

[1931?]

A sort of rough estimate of what might happen in getting out about 1,500 trees at Piedras Negro.

Cost of two large tractores at Obregon-----	\$ 12,000.00
Two Athey truss wheel wagons ,, -----	6,000.00
Four heavy 8 wheel ,, ,, -----	3,000.00
Guat.stumpage at \$6.00 per tree,-----	9,000.00
Chains and miss.-----	2,000.00
	<u>32,000.00</u> U.S. Doll.

Freight about 30 tons Obregon to San José,----	\$ 2,000.00
Road work San José to Piedras Negro,-----	12,000.00
Cost of cutting and hauling about 60 pesos per ton, and the 1,500 trees should produce 3,500 ton	
	210,000.00
Catching, and handling to Obregon, \$-6.00 p. ton	<u>21,000.00</u>
Pesos-----	\$ 245,000.00 M.S.

3,500 tons at \$ 40.00 per ton \$ 140,000.00

Now you add on these expences the accustomed 25% that one should do when he is making his calculation and it may come out about that way. "But even with that it is not very sure.

Present rate of exchange, \$245,000.00 pesos---	\$ 49,000.00	U.S.
	<u>32,000.00</u>	
	81,000.00	
25 % ---	<u>20,250.00</u>	
	\$ 101,250.00	

Add transit charge 8.00 pesos per log (Mexico).

1500
 A sort of rough estimate of what might happen in getting out about 1,500 trees at Piedras Negro.

Tractor 30.00
 Cost of two large tractors at Oregon ----- \$ 12,000.00
 Two Athey truss wheel wagons ----- " " 8,000.00
 Four heavy 8 wheel " " ----- " " 2,000.00
 Gust. stumps at \$8.00 per tree ----- " " 9,000.00
 Chains and misc. ----- " " 2,000.00
 \$2,000.00 U.S. Bill

Freight about 30 tons Oregon to San Jose, --- \$ 2,000.00
 Road work San Jose to Piedras Negro, ----- 12,000.00
 Cost of cutting and hauling about 30 years per ton, and the 1,500 trees should produce 3,000 ton
 Catching, and handling to Oregon, \$-6.00 p. ton
 210,000.00
 21,000.00

 \$ 245,000.00 U.S.
 3,000 tons at \$ 40.00 per ton \$ 140,000.00

Now you add on these expenses the accustomed 25% that one should do when he is making his calculation and it may come out about that way. "But even with that it is not very sure."

Present rate of exchange, \$245,000.00 pesos --- \$ 49,000.00 U.S.
 32,000.00
 81,000.00
 29,250.00

 \$ 101,250.00

All harvest charge & cost per log (Mexico)

[1931?]

Some idea of the cost of getting monuments from Piedras to Obregon.

Putting road in condition to get over with wagons from San José to Piedras Negro-----	\$6,000 pesos
Cost of hauling per ton \$50.00. 60 ton-----	3,000
Taking equipment in to San José with barge.-----	2,000
Taking monuments from San José to Obregon,-----	2,000
Arranging in Tabasco for the equipment-----	5,000
60 tons of rock is about 900 cub.ft.and would require close to 2,000 ft.of boards.Would cost close to-----	600
	<u> </u>
Mex.Pesos	\$ 18,600.00

The road might be repaired for a little less, and the equipment could be had here in Tabasco might cost less than 5,000 pesos, if you had to bring it from the U.S. It would cost at least \$ 5,000 dollars.

Lumber for the boxes, it would take a couple pretty good men to average 30 ft. per day. And if you cut the timber up the river you can float it down. Most everything here is done backwards, "but the river don't run up.

I think that I have made the estimate plenty high on everything. In taking out only 30 tons would cost you 17,100 pesos or less as you would require only half the ammt. of boards. Q

But the getting in of the equipment, building of the road and taking the monuments down the river on a barge would be about the same.

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM

INTERDEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Miss Mc Hugh

DATE: Jany 13

Please write a letter to the Purchasing Department of the University stating that we understand an arrangement has been made with Prof. Grandlienard of the Civil Engineering Department by which we are to be sold a transit and tripod for \$100.

Please enclose check for this sum and ask that we be notified when we may apply to Prof. Grandlienard for the instrument.

Expenses to be applied to the Johnson Maya Expedition.

ep

FROM:

John Mason

REPLY WANTED
NOT WANTED

IF A REPLY IS CALLED FOR KINDLY USE REVERSE OF THIS SHEET

C O P Y

SECRETARIA
DE
EDUCACION PUBLICA

DEPENDENCIA. DEPTO. DE MONUMENTOS
ARTISTICOS, ARQ. E HISTORICOS.

SECCION JEFATURA

EXPEDIENTE IX-/097.22(726-4)/-1

México, D. F., a 23 de enero de 1931.

Sr. Alden J. Mason,
Universidad de Pensylvania,
Filadelfia, E. U. A.

Estimado señor Mason:

Es en mi ~~poder~~ poder su carta del 13 del presente, en la que me participa usted que el equipo de esa Universidad con destino a las ruinas de Piedras Negras, sale de Nueva Orleans el 30 del presente.

El permiso para el tránsito por Territorio mexicano, referente a los objetos arqueológicos procedentes de Guatemala, ya fué dado por la Secretaría de Educación y en este sentido se participa a la Secretaría de Hacienda, con la condición única de que, a la salida de la expedición las cajas deberán ser revisadas en el puerto de salida. Para la entrada del equipo deberá usted dirigirse a la Secretaría de Hacienda, a fin de que permita la introducción en tránsito de dicho equipo.

~~###~~

Reitero a usted las seguridades de mi atenta consideración.

EL JEFE DEL DEPARTAMENTO

José Reygadas Vértiz.

(Translation of second paragraph)

The permission for the transit through Mexican territory, regarding the archeological objects of Guatemalan provenance, has now been given by the Secretariat of Education, and this decision has been communicated to the Secretariat of Hacienda, with the sole condition that, upon the departure of the expedition, the boxes must be examined at the port of embarkation. Regarding the entry of equipment, you should address the Secretariat of Hacienda, so that the importation of the said equipment in transit may be permitted.

(The third paragraph refers to the Merida Museum where I requested permission for Miss Baker to paint vessels)

(Translation of excerpt from personal letter from Dr. Manuel Gamio, dated Mexico City, January 24.)

"The chief of the pertinent section (of the Secretariat of Hacienda) has indicated to me that Monday or Tuesday he will give the favorable decision, so that I believe that when you arrive at Progreso you will have the order for the passage of your objects."

En Route to New Orleans,
January 24, 1931.

University Museum,
Philadelphia, Penna.,

Attention Miss McHugh,

Dear Miss McHugh:

I had intended checking over all requisitions made by me for the Guatamalan Expedition so that the bills could be paid with no question about the receipt of the goods. In the rush of getting off on rather short notice I was unable to do this, and since I failed to make copies of my own requests for requisitions, and invoices from the stores are by no means complete, I may possibly have omitted something from the enclosed memorandum, though I do not think so. It is made up from my original list of equipment and supplies, on which I tried to note all orders and all deliveries. Any bill which does not disagree violently with my memorandum should be paid, discrepancies to be adjusted later. I very much regret not being able to check all this with the requisitions before me.

You will note my memorandum as to the Huston Club bill. I am particularly anxious that this be attended to, as these people were very nice in the matter of ordering special things, getting out a bill ahead of time and so forth, and I had said I would call for the bill. I spoke to Dr. Mason about all this, but he will be very busy and I thought it best to write to you as well. I regretted the necessity of leaving in a rush without paying my respects to you and to Mr. Jayne. I just about made the bank before closing.

Faithfully yours,

Julius Tallentire

UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA
JAN 24 1931

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

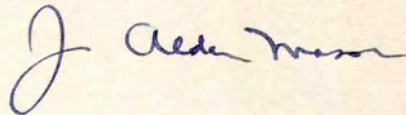
January 26, 1931

Dear Miss McHugh:

My mailing and forwarding address will be
c/o Sr. Francisco Villanueva, Tenosique, Tabasco, Mexico.
After a few weeks the mail authorities there will know
the name and it will not be necessary after a short time
to send things c/o Villanueva.

Please send my salary checks to the account
of Florence R. Mason at the Main Line National Bank,
Wayne, Pa.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Allen Mason". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".



SECRETARIA
DE
HACIENDA Y CREDITO
PUBLICO

Reg. E-958.

DEPENDENCIA	DIRECCION GENERAL ADUANAS.
SECCION	
MESA	31-1-381.
NUMERO DEL OFICIO	313.6"30"-4.
EXPEDIENTE	

ASUNTO: TRANSITO DE MERCANCIAS.- Tránsito de efectos por territorio nacional para y de Guatemala.

México, D. F., a 29 de enero de 1931.

Al C. Secretario
de Educación Públicas.
Depto. de Monumentos Artísticos,
Arqueólogos e Históricos.
P r e s e n t e.

Oficio No. 309 de 23 del actual.

Habiendo dado cuenta a la Secretaría de Hacienda, con la atenta nota de usted arriba citada, que se relaciona con la solicitud hecha por el Sr. Alden Mason de la Universidad de Pensilvania, para conducir en tránsito internacional algunos efectos destinados a una expedición arqueológica en la vecina República de Guatemala y el tránsito por nuestro propio territorio de los objetos extraídos de las ruinas, punto final de la expedición, la propia superioridad resolvió que conforme a la Ley, no es posible autorizar el tránsito de que se trata.

Tengo el honor de hacer lo anterior del conocimiento de usted, para los efectos a que haya lugar, reiterándole mi consideración atenta.

SUPRAGIO EFECTIVO. NO REELECCION

EL DIRECTOR.

J. M. Tapia
J. M. Tapia.



c.c.p. la Sría. de Relaciones Exteriores, Depto. de Contabilidad y Glosa, como resultado de su correograma No. 275 de 22 del actual.
c.c.p. The University Museum.- University of Pennsylvania.- Philadelphia, E.U.A., con ref. a su nota de 27 de diciembre de 1930.

[Handwritten signature]
MFB/ec.

AL CONTESTAR ESTE OFICIO, CITENSE LOS DATOS CONTENIDOS EN EL CUADRO DEL ANGULO SUPERIOR DERECHO.

Having given an account to the Treasury Department, with your courteous note above cited, which has to do with the request made by Mr. Alden Mason of the University of Pennsylvania, for conducting in international transit some goods intended for an archaeological expedition in the neighboring Republic of Guatemala and the transit through our territory of the objects extracted from the ruins, final aim of the expedition, the proper authority decided that according to the Law, it is not possible to authorize the transit in question.

I have the honor to bring the foregoing to your knowledge, for whatever the results may be, reiterating my respectful consideration.

an
Answer
is
expected
by the sender of this
message. Please give
it to the messenger or
telephone it to
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2472-D

REQUESTED TO FAVOR THE COMPANY BY CRITICISM AND SUGGESTION CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

12018

WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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NM = Night Message
NL = Night Letter
LCO = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
WLT = Week-End Letter

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

Woodland Avenue, Philadelphia, Penn.

52P FMY 10

NEWORLEANS LA 1232P JAN 29

UNIVERSITY MUSEUM

34 AND SPRUCE

WIRE ME IMMEDIATELY TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS CARE HIBERNIA BANK NEWORLEANS

MABON

150P

Wire money through Brown Brothers Jan. 29 - 3: PM.

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

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PUB. BY NEW ORLEANS NEWS CO., NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Friday 7/30/31.

Going down the Mississippi -
this will go off at the
Gulf with the pilot. The
wind \$2.00 covered just as
we were leaving for the boat
this afternoon and after
we had raised the extra
funds needed by personal check.
Thanks for it. All well
soon.

TECHNOR QUALITY VIEWS

119618

POST CARD



1931
THIS SPACE FOR ADDRESS ONLY

L.A.

Miss Jane M. McHugh
University Museum
33d & Spruce Sts
Philadelphia.



The St. Charles

ALFRED S. AMER & CO., LTD.
PROPRIETORS

NEW ORLEANS

January 30, 1931.

ALFRED S. AMER, VICE-PRES. & GEN. MGR.

JAMES (PAT) O'SHAUGHNESSY, MANAGER

Dear Jayne:

The Munplace will probably leave for Progreso, Yucatan, this afternoon at 3:00 or so, so this will be a busy day. Satterthwaite and his wife have been very busy the last few days and there is still much to be done. The Fritzoe, which was to have sailed yesterday with our cargo for Carmen, apparently sails very irregularly and her next sailing is scheduled for the 5th with probable arrival at Carmen about the 12th, and she will probably be several days late. That will delay our starting up the river somewhat, but will give the Satterthwaites time to see the ruins in Yucatan, or some of them.

The total of the equipment purchased here, mainly foods and hardware, is several hundred dollars more than we estimated, so yesterday I sent you a telegram asking to have \$200 wired me. I hope it will be here this morning. Since we will be rushed to get boxes finished before our boat leaves, and since the equipment purchased here will not be sent to the dock for the freight boat until after we leave, they will not be able to figure freight charges, and I have instructed the Munson Steamship line to send the freight bill to you for payment from the funds left there, that being simpler than for us to pay their Mexican agent in Carmen with Mexican currency.

Cordial regards to all.

J. Amer



The St. Charles

ALFRED S. AMER & CO., LTD.
PROPRIETORS

NEW ORLEANS

ALFRED S. AMER, VICE-PRES. & GEN. MGR.

JAMES (PAT) O'SHAUGHNESSY, MANAGER

P. S. The radio which I ordered has not come yet, but will probably come before the freight boat sails. If the company sends you the bill of lading, please send it on to the Munson Steamship Line, Pere Marquette Building, New Orleans. Of course Miss McHugh knows all about how to arrange for such shipments to us.

Apparently the matter of transport through Mexico is all right now. You understood perfectly the import of the letter which arrived for me the afternoon after I had left and which I got that evening. Permission to export archeological objects is granted, but they must be inspected at the point of shipment from Mexico. Also the Mexican Consul here received orders from Washington to afford us every facility, and advice that the customs authorities in Mexico had been instructed to the same point.

Cordially

J. Allen Mason

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

February 2, 1931

Dear Mason:

Your letter of January 30th from New Orleans has just come and we shall follow your directions about the freight bill and so on. A cable from Wyer arrived on Saturday but you will have seen him by the time you have this, and there was no way to reach you immediately. I enclose a copy of it, however, for your records.

A letter from Morley has just come in which he says:

"When Alden Mason was here last March we gave him a hypodermic outfit to take to Piedras Negras with him. Our trained nurse tells me that this is the only outfit we now have, or rather haven't, and I wonder if you would ask him to bring down another outfit, or the same one, and send it to me here at Chichen Itza by registered mail as soon as he reaches Mexico. It would be better to send it from some Mexican post-office than to attempt to get it through the mails into Mexico as there would be some ghastly duty to pay on it if mailed from the States."

Do as you think best about it.

You may be glad to know that we are straightening out the Eskimaux Hall; otherwise nothing has happend since you left. Best to the Satterthwaites.

Yours always,



Dr. J. Alden Mason
c/o Senor Francisco Villanueva
Tenosique, Tabasco
Mexico

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

THE ELDRIDGE R. JOHNSON
MIDDLE AMERICAN EXPEDITION
TENOSIQUE, TABASCO, MEXICO

J. ALDEN MASON
FIELD DIRECTOR

Hotel Itzá,
Mérida, Yucatán.
Wednesday, February 4, 1931.

Dear Jayne:

We arrived in Progreso after a pleasant voyage on Sunday night and here Monday noon. Since our cargo is delayed we decided to see Chichen Itza and Morley, and went there yesterday and returned today. They are not doing much work there this year but spending their time writing their reports so we could not study their methods of work. Morley has a wonderful place there; it is too de luxe to call it a camp. There was a great joke on Morley today, good enough to live eternally in a book of travel. He told one of his Chinese servants that he needed another Chinaman, "otro Chino"; with Morley's poor accent the Chink misunderstood him as saying "ocho" instead of "otro", so at noon today eight Chinese with their bags and happy at the prospects of good jobs appeared at the hacienda, and seven had to be sent back to Mérida at the expense of the Carnegie. Morley reminded me that when I was here a year ago going to P. N. he lent me one of their hypodermic outfits which I promised to return to him. I gave all my medical equipment to Wyer when I left him in Guatemala and sent him on the job and entirely forgot about the syringe. Morley asks me to ask you to buy one, a good one, from the funds of this expedition, and send it to Mr. Thomas R. Johnson, Department of Historical Research, Carnegie Institution, 909 Towers Building, Washington, D. C., with instructions to turn it over to Kidder who will bring it down with him when he comes here soon.

The money which I wired you for was late in coming, but Satterthwaite put in all his personal funds which got us by. Howard's brother brought us the \$200 you wired, to the hotel just as we were taking a taxi to the boat. In New Orleans I saw Sanborn, from whom we bought equipment, and he gave me permission to buy whatever else I needed from his stores near Tenosique, and instructions how to take delivery on what we had bought. He seemed quiet, depressed and pessimistic about his lumber business, but still it was a great surprise and shock to me to find a telegram from Blom awaiting me here tonight after our return from Chichen: CUMMINGS SANBORN LUMBERMAN COMMITTED SUICIDE TODAY REASON FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES, dated yesterday the 3d. It may interfere with our purchases, but on the other hand I think everything is all right and we may get more of his stuff very cheap. He thought we would have so much trouble hauling the stela with oxen that we would finally decide to buy one of his big caterpillar tractors. I will write to Blom to keep me informed of the settlement of his business.

The letter received from Mexico the day I left was interpreted correctly by you. We may take out archeological objects through Mexico but they must be examined at the port of shipment. The Mexican consul in New Orleans had received advices from Washington to render us all possible help and that instructions had been sent to Progreso to admit our equipment. He wired back that similar instructions should be sent to Carmen. But when we arrived in Progreso no such instructions had been received. Typically Mexican. But we got through with no difficulty.

Our equipment will, I am afraid, be much delayed. We were very unwise in trusting to the regularity of a small freight boat to a small port. We were informed that the boat would sail on the 29th of January. Instead it sailed on its previous trip on the 24th and arrived in Carmen yesterday the 3d, a ten days' trip. In New Orleans they told us the next trip would be on the 5th, but my correspondent in Carmen, Mr. Leslie Moore, wires me that the next scheduled leaving from New Orleans is the 12th, which is probably more likely. If she sails then and takes ten days she will reach Carmen on the 22d. So we have decided that the best thing to do is to go immediately to Tenosique, leaving Mr. Moore to get the stuff through customs and send it up the river to us as soon as possible, and meanwhile we will be getting the camp ready, clearing and getting ready to work as soon as the equipment arrived in Tenosique. I am depressed at this delay, for the spring rains will come just the same as usual, but there is now way of hurrying the stuff now. It is the first time I have ever had to monkey with small irregular freight boats, and I won't make the same mistake again.

~~The~~ So we will spend tomorrow arranging a number of things in this city. If there is a boat from Campeche to Carmen Saturday we will take a run down to Uxmal Friday, but if there is a boat Friday and none Saturday we will pass up the Uxmal trip and go down Friday night.

I think that is all for the present. Cordial regards to all.

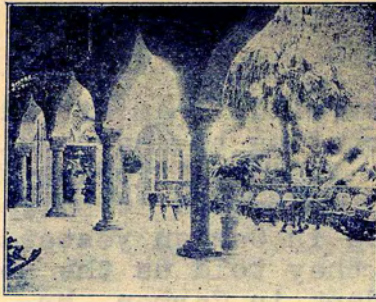
Sincerely yours,

James M. Moore

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YUCATAN, MEXICO



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PRIVATE
BATHS
MAYA MUSEUM
RESTAURANT

regular freight boats, and I won't make the same mistake again. It is the first time I have ever had to monkey with small boats. Just the same as usual, but there is now way of hurrying the stuff. I am depressed at this delay, for the spring rains will come and getting ready to work as soon as the equipment arrives in Yucatan as possible, and meanwhile we will be getting the camp ready, clearing the stuff through customs and send it up the river to us as soon as possible. So we have decided that the best thing to do is to go immediately to Tancasique, leaving Mr. Moore to get the stuff through customs and send it up the river to us as soon as possible. I think that is all for the present. Cordial regards to all.

John

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

THE ELDRIDGE R. JOHNSON
MIDDLE AMERICAN EXPEDITION
TENOSIQUE, TABASCO, MEXICO

J. ALDEN MASON
FIELD DIRECTOR

Ciudad del Carmen de la Laguna
(Bottom of the Gulf of Mexico)
February 9, 1931.

Dear Boss:

We arrived here yesterday and couldn't do much business since it was Sunday, but today we have got about all our business done and expect to leave early tomorrow morning on a large schooner for up the river. I am somewhat reconciled at the delay by the fact that it has rained most of the day here and almost certainly has rained harder at Tenosique and it is probably still too early to work there efficiently; the roads are probably still bad. Mr. Leslie Moore of this city has given us tremendous help in every way. He will act as my local agent and may be written to when necessary. He will receive our shipment when it comes in ten days or so and send it up the river to us. Meanwhile we have bought a few extra necessities ~~to~~ to tide us over until it comes.

I met a man tonight who went up the river with Wyer a few weeks ago. Wyer's wife was with him and everyone seems to like them both. He apparently pitched right in and got the stuff we had bought from Sanborn and took it up river. I thought we would have some trouble about that and we may yet. I should have told Wyer not to take it until Sanborn's agent in the seaport of Frontera legally turned it over and so released Sanborn from his bond. I wired the agents and they replied that since Wyer had taken whatever he wished without their knowledge and consent they would not follow out Sanborn's instructions or have anything more to do with it. (He had instructed them to let me have whatever else I wanted and pay a reasonable price for it.) Sanborn's suicide complicates matters greatly and we may run up against some Mexican law and violate it unintentionally. But Moore sent a personal telegram to them and they relented and said that they would send an agent up the river on the next boat to take a receipt from me for the goods that Wyer has taken. I think that it will be straightened up amicably.

I think that is all for the present. All are well and happy and in love with this country and its people. Cordial regards to all.

Sincerely

J. Alden Mason

*Please give enclosed
to Miss Baker.*

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

February 10, 1931

Dear Mason:

We were all glad to get your letter of February 4th from Merida, although we were sorry to hear of the troubles you have had with baggage and delays, as well as the unhappy incident regarding Sanborn. I hope you will carefully weigh the idea of purchasing a tractor since all things considered I should believe it better to defer such a purchase till next season, because of the expense, any try to get along as well as possible without it. I enclose a new communication from the Hacienda Department which disturbs me since, with my poor understanding of Spanish, it seems to reverse the earlier communication telephoned you the day you left. I hope not. If it does, I shall have to get after Reuben Clark again.

I note your instructions regarding the hypodermic outfit and I shall have one bought and sent to Mr. Johnson.

You will be glad to know that Heye came through with \$2000 for Gregory Mason's trip to Colombia jointly with us, so he will be off the latter part of March. His lecture was most successful and interesting and his still pictures particularly fine. Madeira treated Mason and Smith to a fine party that evening; I wasn't able to go but I saw Madeira the following day and he was feeling somewhat feeble.

We are making some progress with the rearrangements of your section chiefly because Miss Creaghead complained of the impossibility of entering the Eskimo room with her classes. What we have already placed of the South American material in the front hall cases looks like a million dollars. You'll be pleased I think.

Otherwise no developments. Miss Butler was inspired by hope when you told her there was a possibility you might have to send for her: but she does not know whether to take it seriously or not. I shall be away for a fortnight starting next week but I shall expect interesting reports from you when I return. My best to the Satterthwaites and yourself,

Always yours sincerely



Dr. J. Alden Mason
c/o Sr. Francisco Villanueva
Tenosique
Tabasco, Mexico

All dutiable goods sent to us should be marked U. Pa. Museum, Carmen; in transit to Guatemala."

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

THE ELDRIDGE R. JOHNSON
MIDDLE AMERICAN EXPEDITION
TENOSIQUE, TABASCO, MEXICO

J. ALDEN MASON
FIELD DIRECTOR

Montecristo, Tabasco, Mexico.

February 12, 1931.

Dear Jayne:

Wyer
We are getting up towards Tenosique now, but held up here a few days. We reached a hacienda a short ways below here yesterday and phoned to this town to learn that Wyer was on his way down in the motor boat we bought from Sanborn which is a beauty and a great bargain; I have an applicant for its purchase already. ~~Wyer~~ came down and brought us to this town. We have to wait here for an employee of the company who were Sanborn's agents to come here and settle the matter of the purchase. So I thought it would be a good opportunity for the Satterthwaites to ride in and see the ruins of Palenque near here. They left this morning, will spend tomorrow at the ruins and return Saturday while Wyer and I wait here. The agent should arrive tonight. I think the matter of the things bought and taken from Sanborn's stock will be amicably arranged. The culpability is mine for instructing Wyer to take them. All of Sanborn's papers were taken up river in the safe and filing cabinet which I bought and the agent will have to go up there to get them.

Wyer says he wrote me frequently but the letters were not received. It has been raining considerably up there and the road has not yet been recommenced or the camp built yet. Mrs Wyer is in Tenosique. The Guatemalan inspector is in the Guatemalan village nearest the ruins. Wyer says he is a good fellow and was appointed fiscal agent at the little village on the frontier with instructions to act as representative at the ruins at the same time. His salary is to be agreed upon between us so that the more I pay him, and apparently his expectations are not great, the more favors we will receive. Altogether everything looks very promising now. I have great liking for and confidence in Wyer. He seems to be able to do everything in practical bush engineering, is most likeable and not afraid to take responsibility in the urgent things.

I think Wyer was to have been sent another \$300 February 4, but it had not been received when he left Tenosique yesterday. If it has not been sent, hold it and I will take care of it. I think it would be well to send me remittances by wire as I ask for them and not definite sums on definite dates. I do not think I will need so much or so soon. I borrowed \$300 pesos of Moore in Carmen and have not touched by draft for \$3000 dollars yet. When I talk with Francisco Villanueva, the merchant in Tenosique, I will decide how the next remittance to me should be sent. We have been a long time in getting to Piedras Negras, but according to Wyer it is still a little too early to begin work. He tells me he sent me a telegram advising me to delay my departure on this account.

Cordial regards to all.

Sincerely yours,

J. Alden Mason

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

THE ELDRIDGE R. JOHNSON
MIDDLE AMERICAN EXPEDITION
TENOSIQUE, TABASCO, MEXICO

J. ALDEN MASON
FIELD DIRECTOR

Tenosique, February 17, 1931.

Dear Jayne:

This is Shrove Tuesday, Mardi Gras, or Carnaval as it is called here, and the day of joyousness. Strangely, I was here last year at the same time. Tomorrow, Ash Wednesday, we start into the woods on our two days trip to Piedras Negras. Wyer and his wife arrived this morning in the launch with the Satterthwaites whom we had left further down river while they rode in to see the ruins of Palenque.

The matter of Sanborn's equipment was arranged very amicably, and we may take whatever else we wish. We were unable to get the safe opened while Sanborn's representative was here however, although the combination given was the same in several different examples, and we were unable to turn over Sanborn's papers. We may never get it open, in which case the safe will be of no use to us. Both of the Wyers are most agreeable and we look forward to a very pleasant time together. He is very efficient in everything, and she is very "simpática" as they say here. I think there is nothing to report to you except three things which I will mention.

I received on arrival here a forwarded letter from Robert Merrill. He was one of Blom's engineers and photographers during his work at Uxmal. He must be a good one, for Blom's work there was unusually good, and Merrill has an office as consulting engineer in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He said that since his work with Blom, and a course last summer with MacCurdy in Europe, he is so enthusiastically interested in archeology that he will take a place with any expedition as engineer and photographer without compensation. He met Fewkes in Europe and Fewkes mentioned the proposed work at Trenton. Merrill apparently had not heard of my expedition here. I think he might be very useful here if he will come without compensation. Satterthwaite and I had expected to do the photography, but I would be glad to turn that job over to someone else. And Wyer, I think, is more of a practical engineer and his time will be mainly occupied in finishing the road and superintending the transportation over it. Probably Merrill would do a better job making the plans, maps and drawings of the ruins. I have written to ask him if he would join us on terms of expenses and no compensation, and also have written to Blom to ask if his work was satisfactory and his company agreeable. I also suggested to Merrill that he write you concerning other expeditions, giving his experience and training.

I enclose a letter from Mrs. Painter, the daughter of a late well-known dealer in American Indian and other antiquities. Miss McHugh probably knew the father, Mr. Wyman, well. I went up to New York to see the collection which was, and is, at the Heye Museum, and probably made a report upon it, but I did not care to bid over Heye's prices which seemed to me reasonable. However Heye did not care to take a good deal of the lot and, as you will see by Mrs. Painter's letter, she has left them there for Heye to use in exchange with other institutions. If I read her letter correctly, she intends that we may take as much of this as we like instead of giving it all to Heye, the portion that he did not buy. I think there are number of good things which would round out our collection, and it might be a good plan to send Miss Wardle up there, if Heye is agreeable, to make a selection.

Wyer received his remittance of \$300 for February 4 upon his return here. I believe I am due to receive a remittance of \$2500, minus some that I have already been sent and some bills, on February 26. Since this money is probably drawing interest with you, and would not if placed to my account here, and since I have not begun work yet and still have most of the \$3000 that I brought with me untouched, I think it would be better to hold this until my present funds are nearly exhausted when I will wire you to place the \$2500 to my account in the Banco Nacional de Mexico, Villahermosa, Tabasco, Mexico.

There are a few things that I would like you to order for us, since they are either obtainable with difficulty here or high duties would have to be paid. First there is the radio. I ordered one but ~~was~~ received a letter from the company a few days ago to the effect that since they had concluded a contract with an agent in Mexico City they were not able to send orders to Mexico. The radio we wish is ~~is~~ the same as that ordered by Wyer, or by you for Wyer, on September 27. In fact we are going to use this radio and order another for Sr. Garcia for whom the first one was intended. Garcia has paid Wyer for this and this receipt will be added to our credits. The company has changed their address and is now the Pilot Radio and Tube Corporation, Lawrence, Massachusetts, instead of Brooklyn. My order to them, which was not filled, was of January 23d. I wish that order slightly changed, however, so that it will be as follows:

- 1 Pilot Super-wasp Battery-operated radio Kit K110
- 2 tubes 222 screen grid
- 2 tubes P-112A
- 4 tubes P-201A

Have these sent to you at the Museum. Then order from any radio house in Philadelphia the following:

- 3 45V Eveready layerbilt batteries
- 2 4 1/2 V Eveready C batteries
- 1 6V accumulator
- 1 Antenna kit
- 1 Telephone headset
- 1 Temple airchrome magnetic reproducer

These are recommended by Wyer; I know nothing about radio. I think Witte is a radio fan and you might consult him about this purchase. It will be much quicker, I think, to have these sent by parcel post, addressed to "J. Alden Mason, U of Pa Museum Expedition, Carmen, Campeche, Mexico, In transit to Piedras Negras, Guatemala." I may have to pay duty on things sent by parcel post, but the duty is, I understand, very small and it will be much quicker than by freight from New Orleans.

It appears to be difficult or impossible to get here the wire mesh that we need for sieving, so please secure and send the following:

- 1 piece galvanized wire cloth, 36" x 72", mesh 2 x 2 per inch.
- 1 piece ditto 4 x 4
- 1 piece paulsey netting, 36" x 144", mesh 1"

Better send these ~~pieces~~ in the same way, parcel post if they are not too heavy, otherwise express, addressed as above, via Munson Steamship Line, New Orleans, S. S. Fritzo.

Cordial regards to all.

Sincerely,

J. Alden Mason

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

THE ELDRIDGE R. JOHNSON
MIDDLE AMERICAN EXPEDITION
TENOSIQUE, TABASCO, MEXICO

J. ALDEN MASON
FIELD DIRECTOR

Piedras Negras, Guatemala.
February 21, 1931.

Dear Jayne:

We arrived here at last this morning, a little more than two days from Tenosique. It should have been only two days, but we had such a large mule train of baggage that we did not get away from Tenosique as early as we should have done. All hands are covered with tick bites, and the trip was slow and uncomfortable, for it rained both nights and the road was a morass much of the way. Fortunately we reached our night's stop both nights before it began to rain. But on arriving here we were delighted with what will be a most delightful camp, almost too good to be called a camp. Wyer's foreman has been doing a fine job and had the main house built on an eminence overlooking the rushing river in which we can bathe every day. It is a large house about 8 by 12 meters, divided into three parts, one for the storehouse, one for the dinigg room and one for the guest room. It was built in four days after the materials were gathered. We will occupy it for a few days until the other smaller houses are built. There will be three small houses each about 4 by 6 meters, one for the Satterthwaites, one for the Wyers and one for the undersigned. These should be built in a few days, for the foreman swears by the Virgen of Guadalupe that I shall occupy mine tomorrow night, although it is not begun yet. The kitchen and cook's quarters are up and the workmen have a temporary shed which will be replaced by a better one at a greater distance. The foreman is an ingenious fellow with an artistic eye and has put on many artistic architectural touches and set out some plants around. The Japanese cook and gardener is clearing his land and will plant the vegetable and flower seeds which I sent in a few days, and as the weather is hot and the soil unbelievably rich and damp at present everything should grow fast. Wyer made arrangements for a cow to be kept here for fresh milk and an ox brought in for slaughter now and then. So where there was a month ago a wild forest without more than fifty people within a hundred miles we will soon have an delightful settlement with thirty people or so here. A good many things we would like to have, however, we will have to do without for most of this season, however, for until the road is completed, nothing heavier or bulkier than can be brought in on mule back can be enjoyed.]

While the cost is much more than it would be in the near east, it is nevertheless not great. Everything seems to be breaking just right for us so far. All the lumbering companies in this region have shut down and we are about the only organization at work here. This means that labor will be greater than the demand and consequently cheap, possibly \$1.50 or 1.75 per day. Then the Mexican exchange is very low, about 2.40 for 1.00 now. Owing to the quietness in lumber we can probably buy almost anything we need from the rest of Sabor's equipment at almost our own figure. The Guatemalan inspector is just the kind of a fellow we want, a small government employee who probably never got over \$20 per month and will be overjoyed with \$50 or \$60.

He is an old friend of the foreman and told him that we might make the division to suit ourselves and anything would be o.k. with him. Of course we will not carry this far enough to cause any trouble with the Guatemalan Government, but I feel sure that we will get everything we really want.

The road so far as it has been completed is admirable, possibly a little better than is necessary. But there is still much more to be done. However of the remaining part there is little grading to be done, merely cutting trees and brush for the greater part of the way. Several small bridges to be put in and a trestle to be erected over the worst hill. Wyer hopes and expects to get it done in time to send out a couple of the stelas before the rains drive us out, but I am not so optimistic and am not counting on anything larger than can be sent out on mule back this year. Wyer will begin on the construction of the remaining bit of the road in a few days, as soon as the men have the houses built, and Satterthwaite will take a dozen more men and begin clearing and excavating.

There are practically no mosquitos here; I have felt none tonight. The river rushing by gives plenty of water which is presumably pure as there is practically no population along it, and bathing is delightful. The mule team is going back to Tenosique in the morning so I am hurrying to get this finished tonight as I am keeping the others up. In a few days I will take some pictures of the camp and send you some and will also soon write a letter to Mr. Johnson.

All are well, happy and send regards to all of you. All are in misery, however, from tick and other insect bites, but these were picked up on the road, mainly in the night camps where many animals have stayed, and there should be very few of them here.

Cordially yours,

J. Allen Mason

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

February 26, 1931

Dear Dr. Mason:

Mr. Jayne is off on a cruise to the West Indies so I shall acknowledge your letter of February 12 to him. We shall forward the letter to Miss Baker who will be in New Orleans until the third of March when she leaves for Progreso.

In accordance with my promise to you we cabled \$300. to Mr. Wyer on February 5th, he should certainly have received it before the date of your letter. I note what you say about remittances to you; we shall await word from you and shall wire further the funds as needed to the address which you may send us.

Your letter came just in time to stop the sending off to you of a draft for \$2500 which we had agreed to send you on the 26th of this month. We have, of course, withheld this.

The South American feather and beadwork have been installed in their new cases - they look very fine indeed and are attracting much attention. We have still to install the larger cases - this will be done during the coming week, I hope.

Good luck to you all,

Sincerely yours

Jane M. McHugh

Dr. J. Alden Mason
c/o Sr. Francisco Villanueva
Tenosique
Tabasco, Mexico

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

THE ELDRIDGE R. JOHNSON
MIDDLE AMERICAN EXPEDITION
TENOSIQUE, TABASCO, MEXICO

J. ALDEN MASON
FIELD DIRECTOR

Piedras Negras,
February 27, 1931.

Dear Jayne et al:

Excuse my typographical errors as the lamp does not illuminate the typewriter and I don't know where the eraser is.

This is Friday night and tomorrow we will have been here a week and are rather well settled. We are expecting supplies and mail from Tenosique tomorrow, and both typewriters will probably be busy tomorrow night to send mail back the following day, so I shall write some tonight and possibly add some tomorrow after the mail comes. I received a letter from you and one from Miss Butler in the last mail. The last two days were chilly with continuous rain, drizzle and fog which made everything damp and unpleasant, but today has been warm, dry and delightful. A great deal still remains to be done around the camp to make it comfortable and attractive, but everything will be finished next week some time. It takes our entire force to build a small house in a day, some cutting palm leaves several miles away, some transporting them up the river by canoe, some making the framework and putting on the thatch. The main building is done (except for interior improvements), small houses for myself, the Satterthwaites and the Wyers, and the foreman and his family. The large shed for the workmen will be finished tomorrow and then one must be built for the Guatemalan inspector, a storeroom, a toilet, etc. The Japanese gardener has his garden almost ready for planting. Vegetables when they ripen will be a blessing, as all of us are fed up, and many, including myself, have continuous indigestion from the monotony of oatmeal, rice, beans and potatoes which is about all we get. We look forward to the receipt of the stuff we sent by freight and hope that it will arrive next week. The canned foods in that will give us better rations and all the miscellanea will add greatly to our comfort, as to date we have only our personal baggage and things we bought in Mexico.

As soon as all the houses are built Wyer will take half the men and begin the road again out from here, and Satterthwaite and I the other half and begin excavating. Yesterday and today we had six men at work clearing the jungle off the ruins where we intend to begin, and will keep them at that several days longer. Personally we are drawing plans and excavating. Tomorrow I will finish the first excavation behind one of the stela, the base of which is in place, and hope to be able to report the finding of some interesting objects tomorrow night. Under stelae was a favorite place for the interment of objects.

I am glad to hear that the Eskimo Hall is being reinstalled. Eskimo is the accepted spelling today, not Esquimaux. I wonder if Miss Bakerat left yet. Please thank Miss Butler for sending me the data I wanted, and ask her also to please send me the sheet of paper on which she had given the stelae in what she

considered the order of their importance. I will write her a letter as soon as writing facilities are made more convenient here.

Wyer and I have been trying to straighten up his financial accounts to date. His receipts are difficult to get straight because some were sent by mail and some by telegraph, and frequently several weeks intervened between sending and receipt and meanwhile another remittance had been sent. I have asked him to draw up a letter giving his receipts and the points on which we wish enlightenment. Please ask Miss McHugh, to whom I send my kindest regards, to please try to straighten out these points and give me a list of the remittances with dates, whether sent by mail or telegraph, the bank to whom sent, the bank through which sent, and the number of the draft. I have two lists which she supplied me, but these give only dates and amounts, and they differ slightly. In one the remittance for August 2 is given as \$300 and in the other as \$600, the total up to October 30 being \$3000 in one list and \$2700 in the other. A third memorandum gives the amount sent to him up to January 31 as \$3619.40. We wonder what the \$19.40 represents.

lo ardilly
Mason.

PATRONS ARE REQUESTED TO FAVOR THE COMPANY BY CRITICISM AND SUGGESTION CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

12018

CLASS OF SERVICE

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53P 0L 73 NL

GY TENOSIQUE TAB MEX MAR 2 1931

JAYNE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM

33 AND SPRUCE ST

YOURS OF TENTH WITH BAD NEWS RECEIVED STOP THIS WAS FROM DIRECTOR
OF CUSTOMS AND IS FINAL UNLESS RECONSIDERED STOP FORMER LETTER
GARE ASSENT OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STOP I MAY HAVE TO GO
TO MEXICO CITY BUT FIRST PLEASE URGE MATTER STRONGLY
WITH REUBEN CLARK AND TELEPHONE AMBASSADOR TELLEZ IN WASHINGTON
STOP RECEIPT OF SUPPLIES HELD IN CARMEN IS ESPECIALLY URGENT STOP
I SHALL SEND TELEGRAMS AND LETTERS TO ALL INFLUENTIAL PERSONS

MASO N

138P MAR 3

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

Tenosique, March 4, 1931.

Dear Jayne:

If I had written you right before last, just after arriving here, my words expressing my opinion of this country and its weather and insects would have scorched the paper and I would doubtless have been "thirty-three" the next morning (the number of the article in the Mexican Constitution which permits expulsion of undesirable foreigners). But I was too miserable to do anything. Your letter with the bad news reached camp Saturday the 28th and I knew there was nothing to do but make the trip here and be prepared to go on to Mexico City if necessary, so we left the next day on the two day's ride here, although it is only about 25 miles. The first day was delightful and we made a pleasant night's camp, but that night a "norte" began, a howling norther, with hard winds and rain all day, and we had to push on although we were not prepared for such weather, as the regular season for northers is long past. I presume it was the fag end of a nice blizzard that you had. We got soaked through in the first hour and had six hours more of plodding through mud, for long stretches above the knees of the mules, dead limbs falling all around us and the little-used trail blocked much of the way by bent-down branches. We were certainly glad to get into a house and change our clothes, but even that was not comfort, for of course there are no windows or doors which can be closed to chill winds and no fires to get warmed by except for little charcoal braziers. Yesterday and today have continued cloudy and cold but not rainy. I spent all day yesterday sending telegrams and writing letters and expect to do the same today. Tomorrow a boat is expected up which will take mail out.

I presume that you received my telegram of the 2d which I got off as soon as I had changed my soaked clothes, and just before the office closed. And I hope that you immediately got busy with Clark and Tellez. I have prepared letters to both, but have not wired them as I presume you would do this. I did, however, wire Eduardo Hay, the Mexican Ambassador in Guatemala, Manuel Gamio in Mexico City, and Leslie Moore, who was to handle our cargo in Carmen but who had to go to Mexico City, leaving that matter in the hands of his chief clerk. I have also written fuller explanatory letters to all of these, but hope that the matter will be settled before these are received.

That letter, of which I presume you retain the original, is most serious, and yet it seems utterly incredible. It refused both permission to export archeological objects of Guatemalan origin and to import equipment in bond and in transit to Guatemala, "according to the law". What law can apply I cannot see. The only law that can possibly apply as far as I can see is that prohibiting the exportation of archeological objects from Mexico, and of course this is intended to apply to objects of Mexican origin, and even those, I am sure, may be exported with the permission ~~with~~ of the Departamento de Educacion. The letter which arrived the day I left informed me that the permission of the Department of Education had been given and this opinion sent to the Department of Hacienda, under which is the Customs (Aduana). This opinion of the Department of Education should have settled the matter; it was the only thing that I considered at all essential. Moreover, the day after this letter was sent, my friend Manuel Gamio sent me a personal letter saying that he had seen the chief of the proper section of the Secretaria de Hacienda who had indicated to him that in a few days he would give a favorable opinion. I will transcribe parts of these letters with translations for your use. That of Gamio is of course personal, but that of Reygadas is official. I cannot see that this refusal of permission has a logical leg to stand on, and I do not believe it will be held against a good strong protest to, and by, Clark and Tellez, and yet if not reconsidered, it gums the whole works.

Our freight shipment, which is quite large, arrived in Carmen on February 24 and is still there. I regret that I told you in the telegram to make especial efforts to have this released, because apparently the Customs authorities there have not been informed that permission for its entry has been refused, and they are willing to pass it, but insist that it must go by the regular route into Guatemala. Just while I was writing the last sentence I was handed a telegram from the Customs in Carmen informing me that I must secure permission from the Secretariat of Hacienda to have the cargo sent to Tenosique, because the regular route is up this river to Balancan, not far below here, and then by the River San Pedro to El Paso de Peten. If it went that way it would take weeks and great expense for us to get it, if indeed we ever received it at all, and furthermore our contract with the Guatemalan Government for the free entry of equipment applies only to the place near here where we cross the border. So, since the specific instructions of Hacienda are required, I am glad after all that I asked you to urge that point especially. I have not yet addressed the Department of Hacienda directly, since I thought that an appeal from you through Clark and Tellez would carry more weight. And as regards the cargo, Mr. Leslie Moore's clerk in Carmen, with whom he left this matter, has been telegraphing Moore who is in Mexico City, and I am counting on him to arrange this for us if it can be done, or to advise me if he thinks I should do something. Moore has been most helpful to us and should receive official appreciation. He is manager for the big estate in Campeche of the late Phoebe A. Hearst who took a great interest in the MUSEUM in its early days.

I suppose I must remain here several days until I am assured that the equipment is on its way up to us and permission for the export of the archeological material granted, or until I decide that it is absolutely essential that I go to Mexico City to settle the matter. It would be a long and expensive trip in any case, but I should probably take the airplane from Villahermosa or Frontera to Vera Cruz and thus save a number of days but at greater expense. But it would probably mean spending a week or two in Mexico City and losing at least a month of this short dry season. I hope it will not be necessary. I should certainly have gone to Mexico City last year, preferably on my way up from Guatemala, and have stayed there until I got the permission.

The Wyers came to Tenosique with me to get up to the camp such of Sanborn's equipment as can be taken on mule back, and the Satterthwaites remain at the camp, to carry on. Linton is making excellent progress with Spanish and Wyer has an excellent foreman there who will finish making the camp this week and then begin again on the road. Meanwhile a smaller gang of men are clearing the best parts of the ruins and excavation on a large scale is probably commencing about this time. But without the food and equipment that is still in Carmen and that which we got from Sanborn, life is rather uncomfortable yet there.

One of Satterthwaite's friends sent him a clipping by which I see that Miss Baker is off for Yucatan. I hope that she will write me soon. I am so sorry that I missed Gregory Mason's lecture and the party afterwards. But am delighted that he is going to Colombia ~~with~~ for us and Heye. There are beautiful archeological objects to be secured very easily there, but he must be careful about complications with the Colombian government. I will write him a long letter of advice in a few days. It is the same region where I spent fifteen months for Field Museum in 1921-1922 and got excellent stuff. I am delighted that you are going ahead with the installation of the American Section. I know that it will be done more artistically than I could do it, and yet if I were there I couldn't keep my fingers out of it. I hope that it will be all done by the time I return.

I have not decided yet whether I will ask Miss Butler to come down or not but feel inclined to wait until next year when we will have everything running in better shape and, I hope, a garden and orchard bearing by the time we get here. Our gardener got seeds planted a few days ago, but it will be six weeks or so before we begin to get any fresh vegetables or fruit. In a week or so we hope to have a cow there and eventually chickens, eggs and pigs, but at present rice and beans make up most of the dietary and we have eternal indigestion.

I have not had time to consider thoroughly those long letters which you sent me from G. Martino Scaravella. I never heard of him. I note that you were to have an interview with him and presume that you will inform me of the results of this. The archeology of Honduras is little known, except for Copan, and an expedition there would be of considerable importance. Douglas March, the snake collector of Haddon Heights, knows Honduras very well and might be able to give you some information.

Now I am told that a boat is in which will take mail out this evening so I must finish another couple of letters and get them off.

Cordial regards to all.

Sincerely yours,

P. S. Mail has just been delivered from the boat which will take this out in a few hours. Please send me everything that is at all urgent by air mail which will save at least a week, maybe more. Yours of the tenth with the bad news came by ordinary mail and so took a very long time. In this mail nothing came but the enclosed, which please attend to and leave letter on my desk. If you care to send him a copy of the MUSEUM JOURNAL containing "What we know about the Maya" very good, but a condensed form of the same with different illustrations was published in NATURAL HISTORY under the title "The Egypt of America" and you will find a number of reprints of this in the lower part of my bookcase, left hand side behind the glass. Please send him one of those.

I have just received a telegram from Gamio informing me that the Director of Aduanas on March 2 send instructions to Carmen to let our stuff through, but a telegram from the Customs at Carmen informs me that special permission from Mexico City must be secured in order to have it sent to Tenosique rather than over the official route to Paso Peten. I shall wire Mexico about this and expect that ~~the~~ the stuff will be on its way up the river before you receive this, so you need not bother more about that unless I wire you. However the more important if less urgent matter of the export of the archeology is still to be rectified. However I think I shall return to work and trust that you and Clark and Tellez and Gamio will be able to settle this for me.

I enclose Wyer's letter concerning his finances for Miss McHugh although it seems to be all straight. Wyer took up the matter with Villanueva here and finds that, although the dates are confusing, he received \$3600 up until the time he left for Guatemala. So now I'll end this long letter.

J. Allen Mason

March 7, 1931

Honoured Sir:

I understand that Dr. J. Alden Mason, Curator of the American Section of the Museum, recently discussed with you certain aspects of the proposed archaeological expedition which he is conducting for the Museum at Piedras Negras, Guatemala, and among the points brought up was the desirability of obtaining permission to ship in bond through Mexico the necessary supplies for the Expedition to Piedras Negras on the one hand, and, also in bond from Piedras Negras such archaeological objects as might be discovered in the course of the excavations. Piedras Negras, as you no doubt know, lies on the Guatemalan side of the Usamacinta River and the only satisfactory access to it is to be had through Mexican territory. Any other approach presents almost insuperable difficulties.

Formal application was made for this permission to the Mexican Government and the assent of the Department of Education was obtained before Dr. Mason and his associates left for Piedras Negras. Since his arrival there a further communication has recently been received from the Director of Customs stating that this permission cannot be granted. We are naturally considerably disturbed by this, and I am writing in the hope that you can use your good offices to effect a change in this decision.

I wish to point out that the expedition is engaged in purely scientific work and considerable expense is naturally involved in supporting such an expedition. In asking for permission to ship material through Mexico in transit bond, we are asking no more than is asked, and invariably accorded, commercial undertakings by all Governments. The fact that many of the expedition's supplies unobtainable in Mexico are now being held up in Carmen hazards the success of the scientific work and the health of our expedition's members; the fact that we cannot ship the results of the excavations in transit through Mexico means that our supporters will be keenly disappointed in the work and disinclined to interest themselves in future work in Central America. I think it well to indicate too that the expedition for its daily supplies and for much of its labour will draw upon Mexico rather than Guatemala, so that it is distinctly a benefit to have its work continued, not only this year but for succeeding years.

I trust that your Excellency can see your way clear towards assisting the Museum in adjusting this difficulty and you may be assured that whatever you can do will be most gratefully acknowledged by the Board of Managers of the Museum and by

Yours very sincerely

His Excellency, Senor Don Manuel C. Tellez
Ambassador of Mexico
2829 Sixteenth Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Horace H. F. Jayne
DIRECTOR

Tenosique, Tabasco, Mexico

March 7, 1931.

Dear Jayne:

I'm still cooling my heels here in Tenosique. This is Saturday noon and I arrived here Monday night. The last couple of days there have been no developments, no letters or telegrams, but a boat is going out with mail this afternoon so I drop a note to report no progress. "Everything getting no better fast". I think there has been no change in the status since I last wrote. Gamio wired me from Mexico City that on March 2, the day I got here, probably due to the kind efforts of Leslie Moore in Mexico City, the Chief of Customs, J. M. Tapia, sent an order to Carmen instructing that our equipment be passed through free of duty and sent in bond to Guatemala. But, at last word, the Administrador of Customs in Carmen insisted that it must go by the regular route to Paso Peten in Guatemala and that specific orders from Tapia must be received in order to have it sent to Tenosique. I wired Moore asking him to push the matter, and wired Tapia begging him to send the necessary orders to Carmen and to wire me collect as soon as they had been sent. And since that time I have heard nothing from either Mexico City or Carmen. I think it would be unwise for me to go back into the woods until I am assured that this matter is arranged. Probably I should also wait until I hear that the question of the exportation of objects/is also settled, as it might require that I travel to Mexico City, and I have not yet decided whether I will wait longer for this or not. But as this may take a longer time to decide, I think that as soon as the matter of the equipment is settled I will go back and let you try to settle the matter of the exportation with the help of the Ambassadors. It has been a week now since I have left the camp and I wonder how the Satterthwaites are getting along there.

Regarding finances, I presume you got my letter suggesting that the remittance which was to be sent me February 26 (?) be held up until further notice. At any rate I have not received word from the bank that these funds have been placed to my account. But my account will be getting low by the time you receive this, so please wire the amount agreed upon for February to my account in the Banco Nacional de Mexico, Villahermosa, Tabasco. My expenses will probably be much smaller than I expected until we quit work, for the salaried men, and probably the workmen also, will let their salary and wages accumulate until the time for leaving. Satterthwaite decided that he would ask you to send his salary to someone, but I forget to whom and will have to write you again about that after I return to camp and see him.

I see by newspaper clippings that Miss Baker has left for Yucatan but have heard nothing from her or from you about it.

Saturday Afternoon

No news yet and nothing to add. Regards to all. Please push the matter and then wire me. I will continue the work and the road. If it should eventuate that export through Mexico cannot be arranged, we will continue work, and good small things can be taken out, by a long overland journey, through Guatemala, but in that event I would cease work on the road immediately and give up plans for taking out anything heavy.

Cordially,

J. Allen Mason

\$1,400
will be
Cabled by
Brown Bros.
March 19

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

THE ELDRIDGE R. JOHNSON
MIDDLE AMERICAN EXPEDITION
TENOSIQUE, TABASCO, MEXICO

J. ALDEN MASON
FIELD DIRECTOR

Piedras Negras,
March 8, 1931.

Dear Chief:

This is a brief note by way of report of doings here for transmission by the Patache which has just arrived. Many thanks for sending the food on ahead. Dinner tonight consisted of Tortillas, frijoles, platanos and torreas. At the moment Peggy and I are getting sick on dulces.

I spent two more days clearing in the west group and then two and a couple of hours in the east. At the same time I did a good deal of nosing around. There is a mound in the east and another in the south group with roughly circular (cylindrical) stones in positions suggesting a fallen column in each case - which seems interesting for the southern area. Six of the seven pyramids in the south group almost certainly carried temples - much more obvious than in the west group. The two courts on the top of the acropolis, the temple on the top and central pyramid and the lower central court above and back of the stelae terrace are surrounded or partly surrounded by rooms, mostly two deep. In two cases as much as half a room, vault, ceiling and all, is standing, with plaster in fair condition - perhaps with paint preserved below the debris level. The highest court has in its centre a partly exposed section of rock, circular so far as it goes (altar?) and an animal hole (?) going straight down through the floor shows artificial stone-work below for at least five feet. I think I have located several stairways, which are indistinguishable until cleared. Located a fine surface collection of sherds, in the east group, dug up by rats; a figurine above the main steps in the west group with the same assistance.

Started a trench in the west group plaza, 0.00 from the terrace base, between steps and round altar, and have carried part of it down about a meter and a half. I planned to cut the far end straight down, fast, to get a working notion of levels, but stopped it the second day (yesterday) and started knifing with Peggy because I ran into a layer rich with large sections of bowls, and two sets of bones which look as if they may be human, though small, and have been buried in the flesh. I meant to get that out today, but quit because of the rain. While fussing with that stuff, sent two muchachos into the terrace, the rest clearing around the steps &c. The slope to the right of the steps, presumably a stairway, is a later construction - it lies against the upper wall of the original terrace.

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

THE ELDRIDGE R. JOHNSON
MIDDLE AMERICAN EXPEDITION
TENOSIQUE, TABASCO, MEXICO

J. ALDEN MASON
FIELD DIRECTOR

2.

Six clear levels are exposed in the trench so far, and I am through either two floors, or through the ~~first~~ first floor and the floor of an old terrace now submerged, with these pots and bones below both. The floors are of heavy rock, and there isn't the slightest doubt in the world that these bones were deposited a good while before the city was abandoned. I suppose they have been preserved (they are soft but in good shape and can be perfectly preserved on the spot) by the thick stone and lime floors above them. If these gentry had the custom of house burial, and applied it in these buildings, there is no reason why we should'd find skeletal material as well as objects.

There is some pottery in every level thus far and I have started a collection, by levels, of course. I spent a good part of this morning, while it was raining, and this P.M., after 3.30, getting some make-shift arrangements in the laboratory for sherds and figurines. (We have quite a collection from the river, as well). It is a bit hard without paper bags - I think I miss them more than a trowel and whisk brooms. Peggy made me a bunch of bags today from a pair of pants and a shirt.

Mendoza moved in last night. The garden shows a little green. I take it as a good omen that you were in Tenosique when this patache left. The mule with mail is a day behind, and I suppose will bring word from you mañana. I trust things are coming around. This site has limitless possibilities and it will be a dirty shame if we can't start off with the ste~~ae~~. You had our sympathy Monday when on top of it all it rained. Hurry back. Its a bit lonesome.

Faithfully,

Lutz

LINTON SATTERTHWAITE, JR.
ATTORNEY AT LAW
137 EAST STATE STREET
TRENTON, N. J.

Piedras Negras,
March 9, 1931.

Dear Chief:

Your letter this morning, and I'm much relieved that prospects are bright, both as to stelae and supplies, and as to seeing you shortly. You very will leave Tenosique before this arrives, but quien sabe? so am sending it along, with note written last night. A lot of the stuff from Santa Margarita arrived this morning. When the wicker furniture arrives it will be the nuts.

Dug three hours this morning and then gave it up- it started raining good and proper - put the men on clearing for fires and spent the rest of the day of the laboratory and sherds and a rough plan of the west group.

Manana I hope it clears when I'll sail into the trench in good earnest. And feel better equipmed to handle what comes out with confusion. For heaven's sake if you get this before leaving and can raise a couple of hundred bags for sherds, or tough paper to wrap them in, get 'em.

Faithfully,

Kent

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

March 9, 1931

Dear Mason:

I have several letters of yours to acknowledge and answer. As a matter of fact I stole away on a short vacation for a little over a fortnight -- to the West Indies -- and only returned two days ago; hence the silence. I wrote Tellez immediately upon my return and I had written Reuben Clark before I left. If necessary I shall go to Washington to see Tellez when I receive an answer from him. It's all very distressing and stupid. I cannot think but that it will be straightened out, but it is particularly irksome that your supplies should be held up; the question of antiquities could at the worst be postponed for settlement another season. Anyway I shall do all I can from this end.

Miss McHugh has taken care of the radio affair and the wire mesh and such financial arrangements as required attention. The letters from you which I have not acknowledged are: from Montecristo, February 12th; from Tenosique, February 17th, and from Piedras Negras, February 21st, as well as your wire of March 2nd from Tenosique which I referred to above.

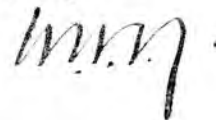
It is splendid to know that you are all safely arrived and that the camp is shaping up to your satisfaction; it indeed sounds very pleasant and comfortable, as soon as the ticks are thoroughly eliminated. I doubt very much if you will wish to come back and we shall probably have to send a rescue party after you to haul you home.

The news is good about the Guatemalan inspection, about Wyer and family, and except for the unfortunate business with Mexico you seem to have struck a rare run of good fortune. We all hope it may continue. As soon as I get through a pile of accumulated correspondence I shall write Heye about Mrs. Painter's things and get in touch with Merrill; he would seem to be an ideal man for the work at Trenton this spring, provided Fewkes can be there to give him a start. He feels he cannot stand another Central American season just yet, but perhaps will be available for you next year.

Your new offices are nearly done and the Eskimo room is in the throes of repainting, while the South American material is getting its finishing touches. The latter looks splendid.

Best from all of us,

Yours sincerely



Dr. J. Alden Mason
Tenosique
Tabasco, Mexico

Tehosique, March 12, 1931.

Dear Miss McHugh:

The mail from the boat which arrived today has just ben distributed late this afternoon and as it is leaving again in a couple of hours I have not time to write you a long letter. I presume you learn from Mr. Jayne what is going on. I probably write too much; that's a failing of mine.

As you have probably learned from my letters to Mr. Jayne, I have been waiting in this one-horse -- I mean two autos and a truck -- town for ten days while I have been furiously writing and telegraphing people to get our equipment sent up to us. This morning I finally got word that it has been permitted to come up, and I shall get back to work tomorrow. Meanwhile the Satterthwaites have been living on rice and beans up there.

Your letter of February 26 arrived today. Many thanks and cordial regards. Please send all mail to me, unless very unimportant, by air mail, and see that Mr. Jayne does the same. Airmail will get to Villahermosa in four days or so whereas by boat it may take a couple of weeks. From there up the river it takes the same time, but the airmail letter will probably catch an earlier boat. Airmail to Mexico I think is only five cents, unless the letter is overweight.

You probably got my last letter about finances, sent to Mr. Jayne. Wyer finally got his last \$300 all right, and I suggested that now the February remittance might be sent to my account in the Banco Nacional de Mexico, Sucursal en Villahermosa, Tabasco, by telegraph. I don't think I heed it yet but may soon. Satterthwaite requested that you pay his salary out of the expedition funds there, but I forget the address to which he wishes it sent, and will have to wait until I get back to camp. The other salaries to Wyer and the Guatemalan inspector will ~~probably~~ probably accumulate, and most of the workmen will probably let their wages accumulate, so that the expenses will probably not be high until we quit work and liquidate. On the other hand, the exchange value, owing to the fluctuations in the price of silver, is gradually falling -- that is, we are getting less and less in Mexican money for the dollar, and it might work out much more advantageously in the end to send considerable funds here now. You might consult a banker on this point and take his advice.

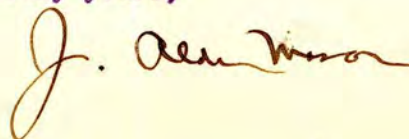
I haven't heard from Miss Baker yet; I doubt if she planned enough time in New Orleans to do all that was advisable there.

I'm glad you are going ahead with the installation of the American Halls, and shan't be a bit peeved if they are all done when I return.

I think this is one of the countries that they tell about where, instead of the regular two seasons, rainy and dry, they have three seasons, the rainy, the ---- rainy and the --- ---- rainy season. If this is the dry season, as supposed, I don't want to spend no rainy season here!

Cordial regards to all.

Sincerely yours,



Tenosique, March 12, 1931.

Mr. H. H. F. Jayne,
University Museum,
33d & Spruce Streets,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Jayne:

Mexico is a remarkably promising country, but all that I have received so far are promises and assurances. I hope that the latest one, received this morning, will really be fruitful. I hated to bother my good friend Manuel Gamio again, but as I had heard nothing for a week I sent him another telegram a few days ago and received this morning a telegram to the effect that he had seen the Director of Customs again and that the matter had been arranged and that telegraphic orders would be sent yesterday. When I began this letter fifteen minutes ago I had no positive information that this order had been given, but two telegrams have just been received from Carmen, one from the Administrator of Customs there, and one from Mr. Moore's chief clerk, informing me that orders have been received from Mexico City to let the equipment come here to Tenosique, and that it will be sent on the next boat. I am returning a telegram to inquire if there are any arrangements which I must make here regarding the receipt of this stuff so that I may be able to leave for the camp tomorrow morning with assurance that there will be no more red tape to tie it up somewhere on the road between Carmen and our camp. In ten days or so I hope that we will have it and life will be more comfortable and work more efficient. If I have to come out to Tenosique again with regard to this matter I shall be wroth, but fortunately the Mexico-Guatemalan border is two-thirds or three-quarters way to the camp, so it will probably come that far without trouble. I understand that it must be accompanied by an inspector who will see that it gets over the border, at our expense, but this can't be avoided. If I can get off tomorrow, as I believe I will, I'll get back to camp Saturday night, after a loss of two full weeks on this silly business. According to letters and telegrams which I have just received from Mr. Moore, who apparently spent much time and trouble for us in Mexico City, it was all settled by him two weeks ago, and orders should have been sent about March 1st for the transportation to this point, accompanied by an inspector; the Sub-Director promised him that he would send these orders, but the order sent on March 2 directed only that they be admitted without special directions to be sent here, and without these specific orders, the Carmen authorities would not send them by any other than the regular route. So ten additional days have been lost. Such is Mexico. Such red tape in the States is bad enough, but there it is nauseating.

So far I have heard nothing, however, about any reconsideration of the prohibition of export. There is another boat in with foreign mail, presumably, but this has not yet been distributed, and there will probably be something from you in it. The rapidity with which the decision regarding the import of equipment as contrary to the law was changed makes me hope that the prohibition of export also will not stand against a firm protest; it was probably a hasty decision.

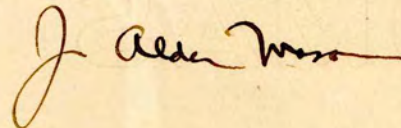
a/

News from the camp came in yesterday. The Satterthwaites are apparently well though lonely for company, and they were pretty well fed up on rice and beans by the time we got a cargo of canned goods and other luxuries out to them (canned goods are very expensive here). The Wyers came in with me to make arrangements for getting up to the camp the stuff we had bought from Sanborn, and I think that everything has gone up there except the tractor, the wagons, the safe and a few of the very heavy things. They have cots and chairs there now. The Wyers went back yesterday. Wyers' foreman is very capable and has finished the camp and begun work again on the road and probably has several miles of it done now. Meanwhile Satterthwaite has another gang at work excavating. He has done considerable clearing and begun a trench starting in the plaza and running up the side of one of the terraces, the principal one. Rather than copy excerpts, I'll just enclose his letter which will explain what has been done so far, though of course it was not intended for the big boss.

The weather here is atrocious. It is not supposed to rain here after the middle of February. Yet, as I wrote you, we were terribly soaked coming here on the second, and another norther has been prevailing since Sunday, heavy rain Sunday and Monday and more rain this morning.

Mail from the second boat is in with a letter from Miss McHugh to which I enclose a personal answer, but no further information which would be of interest to you, so, with cordial regards,

Sincerely yours,



THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

THE ELDRIDGE R. JOHNSON
MIDDLE AMERICAN EXPEDITION
TENOSIQUE, TABASCO, MEXICO

J. ALDEN MASON
FIELD DIRECTOR

March 16, 1931.

University Museum,
Philadelphia, Penna.,

Attention Miss Jane M. McHugh,

Dear Miss McHugh:

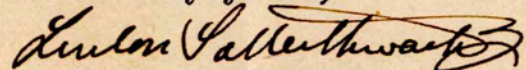
For the present at least it would be much more convenient for me to receive my salary in Philadelphia than here in Guatamala. May I ask that the salary check for February, and in future months, be mailed to my brother, Mr. Willis H. Satterthwaite, 305 South Fortieth St., Philadelphia? He has my power of attorney.

This arrangement meets with Dr. Mason's approval, as I trust it does with yours.

Dr. Mason returned from Tenosique yesterday and asks me to include his regards, along with my own, to you and to Mr. Jayne, and to our other friends in the Museum.

In view of the strange tricks of mails here I am sending a copy of this letter to my brother, asking him to send it along to you as a precaution against loss of the original.

Faithfully yours,


Linton Satterthwaite Jr.

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

THE ELDRIDGE R. JOHNSON
MIDDLE AMERICAN EXPEDITION
TENOSIQUE, TABASCO, MEXICO

J. ALDEN MASON
FIELD DIRECTOR

Piedras Negras,
Thursday, March 12, 1931.

Dear Chief:

Your note via Sr. Basauris received yesterday, and the Wyers here tonight. I'm sorry to learn progress is so slow and indefinite. It hasn't been so much fun here - I don't like working without someone to ~~te~~ plans-before with whom to discuss plans before putting them into operation, and my small stock of Spanish has been a handicap on the job. And we both miss you personally.

However, the last couple of days have gone more smoothly, I think I have got the men working harder. The plaza trench is down about 1.70 M. in part, into the terrace at about ~~50.~~ 50, and I have a big gash in the terrace which I don't dare carry below ground level till I work out a trussing arrangement. There are ten distinguishable layers in the trench proper so far and we have collections of sherds from sample areas down to the ninth. Just before quitting ran into another small long bone, in perfect shape, though soft, at a lower level. Basauris last night thought those mentioned in my first letter might be human - if so the are of children. We also found a bone pendant (antler, more likely), also perfectly preserved. I'm doing this level work only in part of the trench, and as fast as possible. It seems the first thing to do because it will form a basis for carrying in varioux levels at the terrace, for dating the round alte next door and perhaps for dating rooms, &c. elsewhere. I haven't had time to more than look at the sherds, but I think there will be some differences - certainly between the latest floor and the others, with the best ware below. Also it seems the best kind of work for br aking in the men and working with bum equipment. I lost sometime over these bones, which might from appearances have been burials. Dirst is already a problem, and has to be thrown twice.

I take your hint about short season and good showing to refer to objects. With you expected daily I don't want to disturb stelae till you are here to direct and confirm observation since these are the main publicity attraction, but I appreciate your desire to have something under way besides a hole in the ground. Peggy understands what is wanted in the trench, and so do the caporal, a very intelligent Yucatecan, and this P.M. I left in charge for part of the time and selected a couple of rooms top of the long slope between the two stelae terraces, where parts of the vaults arevstanding and yet most of the debris the slope out of the way. Here is whole

instance at least, and we can uncover a maximum number of rooms in a minimum time, and so run the best chance of finding something under the floors. However, the dirt will cover up the slope, and I will spend a good part of tomorrow scouring off loose stones, brush and dirt, and try to get a fair cross-section of the portion to be covered. Then I'll clear and dig a couple of rooms. I can run the two operations pretty well at the same time, as they are within hailing distance, and almost within sight. The two I have picked, if sterile, will at least make swell photographs, which Jayne said he wants for board meetings.

I'm a little sorry that Wyer's free time is to be at the beginning instead of the end of the season. He can't make decent cross-sections without a considerable amount of clearing to locate wall-bases, terrace levels, &c. under the debris. He ought to run a few lines for our use in digging, but anything he did on a large scale now would be subject to drastic revision, would miss important details, and I believe you'd not want to publish it. All this even if he had the transit here for fast and efficient work. If a mail comes out again before you do (and I hope not) I wish you'd advise me on this point. Wouldn't it be better to have him do rough contour work as a frame-work for drawings of buildings, &c. later - perhaps ~~fix the~~ add one of the Campamento plaza to tack on to Morley's map. We will surely want to map the whole city, roughly at least, before we quit.

I itch at not being able to scout around the hills more, but of course there isn't time. I must quit and go to bed. The Mexicans stayed last night but left early this morning, will stop on the way back to see the works. I liked them very much, and think they liked us. For Gawd's ake, come on back. If nothing has happened by the time you get this, don't you think you'd better pay the duty on it?

In any case, if you bring any supplies, bring a lot of catsup - the only thing to compensate for frijoles) and not less than a case of famas (the cheaper kind) cigarros. We will be out of them tomorrow, which means that not only do I quit smoking (and perhaps go blooey as a result) but the men do also, and there may be serious grumbling. They will be sold without the slightest doubt. We have eaten very little of the tinned stuff, but there isn't a great deal - if our stuff is to come via Peten, Wyer says allow at least a month - in which case you probably ought to bring out some more. We can use the New Orleans set off next year, and shift it to next year's budget. However, I don't give a damn what we eat (save only catsup for frijoles) if we're both working allright. If the stuff isn't to come shortly we need four more digging knives (smaller and stiffer than the last if possible) and more brushes. These will ~~come~~ come out quickly. And if you can get tough paper bags from Villahermosa, you ought to. The container problem is really serious.

Faithfully,

P.S. Suggested telegram to Jayne: CARRYING ON BEST OF MY ABILITY
SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES STOP CHIEF IN TENOSIQUE PLAYING

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

March 17, 1931

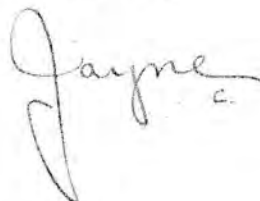
Dear Mason:

I hasten to forward you a copy of Mr. Clark's letter which has just come, and the substance of which I have just sent off to you by wire. I trust that this indicates all the troubles will soon be straightened out. I have written Clark in thanks for his efforts but suggest that a letter from you would also be advisable.

I also wish to acknowledge yours of March 7th which came yesterday. It is unfortunate you should have been held in Tenosique all this while, but it was obviously the only thing to do. I have arranged with Miss McHugh to take care of the financial arrangements suggested in your second paragraph.

No news from here except that everything is going forward slowly but successfully.

Always yours,



Dr. J. Alden Mason
c/o Francisco Villanueva
Tenosique
Tabasco, Mexico

C O P Y

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mexico, March 9, 1931

Dear Mr. Jayne:

With reference to your letter of February 16, 1931 and to previous correspondence relative to the permission which you have requested from the Mexican Government for the free transit of supplies of archaeological material, through Mexico to Guatemala and, at a later date, from Guatemala, in transit through Mexico, to the border at Frontera, I am very glad to inform you that the Foreign Office has just notified the Embassy that an authorization has been given for the transit through Mexican territory of the material in question.

While the communication which has been received from the Foreign Office in this matter does not mention specifically that this permission has been granted both for the transit shipment through Mexico to Guatemala of these articles and for the later shipment to be made from Guatemala northward through Mexico, the Embassy has been advised informally by local customs officials that the Mexican Government is now willing to grant the permission requested for both phases of the question.

It is understood that you will be called upon to comply with various formalities in connection with the marking of packages, inspection by customs officials and other details, and it is presumed that you or your associates will get into touch direct with the appropriate officials for the purpose of carrying out all detailed requirements of this nature.

It would be appreciated if you would confirm for the Embassy's information the definite receipt by the expedition of the authority which you have requested.

Very sincerely yours,

(signed) J. Reuben Clark

C O P Y

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(signed) J. Reuben Clark

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

THE ELDRIDGE R. JOHNSON
MIDDLE AMERICAN EXPEDITION
TENOSIQUE, TABASCO, MEXICO

J. ALDEN MASON
FIELD DIRECTOR

Piedras Negras, Guatemala.
March 18, 1931.

Dear Jayne:

I have received no mail since I came back here so can give no information regarding the negotiations with the Mexican government. I hope to hear in the next mail that everything is arranged. Our boxes of equipment were to have left Carmen the day before yesterday, and we hope to receive them in ten days or so now when we will be better equipped to work and also live more comfortably. At present we are holding up some work until equipment such as cameras arrives.

I am sending this out with Sr. Carlos Basauri of the Mexican Department of Archeology who has been to Yaxchilan, a larger old site further up the river and on the Mexican side, to arrange to have a guardian kept there who will keep the ruins clear. He and his companion were much impressed at this site and entirely converted to the opinion that the stelae, now rotting here, should be taken out to be preserved. He promised to use his influence when he gets back to Mexico City in two weeks.

We are now very comfortably fixed and work is going ahead well. About 33 men at work now (several of them women), one third pushing the road which has now reached the Guatemalan-Mexican border from this site, a third at work excavating and another third working ~~at~~ around the camp, many of these boys and women at small pay. Wyer has been busy fixing up his belated accounts, and I will probably send you a financial account up to date in a few days. The road work is being pushed by the foreman and Wyer has begun surveying and planning the ruins; Satterthwaite and I superintend excavations and Mrs Satterthwaite helps most of the time. I have excavated under the bases of several stelae, likely places for good finds, but found nothing yet. As soon as the cameras come I want to dig under some altars and hope that there the results will be better. Satterthwaite has excavated several rooms and is now looking under ~~the~~ the floors. But nothing to date but important notes and collections of potsherds. We have had more rain and cool weather, most unusual for this time of year, and fear to hope that it is entirely over yet.

All are in fine health and spirits and send most cordial regards to all at Philadelphia.

Cordially yours,

J. Alden Mason

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

THE ELDRIDGE R. JOHNSON
MIDDLE AMERICAN EXPEDITION
TENOSIQUE, TABASCO, MEXICO

J. ALDEN MASON
FIELD DIRECTOR

Piedras Negras, Guatemala.
March 21, 1931.

Dear Jayne:

Mail arrived yesterday, only a few hours after the Mexican archeologists had left with mail from us. Among it was the long telegram from you of the 17th, one from Ambassador Tellez and another from Ambassador Clark. Tellez merely advised me to address the embassy in Mexico City. Clark's telegram of March 14 was "Embassy informed by consulate general here that that customs authorities Mexico City advise informally that difficulties mentioned your letter March third regarding transit shipments both to and from Guatemala now satisfactorily adjusted in accordance with your plans". Your telegram was even more definite and encouraging. I have not yet received any official notification from the government concerning this, but will cable you as you request if and when I do,

Apparently the matter is definitely settled now. Of course they may forget to send me official notification, or notification to the authorities in Carmen or Frontera and when we come to leave it may take a week or so to get the customs authorities in the seaport of shipment notified, but the permission seems to be granted at last. Very typical of Mexico, to keep a question under consideration, or at least pending, for nearly a year, and then make a snap judgment that the request is illegal, and then revise this opinion upon protest. I must admit that I was never greatly worried about the outcome, for the matter is such a customary act of international comity that I felt sure that the refusal had been given without much consideration and would be reversed after a strong protest. So I have gone ahead with the work, both of digging and of road-making.

The work is going along well. We have excavated, under Satterthwaite's direction, a building which turns out to be a long portico of interesting form and construction, but it yielded nothing but potsherds. Other excavations have afforded important architectural data. Under one of the stela I got a pretty little cache of obsidian and flint ceremonial objects chipped in peculiar forms, but there has been little else of interest to date. We have now got some rope and pulley blocks so that Monday I expect to move one of the big altars and dig under that with great hopes of finding something more spectacular. I bought some films to fit my large personal camera from the Mexican archeologists and took a dozen large pictures today but we have no developing chemicals yet. Our equipment should have arrived in Tenosique yesterday or today and should be out with the next trip of the mule team that will take this mail in. Both work and living will then be more efficient and comfortable, and as soon as I get some photographs developed and printed I will send you some and write Mr. Johnson a letter and send him some.

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THE ELDRIDGE R. JOHNSON
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TENOSIQUE, TABASCO, MEXICO

J. ALDEN MASON
FIELD DIRECTOR

We are out of plain white typewriter paper until our cargo comes.

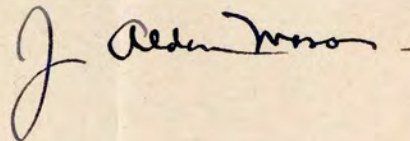
I am enclosing two letters which came in the last mail and which I beg you will answer for me. I have a lot of correspondence to get off for the mail leaving early tomorrow morning and don't want to take the time to answer them; I must be up at 5:30. Week-days it is 5:00. The letter from Crowell, Texas, is as you see unsigned, but I copied the name from the envelop, Leslie McAdams. You see he addressed me in care of Dr. J. E. Pearce at Austin, Texas, and presumably sent his bone there also. If Pearce forwarded it to me you will probably find it with my second and third class mail. ,

This running a large expedition is far from a picnic. We have to feed the men and keep a store where they can spend their wages. They are paid by checks on Villanueva in Tenosique and their accounts deducted from their pay. There is so much bookkeeping and business about it that even the superintending of it takes too much of my time from archeological work, and as for the accuracy of the individual accounts I have to rely mainly on the honesty and efficiency of Wyer and his foreman. Wish I had a man to whom I could turn over all the financial matters and forget about them.

It is raining again tonight, not hard, but rains should have ended in January.

Cordial regards from us all to you all.

Sincerely yours,



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THE ELDRIDGE R. JOHNSON
MIDDLE AMERICAN EXPEDITION
TENOSIQUE, TABASCO, MEXICO

J. ALDEN MASON
FIELD DIRECTOR

Piedras Negras
March 23, 1931.

Dear Jayne:

A very large mail arrived today, and I suppose I shall be up till midnight answering the most urgent parts of it -- have to be up at five in the morning too.

As I wrote you just a day or two ago there is little more to add. We are carrying on but have made no spectacular finds so far. Our big equipment, thank God, has arrived in Tenosique and should be here in a few days. They sent two men from the custom house in Carmen to accompany it, and their expenses of course are on us as well as the freight. But we shall be glad to have the stuff.

I also received in this mail a telegram from the Villahermosa bank that they have received a remittance of \$1400 dollars to my ~~g~~ account which was just about exhausted. I see that that is the sum which was to have been sent me on March 26. I intended that you should send me the \$2500 agreed upon for February 26. Expenses these first few months are very high since we are working two crews, one on the road and one excavating; moreover the freight on the equipment will be quite an item, so I shall probably have to call for another installment before the month is out. However, we will try to make it go as far as possible and try to keep the February \$2500 till next year. I will wire you as soon as I need more funds.

No word from the Mexican government yet regarding official permission.

Your letter of March 9 was among those received and I was mighty glad to hear from you. Hope the West Indian trip was most enjoyable. I suppose you made Havana, Panama, Jamaica and Cartagena, but probably not the places I know best, Porto Rico and Santa Marta.

Miss Baker wrote me two letters from Merida and sent two ~~1/2~~ telegrams, in the first of which she said she was leaving for here, and in the second that she was unable to leave. I don't know whether she means at once or never. I wish I had known as much as I do now about travel here. If she comes here we can send her up river to a point only one days travel from Peten-Flores from which point she can catch a weekly airplane to Coban where she will see Dieseldorff. It will be quicker than returning to Frontera and making the long trip around by the isthmus of Tehuantepec, and possibly ~~not~~ no more expensive. A most interesting trip, too.

Merrill wrote me that he did not care to try two years in Central America in succession, as he evidently wrote you also. Blom

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J. ALDEN MASON
FIELD DIRECTOR

replied to me that Merrill was ideal, both as regards work and companionship. I wish he could come. Wyer has begun on the ruins, mapping them, but as he is in general charge of the camp and the men, and as the foreman has got the finances all balled up he has been spending the last week straightening them out and will have to begin supervising the making of the parts of the road that need grading soon.

The news of the repainting and reinstallation and the new offices is most interesting, and I hope that everything will be done by the time I get back.

It was beastly cold last night, and we will welcome the extra blankets in our equipment. Ticks and mosquitoes are few; in fact I have been sleeping without a mosquito bar. But new species of biting flies are appearing every day.

I will probably enclose a letter from a Mrs G. S. Fraser, although it is a large one and I may not find a large envelop to take it. She wrote me as Director of the Museum, and her proposal is one that should be referred to you.

M. R. Harrington of the Southwest Museum, Highland Park, Los Angeles, one of our best field archeologists, wrote me a letter, which I shall wish to answer in person and so keep. On further thought I shall send you the letter and remember to write him myself later. I should like to have him sent the references which he wishes, if there are any on hand. You will probably find them in the old Museum Bulletin, I think that was the name.

Excuse my many errors as I am writing by the aid of a kerosene stable lantern. We shall have our gasoline lamps in a few days, if the gasoline we have ordered comes up too,

Cordial personal regards to all from us all. All are well but Satterthwaite is having boils.

Sincerely yours,

P. S. Please rush us down a pack of envelopes, official, of all sizes. I have just been talking with Satterthwaite who says he put none in our shipment. I understood that special envelopes would be printed for the expedition to match the paper and so told him to take no envelopes, which I had forgotten. The only envelopes securable in Tenosique are very poor, and we are almost out of even those.

J. Alden Mason

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
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PHILADELPHIA

March 25, 1931

Dear Doctor Mason:

Here is a letter from the Pilot Radio and Tube Corporation. Will it not be well to send your order for the radio to their Guatemalan agent? I suppose you will have no difficulty in getting from him the batteries, accumulator, headset etc. If you find he does not have these in stock, send me word and I shall order them from a shop here.

The wire cloth is going forward to you by express. The package was entirely too large to send by parcel post. You will probably think that we are slow in filling your orders - the delay has not been with us, however. Twice the Express Company has brought back the box to us - their clerks seem to have no idea of the customs' requirements for Guatemala. Their first and second instructions were carefully carried out by us - we are hoping that the box is now enroute to Carmen. In future we shall get the name of a dealer in New Orleans to fill these small orders - thus saving much time and I am sure some expense.

On Thursday last we cabled you \$1,400. and yesterday another \$1,100., these two remittances covering the instalment which you originally asked be sent you on February 26. I have on my calendar a memorandum to send you \$1,400. on March 26 and \$1,500. on April 24. From your letters to Mr. Jayne and myself I gather that you do not wish funds sent to you until we receive your instructions.

We shall follow Mr. Satterthwaite's wishes about his salary, and shall deduct from your allowance any sums for this item which we may pay out on his account. *when they reach us*

Although you tell me that ~~Wyer's~~ account now agrees with the figures which I gave you I shall at my first opportunity check the figures sent by him. At present most of my time is given to South American feather and beadwork which look very attractive in their new setting. Tomorrow will see the completion of that task, labels and all. When you return you will probably play havoc with the labelling, but we have done our best and are hoping that our visitors are just as ignorant as we are - which isn't at all likely.

What a trying time you have had! We get some comfort from it when we are lunching under the stairway of the Tea Rose. Occasionally we flit to 39th & Chestnut for a change in food and in cheer.

All goes well here. Mrs. Dam is joining her husband in Bermuda on Monday next he had to take a months' holiday and she is taking a two weeks' spree.

Regards from us all.

Sincerely yours

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
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THE ELDRIDGE R. JOHNSON
MIDDLE AMERICAN EXPEDITION
TENOSIQUE, TABASCO, MEXICO

J. ALDEN MASON
FIELD DIRECTOR

Piedras Negras, Guatemala.
April 2, 1931.

Dear Jayne:

Some mail is going out tomorrow and I have a good deal to chat about. Still I have quite a number of letters to write so must be brief about it. Tomorrow is Good Friday but we will probably work those men who wish to work; I understand they will be few.

We have been entertaining the Morley crowd yesterday and today, six of them and servants. Tomorrow they go on to Yaxchilan, a fine site on the Mexican side of the river two days journey further on where they will spend a month studying the inscriptions. If we can get away at different times we will run up to see them later. Morley is enthusiastic over everything, the road, the camp, the finds we have made and the work we have done and I feel a little encouraged that the results have not been so slight as I sometimes fear.

Thanks for your good letter of March 17 which arrived a few days ago. In the mail today I received one from Ambassador Clark in which he enclosed a copy of the memorandum which he sent you naming the conditions under which the Mexican Government will give us permission of exportation of specimens. Some of them will be a little expensive, but it is as good as we could expect, and the matter, thank God and Clark, is at last settled.

(We are now more comfortable. A load of our equipment arrived a week ago or less and another lot today; there is still a third mule train to arrive. But we have now most of our stuff and are living more comfortably with better food and equipment and it will all be here soon. The two Mexican "celadores" who had to accompany the stuff from Carmen are still with us, and I presume we will have a pretty bill for their salaries and expenses as well as boarding them until the last of the stuff arrived. Typical of Mexico, I have received no official notice of their coming here and don't know what I must pay them or for them.)

Expenses are tremendous and give me the blues when I think of them. For wages and keep of the men alone takes most of the \$1500 per month which I was budgeted. But that is mainly because we are pushing work so hard on the road, employing about 25 men on that, about 14 digging and about 11 around the camp, about 50 in all at about a dollar a day and about 60 cents per day for their food. I should have said it takes over \$2000 per month for their wages and food. But this high expense will be over by the end of April. Wyer expects to finish the cutting for the road about the 10th of the month and there will then remain some grading over the worst places and a few small bridges to put

in. But fewer men will be required for this and the road gang will be reduced in two weeks or less.]

I have not received letters advising me what funds are being sent me and am a little confused by two telegrams I have received from the bank in Villahermosa, one of March 22d, advising me of the receipt of \$1400 and the other of March 25 of the receipt of \$1100. Probably that makes the \$2500 which was to have been sent me on February 26. Since my expenses at present are so high with the big gang of men and the extra expenses of the freight of equipment and salary of the Mexican customs officials, you had better send me the \$1500 which I was to have been sent on March 26 as soon as you receive this letter.

We are having a dark-room built and it will be done in a few days now. Our photographic equipment has come and in a few days I hope to develop and print some photographs and send you some and also write a letter to Mr. Johnson and enclose some. I shall write and thank Reuben Clark in a few days too.

I received a letter from H. B. Collins of the National Museum in Washington, forwarded from Philadelphia, asking permission to come and study our archeological collections from Point Barrow. He may have already got into touch with you, having found out that I was not home. I have written him and suggested that he get Miss Delaguna to show him the material, since she is the only one who knows about it. It is in two groups in trays in room 48 Basement, one group the 1919 Van Valin collection and another group the 1929 Hopson collection. His letter reminded me of the two small groups of these collections which I placed on exhibition in the north end of the Eskimo Hall. If that hall is being reinstalled these must be carefully cared for, for I violated the first rule of museology by putting some specimens on exhibition uncatalogued. There were two sections of a table case, one with the Van Valin collection and one with the Hopson collection, a few selected specimens from each. The harpoon heads of the VanValin collection, and a few other specimens had been catalogued when they were placed on exhibition years ago; the rest of the specimens from both collections are uncatalogued but I wrote in pencil on each specimen the number of the tray or house from which they came. Please be sure if these cases are dismantled that the groups are not mixed. I would not try to put them back into the trays they came from in room 48, but put each group in a tray in its respective collection and I will read my penciled marks on them when I get back and put them in their proper places again.

Work is going along well now but there are endless troubles. The keeping of accounts needs a bookkeeper. Wyer has been spending most of his time on them for a long time when he ought to be engaged in engineering work, but his foreman got them into a mess and there is no one else who can straighten them out. Then Wyer and Satterthwaite don't hit it well together. W. is very sensitive and takes offence very easily. He and I get along well but he doesn't like S. He threatened to quit two weeks ago and did resign on Saturday. We straightened the matter out and everything is pleasant now, but there may be

another explosion is a few weeks, and I really need W. more than S. at the present stage of the game. And I can't put an ad in the *Piedras Negras Gazoot* and get another engineer tomorrow. Hope I can keep on smoothing down ruffled feathers. But such personal differences are almost inevitable at camp. That reminds me that Morley's engineer who is here, John Boles, was with Erich Schmidt and Van Osten at ??????. He says that Breasted fired the wrong men, evidently liking Schmidt very much and taking his part.

[As regards the work, I wish I were as easily satisfied as Morley and Satterthwaite. We found a new lintel with a new initial series (the principal Maya dates) which Morley raves about and swears is worth a season's work itself, also a new stela. But both are broken into pieces and badly eroded and not worth taking home. Some of the fragments of the new lintel, however, are excellently preserved and worth taking. They are both of great importance epigraphically, and the lintel was a beautiful thing. We will almost certainly find more lintels among the debris of fallen buildings before we quit. We have finished excavating a number of rooms and have most interesting architectural notes of importance. At present I am working on the only standing building in the place, the building which Maler (whose work I presume you keep at your side for ready reference) called the "Casa de ocho aposentos" (house of eight rooms). His plan is all wet and it has only four rooms in addition to the central one, these rooms being among the widest in the Maya region, over three meters wide. There are one or two wider rooms known but in the later Maya Period when architecture was better developed. It is probably the widest room, or rooms, rather, for there are four of them, in the Old Maya Period. How they were roofed we find it hard to imagine, possibly by a roof of beams. Such are known in late Yucatan buildings but not in these older ones. In the small room in the interior I have found today an altar shrine, much destroyed, but the most promising place yet for finding buried objects under the floor. Altogether the building contains many features of unusual interest, and I hope to find some good small objects. Finds of small objects, such as pottery and jade, are rarely found in Maya cities, but we have hopes of locating eventually a graveyard or some large ceremonial cache. At present we have secured only two caches of flint and obsidian chipped ceremonial objects buried under stelae, some artistic fragments of stucco, and heaps of potshards of scientific interest but not exhibition value. For a real scientific study we should bring all the sherds home to study, but I wouldn't dare to look Miss McHugh in the face if I did, so am merely making a selection of those showing forms and types, stratigraphy, etc.

Possibly I should boost the value of these finds more; Morely and Satterthwaite are apparently quite satisfied with the results to date, but I cannot feel so yet. Hope to strike something worth writing about before long.

S. has a cold and boils, Mrs S. has a "ringworm" infection (which isn't a worm at all), and we all scratch insect bites, but otherwise all are well and wish you the same. Excuse me if I don't read this over; it's too late.

Cordially yours,

J. Allen

April 7, 1931

Dear Mason:

Thank you for your two letters of March 21st and 23rd which arrived simultaneously this morning. I have replied to or taken care of the various enclosures accompanying them. The envelopes will go off to you with all possible dispatch. I take it that your financial needs are already taken care of, since Miss McHugh tells me she wired funds not so long ago.

Your report of progress and finds are encouraging and augur well for the future; I hope your luck keeps up. We shall welcome some photographs very much. I wish I could make some suggestion that would relieve you of some of the executive burdens you have to bear. It seems scarcely just that you should have those which occupy your time that might be better spent in scientific work. Maybe next year we can afford to send an accountant or storekeeper or the like.

Miss Baker as you no doubt will have heard, was laid up with shingles which was too bad. She must have been extremely uncomfortable, but when last I heard she was recovering. The one picture she has already sent -- of a bowl at Tulane -- was a beauty. I think it probable she will get enough done to take care of Parts III and IV, though whether we shall have the funds to bring out both, I very much doubt. The financial picture does not seem to brighten.

Send on as many of the letters you receive for us to answer as you can. This may relieve your time somewhat. I hate to think of your wasting your night hours pounding the typewriter, especially when you must be up at five o'clock. We don't want you to come back only a your former self.

My best to the Satterthwaites and everyone here sends you their regards as does

Yours very sincerely,

Dr. J. Alden Mason
Tenosique
Tabasco, Mexico

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

THE ELDRIDGE R. JOHNSON
MIDDLE AMERICAN EXPEDITION
TENOSIQUE, TABASCO, MEXICO

J. ALDEN MASON
FIELD DIRECTOR

Campamento Piedras Negras,
Guatamala,
April 11, 1931.

Miss Jane M. McHugh,
University Museum,
Philadelphia, Penna.,

Dear Miss McHugh:

I presume that my request of some weeks ago reached you, and that my salary checks for the months of February and March have been sent to my brother, Willis H. Satterthwaite, 305 South Fortieth St., Philadelphia. Will you be good enough to discontinue this practice as to checks for April and May (i.e. due May 1st. and June 1st.) and advise Dr. Mason that no deduction on account of my salary is being made in Philadelphia. I shall need these here to clear accounts with the camp and for the journey home. In case this note does not reach you before May 1st. it can of course apply only to the payment due June 1st.

With kind regards to yourself
and to Mr. Jayne, I am,

Faithfully yours,

Linton Satterthwaite Jr.
Linton Satterthwaite Jr.

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MARCH 17, 1931

J ALDEN MASON
 C/O FRANCISCO VILLANUEVA
 TENOSIQUE
 TABASCO MEXICO

LETTER FROM CLARK STATES QUOTE GLAD TO INFORM YOU THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS JUST NOTIFIED THE EMBASSY THAT AN AUTHORIZATION HAS BEEN GIVEN FOR THE TRANSIT THROUGH MEXICAN TERRITORY OF THE MATERIAL IN QUESTION AND EMBASSY HAS BEEN ADVISED INFORMALLY BY LOCAL CUSTOMS OFFICIALS THAT THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT IS NOW WILLING TO GRANT THE PERMISSION REQUESTED FOR BOTH PHASES OF THE QUESTION UNQUOTE LATTER REFERS TO BOTH SUPPLIES AND FINDS STOP WILL YOU WIRE WHEN YOU RECEIVE OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF THIS PERMISSION SO THAT I CAN CONFIRM DEFINITE RECEIPT OF THE AUTHORITY AS PER CLARKS REQUEST STOP IF IT COMES HERE I SHALL CABLE REGARDS TO AND FROM ALL

JAYNE

11 A.M. - 9.46

WESTERN UNION GIFT ORDERS ARE APPROPRIATE GIFTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS.

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

THE ELDRIDGE R. JOHNSON
MIDDLE AMERICAN EXPEDITION
TENOSIQUE, TABASCO, MEXICO

J. ALDEN MASON
FIELD DIRECTOR

Piedras Negras,
April 11, 1931.

Dear Jayne:

Wyer is busy printing a set of our photographs for you so that they may go off tomorrow morning in the same mail with this; they will go in separate box, though. We have got a very good darkroom built and as you will see the results are excellent. I will continue sending photographs as we make them; there are many more that I have in mind to take, and some undeveloped yet. Probably in the next lot I will send some of three of the four stelae that I am going to make especial efforts to get out this year. The best one is in pieces, in different places, and cannot be photographed.

Mean unusual weather continues. It rained Easter Sunday and poured last night and rained most of today. Rains should have ceased entirely six weeks or more ago. I wonder how the Morleys, further up river at Yaxchilan, are getting along, for of course they planned on this being the dry season. However he always travels equipped for anything, even taking a physician along with him. With all his years of experience in Mexico, like the rest of us, he ran up against official difficulties, and the guardian newly placed at Yaxchilan tried to prohibit his work there, so he had to send back to Tenosique to send a telegram, and apparently everything is all right for him now.

I am in perfect health but all the others are having some trouble, both the Satterthwaites with boils, and the Wyers with miscellaneous aches and pains. Our last box of equipment arrived today; it was too long and had to be taken back to Tenosique to be repacked. The Mexican customs authorities ~~did not~~ left us a few days ago; I suppose there will be a healthy bill for their expenses. The bill for freight up the river will be big also. That for the transportation of it from Tenosique to here on mule-back was 856 pesos, about \$400!

Yesterday our foreman in charge of road construction sent in a note that the two sections of the road were connected, and the road gang has been reduced from about 30 to 13. Thank God for that, for I was appalled at the tremendous expense, as I told you in my last letter. Some clearing has to be done on the section made last year, clearing out fallen trees, etc, a half dozen small bridges have to be put in, and some difficult grading done over the worst hill, but the force for this will be small and Wyer estimates that in about a month it will be ready for the wagons to go over it. We have already made an agreement with a teamster who has oxen and who will superintend the transportation to the head of navigation. I hope that, on account of the rains continuing so late, they will also begin late and give us time to get out a good

number of the monuments this season. I am going to try to get at least four out for the Museum, and must take four for Guatemala. I hope to get for the Museum, unless the Guatemalan inspector is less amenable than I expect, those shown in Maler as ~~plates~~ stelae 12, 14, 36 and 15. The latter is a new one discovered by Morley, somewhat weather-worn, but the highest relief in the Maya area. Unless the inspector objects, I shall take for Guatemala 32, 33, 2 and one other. All of these are relatively light, or in pieces; I do not wish to tackle any heavy ones until our transportation system is better organized. Stela 14 is figured in Joyce's "Mexican Archeology" I think plate XX, as an example of the finest Maya sculpture. I always admire it as I pass it lying on the ground and covered with moss.

I have written to thank Reuben Clark, and as soon as I can ~~have~~ have some more photographs printed I will write Mr. Johnson. The Wyers and Satterthwaiges are getting along finely now and I hope the personnel troubles are over. Wyer is gradually getting the finances into shape and I will send you a digest as soon as it is finished. Finances would require most of the time of a bookkeeper. Labor gang continuously changing with their times to be kept, payments on account minus what they have bought at the store, supplies ordered from Tenosique, salaries and personal accounts make a lot of time.

Satterthwaite and I each run a gang of six men digging. The women divide their duties well now. Mrs Satterthwaite takes charge of cataloguing and specimens and helps with the digging while Mrs Wyer runs the camp and kitchen.

As I suggested in my last letter, the remittances had better be sent me as originally agreed upon since expenses are so ~~high~~ high now. The bank does not place the funds to my account until I have returned receipts which they send me, and I have only just received the receipts for the \$1100 and \$1400 sent me about March 21st. I haven't been informed yet how much they gave me in pesos.

I enclose a letter from a Mr. Keck whom I met back in 1915. Since he gives no address I can't answer it, but it gives a pleasant unsolicited appreciation of Alan Rowe and his work in which you will probably be interested. Leave it on my desk after you have ~~read~~ read it.

Miss McHugh's letter of the 25th arrived today. Give her my most cordial regards. I will try to find time to write her a personal letter soon. I am sorry she did not get the radio and ship it to us. Mail from here to Guatemala City takes longer than to Philadelphia and there is practically no communication. We probably would not get our radio until we are ready to leave. Don't bother about it any more; we are too busy to fool with a radio anyway.

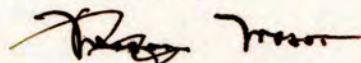
I was mistaken about envelopes. Satterthwaite said he had put none in our baggage, but a large number turned up. However, I suppose you have already sent me the bundle of them I asked for.

Digging is going along well in several places. I finished excavating the house with the broad rooms, all except the inner chamber which is not entirely done. There still may be something under the lower floor, but I have little hope. Now I am engaged in excavating the temple on the top of the pyramid on which stelae 12 and 15 stood, but it is so fallen that deep excavation must be done, and the walls are so massive and leaning that it is dangerous. The rear room is only a meter wide and the walls thicker than that. The bottom is a good three meters under the soil and both walls leaning forward, so I doubt if I can clear the floor entirely. The front room probably had three entrances, each with a fine lintel. The central lintel was found by Maler and is in Cambridge (Maler plate XXXI). Maler found the fragment of another lintel, just a small piece, which Morley calls the finest piece of sculpture in the Maya region on account of its freedom of pose. I am going to search carefully for the other fragments. The third lintel has never been found; Morley spent three days looking for it several years ago. I am going to make a long search for it. Satterthwaite found in the woods what may turn out to be very important, some burial vaults. He excavated one but it contained only the bones without grave furniture. The bones were not in natural articulated position but scattered throughout the grave. We hope that other graves will afford more interesting results. Meanwhile he is continuing his excavations on the "Acropolis" with rooms expending up a high hill. This will give a very interesting plan and architectural details, but no artifacts of interest, probably.

It's raining again now, they report.

Goodnight, and cordial regards to all.

Sincerely yours,



THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

THE ELDRIDGE R. JOHNSON
MIDDLE AMERICAN EXPEDITION
TENOSIQUE, TABASCO, MEXICO

J. ALDEN MASON
FIELD DIRECTOR

Sunday morning, April 12, 1931.

Dear Jayne:

A nice bright day after the rain. We generally cease digging on Sundays and use it to attend to matters around the camp, study results and take account of stock. Any men who wish to work are given some that requires no supervision. Today, however, only one man wanted to work and he also backed out.

I am enclosing herewith some of the photographs that we have taken. We did not plan on doing much printing of photographs, expecting merely to make proofs on sunlight paper, and so ordered no paper such as these are printed on. These are printed on some paper that Wyer had, and ~~this~~ this is about exhausted now and I have ordered some more locally. We did not have enough 5x7 paper so had to print some of the large negatives on postcard size paper, some in two sections. I think it would be unwise to trust to sending you our negatives by mail so we will keep them here; if you wish any for reproduction let me know and by that time we will probably have some glossy paper and can send you some prints suitable for reproduction.

Instead of writing or typing the titles on the back of the prints, I will number them and the descriptions follow; you can have someone with better handwriting than I, write the titles on the back. Typing the titles on the back might spoil them for reproduction.

1. General view of camp taken with long focus lens from other (Mexican) side of Usumacinta River. Houses from left to right Store, Mason's house, Guatemalan Inspector's house, Guest house, Kitchen, Main house, Satterthwaite's house, Wyer's house, Bath and toilet. On the entering road, not shown, are Laborers' Shed, Laborers' kitchen, a married workman's house, Dairyman's house (last two erected at their own expense) and shed for horses.

2. Closer view of main part of camp showing, from left to right: Mason's house, Store, Guatemalan Inspector's house, (one corner), Guest house, Kitchen (barely seen), Main house with Mr. and Mrs Wyer.

3. View down stream from porch of main house, showing Mason's house.

4. Group of personnel of expedition and of Dr. Morley's expedition to Yaxchilan. Left to right: Lower row: Satterthwaite, Mrs Wyer, Mason, Mrs Satterthwaite, Wyer. Middle row: Morley, Mrs Morley, John Boles (engineer), Upper row: Dr. Rife (physician), Mr. Rhoades (father of Mrs Morley), Carl Rupert (Morley's assistant)

5. Part of West Court showing, from left to right,

Altar 1, main staircase, 2 pieces of stela 4, main part of stela 5 on slope, fragment of stela 2 on terrace; in background Satterthwaite's excavations of buildings on slope of Acropolis. (Cf. Maler, fig. 17.)

5. Megalithic stairway in west court.

7. Altar 1 with stelae 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8.

8. Altar 1 (Haven't decided whether I shall take this out or not but probably shall, next year.)

9. Stela 36 (Shall try to get this out this year,),
229 x 95 x 35 cm.

10. Interior^{of} temple excavated on top of pyramid 42.

11. id.

12. Niche in rear of above temple.

13. New lintel discovered from temple on top of pyramid 42. Initial series date in upper left: 9, 9, 8, 0, ?. (Two corner pieces will probably be kept) Measures approximately ~~126~~ 146 x 120 x 30.

14. Largest and best standing building after partial excavation. Cf. Maler, fig. 21, which is all wrong.

15. id., from other side, after further excavation

16. id., " " " , after excavation

17. id., Door to central chamber with trench leading to it.

The mail is waiting to go to Tenosique, so until the next.

Cordial regards to all.

Sincerely yours,



THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

THE ELDRIDGE R. JOHNSON
MIDDLE AMERICAN EXPEDITION
TENOSIQUE, TABASCO, MEXICO

J. ALDEN MASON
FIELD DIRECTOR

Camp "Piedras Negras", Guatemala
April 21, 1931.

Dear Jayne:

I haven't sent you a report for ten days now. I apparently forgot to touch wood after boasting to you of how I was keeping in better health than the others, for a few days later, about a week ago, a fever hit me, probably malaria, and has kept me in poor shape ever since. I feel better today and hope that I have got the better of it, but feel very weak after a week of intermittent fever and no appetite. It may not be over yet, for the intermittent nature of malaria is its principal characteristic, and I am keeping up my 20 grains of quinine per day. Also have an infected leg from scratching an insect bite, and hope that that will be nothing serious. I have kept around camp more than usual, since my gang is doing excavation that does not require constant supervision, and they are getting well trained now, and am getting up to date with those eternal bugbears, finances and correspondence.

Hope you got the photographs which I sent you on the 12th. Sunday I printed for you the rest of those that we have developed so far, 35 of them, I think. But as we were out of developing paper (some has been ordered) I printed them on sunlight paper which should be toned and fixed. We have no toning solution but have ordered some. I can fix them, that is, make them permanent, but that gives them a nasty yellow color. I haven't decided yet whether to fix them (Wyer says they can be toned later but I never heard of it) or to send them to you unfixed so that Witte can tone and fix them. The danger is that the customs authorities may open the box and expose it to light long enough to fade them; they are like the photographer's proofs of a portrait. When you get the box I would suggest that you send it down to Witte unopened so that he can do what is necessary to them first.

Excavation goes on with two gangs of about six men each, which we shall probably increase soon. We try out all men who apply for work and I have written Villanueva in Tenosique to try to find us some more good men. I am still digging around one of the largest pyramids, the same one I mentioned in my last letter, but at the base, as I want to be sure that the lintels I am looking for are not buried at the base before I excavate on the slopes and throw debris down. The results so far on this are merely valuable architectural notes and photographs showing a very broad staircase with a high retaining wall on either side, the balance of the sides of the pyramid being made of recessed terraces separated by slanting walls. Part of the court floor at the base of the steps seems to be paved. *No, it is cement.*

Under altar 5, at the base of the steps I found another cache of flint and obsidian objects chipped in peculiar shapes, ceremonial objects, of course. That makes the third of these caches

found so far, the other two under stelae. Satterthwaite is continuing digging in a more distant part of the city where the structures are not so impressive, but which on that account may have been a domiciliary region and therefore more likely to reveal small objects of interest. While he hasn't found much so far, the prospects are better than in the ceremonial center of the city. He found another burial with a few beads, a small entire pottery vessel and the incisor teeth inset with green stone (probably not jade) and obsidian. These are of great interest and rare, but they have been known before; it was a common practise of the Maya. One of his skulls shows the deformed head with flat forehead which was the practise of the Maya. (See the heads on ~~the~~ ⁱⁿ pottery ⁱⁿ exhibition) He has also found some fragments of figurines and many sherds of beautiful painted pottery which indicates that if we ever succeed in finding the graveyard, or in learning the surface indications of graves, we may secure many fine pottery specimens. Some of the figurines look very much like archaic types from the Valley of Mexico.

percent

And so, our small specimens being of no great moment to date, I must return to harp upon the stelae. Wyer's foreman, who is supervising the building of the road under Wyer's instructions, astounded me by coming in enthusiastically a few days ago and announcing that the most difficult part of the road, the ascent of Cerro Tapexco, was all done, at a cost of less than two hundred pesos (say eighty dollars) for labor. I thought it would be a long job of a month and cost many hundred, for it is an ascent of nearly five hundred feet, and the former mule trail led up in a winding fashion with a grade of sixty five ~~degrees~~ in places. Wyer's first idea was to build a trestle, or several of them, then to use dynamite, but finally, apparently, they succeeded in getting a long even, though steep, grade merely by filling in rocks. I have been feeling too poorly to go out to see it but am eager to. The horsemen who have come over it since say that they did not believe it when they were told of it, but that they trotted up the grade where they used to dismount and pull their horses up after them. The grade is all on one side, fortunately on the Tenosique side, so the wagons can be let down easily, loaded, with brakes and held by tackle if necessary, while the ox teams can haul the empty wagons up the grade. It remains now only to put in a few very small bridges over gullies and to clear the road made last year of the fallen trees and brush. The foreman says he will have the wagons ~~here~~ here with the oxen on May 10, and as he has always fulfilled or anticipated his estimates so far, we can probably rely upon that. I understand now, so they say, we could drive an auto from here to the end of our road at the head of canoe navigation, if we had the auto.

Knowing the Mexican officials, however, I fear more difficulties with them. You have the copy of the regulations imposed by the customs authorities regarding shipment, that when we are ready to ship we must inform the customs in Frontera, who will send officials here to seal everything on this side and accompany everything to Frontera (Alvaro Obregon -- they change the names of cities, streets and everything after every revolution). That's all right so far as small objects that can be put on mule back and taken in one shipment are concerned, but as regards the

stelae, that's a color of a different horse. The slow-moving ox-teams will take eight or ten days to the trip and return and will take only one stela on each wagon at a trip. Unless the rainy season holds off on account of the very unseasonable rains we have been having, it may begin to rain late in May and put an end to our transportation early in June. I have written several letters explaining this to the customs authorities in Frontera, but haven't much hope that they will vary from the regulations imposed one iota; they are more tied up with red tape than even our government. I suppose they will insist on officials being here before the first shipment goes over the border and being sat on like an old hen until, several months later, it reaches Frontera. And all, of course, salary, expenses and board, on the expedition. They will send two, at least; presumably there are lots of needy politicians in Frontera. The two who came up from Carmen with the equipment were decent fellows, but the next couple may be hard-boiled.

I told you in my last the stelae I am going to take first, 12, 14, 36, 15, unless the Guatemalan inspector insists on taking some of these. Stela 13 is very highly favored by artists. Spinden figures it in his handbook (AMNH) as he considers it one of the finest examples of Maya art, and it shows up well in Maler. But the relief is very low and eroded and it does not make much of an impression on the ground. I fear it has eroded much since Maler's time. Still I think I'll take it as my fifth choice.

Morley is very insistent that the four "Buddha" figures go to the same place. These are stelae 25, 6, 11 and 14; I think that is the order of their age. The series is of great interest as it depicts the same subject at different periods of art development. The exact date in Christian chronology is not yet certain, but will probably be settled some time, but at any rate it is possible to say that a period of so many years elapsed between the carving of 25 and 6, for instance, and that the art development shown took place in that period of years. Very important from an artistic point of view. Should I make especial efforts to get these four? All are worth having. There are about 25 stelae worth exporting here. Three of these fall in the first 13, as I have estimated their importance, and the fourth is no. 16 in my choice, so I presume I might better advance this to the first moiety, but would you prefer that I choose subjects with more variant art?

One of the last objects to arrive was our transit tripod, but as soon as it came Wyer began surveying the ruins for plans and has kept at that job pretty steadily. The owner of the ~~my~~ oxen has contracted to supervise the transportation, so Wyer will not have to attend to that and will be able to spend most of his time hereafter ~~to~~ in surveying and drawing, although the finances, time-keeping, and the miscellaneous camp jobs keep him occupied a great deal.

The Morley crowd will be down from Yaxchilan on the 4th to spend the 5th and 6th with us. He wrote me that they had found sculptured altars or bases at both ends and center of the ball-court there and that I should find the same here. I dug in one of our two ball-courts and found two of the three, but in our case they were unsculptured. There is still hope in the other court which I have not looked at yet.

of equipment

It's hell keeping track of finances so far from bases. I haven't received any bill yet for the freight up the river in the boat, nor do I know how much I have to pay for the expenses (and probably the salary) of the Mexican customs officials who were our self-invited guests for two weeks or so. I received a telegram a few days ago ~~that~~ from the bank in Villahermosa that on April 16 they had received a remittance for me of \$1500, but I have not yet heard from them how many pesos in exchange I was given for your remittances of March 18 and 19. (\$1100 and 1400). There are so many outstanding bills that I have only the vaguest idea how my finances stand and even vaguer ones as to what will be expenses of Mexican customs officials and freight down river.

I have heard frequently from Miss Baker, as I presume you have. She expects to come up here and I have encouraged her, possibly unwisely, to let us send her up river to a point where, by a short airplane flight from Peten Flores to Coban, she can get to Dieseldorff's place and avoid the long trip around by way of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and the later long trip from Guatemala City to Coban. It will be a hard trip, but she is wild to make it, and I think she's a rather tough old bird and can stand it, but at present she's even wilder over a persistent case of shingles, and fears if it doesn't clear up she'll have to give up the rest of her trip.

Most of last week was cloudy, threatening, and sometimes drizzling, but the last few days have been fine. *Dark does now.*

Everything is lovely between the camp personnel now. Mrs Wyer is making a flower garden in front of the house. I intended to do that but just haven't had time. Maybe I write too many long letters. But our vegetable garden is not so hot and probably not worth the expense I have put into it since it has to be watered by hand. We are getting Swiss chard greens and radishes now, and the carrots and ~~bering~~ beans look fair, but many things are complete failures here. The peas grew about eight inches high and yielded a pod or two of rachitic peas each, and the corn is in bloom at eighteen inches high and trying to put out ears. Too many ants for one thing.

I forgot to say that I sent a copy of the letter I sent to the Frontera Customs to Reuben Clark and begged him to put the matter up to the Customs head and try to let me take the stelae over the border at my convenience. I'll probably write to Gamio too and ask him to use his influence.

Miss Baker said she met Carter, the dirigible man, in Meñida.

I don't understand Miss McHugh's bankers advice that since the price of silver is advancing, remittances be sent only as needed. As the price of silver advances I get fewer and fewer pesos for the dollar. Wyer was getting 2.70 at one time, and I think it's about 2.30 now and still dropping.

I heard from Miss de Laguna and I am as pleased as she that you intend to send her back to Alaska this summer. She said

you promised her some sort of a job at the Museum next year. Also good. I want her to write up the important collection of Eskimo archeology and possibly she can supervise the reinstallation of the Eskimo Hall and the storage of the immense ~~storage~~ *study* collection.

I am wondering what you hear from Gregory Mason; I presume he left late in March as planned. It is a very rich field and almost untouched around Santa Marta, Colombia, where he is going, and he ought to get a stunning collection, if he has no trouble with the authorities in getting it out. Be sure you publish nothing on his work there until he is out. That was what gummed the game for me there. I am surprised he did not write me; I sent him a long letter of advice and suggestions as to the best places to work. Also asked Dr. Laufer to send him a set of the proofs of my article on the archeology of that region which should be off the press soon at Field Museum. I wish I could find such quantities of small fine things here as I did there -- after I found a good place.

I hear that the offices are finished and ready for occupancy -- I presume occupied now, the South American Ethnology all installed and the Eskimo Hall being painted.

I enclose ads of two publications which should be ordered. For a year or so I've been so busy that every book ad. that came in I threw into a pile, and then brought them all with me here to go over carefully and order from them. Haven't had time to look at them yet; these two just arrived in the mail.

I got about twenty letters in the last mail and have now answered all but the personal ones. Now for a letter to Mr. Johnson tonight. I am heartily ashamed for not having written him yet; I have been waiting hoping to have something good to tell him and also to send him a lot of photos, but a letter to him goes off in the next mail with this whether or not.

There can't be anything more to say, and I suppose you are bored to tears. But I shall probably have a postscript to add before someone comes to take this to Tenosique. My most sincere regards to everyone.

Cordially yours,

Mason

Satterthwaite just returned from work and reports another burial, not entirely excavated yet. And the Wyers have just returned from Cerro Tapexco where they took some photographs of the work there and report it is a very good job with a maximum grade of thirty or thirty five percent (15 degrees) and could be climbed by an auto.

*I shall send the box of prints unfix'd.
I think my malaria is over but my infected leg is bad. If it does not improve I'll run up & see Maling's doctor.*

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS MAILED IN SEPARATE BOX

(Numbers refer to field catalog of our negatives)

1. Gasoline railway cars used in taking tourists to Uxmal, Yucatan
10. Party of Dr. S. G. Morley leaving for Yaxchilan, March, 1931
12. Great stairway in West Court. The upper part of the broken great slab at the left was found with glyphs on it, and the stone was decided to be a reused stela which Morley calls Stela 43.
16. Stelae 4 to 8. At left, 2 pieces of #4, face down; ^{above} ~~next left~~ #5, face up; in center #6, face up; at right #7, face down; at far right #8, one piece at base of terrace and one at top.
17. Top of terrace of West Court showing stelae 1, 2, 3 and base of 4, after some excavation.
18. Cist in which stela #4 was interred with base of stela in place.
19. Cist in which stela #6 was interred.
20. Top of base of stela #8 in ground showing glyphs on side.
21. East Room, Structure #1, Acropolis.
23. Excavations of temple on top of pyramid #42, showing rear niche at right, and front entrance at left.
30. Partly excavated broad room in best preserved building, #26, showing front and side walls, right front entrance, and front of central chamber with two niches in front wall.
31. Excavated room in best preserved building, #26, showing floor, front and side walls, front right entrance and medial division wall.
32. Arch in wall of best preserved building, #26, before excavation. A step was later found beneath this arch, leading up into rear room.
33. Central chamber of best preserved building, #26, showing step up to rear room, hole made by treasure-hunters, front wall with two niches and small doorway with trench leading into it, after removal of sill in doorway. Debris originally covered doorway and extended to base of niches above.
34. id., another view
36. View of camp from entering road, showing from left to right: well hole (dry, alas), men's shed, kitchen, guest house, men's kitchen, store, Guatemalan Inspector's house, garden.
37. View up river from camp, showing from left to right: main house, Satterthwaite's house, Mason's house.
38. Pyramid #27 with one of the stelae at base. The base and slopes of this are being searched for two lintels.

39. Base of pyramid #27 showing stelae at base. Right to left: stelae 13, 16, 17, 18, altar 5, stela 19, 14. East Group
40. Base of pyramid 6, South Group, showing from left to right: stelae 32, 33, 34, lintel 4, stone column, stelae 35, 36, 37.
41. Stela 36, my third choice for exportation.
42. Stela 15, torso, my fourth choice for exportation. Probably the highest relief sculpture in the Maya area. The elbows are completely undercut. The head and headdress are in two pieces on the court below, this being half way up pyramid. Both are badly eroded. Maler found the headdress and considered it to represent a part of a serpent. Moxley found this torso.
43. Stela 14, my second choice for exportation.
44. Grave 1. showing disarticulated bones.
45. id. from above
46. Stela 13 from right side (Rated artistically as one of the best in the Maya region)
47. id. from the left side.
48. Stela #16 from left side, showing stela 13 in background.
49. Stela #16 from right side, showing stelae 17, 18 and altar 5 in background.
50. Stela 17 from left side, showing stela 18 and altar 5 in background.
51. id. from right side, showing stelae 13 and 16 in background.
52. Stela 18 in 3 parts, and altar 5.
53. Altar #4, right side and front.
54. Altar #4, left side and rear.
55. Altar 5, after partial excavation.
56. Santo Domingo Garcia, Lacandon Indian.

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

April 21, 1931

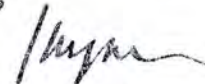
Dear Mason:

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of April 2nd which came when I was in the throes of preparing for the April Meeting and hence the delay. There is as a matter of fact no particular comment to make on what you report except to encourage you in your efforts and perhaps cheer you up a little. It would seem that if Morley is pleased with the results so far, you should be, and I account for your state of semi-depression on the grounds of too much detailed work and the general difficulties of expedition direction which I know from bitter experience are many. It's too bad Wyer and Satterthwaite don't get along too well and I suppose you are right that if it came to a show-down Satterthwaite would have to come back, but your tact will probably avoid this disruption. I hope so for I should have difficulty taking care of Satterthwaite; money becomes increasingly hard to find.

I received a bitter blast from Burkitt. His Journal articles were all wrong, with omissions and commissions, added to which the engravers lost one of his drawings and made a new one largely from imagination. I deserve all the maledictions he heaps on my head. I may by now have learned the necessity of submitting proofs to authors. If you do see him try to smooth things out, and I, of course, am writing to apologize as best I may for the errors. It is your department and you should know of the contretemps, but I am fully prepared to shoulder all the blame.

Good luck to you and best regards from all of us to all of you.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. J. Alden Mason
c/o Francisco Villaneuva
Tenosique
Tabasco, Mexico

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

THE ELDRIDGE R. JOHNSON
MIDDLE AMERICAN EXPEDITION
TENOSIQUE, TABASCO, MEXICO

J. ALDEN MASON
FIELD DIRECTOR

Camp Piedras Negras,
April 23, 1931.

Dear Jayne:

Telegram revised.

I have just prepared a telegram to send you the next time anyone is going to Tenosique. I confirm it thus, since it may have been garbled in transmission: FOUND LINTEL THREE SEE MALER PAGE SIXTY STOP ABOUT SAME SIZE AS TWO BUT INCOMPARABLY FINER SEE PAGE FIFTH NINE AND PLATE THIRTY ONE STOP DOUBTLESS THE FINEST PIECE OF ABORIGINAL AMERICAN SCULPTURE STOP THREE PIECES ~~BUT~~ ONE SMALL PIECE GONE STOP LOW RELIEF WONDERFUL BUT HIGH RELIEF SOMEWHAT ERODED. It will go out at the same time as this letter.

one of these,

I wish I had postponed that letter to Mr. Johnson just one day longer. I don't believe that the man who was taking the mail to Tenosique, including my last letter to you and one to Mr. Johnson, had yet left camp yesterday when my gang of workmen found the lintel that we had been looking for for about a week. It was found just about where I thought it would be, on the same platform on which Maler found no. 2, but I did not dare to dig up on the pyramid and throw debris down it until I had finished investigating the debris at the base which was to be covered. They found it only a few hours after they began going up the slope. It is broken, unfortunately, in four pieces and a small triangular piece, is missing. I had the men hunt over everything they had thrown out all yesterday and this morning, but without finding the missing piece. I don't believe we will find it, but have offered a reward of twenty pesos (\$10., ten days pay) for it, and they will probably continue hunting on their own time. The other pieces were all together, face down, and therefore rather well preserved. And what a work of art! We all rave over it and even the workmen come in and admire it. I am looking forward to seeing Morley enthuse over it when he arrives on May 4th. He calls the small fragment of lintel 1 (Plate XXX, Maler) the "finest piece of Maya art," merely because one figure is in a naturalistic pose, and ours has many figures in the most naturalistic poses and is wonderfully preserved. Although not so well preserved as the two lintels from Yaxchilan which Maudsley took to the British Museum, and which I have always considered the best specimens of Maya art, this is incomparably better art and I have no hesitation in calling it the finest known piece of aboriginal American sculpture. It is superior to anything Egyptian that I know of, or anything Mesopotamian, for that matter. In fact, while I don't want to ~~say~~ be quoted as saying so, I think it the finest piece of art ever produced in aboriginal America. The reasons for thinking so are: The Maya were the best artists in America and the highest sculptural art among the Maya was in these cities of the Usumacinta River Valley, Piedras Negras leading all. The sculptures here are in three groups, the finest, including stelae 12, 13, 14 and 15, being found on, and at the base of, this pyramid. They bear the

latest dates in the city, and consequently represent the apogee of artistic development here. The three lintels, being smaller stones, are much more carefully made than the stelae. Our lintel 3 is artistically far superior to #2, now in Peabody Museum, and so, unless the remaining part of lintel 1, which I am now hunting for and hope to find in the next few days, is finer than our #3, which I doubt very much, I think it a logical belief that no piece of aboriginal sculpture will ever be found in America to equal this.

Fortunately the stone is small and the pieces can be easily transported, so there is little doubt that I will be able to bring it with me to New Orleans and send it to Philadelphia by express. The three pieces were brought to our laboratory by the workmen, though how they could carry the large piece, about half the lintel, is beyond me, for it must weigh about two hundred pounds. Yet they brought it by relays, each man carrying it a short distance on his shoulders. This morning we photographed each piece singly at the same distance from the camera and with the same exposure, against a dark blanket, so that the pieces can be cut out and fitted together and then copied to make a complete picture. Wyer is now printing these negatives while I write. If no mail is going out for several days we may have our composite picture made and copied, but at any rate, whether this is done in time to accompany this letter or not, I will send some photographs of the individual pieces so that you may have them fitted together and a composite copy made.

Take a reading glass and note the wonderfully fine detail in the low relief, the clear-cut character and wonderful preservation of the glyphs, some of which show the pupils of the eye and the hair on the lip. Note the designs on the textiles, especially on the corner of the cloth which hangs down over the edge of the altar on which the main figure sits, also the tassels on the edge of the altar. Note also the fingers and toes and even the fingernails of some. Especially note the freedom of pose and the naturalistic depiction of the figures. Much of it was in high relief, but most of this is broken, probably when the lintel smashed down from its position. Many of the figures were undercut, the outer leg standing free, but in most of these cases it is gone. In a few cases this undercutting still remains, especially under the extended ~~right~~ arm of the right-hand figure who is apparently urging the other large figure forward. The right-hand group apparently consisted of four, two adults and two children, the left-hand group of three adults. The two seated figures at the base below the altar apparently had their heads in full round relief standing out from the recessed portion below the altar, but these are now broken off. Observe, however, the long bird-bill headdress which the left figure wore, against the altar above the recess. The right-hand figure probably had another ceremonial headdress. Above all, note that magnificent swirl of the long feathers of the headdress of the central figure on the altar. What a pity that practically all the heads and faces are gone! On the whole, it compares very favorably with the best Greek or Roman art, or are we over enthusiastic about it? It measures about 125 x 60 x 12 cm. Have a good place prepared for it, for if the Guatemalan Inspector says he must have that, there's going to be murder done in Piedras Negras.

Not only is the art magnificent, but it tells an ethnological and cultural story of maximum importance, and our Maya epigraphers will rave over the wealth of glyphs on it.

There's nothing more for me to say about this lintel, I imagine. Photographs of it will accompany this letter and you and the others in the Museum know more about art than I. I shall keep hunting for the rest of lintel 1, of which Maler found only, I should judge, about an eighth, and this should also be magnificent, if not too badly broken or eroded, but I don't expect that it will match this one. We shall find more lintels, either this year or next, in the older parts of the city, but they will not be of the highest period of art, probably more like Maler's lintel 4 on plate 32, which I shall give to Guatemala to balance mine, a whole one for our broken one, which ought to satisfy the Inspector.

If this is the dry season, God preserve the inhabitants in the rainy season! It began to rain night before last, the night I wrote my last letter, and has been at it in a desultory manner ever since. I think my attack of malaria is over, though it has left me in a weakened condition and my infected leg seems to have merely turned into a bad boil which is very painful but will be over in a few days now. Satterthwaite continues to have one boil after another. He keeps at work, though, and is finding many small things but nothing startling. Wyer has had to cease surveying and keep mainly to photography on account of the rain, but expects to get back to surveying tomorrow.

By the way, I should have spoken about it before: will there be work for Wyer in Philadelphia this summer? He is a valuable man to me and I don't want to lose him. I depend on him very much. I could get a man who would do the surveying and plans for the ruins easily, but he relieves me of the entire work of hiring and firing men, keeping their time and accounts and knows all the people around here and how to handle everything. I hope I can keep him for the next season's work. He is a good draughtsman, of course. There may be a good deal of work he can do in drawing up the plans of the city here from his surveying notes, for I don't believe he will have time to do it here; if he does he will have to take the time off from surveying. I paid him his bonus of \$25 per month (making \$125 for his work last year,) and promised him \$150 for the time he is here with me, the \$25 bonus above the \$125 for which he agreed to come but which he considered small, being on condition that he pushed the road through and got some stelae out this year, which is practically certain to be done. He has nothing in view, no work, and of course must find some if I turn him loose, which would probably mean that he would be unavailable next season. His wife's parents have gone to live with her sister near New York, and she would like to be in the same region. He would be glad to come if I could offer him some work. He didn't say what he would accept, but it is difficult for a married couple to live in Philadelphia on less than \$200. I am inclined to think that when Mr. Johnson sees this new lintel and some of the magnificent stelae, he will be glad to put up more funds for next year, and then I would be justified in paying Wyer's salary for the year out of my funds. But before that is certain Wyer will probably have found another permanent place and will be lost to me for next season. Since we may have to cease work here within a month, please advise me in your next letter whether I shall bring him back with me or ~~return~~ turn him loose.

April 25, 1931

My dear Mr. Satterthwaite:

We followed your instruction and sent a cheque for your February and March salary to your brother, Willis H. Satterthwaite. Your letter of April 11 which just came this moment reached me in ample time to withhold the cheque for your April salary. I am writing to Dr. Mason in this mail that our payments here on your account have amounted to \$400.

Mr. Jayne has just shown me the set of interesting photographs which he received from Dr. Mason. Your little village looks a most attractive spot and we are less sympathetic with you all than in the earlier days of the dig when we pictured you suffering all sorts of physical discomforts.

All goes well here- good weather and enough work to keep us out of mischief. Mr. FitzGerald is paying us a short visit, Mr. Tobler is back from Beisan and Mr. Bache has returned from Kirkuk. On Wednesday Dr. Fewkes sailed for another season's work in Central Europe; otherwise the Museum family is much as when you left it.

Best regards to you all.

Sincerely yours

Mr. Linton Satterthwaite, Jr.
c/o Sr. Francesco Villanueva
Tenosique
Tabasco, Mexico

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

April 25, 1931

Dr. J. Alden Mason
c/o Sr. Francesco Villanueva
Tenosique, Tabasco, Mexico

Dear Doctor Mason:

The mail has just brought a letter from Mr. Satterthwaite who has asked that no further payments be made by us on account of his salary. We have, according to his former instructions, sent a cheque for \$400. to his brother. This covered Mr. Satterthwaite's salary for the months of February and March. Unless we hear from him or from you to the contrary we shall make no further payments on Mr. Satterthwaite's account at this end.

I hope all goes well with you. Your first set of photographs show that some interesting bits of work have gone on in what looks to be a rather attractive corner of the earth. Have you heard from Miss Baker? She has written me twice that she had been suffering from an attack of shingles and had been in the hospital in Merida. Both Mr. Jayne and I feel that it would be a hazardous thing for her to attempt the journey into Guatemala and we have urged her to come home rather than take the risk of having a serious breakdown. Apparently the climate and the food have not agreed with her. I hope that she will take our advice, but, as you know, she has a will of her own and may forge ahead with the hope that all will come out right.

We shall be glad to see you home again. Mr. FitzGerald has joined the luncheon club for the short period of his visit and once again ~~we~~ Dr. Legrain and the rest of us had the pleasure of lunching and dining and skooting off to Atlantic City with his adopted niece, the beautiful and attractive Sheila who was playing at Bryn Mawr and Swarthmore on her return tour with Ben Greet. All goes well with us here as from your letters it now does with you.

With best regards

Sincerely yours

Jane M. M. G.

Sunday, April 27, 1931.

Your letter of April 7 arrived yesterday and we have held the messenger until tomorrow so that we might get ready a lot of letters and photographs. I spent all morning printing photographs and have about 38 to send to Mr. Johnson. Unfortunately I haven't had time to print a set for you of those which we have made since I last sent you a lot. I think I sent you all up to no. 56, but they now number 85. Those I am sending to Mr. Johnson are, of course, a selection of the most interesting but contain some which I have not yet sent you. I will ask him to show them to you, or give them to you. No mail has gone out for the last few days, but that has enabled us to make good photographs of the new lintel, piece them together and make a copy of that. So I send you photographs of these; the three parts are negatives 57, 58 and 59, and the composite is number 61. I send you two of the latter.

Don't worry about me; I get all the sleep I need. I don't believe I need over six hours and I generally get seven. My malaria has been gone for several days and my infected leg turned out to be only a most miserable boil, so I guess I won't go up to Yaxchilan to have Morley's doctor amputate it after all. It has broken now and I walk without much discomfort.

I am still hunting for the rest of lintel one, of which Maler found one piece which ~~he~~ Morley calls (or called, for he hasn't yet seen our new one) the finest piece of sculpture in the Maya area, and I expect to keep on hunting until I have either found it or exhausted every possibility. Satterthwaite has now given up his work in the area where he was finding some graves, and is going back to complete his work on the "acropolis". I think when I am through I will look for more lintels in the older parts of the city where they should be more easily found, though they will not be of such high art.

I enclose a check for a refund from Woodward Wight of New Orleans which I intended to return to you long ago.

Morley writes that he is having wonderful luck at Yaxchilan with many new stelae, lintels, altars and initial series dates. It makes me jealous, but I must remember that he was here several times and presumably hunted just as hard as he has there, and found two new stelae carved and several eroded. Things must be easier to find there.

I have altered the telegram which I am going to send you. It will be: FOUND LINTEL THREE DOUBTLESS THE FINEST PIECE OF ABORIGINAL AMERICAN SCULPTURE STOP IN THREE PIECES BUT ONE SMALL PIECE MISSING STOP LOW RELIEF EXQUISITE BUT HIGH RELIEF SOMEWHAT ERODED STOP ABOUT SAME SIZE AS LINTEL TWO BUT INCOMPARABLY FINER STOP SEE MALER PAGES FIFTY EIGHT TO SIXTY AND PLATES THIRTY AND THIRTY ONE STOP LETTER WITH PHOTOGRAPHS LEAVES WITH THIS.

Cordial regards from all to all.

Sincerely yours,

J Allen Mason

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J ALDEN MASON.

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THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

THE ELDRIDGE R. JOHNSON
MIDDLE AMERICAN EXPEDITION
TENOSIQUE, TABASCO, MEXICO

J. ALDEN MASON
FIELD DIRECTOR

Piedras Negras, April 29, 1931.

Dear Jayne:

No news, but a man is going to Tenosique this afternoon so I am sending a brief note.

I am sending you in separate package three notebooks containing the duplicate carbon copies of my field notes for safekeeping; the originals I am keeping here and will bring home with me.

I am still hunting for that lintel #1.

All fairly well, but Satterthwaite has one boil after another and is feeling rather mean, but carrying on. I haven't quite regained my usual pep but the malaria and the boil are about over.

Cordial regards to all.

Sincerely yours

J. Alden Mason

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

THE ELDRIDGE R. JOHNSON
MIDDLE AMERICAN EXPEDITION
TENOSIQUE, TABASCO, MEXICO

J. ALDEN MASON
FIELD DIRECTOR

Piedras Negras,
April 30, 1931.

Dear Jayne:

More trouble, I suppose; I'm expecting it. Or possibly the explanation of some of our troubles already.

the answer to which/
I enclose copies of letters I am sending today to Reygadas and to Clark. That was a contemptible newspaper interview and has made me mad. I translate the vital last paragraph. The interview was with Basauri and Garcia, the two men from the Mexican Department of Archeology about whom I think I wrote you. They went up to Yaxchilan just before Morley arrived here and nominated a guardian there, probably to keep an eye on Morley and also to see what we were up to. The guardian caused Morley a lot of trouble. First refused to let him work so that Morley had to send a messenger to Tenosique with a telegram to Mexico City which gave him permission. A week ago the guardian sent his son down with a telegram of complaint that Morley was doing excavation, ruining the site, etc., and, according to report, has just gone up again with orders from Mexico City to make him stop work, but as he is almost through and expects to be down here on May 4th, it will not interfere with him much.

That paragraph may be translated thus: "As a last detail they informed us that on their return (from Yaxchilan) they met the expedition of the Northamerican archeologist Masson who is going to Yaxchilan with an enormous equipment to make studies, but he tried to hide the point of his destination, saying that he was going to Piedras Negras, in Guatemala, a zone which is united with that of Yaxchilan, so that they will also have to make a report regarding this expedition."

I am not sure that much publicity would be dangerous, but it would of course be better not to publish too much, in the popular press, about that lintel until we get it out. I feel rather confident that I can manage things with the Guatemalan Inspector so that we will get it, but if too much is known about it in Guatemala City, they might wire him to try to get it, and the division is supposed to be by lot according to the contract.

Guess I spend too much time writing letters, but you may want to do something on your own account regarding these newspaper lies.

Cordially yours,

J. Alden Mason

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

May 1, 1931

Dear Mason:

It was splendid to get your cable about Lintel Three which arrived yesterday and which I have just acknowledged. It is fine news and we have looked up Maler and examined Lintel Two and we are really highly gratified at the find. It being in three pieces I trust you may be able to get it out and that it will eventually come to Philadelphia. We are looking forward to the receipt of your letter and photographs, meanwhile curbing our impatience.

I want to acknowledge, too, your letter of April 12th with the first lot of photographs which are most satisfactory, in spite of the difficulties you had with lack of proper sized paper. You are quite right, of course, to retain the negatives. The amount of clearing you have accomplished is surprising and I have refrained from showing the prints of your camp to many of the members of the staff for I feel sure they would take the next boat to join you. It is exceedingly attractive and we cannot pity you so extremely as we have been doing.

You will have learned long ago that Miss Baker because of her illness has abandoned her visit to you. I cabled her suggesting on the whole that it would be wise to return forthwith for I certainly do not wish her to hazard her health. But she insists on going on to Guatemala City at least. I must say I admire her sportsmanship and only trust nothing goes wrong. In any event she should have a sufficient number of plates to complete the third volume.

We have received a fine scale model of the Pyramid of Uaxactun - a very welcome gift, otherwise I think there have been no accessions in your department. If this depression gets any worse it is probable we shall soon be below sea level. In many ways you are lucky to be away, for everyone here is very melancholy.

Best to all your party and to yourself many kind regards,

Sincerely,

Man W. Moore

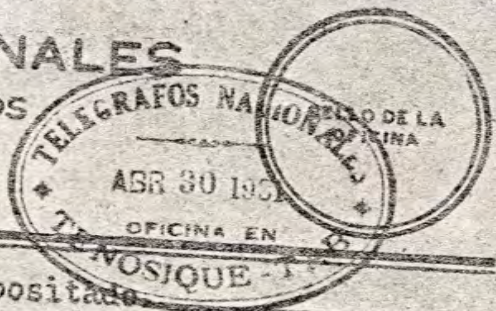
Dr. J. Alden Mason
c/o Francisco Villaneuva
Tenesique
Tabasco, Mexico



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Mason Care Francisco Villanuev, Tenosique, Tab.

Thanks excellent news. Jayne.

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

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

May 6, 1931

Dear Mason:

Your letter of April 21st came yesterday and has been read with very great interest, and with regret that you should have been laid down with fever. I hope it is gone by now and will not come back. I note what you say about the photographs and I shall hand the box over to Witte when it comes.

Your progress to the date of your writing seems excellent and of course we have your cabled news of the finding of the lintel. I should think that by now you will have little doubt of the first season's success. I suppose that finding the lintel and the possibility of exporting it will probably disturb your choice of stelae to be taken. My comments are, therefore, only based on the choice you suggest in your letter. I much prefer the ones you have selected, namely, 12, 14, 36, 15, rather than Morley's four "Buddha" figures; I am, nevertheless, sympathetic with his feeling that these should if possible stay in one place. But for this year at any rate I do think examples with a greater range of subject would be highly desirable. Couldn't you substitute 13 for 14 in your list and leave the four buddha figures either for another year or for Guatemala? If they went to the latter's share, after all, they are well photographed so that we have recorded their evidence of artistic development, so that if they were not well cared for we should not be losing all, whereas the different subjects covered by the four of your choice would be, I think, a greater loss. I confess from Maler's reproduction I like 13 immensely.

Another thing of possible exhibitional value I want to offer as a suggestion. Couldn't you record and remove carefully a burial so that it could be reassembled for exhibition? Somewhat like our Egyptian pre-dynastic tombs. It might, of course, be a superhuman task to do it and not worth the effort but in view of the scarcity of Maya burials, I felt it might be a striking thing for display and an important scientific exhibit.

Gregory Mason has not gone yet. He wanted to finish his book and some courses at Columbia and since Heye was agreeable and he thought it advisable, and I was glad to hold onto the money a little longer, he didn't start when he expected to. He should be gone in a week. He got your letter of advice and the proofs of your article from Laufer, which he should have acknowledged. We shall not breathe a word of his trip to anyone.

The Eskimo Hall is coming along nicely. There have been several days when it looked hopeless but now it is starting to shape up and we are optimistic of the final results.

You really shouldn't take up so much of your time writing letters; I believe we could do many of these for you if you'd just send them along with

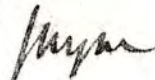
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- 2 -

5/6/31

a note on them. It's no use your burdening yourself unnecessarily with correspondence when you have so much else to do. This is not a hint that you should curtail your letters to us since we thrive on them and even though we picture you working late into the night, I should be disappointed if they were reduced.

Yours always,



Dr. J. Alden Mason
c/o Sr. Francisco Villaneuva
Tenisique
Tabasco, Mexico

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
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PHILADELPHIA

THE ELDRIDGE R. JOHNSON
MIDDLE AMERICAN EXPEDITION
TENOSIQUE, TABASCO, MEXICO

J. ALDEN MASON
FIELD DIRECTOR

Piedras Negras, Guatemala.
Thursday, May 7, 1931.

Dear Jayne:

Dr *v his party*
[We have just had the Morley crew with us for a very pleasant visit of three days; they leave tomorrow morning early and this letter will go out with them. He said he would write to you, which I thought would be very well, and I presume you will hear from him soon. Of course he raved over the new lintel and agrees that it is by far the finest piece of art of aboriginal America, and very probably the finest ever made in America before Columbus. Not only is the art so admirable, and the information it gives of such great ethnologic interest, but the dates are very important. It is, he says, the longest known Maya inscription. 156 glyphs by a rapid count] probably the next largest is on lintel 2 of the same temple (Maler, plate XXXI) which has, if my hasty ~~count~~ count is correct, 111 glyphs. [There are six dates, all within 9 years, and at the very apogee of Maya culture and art.]

n for Guatemala
I had a little talk with the Guatemalan Inspector yesterday and, as I expected, he said that he would agree to any division, and we specifically agreed that I should take the new lintel and give Guatemala lintel 4 (Maler plate XXXII), and should also take stelae 12 and 14 (plates XXI and XX b) and give Guatemala stelae 32 and 33 (plate XXVI). These are all unbroken and were originally fine pieces, but are now eroded; however since they will probably want to erect them out of doors, unbroken ones in not too good condition will probably suit them all right. All stelae are larger than they appear in Maler, for the undecorated part which went below ground, but which is never very large, and not shown.

[We have begun to pack the stelae, getting ready for the arrival of the wagons in about a week, and want to have a load ready for them. The carpenter has been busy for several weeks sawing up great logs of Spanish cedar which were left on the banks of the river in high water instead of floating down to be collected and shipped to the States for cigar boxes, and the boxes he has made are strong and heavy. Yesterday we crated the lower part of stela 14 and today the lower left part of 12. 14 is cracked half across and we thought it better to break it ~~l~~ break in the box and chip the edges, but it would not break and the boxes we made for the two halves will have to be used for something else and a new box made for the main part of 14 which will be the largest piece we will try to move this year, probably. In the next few days the other 3 parts of 12 and the main part of 14 will be boxed, and that will be nearly the load for our two wagons on the first trip. I feel sure that when the new lintel and stela 12 are erected in the Museum we will have little trouble in raising additional funds for next year.

My men are making the final hunt for the rest of lintel 1, which has been my main work for ten days or more. I had been held up because the parts of stela 14 and 12 were at the base of the pyramid and I could not look under or around them until I had them moved. I have nearly given up hope for it, however, although there are still several places where it might be. If found and in good condition it will be a fit mate for the new lintel 3, for the fragment of it found by Maler (plate XXX) indicates that it was of very similar art.

I made a few small finds of interest in the last few days. Under the stairway in this temple we found two caches interred in vessels, the vessels unfortunately undecorated. Each contained some jade, chipped flint and obsidian objects, and shell. Then this morning, under altar 1, the finest altar, we found another cache better than any so far, with a number of jades (none of them carved, unfortunately), some carved and incised shell, some flints, etc. Nothing very beautiful in any of these finds, but they increase the total.

Of course we have quantities of important notes and about 150 photographs now, mainly 5 x 7 and of excellent quality. Notes, photographs and plans will make a very fine and valuable report.

income (

I am worried about two things in particular, the weather and finances. The past week has been very humid and uncomfortable, and with a thunderstorm almost every afternoon. It may be that the rainy season is upon us; there has been no dry season as a matter of fact. The road is said to be in bad shape in some places on account of the rains, and if they continue or ~~keep up~~, our wagons will not be able to get over the road with the monuments. The road is practically done now, and we expect the wagons here in a week now.

It is just about impossible for me to figure a budget of expenses. I haven't heard yet how much it cost for the freight of the equipment up river, nor how much I have to pay for the Mexican customs officials who accompanied it. I don't know how long the customs authorities will be with us to take the specimens out, nor have I any clear idea how much it will cost to send the specimens down river, or the cost of freight to Philadelphia and to Guatemala. Nor do I know how much has been paid for freight and other bills, which is to be deducted from the April remittance. However I feel pretty certain that the funds will not see us through. They will nearly certainly see us to Tenosique, and probably to Frontera, and pay all local bills, but I doubt if they will pay Satterthwaite's and Wyer's salaries and freight bills home. Expenses astound me, so many things I did not count upon. But I feel that the only thing I can do is to keep on until I get several of the best stelae, such as 12 and 14, out in order to make a good showing, prove that it is possible to get more out, and on that basis appeal for more funds for next year, even if it takes the entire \$25,000 this year; it will certainly not take all. I presume you feel the same. So I shall keep at work, unless the rains drive us out, until I get out three or four good stelae for the Museum and an equal number for Guatemala, and then if there isn't enough left to pay salaries and get home and ship the stuff to Philadelphia and Guatemala, I'll wire you for more. The fiscal year of the Museum ends with June, does it not?

Of course we must leave a caretaker here to watch the

camp until next year. The Guatemalan Inspector will probably do this; he says he must be here anyway to keep an eye on the ruins and follow his other job of collector of customs, and will be glad to act as caretaker, probably for a smaller salary than I am paying now, 130 pesos per month, about \$55. 75 pesos, about \$30 monthly, would probably be about right. He suggested that the carpenter might remain with him awhile to get ready a lot of planks for next year for the boxes. Our logs are about exhausted, and we must begin to fell trees, probably mahogany, for planks for boxes for next year. There may be some salvage on our wood, both Spanish cedar and mahogany, in Philadelphia. Wyer suggested that he might also remain, if you and I agreed, for a few months, to finish the job of surveying the ruins and making detailed maps of the work done. The work of timekeeper for the men, and the multitudinous odd jobs of the camp, supervising the making of the road and the crating and loading of the stelae keep him pretty busy and to date he has not made great progress on the plotting of the city and the excavation. It seems to me like a good suggestion, but I must be assured of more funds before I can agree to such. What do you think of it? I hope that Mr. Johnson is pleased with the new lintel and the other results of the work; I feel sure that when he sees them he will gladly put up more funds for next year, even if economic conditions are bad at home.

All well and happy now and all send regards to all.

Cordially yours,

Johnson

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

May 12, 1931

Dear Mason:

Your letters of April 23rd with postscript of the 27th, 29th, and 30th all arrived at once today and I was very glad to get them. Particularly the earliest with the very welcome photographs of Lintel 5. It is undoubtedly a swell monument and so far as we are concerned you will be exonerated for murder if you do not get it in our share. I refrained from mentioning to Dr. Legrain your belief that it was superior to anything Babylonian since I did not wish to breed a spirit of contention between the sections; I am inclined to agree, however. It is in every way an extraordinarily beautiful piece and an extremely happy find for an expedition's first season. It will be a pleasure to tell the Board about it, and show the photographs at the next meeting this coming Friday. I hope to hear something from Mr. Johnson in regard to your letter and the photographs you sent him; I shall then send him the photographs of the Lintel. He should be pleased by their results; on the other hand I am by no means confident that we can get any further money from him for next year. He has, despite our repeated efforts to keep him, resigned from the Board. He is not feeling very generous to anyone. Nobody is, to be sure. Everybody says, however, that things will improve by autumn, which may change the colour of things. It would be premature to ask him for further funds until some change comes about.

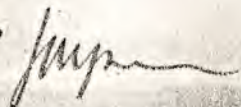
This probably leads up to the question of Wyer. I don't see how you can possibly afford to bring him here this summer on the funds of the Expedition and I simply cannot find any money to pay him from any other source. He is, of course, valuable to you but I should not think he would be unreplacable; besides, there is always the possibility that he will find a part time job and still be free for next year's work. I think you had better turn him loose, therefore, when your work is done. It's all too bad but we were able to make considerable hay while the sun shone.

The matter of the newspaper interview with Garcia and Basauri was most unfortunate but with the aid of Clark should be straightened out successfully. It is contemptible of them if they were correctly quoted. You may count on the fact that we shall release no publicity from this end until all your things are safely out.

Thank you for the cheque for the Woodward Wight refund. Give my best to the Morleys when you see them and my best wishes to all your crew. I am glad you are better, and hope Satterthwaite will be on the mend soon.

Kindest wishes to all,

Yours,



Dr. J. Alden Mason
Tenesique
Tabasco, Mexico

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

THE ELDRIDGE R. JOHNSON
MIDDLE AMERICAN EXPEDITION
TENOSIQUE, TABASCO, MEXICO

J. ALDEN MASON
FIELD DIRECTOR

Campamento Piedras Negras,
May 15, 1931.

Dear Jayne:

Thanks for your good letter of May 1 which arrived today; the messenger is going back in the morning and I have several letters to write tonight, so I shall not bore you with as long a letter as usual. Miss McHugh's welcome letter of April 25 arrived in the same mail. I hope some time to find time to write her a personal one in return, but spare time is about as scarce as snowstorms around here. Thank her for the letter, please. Satterthwaite says he also received one from her, and I received one from Percy Madeira which I shall answer when I find time.

I have been so busy on Sundays with other work that I have not had time to print more photographs for you on sunlight paper, and the black and white photographic paper is exhausted and the order that we sent for more hasn't yet come. We have over two hundred photographs catalogued now, most of them 5 x 7 of the same good quality which I sent you, but a number of Satterthwaite's and some kodak. I'll try to send you some more.

I have been spending a good deal of my time lately making a division of the small finds, and Mrs Satterthwaite has been packing them. The Guatemalan Inspector looks at my division hastily and says o.k., or Spanish words to that effect. But except for potsherds which show the various types and which are therefore of more scientific than popular interest, there is little so far to pack. I am keeping a good collection of the sherds for scientific study without sending an equal amount to Guatemala, but of the more important things, from a spectacular point of view, I am more careful to make an equal division. The carpenter and several helpers are very busy sawing up trees for boxes. Parts of stelae 12 and 14 have been packed. I decided to send stela 6 to Guatemala this year in place of 32. The farmer, #6, is one of the four "Buddha" figures about which I wrote you, inquiring if we want all four, as Morley so desires. I think they are too much alike and that we would be better pleased with a greater variety of art, so shall probably send the two earlier ones to Guatemala. #6 is a good deal better than #32, and I don't want to give the Guatemalan Government room for complaint the first year. #6 is unbroken but it does not appeal to me especially.

We are having trouble with our transportation now. We expected the wagons here about the 12th, but the messenger who arrived today reported that the oxen seem to be unaccustomed to hauling wagons, and could not even haul the empty wagons up one of the lesser grades. It is so disappointing, and the dry (?) season is drawing to its close. Wyer is riding out tomorrow to see if the trouble can be overcome. We may have to send for better trained oxen, which will

"Buddha"

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J. ALDEN MASON
FIELD DIRECTOR

mean a delay of another week or so when time is very urgent. The road is practically done and the wagons should be here in a few days if the oxen can be trained to pull the wagons. As soon as they get here we will have to spend a couple of days making platforms on the wagons, loading the boxes, and then they will be off with stelae 12 and 14. The next trip they will take 6 and 33 and the lintels, and then we will quit work, pack the small stuff and the equipment and personal baggage which we are not leaving here and go out with the wagons on the third trip out. The wagons travel slowly with the oxen, of course, mainly at night, I believe. Morley wrote back enthusiastically about the road; he left here at 5:30 in the morning and was at the end of the road a little after 11:00, and said if he had had an auto they could have made the trip over the road in that, so the road must be o.k. But the wagons will take four days or so going, and the same back.

I have nearly given up hope for the rest of ~~the~~ lintel 1, as I have nearly finished searching the entire face of the pyramid. If I don't find it in two or three days more there will be no more hope, though I must continue excavating the temple at the top in order to have the details of its construction. It must have had an enormous roof-comb as the debris is three meters deep in places and an ungodly amount of fallen stones must be removed.

We are out of plain white typewriter paper, so I must use printed letter heads, but I write few letters of more than one page. The package of envelopes arrived today; we were out of the small size and the stronger paper envelopes will be very useful.

The weather has been miserable and it feels like the beginning of the rainy season, sultry, humid, still, sweaty days when one feels lazy. But the last two days we had rain and today has been cooler, drier and more peppy.

Thanks for the April "Bulletin" with the picture of the South American Ethnological Hall which looks admirable.

I don't know what to do about Wyer. Personally my tendency is always to "bear those ills I have" etc., and I feel doubtful about getting another man with his many special qualifications for this job. But he is certainly neurotic, takes offence very easily and has to be handled carefully, and has grouchy periods when there is an unpleasant attitude of tenseness and uncordiality around the camp. Satterthwaite says he can't stand it another year, and probably Wyer feels the same about Satterthwaite. Probably I might be wise to let him go and trust to Morley or Blom to suggest a man who might have the same qualifications and be more congenial.

In the mail today I received a notice from the Villahermosa Bank that they had received an order for \$1500 to my account; I presume that was the April remittance. Cordial regards to all from all.

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

May 19, 1931

Dear Dr. Mason:

We are cabling to you today the sum of \$1,400.00 which completes the instalments totaling \$6,900.00 which are entered on our financial memorandum dated January 26, a copy of which you carried with you. Enclosed is a statement of payments made on account of your expedition since January 26 and including our cable remittance to you today of \$1,400.00. The expedition now stands charged with \$20,824.04.

Mr. Jayne has shown me your letter of May 7 and as your finances seem to be low, it did not seem wise to at this time make any deductions in our remittances to take care of the expenditures made at this end since your departure.

Sincerely yours

Jane M. McHugh

Dr. J. Alden Mason
c/o Francisco Villaneuva
Tenosique
Tabasco, Mexico

*Congratulations upon your
good luck with the Government*

May 20, 1931

Dear Mason:-

Your letter of May seventh has just come and its contents are most gratifying. We are more than pleased to learn that you have come to an agreement with the Guatemalan Inspector as to the division of the carved monuments. Your choice for both parties leaves nothing to be desired. I am already divising ways and means and locations for the erection of the stelae in the Middle American Hall. We can but hope that the weather and the road hold out sufficiently well to enable you to get these safely out this year. I have, of course, Maler at my elbow and refer to it when needs be. I am getting so that I almost know the stelae by number.

Your small finds and the report of the work of excavating in general are of considerable interest. You already have enough to demonstrate, I think, that the Expedition was not only a party sent into acquire monuments. This has been my only fear.

About the two things that worry you in particular, I can only be of comfort to you concerning one. If, at close quarters, you cannot manage the weather, I am afraid I cannot assist either. Apparently you struck a most unusual season; perhaps the financial depression has as well effected the barometer: it would not be surprising since it has effected everything else.

But as to finances I can perhaps give you some comfort. I am wholly in agreement with you that we should get out the monuments chosen no matter if it uses up the whole \$25,000. Even though we cannot persuade Mr. Johnson to increase his support and even though we may perhaps have to suspend our activities next year, we shall, nevertheless, have obtained monumental objects the intrinsic value of which will exceed the sums of money spent. In short, provided you do not go beyond the \$25,000 I do not wish you to be hampered by financial considerations, keeping in reserve, however, a virtual obligation to take care of Satterthwaite's salary for approximately nine months more, that is, \$1800.

Miss McHugh has written you a letter telling you of the remittance we have already made and indicating the above attitude about your expenditures upon which we are agreed. When you have reached a final result as to this year's expenditures, we can decide the rate of pay for the Guatemalan Inspector as guard and whether it is advisable to keep Wyer on a few months longer to complete the surveys and maps. Of these points I shall write you more later on.

Yours always sincerely

Your will perhaps have heard of Ricketson's find of polychrome Maya pots. Miss Baker is to draw them before she leaves. Kidder says they are the finest ever found.

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THE ELDRIDGE R. JOHNSON
MIDDLE AMERICAN EXPEDITION
TENOSIQUE, TABASCO, MEXICO

J. ALDEN MASON
FIELD DIRECTOR

May 21, 1931.
Piedras Negras, Guatemala.

Dear Jayne:

Yours of the 6th arrived today and mail will go back with the messenger tomorrow. Such a lot of things to attend to. Running a camp and expedition like this is a full-time job for a mayor's domo; I don't wonder Wyer gets so little engineering work done. He has been away for several days and all directing and accounting has fallen upon me. Thank God he has just returned.

a note

In spite of the fact that there are dozens of troubles to keep me worried and peeved, I hoped to have a report today that would tickle you -- two wagons, or rather the two sections of one wagon, left this morning over the road with four great boxes containing the four parts of magnificent stela 12, duly consigned to Philadelphia by the Guatemalan Inspector. They should be at the end of our road in four or five days, as ox teams travel slowly. But now for the denouement -- Wyer just returned from a trip to Tenosique during which time he visited the rapid which lies between the end of our road and the head of river-boat navigation, and reports that it is his opinion, and that of all men there familiar with the river, that it is now too high to get anything out this year, and the stelae which we are able to get out over our road will have to wait until next spring to get down the river. This rapid is not a bad one, and when the river is low in the dry season, canoes, launches, and even a heavy barge could be towed up to the end of our road. The road would have had to be made about a third longer in order to get it to the head of river navigation below the rapid. Wyer says that a week ago when the river was lower it could have been run successfully by several dug-out canoes tied together and loaded with a stela, and even at present it might, with great difficulty, be done, but the river is rising fast and the rainy season seems to be upon us. There is of course a chance yet that the rains may stop for awhile and the river drop and we may be able to get something down, but the chances are against it, and we must reconcile ourselves to getting out nothing this year but what can be taken out by mule-back ~~by~~ from the end of our road to Tenosique. I was just on the point of wiring to Frontera to send up a lighter, one of those used for ~~the~~ taking bananas out to steamships, on which the stelae could be taken in one load from the end of our road down the river and over the bar to the steamer, but now I shall not go to this expense. If the river is down when we are ready to go out we will consider trying to run down whatever we have there on several dugout canoes lashed together, but the danger of losing the stones in the rapids is considerable, and one not to be attempted unless the river is just right.

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J. ALDEN MASON
FIELD DIRECTOR

The season has been against us this year. As the natives say, there has been no summer, summer here meaning the dry season. We have had frequent rains all through and the river has never been down to its low stage. The last ten days or so have been nearly unbearable, still, hot, humid days, often ending in thunderstorms. The last two nights have been heavy thunderstorms and today it has rained off and on all day and is raining hard while I write this. Our wagons with stela 12 may get bogged down before they get to the end of the road, and if the rains continue it will be impossible to make another trip. I am so disappointed, for I felt confident on getting stelae 12 and 14 at least to Philadelphia this year and using them as bait to raise more funds for next year, for there will be damn little of the \$25000 left. The boxing of stela 14 was completed today and was to have gone, or may still go, out of the next trip.

The Guatemalan Inspector surprised me a few days ago by asking when we would hold the "sorteo" or division by lot, and gave me a start, for we had talked the division of the first things over some time ago and he had assured me that the division that I had suggested was all right to him. Then he got me on the hip by asking slyly if our beautiful new lintel was going to Guatemala, and I lost my cork, as the slang but expressive saying goes. Possibly he was looking for a gratuity and I might have saved the day by a gift of a hundred pesos, but instead I decided hastily to sacrifice stela 36, the unbroken all-glyph stela for which he had expressed some admiration, and offered, with great regret, to give Guatemala stelae 36 and 6 and lintel 4, if we might take stelae 12, 14 (all of the foregoing shown in Maler) and the beautiful new lintel 3. To this he agreed, and has prepared cards and necessary official documents. As I told you before, lintel 3, being in fragments, three pieces, ~~big~~ and small, can be taken out on mule back, although the large piece, when boxed, is a very heavy load for a mule, but I won't come out without that if I have to drag it on a sled. All the rest of the small finds can be put in small boxes and brought out on mule back. We have got a number of small things of late, mostly ceremonial objects of chipped flint and obsidian with a little jade and shell, and also several broken painted vessels which may be complete and good; they haven't been washed yet. All from the rear room of the temple which contained lintel #3.

I expected to quit digging about May 30 when the second load was to have gone out, and to clean up and go out with the third load about June 10, but now I think we might as well quit at once, and will send a telegram out with this to the customs officials in Frontera to come up at once, and do their dirty work of accompanying us and our stuff out to Frontera, as per official instructions. It will probably take them ten days to get here and in the meantime we will continue work, packing, division, inventory, etc., and leave early in June, probably about the time you receive this letter. I shall wire you from Tenosique and from Frontera after we get there. I shall have to leave someone here as caretaker, probably the Guatemalan Inspector, and I

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haven't decided what to do about Wyer, whether to let him go, let him stay here awhile and do planning and surveying, or whether to bring him to Philadelphia. I depend on him a great deal and don't see how I can get along without him next year. After a few days experience having to act as mayordomo of the camp, I don't wonder he gets grouchy on occasions. It's a full-time job and a hard one. I haven't heard from you regarding the suggestions I made and if I do not by the time I get to Tenosique, I shall wire you. I am sorry that you had not received my photographs of the new lintel at the time you wrote your letter -- I am anxious to know your impression of it.

I could fill 7 pages with a recital of difficulties -- salt all gone without earlier notice and fifty men to feed, wagons lacking certain parts and therefore out of commission, men discharged and their accounts all in Wyer's hands, a load of 400 pounds of coffee just arrived a month late just as we are quitting work, a load of corn due tomorrow -- will coffee and corn keep till next year? --etc., etc. I'm glad you don't find my long letters boring; I enjoy writing them.

To answer some of your suggestions: I agree with you that a selection of the art is better than the four "Buddha" figures, and you will note that I have already agreed to send #6 to Guatemala. Stela #13 is very highly rated by artists but it seems to have suffered considerably from the weather since Maler photographed it; it makes a poor impression on the ground. Nevertheless it stands high in my choice, but I feel sure we can get it next year, for the Guatemalan Inspector will not rate it highly. I doubt if any of the burials which we may find will be worth removing. In this damp soil the bones are in bad shape, and the few that we have found have been in poor condition, without any accompanying mortuary objects, and not in cists.

I have a lot more untuned and unfixed photographs for you which I may send in this same mail. I made them last Sunday while I was photographing objects we are sending to Guatemala and so some are overprinted and some under. I'll try to enclose a catalog of negatives with them. They include all the 5 x 7 photographs to date except the few I took last Sunday. But there are also quite a number of photos taken by Satterthwaite and Wyer with their cameras and by me with the kodak.

I am receiving few letters now except local and personal ones which you could not answer. I shall be glad to see the 8th South American and Eskimo Halls. I presume you may look for us about the end of June.

With cordial regards to all.

Sincerely yours,

J. Alden Mason

I am enclosing copy of negative catalog, and sending you in separate package a lot of unfixed prints and also the carbon copy of my book of field notes #4.

305 So. 40th Street,
Philadelphia, Pa.,
May 25, 1931.

The University Museum,
Thirty-third and Spruce Streets,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Attention Miss McHugh, Ass't Treasurer

Gentlemen:

In his absence, my brother, Linton Satterthwaite, Jr., has requested me to take care of the banking of his salary checks. Pursuant to his written request to you I have received from you checks for salary for February and March, receipt of which I regret I have not acknowledged before this.

As I have received no check for the month of April I am writing to inquire whether if by some oversight it is being held for my brother at your office.

Very truly yours,

Willis H. Satterthwaite

May 26, 1931

My dear Mr. Satterthwaite:-

Under date of April 11 your brother wrote me asking us to discontinue sending his cheques to you as he would need his April and May salaries to clear his accounts in Guatemala and for expenses in his journey home. The letter reached me on April 25, just in time to withhold payment for the April salary, which together with the May and June salary will be paid direct to Mr. Satterthwaite by Dr. Mason.

Very truly yours

Ass't. Treasurer

Mr. Willis H. Satterthwaite

305 S. 40th Street

Philadelphia, Pa.

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J. ALDEN MASON
FIELD DIRECTOR

Piedras Negras,
May 28, 1931.

Dear Jayne:

Yours of the 12th arrived today. Glad you received at last the photo of the lintel. The other lintel of that temple, no. 1, of which a fragment was found by Maler, has not been found. I have a day or two more work on that temple, finishing finding the architectural features, but hope of finding that lintel is small now.

There is little to add to my letter of the 21st. Both Satterthwaite and I will quit directing the men Saturday night and most of them will probably leave, but those who wish to continue I am going to put on a big prominent pyramid looking for the lintels, unsupervised while we pack and take inventory. We plan to leave about the 6th. The Mexican customs official who has to conduct the stuff over the border probably left Frontera yesterday and should be here about Sunday; it will keep him waiting around a few days, but I thought it would be cheaper and better to have him waiting than us.

The ox team made an unexcusably slow trip over the road but probably reached the end of the road today with the four parts of stela 12. At any rate that proves that the transportation of the stelae over the road is possible. The river is a little lower now and if it is still lower when we get there it may still be possible to get them down the rapid; that is on the knees of the gods. If the road is in good shape, not too much mud, when the ox team gets back we will send out stela 36 and lintel 4 for Guatemala, just to show the Guatemalan inspector that we mean business. The small things, the fine lintel, and our personal baggage we will probably send to Tenosique on mule-back; it takes so much less time that it will probably be cheaper in the end, even at ten dollars per mule for the trip. We have had no rain for a few days now but the days continue still, hot, sultry and sweaty and mosquitoes, which are ordinarily very few, are coming in force; it is time to get out.

We shall of course, and I presume with your approval, plan on returning next spring. That means take an inventory, leave most of the things here and leave a caretaker in charge under pay. We shall of course bring back expensive instruments such as camera and transit, but most of the rest of the things would hardly be worth the expensive freight back. Then in the lamentable event that we are unable to secure funds for next year, we would write to Villanueva to ship back whatever things we think worth the freight, sell the rest, pay off the caretaker and close up camp. But we must not even consider this possibility. With our unusual contract with Guatemala, our road built and its feasibility demonstrated, camp built and a year's experience, and such finds as that wonderful lintel, to which a photograph does not do justice, I am certain that funds can be

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found. I have considered that possibility and feel rather confident that, if we can't swing the deal ourselves, I can get Heye, the American Museum, the Field Museum and the Peabody to put up, say \$5000 each for a stela; they are worth it, even if only for a ten year loan, and there are enough here for all.

This economic depression has surely played hob with everything. I am so sorry that Mr. Johnson has resigned; I had great hopes that he would put up more funds for next year. I presume my troubles are picayune compared with yours.

Sorry I shall have to let Wyer go; I depend on him a lot. I haven't had time to consider how to get the few plans and notes that he has been able to make, but he says they are in such form that any engineer can use them.

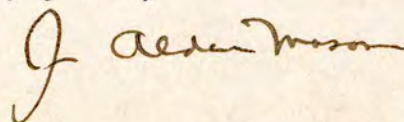
I received in the same mail a very nice letter from Garcia, Basauri's companion. He regretted that newspaper article very much and enclosed a copy of a denial which he had sent to the paper but which had never been printed. He denied that he had even been interviewed. He made no mention of Basauri, however, whom I suspect of being the guilty party.

The last ten days or so have been very fruitful of small objects, all buried in caches under the floor of the rear room of the temple from which the lintel came. Mainly flint and obsidian objects chipped in all sorts of fantastic shapes; there must be at least 150 of them, as well as some jades and shell objects, none of the jades beautifully carved though. Also some broken painted vessels which may be entire when I have time to look them over. There will be plenty of the ceremonial objects for both us and Guatemala.

In spite of your bad news about Mr. Johnson and our impending departure -- for I always hate to pack up and leave a place, even if it is to go home, -- and in spite of several ripe and impending boils, and a few more letters to write late at night, nevertheless it is a beautiful tropical moonlit night.

Cordial regards to all; look for us about the end of June.

Sincerely yours,



THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

June 3, 1931

Dear Mason:-

Thanks for your letter of May 15th. I have read it with care and thoroughly approve the steps you have taken in regard to the division with Guatemala. It is certainly well that they should have no cause for dissatisfaction this year. I hope the weather holds good and that you get good oxen to transport the boxes. I often murmur prayers for the safe transportation of the stelae and lintel.

You are in for a severe but brief scolding. I heard from Mr. Johnson after he had received your letter. While he was pleased by your results he was considerably disturbed by intimations you made that he might have to furnish more money. I am pretty sure I told you not to mention finances to him; anyway, for Heaven's Sake, avoid that side of the Expedition entirely when you write him. He is, of course, being attacked on all sides for money and it isn't going to do anything but antagonize him to hear of other obligations he may be called upon to assume. I hope we have not destroyed the chance to approach him next winter when perhaps things are better, but it certainly was ill-advised to mention the possibility at this time. Amen.

I have written you about Wyer already but I don't think you had received this letter when you wrote. In the light of what you now say, I feel that the only sensible thing to do is to let him go. It cannot be for the best interests of the Expedition to have someone who is difficult to handle, and when you come down to it I feel you could get someone equally qualified and more congenial. You can perfectly well use the excuse of lack of funds if you have to, in order to break the news to him.

I got a fine, enthusiastic letter from Morley praising the lintel and your work to the skies. I also saw Tozzer and Kidder yesterday in Cambridge; they were highly interested in the news.

Best of all to you,

Yours,
IMJ.

Dr. J. Alden Mason
c/o Francisco Villaneuva
Tenesique
Tabasco, Mexico

Tenosique, June 11, 1931.

Dear Jayne:

Almost out of official paper.

We arrived here yesterday after declaring work ended for this year. There is a boat leaving in a few hours which will take this. The Satterthwaites will also probably go in it since they can be of no help in the final matters of clearing up, and they wish to visit Chichen Itzá again. I have a suspicion that S. hopes to find Morley there yet and to ask him for a job there, but I may be wrong.

With the Mexican customs inspector who spent a week with us at the camp and came out with the shipment, there will go to the seaport at Frontera 27 boxes, small ones, 17 for us and 10 for Guatemala. The reason for the larger number to us is because I am including two boxes of three large specimens bought here in Tenosique, and because the Guatemalan Inspector and I agreed to send a lot of pieces of broken vessels to Philadelphia to be repaired and then half of the resulting ones to be returned to Guatemala. All these boxes will wait in Frontera until I get there in about a week when I will make arrangements for their shipment. I am not sure whether there are ever any boats direct from Frontera to Puerto Barrios, Guatemala. If there are, I will arrange for the Guatemalan boxes to be sent thus; if not I will ship everything to New Orleans and then transship from there the ten boxes to Guatemala.

I shall probably have to wait here five days or a week longer, cleaning up matters. We did not have quite enough mules to bring everything out, and had to leave one mule load at camp, a couple of boxes of instruments to take back home. We are bringing back very little, for few things are so small and valuable that they would be worth the cost of transport by mule, river, boat and train to Philadelphia, and we shall probably need them all again next spring. We are sending home the camera, the transit, and other small costly instruments only. I shall have to wait until the mules return with these. Then there are the three parts of lintel #3. I haven't written you, I think, since May 28, and haven't told you of occurrences since that time. The ox-team got back with the oxen in very bad shape, as they were apparently unused to hauling wagons. Nevertheless they desposited the four parts of stela 12 in our shed by the river, thus proving that the transportation over the road is possible without further expensive work. Not all of the oxen were in shape to go back, but we sent them off again with stela 36 for Guatemala and the upper part of stela 14 for us, which was loaded by mistake instead of lintel 4 for Guatemala which I intended should go. We also sent the three boxes containing the parts of new lintel #3. The wagons made only a short distance in two days and then broke down completely -- the oxen, not the wagons, and the wagons with the load had to be left in the road. I am trying to make arrangements for another lot of oxen to go out and haul them to the end of our road, but it takes some time to gather sufficient oxen together. I need not wait for this. But the three smaller boxes with lintel #3 of course I must take out with me, and mules left this morning to bring in these and the several boxes left at the camp. The large fragment of the lintel, when boxed, probably weighs over 250 pounds, and it is uncertain whether any mule can bring it in over the trail. Three men went with the best mules and instructions to try every means of bringing it in with the box, but if this is absolutely impossible, they will take it out of the

heavy box and bring it in as carefully as possible, unboxed. They will travel slowly and it will be four days, possibly five, before they are back. By that time I will have finished up financial matters and be ready to go out with these three boxes, the few for the Museum, and my personal equipment. Then I shall probably have to spend several days in Frontera arranging shipments, etc., and then proceed either to Vera Cruz or to Yucatan to take ship for home. It may be a month yet before I arrive there,

We had considerable rain for about a week and the river rose very high so that it was impossible to get the big monuments down the rapid. I shall have to go out without any of these, to my great regret, for they would help tremendously in securing more funds for next year. There is generally a dry season in August and the river may fall as low as in April, and in that case, Sr. Villanueva has instructions to try to get them down in any way, and send them down river. The problem of getting the stones down this small but mean rapid is one of the most puzzling ones. Wyer's idea was to make a raft of cedar logs and float them all the way down stream, but that involved placing an order for the cutting of these logs in advance, tying up several thousand dollars and going into the lumbering business to sell them when they get to the sea. Our alternate plan was to fasten several of the largest dug-out boats available together, but that is rather dangerous. Another possibility is to send up one of the scows used in loading bananas at Frontera, of very slight draft. That would have to be towed up at great expense. A new plan suggested to me may possibly turn out to be best. At Frontera there are said to be a large number of pontoons abandoned by the company which did dredging there and used them to hold up their discharge pipe. They can probably be bought very cheaply and transported up here without great cost. I shall look into the matter and see how much I shall have to pay for them when I get to Frontera.

There were some official changes at the camp just about as we were leaving that confused matters somewhat. A new customs official came to replace the man who has held the dual position of customs officer in that region and as Government Inspector at the ruins. However, nothing was said about his other position as Inspector and I still have to recognize him as such. I hope they will continue him as Inspector, as he is ideal for the job, very pleasant, agreeable to everything, and lenient. So, wishing to favor him, I gave him the position as caretaker at 75 pesos per month and keep (ordinary food of the country: corn, rice, beans, coffee, etc.) That is ~~\$\$\$~~ \$30 per month at present rates of exchange. And he agreed that if he is ordered elsewhere he will be unable to go, or resign.

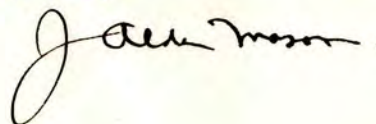
It will take me several days to find out just where I am financially, but I am almost certain that long before you receive this you will have received a call for several thousand dollars more. Villanueva has just handed me his bill since May 1st which staggers me. We have paid all our workmen by checks on him. I shall not pay off Satterthwaite entirely, for I haven't time to figure his accounts; shall just give him enough to take him home. But it will take a long time to figure Wyer's. He intends to go overland to Guatemala City, leave his wife there, and then return here to engage in lumbering. I shall have to leave some funds with Villanueva to pay the monthly salary of the guardian and incidental expenses. But at present writing I ~~have~~ have very slight idea whether I will get home on what I have or have to wire for more.

Yours of June 3d arrived this morning. Mea culpa. I apologize sincerely for mentioning finances to Mr. Johnson and hope that no harm was done. Of course I did not, and do not, remember that you told me not to mention finances, but I should have realized that it was untactful to do so, and that such questions are entirely ~~entirely~~ within your field and not mine, and that I should not assume to "help" you in them. The scolding was well deserved and is taken to heart.

Now that we have had a year's experience things will go much better next year. For there must be a next year, after all the overhead which is just on the point of producing results. I am now sufficiently well acquainted here, and people have confidence in us so that I can make necessary arrangements and have work started before we arrive on the scene. Next year I need a good engineer who will make plans and maps. Wyer was too busy acting as mayordomo this year to do much. Possibly I can get Merrill, who, you remember, asked for a place without pay, but didn't want to be in the tropics two years in succession. Then I must have a mayordomo who will keep men's accounts and run the camp. He will have to be a Mexican and will not be extremely expensive. Then the transportation must be handled differently. Oxen take too long; they would be cheaper if there were no hurry, but when you have to rush out as much as possible during the six weeks that you can count on the road being free of mud, you must have quick transportation. An American here in town says he can get loads out in three day trips with a tractor instead of the ten days which oxen take, and is considering making a proposition for the transportation next spring.

Nothing more for the present, I think. Cordial regards to all; look for me early in July.

Sincerely yours,



THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

June 12, 1931

Dear Mason:-

I want to acknowledge your letters of May 21st and May 28th, though I am not certain this letter will reach you before you have definitely turned your face homewards. We look forward very keenly to having you back again.

Naturally, your news about the rise of the river was highly discouraging. We are constantly praying that some turn of events may change the situation and that you will at least get the new lintel out. It will have much to do with the future of the work which you, of course, appreciate. I am, however, thoroughly in sympathy with your decision to get out stelae 36 and lintel 4 as well, for Guatemala. It would look odd if we took something and turned nothing over to them. You will have done your best, however, by the time you get this. We shall find some way to carry on next year, for obviously such a good start is worth every effort. Therefore, certainly go forward with the arrangements for a caretaker and so forth.

The old South American Ethnology and Plains Galleries are now being painted. You won't know your section when you get back. I hope it may be substantially finished when you get back and that you will be pleased. We have made no move of your offices, but have awaited your please in this regard.

Best to all,

Yours sincerely



Horace H. F. Jayne

Dr. J. Alden Mason
c/o Francisco Villaneuva
Tenesique
Tabasco, Mexico

PATRONS ARE REQUESTED TO FAVOR THE COMPANY BY CRITICISM AND SUGGESTION CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

12018

CLASS OF SERVICE

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WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

- DL = Day Letter
- NM = Night Message
- NL = Night Letter
- LCO = Deferred Cable
- NLT = Cable Night Letter
- WLT = Week-End Letter

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

Received at Western Union Building, 230 So. 11th St., Philadelphia, Pa. 1931 JUN 14 PM 11 42

AB119 50 NL=GY TENOSIQUETAB VER MEX 14

JAKE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM=

RE 33 Y SPRUCE ST PHILADELPHIA PENN=

ARRIVED WITH SEVENTEEN SMALL BOXED SPECIMENS AND LINTEL
 FOR US AND TEN SMALL BOXES FOR GUATEMALA STOP STILL SOME
 CHANCE OF GETTING OUT LARGE STONES BUT SHALL NOT WAIT FOR
 THIS STOP PLEASE WIRE TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS TO ACCOUNT OF
 FRANCISCO VILLANEUVA BANCO NAL VILLAHERMOSA AND NOT TO MY
 ACCOUNT=

MASON.

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

Tenosique, Tabasco, Mexico.
June 21, 1931.

Dear Miss McHugh:

I'm so ashamed of myself for not having written you a personal letter for so long that this last one is addressed to you instead of to the Director. There is little official to say.

I have been tied up here much longer than I expected, mainly on account of lack of transportation. We arrived here the 10th and the Satterthwaites were mighty lucky in finding the best boat on the river going the next day, so I packed them off as there was nothing that they needed to do here. There was no boat whatsoever in for the next week, and that was little more than a rowboat and going to Carmen, not to Frontera where I must go. A better boat came in yesterday and left early this morning, but the best boat was due, and has just come in, so I thought one day more wouldn't matter, especially as she made a quicker trip down river. Unfortunately this is Sunday, and the stevedores here won't work, so we won't be off till tomorrow morning. This letter will go down with me, but will beat me home by a week or so. How I will go home I don't know. There are banana boats from Frontera to Gulf ports almost every day but I think no passenger boats. One of the ~~passenger~~ fruit boats may take me, signing me on as a member of the crew to avoid the marine passenger laws requiring certain equipment on passenger boats. If no boat out of Frontera will take me, I must work my way along the coast, either northeast to Progreso, Yucatan, or to Vera Cruz, from which points I can get steamers either to New York or New Orleans. The freight I shall try to send direct from Frontera to New York if there are any boats making this trip, and the Guatemalan stuff direct to Puerto Barrios if possible, but it may be I shall have to ship everything to New Orleans, the Philadelphia part to go on by railroad freight and the Guatemalan part to be transhipped to Puerto Barrios. The greater part of the shipment, 27 small boxes, went down to Frontera with the Mexican customs man who had, according to instructions, to come to Piedras Negras to escort them down, but I have five more boxes here, the three containing the parts of lintel #3, and two boxes of valuable instruments, etc., which I did not care to leave behind at the camp. Also my personal baggage. I am lucky in being able to get the lintel out. It had to come out on mule-back and the larger piece, when boxed, weighed 333 pounds, more than any self-respecting mule is ever asked to carry through mud. But here it is; I may send the lintel home by express from the U. S. seaport, as I am eager to get it home quickly.

The wait here has not been wasteful or boresome, however, for it took me a week to clean up loose ends of finances and arrangements, and the last day or two I have spent on back correspondence. I will probably have to wait a day or two in Frontera arranging there for shipments, etc.

It was a great disappointment not to get out any of the monumental pieces this year, for they would help greatly as visual arguments in soliciting more funds for next year. There is still hope that they may be gotten out during the short dry season in August when the river should fall low enough for them to be taken through the rapid which lies between the end of our road where some of them now are, the four parts of magnificent stela #12 for us, the upper part of #14 for us, and #36 for Guatemala, and the head of river navigation. The other day I went up and saw this rapid, which is nowhere near as bad as I thought. The river is narrow there and a tremendous volume

of water comes down, so it must be very deep, but very turbulent and roilly so that the only available boats here, dug-out canoes, ship much water. The best idea so far, I think, is to chain the boxes, one at a time, to a number of large empty gasoline drums and float them down when the volume of water coming down is at a minimum.

75 pesos per month

Many thanks for sending that \$2000 in response to my request. I think that will pay all local expenses here, such as the salary and expenses of the camp caretaker, until next year. The greater part is, of course, for unpaid due bills. I asked to have it sent to the account of Villanueva instead of to me on account of the slowness and difficulty of arranging such matters here. When money is sent to me by telegraph the bank informs me by telegraph and I have to send them signed receipts in quadruplicate before they put it to my account, and as I expected to leave here before notice would have been received from them it would have been very inconvenient and tied up the funds a long time if they had been sent to my account.

We had, on the whole, a very enjoyable season, at any rate I did, but Satterthwaite and Wyer couldn't get along and neither intends to return next year. Mrs. S. is a brick -- I don't see why a brick should be a compliment, but that seems to be the popular phrase, so I adopt it in lieu of a better one, -- always cheerful and willing; she deserved a salary in addition to keep. Morley thinks we should consider it a great success, and I hope you and Jayne will, but I can't forget the enormous overhead for the building of the road and the purchase of transportation equipment which have not as yet given fruitful results. Next year we will probably need only half as much, and get out more, but almost all of that half will have to be raised; after I pay the balance of Satterthwaite's salary and freight, especially if they succeed in getting out any of the stelae, there will be practically nothing left of that \$25000. At any rate we shall have the finest known piece of Maya sculpture, and the finest by long odds.

I'd like to be home by the 4th; possible but not likely. I fear I shall find some on vacation already. I got a nice letter from Miss Delaguna who informs me she is leaving soon for Alaska. I am eager to see the newly installed American Halls, and all the Museum personnel again. There will be plenty to do when I get back, I am sure. My new offices have been done long since, of course. Before long all the halls will be installed, labeled, and the storage collections properly stored away and then, thank God, I'll be able to settle down and produce some publications.

With cordial regards to you and all,

Sincerely yours,

Mason.

*sent at Museum
July 19*

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

June 24, 1931

Dear Mason:-

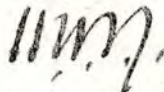
Thank you for your letters of June 11th and May 21st. I failed to acknowledge the earlier one, thinking you would probably be on your way home. You may not even get this, but I note that you say you will probably be held up a week or more at Tenosique and therefore I am taking a chance in catching you.

Of course it was sorry news that the river had risen and that you could not get the monuments out. It is the worse possible luck and will make it fifty times harder to raise funds for next year, but perhaps lintel 3 or the parts of it you can get out when put forward as a sample, will help somewhat. I still hope and pray that you may be able to make the arrangements you suggest and have them brought down during August. On these possibilities we must pin our next year's hopes for the Board has become extremely skittish in regard to expenditures and it will be a question of raising funds from rocks.

The other details of your letters can await the time of your return. There is no particular news here. Your Plains Indian and Tlingit Galleries are very handsome to behold and next week we shall start installation. I have little doubt but that you will be pleased by the total effect even if we get some details wrong.

My best to all your party and to yourself.

Always sincerely



Horace H. F. Jayne

Dr. J. Alden Mason
c/o Francisco Villaneuva
Tenosique
Tabasco, Mexico

Frontera (Alvaro Obregon),
Tabasco, Mexico.
June 28, 1931.

Dear Jayne:

I think it would be easier to get out of Purgatory than out of this damn country, and the wait there about as comfortable as here. It was four weeks ago that we ended excavation at P. N., and here I am yet.

I wrote Miss McHugh a week ago, the 21st, from Tenosique where I had been held up nearly ten days waiting for a boat out; however I was quite busy the first week cleaning up finances, etc., and could not have left many days before I did. Left Tenosique Monday the 22d, noon, and arrived here ~~Monday~~ night (this is Sunday). There are banana boats out every other day or so, but most of them are freighters and take no passengers. The first passenger boat out, they said, would be the Tegucigalpa for New Orleans, to leave on Monday, so I have got everything ready to leave on that. I wired Blom, who has cordial relations with the banana company (Southern Banana Corporation) that runs the boats out, and he got me, I presume, a free passage back, since he wired me to see the captain and sign on as a member of the crew. But this morning comes the advice that this trip of the Tegucigalpa has been cancelled and she won't be in till the end of the week. Curses. I shall now try more desperately to get passage on one of the freighters which may leave tomorrow or Tuesday for Galveston. These are converted navy destroyers, small and probably pitchy in bad weather, but fast. They have accomodations for only one or two extra.

Wed/

Remind yourself June 12th day I left Tenosique.

This is the season of bad weather in the Gulf; the rainy season is on in full blast and we have had rain every day, and nearly continuous for ten days or so. Little news here from outside, but weather reports gave a cyclone in the Gulf the last few days and I thought of wiring you that I was safe and hadn't left yet, for I don't know how bad it was, and thought you might have read of it and been worried. If it weren't for the weather I might take a small boat along the coast to Vera Cruz or Progreso, but coastwise shipping has been tied up, and I have no assurance that I might get a boat any sooner from those ports, and in addition would have to transship the cargo of specimens, always a long red-tapy job here. Everyone going to Vera Cruz or Yucatan these days takes the airplane to avoid the rough and uncertain sea trip, but I have so much baggage I couldn't take it in the plane and would have to await it at the other end so probably wouldn't save any time anyway. I'll probably land at Galveston in a few days and wire you from there, probably about the same time you receive this.

There are no boats from here to Guatemala, so I shall take everything with me, and send the Guatemala boxes, ten small ones, back from Galveston by ship freight, send our seventeen small ones to Philadelphia by railroad freight, and the three boxes with the lintel and the two of instruments by express.

Cordial regards to all

Sincerely yours,

Over

J. Allen Mason

Frontiers (Alvaro Obregon),
Tlaxaco, Mexico,
June 28, 1931.

Same evening, Sunday.

In haste.

Dear Jayne:

I may be home before you receive this.

About seven o'clock tonight I found out that there is a boat, the Truxton, leaving for Tampa early tomorrow morning and I decided to take it. I had to give a quick decision, for the agent, the Mexican immigration officer and the whole force were waiting anxiously for my decision to go to dinner. The boat leaves early in the morning, seven o'clock, in order to catch the tide over the bar and couldn't wait until the papers for the cargo were made out again for the new boat, so I shall leave without them and they will follow to New Orleans on the next boat. I am trusting that they will be properly forwarded to Philadelphia and to Guatemala. Needless to say I am busy tonight.

I ought to reach Tampa the 2d, possibly home the 4th.

This is the season of bad weather in the Gulf; the rainy season is on in full blast and we have had rain every day, and nearly continuous for ten days or so. Little news here from outside but weather reports gave a cyclone in the Gulf the last few days and I thought of wiring you that I was safe and hadn't left yet, for I don't know how bad it was, and thought you might have read of it and been worried. If it weren't for the weather I might take a small boat along the coast to Vera Cruz or Progreso, but coastwise shipping has been tied up, and I have no assurance that I might get a boat any sooner from these ports, and in addition would have to transship the cargo of specimens, always a long red-tape job here. Everyone going to Vera Cruz or Yucatan these days takes the airplane to avoid the rough and uncertain sea trip, but I have so much baggage I couldn't take it in the plane and would have to wait it at the other end so probably wouldn't save any time anyway. I'll probably land at Galveston in a few days and wire you from there, probably about the same time you receive this.

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Cordial regards to all

Sincerely yours

J. C. ...

Received by ...

Postal Telegraph

(THE MACKAY SYSTEM)



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This is a full rate Telegram or Cablegram unless otherwise indicated by signal in the check or in the address.

DL	DAY LETTER
NL	NIGHT LETTER
NM	NIGHT MESSAGE
LCO	DEFERRED CABLE
NLT	NIGHT CABLE LETTER
WLT	WEEK END CABLE LETTER



Form 16 P. W.

RXP7 10 COLLECT TAMPA FLO 1032A JULY 3 1931

UNIVERSITY MUSEUM=

33 AND SPRUCE STS=

PLEASE WIRE IMMEDIATELY ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS POSTAL TELEGRAPH

TAMPA FLORIDA=

MASON.

1102A.

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TELEGRAM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED
NIGHT MESSAGE	NIGHT LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	WEEK END LETTER

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

WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

1206-A

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

J. Alden Mason
 Care Postal Telegraph
 Tampa, Florida

MONEY WIRED VIA WESTERN UNION INQUIRE MAIN OFFICE TAMPA

(signed) JAYNE

July 3, 1931 -- 12:50 P. M. --\$.72

WESTERN UNION GIFT ORDERS ARE APPROPRIATE GIFTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS.

PATRONS ARE REQUESTED TO FAVOR THE COMPANY BY CRITICISM AND SUGGESTION CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

12018

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SIGNS

DL = Day Letter
NM = Night Message
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LCO = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
WLT = Week-End Letter

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

Received at 3307 Woodland Avenue, Philadelphia, Penn.

56P FMY 10

TAMPA FLO 1154A JUL 3 1931

UNIVERSITY MUSEUM

33 AND SPRUCE

MONEY RECEIVED WITH MANY THANKS STOP ARRIVE HOME SATURDAY NIGHT

MASON

1213P

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

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

July 13, 1931.

Dear Miss McHugh:

Please make out
for Mr. Linton Satterthwaite, Jr.
from funds of Eldridge Johnson
Expedition, a check for \$454.13,
this being balance of salary due
him for April, May and June, 1931.

Sincerely yours,

J. Allen

Vouchers.

July salary

454.13
800

1254.13

Bal. 2111.64

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM

INTERDEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Miss McHugh

DATE: Aug. 18.

Since you seem to be busy with Mr. McMichael and may be occupied until after five o'clock, I leave here some things for you.

Desk Aug 20/31
351
The large package contains the photographs called for by our contract with Guatemala and is to be sent to them; should be registered or insured, valuation about \$160.00. The only writing inside is a number on each of the photographs and a typed label on each of the two boxes describing contents. The package should be wrapped more securely.

Desk Aug 20/31
The smaller letter contains the catalog of the photographs and a letter. It should probably also be registered. First class mail. Not air mail for either.

I also append an article of which I spoke on preservation of anthropological museum objects, from the Annual Report of the National Museum of Canada, 1929 (or 1930?). I have not read it myself yet, but intended to lend it to Milton. Please return to my desk after you are through with it.

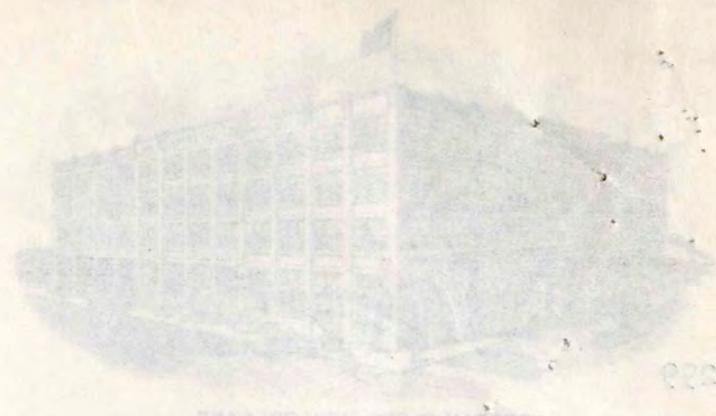
FROM: Mason.

REPLY WANTED
NOT WANTED

IF A REPLY IS CALLED FOR KINDLY USE REVERSE OF THIS SHEET

NEW ORLEANS, LA.
JULIO 20 DE 1931

H.T. COTTAM & CO., INC.
INTERESTS EXPORTERS
AND WHOLESALE GROCERS



Sold to THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA, PENN.

TERMS: days on \$ subject to per cent For Cash

FACTURA DE EMBARQUE CORRESPONDIENTE A FIES (10) CASAS DE
ARTICULOS U OBJETOS ARQUEOLOGICOS LLEGADOS A NEW ORLEANS
POR VAPOR "MORAZAN" PROCEDENTE DE PUERTO ALVARO OREGON,
TABAGO, MEXICO. EMBARCADOS EN NEW ORLEANS A BORDO DEL
VAPOR "PARISMINA" POR INSTRUCCIONES DE LA "UNIVERSITY
MUSEUM" DE PHILADELPHIA, PENN. - CONSIGNADAS AL
"DEPARTAMENTO DE INSTRUCCION PUBLICA"
GUATEMALA, GUATEMALA.

VAPOR PARISMINA

MARCAS
DEPT. EDUCACION PUBLICA
GUATEMALA, GUA.

NUMS. 6-1 AL 6-10 10 CASAS OBJETOS ARQUEOLOGICOS
PESO BRUTO TOTAL 307 LBS.
PESO NETO TOTAL 307 LBS.

VALOR DE CADA CAJA \$ 100.00
TOTAL-----\$ 1,000.00

CUSTOM HOUSE ENTRY 3.00
DRAVAGE 2.50
SERVICE CHARGES 10.00
SEGUNDO (INSURANCE) 3.75
FREIGHT 17.35
36.60

171 02

PAY FOR BANK OF PENNSYLVANIA
BY ORDER
CITIZENS SERVICE
JUL 22 1931
CANAL BANK & TRUST CO.
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

CENTENNIAL OFFICE OF
THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK
PHILADELPHIA
CARL H. CHAFFEE, Cashier.

RECEIVED PAYMENT

FOR DEPOSIT
H.T. COTTAM & CO., INC.



UNICA DE CAMBIO. A LA ORDEN DE H. T. COTTAM & CO., INC.
LA CANTIDAD DE DOLARES TO BE PAID EN LIBRANZAS BANCARIAS SOBRENUEVA ORLEANS O NUEVA YORK
CUENTA DE S. S.
THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
University of Pennsylvania
PHILADELPHIA, PENN.

Philadelphia, Pa.,
August 27, 1931.

Dear Chief:

Cataloguing is about finished except for the Miscellaneous groups. These are practically all pottery sherds. Since you selected one of two of a kind before we left, giving a separate number to each "type", which is often repeated in the next group (i.e. those with the next field number), and since I'm pretty hazy on what the criteria for a type should be, numbers are more often assigned to single sherds than not. The total number now is over 1,100. Don't you think that for the Miscellaneous Collections I had better give all the sherds in each group the same number, and not add much more to the number of cards which have to be typed later? This will preserve what information we have and prevent any confusion until they are studied and save a devil of a lot of work. R.S.V.P.

I would like to refer to the Morely-Ricketson map occasionally. May I get it out of your office? And if so, where is it? Weyer made a few shots for a map of the West Group and I suppose put them on a plan. I'm working up my Acropolis stuff and this might be useful. Might I get that out also, before your return?

The Museum is dead as a door-nail. Charlie and Mrs. Charlie Bache have left for the near east. Miss McHugh is back. I know of no other news which would interest you. Best regards,

Faithfully,

Russell Callahan

August 31, 1931.

Dear Lint:

Your welcome letter of the 27th received today. Go ahead and give a single number to each group of sherds, but also mark them a, b, c, etc., so that we may refer to the various types. If any sherds are of identical type, you may give them the same letter, but that is not necessary, and more trouble.

I'm not sure that I have a copy of the ---- No, I was thinking of the Blom-Ricketson map of the whole Maya area; you mean the map of P. H., traced on thin paper. Both that and Wyer's plans are among the papers in the lower right shelves of my bookcase, the big one against the north wall, the lower part. I'm not sure that Wyer got any farther than making a rough drawing in one of the engineering books. My impression is that the big map is with Wyer's plans in a folder, and there are also two small engineer's books with notes.

Am hard at work here but making good progress. Your namesake Linton is here also; Cole is not back yet. We drove to Terre Haute, Indiana, in three days, ~~and~~ leaving Sunday, and I came up by bus Wednesday. Florence will probably be up in a few days. Griffin is around; Sapir has gone to Yale already.

Cordial regards to Peggy, Barney Casildg et al. Hope to see the letter when we get back. I'll be back about the end of the month, Florence about the middle.

Cordially,

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
ROOSEVELT ROAD AND LAKE MICHIGAN
CHICAGO

September 20, 1931.

Mr. H. H. F. Jayne,
Director, University Museum,
Philadelphia.

Dear Boss:

I understand you were supposed to arrive home today. Hope you had a very pleasant vacation and are rarin' to pitch into work as usual.

I have been keeping right at it but thrive on it, as I am working over a collection which I secured and in which I have great interest, and find the work exciting. Tomorrow I will finish the largest part of the work, the stone, and still have the shell, bone and metal to do. I should have this done by the end of the week and will then take a few days to select specimens for the exchange for the Marajó Island stuff and then leave for home. Will certainly show up for work by Monday, October 5, and probably the latter part of the week before. I think my six weeks vacation is up October 1st. I also want to study some of the collections here before I leave.

Florence and I had a few days at the Indiana Dunes for a change. She has been out here several weeks and has just left for home, driving back. Johnny will be a few days late for school.

I presume you will have read the few letters which I have written Miss McHugh. Kidder was all het up about a remarkable find which Howard made this summer; he may have written you about it. I got a nice letter from Miss De Laguna in Seattle a few days ago; I presume she is back now. You will be pleased to hear that I got a letter from an American lumberman-physician in Tenosique. He said the river was down and he would contract to get the four boxed parts of stela 12 down the rapid for \$150.00 if I would wire that sum. I wired back that I had left sufficient funds with Villanueva for that purpose, and he wired back to send Villanueva instructions to advance him the money. So I wired V. to pay him \$150 if he succeeded in getting them out, expenses if he failed. Evidently the attempt is going to be made. Apparently the Belize hurricane did not reach Tenosique or damage my camp or road; I think he would have mentioned it if it had.

Cordial regards to all.

Sincerely yours,



September 22, 1931

Dear Mason:-

Thank you for your letter which arrived this morning. I got back Friday, a little before I was expected, and found everything running as usual and your galleries coming on very well indeed. My trip was most successful and very pleasant.

It is good news that we may yet have Stele twelve this autumn. It will be perfectly splendid if it can be done. We have tentatively fixed November 21st as a date for our party to show off the Piedras Negras things, as well as the newly installed American Galleries. I hope this is convenient for you, and if it can be that Stele 12 will be here by then it will be highly satisfactory. Your course of action in this matter has my full approval.

I am glad that your work has gone well and we all look forward to seeing you back. You will have been moved fully to your new quarters. We can take up the various things, about which you left me messages, upon your return, rather than writing about them.

Yours always sincerely,

Dr. J. Alden Mason
c/o Field Museum of Natural History
Chicago, Illinois

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM

INTERDEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Miss McHugh

DATE: December 14

Two boxes have been packed and are ready for shipment.

\$100. One contains skeletal material from Miss DeLaguna, to go to Dr. B. Oettinger, Columbia University, New York City, for study.

\$100. The other contains a pottery vessel secured in Mexico by the Johnson expedition, to go as a gift to Sr. José Reygadas Vértiz, Dirección de Monumentos Prehispánicos, Secretaría de Educación Pública, Mexico City.

I shall attach address labels to each.

FROM:

Mason

REPLY

WANTED

NOT WANTED



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ADDRESS OF COMMITTEE

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DOROTHY L. LINDFORS
In Charge of Office

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

Established in 1916 by the National Academy of Sciences
under its Congressional Charter and organized with the cooperation of the
National Scientific and Technical Societies of the United States

DIVISION OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND PSYCHOLOGY

COMMITTEE ON STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYS

December 4, 1931

Dr. J. Alden Mason
University of Pennsylvania Museum
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Mason:

As you prophesied, when I got home I found your letter of the 25th together with the note for the Teocentli, and the equipment data. As I write this, the Teocentli is in the last throes of birth, and you should have a copy within the next few days. We have not yet had word from Howard, but expect to include his letter in a Postscript. I think I need not comment more upon the equipment data other than to say that you have given me what I wanted. I spoke of it to you last Monday.

Morley
I have checked over carefully the supplementary series in the photograph of Lintel 3, and find, to my annoyance, that the Glyph D- E record does not fit my theory. The figure should be 10 instead of the 9 it is. But never mind that. The reason for the confusion in the reading is that the computations based upon Teeple's interpretations of Glyph C indicate that the glyph record should read 9-D. The inscription unmistakably reads 9-E, and Glyph D is absent. This means that according to the inscription, the age of the moon was 29 days, whereas computations show that it should be only 9 days. I am enclosing a set of computations tying into two other initial series, the data of which are taken from Teeple's Table 3, which Morley tells me is correct. This may sound confused to you, but the point is that the error is on the part of the scribe, and not on the part of the archaeologists who read the inscription. Such an error was a common occurrence at Yaxchilan, as you will see by referring to Teeple's article in the "Anthropologist", Vol. 27, first paragraph on page 113. For your own peace of mind, I suggest that you ask Morley whether or not this glyph is undoubtedly Glyph E, as I have identified it.

In talking to Petruccio, I spoke of Matt Stirling's trip to South America, and found that he did not know about it. I told him I would give him a statement regarding the trip. I found it in Science Service mail report dated September 22, a copy of which I am sending with this letter, and which I hope you will be kind enough to turn over to him. There is apparently some confusion about just where Stirling has gone, at least in my own mind. In a personal letter to me, he said, "On the 22nd of this month, I am leaving on an expedition to the Matto Grosso in Southern Brazil and expect to be away until March." There is a note about the Matto Grosso Expedition in the "Museum News" for November 15th, in the first paragraph on page 3. The Science Service report deals with Ecuador, and not Brazil.

another?

The memory of my pleasant day with you and your staff has stayed with me all week. I enjoyed myself immensely. I marvel repeatedly at the beauty of Lintel 3, and I think that your method of displaying it brings out its best features. I am glad that I arranged to stop in Philadelphia, not only because it made possible a visit with you personally, but also because I was able to secure a definite picture of the recent changes in the Museum exhibits and staff.

With many thanks for giving me so much of your time, I am,

As ever,

Carl E. Guthe

CEG/dl

should be ^{9D} 8E, but is ^{9E} 8D
by E and for D in note, A¹⁰

Computations on the glyphs D - E record of the supplementary series, typing in the record on Lintel 3, Piedras Negras with two records on Stelae from Piedras Negras. The data on the two stelae were taken from Table 3, Teeple's "Maya Astronomy", which data, according to Morley's word-of-mouth statement, may be depended upon.

Carl E. Guthe
December 4, 1931

1407591	1407591	- beginning of lunar month	
	<u>9</u>	days add	
	1407600	- 9.15.10. 0. 0 - I.S. on Stela 10 (Glyphs D - E record 9 days)	1407600
		Add 8. 3.13	2953
2953		Add 100 lunar months (100 lunations are 2953.06 days)	<u>2953</u>
1410544	1410544	- beginning of another lunar month	
	<u>9</u>	days add	
	1410553	- 9.15.18. 3.13 - I.S. on Lintel 3 (record shows glyph E with number 9, meaning 29 days, and glyph D is missing. The necessary correction would be to substitute glyph D for glyph E in the record.)	1410553
		Add 16.14. 7	6047
6055		Add 205 lunar months (205 lunations are 6053.77 days)	<u>6055</u>
1416599	1416599	- beginning of another lunar month	
	<u>1</u>	day add	
	1416600	- 9.16.15.0. 0 - I. S. on Stela 16 (glyphs D - E record 1 days)	1416600

It is quite clear from this computation that if the record on Lintel 3 be used exactly as it was carved upon the stone, the age of the moon would be twenty days greater than we would expect in the light of Teeple's translation of the glyph D - E record. Either Teeple's translation is wrong, or the record on the lintel is wrong. It must be one or the other. Similar errors in the glyph D - E record were made five times at Yaxchilan. The bulk of the data available confirms Teeple's translation. Therefore, it seems justifiable to assume that the sculptor made an error.

*Maybe the scribe E was used in place of D
deliberately. they did not differentiate between*

Prague-Prague, Anni 23.

Dear Dr. Mason,

Your lintel is indeed most beautiful. For the initial series I would propose the reading $[9-5-10-3-0]$

$[= 5 \text{ Ahau} \text{ } \underline{8} \text{ Xul}]$. It is very curious to find the

combined date in the long Count here: 5 Ahau

9 [Xul]. It is the question if there are the two

possibilities of reading: 9 [Xul] or 8 [Xul].

That must be decided by most careful exami-

nation of the four dots: either $\odot \circ \circ \odot$ or

$\circ \circ \circ \circ$? In the moment, preparing a trip to

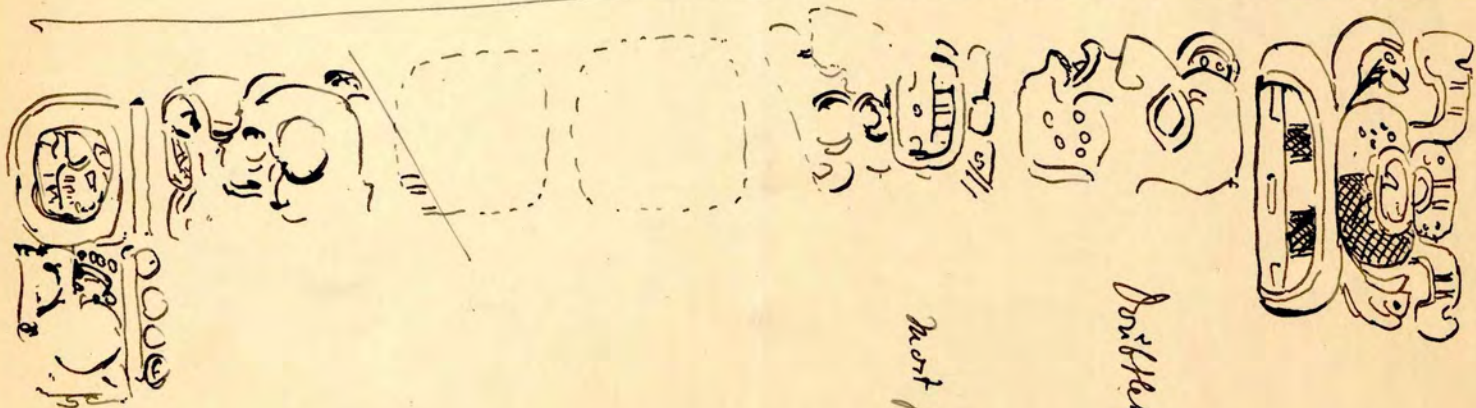
Vienna, I cannot go in more details, but I will

do so later. I send you a copy of my letter concerning

the interpretation of the Castillo Pipil-stone relief.

With best regards yours very truly

Walther Lehmann.



most probably 5

probably 9

(2)

For the reading 5 Sha'w 8 Sul are the calendaric possibilities f.l.:

8 - (5) - 19 - 6 - 0 (too early)

8 - 13 - 17 - 9 - 0

(9 - (5) - 10 - 3 - 0) i think the best reading

9 - 13 - 8 - 6 - 0

etc. etc. etc.