

October 21, 1930.

Dear Mamuelito:

Saludes. My cordial regards to you and to your family.

I respectfully solicit any aid which you may be able and are willing to give me regarding my application to the Mexican Government. You remember that my visit to Mexico City in March was for the principal purpose of getting permission from your government for transport in bond between Carmen or Frontera and the Guatemalan border near Piedras Negras. I made the application to the proper department, was it Hacienda? They referred it to Educacion, and finally Reygadas said that it might be a long time and advised me to proceed to Guatemala and get my permission there and then take it up again with the Mexican authorities. Since then I have heard nothing in spite of several letters to Reygadas. We shall wish to begin work at the close of the rainy season, probably in January, and it is essential that I receive this permission soon. When I was in Guatemala City I mentioned the matter to Sr. Eduardo May who immediately sent a telegram to Mexico City asking them to hurry this matter, but do not know if any reply was given; I left a few days after.

I presume you know that the Guatemalan Government gave us permission to work at Piedras Negras and to bring out the stelae and whatever objects we may find, retaining half on loan here and sending the other half to Guatemala City. Also of course you realize that the only method of approach to Piedras Negras is through Mexican territory to Tenosique.

I think that the personnel of the Discoción de Arqueología does not look at all favorably upon this permission of the Guatemalan Government, probably thinking it is a bad precedent for Latin American archeology. Some of them expressed an opinion against taking the stelae out when I was in Mexico City, and I fear that they may oppose my application for transportation in bond. A few days ago

I received a letter from a correspondent in Guatemala City which disturbs me. He writes: Recuerde que este asunto debe tratarse pronto, con la velocidad del rayo, por que de Mexico han comenzado hacer labor de "entorpecimiento" y de critica para este Gobierno por haber concedido el permiso que Ud logré. Conviene gestionar con otros museos interesados, para que ayuden en esta labor, no sea que despues ya no sea posible.

You realize of course that the situation at P. N. is very different from that at Chichen Itza, Palenque, Quirigua, etc. It would be vandalism to take anything from there. But P. N. is almost inaccessible and there are no buildings there to attract tourists, only one very plain one standing. The sole objects of interest there are the stlae which are unguarded, uncovered, and rapidly going to pieces in the rainy forests. They will be almost destroyed before the Guatemalan government makes any move to protect them, and even then only a few people per year would ever see them. How much better it will be to have them in Guatemala City and Philadelphia where they will be properly cared for and seen by more people every day than would ever see them in the forests. Verdad?

I have an engagement to see Manuel Telles day after tomorrow and will then make an appeal to him. Can you use your influence to try to have this permission for transport granted? I have had an engineer working down there all summer building a road from the head of navigation to the ruins, and this is about half done now.

You may be interested to hear that we are planning an airplane exploration in the Yucatan-Peten-Campeche region and this is almost certain to take place. I wish to take this matter up with Telleza also on Thursday. We shall probably start about the first of December and spend about three weeks, flying five days and exploring on foot the rest of the time. You will probably see newspaper reports of this soon.

If you find it possible to give me any aid we will appreciate it tremendously. My cordial regards to you.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Manuel Gamio,
Bismarck, 44
Mexico, D. F.

no answer needed

CONSEJO SUPREMO
DE
DEFENSA Y PREVENCIÓN SOCIAL
CORRESPONDENCIA PARTICULAR
DE LOS CC. MAGISTRADOS

México, D.F., 7 de noviembre de 1930.

Sr. J. Allen Mason.
The Museum Of The University Of Pennsylvania.
Philadelphia.
E. U. A.

Muy estimado amigo:

Por haber estado un poco enfermo y -
además por haber salido fuera de México, hasta -
mi regreso, hace unos cuantos días, me encontré -
sus amables cartas del 21 y 23 de octubre respec -
tivamente, las que contesto desde luego para ma -
nifestarle que conociéndolo a Ud. como le conoz -
co desde hace tantos años como un caballero en -
toda la extensión de la palabra, estoy seguro co -
mo lo manifiesta Ud. en su carta de que es Ud. -
incapaz en lo absoluto de tratar de extraer de -
México objetos arqueológicos.

Tengo el gusto de participarle que -
expresé al señor Ing. José Reygadas Vertiz mi --
opinión en el sentido indicado y he sido informa -
do de que ya contestan a Ud. sus solicitudes an -
te el Gobierno de México con relación a la expor -
tación de objetos arqueológicos que hará Ud. de
Guatemala por territorio Mexicano, concediéndole
el permiso pedido en la forma que Ud. lo requerie
re.

Deseo a Ud. un completo éxito en los
interesantes trabajos que se propone emprender -
en compañía de los señores Madeira y Gregory Ma -
son en la extensa zona comprendida entre el Suro

January 12, 1931.

Sr. Dr.
Manuel Gamio,
Dinamarca 44,
México, D. F.

Dear Gamio:

I am going to bother you again and ask you if you would mind using your influence to get an answer ~~to~~ to my application for permission for transportation in bond from Carmen to the Guatemalan border near Tenosique. I think I explained this question to you thoroughly in my earlier letters. I am planning to leave for New Orleans about the 24th, in less than two weeks. We will probably leave for Progreso on the 30th and from there to Carmen. Our freight of equipment will probably leave New Orleans on a freight steamer directly for Carmen on the 29th. It is very urgent therefore that I get this permission very soon.

I made this application in Spanish with the help of Reygadas 1st March and have urged the matter through many persons since. The last official reply that I received was one from Sr. G. Elias of the Dirección General de Aduanas on December 11, asking me to make my application in Spanish, since that is the official language of Mexico. This letter was numbered 31-I-3737 -- 100"30"/4 -- Reg. 14736. Ext. I at once did as requested and prepared a letter explaining everything in my poor Spanish which I had corrected by a Spanish teacher here so as to have it perfectly correct and sent it to Sr. G. Elias. Since then I have heard nothing.

The matter is now very urgent and I would appreciate it greatly if you could do something to get me a reply to the application. I sent a copy of my letter to Sr. Elias to Sr. Ruben Clark, the American Ambassador in Mexico, and am writing today to Sr. Manuel Tellez in Washington asking him to please use his influence to secure an answer.

If the question of the export of archeological objects is still under consultation, this can wait; there is no urgency about that. But I do need permission for the entry and transportation of my equipment and supplies at once and would appreciate greatly your help.

With my cordial regards to you and your family

AS EVER

Consejo Supremo
de
Defensa y Prevención Social
Correspondencia Particular
de los CC. Magistrados

México, D. F., 23 enero 1931.-

Dr. J. Alden Mason,
The University Museum,
University of Pennsylvania,
PHILADELPHIA, Pa., U. S. A.-

Querido Mason:-

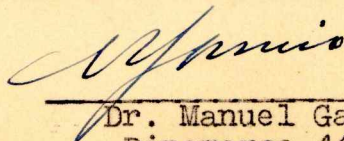
Con motivo de la prolongada indisposición que sufrió mi esposa, tuve que salir de México por unos días y hasta hoy recibí su carta de 12 del actual.-

Aun cuando no tengo amigos en la Secretaría de Hacienda que es donde está gestionándose su asunto, voy sin embargo a procurar una recomendación para que se active rápidamente.-

Le sugiero a usted que en casos análogos a este, personalmente deje arreglados estos asuntos -- como lo hace el doctor Morley, pues usted sabe que el despacho en las oficinas oficiales es en ocasiones lento. Si hubiera usted estado en México, yo le habría buscado una presentación para los Oficiales de Hacienda.-

De cualquier modo, como antes digo a usted procuraré que se solucione favorablemente su asunto. Si no obtengo éxito, crea usted que no será por falta de voluntad.-

Lo saluda afectuosamente su amigo y S. S.,



Dr. Manuel Gamio,
Dinamarca 44.

to h answer
7/15/31

CONSEJO SUPREMO
DE
DEFENSA Y PREVENCION SOCIAL
CORRESPONDENCIA PARTICULAR
DE LOS CC. MAGISTRADOS

México, D. F., 24 enero 1931.-

Sr. J. Alden Mason,
C/o. TULANE UNIVERSITY,
Department of Middle America,
NEW ORLEANS, La., U. S. A.-

Querido Mason:-

Ayer escribí a Ud. al Museo de Pennsylvania una carta de la cual adjunto copia, pues temo que ya haya salido Ud. para Nueva Orleans. Espero reciba la presente en la Universidad de Tulane.-

Ya me informé en la Secretaría de Hacienda respecto a su asunto, el cual tengo entendido que no había sido despachado por falta de gestiones. El Jefe de la Sección respectiva me ha indicado que el -- lunes o martes dará el acuerdo favorable, por lo que creo que cuando Ud. llegue a Progreso, ya tendrá la orden para el paso de sus objetos.-

Repitiéndole lo que dije a Ud. en carta de ayer, le manifiesto que estas gestiones oficiales -- necesitan de continua atención por parte de los in-- teresados, pues de otra manera tardan mucho las re-- soluciones.-

Celebrando que mi intervención en este a-- sunto sea de utilidad para Ud. lo saluda afectuosa-- mente su amigo y servidor,

Dr. Manuel Gamio
Dinamarca 44.

Tenosique, February 16, 1931.

Sr. D.
Manuel Gamio,
Dinamarca 44,
Mexico, D. F.

Dear Gamio:

Your kind letter of January 24 was received from Frans Blom in New Orleans, and that of January 23 was forwarded to me. Many thanks for your great kindness. I arrived here a few days ago and we shall go into the woods to Piedras Negras in a few days.

Our equipment which is to go by freight from New Orleans to Carmen was delayed and probably has not yet reached Carmen. I trust that there will be no difficulty in sending it up the river to us. The Mexican Consul in New Orleans told me that he had received advices from Ambassador Tellez that orders for entry of our equipment en transito had been sent to Progreso and to Carmen, but nevertheless instructions had not been received in either of these places and I sent a telegram to the Secretaria de Hacienda from Carmen requesting that the permission be sent. After I had seen the head of the Aduana in Carmen, the chief clerk informed me that now no special permission is required for goods in transit to Guatemala, so apparently all the trouble I have taken has been for nothing. You will remember that I made this request in person in Mexico City nearly a year ago, and Sr. Reygadas advised me that it would probably take some time so I had better go on to Guatemala and arrange the matter of the entry of equipment later by correspondence. The question of the exportation of the archeological objects has been settled and permission granted to take them out, but they must be examined at the port of shipment.

I am so sorry to hear that Sohora Gamio has been ill, and hope that she is now in better health. My sincere thanks to you for your kind efforts in our behalf, and my cordial regards to you and your family.

Sincerely yours,

(23)

Tenosique, Tab. Marzo 3 de 1931

Sr. Manuel Gamio
Dinamarca 44,
Mexico

CARTA DIURNA

Piedras Negras trabajo empezó pero en Enero veintinueve Director Tapia de Aduanas negó permiso de tránsito para importación de efectos y exportación de objetos conforme a la ley. Punto. Director Jayne insistirá asunto ante Embajadores Clark y Tellez. Punto. Si absolutamente necesario iré a ésa pero espero que este largo viaje no sea preciso. Punto. Ruegole ayudarnos y telegrafiarne aviso por cobrar. Saludalo.

J. A. Mason

Tenosique, March 3, 1931.

Dr. Manuel Gamio,
Dinamarca 44,
Mexico, D. F.

Dear Gamio:

I presume you received my telegram of this morning. I presume I shall have received a reply from you before you receive this, and I hope that by this time everything will have been agreeably settled, and that I will be back at work.

After receiving Raygadas' letter of January 23 in which he stated that the Department of Educación had recommended approval to the Secretaria de Hacienda, and yours of January 24 in which you stated that the Jefe de la Sección de Hacienda had indicated to you that in a few days he would give a favorable reply, you may imagine how surprised and distressed I was to receive in camp at Piedras Negras a few days ago a copy of a letter forwarded from Philadelphia, a copy of which I enclose. I am quite unable to understand it. Apparently not only the exportation of archeological objects is prohibited, but even the importation of supplies en tránsito "conforme a la ley". The practise of shipping goods in bond from one nation to another through the territory of a third is common everywhere and generally no express permission is required. The cashier of the Aduana in Carmen told me that no especial permission was required to send goods en tránsito to Guatemala. How can there be any law against that? Probably the only law which can be considered in this case is that prohibiting the exportation of archeological objects, and that is intended to apply to objects of Mexican origin and even those may be taken out with the permission of the Department of Educación, which has been granted to us. I cannot understand on what grounds the permission was refused.

As everyone has told me, I should have gone to Mexico City to arrange this matter, but it did not seem to me possible that such a matter of course as transit in bond could be refused. I hope I shall not have to go to Mexico City as it is a long journey, and the working season here is short and it would interfere with my work terribly. Of course I will go if it is absolutely necessary. But I have telegraphed to Director Jayne to take up the question with Ambassadors Clark and Tellez and I hope that they will be able to arrange matters while I remain here. I dislike to ask you to do anything more, but if you can do anything to have my decision changed, will you be kind enough to do so? Please wire me your answer.

• Our cargo has arrived in Carmen and the Customs authorities there are apparently willing to let it go through, but for some reason they insist that it must go up the San Pedro River to El Paso de Peten instead of coming to Piedras Negras. This not only would cause us immense trouble, delay and expense to have it taken to our contract with the Guatemalan government gives us free access to the ruins of the little village of Porvenir near Piedras Negras.

March 4.

Querido Manuelito

Your kind telegram just received. Million de gracias.

The administrador de Aduanas at Carmen has also telegraphed me that special permission must be secured from Director Tapia to permit our stuff to be sent to Tenosique instead of the regular official route to Paso Peten. I shall telegraph Tapia at once asking that permission. The question of the exportation of the archeological objects however still remains to be settled. However I think that I shall return to work as soon as I am ~~sure~~ assured that our equipment will come to Tenosique and rely upon Jayne to push the matter of the archeological objects.

Cordial regards.



TELEGRAFOS NACIONALES
ESTADOS UNIDOS MEXICANOS
TELEGRAMA



Num. 124 Mexico D F 4 Marzo 1931. mc sh 31-, 9-55 ~~por cobrar D 11-20.~~
John Alden Mason.

Depositado

Recibido

Desde marzo dos director tapia telegrafio aduana isla del carmen
en mensaje treintiuno, uno treintiuno ochenta y ocho, ordenando permi
tase introduccion herramientas libres de derechos. Felicito.

Dr Manuel Gamio.

Por cobrar.

Todo telegrama debe llevar el sello de la Oficina.

Lea Ud. el reverso: le interesa conocer los diferentes servicios que le ofrece el Telégrafo.

SERVICIOS ECONÓMICOS

PARA EL INTERIOR DE LA REPUBLICA, LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS DEL NORTE, EL CANADA,
GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, COSTA RICA, EL SALVADOR Y CUBA.

MENSAJES NOCTURNOS

Disfrutan de un descuento y se aceptan a cualquiera hora hábil del día o de la noche, entregándose en el lugar de destino en la mañana del día siguiente a la fecha de depósito.

CARTAS NOCTURNAS

Se aceptan a cualquiera hora hábil del día o de la noche, para entregarse a la mañana siguiente a la fecha de depósito, o con demora hasta de 24 horas, en caso de fuerza mayor y sin derecho a

Su tarifa por 50 palabras es igual a la de un mensaje de día de 10 palabras y cada grupo de 10 palabras, o menos, excedente, se cobra a razón de la quinta parte de la tarifa inicial.

Para los Estados Unidos del Norte y el Canadá las "CARTAS NOCTURNAS" se admiten sin restricciones en su redacción. Para el interior del país, Centro América y Cuba, se aceptan escritas solamente en español claro, no debiendo llevar claves, cifras ni abreviaturas; exceptuándose de esta regla

los nombres propios, especificaciones de mercancías y términos comerciales tales como: "CIF", "CFI", "FOB", "LAB", "COD", etc.

CARTAS DIURNAS

Se aceptan a cualquiera hora hábil del día o de la noche, estando sujetas para su transmisión y entrega a la prioridad del servicio ordinaria. En caso de fuerza mayor, pueden entregarse hasta el día siguiente.

Su tarifa por 50 palabras es de un grupo de 10 palabras o menos, cobrándose por cada grupo de 10 palabras o menos la quinta parte de la tarifa inicial.

Para los Estados Unidos del Norte y el interior del país, Centro-América y Cuba, se admiten solamente escritas en español claro, no debiendo llevar claves, cifras ni abreviaturas; exceptuándose de esta regla los nombres propios, especificaciones de mercancías y términos comerciales, tales como: "CIF", "CFI", "FOB", "LAB", "COD", etc.

PARA EUROPA, AFRICA, ASIA, OCEANIA E ISLAS ANTILLAS TENEMOS ESTABLECIDOS LOS SIGUIENTES SERVICIOS:

MENSAJES DIFERIDOS, -- CARTAS CABLEGRAFICAS, -- CARTAS DE FIN DE SEMANA
CARTAS CABLEGRAFICAS Y DE FIN DE SEMANA, POR CORREO, DESDE LONDRES O AMSTERDAM.

PARA CENTRO Y SUDAMERICA:

MENSAJES DIFERIDOS, -- CARTAS DE FIN DE SEMANA.

SERVICIOS DE GIROS TELEGRAFICOS PARA TODO EL PAIS Y EL EXTRANJERO

PIDA USTED INFORMES EN LA VENTANILLA

44
TELEGRAFOS NACIONALES
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TAB

TELEGRAFOS NACIONALES
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OFICINA EN TAB
TELEMOQUE-TAB

Tenosique Marzo 10 de 1931

Manuel Gamio,
Dinamarca 44,
Mexico

CARTA NOCTURNA

Mil gracias por telegrama de Marzo cuatro pero ya perdi diez dias fuera del trabajo esperaré aqui hasta que Director Tapia de orden para que equipo sea despachado para está en lugar de ruta oficial para Paso Peten PUNTO Suplicole ayudarme para - conseguir este permiso PUNTO Favor telegrafiarne por cobrar. Saludes

J.A.Mason



TELEGRAFOS NACIONALES

ESTADOS UNIDOS MEXICANOS

TELEGRAMA



Forma M. 2

Núm. 3365 De México DF el 11 del 12 Marzo de 1931

Recibido en 10-1-54 sn pda por Cobrar R.

17-30	9-	Tmc
		R sh.

Via _____
J. A Mason
Sr. _____

Ocurri Hacienda. Asunto arreglado. Hoy se giraran ordenes telegráficas. Saludolo.

Manuel Gamio.

Nota por cobrar.

Multiple horizontal lines for additional text or notes.

Todo telegrama debe llevar el sello de la Oficina.
Lea Ud. el reverso; le interesa conocer los diferentes servicios que le ofrece el Telégrafo.

SERVICIOS ECONÓMICOS

PARA EL INTERIOR DE LA REPUBLICA, LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS DEL NORTE, EL CANADA, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, COSTA RICA, EL SALVADOR Y CUBA

MENSAJES NOCTURNOS.

Disfrutan de un descuento y se aceptan a cualquiera hora hábil del día o de la noche, entregándose en el lugar de destino en la mañana del día siguiente a la fecha de depósito.

CARTAS NOCTURNAS.

Se aceptan a cualquiera hora hábil del día o de la noche, para entregarse a la mañana siguiente a la fecha de depósito, o con demora hasta de 24 horas, por causa de fuerza mayor y sin derecho a reclamación.

Su tarifa de 50 palabras es igual a la de un mensaje ordinario de 10 palabras y cada grupo de 10 palabras o menos, excedente, se cobra a razón de la quinta parte de la tarifa inicial.

Para los Estados Unidos del Norte y el Canadá, las "Cartas Nocturnas" se admiten sin restricciones en su redacción. Para el interior del país, Centro-América y Cuba, se aceptan escritas solamente en español claro, no debiendo llevar claves, cifras ni abreviaturas; exceptuándose de esta regla los nombres propios, especificaciones de mercancías y términos

comerciales, tales como: "CIF", "CFI", "FOB", "LAB", "COD", etc.

CARTAS DIURNAS.

Se aceptan a cualquier hora hábil del día o de la noche, estando sujetas para su transmisión y entrega, a la prioridad del servicio ordinario. Se procura entregarlas el mismo día de su fecha, pero por causa de fuerza mayor pueden entregarse hasta el día siguiente.

Su tarifa por 50 palabras es de un tanto y medio de la de las "Cartas Nocturnas," cobrándose por cada grupo de 10 palabras o menos, excedente, la quinta parte de la tarifa inicial.

Para los Estados Unidos del Norte y el Canadá, pueden escribirse en cualquier idioma o clave. Para el interior del país, Centro-América y Cuba, se admiten solamente escritas en español claro, no debiendo llevar claves, cifras ni abreviaturas; exceptuándose de esta regla los nombres propios, especificaciones de mercancías y términos comerciales, tales como "CIF", "CFI", "FOB", "LAB", "COD", etc.

PARA EUROPA, AFRICA, ASIA, OCEANIA E ISLAS ANTILLAS,

tenemos establecidos los siguientes servicios:

MENSAJES DIFERIDOS.—CARTAS CABLEGRAFICAS DE FIN DE SEMANA.—

CARTAS CABLEGRAFICAS Y DE FIN DE SEMANA, POR CORREO DESDE LONDRES O AMSTERDAM.

Para Centro y Sudamérica.

MENSAJES DIFERIDOS.—CARTAS DE FIN DE SEMANA.

SERVICIO DE GIROS TELEGRAFICOS PARA TODO EL PAIS Y EL EXTRANJERO.

PIDA USTED INFORMES EN LA VENTANILLA

Tenosique, Tabasco, March 12, 1931.

Dr. Manuel Gamio,
Dinamarca 44,
Mexico, D. F.

Dear Gamio:

Your telegram which came this morning "Ocurri Hacienda. Asunto arreglado. Hoy se girarán ordenes telegraficas. Saludolo." was a great relief to me, as for a week I have been waiting here without any news of progress and was getting very worried as well as terribly "aburrido". I have actually been here since March 2, waiting. I suppose you thought the matter was settled long ago, as it should have been. Every few days I sent telegrams and letters to officials such as Director Tapia. Basauri and Garcia were here a few days ago and Basauri sent a telegram to Reygadas explaining my troubles and I hoped that he would be able to see that the question was settled, but after waiting several days longer without any results I finally telegraphed you again, though I hated to bother you any more. I hope that the question is settled now and the proper orders really sent, but I shall not stir from here until I receive word from Carmen that arrangements have really been completed for sending the stuff up the river. I received some letters today from my friend Leslie Moore of Carmen who is, or has recently been, in Mexico City and was arranging the matter for me, and according to those letters, orders should have been sent about March 1st for the equipment to be sent to Tenosique, but the order of March 2d merely instructed that the equipo be passed through without specifying to Tenosique, and the Administrador de Aduanas informed me that specific instructions must be received from Mexico City before he could send it to Tenosique, and there the matter rested and, except for your telegram informing me that orders were to have been given yesterday, it still rests. I hope that this time orders were really given, but I will not go back to work until I receive word from Carmen that they have been received and executed.

The weather here is most unusual. You may be surprised to hear that it is raining while I write this, a month after rains should have been over. I fear it will inconvenience Basauri greatly as they never dreamt it would be raining yet. They arrived here Saturday and expected to leave Yaxchilan Monday, but Sunday and Monday it rained and they left Tuesday, although it was cloudy. They should have reached Piedras Negras last night and fortunately it did not rain the last two days, here at least, but it probably raining harder there and they will probably not push on to Yaxchilan today; the roads must be miserable. We were drenched with a "norte" wind out from Piedras Negras on March 2, and the same day Basauri and Garcia soaked going in to Palenque. If I receive word today that arrangements are made for our equipment to come to Tenosique, I will leave for Yaxchilan tomorrow, and expect to see them there on their way out.

of the work
under great handicaps, and

My cordial regards to your family

Sincerely yours,
Cora Zentgraf

your help. The more important, if less urgent, matter of the exportation of our archeological objects is still to be arranged; at least I have not yet heard of any progress in this line. On this subject I have nothing further to add than I stated in my letter to you of March 3d. I hope that your phrase "asunto arreglado" applies to the exportation of the antiquities as well as to the entry of equipment. It would be a terrible blow to me if exportation were finally denied, though I cannot see upon what grounds this could be based, and I believe that it will be settled finally. If such is the case we will of course continue work for the sake of the important results, and I presume that any fine small things can be sent, at great expense, up the river to Coban, or across to Peten and out through Belize, but the thousands of dollars I have spent on building a road out to the ruins for the purpose of bringing out the stelae will be a dead loss.

I wish you could visit us in the camp. It will be very comfortable after we receive our equipment. A number of houses overlooking the river, a garden with vegetables and flowers has been planted and we hope to live there very comfortably, but I fear the vegetables will not do us much good this year. But until we get our equipment we are working under great handicaps, and the food is poor.

My cordial regards to your family, and my profound thanks for your help.

Sincerely yours,

P. S. My assistant, Mr. Satterthwaite, has been carrying on the work at Piedras Negras while I have been away. He has made a trench in one of the plazas and finds that there are six or more distinct levels, and some of them different floors. Numbers of potsherds are found and those in the different levels are being kept separate, so they may afford some information on the sequence of pottery types here.

received I have received telegrams from Carmen that orders have been sent for our equipment to be sent to us here, so I am planning to go out to the camp and back to work tomorrow. Many thanks to you for finally settling this matter for me.

CONSEJO SUPREMO
DE
DEFENSA Y PREVENCIÓN SOCIAL
CORRESPONDENCIA PARTICULAR
DE LOS CC. MAGISTRADOS

México, D. F., 17 marzo 1931.

Dr. John A. Mason,
TENOSIQUE, Tab.-

Estimado amigo:-

Recibí las atentas cartas de Ud. fechadas el 3 y 4 del corriente, y ya no contesto en esta a lo que en ellas me dice Ud. porque supongo que después de haber recibido mi último telegrama todo habrá quedado arreglado, es decir, el permiso del señor Tapia, Director de Aduanas, para que pudieran ser enviadas sus herramientas vía Tenosique.-

No sé si recibirá Ud. esta carta luego ó si la recogerá cuando pase de regreso a los Estados Unidos. De cualquiera manera le expreso mis mejores deseos por el éxito de sus trabajos y espero que me escriba diciéndome sus impresiones sobre los mismos.-

Lo saluda afectuosamente su amigo y seguro servidor,

~~Dr. Manuel Gamio~~
dinamarca 44.

Camp Piedras Negras, Guatemala.
April 22, 1931.

Sr. Manuel Camio,
Dinamarca #44,
Mexico, D. F.

Dear Manuel:

I have been intending for so long to write you and to thank you again for your kind letter of March 17, and for your great help in arranging the matter of our shipment. We finally got everything in and now have a very pleasant camp. Also we have received permission to export the archeological objects through Mexico, under certain regulations which were given to Ambassador Clark by the Department of Aduanas, and transmitted by Clark to me. And before I go on to tell you more about our work here, I want to mention this matter to you and again to ask your kind help, if possible, in overcoming some difficulties arising from these regulations which are, in brief, that when I am ready to ship specimens out, after terminating the work, I am to inform the Aduana in Alvaro Obregon who will send celadores to seal everything on this side and accompany the shipment to the seaport. The carrying out of these regulations is annoying "red tape" but agreeable to me as far as the small objects are concerned, but so far as they refer to the stelae, it will interfere with our work tremendously. I am sending you a copy of a letter which I wrote to the Customs in Alvaro Obregon and which, although couched in my unidiomatic Spanish, I am sure you will understand. I also sent a copy of it to Ambassador Clark and asked his aid. Would it be asking too much of your friendship to see if you could obtain some modification of the regulations so that we can take the stelae over our road to San Jose and if possible to Santa Margarita, the head-of navigation on this river, as rapidly and efficiently as we can in order to take advantage of the dry season here and the low water in the river and deliver them there to the Frontera celadores?

I am happy to report that our road is practically done now and we expect to have our wagons and ox-teams here on May 10 to begin taking the stelae out, and if the difficulties with the frontera Aduana can be settled we hope to get a number of the smaller stelae out this year.

We have a very pleasant camp here now; I wish you could visit us. We had the pleasure of entertaining Basauri and Garcia here, although the camp was not quite so comfortable then. I hope you have met them; give them my cordial regards the next time you see them. Morley and his crowd are now at Yaxchilan; they were here a few days with us as they went up three weeks ago, and they will be here again in a few days.

having rains; it rained hard last night and will probably rain today, and the Morley party got soaked several times.

of/ We have found little new of value so far. I found one new lintel with an initial series, but it was badly broken. I am now looking for the two lintels ~~and~~ the principal temple of the East Group where Maler found one and a fragment of the second. We have found several caches of ceremonial objects of chipped flint and obsidian under several stelae and altars, but nothing of great value so far. Now we are beginning to find some graves in a more distant part of the city, and hope to find some good graves with entire pottery vessels before long. There are many potsherds of fine painted pottery, but we have found no entire ones yet.

My cordial regards to yourself, your family, and to all my friends in Mexico City.

Sincerely yours,

CONSEJO SUPREMO
DE
DEFENSA Y PREVENCIÓN SOCIAL
CORRESPONDENCIA PARTICULAR
DE LOS CC. MAGISTRADOS

México, D. F., 16 mayo 1931.

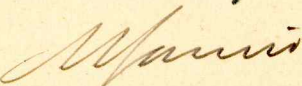
Dr. J. Alden Mason,
C/o. Francisco Villanueva,
TENOSIQUE, Tab.-

Querido Mason:-

Me refiero a su grata carta de 22 de abril próximo pasado, que no había contestado antes por no tener su dirección. Afortunadamente don Carlos Basauri vino a México y él tuvo la amabilidad de proporcionármela.-

Tan pronto como recibí su carta fui a la Secretaría de Hacienda y traté su asunto con el Subjefe de la Dirección de Aduanas, habiendo obtenido resultados favorables, pues dicho señor me manifestó -- que haciéndose el traslado de las piezas arqueológicas bajo la vigilancia de un Celador, a la Secretaría le era indiferente que se cambiara la ruta. Posteriormente supe que la Secretaría citada había girado instrucciones telegráficas en el sentido indicado. Por tal -- motivo, lo felicito a Ud.-

Espero haber dejado satisfechos sus deseos, y me repito una vez más a sus órdenes como su afectísimo, atento, amigo y seguro servidor,



Dr. Manuel Gamio
Dinamarca 44.

Tenosique, Tabasco, Mexico.
June 18, 1931.

Sr. Dr.
Manuel Gamio,
Dinamarca 44,
Mexico, D. F.

Dear Gamio:

I have intended for some time to answer your good note of May 16, but it arrived just as we were packing to leave and until the present I have been too busy.

We ended work at Piedras Negras on May 30 and spent a week in packing up, leaving there June 9 and arriving here June 10. Since that time I have been here finishing up my accounts and settling matters. This is all done now and I am ready to leave on the next boat, so while waiting for that I have a little time to answer correspondence.

We had a rather successful season, but not as complete as I hoped. Our road was not finished until about the middle of May and so we were unable to get any large stones such as stelae out. We did, however, get some of them to the end of our road, thus demonstrating that the road is feasible, and the boxed stones are now at the end of our road by the river with only a small rapid intervening between them and the head of river navigation. But the river is now so high that we cannot get them through the rapid. Possibly in August, when there will probably be three weeks of dry weather, they may be able to get them down. If you know Maler's report on Piedras Negras, a few of the stelae were divided so that we get 12, 14, and lintel 3, and stelae 36, 6 and lintel 4 go to Guatemala. The four parts of stela 12 are at the end of the road, and the others either on the road or in boxes ready to go.

Our best find of the year was lintel #3 which is by all odds the finest piece of sculpture ever found in America. I will send you a photograph of it after we get it repaired and set up. Then we found a great number of caches with those interesting ceremonial objects of chipped flint, obsidian, and some jade and shell. Lots of important architectural and technical notes and photographs, of course. Polychrome painted pottery seems to be rather rare; we found only plain sherds in the upper strata but painted sherds in the lower strata -- no complete vessels, however.

The celador from Frontera was most agreeable and reasonable and has gone back to Frontera with the greater part of the collection. I shall be there in a few days and arrange for shipment. Our funds are practically gone and it is very hard to secure funds for work in this economical crisis. I feel confident that we will be successful in securing more and will be able to remain next February to continue the work. It will be cheaper than before and more monuments out.

Alvaro Obregon, Oaxasco.
June 28, 1931.

Sr. Dr.
Manuel Gamio,
Dinamarca 44,
Mexico, D. F.

Dear Gamio:

After being held up for many days in Tenosique waiting for a boat, and also for several days here I am at last leaving in the morning for Tampa, Florida on a banana boat. I shall be glad to get home after having been away since January. I am taking with me 30 boxes of specimens for Philadelphia and for Guatemala.

It seems that every time I write you I have some favor to ask of you, and I hate to bother you. But if you have any cordial relations with the Department of Aduanas I wish you would intercede to help a poor fellow who has got himself into trouble in helping me. I refer to Sr. César Avalos, a celador of the aduana of Frontera. He came to Piedras Negras under instructions from the aduana here to conduct our shipment over the Guatemalan border and to Frontera. He was very simpático and agreeable and I liked him very much. As you understand, I sent some of the large stones, stelae, over our road across the Guatemalan-Mexican border to the end of our road in Mexico. Unfortunately, on account of the rise in the river, we are unable to get them out this year. In the last wagon load I sent several heavy stones and also the three parts of our beautiful lintel. The oxen failed and the wagons with their load had to be left in the road, half way to the end. Meanwhile, I sent the rest of the specimens, 27 small boxes, on mule back to Tenosique going out with us. I was not certain whether the three boxes left with the wagons could be brought out on mule back, since one of the weighs 151 kilos, almost too much for a mule, and so the celador took the 27 small boxes and accompanied them to Frontera. I remained behind and sent mules out who brought in the three boxes which were in the wagons and I brought them down with me. If the celador had not done these he would have had to wait ten days at my expense, and I am sure that the boxes would be brought out. Moreover they were certified by the Guatemalan inspector as of Guatemalan origin. As the Chief of the Aduana here was very angry at the time because he did not wait for the entire shipment.

ADDRESS:

Tenosique,
Tabasco,
Mexico.

Piedras Negras, Guatemala.
May 6, 1932.

Sr. Dr. Manuel Gamio;
Dinamarca #44,
Mexico, D. F.

Dear Manuelito:

I feel a bit backward about addressing a member of the Consejo Supremo in such a familiar and affectionate way, but -- sin embargo.

It has been a long time since I have written you or heard from you, but I suppose both of us are busy that we write only when we have something important to say.

In view of the present economic crisis, we feared that we would not be able to secure the funds to return to Piedras Negras this year to continue our work, but fortunately Mr. Johnson gave more funds, so here we are back. We left Philadelphia February 23 and reached here about a month later. Most of the delay was in Alvaro Obregon (Frontera), where I waited about ten days, sending out letters and telegrams to Mexico City to get permission of entry of equipment en transito to Guatemala. Finally in desperation I send a telegram appealing to you for assistance, for I did not wish to bother you unnecessarily, but just a few hours after sending it, night letter, I received the permission, so I sent another telegram cancelling it, and I presume it was not delivered to you. I thought that the permission for free entry in bond given us last year would still be good, or at any rate, that it would make the receipt of permission this year easy, but nevertheless I began writing the Director General de Aduanas in January, asking for this permission, telegraphed him from New Orleans when we were leaving, etc., but even at that I had to wait in Frontera for about ten days before the permission came. Is there any way by which such delays can be avoided and such permission received quickly? I suppose one needs to have an agent in Mexico City who will urge the matter personally. I generally write to Ambassador Clark, though I hate to bother him about such small matters, but even at that it means a long delay every time.

When I learned in Frontera that Sr. Eduardo Hay is not Director General de Aduanas, I thought that I would have less trouble, for I met him in Guatemala City in 1930, had dinner with him, and he showed me some interesting obsidian objects that he got at Tikal, and he knew all about our contract with the Guatemalan Government to work here, so I have sent him two or three personal letters, asking him to kindly to decide the question and grant us permission of export. But he has not replied to me.

The problem before me now is the question of the exportation from Alvaro Obregon (Frontera), of the archeological objects

that we send out from here, and I am hoping that I can get this permission granted by the time we get to Frontera, so that I will not have to wait there several weeks and spend a fortune in telegrams, or even have to journey to Mexico City to arrange it. Frontera is a miserable place to have to wait in, with nothing to do there, our funds are very short, and I am anxious to get home to my family. I have been writing the Direccion General de Aduanas about this for several months, also have written Ambassador Clark, my agents in Frontera (Alvaro Perez) have written and telegraphed, and I think Mr. Jayne, the Director of the Museum, has also written, but I have heard of no action to date. I dislike to ask such favors of you, but if you could urge a prompt decision on the matter, especially if you are acquainted personally with Sr. Hay, it might avoid great delay, expense and trouble for me.

Last year I think permission to import equipment and to export objects was given at the same time, but such permission, I understand, lapses after several months. We exported some small boxes last year, but the heavy things we were unable to get out. Four heavy boxes got to the end of our road last year, and they were taken to Frontera on a lumber raft in January. In spite of all letters and telegrams of myself, Alvaro Perez and Mr. Jayne, I think they are still there in the care of the Aduana, awaiting permission to ship them. These four boxes contain the four parts of stela #12, which you will find on plate XXI of Maler's report on Piedras Negras; they are going to Philadelphia. Two other large boxes were taken over the border last year, but did not get to the end of the road, on account of mud. These have now been taken to the end of our road on the river. They contain the larger part of stela #14 for us, and stela #36 for Guatemala. A few days ago we sent over the road on wagons three boxes containing the two parts of stela #40 for us, and stela #6 for Guatemala. The wagons will be back in a few days for the last load which will consist of the lower part of stela #14 for us, stela #15 for Guatemala, lintel #4 for Guatemala, four legs of altar #4, three for Guatemala and one for us, and a newly discovered small lintel for us. These will wait at the end of our road at San Jose in Mexico until the river gets high enough for lumber rafts to be built, and will then be taken down the river. When they are about ready to leave, we will send to Frontera for a celador to come up and excart them to Frontera. Of course, legally, they should have been met at the Mexican border, over which our road crosses, by the celador who should have them under his care until they reach Frontera, but since there is no habitation at the end of our road at San Jose, or at the border, and since they will probably remain in San Jose a month or more, this is impossible. Each box bears the certificate of the Inspector of the Guatemalan Government here, and so are certified as being of Guatemalan origin. We will take a few objects of light weight out with us in boxes on mules when we leave here in a few weeks, and will ask to have another celador come up very soon, to escort us, our baggage and the lighter boxes of archeological specimens to Frontera. Could you take the trouble and the time to give Sr. Hay a little urge so that permission to export will be in Frontera by the time we get there? I would appreciate it immensely.

Our luck this year has not been especially good. We suffered quite a blow two weeks ago when five buildings of our camp burnt down, including my house, another living house occupied by our engineer and another man, the drawing studio, the kitchen, and the main house with laboratory, comedor and office. We lost practically all our equipment that was not in use at the time, all our photographic films, including about 50 fine negatives that I had made, all correspondence and other papers except our field notes, all drawing instruments, etc., etc. But we have ordered more films which we expect to arrive very soon now, and we are carrying on with the work. My assistant, Mr. Satterthwaite, is studying especially the principal hill covered with structures and called by Maler the "Acropolis". Then he is carefully excavating the principal ball-court and finding many new features. Ball-courts were certainly not a late feature introduced by the Toltecs, as heretofore presumed. He found a burial in a vault in a very prominent place, with much fine burial objects with it, including much jade and the largest pyrite mosaic mirror I ever heard of, 25 cm. in diameter. No gold, indicating, as heretofore supposed, that gold was unknown in the Old Maya Empire. We have found a new lintel, in addition to the fine one found last year, this one not being very good or well preserved, but containing the earliest date so far found here: 9.3.19.12.10. I found a number of fine caches of asymmetrical flints, obsidians, jades and shell objects in caches, but almost all were burnt in the fire. I have been digging deep into two pyramids, and ascertaining that there were many periods of construction with floors and walls later covered with newer ones, but haven't found any good buried temple such as that at Uaxactun yet. The lower and earlier rooms are very large and without any trace of vaults, and must have been covered with a timber roof.

Our funds are running very short now and as we must not exceed our budget, we are planning on discharging most of the men very soon, and then spending a week or two in photography and studies, and will probably leave here before the end of May. We return from Frontera on a boat of the Standard Fruit Company, but I understand that some of these boats, if not all of them, stop at Vera Cruz on their way back. If so, I will try to stop over for one boat and run up to Mexico City to see you and other old friends. Possibly I shall have to do so anyway to see about permission to export, but if in the meantime you will see if you can do anything to get this permission, I will appreciate it immensely.

With my cordial regards to your family and to all my friends in Mexico City, believe me as ever

Sincerely yours,

México, D. F., 10. junio 1932.-

Dr. J. Alden Mason,
TENOSIQUE, Tab.-

Querido amigo:

Estuve fuera de la capital cuando llegó su carta de mayo 6, por lo que desgraciadamente no me pude ocupar de su asunto con la oportunidad que hubiera deseado.

Ya hablé con el Jefe de la Sección de Aduanas, a quien corresponde resolver su asunto. Este señor me indicó que desde el día 10 de mayo, telegrafió a Ud. indicándole que ya estaba arreglado lo referente al paso de los 119 bultos conteniendo menaje y otras cosas y de las piedras que usted solicitaba, y que así lo había comunicado por telégrafo, habiendo enviado las órdenes a la Aduana de Frontera. Esto se lo comunicó a Ud. dicho Jefe de Sección el mismo día 10.

Supongo que ya estará usted en conocimiento de todo lo anterior.

Respecto al pago de almacenaje de los cuatro bultos que dejó Ud. depositados en la Aduana desde hace algún tiempo, él cree que si será necesario que pague Ud. los derechos; pero sin embargo está estudiando el asunto para acordarlo próximamente con el Sr. Hay y hacérselo saber en seguida. De cualquiera manera, yo creo que esto es menos importante, pues en último caso se resolverá con que Ud. pague algunos pesos.

Siento muchísimo los trastornos que ha tenido usted en sus trabajos, que realmente deberían de haber sido premiados -- por el entusiasmo con que los ha llevado a cabo.

Sabe usted que yo estoy dispuesto a ayudarlo con todo gusto, de modo que no dude en dirigirse a mí. Conozco bastante al General Hay y si no lo ví para arreglar esto fué porque el citado Jefe de Sección de Aduanas, me indicó que ya no había necesidad.

Tendré mucho gusto en verlo en esta capital para estrechar su mano y recordar los viejos tiempos en que Mechling y Ud. tenían tan bien adquirida fama de tenorios.

Lo saluda afectuosamente su amigo y seguro servidor.

Dr. Manuel Gamio.



TELEGRAFOS NACIONALES
ESTADOS UNIDOS MEXICANOS
TELEGRAMA



3563 Mexico *17 Junio*
22 W 201 sup 21-15 Depositado *as*
Recibido *9 25 sh*

J. Alden Mason Tenenique
Estoy enfermo por lo que
harta hoy telegrafic, a partmaa
mente hablé y en precisió
quien dijeme telegrafaria
Junio doce favorablemente
a su solicitud. atto

Todo telegrama debe llevar el sello de la Oficina.
Lea Ud. el reverso: le interesa conocer los diferentes servicios que le ofrece el Telégrafo.

M. M. Benito

Dr. Manuel Gamio,
Dinamarca 44,
Mexico, D. F.

J. Alden Mason

Tenosique, Junio 11 de 1932.

CARTA NOCTURNA

Suya recibida muchísimas gracias Punto Ahora hay otra dificultad que jefe
aduana Obregon rehusa mandar delador sin instrucciones /especiales del
Director Punto Ya salimos de Piedras Negras dejando allí cajas arqueológicas
y tengo que esperar aquí hasta arreglar este asunto Punto Hace dias que
estamos urgiendo asunto y suplicole ayudarme arreglarlo pronto para salirme
Afectuosamente

55

J. Alden Mason

Tenosique, Tabasco
15 de Junio de 1932.

Sr. Dr.
Manuel Gamio,
Dinamarca 44,
México, D. F.

Querido Manuelito mío:

Como tengo que quedarme aquí para no sé cuánto tiempo, gozando del deporte popular de ésta, él de esperarse, tengo gusto en escribirle una carta en español para que Ud. sepa cuanto adelantamiento he logrado hacer en la práctica del hermoso idioma de Cervantes y de Ud. en los veinte años que han pasados desde la fecha cuando llegué por primera vez en México, y no podía decir ni papas. Pues bien.

Recibí la agradable de Ud. del 1º del actual y tenía mucho gusto en recibirlo. Pocos días después le mandé un telegrama, fechada Junio 11, a la cual todavía no he recibido contestación, pero tengo esperanzas de recibirlo pronto.

Parece a mí que siempre se mezclaban las dos partes de mis peticiones ante la Aduana, la de importar los víveres y instrumentos, y la de exportar las piedras arqueológicas. Recibí dos cartas de la Dirección general de Aduanas, del 18 de Abril, avisándome que se había dado permiso para la entrada de los bultos de menaje (los cuales ya hace algunas semanas estaban en el campamento) pero nunca he recibido noticias del permiso para exportar las piedras, y no recibí ninguna comunicación de fecha Mayo 10. Sin embargo, por fin se dió permiso para la exportación de las piedras, porque salieron más o menos el 16 de Mayo. Tengo esperanzas que el permiso así dado incluye las cajas arqueológicas que tenemos para exportar este año y que cuando llego en Obregón estará todo arreglado sin necesidad que yo me quede allí más tiempo arreglándolo.

En mi última carta, para que Ud. sepa bien todo el caso, en caso que yo tuviera que solicitar que me ayude otra vez, le di todos los detalles del asunto. Desgraciadamente, otra vez tengo que pedirle ayuda, como expliqué laconicamente en mi telegrama de cuatro días ha.

Las condiciones del permiso de exportación que se me concedió el año pasado fueron que cuando estaba listo para salir, que avisara a la aduana de Obregón para que mande un celador para acompañar la carga hasta aquella. Así se hizo en junio pasado sin ningunas dificultades. Este año fijé la fecha de la salida del campamento al 5 de junio y en buen tiempo escribí a la aduana de Obregón que mande el celador. Cuando se aproximaba el día de salir de Tenosique para el campamento y no había aparecido el celador, mi agente en ésta, Sr. Francisco Villanueva, telegrafíabam la aduana preguntándoles que porqué no había venido el celador. Por fin le contestaron que no había recibido ningún pedido y le aconsejó que haga el pedido ante la Dirección en México. Así hizo, al mismo tiempo telegrafíando a la casa de Alvaro Pérez en Obregón, suplicándoles que pidan a la aduana mandar un celador en seguida, pero el jefe contestó que nomlo mandará hasta que no reciba instrucciones especiales de la capital.

Los víveres en el campamento eran casi acabados, como habíamos arreglado para la salida más o menos el primero de junio, y por eso cuando me aseguré de que no viniera el celador pronto, salimos del campamento viernes el 10, llegando aquí el mismo día. Los otros salieron con su equipaje domingo el 12, dejandome solo aquí hasta que se arregle este asunto, y desde sábado hasta hoy aquí estoy esperandome, escribiendo y telegraphiando a todo el mundo para arreglarlo.

Pues bien, en este mismo momento llegó un telegrama de Obregón avisandome que saldrán dos celadores, probablemente mañana, y así está arreglado por fin. No necesito ellos, pero tengo que pagar sus sueldos y gastos. Como están creciendo rápidamente el río y los arroyos, había decidido traer las cajas para ésta, y si la aduana exige, será un viaje muy desagradable para los celadores, por esto voy a mandar un telegrama al jefe de la aduana pidiendole que me permite mandar traer las cajas para ésta; si accede, podré salir domingo el 18. Creo que saldré yo en esta fecha, aunque los celadores tengan que quedarse algunos días para la próxima embarcación.

Creo que fue por su ayudo que se arregló por fin el asunto y por esto muchísimas gracias.

No tengo más para añadir a la información de nuestros trabajos que le di en mi última carta. No sé si llegaré en la capital para saludarle este año o no. Mis sinceros saludes a su familia y a Ud.

Afectuosamente suyo

Sábado, Junio 13, 1932.

Acaba de llegar su telegrama. Mil gracias para su ayudo. Probablemente mañana llegarán los celadores y saldremos con la carga lunes. La aduana me concedió permiso traer para ésta las cajas y probablemente llegarán en las mulas hoy, o si no, mañana por cierto. También me avisó que el permiso dado para la exportación de las cajas que estaban en Frontera incluye la carga que llevo ahora, de modo que no habra razón para ningún demora en aquella, y probablemente saldré de A. Obregon dentro de pocos días.

Hoy voy a mandar por correo un paquete de objetos arqueológicos que compré y conseguí en Jonuta a la Dirección de Monumentos Prehispánicos para cumplir mi deber de no extraer objetos arqueológicos de procedencia mexicana.

Afectuosamente,