tail of the beast hangs down, a few inches, on the back of the shaft.

The stone was found upright in the rubbish, the shaft being fixed in the ground, or in the floor, and was entire: but was broken, as you see it, by the men in getting it out. It has been well worked.

Total height, 107 centimetres.
Complete, except for a chip lost from behind one ear.

Things for the Museum

---- continuation----

1096/1102, bought in Kesaltenango, in the west of Guatenala.

1096/1100 (see 1096/1102), probably from the Kesaltenango neighbourhood.

1096/9 (see 1096/1100), from one person.

11875

1096 (see 1096/9), a small stone ax: the common blackish green stone. Length, 4 centimetres.

1097/8 (see 1096/9), two beads of polished green stone.

11876

1097 (see 1097/8), pipe-stem shape; length, 13 mm.

1098 (see 1097/8), flat, square, with double-bevelled edges,

11877



and a big round hole through the middle.

Length and breadth, 17 mm. Thickness, 2 1/2.

1099 (see 1096/9), a hollow bead, of a very hard brown

11878



pottery, representing one of the so called shoe-vessels. The holes for threading the bead are two opposit holes in the neck. ~~The~~ The out side of the bead is polisht, or glazed, and besides relief ornament has traces of red paint. Length, about 2 1/2 centimetres.

1100 (see 1096/1100), the thing on the right hand side in photo 204: a quasi-cylindrical pot, with three hollow rattling feet. Red stuff. Rather coarse pottery, but smooth. In side black. Out side red, with blotches of a blackish lead colour: and a scratcht picture, or drawing, on each of two opposit sides. The picture, which in some way puts me in mind of

11879

1100, continued

the painted picture on the bowl 902, and on some other trans-Cuchumatán bowls, is doubtless meant to be the same on the two opposit sides: but the drawing is careless, and the two pictures show some instructive differences, as you may see in these two rubbings.

The top picture here, is the one that appears in the photograph.

Height of the pot, 16 centimetres. Depth,

121122/

1100, continued

12¹/₂. Across the top, 12¹/₂. One side slightly crackt, and the bottom of the feet worn. Otherwise entire.

This pot, which was in the possession of a creole carpenter, was the only piece that intrested me, in a collection of a dozen or more pieces.

1101/2 (see 1096/1102), from a small collection in the possession of a creole planter; having been bought by him from Indian finders, who according to Indian custom, had been worshipping them. Two carvings in hard rough grey stone.

11880

1101 (see 1101/2), from near the village of Saint Matthews, a couple of leagues to the west of Kesaltenango. The thing on the left, in photo 204. One of the stone balls so often found - flattened stone balls, perforated with a double conical hole: but the ball in this case having a handle: a projection carved in the shape ov a head: what I suppose may be the head of a toucan. The Indian finders had painted the stone black, and in the cuts and other places, white. The white, I found, came off with a little washing, but the black sticks tighter. Height of the ball, about 8 centimetres. Length of the head, also about 8. Entire.

11881

1102 (see 1101/2), from a place west of Saint Matthews (see 1101): about half way between Saint Matthews and Saint Marks - that Saint Marks which is the chief town of

9
A
1102, continued

the province of that name. The image shown in photo 205: an image which in more than one way strongly resembles the image of 1095. The stone is the same sort of stone. The image rests on a square block, or pedestal: which in turn rests, or did rest, on a long tapering shaft: image, and block, and shaft, being all one piece. But in this case the shaft is broken off only a little below the block, and the piece broken off is missing. And the image above, which is entire, in stead of a cat beast presents a human figure. The figure is of little detail, but its a kneeling figure, with the hands tied behind the back: the hands being tied by a cord passing over the shoulders and round the front of the neck. The whole stone is much blackened by incense. Total height, about 58 centimetres.

THINGS FOR THE MUZEUM

Continued list

1103/4: lent to the Muzeum by Dr Hugo de Böckh (whose address is
Care of the Anglo-Persian Petroleum Company, Limited, in
London). The two carved stones shown in foto 222. The
stones are said to be from the province of Huehuetenango:
and in my opinion may quite likely be things stolen from
the former Kanter collection, in Chaculá. See the Muzeum
Journal for June, 1924, and the fotografas there shown, or
mentioned.

1103 (see 1103/4): the left hand stone in the fotograf. Poor
carving, and much damaged. Height, about 21 inches.

1104 (see 1103/4): the right hand stone in the foto: one of the
common mushroom -topped, one legged, stone stools, with the
leg carved. Height, about a foot.

not seen up to 11/8/35
Jann

THINGS FOR THE MUZEUM

37-12-

1/1104: at the muzeum.

not here 7/8/35

37-12-1

1105 (packt inside 1108): from Mound B, ov Chocolá:- a thick cylindrical stone bead, ov a greenish colour, and with spiral fluting. Length, 5¹/₂ centimetres. Thickness, about 12 millimetres.

The sheet ov drawings in your hand shows the digging ov Mound B finisht.- You know that the digging waz ov the nature ov a trench: a trench running into the mound from the east side to the centre, and narrowing az it went down. The top width ov the trench waz various, depending on the surface ov the mound. You see in the lower drawing that the bottom width, excepting at the centre ov the mound, waz 4 metres. At the centre ov the mound the 4 metres waz expanded to 6: giving 3 metres clear, at the centre - about 10 feet clear - in all directions. At the outer end ov the trench a narrow wheel-barrow road, striking off at an angle, waz the exit to the surface.

The trench, az you know, waz not dug in all its height at once, but by successiv lowerings ov the floor: and in theze fotografs, 234 to 41, which ilustrate the last stages ov the digging, the bottom, in evry case, iz the last floor ov all, the floor shown in the drawings.

In foto 234 (which you may compare with my last years 229) you stand at the surface end ov the exit, and look in. In 235, you stand at the inner end ov the trench, and look

out: and the corner that the wheel-barrow man iz about to turn, and which in the last picture he haz just turnd, iz the corner between the main trench and the road ov exit.

Numbers 236 to 9, ar in the order ov time. In 236 and 7, the piece ov upper floor, at the far end, iz the ground you stood on in 235: and iz the floor that last seasons work stopt at. In 238, that remainder ov floor haz disapeard: the new floor iz the only floor: and you look at the last moments ov digging. In 239 (which you may compare with my last years 227) you stand where the sheep ar, in 235, and see the work finisht. The man at the far end iz in the central expansion ov the floor. He stands at the intersection ov the lines AB and NS ov the drawing, at the precise middle ov the mound.- 240 and 41, ar successivly closer views in the same direction, with a stake in the place ov the man.

Looking at the upper drawing, you see that at the middle ov the mound the digging waz exactly 15 metres deep: the floor waz 15 metres (or about 49 feet) below the top ov the mound. Going out from the middle - which iz to say, going east from the middle - the floor, az you see, slightly fel: til reaching about 16 metres east it began sharply to rize: and continuing to rize in the exit, and beyond the limits ov the drawing, it came finaly to the surface at the point that you stood at in the first foto (foto 234): a point in the rolling meadow which surrounds the mound.

Looking at the right ^{hand} end ov that drawing, and seeing the already flat slope ov the mound, you might guess, without

1105, continued

being told, that the level ov the ground round about waz decidedly higher than the bottom ov my digging in the mound. And in fact the point ov exit in the meadow, though chozen az particularly low, waz higher than the new bottom ov the trench by about two metres. Water no longer ran out. And when I last saw my digging, after a time ov rain, the digging waz a long pond.

The object ov this seasons digging waz to get to the bottom ov the artificial mound. That bottom waz reacht, az you may see in the drawing, at a depth ov about 14.6 metres (or near 48 feet) below the top, and turnd out to be sand and gravel: a drift ov sand and gravel and stones, such az may be seen in many a place on the Pacific slope. My trench went down about half a metre, az you see, into that sand and gravel, but without discovering a particle ov pottery in it, or ov any other human remains.

The surface ov the gravel, in my drawing, iz not free hand sketching, but plotted on ~~the~~ continual measurements taken in the course ov the digging: and you see that the surface waz very level and even. And it waz very level and even, not only east and west, which iz how you see it in the drawing, but in all directions: though showing (az might be expected) a slight fall towards the south - that iz, towards the sea.

My digging, az I say, afterwards became a pond: and it would hav become a pond even if I had gon no deeper than the

1105, continued

top ov that gravel. The top ov that sand and gravel waz stil a metre and a half below the upper end ov the exit: and it waz any thing from a metre and a half to two metres or more - five or six feet or more - below the general neighbouring surface.

But the mound waz bilt on the gravel. How did the surrounding surface come to be so much higher than what the mound stood on? W~~as~~ the mound bilt in a hole?

I think not. I think that the ground now surrounding the mound, the ground ov the meadow, iz ground that haz come there since the mound waz bilt.

That ground iz certainly not virgin, like the gravel. In sinking the roa_d to the trench, it waz found that the earth containd ocasional pot sherds. And other facts come to mind. The Chocolá sculptured stone, now in the muzeum, and again thozе various scatterd altar stones (so calld), some ov them near half a mile from this mound, wer none ov them found on the surface, but mostly at five or six feet below: just like this gravel. Earth containd in muddy water constantly comes down from the hils: and some ov it must stick. I think that since the time ov who ever cut the stones and raizd the mounds, the hole neighbourhood, though lying on a slope - a general slope, az Ive told you, ov about six in a hundred - haz be_come over laid with earth, to the depth that ~~the/depth/that~~ thozе stones and this gravel indicate: a depth ov five or six feet. The level ov the

1105, continued

sand and gravel under Mound B, iz what waz the level ov the surrounding ground when the mound waz new.

In one respect, how ever, the surface ov the sand and gravel would seem to be not exactly the natural surface.- The sand and gravel waz found to contain many stones. In foto 236, on the bottom floor, and near the left hand corner, you see a stone ov the gravel, stil in place. The stones on the right hand side ov the floor, in the same foto, and the many stones on the floor in fotos 235, 239, 240, and else where, ar also stones ov the gravel, but stones that hav been extracted: and that being too big for the wheel barrows, hav been rolld aside and left. And ther wer smaller stones in abundance. But it waz curious that all the stones in the gravel, big and little, wer completely sunk in it. Some times, az my drawing reprezents, a stone sunk in the gravel just grazed the surface. But no stone stuck out above. Usualy, in a drift ov sand and stones, the surface iz rough. Stones ov all sizes stick out, and even lie on top. A horse haz to pick hiz way. Here the surface waz smooth. Ther wer no signs ov the surface having been a beaten floor: yet it would seem to hav been to this extent artificial, that it had been cleard ov stones.

On that bed ov sand and gravel stood the mound: with the strange though simple structure that you already know ov: an outer mound ov earth, like a thick shel, enclozing a

1105, continued

mixt mound, ov earth, sand, and what seemd to be ashes.

The sand waz the same white, or grey sand az under lay the mound: and in fotos 240 and 41, you see a couple ov layers or pockets ov the unmixt sand, apearing on the face ov the digging az white patches:- not thozе up and down streaks, which ar merely the efects ov drip on the face ov old digging, but the two horizontal patches below. In foto 237, the white shelf iz mostly the efect ov sun shine: but in the face ov the digging, just above the shelf, and in the left hand corner, the horizontal white patch iz again~~a~~ pocket ov pure sand.

The other ingredients ov the inner mound, the earthy and ashy ingredients, though much mingled with sand, wer characterized by a blackish colour, and by a bad smel.

The blackish colour - from brownish to bluish black - which gave the digging in the inner mound, az I once told you, the apearence ov a coal mine, iz indistinguishable in the fotografs from mere shadow. The smel waz ov a sort that reminded me ov some thing like a newly opend ash heap, or heap ov ashes mixt with rotten vegetables: while some described the smel az sulfureous. The smel, and a great part ov the black colour, wer lost by exposure to weather. But in new digging both wer plain. The transition from the outer mound to the inner waz sharp: and a digger waz informd ov the transition at the same moment by hiz eyes and by hiz noze.

Among the lesser, but not less peculiar ingredients ov the inner mound, wer sticks, charcoal, and leavs. The

1105, continued

ocasional sticks, which wer always short sticks, ofen chard at one end, az if they had been fire wood, and the ocasional sprinklings ov small charcoal, seemd to be accidents ov the earth and ashes, like the ocasional small stones. The leavs wer in sheets.

And thozе leavs, az Ive told you, not with standing that they wer caked together and rotten, had stil something ov their primitiv green colour: a conservation ov colour which acording to ~~∅~~ some opinion might be due to the strongly alkaline ashes. But for all their remnant ov greenness, the leavs wer so rotten, and so tightly caked together, that it waz never possible to see what leavs they wer: only this waz clear, that they wer always long leavs, or at least ov the sort that haz paralel veins. Some ov my men calld the leavs grass. Others said Indian corn, or even plantain leavs. Others, considering certain pieces ov stem, perhaps with more probability said palm leavs.

What ever they wer, they wer in sheets, or layers, which on the vertical face ov the digging apeard az lines. The lines wer found crossing the digging at very iregular intervals ov height: and wer not commonly level, but more or less bent, or waving: and any one line waz commonly ov various thickness. The line might in places be az thick az your finger: seldom so much az twice that: and ofen taperd off to nothing. No single sheet seemd to be very extensiv. Even when the trench waz narrow, even when it

1105, continued

came down to only four metres wide, it waz seldom that a line ov leavs could be traced across the hole width: and az the face ov the digging advanced, any particular sheet, commonly in a short while, came to an end. The sheets might be calld patches.

In my drawing, you see how the inner mound, and the sheets ov leavs, would hav apeard on a particular vertical section: the lengthwize middle section ov the trench. Ov course, I never saw that section. But I waz in the habit ov making sketches, to measure, ov the advancing face ov the digging, the advancing cross section: and from thozе momentary cross sections, ov which I had above a hundred, the section ov the drawing iz compiled.

You wil under stand, in the drawing, that a short line ov leavs doesnt ov necessity mean that the sheet , or patch ov leavs, waz small. It might hav been large, but one that the section ov the drawing caut only a fringe ov. In the same way, separat lines ov leavs, in the drawing, dont always mean separat sheets. In the neighbourhood ov 5 metres east ov the centre, for example, and a little below the 11 metre level, you see a couple ov long lines nearly on one level, but with a gap between them. It apears from my notes, that the two wer one sheet: but ther waz (so to speak) a hole in the sheet, and it happend that the section ov the drawing past through the hole. Both in the out line ov the inner mound, and in the lines ov leavs, a slight

1105, continued

shifting ov the section, towards you or away from you, might make many alterations.

But while thers nothing sacred about the particular section ov the drawing, it probably tels az much truth az any other section. To take a detail, a frequent curiosity ov the leavs, in the digging, waz the fact ov a sheet ov leavs, or line ov leavs, lying in some part ov its course close above an other line: and you see that the drawing shows several cases. And the drawing points corectly to an other curiosity ov the leavs, too large to be calld a detail. The drawing reprezents the sheets ov leavs az peculiarly abundant between the 11 and 13 metre levels: and it waz a fact in the digging that while - az the drawing also intimates - sheets ov leavs wer to be met with from top to bottom ov the inner mound, yet between the 11 and 13 metre levels waz conspicuously where they most abounded.

In one respect the section ov the drawing might be calld defectiv. The section furnishes no example ov a sheet ov leavs in what waz a frequent posture with them: that iz, very decidedly out ov level.

This little sketch wil show what I mean. The sketch iz on the same scale az the main drawing: but in stead ov a lengthwize section ov the trench, you see a cross section, the lower part ov a vertical cross section. The section iz taken at 5 metres east ov the centre ov the mound, and you look towards the centre. You look in the same direction

1105, continued

az in foto 239: and az I my self lookt in, in making the

original sketches. The right and left boundaries ov the sketch ar the shelving sides ov the trench. At the bottom iz the gravel. The waving line about the 10 metre level iz the surface ov the inner mound. That surface, where it crosses the middle ov the trench, happens, az you see, to be just at the 10 metre level: which ov course iz the level that you see that surface at, in the main drawing, at 5 metres east. The dotted lines ar the leavs.

The sheets ov leavs that strike the middle line, ar the same az in the main drawing struck the 5 metre east line. The sheets that wer one close above the other, ar stil one close above the other. But the slopes ar alterd. You see in this cross section - and ther wer many like it - how decidedly the sheets ov leavs might be bent and out ov level. They might be so bent and out ov level, that what ever the sight ov them might sugest, it would not sugest the notion ov floors.

1105, continued

Ive had ocasion more than once, in these catalogs, to speak ov Indian mounds found to contain beaten floors, some times floor above floor. And its a fact that the Indians at their feasts ofen strew their floors with leavs, - not with grass, or palm leavs, / to my knowledge, but at least with pine needles. And had you no other sight ov the leavs but thozе some what flattend lines which ar all that appear in my main drawing, you might begin to wonder whether the sheets ov leavs didnt represent some sort ov il-leveld floors, or patches ov floor. But underneath the lines ov leavs no line ov beaten earth, nor any satisfactory sign ov a floor, waz to be seen. And though the sheets ov leavs must doutless in some way represent successiv surfaces, I think that after seeing such lines and slopes az my small sketch brings before you, any notion ov floors will be dismist.

Az the surfaces ov the sheets ov leavs wer uneven and iregular, so also waz the surface ov the inner mound.

You see in the main drawing the contrast between the rough inner mound and the smooth outer. When you look down in stead ov up, when you look at the leavs in stead ov at the outer mound, you see no such contrast: the lines ov leavs and the out line ov the inner mound ar alike uneven: and the likeness iz especialy striking in the small sketch. In fact with an eye to the small sketch, you might be

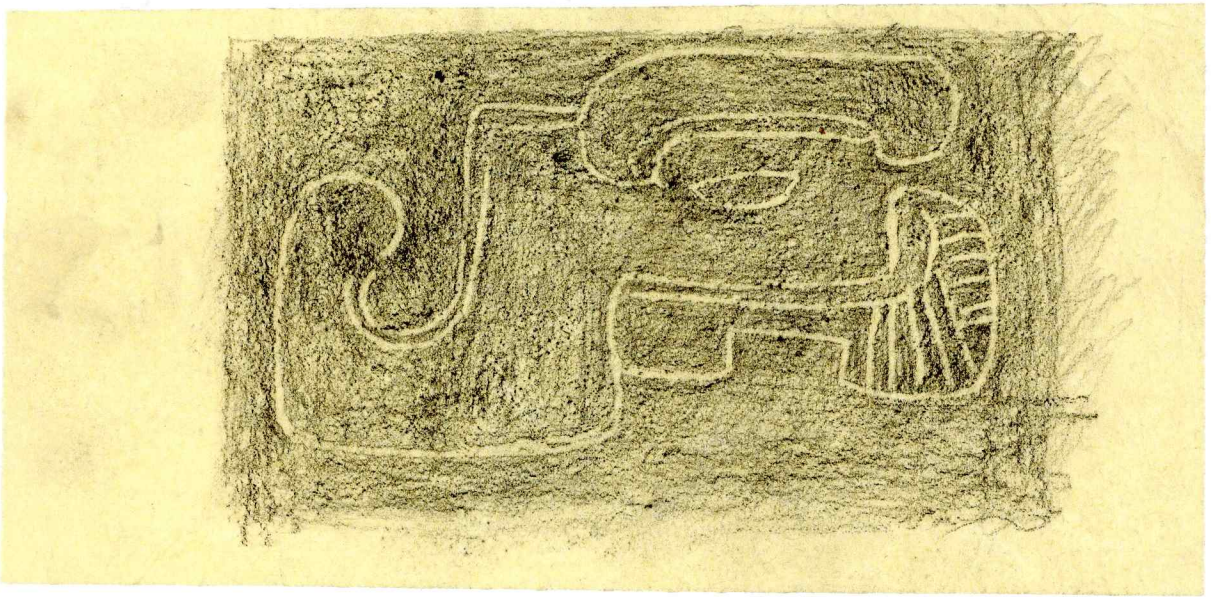
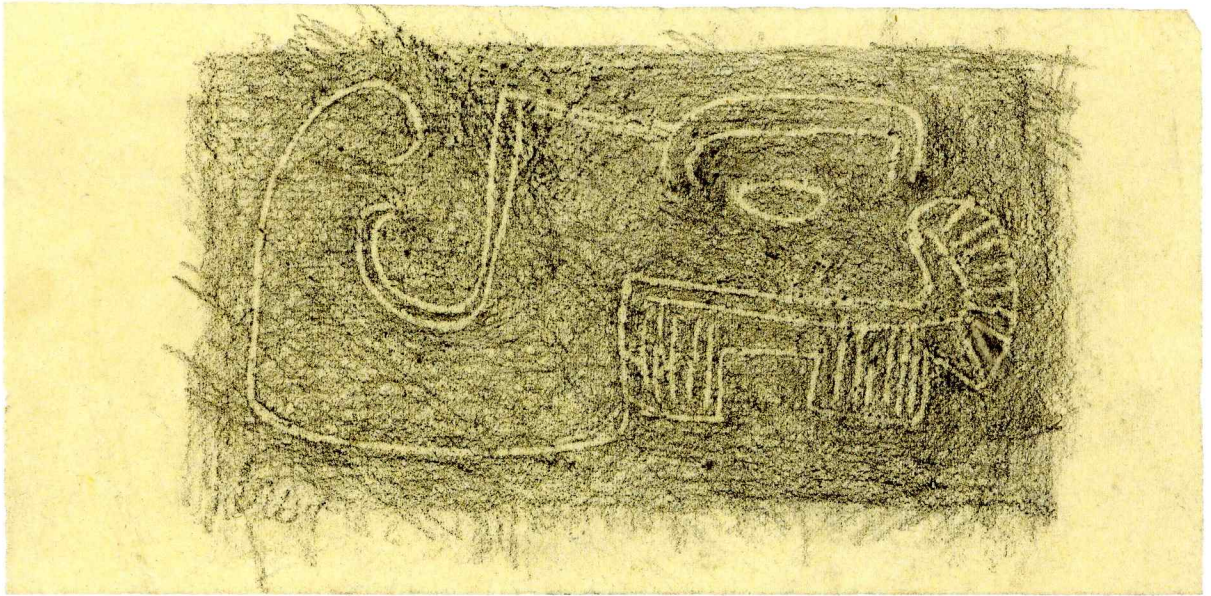
1105, continued

tented to say at once that the surface ov the inner mound waz merely the topmost ov a series ov uneven surfaces: and that what ever should explain the one, would explain the other.

But what ever truth ther may be in that (and I believ it contains the truth) that topmost surface iz not the surface ov a sheet but the surface ov a mound: and looking at the main drawing, you wil see that that mound haz particular features. For one thing, you see how the inner mound, in comparison ov the outer, doesnt rize to any thing like a peak. Westward ov about east 7 or 8, the hole top ov the inner mound looks some what flattend. And for an other thing, you see that the general unevenness ov the surface iz most extreme on the side.

And though by shifting the section ov the drawing, the alterations that would be made in the out line ov the inner mound might in details be violent, thozе two features would remain: the flattish top, and the extremely iregular side. To me, in my digging, the iregularity ov the side, az it developt, waz especialy perplexing. What process ov bilding could hav been so iregular?

And I may say that when my digging, going down from level to level, struck the top ov the inner mound, and I saw the ashes and charcoal, and the apearance ov a heap, I began to think ov things not bilt. I began to think ov heaps ov ashes that I had seen else where. The Indians in



1105, continued

some places, at their periodical witch fires, undesignedly raiz heaps ov ashes. The fire place, in the course ov generations, becomes a mound. And ov course a thing that grew by chance might hav many iregularities. But I had never seen thozе witch-fire mounds more than a few feet high. Any history like theirs, for a mound ov the size that this began to show, became very unlikely. And the apearance by and by ov quantities ov such stuf az sand, and even occasional clay - stuf that must hav been carried there - waz finaly proof pozitiv that this mound waz not the rezult ov any imperceptible growth, no matter on what scale, but waz some thing deliberately bilt.

But waz it bilt by bedlamites? How waz it bilt so shapeless?

The explanation Ive come to iz simple, though for some reazon I waz a long time coming to it. The prezent shape ov the inner mound iz not its original shape. The mound waz bilt up regularly, but the stuf it waz bilt ov waz its ruin.

A steep mound (such az the Indians would bild) compozod in great part ov such stuf az sand and ashes, and that stuf ofen heavy with rain, waz not stable. The mound waz not exactly like a mound ov wax: in particular, it waz not homogeneous. But it waz porous. It became fild with water. Intermittently and iregularly the top sank. The sides bulged and spread. Independent ov movements ov the

1105, continued

mass, and perhaps more important, rain, on such stuff as sand and ashes, or on earth mixed with such stuff, rapidly cut and diversified the surface: and before the outer mound could rise to cover it, the inner mound had taken the shape of ruin that the drawing represents.

There was one curious detail that was not at first sight accounted for. On the side of the inner mound, among the numerous humps and bulges big and little, such as the drawing represents, there occurred some times - as happens also to be represented in the drawing - projections of another sort: - projections not to be described as humps or bulges, but rather as some thing like rags, or teeth: projections incapable of holding themselves up: and that must have existed from the first moment of their formation only by resting, as you see them rest, on contiguous parts of the outer mound. The outer mound, at that moment, must have been just at that level.

And my natural conclusion, for a long time, had been that the inner and outer mounds, for whatever strange reason, must have been built up together, built up abreast. Who was I to say what the ancient Indians might not have thought of doing? And such a blind process of work would account at once for the wildest irregularities in the surface of contact of the two mounds.

Still, the notion of such a process was repugnant to the mind: and not only that, but seemed to add new mystery to

1105, continued

the leavs. In such a process, which would make the distinction between inner and outer mound almost iluzory, how should the leavs (what ever their purpos) hav been kept entirely to the inner mound? Why should they never - with in side and out side at a level - why should they never by any chance hav run out side? But they never did.

And I dont now believ such a thing az that the two mounds wer bilt up together. The inner mound waz bilt in the natural way, by itself: and became ruind in the way Ive said: and the detail ov thozе flying rags and teeth, az Ive calld them, iz merely a last consequence ov the same ruin.

When the outer mound came to be bilt, the ruin ov the inner mound didnt at once cease. The outer mound, rizing in a ring, protected so much az it coverd, but nothing / above. Whether by rain, or by the mere traffic ov the bilders feet, the ruin above continued. Falling material some times over flowd the edge ov the rizing ring: and thozе ragged and jagged shapes wer the precise result.

So much for the surface ov the inner mound. Rain and ruin, and the materials, seem to acount for it. And now to go back to the sheets ov leavs.

Ive rejected the notion ov floors. I thought ov several other things. I thought ov roofs, thatch roofs that had fallen to the ground: roofs ov perhaps such temporary shelters az in corn fields, and at feasts, Indians ofen put

1105, continuation

up. That would account for the long leavs, and perhaps for the patchiness ov the sheets. But the objection ov the uneven ground remaind: not to speak ov the absence ov fire places. Then again I thought ov natural growths: growths that might hav come up on the successiv aditions to the height ov the mound, and been successivly cut down. But ther wer no signs ov any thing like roots. I even thought ov certain strewings ov leavs, or at least ov green switches, practist annualy, in some places, at the time ov the five days,- not that I fancied this might be the same az that, but merely that if the leavs wer not to be explaind by any rational purpos or natural accident, they might be set down to some unknown superstition.

How ever, I remarkt a little ago on the innuendo ov the drawings, especialy ov the small one, and on the suspicion that the sheets ov leavs and the surface ov the inner mound would hav one explanation: and I think that the explanation ov the leavs iz already found.

That inner mound, with its sandy and ashy constituents, waz subject to rain and ruin, not only after it waz bilt, but while it waz bilding. The successiv uneven surfaces markt by the leavs, ar themselvs surfaces ov ruin - ruin cauzd by rain: and the leavs ar the atemt ov the bilders to hinder the ruin.

At the prezent day, in theze countries, mud bricks, while stil soft, or a new-laid mortar yard, or any

1105, continued

construction ov mud or mortar needing temporary protection from rain, iz usually coverd with leavs: plantain leavs, cane leavs, palm leavs, any long leavs: which lying horizontal, may not keep out the water very long, but make a shield against the beating ov the rain. To supoze that that waz the purpos ov the sheets ov leavs in the inner mound, iz only to supoze that the means uzed now wer uzed then.

The mound waz not bilt at once, but by degrees. When work waz to be intermitted for a length ov days, the workers, if rain waz expected, wer required to leav their work coverd: and the mound waz abandond to the protection ov leavs. The rain came. On a wide surface, such az the temporary top ov the mound, ther wer by and by pools and currents ov water underneath the leavs. The leavs in some places drifted apart, or drifted together, or drifted altogether away: and the covering became a patch work. The sandy and ashy surface began to melt, and wash down:- and the watery mechanics continuing, the leavs, that when work came to be rezumed, remaind, wer naturaly in such lines and shapes az the leavs, in both drawings, show: smooth, commonly, but variously undulating and broken.

With much bad weather, the benefit ov the leavs might in places become next to nothing. Each ov the places where you see ^{line} a line ov leavs near above an other, iz doutless a place where the original fil between the two lines came near to being washt out. The apearance in the small sketch, with the two near lines in a hollow, would be the apearance due

1105, continued

to two wash-outs in succession. A little more washing out between the two lines, and the two would hav at some point toucht: and such apearances wer seen. A line ov leavs had some times an apearance ov branching, an apearance ov arabesque branching.

Thoze undulating, and osculating, and tapering lines, wer explaind, az nothing else could explain them, az being the action ov water. And such things az finding streaks ov sand interlarded in the thickness ov a layer ov leavs, like streaks ov fat in bacon, and various little indescribable apearances, all fel at once into place: they wer the precise efects ov water. And some thing on a larger scale you may see in the drawings, which concurs in the same explanation.

The object I had at the time, in introducing what Ive been calling the small sketch, waz to remedy a chance defect (az it might seem) ov the main drawing. The lines ov leavs in the main drawing showd no instance ov the decided bending - the decided scooping out, that waz a frequent sight in the cross section ov the trench, and that the small sketch showd. It wil now apear that the defect ov the main drawing iz probably not mere chance:- The section in my main drawing iz a radial section: it passes through the centre ov the mound. But the course ov water, running off the mound, would tend also to be radial. Apearances ov channeling, or scooping out, would

1105, continued

consequently be commonest in looking along a radius - as in the small sketch you look: and least common in looking at right angles to a radius: which is how you look in the main drawing: q. e. d.

Taking the explanation of rain and ruin to be established, some little attempt may be made in the way of deduction.

Leaves would not be laid in dry weather. The abundance of leaves between the 13 and 11 metre levels may be taken to signify a rainy season: the scarcity of leaves below and above that abundance, answering to preceding and following dry seasons. A decided reappearance of leaves at the top, might mean that a second wet season was just begun. The wet season on the Pacific slope may be said to begin towards the end of April, and to end about the end of November, amounting to some seven months of the year: the dry season making up the other five. A dry season, and a wet season, and an other dry season, and a little more, might be a year and a half:- the raising of the inner mound may seem to have lasted about a year and a half.

The inner mound may possibly be like the outer mound, with a plan somewhat elliptical: but not to be too precise, suppose it circular, and every way one shape. It will then appear from my drawing, with a little calculation, that the volume of that inner mound may be some thing between 2500

1105, continued

and 3000 cubic metres. Say 2750.- 2750 cubic metres in a year and a half:- how many men would that hav taken?

But how much wer the times ov no work?- The sheets ov leavs in the rainy season part ov my section look to me az if they might reprezent about five independent sheets: which would mean that during the rainy season ther had been five stoppages ov work: five periods ov work and five periods ov rest. How long wer thozе periods? In places where the ancient calendar survives, the habit ov the Indians iz stil to be found ov engaging themselvs for periods ov twenty days. I wil guess that in this case ov the mound the periods ov work and the periods ov rest wer twenty days each: and you see that five double periods ov forty days each, would anser, nearly, to the seven months ov the rainy season. For the two dry seasons the leafy record fails. But the system would not be likely to alter. And work and rest remaining equal, the year and a half ov bilding would hav comprized nine months ov work.

2750 cubic metres, then, in nine months ov work: how many men would it hav taken?

My men, all Indians, undoing the same work, did on a mean, working by task, some thing over three cubic metres a day, each man. Had they been working, not by measured task, but merely driven, they would not hav done more than two, or two and a half. And they had pick axes, and shovels, and wheel barrows, and boards for the barrows to

1105, continued

go on: and their work, excepting at the last, waz ov course down hil. The ancient Indians, working up hil, and with what ever barbarous means they had, I should supoze would not hav done much above one cubic metre a day, if so much.

Say one metre. 2750 cubic metres, in nine months, at a metre a day a man:-

Nine months would be about 274 days. One mans work would hav been 274 cubic metres.- Ten men would about hav done the 2750.

It happens to come out very neat. The inner mound, in the required year and a half, but with half-time work, might hav been the work ov ten men.- Ov course the half-time work, and the metre a day, ar both uncertain. With respect to the cubic metre, how far (you might ask) had the cubic metre to be carried? The sand, az the bottom ov my digging showd, waz near by: but where did the ashes and charcoal come from? Yet what ever the precise errours ov the computation, it remains almost obvious, that the raizing ov the inner mound in the time that the leavs seem to signify, the time ov a year and a half, even for the ancient Indians would hav been no great work.

With the outer mound it waz probably otherwize. The outer mound, down to the level ov the gravel, must hav had a bulk ov some thing like 30,000 cubic metres: perhaps more. It must hav been ten or twelv times the inner. Ten men, working az before, would hav taken, not a year and a half, but fifteen or twenty years at it. But that, ov course,

1105, continued

would not hav been the Indian way ov doing. If the Indians did az they do now, with any big under taking, their way would hav been to enlist all the people ov the neighbourhood, three or four hundred men, perhaps, and get the thing done in a few great efforts. The mound, in a time ov work, would hav lookt like an ant heap, with the swarming people on it: and its quite possible that the outer mound waz raizd in less time than the inner.

Any how its to be thought that the inner mound waz soon coverd. Thoze who took means to protect their work in its bilding, would not be slow to prezerv it when bilt. And the surface ov the inner mound waz not found to contain roots, or stalks, or any sign ov the vegetation that must hav sprung up if the mound had been long abandond. Besides, at this day, the mere sight ov the other mounds standing about, ov near the same size, makes it almost evident (unless this mound waz the first ov its kind) that the ultimat size ov the mound waz foreseen. The outer mound, or outer shel, waz not an after thought, but waz in the original plan.

A smooth, flat place having been prepared, a loose, unstable, sandy, and ashy mound, waz leisurely, but pertinaciously raizd: to be over whelmd with a mound ov earth ten times its size. And all for what?

On the evidence, I wil offer no anser. For what wer

1105, continued

any ov these mounds? Mounds , in apearance like this, ar found scatterd along the Pacific slope: some times three thouzand feet above the sea, az here, but some times down in the hot lands: some times in disorderly companies, az here, but some times solitary: mostly near one size - about forty or fifty feet high: all ov them, at least outwardly, made ov earth, though in a country abounding in stone: and all ov them - which iz their great mark - round mounds: not square nor oblong, but round and smooth, without corners, steps, or terraces: and rizing to a blunt peak, with no signs ov ever having had any thing on top.

The ordinary opinion about them haz been that they ar burial mounds, each mound the tomb ov some great person. And my digging, though it may some what discourage that opinion, haz not disproved it. My digging haz not absolutely disproved that opinion even in the case ov this mound. What iz now proved, iz that if this mound contains a burial, the burial iz not central.

But many burials in mounds ar deliberately excentric. And granting that the shape ov these mounds favours the probability ov a central burial, if any, yet the absence ov a central burial in this particular mound doesnt perhaps much lessen the probability ov central burials in the others:- that iz, unless its to be thought that all these mounds ar like this strange one. But iz that to be thought? Iz it supozable (for instance) that all these mounds contain

1105, continued

inner mounds ov sand and ashes - or inner mounds at all? It may be supozable. But I should think it much more likely that this mound waz exceptional.

And then questions come forward. What might be the nature ov the exception? Could it be possible, say, that this mound actualy contains a central burial, and that the burial haz been found? Could it be possible (fantastic az it sounds) that the inner mound waz itself in some manner the corpse?- Which would lead back to the question ov where the ashes and charcoal came from: and again to the prime question ov how far the other mounds ar like this.

Too little iz known - or I know too little. Ive set out the facts that Ive dug up, and perhaps somebody can put them together. Ive been able (az I believ) to clear up the matter ov the leavs, and ov the shape ov the inner mound: and so at least prevent what might be much lost speculation. But so far az I can see, the general riddle ov the inner mound, and ov the hole mound, remains. My digging, in stead ov ending uncertainty, haz rather started new uncertainties: and curiosity must be content to wait til somebody shal open an other mound.

And in case any muzeum or traveler should wish to make the experiment (it may be worth saying) they might advantageously pick out some smaller mound than mine. In Chocolá itself, for example, the mound markt H, on my map, iz an other ov these round mounds: but perhaps not more

1105, continued

than four fifths ov the height ov mine, and by a geometrical consequence only about half the bulk: and a trench in it, proportional to mine, in stead ov coming to near five thousand cubic metres ov digging, az mine did, would come to only twenty five hundred.

With no central burial found, how ever, in the one mound, exceptional though the mound may be, that haz been examind, and no guidance (az ther iz with rectangular mounds) to the situation ov excentric burials - with (to be plain) no assured prospect ov plunder, it may be that even so much digging wil seem to be too much.- The muzeum haz been the recipient ov all possible help from various persons ov Chocolá. Ive had the pleasure ov expressing my thanks to the European owners, on the ocasion ov their rare vizits: and hav constantly had to thank Mr Henry Kummerfeldt, the manager. Yet I could find it in my heart to wish thozе excelent people what they would look upon az a piece ov extreme bad luck. I could wish that in the course ov their extensiv works, they might some how be compeld to the labour ov leveling one ov thozе mounds. Their methods would be destructiv, but some thing would apear.

And now to come back for a moment to the bead, the starting point ov this long digression. Human remains, such az bits ov pottery, or ov workt stone, wer met with (though not in any great quantity) throughout the hole height

1105, continued

ov the mound: inner mound and outer mound alike, and down to the very surface ov the gravel: but all evidently accidental: either dropt by the work men, or already in the earth or ashes that the work men brought. The pottery remains, mostly coarse, included one or two fragments ov small images. The stone remains included the ordinary obsidian nives, pieces ov mil stones, one or two small coarse mortars, a few inches ov sheet mica: and the only thing ov any kind that I thought worth saving, this some what uncommon bead.

1106/9: bought in Guatemala City: being part ov a small colection started by an Italian trader, lately dead:- the things shown and numberd in fotos 242 and 3: 242 being with sun shine, and 243 without.

37-12-2
1106 (see 1106/9): said to be from the iland ov Madera, or Wood Iland, in Lake Nicaragua:- a smooth earthen bowl, painted inside and out in black, red, and light brown, in patterns: which the fotografs totaly fail to show. The outside patterns ar geometric: the inside, geometrized animals: the main one, which occupies the hole inside bottom, being some thing like a two-headed snake.- Height, about 9 centimetres. Across the top, about 20. Entire, except for slight chips and abrasions.

1107/9 (see 1106/9): from the country ov Guatemala.

1107/8 (see 1107/9): obtaind by the colector from one person, and conjectured to be from the neighbourhood ov Míshco (creole

1107/8, continued

spelling Mixco) or ov Antigua Guatemala:- smooth red earthen ware, with a cream coloured slip, and painted with red and black. Entire, except for abrasion and some slight chips.

37-12-3
1107 (see 1107/8): a flat-bottomed bowl with three big hollow rattling feet, each foot representing an animal face: but the face humanized, and with ear rings. Height, 10 centimetres. Depth, $4\frac{1}{2}$. Across the top, 16.

37-12-4
1108 (see 1105 and 1107/8): a vessel in the shape ov an armadillo: the mouth ov the vessel - a mouth which possibly once had a lid - being a hole in the top ov the animals back. Feet and tail, solid. Head, hollow and rattling, and with obsidian eyes. Height, about 13 centimetres. Length, about 21.

37-12-5
1109 (see 1107/9): from the neighbourhood ov Barberena, some ten leagues south east ov Guatemala City:- a ceremonial stone ax: which in foto 242 iz dry, and in 243 haz been dipt in water. The shape and carving - representing, az you see, a deaths head - iz the same on both sides, and the cutting edge iz the forehead. Length (or height, az the thing stands), 28 centimetres.

In a specimen that I see a full-size fotograf ov in a Paris auction catalog, ov last year (Arts du Mexique Précolombien, Hotel Drouot, salle n^o 10, le 14 Novembre 1928) the face (which iz not a deaths head) iz badly damaged above the noze. This specimen iz about the same size az that, and ov seemingly az good workmanship, and iz perfect.
