

DIESELDORFF,

COBAN,

REPUBLICA DE GUATEMALA

CARE ADDRESS: "ERWIN" COBAN.

CODE A. B. C. 5TH. EDITION.

LIBBER'S FIVE LETTER.

Coban, 23 of March 1931.

Dr. J. Aldan Mason, at Piedras Negras.

original via Tenosique, copy to Philadelphia.

Dear Dr. Mason ,

You are now probably at Piedras Negras, commencing the interesting and valuable work of opening up those ruins.

I have in my employ a Kekchi Indian, who is a good photographer and a reliable man, about 28 years old, single, does not drink, is honest and can be depended upon. Perhaps you might use him at your work. He has photographed my collection, which I intend to publish in my 3rd book, the second one of which deals with Copan, the explanation of the stealae, altars and temples and is now being printed in Germany. I have been so fortunate as to find out, how the intercalation was used by the Mayas. It is not, what Landa says One day in four years, neither is it what Aztec writers maintain, that 13 days were added at the end of the Calendar Ring, but it is based on the revolutions of Mars. As soon as I get my copies I will send you one, if you will let me know, where I can send it to you.

The photographer is called Felipe Cu; he has had experience in taking photos of persons and of idols as well. I have shown him, how these ought to be prepared, by filling in with black water color the low parts, so that the surface comes out much clearer. After taking the photo, the color can easily be washed off. In that way, as I suggest, all monuments must be prepared, so that they show the details perfectly clearly.

I enclose you a photo of a quauhxicalli or blood vessel of stone treated in that way and you will see, how much is gained in clearness. Perhaps you will try to use this new kind of treating the monuments for photographs. Those taken by Maudslay are, of course, as nearly perfect as can be; yet they would gain by the new method which is to prepare the monuments by water color, ere they are photographed. The name of the man I recommend is Felipe Cu; his provisions are Three dollars a day, from leaving here till return expenses. He could come to you by air, as there is a weekly connection between here and Flores. Mostly, the air starts from the Capital and fly direct to Flores and touch Coban on the return trip, but having a passenger here, they will probably take him along. From Flores he would go to Libertad and there by Canoo. The same way can be used coming here. Perhaps there may be a shorter way via Tenosique, but you will know better than I can from here. I can send you also any other help you may want. You send me a telegram. With best wishes, sincerely yours,

Erwin Disedorff

Piedras Negras, Guatemala.
April 11, 1931.

Sr. E. P. Die seldorff,
Coban, Guatemala.

Dear Mr. Die seldorff:

Many thanks for your good letter of March 23 which arrived several days ago. We have been here about six weeks now and have made considerable progress but with no important finds yet. One new lintel so far but it is badly broken although the initial series is well preserved. For the rest, our results are in notes, photographs and potsherds. We have recently opened a vault tomb and think that there are some more in the same place, but the one opened contained nothing but the bones, and these disarticulated and scattered. I do not think that we need the services of a photographer since both I and my engineer are rather expert in this and the results are very good. It would be the end of April before Sr. Cu could be here and we will probably not be able to work much after June 1st. The road which I am having built to the head of navigation above Tenosique is just done except for the worst spot where some grading and bridging must be done, and we hope to begin sending some of the stelae out by wagon about the middle of May. As I suppose you know, half of them must be sent to Guatemala where I presume you will see them some time.

Thanks for your photograph and suggestions regarding outfitting of relief for photographing; I shall try it in suitable cases.

I shall be most interested in receiving a copy of your book on Copan when it appears and of reading your discovered method of Maya intercalation. Of course you know Morley's work "The Inscriptions of Copan". Morley and his party, by the way, passed through here a week ago on their way to Yaxchilan where they are to spend a month studying the inscriptions there for their third book on "The Inscriptions of Mexico and Yucatan". I feel unusual rainy weather is troubling him; it rained a great deal last night and today, very unusual. I presume you have the same at Coban.

Our artist, Miss Baker, told me you had written her expecting her. You will be surprised to hear that she may come by the back door. She is in Merida now and will be through in about a week. Then she will probably come here, seeing on the way, and if she is still willing to attempt it, after this country, I am going to send her up the river by canoe to Libertad where she will go to Flores and catch the airplane to Flores. Then she can see Yaxchilan on the way. But the long trip, though more pleasant than the long train trip, is still a long one.

My engineer is Mr. T. Egan Wyer. I met him in Guatemala City and engaged him to survey for the road and begin to build it. He returned to Guatemala City in December and married the youngest daughter of Ingeniero Ernesto Marroquin whom I understand is a friend of yours. Mrs Wyer, Maria Teresa M. de Wyer, is here with us now. I wish you could jump in a canoe and come down the river to visit us.

Hoping to see you before long in Coban, Philadelphia or Piedras Negras, believe me as ever

Sincerely yours,

DIESELDORFF,
COBAN,
REPUBLICA DE GUATEMALA

Coban, 29 April 1931.

THE ADDRESS: "ERWIN" COBAN.
CODE A. B. C. 6TH. EDITION.
LIEBER'S FIVE LETTER.

Dear Dr. Mason,

I have just returned from a trip to the plantations and was pleased to find your letter of April 11. by air mail. I am sorry to hear that so far you have not had a great deal of luck, but it may come later, once you have found the graves. Most of the graves found up to now I take to be sacrifices. Perhaps all those, that were covered by three large stones may have been the sacrifices of the intercalary days. I presume that you got my circular explaining that at every 13.0.0. of the Long count the Mayas intercalated 3 days in the civic calendar, at every 13.0.0.0. once the days were raised to five intercalary days and at 13.0.0.0.0. they would have intercalated once 6 days. So if you find anywhere 3 buttons or dots, and where you find 5 buttons or dots, you can be sure, that they refer to intercalary days. My explanation is so well founded, that there can be no mistake about it. I also explained that the God with the long nose pointed downwards is Mars, as 6 revolutions of Mars is just 13.0.0. and also 18 Tzolkin. The book Dieseldorff II has already reached me in proof and I expect I shall be able to hand you your copy when you come to Gtla, or will forward it to Philadelphia, so please let me know of your movements. J Eric Thompson is excavating at Orange walk on the upper Belize river, but has had no luck so far. Capt. Joyce is in the southern part of British Honduras, but he has not written me so far.

I am awaiting Miss Baker and think, she would do well to come via Peten. I have a nice room and a sitting room ready for her and she will be pleased with our climate and with the work awaiting her.

I am glad to hear that Mrs de Wyer is with you. As you explain, she was Maria Teresa de Marroquin, I know now, who she is, and as a daughter of my esteemed friend, don Ernesto Marroquin and his mother, doña Angelina, I count her also amongst my friends and I beg you to present her my respects.

I notice that your expedition is patronised by Mr Eldridge R. with whom I have had some correspondence about the Eastern Islands which interested me two years ago, but I left off, when the problem seemed to give good results, which were in the end far from my best hopes.

Altar 4 of Maler is, of course, Mars, the extraordinary part is that we find only 3 heads, whilst it should be six. Please draw these heads better drawn; they are entirely indistinct. On Stela 5 there is the bird with the long beak, the eye, exist twice the 3 intercalary days in

P. DIESELDORFF,
COBAN,
REPUBLICA DE GUATEMALA

Dr. Mason 2. 29 April 1931.

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LIEBER'S FIVE LETTER.

At Piedras Negras intercalation is not so clearly expressed as at Copan Stela B and Quirigua Stela A. May be, their intercalary system was different from Copan, as Piedras Negras is also earlier. Yet nowhere the detail work is finer. They must have been grand people, but always in wars, as one finds so many people or Gods in kneeling position.

It is also remarkably different from Yucatán, there are no masks nor geometric patterns.

It is always difficult to find nice pottery in ruins where the indians had good material for stone carving.

May be on a different site you may find interesting pottery in hills either standing by themselves or around a plaza, but I can give you no rules for finding, as they seems to have had a great deal of lack of system, which makes exdavation so difficult in this territory.

Please excuse the many mistakes, but I am a little shaky from having ridden a great part of the day under a hot sun.

We also had rainy weather but it was fine lately, not too hot. The Indians could burn nearly all the rozas and we had also a good flowering of the coffee trees.

With my best wishes for success, although it may be slow in coming, but it will come surely,
Yours very sincerely,

Erwin P. Diesdorf

P. S. May I draw your attention to the fact, that Malers photos are insufficient for study. He should have done it like Maudslay, photo and drawing. So I hope that you will have the drawings made and published in your great work on Piedras Negras. Especially important is the round altar.

Piedras Negras, Peten, Guatemala.
May 4, 1931.

Mr. Robert Burditt,
C/o British Consulate,
Guatemala City, C. A.

Dear Burditt:

I have been intending to write you for a long time, but time here is at a premium and I have been putting it off. However, I received a letter from Jayne today which induces me to put it off no longer. He says he received a rather sizzling letter from you to the effect that your article in the "Journal" was all wrong. I was afraid that there would be some mistakes crept into it, but I hope that it is not as bad as you seem to make it. Jayne is really a prince and I like him immensely and so would you if you knew him. But he is very young and energetic and wants to do everything in a hurry. He admits his mistakes of haste -- something Gordon would never do -- and will learn. He writes me "I deserve all the maledictions he heaps on my head. I may by now have learned the necessity of submitting proofs to authors. It is your department and you should know of the contretemps, but I am fully prepared to shoulder all the blame." I'd like to relieve him of some of the blame, but I fear it is up to him. The Journal was very much behind hand and he was very eager to get an issue out, the first issue of the "Journal" under his direction, and the first under the new regime of making it more scientific, and you should be pleased that your article was chosen for the first issue and published at last after waiting for so many years; we all thought it an admirable piece of work, especially those beautiful plans of yours. You might never have seen it printed if it hadn't been for Jayne. However I told him that you wished to see proof before it went to press, but he was too eager and feared the delay would be too long. As a matter of fact he pushed it through so fast that I didn't have a chance to edit it myself as I wished to do. I did get hold of proof once and read it through as well as I could in a short time, without comparing it with your mss., and added the several footnotes which you see. It was printed before I realized it or saw final proof. Everyone of us has suffered in the same way, by having articles pushed through hastily without seeing proof, and we have all protested so vigorously that, as you see he says, he has learned that authors must be given proof for revision, and I believe that there will be no more such unfortunate cases. Very many things in my section have gone to press without my seeing proof at all, and there have been so many mistakes and I have protested so vigorously. I think that hereafter articles will be carefully read over. I believe that your article was so very bad, for it seems to me that it was. At any rate, you have more manuscript waiting to be published than I can give you.

are my... here since late in February. We
 are my... Northwaite and his wife, and my
 engineer... I think you met Wyer in Guate-
 mala. As you know, I got here last June to begin the
 survey for the road, and in... and then began the road and
 remained here until November when he returned to Guatemala City
 and married the daughter of Ernesto Marroquin and they returned
 here. The road is practically done now, and we expect the wagons
 here with oxen about May 10th to begin taking some of the stelae
 out. The season has been most extraordinary, and we have had
 rains all through the "dry" season, and I fear that the road will
 not be as passable as we hoped. We haven't had great success
 either, as far as small objects are concerned, although the expense
 has been great. I wish we could find some burials such as you
 found up in the highlands; I suppose they are here but we have not
 found any yet. Many sherds of fine pottery but no complete vessels
 yet, no jades, and few small objects of value. However we did find
 two weeks ago, a beautiful lintel which I swear is the finest known
 specimen of Maya carving, exquisite. For the rest, we have impor-
 tant notes and lots of photographs, but I hope that we will find
 fine small objects before we leave!

I wonder if you will meet our Museum artist, Miss M.
 Louise Baker, who is probably now in Guatemala. I gave her a let-
 of introduction to you, but she may not find you. She is, of course,
 in this region to paint the best specimens she can find of Maya pot-
 tery for the album. She spent over a month, I guess, in Merida,
 in her last letter was about to leave for Guatemala, where she should
 be before you receive this. She will paint Mrs Hodgson's vase,
 Luna's and several others, and will go to Coban to paint some of
 Dieseldorff's. She will probably also go to Quezaltenango (I urged
 her to take that if only for the beautiful ride, although some of
 the things in Robles' collection are probably worth painting or
 sketching roughly) and will probably also go to Salvador, where I
 hear there are some fine things that I have never seen. Possibly
 you may know of some new things which are worth painting and which I
 have not seen. She writes me that she can be reached in care of
 Oliver Ricketson, Jr. 3a Avenida N #1, and if you can be of any help
 to her in her work we would appreciate it greatly.

I presume you are still at Chocoma, or are you working
 somewhere else now? Please give my cordial regards to everyone in
 Guatemala whom I have met, and the same to you.

Cordially yours,

Tenosique, Tabasco.
June 21, 1931.

Mr. E. P. Dieseldorff,
Coban, Guatemala.

Dear Mr. Dieseldorff:

I have been intending for a long time to answer your kind letter of April 29, but have been very busy ever since receiving it. Now I am just on the point of leaving here to return home. I presume you have seen Miss Baker -- possibly she is with you as I write this. I wrote her a few days ago; my cordial regards to her if she is with you.

The points brought up in your letter are of great interest and I am looking forward to receiving your second book soon after I return home. But as I make no claim to being a Maya specialist I am unable to comment upon your discoveries regarding the intercalary days.

Mr and Mrs Eyer are returning to Guatemala at once. You are right that Mr. Eldridge Johnson was interested in Easter Island several years ago, and we understood that he was planning an expedition to that region, but I do not think that it ever occurred. The recent and present economic crisis has hit Mr. Johnson very hard and he has resigned from our Board of Managers and may give no more funds for this expedition; in that case it will be necessary for me to seek funds elsewhere for the work next year if it is to continue. The expense this year has been very great.

I am inclined to think that you refer to some of the Piedras Negras altars and stelae incorrectly, so that I cannot be sure what you really intend to refer to. Altar 4 has four legs, not three, carved in the form of heads which may, as you think, represent Mars. I have a better photograph of this than given in Maler, but next year I expect to ship the legs out and send them to Guatemala where you can study them. The toucan with the three dots above the eye which you mention as being found on stela 5 I cannot identify; are you certain you mean stela 5?

I get the impression that fine polychrome pottery antedates fine sculpture, at least here. The potsherds found on the surface and in the lower strata are very rude and unpainted, mainly large and coarse, but the lower strata show fine polychrome work. We found no entire painted vessels there probably because our excavations were mainly in the most recent structures. Next year I intend to dig in some of the older temples where I expect fine pottery will be better. I understand that they found a wonderful quantity of painted pottery this year at Uaxactun, one with the date 522 B.C. (see Ricketson) which verifies my theory that polychrome pottery is of considerable age.

We made practically no careful drawings of sculpture or glyphs, first because none of us was a good artist, second because Morley has carefully drawn and photographed all of the glyphs and third because I hope to take and eventually all, or most, of the sculpture.

We found a large number of caches of ceremonial objects, mainly flint and obsidians chipped in many peculiar shapes, also some jade and shell, half of which are going to Guatemala where you will be able to see them. On account of the late date at which we got our road finished we will probably be unable to get any of the large monuments out this year. However we have taken over our road the four parts of stela 12, stela 36, and the upper part of stela 14, boxed and ready for shipment. Our beautiful new lintel, no. 3, I am taking out with me, and I will send you photographs of this when we have it cleaned and repaired.

With cordial regards and hopes to see you before long either in Philadelphia or in Guatemala, believe me

Sincerely yours,

Coban, 19 of October 1931.

E. P. DIESELDORFF,
COBAN,
REPUBLICA DE GUATEMALA

CABLE ADDRESS: "ERWIN" COBAN.

CODE A. B. C. 6TH EDITION.

LIEBER'S FIVE LETTER

Dr. J. Alden Mason .

University Museum, Philadelphia.

Dear Dr. Mason,

I thank you for your letter of August 30. from Chicago, where you went to prepare a report on your work in Colombia in 1922. I have also to thank you for a pamphlet on that subject. Unfortunately I have been unwell and my correspondence has been in disorder.

I trust you have overcome the troubles of the virgin forest and have not been attacked by malaria. On account of heavy rains all over the country, Malaria has been prevalent in all low districts and its character has been so pernicious, that a good many indians have died. I would recommend you to take good care of yourself in subsequent expeditions and either put up a house with mosquito netting or have a special room with mosquito netting made, which you can put up anywhere. In order to be successful, the work must be continued by one and the same man, so you ought to take care of your health. I understand that you also suffered from boils, same as Dr. Eric Thompson. We always protect our legs by good leggings and besides smear them with petroleum or "gaz", so that the thousands of bugs cannot penetrate or drop when coming in contact with it.

I am sorry to say that the Hamburg Museum will not publish the ^{of my 2nd book} english version in the Report of the 24th Congress. They write, that their funds are too low and that they consider that they should not publish an english translation of a work which has already appeared in German. Well, they should have said it before, but all the funds in the scientific world seem to have gone into the banks' coffers. I am trying to get the work published by the Carnegie Institution or the Smithsonian Institute, which have published already part of my work. Really I like to have both of my books published in english, but I know it is not a paying proposition. What scientific book pays? Not even Stephens with difficulty found a publisher for his extraordinary work of travel and exploration.

Could you tell me a firm of antiquaries in U.S.A., which could give me with some books out of print. I have enquired of many friends, nobody has been able to name a firm, specializing in the sale of American and Mexican antiquities.

I understand that the second part of the Examples of Maya has been published by the Museum, I have written today to them asking them for a presentation copy. When I put my collection of the Museum, it was understood that I should

Dr. J. Alden Mason 2.

19 of Oct. 1931.

ERWIN DIESELDORFF,
COBAN,
REPUBLICA DE GUATEMALA

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LIEBER'S FIVE LETTER

a presentation copy of that work. Dr Gordon made me a present of the first part, in appreciation of my researches. May I hope that you will kindly support my wish before the Director of your Museum ?

✓
I have made a few additions to my second book, which I enclose in a printed page, which please paste in the book after page 44. You see, that the formula was not quite correct. The present one makes the intercalation of the Mayas be so correct that there is only a difference of a third of a day between the tropical year calculated by modern astronomers and by the Mayas, during nearly 5200 years. and as a third of a day cannot be expressed and cannot be taken into account, the Mayas have found a system, that was absolutely correct for 5200 years. Which proves that my explanation is also correct. Still it is extraordinary that the Copan people at 9.16.12.5.17 changed that system for one of ~~six~~ letting the popular calendar rest for 5 days at the end of a katun. In Yucatan they employed our system of stopping the calendar for one day after every 4 years of 365 days. So it seems to me that the intercalation was the principal matter on which their religious differences rested. Undoubtedly they feared that as the popular calendar rested and stopped, the Sun might do the same and the world come to end. But as in all ages, the hierarchic system did not last for ever. Either by too great cruelties or by its own weakness it came to an end. Still at its high the power of the Mayan priests must have been immense, otherwise they could never have got the people to build the palaces of Yucatán etc.

✓
It is a question of daily sorrow that the great documents of that wonderful civilisation, the Stelae of Copan and Quirigua should rotting away in the forest, without being properly protected. These monuments ought to be in the Museums of the United States, copies of them presented to the Governments, where the originals are found. I think your Institution has found the right way in getting half of the findings to belong to you. I cannot concur with the Carnegie Institution that place everything at the hands of the Governments, where they are only looked at by a few natives and some tourists. I trust that your view, to get these stelae kept in northern Museums, will prevail in the end.

Things look very dull and hopeless just now and we have had the effects of it also here. Three banks are liquidating and store houses have tumbled. Who knows, how the question of finding work for all the people of this Earth can be solved without reducing the work of machinery that has replaced the need of men. Still we are not so badly off here, as the people have sufficient corn to eat and therefore can exist, even under a low range of prices for labor.

With kind regards, hoping that you are in good health.

Sincerely yours,

Erwin P. Dieseldorff

February 20, 1932

Mr. E. P. Dieseldorff
Coban, Guatemala

Dear Mr. Dieseldorff:

Your letter of October 19th has been lying in my files for several months until I found time to look up the questions which you ask, but I have been extremely busy writing up the report of last year's work at Piedras Negras. We are returning there next Tuesday night and until June my address will be, Tenosique, Tabasco, Mexico.

You will be pleased to hear that we got out our fine lintel #3 which is now on exhibition in this Museum and that the four parts of stela 12 are at Frontera and should be up here soon.

I am sorry that with all the activity of leaving, I will not be able to write you at length but I will write you from camp. You ask about book sellers in this country who can sell you out of print books. I receive catalogues from the following firms who might be able to give you what you wish. Benjamin F. Gravely, P. O. Box 209, Martinsville, Virginia; he specializes in linguistics. The Counting House, 13 T Wharf, Boston, Mass. International Book Sellers, Inc., America South of U. S., 17 East 45th Street, New York City. Dauber & Pine Book Shop, 66 Fifth Ave., New York City. The Cadmus Book Shop, 342 W. 34th Street, New York City. The Tuttle Co., Rare Book Department, 11 - 13 Center Street, Rutland, Vt. The Arthur H. Clark Co., 1214 Grand Boulevard, Glendale, California. Explorer's Book Service, 773 Boulevard East, Weehawken, New Jersey. Edward Eberstadt, 55 W. 42nd. Street, New York City. Probably some of these will be able to secure the books you wish. Since I seldom order anything from them and yet like to receive their catalogues, please mention my name if you should write to them.

Mr. Jayne tells me that a copy of the second part of Maya Pottery has already been sent to you. I wish I had the time to comment upon the matter of the intercalation in the Maya calendar of which you speak in your letter. But I have made no study of it and so cannot make any comments. I hope that business conditions are improving down your way.

Miss Baker has been back with us for some time and brought a number of beautiful paintings for the subsequent issue of Maya Pottery. She was thankful for all the hospitality you showed her.

With my official regards believe me as ever,

ORFF.

Coban, 2 of March 1932.

GUATEMALA

"ERWIN" COBAN.

B. C. 6TH. EDITION

LIEBER'S FIVE LETTER.

Dear Dr Mason,

I was very pleased to hear from you by letter of 20 Feb and hope that you will have arrived safely at Piedras Negras. It is a matter of congratulation, that notwithstanding the bad times, your Museum has been able to get sufficient support to continue its scientific research.

Piedras Negras will always be a site, where you will have to look after your health and I think you ought to construct buildings where you have doors with wire screen, so that the deadly Night Mosquito cannot get in. What is the use of exploring if you put your health at risk. That is why I myself would never go to Petén. It needs the enthusiasm of an archaeologist to take such risk. However, you cannot serve science better, than taking care of yourself. So I think, you ought to take every day 0,3 Grammes of Quinine, which enables your body to withstand the attack of Mosquitos.

I am sorry, that you have not been able to look into the matter of intercalation. Still you will no doubt remember the main findings of my second book: that up to 9.16.12.5.17 there ruled in Copan the old intercalation system, which let the calendar stand still for 3 days after 13.0.0. — 5 days after 13.0.0.0. and 6 days after 13.0.0.0.0., making the intercalation so perfect that the difference in 5200 Tun is only one third of a day, compared with the real happening. So whenever you find 3 dots, you will have to think that they refer to 3 intercalary days, especially if these dots have an inner ring.

Also it is established without a doubt, that the God with the Nose pointed down is the planet Mars, standing for 780 days.

I have received the second part of Maya Pottery and have accepted it. I think that the vase from Huehuetenango expresses the Mars and the figure on top the days of intercalation.

Business has not improved in this Department, nor in Petén. I had only one produce, chicle to export, the price of which has gone down so much, that there is hardly any trade going from here to Petén and the one firm, Arnoldo Daetz, that is still doing business, thinks of closing its branch at La Libertad. Every Monday a 3 motored airplane goes from Guatemala to Flores and returns. So it would be a nice way of going back, to take that route. I shall not be here in May/June as I leave before that time. My health has not been first rate, stomach troubles, so I am not cured.

Wishing you every success in your work,
Yours very sincerely,

P. DIESELDORFF,
COBAN,
PUBLICA DE GUATEMALA
ADDRESS: "ERWIN" COBAN.
DE A. B. C. 6TH. EDITION.
LIEBER'S FIVE LETTER.

Coban, 14 of March 1932.

Dear Dr. Mason,

When arranging my photos I found again the one which you kindly sent me from the broken slab, which you brought out last year. You were good enough to ask my opinion about it, but I was very busy at the time and had not the leisure to look at it well. To day I beg to offer you an ^{ly} explanation, which unfortunately is not founded on glyphs ^{or calculations} and therefore must be taken cum grano salis. In the center appears in the background the mask of the sun, recognizable by the hair or crown of flames, similar to the Xbalanké or Sun - Vase of my first book, Tafel 34. ~~Pl~~ Ill. 175., but the Sun is dead, as the Eye, just visible on the left side, is represented as a Hole. Before the Sun mask a square, round at the edges, appears, with Jaguar markings. I have always felt that the jaguar is meant to be the Moon. So we have here the Moon nearly completely covering the Sun. This can only mean an eclipse of the Sun and as there can have been not many nearly total eclipses visible from Piedras Negras, situated as it is in a valley, we can only refer to such happenings which occur during the time that the Sun is visible from the Piedras Negras enfile. The figure before the eclipse is probably the Mam, or Old God, which wanted to cover up the Earth or Underworld, to destroy Mankind. The figure is generally represented as that of an Old Man, bent and walking, but this is here not the case, but the figure supports a shield.

E. P. DIESELDORFF,
COBAN,
REPUBLICA DE GUATEMALA

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LIEBER'S FIVE LETTER.

Coban, 18 of March 1932.

Dr. J. Alden Mason. Tenosique.

Dear Dr. Mason,

I wrote you a few days ago per ordinary mail, making the suggestion, that the wonderful tablet which you found last year at Piedras Negras represents a nearly total eclipse of the Sun.

In the meantime I have been preparing my material for the trip to Europe on which I am bent, and as I find that I have over 90 photos of pottery and other material, I have decided to publish this year my third volume.

I shall have not such important matter as my second book treats about, but I shall give additional proof for the various theories that I have advanced, which after all, may be of scientific value, because, altho' nobody has attacked my theories, also nobody has given them his approval publicly. I feel therefore something like the artists, that, whilst they are starving because they cannot sell their pictures, have the hope, that once they are dead, their pictures may become of value.

Still, as I donot want yet to belong to the Grand Majority and find it still pleasant on this Globe, notwithstanding the depressing times, I rather prefer to remain a sign of interrogation, before I come to the full stop.

In these circumstances I am trying to publish all that may interest a Maya student and one of these things is undoubtedly the beautiful tablet which you found at Piedras Negras. I would therefore like to ask you, whether there would be any objection in my publishing it in my 3rd book. I think there can be no possible objection, in as much as it becomes known and appreciated by so many more people as will read my book. It would therefore help to create an interest in Maya science for which you have ^{done} and will yet do great things.

Also I would like to know, whether there would be an objection to publish the drawing of my "Codex Vase", which Miss Louise Baker copied last year. Her drawing is so far ~~more~~ superior than my own, that I of course prefer to give hers. This would appear naturally only in black and white and would therefore not compete with your own publication. The size of the photo would only be 22 by 15 centimeter, same as the one employed in my other books, and it would again be first published in the Zeitschrift fuer Ethnologie.

If you think that your Director would find my wish reasonable, please send him enclosed copy and if he is of your opinion, I would like to mail a photo of both to my european adress, 3 Karolinenstrasse, Charlottenburg. Hoping that you are quite well,
Yours sincerely,

P. DIESELDORFF,
COBAN,
PUBLICA DE GUATEMALA

ADDRESS: "ERWIN" COBAN.
DE A. B. C. 6TH. EDITION.
WEBER'S FIVE LETTER.

Dr. Mason 2.

If you could find the missing piece , the date might be established and it could be calculated, whether it ~~fits~~ fits in with any correlation hitherto attempted. The structure on which the Man is sitting and which is covered by a cloth would have to be explained as the sky. The 5 figures on the same level may have been the Gods of the planets and the seven lesser ones the principal Star constellations.

The above is nothing more than a suggestion. If it helps you in any way, I shall be more than pleased.

I wrote you a few days ago and hope that your work is progressing well. As we have had a long period of fine weather, now the rains have set in, whilst it should have rained before and now we should have fine weather. But I hope , that it will change soon for yr sake. I shall leave for Europe within a month.

Very sincerely yours,

Erwin P. Dieseldorff

P.S. For the identification of the Sun mask compare also in my second book Stela D. Copan. Plate 6. and there is an at Copan, where the Sun shield is shown in a similar way.

April 9, 1932.

Mr. E. C. Dieseldorff,
3 Karolinger Platz,
Berlin-Charlottenburg,
Germany.

Dear Mr. Dieseldorff:

Your two letters of March 14 and 18 were received a few days ago, and as you say in the first that you are leaving within a month, I presume a letter to Coban would not reach you before you leave.

We arrived here March 20 and have been working hard ever since, but with no very striking results to date. Rains have been frequent and our road is not dry yet, but we expect to begin sending out stelae soon. The magnificent stela 12 is in Panama ready for shipment to Philadelphia, if it has not already gone. Funds are very short this year and we will not be able to take out all that we hoped, but think our funds will keep us working hard with 35 men until May 1st, working quietly with few men until May 30, and sending out 5 more stelae and smaller things. We expect to send out nos 12, 40 and 14 to Philadelphia, and 36, 15 and 6 to Guatemala, together with lintel 4 to balance lintel 3 which went to Philadelphia last year. All of us are well and happy and take our quinine regularly, so anticipate no trouble from malaria.

Many thanks for your interpretation of lintel 3. I am sufficiently familiar with Maya religion to offer an opinion if it is correct. But whether it represents a symbolical ceremony, not, our most important find of this year proves that it is a ceremony actually performed here. Beneath a centrally placed niche in the acropolis, Mr. Satterthwaite found the fragments of a throne or altar with two legs hieroglyphs. The legs are the same shape as those shown on the lintel; the throne top is thinner and similar. But of more importance are the fragments of a background which apparently stood against the wall at the back of the altar or throne. All the fragments are practically identical with those shown beneath the throne in the lintel. There are two large holes through in each of which there was a face with head and hands, but these are gone. These two embrasures are just suggested on either side of the figure. It is possible that the figure was a face mask, the two large holes being the eyes. The figure on the lintel obviously represents a similar throne or altar, but not at this very spot. The figure in the acropolis is the same as the figure in the lintel.

position in which the fragments were found, positions which could not have been a result of a natural fall, give further confirmation in our eyes to the theory which we have been compelled to adopt, that the city was taken by enemies, destroyed and the art mutilated. Every stela is fallen, every building destroyed, most of the stelae broken, and most of the faces of the sculptures mutilated. Lintel 3, for instance, is very well preserved except for the faces, which are all gone.

As regards the date of the lintel, both Moravý and Thompson agree on the date 9. 15. 18., 3. 13., 5 en 16 Chen, calculating it from later dates shown. Lehmann sent me a suggested date which did not agree with this.

I shall be most interested to see your new third book when it comes out. Personally I should be delighted to have you include in the book a photograph of the lintel, and I feel sure that Mr. Jayne will feel similarly about it. Unfortunately he is in Italy at the present time and will not be back, I believe, until May, and I am not sure that Miss McHugh would care to take the responsibility. However I will make the request in my next letter. I think Miss Baker's drawing of your pottery vessel has not yet been photographed, but I presume that that will be done for you.

Wishing you a pleasant trip to Germany, and in hopes that we may meet again soon, believe me

Sincerely yours,