

Piedras Negras,
Peten, Guatemala
April 30, 1931.

Honorable Reuben J. Clark, Jr.,
American Embassy,
Mexico, D. F.

My dear Mr. Clark:

My good friend, Mr. Leslie Moore, has sent me a clipping of a newspaper article published in LA PRENSA of Mexico City on April 14 which contains false and utterly uncalled-for aspersions on my honesty and that of this expedition which call for explanations. Mr. Moore said that he had spoken to you about it, and that you suggested that I write to you regarding it so that you may take the matter up with the proper authorities. I would be greatly obliged if you would do so. Such false charges require an explanation. I am enclosing herewith a copy of a strong letter of protest which I am sending to Sr. Jose Reygadas Vertiz, Jefe del Direccion of Monumentos prehispánicos under the Department of Educacion. I think that this letter explains everything so that it will not be necessary to explain further to you.

It has only just occurred to me that the Mexican authorities may believe that I may have entered into a cons piracy with Dr. Morley, who is at present studying the inscriptions at Yaxchilan in Mexico further up the river and whom we expect here on Monday, but which, under pretext that they were found here, we will take out objects which Dr. Morley will secure at Yaxchilan. Of course such suspicions, directed against expeditions of such reputable institutions as the Carnegie Institution and this Museum, led by reputable archeologists such as Dr. Morley and myself, are ridiculous.

I would appreciate it greatly if you could secure some modification of the rules imposed by the Aduana regarding the shipment of our specimens, as outlined in my letter to the Customs authorities at Alvaro Obregon (Frontera), a copy of which I sent you on April 16. It will be practically impossible to follow these regulations to the letter as regards the large monuments which must go over our road one at a time and by slow stages by ox team and consequently cannot be accompanied by the Customs officials and guarded by them from the time they cross the border until their arrival in Alvaro Obregon. In order to get as many out as possible before the coming rainy season puts an end to our work we wish to begin this transportation as soon as our road is finished and take as many as possible to San Jose or to Santa Margarita at the head of navigation on the Usumacinta River where, after all have been assembled there, they may be taken over by the Customs authorities and conducted to Alvaro

Obregon. If the Customs authorities insist on following the letter of the regulations, it will mean that we will be unable to take more than one load out this year. I would appreciate your immediate help in this matter since our road is practically completed and the ox-teams with the wagons are expected here about May 10 to take the first load out. We are now engaged in crating some of the stelae for transportation. The Guatemalan official in charge of this district is also the official inspector of the work here, and he can certify that all objects taken across the border are of Piedras Negras origin. Moreover, practically all of the large monuments which we will move this year were published in the archeological report on Piedras Negras and can be easily identified as of this provenience.

Mr Moore urged me to ship out of Carmen de la Laguna rather than out of Frontera where a bar requires lighterage. But since Frontera was named by the Customs authorities as the port of shipment, and since state patriotism in the state of Tabasco objects to transportation through Tabasco to a seaport in another state, I presume we had better try shipment through Frontera, since it would probably require a long time and much trouble to have the seaport changed.

You will be pleased to hear that we have discovered a new lintel here, a wonderful work of art, quite the finest piece of preColumbian American art ever discovered. I hope that it will fall to our share, and if so I trust that you will visit us in Philadelphia some time and admire it.

With my sincere thanks for your help in our troubles,
believe me

Sincerely yours,



EMBASSY OF
THE UNITED
STATES OF
AMERICA

MEXICO,
FEBRUARY 2,
1932

My dear Mr. Mason:

With reference to your letter of February 16, 1932, concerning difficulties which you have encountered in obtaining permission to take out of Mexico four large boxes containing objects obtained in your archaeological work, I beg to advise you that a member of the Embassy staff called yesterday on the Chief of the Import Section of the Bureau of Customs of the Mexican Ministry of Hacienda, and, after explaining the difficulties which you describe in your letter under reference, was advised as follows:

The official interviewed stated that his Department had not yet received your letter in regard to this matter, but that the University of Pennsylvania expedition would in any case be called upon to apply for a new permit, as was done in 1931. The official in question volunteered the opinion that such an application would receive favorable application by the Customs Bureau in Mexico City.

It was also suggested that in renewing this application to ship objects, which the expedition had discovered in Guatemala, in transit through Mexico, it might be well for you to anticipate, in addition to the four boxes which are now at Ciudad Alvaro Obregon, the approximate number of pieces which the expedition may wish to send through Mexico to the United States during the current year.

Hoping that this information will be of use to you in arranging for these shipments, I am,

Sincerely yours,

J. Alden Mason, Esquire,
Field Director, The Eldridge R. Johnson
Middle American Expedition,
Tenosique, Tabasco, Mexico.

TELEGRAFOS NACIONALES

SE TRANSMITIRAN POR ESTAS LINEAS CON ABSOLUTA SUJECION A LAS CONDICIONES QUE AL REVERSO SE ENCONTRAN Y SON ACEPTADAS POR EL QUE SUBSCRIBE:

PALABRAS

VALORES

H. D.

INDICAR AQUÍ LA CLASE DE SERVICIO QUE DESEE UTILIZAR)

Letra Nocturnal

ORIGEN

Alvaro Obregon

EL

5

DE

Mayo

DE

1932

DIRECCION

Mexico, D. F.

VIA

REUBEN CLARK

OFICIO

Embajada Americana

*Re telegrama del 3 recibido punto Escribi
de Filadelfia al Director de Aduanas febrero
6 y telegrafio de New Orleans febrero 25
punto Telegrafio de esta febrero 29 y
~~Philadelphia~~ marzo 4 punto Jefe aduana
esta telegrafio marzo 2 punto Permiso no
recibido todavia punto Ruegole ayudad conseguir
permiso pronto para no perder mas tiempo Gracias*

contestacion pagado A

J. ALDEN MASON

J. Alden Mason



TELEGRAFOS NACIONALES

ESTADOS UNIDOS MEXICANOS

TELEGRAMA

558 MEXICO D F 8 MARZO 932



A OBREGON TAB 46W 12 15 Y 5 POR COBRAR Depositado 18 30

Recibido 19 55

J ALDEN NASON

A OBREGON TAB

REPLYING TO YOUR TELEGRAM MARCH 6 OFFICE OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CUSTOMS HAS ORALLY ADVISED EMBASSY THAT PERMISSION ENABLING YOU TRANSPORT ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBJECTS IN TRANSIT THROUGH MEXICO AND ENTER YOUR SUPPLIES HAS BEEN GRANTED AND THAT IT IS SENDING TELEGRAPHIC INSTRUCTIONS CUSTOMS OFFICE CIUDAD OBREGON TODAY

J REUBEN CLARK JR

POR COBRAR.

Todo telegrama debe ser pagado
Lea Ud. el reverso; le interesa con...

HON. J. REUBEN
CLARK, JR.,
AMERICAN EMBASSY,
MEXICO CITY

MARCH 9, 1932

Hon.
American
Mexico

My dear Mr. Clark,

Your telegram of yesterday was duly received and I wish to thank you for your assistance, and to offer my apologies for having taken your time. This morning I received a telegram from Director Hay and the local Customs received their official instructions, so I shall be off in a few days now.

If I had known that Sr. Eduardo Hay is now Director General de Aduanas I feel sure that I could have got the matter settled more promptly and without bothering you, for I made his acquaintance two years ago when I was in Guatemala City arranging our contract with the government there, and he was Mexican Ambassador; he has much interest in archeological work. I intend to write him a personal letter at once, and feel sure that while he remains in office I can have any difficulties settled promptly.

If we should continue our work next year I shall learn by experience, and shall begin my urgent requests for permission for transit months before we intend to leave.

Thanking you again for your kind help, believe me

Sincerely yours,



THE
AMERICA

1931

In connection with the Embassy's telegram of March 14, 1931, confirmation copy of which is enclosed, regarding the customs formalities necessary in order to permit your archaeological expedition to transmit materials and supplies in transit through Mexico, I beg to transmit herewith, for your further information in the matter, a copy of a letter of today's date, with copy of its enclosure, which has been sent to Mr. H. F. Jayne at Philadelphia.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Ruben Clark".

Enclosures:

- Confirmation copy of telegram.
- Copy of letter to Mr. Jayne,
together with its enclosure.

EXPEDITION

EMBASSY INFORMED BY CONSUL GENERAL HERE THAT CUSTOMS
AUTHORITIES MEXICO CITY ADVISE INFORMALLY THAT DIFFICULTIES
MENTIONED YOUR LETTER MARCH 1918 REGARDING TRANSIT SHIPMENTS
BOTH TO AND FROM GUATEMALA NOW SATISFACTORILY ADJUSTED IN
ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR PLANS.

CLARK

FOR COBRAR PAGO GARANTIZADO

TENOSIQUE, TABASCO

J. ALDEN MASON

Government for the free transit through Mexico of archaeological material and supplies from Guatemala, I beg to enclose as of possible assistance to you in making the necessary arrangements for such transit shipments a memorandum prepared by the Consulate General regarding informal conversations held with customs officials in Mexico City in this matter.

Very sincerely yours,

J. REUBEN CLARK, JR.

Enclosure:
Copy of Memorandum.

Horace H. F. Jayne, Esquire,

Director, The University Museum,

University of Pennsylvania,

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,

DEAR MR. JAYNE,

WITH FURTHER REFERENCE TO MY LETTER OF MARCH 9, 1931, AND TO PREVIOUS CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING THE PERMISSION WHICH YOU HAVE REQUESTED FROM THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT...

JFB/kk

mission
Guatemala, Guate-
I am
the following arrangements with the
Customs Department have been made:

Instructions are being sent to the Collector of Customs at Alvaro Obregon (Frontera), Tabasco, authorizing the shipment, in transit through Mexico, of the specimens that Dr. Mason desires to take with him to the United States from Guatemala, with orders that when Dr. Mason is ready to make shipment that he notify the Collector of Customs at Alvaro Obregon so that Inspectors of the Customs Service can be detailed to accompany the shipment from point of entry into Mexico from Guatemala, to port of departure, which it is understood will be Alvaro Obregon. The expenses of the customs employees will be for the account of the Expedition from Alvaro Obregon to point on the Guatemalan-Mexico border and return to Alvaro Obregon.

The probable route that Dr. Mason would take was given to the Customs as follows:

Entry into Mexican Territory to be one of the following:

- (a) Tres Champas, near the Guatemalan-Mexican boundary, in the State of Tabasco,
- (b) El Retiro, Tabasco, east of Tres Champas, or
- (c) La Mar, in the State of Chiapas, on or near the Usumacinta River.

The manner of transporting Dr. Mason's collection of antiques was indicated as by means of canoes down the Usumacinta River to the confluence of the Rio San Antonio, and thence to a point on that river called San Antonio, in the State of Tabasco. From San Antonio Dr. Mason would continue down the river to a town called Tres Bocas,

where

→ IN CONNECTION WITH THE MATTER OF OBTAINING PERMISSION FROM THE CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT IN MEXICO CITY FOR DR. J. ALDEN MASON, CURATOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, NOW INVESTIGATING THE MAYA RUINS AT PIEDRAS NEGRAS, GUATEMALA, TO TRANSPORT CERTAIN MATERIAL THROUGH MEXICO, I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT THE FOLLOWING ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT HAVE BEEN MADE:

Print
Obregon

that
sea of
the Expe-
touch
Collector of Customs at Alvaro Obregon.

In preparing shipments for transit through Mexico it is necessary that each case or bundle be properly sealed in accordance with the Customs Laws; that the actual sealing be accomplished in the presence of the Customs Guards sent to accompany the shipment; that a detailed invoice, preferably in quintuplicate, be provided; and that the permit of the Guatemalan Government be exhibited.

While the suggestion was not made by the customs authorities in Mexico City, it is suggested that it may be advisable that Dr. Mason employ the services of a customs broker at Alvaro Obregon, as there are certain formalities under the Mexican Customs Laws that must be complied with, which a broker would be aware of and thus expedite matters for Dr. Mason.

WHERE THREE RIVERS JOIN THE RIO GRIMALVA, AT WHICH POINT HE WOULD CONTINUE DOWN THE GRIMALVA RIVER TO ALVARO OBREGON (FRONTERA).

IT WAS ALSO INDICATED TO THE CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD NOTIFY DR. MASON OR HIS ASSOCIATES OF THESE ARRANGEMENTS AND INDICATE THAT AS SOON AS THE EXPEDITION WAS READY TO EFFECT SHIPMENT THAT IT GET IN TOUCH WITH THE COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS AT ALVARO OBREGON.

APRIL 6, 1931

Atlix.

Dear Mr. Clark:

Your letter of March 16 enclosing confirmation of your telegram of March 14 and also enclosing copy of letter to Mr. Jayne with its enclosure was received a few days ago. I wish to thank you most heartily for your efforts in our behalf which have had such a successful termination. I will be pleased to comply with all the regulations outlined in the memorandum of the Mexican Customs authorities.

Our equipment, which was held up so long at Ciudad del Carmen, has at last arrived and we are working more efficiently and living more comfortably than before

I trust that you will sometime pay us a visit in Philadelphia and see the archeological results of this expedition.

Thanking you again for your kind efforts, believe me

Sincerely yours,

HONORABLE J. REUBEN CLARK, JR.
AMBASSADOR OF THE U.S. OF A.
AMERICAN EMBASSY
MEXICO, D.F.

APRIL 16, 1931

My dear Mr. Clark:

With further reference to your kind letter of March 16 which I acknowledged on April 6, I am enclosing you a copy of a letter which I am today writing to the Collector of Customs at Alvaro Obregon.

I am sure that you will find this letter, although couched in my unidiomatic Spanish, intelligible and explanatory of the difficulties involved and I need explain them no further to you. Since the matter may have to be referred to the Director of Customs in Mexico City, and since such matters always take a long time and correspondence even longer, and since I hope to begin the transportation of these stelae within a month, may I request your kind help in bringing the question to the attention of the Director of Customs so that it may be promptly settled?

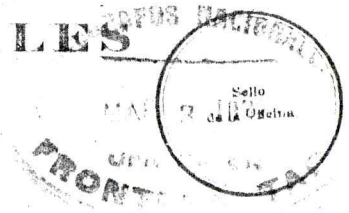
With many thanks for your kind assistance, believe me
as ever

Sincerely yours,

TELEGRAFOS NACIONALES

ESTADOS UNIDOS MEXICANOS

TELEGRAMA



MEXICO D.F. 3 MARZO 1940 10 AG 19.40. Depositado _____

55 W COBRAR ORDINARIO 18.10. Recibido _____

MEN MASON, A OBREGON TAB.

REPLYING →
 I WROTE →
 MENT →
 HAVE TO →
 INTERVIEWED →
 ACTION →

YOUR TELEGRAM SECOND COMPLYING YOUR LETTER FEBRUARY SIXTEENTH
 SEVENTY FIFTH TO YOU AIRMAIL TENOSIQUE TO EFFECT CUSTOMS DEPART
 HAD NOT RECEIVED YOUR LETTER BUT THAT IN ANY EVENT YOU WOULD
 APPLY FOR NEW PERMIT SIMILAR TO ONE LAST YEAR STOP OFFICIAL
 VOLUNTEERED OPINION APPLICATION WOULD RECEIVE FAVORABLE

REUBEN CLARK JR.

ORDINARIO.

Este telegrama debe llevar el sello de la Oficina.
 los diferentes servicios.

October 5, 1931

OCTOBER
16, 1931

The Honorable J. Ruben Clark, Jr.
Embassy of the United States of America
Mexico City, Mexico

My dear Mr. Clark:

I take this belated opportunity of answering and thanking you for your kind letter of April 30 which was received only recently after undergoing many vicissitudes. Foolishly I headed my letter to you from Piedras Negras, Guatemala where you naturally addressed me but at which point there is no post office.

I take pleasure in informing you that our specimens from Guatemala were transported in bond through Mexican territory with no great trouble and were sent to Philadelphia and Guatemala City.

We hope to return to our work in Guatemala about the first of February and I trust that this year we shall have no difficulties with the Mexican Government and that I shall not have to bother you any more with my difficulties.

Thanking you for your great help to us, believe me as ever,

Sincerely yours,

J. Alden Mason, Curator



MY DEAR
MR. MASON,

I have shown your letter of April 16, 1931, with its enclosure, to the member of the staff of the Consulate General in this city who has had previous interviews with the office of the Director General of Customs here regarding the difficulties which you have had in obtaining the necessary permission for the shipment of articles in transit through Mexico from Guatemala.

He assures me, after studying your letter most carefully, that according to the information which he has obtained the difficulties which you anticipate should not occur, since assurances have been given to him that the appropriate officials at all points necessary have already been notified and should be in a position to do what is proper to clear all shipments which you intend to make through Mexican territory by the route which you have indicated.

In these circumstances it would not seem necessary
to press

have

Respectfully yours,

J. Reuben Clark, Jr.
J. Reuben Clark, Jr.

TO PRESS THE MATTER FURTHER WITH THE CUSTOMS
AUTHORITIES HERE AT PRESENT, ALTHOUGH THE
EMBASSY WILL OF COURSE BE GLAD TO HOLD ITSELF
IN READINESS TO BE OF WHATEVER FURTHER
ASSISTANCE TO YOU IT PROPERLY MAY, WHEN
HEARING FROM YOU THAT ANY FURTHER DIFFICULTIES
HAVE ARISEN.

My dear Mr. Clark:

Thank you for your kind letter of May 19 which was received only a few days ago due to my foolishness in addressing my letter of April 30 from my camp to which address you naturally wrote me. Of course there is no post office there, consequently it took a long time for your letter to arrive here.

In regard to the derogatory article which was published in the Mexican newspaper LA PRENSA, I am pleased to inform you that I recently received a letter from the director of the paper inclosing a clipping of an article published therein which retracts and apologizes for the earlier article. I also understand that both Srs. Basauri and Garcia, who are quoted in this article as having given the said interview, wrote me denying vigorously that they had ever said anything of the kind. The matter is therefore closed to my entire satisfaction.

The expedition at Piedras Negras in Guatemala had a successful season and I am pleased to say that the specimens were transported through Mexican territory in accord with the conditions imposed by the Mexican Government and that these specimens have already arrived at this museum. We expect to start work again in February provided we succeed in securing additional funds.

With cordial regards and hearty thanks to you for your help in this matter, believe me as ever,

Sincerely yours,



Division of Prehistoric Monuments of the Department
of Public Education, concerning an article published
in LA PRENSA for April 14th and containing what you
describe as unwarranted observations on the purposes
and itinerary of the University of Pennsylvania Museum
Expedition to Guatemala.

With particular reference to the request made in
the third paragraph of your letter that some modifica-
tion be obtained in the rules imposed by the Mexican
customs authorities regarding the trans-shipment from
Guatemala through Mexican territory of the larger
monuments, particularly stelae, which you have collect-
ed, I may say that your letter, immediately upon its
receipt,

J. Alden Mason, Esquire,

Campanero "Piedras Negras,"

Petén, Guatemala.

→ MY DEAR MR. MASON,

I HAVE YOUR LETTER OF APRIL 30, 1931, WITH ITS ENCLOSED COPY OF A LETTER OF THE SAME DATE WHICH YOU ADDRESSED TO MR. JOSÉ REYGADA S VERTIZ, CHIEF OF THE DIVISION...

Customs, who has been fully advised as to the nature of the various difficulties which you have experienced in the shipment of your articles through Mexico, stated that he would give this matter every consideration. I am also informed that while the customs authorities here did not make a definite statement in the matter, they were of the opinion that your request would receive favorable action, in view of your explanation of the difficulties confronting you in the shipment of the heavy stelae through Mexico.

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Clark Jr

RECEIPT, WAS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ...

HE NOW INFORMS ME THAT THE DIRECTOR
GENERAL OF CUSTOMS, WHO HAS BEEN FULLY
ADVISED AS TO THE NATURE OF THE VARIOUS ...

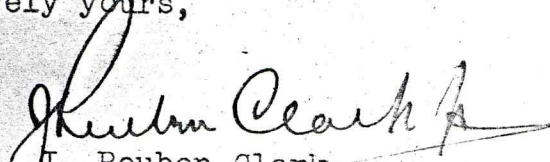
OCTOBER 26, 1931



I have your letter of October 15th advising me that the specimens collected by the University of Pennsylvania Museum in Guatemala have been transported in bond through Mexican territory with no great trouble and have been sent to Philadelphia and Guatemala City.

I am very glad to hear that the various difficulties which you encountered in connection with these shipments have apparently been successfully overcome and that you hope to return to your work in Guatemala next February.

Sincerely yours,


J. Reuben Clark,
American Ambassador.

J. Alden Mason, Esquire,
Curator, The University Museum,
University of Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

APRIL 30, 1931

My dear Mr. Clark:

My good friend, Mr. Leslie Moore, has sent me a clipping of a newspaper article published in LA PATRIA of Mexico City on April 14 which contains false and utterly unjustified aspersions on my honesty and that of those expeditions which call for explanations. Mr. Moore said that he had spoken to you about it, and that you suggested that I write to you regarding it so that you may take the matter up with the proper authorities. I would be greatly obliged if you would do so. Such false charges require an explanation. I am enclosing herewith a copy of a strong letter of protest which I am sending to Sr. Jose Boygadas Vertiz, Jefe del Direccion of Monumentos prehispánicos under the Department of Educacion. I think that this letter explains everything so that it will not be necessary to explain further to you.

It has only just occurred to me that the Mexican authorities may believe that I may have entered into a cons piracy with Dr. Morley, who is at present studying the inscriptions at Yaxchilan in Mexico further up the river and whom we expect here on Monday, but which, under pretext that they were found here, we will take out objects which Dr. Morley will secure at Yaxchilan. Of course such suspicions, directed against expeditions of such reputable institutions as the Carnegie Institution and this Museum, led by reputable archaeologists such as Dr. Morley and myself, are ridiculous.

I would appreciate it greatly if you could secure some modification of the rules imposed by the Aduana regarding the shipment of our specimens, as outlined in my letter to the Customs authorities at Alvaro Obregon (Protonera), a copy of which I sent you on April 16. It will be practically impossible to follow those regulations to the letter as regards the large monuments which must go over our road one at a time and by slow stages by ox team and consequently cannot be accompanied by the Customs officials and guarded by them from the time they cross the border until their arrival in Alvaro Obregon. In order to get as many out as possible before the coming rainy season puts an end to our work we wish to begin this transportation as soon as the road is finished and take as many as possible to San Juan de los Rios at the head of navigation on the Rio Usumacinta.

... would prefer to ship out of ... Laguna rather than out of ... where a ... requires ... But since ... was ... by the Customs authorities ... port of shipment, and since state patriotism is the state of ... objects to transportation through ... to a seaport in another state, I presume we had better try shipment through ... since it would probably require a long time and much trouble to have the seaport changed.

You will be pleased to hear that we have discovered a new lintel here, a wonderful work of art, quite the finest piece of preColumbian American art ever discovered. I hope that it will fall to our share, and if so I trust that you will visit us in Philadelphia some time and admire it.

With my sincere ... our help in our troubles, believe me

truly yours,

MR. MOORE URGED ME TO SHIP OUT OF CARMEN DE LA LAGUNA
RATHER THAN OUT OF FRONTERA WHERE A BAR REQUIRES
LIGHTERAGE, BUT SINCE FRONTERA...

I am writing you and respectfully requesting that you endeavor to advise for me and for this Museum an early answer to a request that I have made of the Mexican Customs authorities. I understand that Mr. H. H. F. Jayne, Director of this Museum, wrote or telegraphed you about this subject about the first of December, but as he is away today I take the liberty of again writing you upon this subject.

I enclose herewith a carbon copy of a letter which I recently sent to Sr. G. Elias of the Dirección General de Aduanas. This letter explains practically everything, but nevertheless I will briefly state to you the circumstances. I have received permission from the Guatemalan Government to carry on archeological researches at the ancient Maya city of Piedras Negras in northwestern Petén and just over the border from Mexico. The sole feasible method of reaching and working at this site is via Mexican territory. I am therefore making application for transportation in bond through Mexican territory to Guatemala. Such permission should be a matter of form and easily arranged. Nevertheless I have been endeavoring since last March to secure it. I hope to begin this work early in February and to have here before the end of January and the delay in receiving this permission is halting all my preparations. During last summer I had an engineer in this region building a road for me from the town of Tenochique in Tabasco to the ruins across the border, at great expense which will be a total loss unless this permission is secured.

I made this application in person and in Spanish last March, and since that time have written frequently in regard to the matter. Nevertheless the first official letter which I have received, except for some from my friend Sr. José Meygades Vertiz of the Dirección de Monumentos Prehispánicos, was that of Sr. G. Elias on December 11, requesting that I make my application in Spanish. The letter of which I enclose a copy is a reply to this.

MY DEAR MR. CLARK,

I AM TAKING THE LIBERTY OF ADDRESSING YOU AND
RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THAT YOU ENDEAVOR TO
OBTAIN FOR ME AND FOR THIS MUSEUM AN EARLY
ANSWER TO A REQUEST THAT I HAVE . . .

...this section, ...
...in ...
...at
...would have interminable difficul-
...in Carnen or Frontier at one
of ... points I wish to import and export equipment, supplies
and archeological objects.

Since my preparations for this work are practi-
cally at a standstill until I secure this permission, and since
I hope to leave for this work in a few weeks, as soon as the
season there makes work practicable, and in view of the above
explanations, it would be exceedingly appreciated by this
Museum and by myself if you could use your influence to secure
an early and a favorable reply to my petition.

I have the honor to be

Sincerely yours,

J. Alden Mason
Director of the American Section.

Address: Tenosique, Tabasco, Mexico,
May 10, 1932.

Honorable J. Reuben Clark, Jr.,
Ambassador of the United States of America,
American Embassy,
Mexico, D. F.

My dear Mr. Clark:

Unfortunately, two weeks ago many of the buildings of our camp here at Piedras Negras, Peten, Guatemala, were burnt and my correspondence with you destroyed. However, I think I wrote you in full detail concerning the circumstances of the exportation of archeological objects from this site in Guatemala in transit through Mexican territory to Alvaro Obregon for shipment to Philadelphia and to Guatemala City.

The time is now approaching for our departure from here and to date, in spite of many letters, I have received no permission to export these objects. I have written Sr. Eduardo Hay several times, but have received no reply. So far as I know, the four boxes taken to Alvaro Obregon in January are still there awaiting permission to ship. I hope that by the time we reach Obregon about the first of June the matter of this exportation will be settled so that I will not have to spend a long time waiting there, writing and telegraphing, or even have to journey to Mexico City to arrange for it in person.

We expect to take a very few boxes of the lighter objects, such as can be carried on muleback, with us and our personal baggage to Obregon when we go out. As soon as the date of our departure is approximately fixed, I will wire the Aduana at Obregon to send up a celador to accompany us to Obregon. The heavier boxes will be taken on our wagons to the end of our road. One shipment has gone already and another one will go in five days or so as soon as the wagons return; this will be the last. These will remain at the end of our road until the river has risen sufficiently to permit the building of rafts which will take them through the last rapid and down to Obregon. Naturally this date cannot be fixed, but depends on the season and the rains. As soon as this date is approximately certain, the Aduana at Obregon will be notified to send another celador to accompany them down stream to Obregon. All boxes, whether going by mule and river boat or by wagon and raft, will bear cards signed by the Guatemalan Government Inspector at this place, certifying them to be of Guatemalan origin. I am again writing today to Sr. Hay, and would greatly appreciate any help that you may be able to give us to the end that the permission for exportation may be given shortly so that I may not find it necessary to spend a long time in Obregon, but may leave immediately with the boxes that we have brought with us, and with the assurance that the

other heavier boxes will be shipped as soon as they come down on the raft.

With my regrets for again having to bother you about this matter, and my thanks for your assistance, believe me

Sincerely yours

J. Alden Mason
Director of the Eldridge R. Johnson
Middle American Expedition.



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

México, May 20, 1932.

My dear Mr. Mason:

I received yesterday your letter of May 10, 1932, concerning your desire to have me again assist you in obtaining a permit from the Customs authorities in Mexico City to enable you to take out of Mexico archeological objects from your field of operations in Guatemala, in transit through Mexican territory to Alvaro Obregon for shipment to Philadelphia and to Guatemala City. You state that a recent fire destroyed your correspondence and that you have been unable to receive replies to the many letters you have written to Sr. Eduardo Hay, Director General of Customs in Mexico City, regarding your desired permit.

In reply, I am pleased to advise you that a member of the Embassy staff called this morning on the Sub-director General of Customs, Sr. Valdez, and was assured by him that orders permitting you to ship your archeological objects through Mexico, in transit to the United States and Guatemala, had been sent to the Customs officials at Alvaro Obregon on March 8, 1932, and that, therefore, your letters requesting this permission anew had not been answered owing to the existence of the previous permit. As you may recall, I telegraphed you on March 8, 1932, advising you that the permission had been sent to the authorities at Alvaro Obregon.

With kindest regards, and trusting that you will have no difficulty in getting your shipments out of Mexico, I am,

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Alden Mason". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned below the typed name.

J. Alden Mason, Esquire,
Field Director, The Eldridge R. Johnson
Middle American Expedition,
Tenosique, Tabasco, Mexico.

Camp Piedras Negras, Peten,
Guatemala.
June 3, 1932.

Honorable J. Reuben Clark, Jr.,
Embassy of the United States of America,
Mexico, D. F.

My dear Mr. Clark:

I received today your kind letter of May 20 in reply to mine of the 10th, and wish to thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

It must seem to you that I have troubled you unnecessarily, urging the issuing of a permit that had already been given, but I assure you that the case was not as simple as it seems. The only notifications of permissions that I have received referred to permission for the importation of our equipment and supplies. It may be that the permission issued on March 8 referred both to the importation of equipment and the exportation of the archeological objects, but the Customs officials at Alvaro Obregon did not understand it as such, and I have never received any notification of such permission for the exportation of archeological objects myself. The boxes with my monuments which were taken to Alvaro Obregon in January remained there until a few weeks ago. Apparently about the time that you sent your letter, about May 10, probably as a result of my letters to many people and your kind assistance, the Customs authorities in Mexico City inquired of those in Alvaro Obregon why these boxes were still held there, and the Obregon authorities replied that it was because the period for the permission granted last year had expired. As a result of this, the boxes were finally shipped on May 16, orders probably having been sent from Mexico City about May 13. I trust that this permission also includes the other boxed monuments which I expect will be taken to Obregon in July, or possibly June.

We are leaving here in a few days now, and I will find out the status of this permit when I reach Obregon. I trust that I will find everything settled so that I will be able to leave at once, and not need to bother you again.

Thank you again for your kind help; I hope that the next time you are in the neighborhood of Philadelphia, you will drop in the Museum and see the wonderful monuments we have been sending out from here.

Sincerely yours,