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S. G. Morley  
Laboratory of Anthropology  
Santa Fe, New Mexico

I NEED INFORMATION FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION DO YOU THINK THAT  
LATEST DATE ON LINTEL NINE SIXTEEN SIX TWELVE ZERO TWO AHAU  
THIRTEEN TZEC IS CONTEMPORANEOUS DATE STOP AM I CORRECT THAT  
YOU NOW INCLINE TO ACCEPT GOODMAN'S CORRELATION AND THAT THIS DATE  
IS DECEMBER SECOND SEVEN FIFTY SEVEN STOP I FIGURE THAT THIS IS  
EXACTLY <sup>one</sup> TWO THIRDS OF A KATUN

J. A. Mason

150 Years of  
American Independence

# Postal Telegraph

(THE MACKAY SYSTEM)



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Form  
16

P1 60 NL=SANTAFE NMEX 30 -31 NFT

1931 JUL 31 AM 9 55

DR J ALDEN MASON=

UNIV MUSEUM UNIVERSITY OF PENN=

NINE SIXTEEN SIX TWELVE ZERO LEADS TO TEN AHAU THREE PAX RECORDED  
 AT V FOUR U FIVE AND NOT TWO AHAU THIRTEEN TZEC AS IN YOUR  
 TELEGRAM STOP WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO PROVE IT BELIEVE  
 CONTEMPORANEOUS DATE OF LINTEL THREE WAS NINE TEN ZERO ZERO ZERO  
 CORRELATION SITUATION TOO UNCERTAIN TO CHOOSE BETWEEN GOODMAN  
 AND SPINDEN CORRELATIONS AT THIS TIME=

SYLVANUS G MORLEY.

July 31, 1931.

Dr. Sylvanus G. Morley,  
Laboratory of Anthropology,  
Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Dear Morley:

katun ~~9-16-0-0-0-0-2~~ Ahau 13 Tzec, May 8, 751. I had written this on a piece of paper and in my hurry to get the telegram off to you had copied this 2 Ahau 13 Tzec in place of 10 Ahau 3 Pax.

Thanks for your telegram, just received. I don't see how I could have been so silly as to make that egregious mistake in my telegram -- two mistakes in fact. Of course the reading 10 Ahau 3 Pax is perfectly clear and I had used it correctly in my calculations. I was using Thompson's table in his "Correlation of Mayan and European Calendars", page 20, in which he gives the

I made another mistake in wiring that this date is two thirds of a katun. It figured to 2400 days or 6.66 years, one third of a katun. In my haste I misinterpreted this as 66 percent of a katun. Were the thirds of a katun celebrated? Are there other instances?

I am curious to know your reason for thinking that the contemporaneous date of the lintel was 9. 10. 0. 0. 0. The six dates on the lintel are all, according to your figuring, in the fifteenth and sixteenth katuns. Why should they record six dates covering a period of about eight years more than a hundred years later than the contemporary date? I presume you have good reasons for thinking so, but I wouldn't dare to give this date in publication, since the date is not recorded on the lintel, without going into a full explanation. Better to say that the latest date recorded on the lintel is 9. 16. 6. 12. 0. 10 Ahau 3 Pax which according to one of the systems of correlation is December 2, 757. Am I right in my figures as to that?

The lintel arrived in good shape, a couple of small chips off. It will be put on special exhibition soon. The rest of the specimens have also arrived and are now being catalogued. Some of those will also go on special exhibition. Hope you can get on in the fall to see them.

Many thanks and cordial regards to you and to Mrs. Morley

Sincerely yours,

Piedras Negras,  
May 4, 1932.

Dr. Sylvanus G. Morley,  
Chichen Itza, Yucatan.

Dear Morley:

I believe Mary wrote you a week or so ago and told you about our calamity. Five buildings of the camp burnt, including the main building, my house, that occupied by Farris and Amram, the atelier and the kitchen. It began in the kitchen, probably from a spark from the stove-pipe. I guess stoves weren't intended to pal with thatch roofs. No one was injured and the main house and the kitchen are rebuilt and we are back at work after about five days loss of digging time. But the house is almost empty as we lost most of our equipment except what was in use in the field. Our notes were saved, the big camera and the transit and surveying instruments, so we are carrying on and have ordered more films rushed to us and expect them in a few days. I lost about 50 fine negatives that I had made, some of them irreplaceable as the subjectt has been moved or excavated. Of course practically all the papers went, including your letters, tables of stelae, the tracing of the map, notes on lintel #3, etc. I had intended to photograph every inscription and both sides of every stela, and had made great progress; now I shall probably rely on your photographs for most of the glyptic inscriptions; fortunately I had made a transcription of the photographs which you suggested I make for you and for ourselves and this was saved. As soon as our films arrive I shall begin taking them. Unfortunately, however, our dark room was also burnt with all supplies, so I am taking a chance on negatives and will take them home to be developed. This will mean no more prints sent you until after we return. Awfully sorry, but we haven't time now to develop or print and make a new dark-room, nor funds to equip it. I believe Mary wrote you asking you to send a new list of stelae with notes and dates; the map also nos hace falta, but we can get along without it. All drawing equipment was destroyed, so Farris can do no work on the map until he gets back, but is going ahead with his surveying. Our ceramic stratigraphical data were of course destroyed, but there had been little results of value to date. Except for that, and broken cache pots, there was little in the laboratory except several fine caches of jade, flint, obsidian and shell. The jade survived well, but the rest, especially some fine shell figurines, are entirely gone.

I am eager to tell you of a new find of great interest to you. In a buttress against an inner wall of the temple on pyramid #27, the temple of the three lintels, Linton's eagle eye had spotted a well-shaped stone built into the masonry, with one smooth plaster face. We pried it out, chipped a bit of the plaster away and uncovered some incised lines, and had it brought to camp where it has lain for two weeks while we have been recovering from the fire. Today Lint and Mary got to work on it and got it partly cleaned, showing incised glyphs and a pictorial figure. It turned out to be the right half. Then we remembered another similar stone whose preservation seems miraculous. It has apparently fallen out of a wall, possibly the same wall and had been rolled down the side of the pyramid last year. My foreman says he remembers it rolling down and jumping up into the crotch of a stump where it lay a foot above everything else and stuck out like a sore thumb. We had it

Dr. Todd, who has my contract for getting the monuments to Frontera came in a few days ago with his tractorcito, three teams of oxen and three wagons; he had been getting the road into condition and taking the upper part of #14 ~~and~~ which goes to us, and #36 which goes to Guatemala, and which were bogged down half way over the road at the onset of the rainy season last June, over the road to San Jose. He left day-before-yesterday night with the two parts of #40 for us and #6 for Guatemala. Says he will be back about May 10 with 4 wagons to take the rest that we can afford to get out this year which will be #15 for Guatemala, lintel #4 for Guatemala, the rest of #14 for us, one leg of altar #4 for each of us. The disposition of the new finds, the throne and screen and the new lintel, is as yet undecided; I hope to get all of them, but I shall probably have to give Guatemala something good in return for them, and don't see how I can figure another large stela in my budget which I must not exceed; we are figuring down to pesos now. Wish your friend Don Leopoldo would come across with just one thousand, but it is too late to be of help now.

Lint has all the luck this year but he deserves it; he's nuts about archeology and about P.N. Expects to stay on a few weeks longer at his own expense to study architecture, etc. His burial vault is about ready to be photographed and taken out. Not all that we hoped but still unique. A skeleton in approximately natural position but with the bones painted red, almost certainly. Another skeleton, possibly two (sacrifices?). About 15 pieces of the finest jade, some large but none highly carved, the largest known pyrite mosaic mirror, if I am not mistaken, 25 cm across, plenty of small jade beads, large pottery beads, shell plaques, etc. Lucky we had not taken it out and brought the finds to the laboratory. Lint has been doing a magnificent piece of work on the Acropolis, and is now working on the ball-court; that is about all he will have time to do this year. I have been moving mountains of dirt but getting little except a few fine caches on #27 which were destroyed in the fire. I'm taking off the top of #42, and have found two floors at depths of about 250 cm each, but they are apparently very wide and I found no walls to the middle one. Then I am driving a cut into pyramid #27 in the hope of finding a buried temple; have found plenty of buried walls and floors so far but am not far enough in yet.

We ought to quit now, according to our budget, but Lint wants to finish his ball-court and I want to go deeper into #42 and further into #27. We will probably fire all our men but a few in a week or ten days, and then work with a very few until nearly the end of May. I'm afraid we will have to go home the shortest and cheapest way, and so will not be able to visit you unless some wish to do it on their own funds.

Excuse me if I don't read this over to correct the many errors that I know are in it, but it's late and I have several more letters to write. This typewriter was the only thing saved out of the office; God bless the boy who grabbed it. Otherwise I wouldn't write you or anybody.

Now let's hear all about your trip in Campeche; we are eager to know of the results. Cordial regards from us all to you all, and we will see you in Philadelphia sometime this summer.

Cordially yours,



# TELEGRAFOS NACIONALES

ESTADOS UNIDOS MEXICANOS

TELEGRAMA

FORMA M. 3.



2 Ldis Yuc H Mayo 1932

177 W 248 en p. 6 89  
Depositado 6 89  
Recibido 16 10 89

Dr Alden Prozon Cayo que  
Francisco Villanueva que  
Ocabamos de regresar salud  
muy resultados magnificos  
cinuenta y una series inicia  
les de las cuales mas que  
mitad son descifradas sien  
to y tres monolitos escultura  
dos fechas corren de nueve  
nueve diez Zero Zero hasta

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Zero incluido centimes mucho  
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## MENSAJES NOCTURNOS

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

## CARTAS NOCTURNAS

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

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

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

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

## CARTAS DIURNAS

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

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

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

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

PARA CENTRO Y SUDAMERICA:

MENSAJES DIFERIDOS.—CARTAS DE FIN DE SEMANA

SERVICIOS DE GIROS TELEGRAFICOS PARA TODO EL PAIS Y EL EXTRANJERO

## PIDA USTED INFORMES EN LA VENTANILLA



TELEGRAFOS NACIONALES  
ESTADOS UNIDOS MEXICANOS  
TELEGRAMA



ayudarlo en cualquier  
 manera material <sup>Depositado</sup> <sup>Recibido</sup> calografi-  
 cos, etcetera luego descifrada fecha  
 del trono de Sinton nueve diez  
 y siete. Zero Zero "Zero estoy  
 describiendo  
 Sylvanus G. Marley

Todo telegrama debe llevar el sello de la Oficina.

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

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

PARA CENTRO Y SUDAMERICA:

MENSAJES DIFERIDOS.—CARTAS DE FIN DE SEMANA

SERVICIOS DE GIROS TELEGRAFICOS PARA TODO EL PAIS Y EL EXTRANJERO

## PIDA USTED INFORMES EN LA VENTANILLA

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON  
THE CHICHEN ITZA PROJECT  
SECTION OF ABORIGINAL AMERICAN HISTORY  
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Chichen Itza,  
Dzitas,  
Yucatan,  
Mexico.  
May 7, 1932.

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

Dear Everybody at Piedras Negras:

This is a family letter, and in answer to the three bully letters from Alden, Linton and Mary, which were waiting me here when we got back from Calakmul.

Hijos mios, what discoveries you are making! The photographs of the new throne, and of the very early Lintel 11, found in Structure 4 at the South Group, are great, and the former are sufficiently clear for me to date your throne for you.

As you will see by my detailed explanations below, it dates from 9.17.15.0.0 5 Ahau 3 Muan, beautifully declared as a hotun ending on what you call the right side of the left leg, but what I believe to be, as you will see below, the right side of the right leg.

This hotun ending is precisely the same as that declared on the magnificent Stela 15 at Structure 27 in the East Group, the one of which Frances and I found the main part of the stela in 1929. Your throne, therefore, is just twenty-five years later than the beautiful Lintel 3, which you found last year, the dedicatory date of which I believe, was 9.16.10.0.0. There can be no doubt, however, that the throne represented on Lintel 3 is the same sort of throne as that dedicated twenty-five years later in Structure 46 on the Acropolis, which Linton has

just found.

Although no Initial Series occurs on the throne, I think the following calculations are almost certainly right.

The first decipherable glyph is the fifth from the left (in your arrangement of the fragments of the edge of the table top) marked "A" in the drawing below. This is very clearly Katun 15. The next glyphs, "B" and "C" in the drawing below, on the front edge of this same table top, very clearly record the date 12 Manik 5 Zotz. In view of the record of Katun 15, in "A" just preceding, the Initial Series value of this Calendar Round Date is almost certainly 9.15.18.16.7 12 Manik 5 Zotz.

And here is a very interesting point. This date is only 254 days later than the Initial Series on Lintel 3, viz:

I.S. Lintel 3	9.15.18. 3.13	5 Ben 16 Chen
		(12.14) 254 days.
Throne	(9.15.18.16.7)	12 Manik 5 Zotz
		Katun 15.

So much for the beginning of your inscription. The calculations which follow, and you can observe the sequence of the glyphs from the letters of the accompanying diagram, almost certainly indicate that the leg which you mark as the right leg, facing the throne, was, in reality, its left leg, facing it. I do not know the circumstance of its finding, but for the purposes of the description which follows, and the designations I have made in the diagram, my right leg here is your left leg (and don't pull it, either), and my left leg, with which I begin the inscription, is your right leg.

And if you have found a few fragments of the glyphs from the front of my left leg (your right) for God's sake, find the fragments which fit into the glyph block I have marked "F", as these ought to record the date 10 Chen 19 Zip. Unfortunately from your photographs, almost this entire glyph block has huge chunks missing from it. Do some rumpecapeza work and see if you can't find the missing fragments of the

glyph block "F" on your right leg and my left. I note that in the two photographs of this particular leg, which you have sent me, that you have already fitted in the right half of this glyph block in the second photograph. The later photograph is not too clear in this particular glyph block, though admirable elsewhere, but I believe I detect the month sign Chen (drawn to the right). On second examination I am far from certain of this, but I believe your calculations on this leg, as you will see below, start with the date 10 Chen 19 Zip.



Left Leg, Front	Perhaps at "F"	(9.17. 9. 5.11 10 Chen 19 Zip)
" " "	O	1. 0.10
" " "	D(right half)E(left half)	9.17.10. 6. 1 3 Imix 4 Zotz
Right " "	G	3.(3)
" " "	H and I	9.17.10. 9, 4 1 Kan 7 Yaxkin
" " "	J and K (left half)	4. 8.16
" " Right side	L and M	9.17.15. 0. 0 5 Ahau 3 Muan
" " "	N	End of a hotun.

I think you will find the above decipherments correct. Indeed, I am certain as to all except the first starting point, 9.17.9.5.11 10 Chen 19 Zip, but the distance number, 1.0.10 at "O", counted backward from 3 Imix 4 Zotz, the Long Count position of which is surely fixed as 9.17.10.6.1, gives as the starting point of the count 9.17.9.5.11 10 Chen 19 Zip.

And now for your new Lintel 11 in Structure 4. I am terribly intrigued by this. The style of glyphs, as pointed out by Linton in his letter to me, is undoubtedly very early. I have compared what is left of the glyphs on this lintel with those on Stela 29, which, according to Maler, came from near the summit of the same building, i.e. Structure 4, and they are identical in style. The date of Stela 29 is 9.5.5.0.0, which, as you see, is fairly early. This agreement of the ~~style~~ of Stela 29, found near the summit of Structure 4, and of the lintel found therein, agrees with what I have predicted in my text that Structure 4 is one of the earliest buildings at Piedras Negras. That and the building next it, in front of which Stela 30 stands, which dates from 9.5.0.0.0, are the two earliest buildings of which we may be sure there, I feel.

Now, as to what I assume will be your new Lintel 12, the one built into the back wall of Structure 27, covered with stucco which overlies glyphs. Have you done anything with it yet? That is, cleaned off the stucco and exposed the inscription below. If so, will you please send me a photograph of the inscription? You see, I am insatiable. Also, would you send me the measurements, height, width and thickness of both Lintels 11 and 12?

One more thing and then I have done pestering you about Piedras Negras.

When you take the upper right hand corner of the front of Stela 8, will you have that fragment turned up on one of its edges so that the light falls almost parallel with the glyphs on the front? The picture you sent me was taken from above and at an angle, and does not show the inscription sufficiently clearly.

And now, prepare for an eyefull of news. Calakmul, amigos, was simply amazing. We found one hundred and three stelae, being twenty-five per cent more, even, than the number at Tikal, the largest heretofore known. I found fifty-one Initial Series, and ~~but~~ between forty-two and forty-five surely dated monuments. The range of dates on the surely dated monuments is from 9.9.10.0.0 to 9.19.0.0.0, i.e. during the latter half of Baktun 9.

Of these hundred and three monuments, at least two-thirds are still standing. The limestone is of a very inferior quality, and most of the stelae have the carving pretty badly eroded. Only one group of monuments is particularly meritorious from an esthetic point of view, namely the seven erected in 9.15.0.0.0, which represents the esthetic apogee of the city.

There is a single Initial Series of 9.4.0.0.0, but I do not think this is a contemporaneous date. I believe that the contemporaneous date of this particular monument (Stela 43) is about two centuries

later, roughly 9.14.0.0.0.

There were seven of us on the expedition, myself, Frances, who took charge of the commissary, Karl Ruppert, who did the architecture, John Bolles, who made a surveyed map of the city, and Gustav Stromsvik, who turned the monuments, excavated for potsherds, and studied the smaller stone remains. The remaining two were Chinese servants from here. We were at the ruins sixteen days, and brought away a host of material.

Karl and John Bolles also visited a site six leagues northeast of Central Buenfils, near a place called La Muñeca (new) which was reported to have three stelae. They found, however, that it had twenty-three instead, and they probably read the dates of three Initial Series as follows:

9.18. 0. 0. 0  
9.19. 0. 0. 0  
10. 2, 0. 0. 0

The last of these is only ten years earlier than the Initial Series lintel here at Chichen Itza. Altogether, it was a most amazing experience, and we returned to Chichen Itza, after a month's absence therefrom to the day, greatly tired out, even exhausted, Karl down with an acute attack of malaria, but everybody delighted with the results of the expedition.

It seems at last, therefore, that we have bridged the gap, in this one direction at least, between the Old and the New Empires, and I hope, perhaps next season, by explorations from this end, to finally establish contact with Uaxactun.

Well, amigos mios, Frances and I will be leaving here in another three weeks. We are sailing from Progreso on the Munplace of May 27th for New Orleans. I will go straight to Washington, where I will be until about the 17th or 18th of June, when I am then going on to Cambridge

for my Twenty-fifth Reunion at Harvard, which is to be held on June 20th to 23rd. After that I will join Frances at her father's in Rock Island and we will motor west to Santa Fe at the end of June. If you wish to write me here so that your letter will get here by May 25th, that is alright, if not, please address me Division of Historical Research, Carnegie Institution of Washington, 909 Tower Building, Washington, D. C. This address will catch me any time from the first of June to the 18th.

I am very anxious to talk over with you, before I go west, the results of this year's field season, as well as prospects for next. Will you, therefore, try to let me know, either here or in Washington, whether any of you will be back in Philadelphia by the middle of June or not. In any event I intend to stop off in Philadelphia and see Jayne.

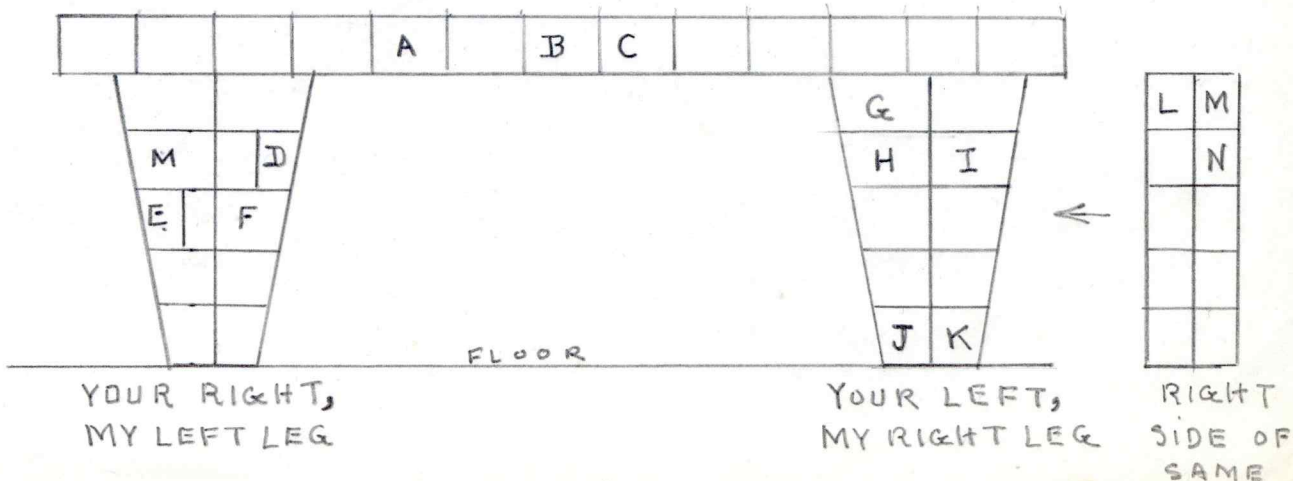
I need hardly repeat that any or all of you will be welcome here, where excavations, and our mess, will be running until the end of June.

Again congratulating you all on the splendid results of the current field season, and trusting that you will forgive me for pestering you about photographs and measurements, I remain, with cordial regards from Frances, myself and all the rest of the Chichen Itzites, I remain,

Como siempre,

S. G. M.

SGM:EMB



Piedras Negras,  
May 9, 1932.

Dear Sylvanus:

Don Pancho Villanueva came to visit us today, on ~~his~~ way up river on a visit, and furthermore he brought us a whole lot of good news, so all hands are happy.

First let me congratulate you on that extraordinary find. We are all edcited about it, and you must be walking on air. Things are surely developing in the Maya region. Percy Madeira wrote me in a letter received today and said he had just had lunch with Ted Kidder who told him about your find, and also about another fine burial which Ricketson has made at Uaxactun. He thinks, as I have also thought, that this is the same site about which an undersized inspector forestal told us when we were in Merida on the airplane flight; he spoke of a big ruin down in that general region which was reached via Champotom, the little railroad, Bonfils, etc., and we were all het/up to go there but couldn't spare the time, the airplane costing us so much. Congratulations; it is the greatest find of decades in our line.

Pancho brought us other good news/ and goods. He brought us our films which, mirabile dictu, not only arrived only fifteen days after the fire, but were just what we ordered, so we are all set to go on with photography and to replace some of the burnt negatives and take some more. Then he brought us the good news that exchange is up to 3.10, which will enable us to carry on the work for a week or two more, and possibly also get out several more monuments; also word from the Standard Fruit Company that they would give us the same cheap rate for 30 tons or less that they gave on an understanding of 40 tons. Also we rejoice with our good mayordomo John Ross who heard today for the first time from his family in Belize and whom he feared had all perished in the hurricane; they // are all safe.

We await your letter with the greatest expectation. I wrote you only a few days ago so there is little more to be said, about work here. Santiago Mendoza, Government Inspector, agreed to let us have all our new finds, the throne, screen and new early date lintel, sending to Guatemala in return for them two more legs of altar #4. I am hoping to get our two more monuments in addition to 12, 14, 40, lintel 3 and a leg of altar #4 for us, and 36, 6, 15, lintel #4 and three legs of altar #4 for Guatemala, and the new things for us. What these will be I haven't decided byet, but they must be selected from the smaller and lighter ones, such as 2, 13, 25, 32 and 33.

I hasten to send you more information about the new early-date lintel; we will not attempt to dig all the plaster off of it hear, being fearful of injuring it, so have contented ourselves with cleaning the date for your study. Unfortunately almost all our library was burnt, so we can't be certain of our interpretation, being amateur epigraphers. Also I can't send you a photl, but I made a rude rubbing today, out of which you may get something, especially with the following notes. The glyphs at the top are better preserved than those at the bottom. There was a double line of elvohs at the left covered by an initial series introducing glyph

Piedras Negras,  
May 13, 1932.

Dear Sylvanus:

Just a short note. We are looking forward to receiving your promised letter telling us of your new wonderful find; this should be in the next mail. Percy Madeira wrote me that he had had lunch with Kidder who had told him something of the discovery; good news travels fast.

This is Friday the 13th, but evidently the Maya Gods don't know it's an unlucky day, for we haven't had anyone injured by falls of embotido, no more fires or anything, and the day is almost over.

We are getting ready to quit work and shall discharge many men tomorrow. Linton will finish his excavation of the ballcourt tomorrow, and I will probably end work on pyramid #42. I'll let him tell you about his ideas on the ballcourt. The third level of pyramid #42, the second floor under the upper temple, about 5 m. below is of great interest. I cleared one half from medial line, including front and rear walls, and find it of great size; must have had a timber roof. Length about 18 m, if I remember correctly without my notes, width about 5 m, including a bench or banquette about 130 wide. Each of the three temples had in the approximate center a cylindrical stone pillar blackened by smoke, indicating that the temple was used for the same purpose throughout the three periods. Now I am breaking through the floor to see if there is a fourth floor, as there probably is. As soon as I am certain, yes or no, I'll quit work here. I'm still driving a trench through #27 at the lowest level, having struck bedrock at a rather high point. This may take me a week longer. Shall also probably continue excavations on pyramids #3 and #4 in the South Group, and may have time to investigate #6 as you suggest; your letter of suggestion was burnt, however. We shall discharge many men tomorrow, more at the end of next week, and probably leave about the end of the month.

Linton is slowly and very meticulously taking out the contents of his burial vault. The fine big mosaic mirror is taken out and all the pieces numbered for restoration (about 100; there were a few more pieces scattered which were removed earlier and taken to the camp for safe (?) keeping --- and lost in the fire, but fortunately only a few. Linton took out the finest of the jade pieces today, all of the finest and most highly polished jade, and that is the "raisin d'eat" of this letter. A large fine jaguar head had a hieroglyphic inscription on the reverse, of which I send you a hasty rubbing. Lint thinks he can identify a number of ~~the~~ day signs. Remembering that the two oldest Maya inscriptions are on jade, we hope that you may be able to decipher this, and that it may turn out to have been an heirloom with an early date.

With cordial regards from all to all.

Sincerely yours,

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON  
THE CHICHEN ITZA PROJECT  
SECTION OF ABORIGINAL AMERICAN HISTORY  
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Chichen Itza,  
Dzitas,  
Yucatan,  
Mexico.  
May 19, 1932.

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

Dear Alden:

Your letters of May 4th and 9th reached me yesterday afternoon, and I am simply delighted with the news from Piedras Negras. Believe me, if I were only back in Philadelphia now when you need the money, I would guarantee, even in these hard times, to hold up enough of our plutocratic friends to get you that thousand you really need. However, I am not, and this is idle talk, but I do so wish I could help the work forward. Cheer up, however, your American gold will go even farther than you think it will if you have not changed it. Exchange has dropped to 3.39, so you are in luck if you haven't changed.

And now, otro mil felicitations for the new Initial Series on Lintel 12. On the rubbing someone had written the correct decipherment as 9.3.19.12.12, which is correct. In your system of designating the glyph-blocks the I. S. introducing glyph is at A1A2, 9 baktuns at B1, 3 katuns at B2, 19 tuns at C1, 12 uinals at C2, 12 kins at D1, 9 Eb at D2, and an unknown glyph at E1, and probably 10 Tzec at E2, since the Initial Series number 9.3.19.12.12 reaches the terminal date 9 Eb (D2) 10 Tzec, perhaps at E2.

This date, you will note, is only five uinals and eight kins (108 days) before the end of an even katun in the Long Count,

9.4.0.0.0. The terminal date of this Initial Series is 13 Ahau, 18 Yax, and it is especially satisfactory, therefore to find the 13 Ahau beautifully recorded in your Fl. I have no doubt that you will find the corresponding month part, 18 Yax, somewhere in the inscription on the remaining right half of the lintel. I am drawing, more or less, what this should look like, to the right.



This, amigos mios, is a downright important discovery, since it makes your Lintel 12 the earliest dated sculpture yet found at Piedras Negras by 1 katun, antedating Stela 30, discovered by myself in 1921, by just that period:

Stela 30, 9.5.0.0.0 11 Ahau 18 Tzec  
Lintel 12, 9.4.0.0.0 13 Ahau 18 Yax.

In view of this new find I am more than ever convinced:

(1) That Structure 27 was built slightly before, and dedicated in, 9.15.10.0.0.

(2) That a great deal of material from the South Group, particularly Structures 4, 5 and 6 thereat, was reused in its construction, namely, Lintel 2 over the middle doorway, and Fragment A (that small round stone now in Philadelphia, of which only half was recovered) and Lintel 12. Indeed it would not surprise me in this connection if Lintel 12 had been designed for either Structure 4 or Structure 5. If either of these structures has been excavated, very careful measures of any of the doorways found should be made to see if this Lintel 12 could formerly have spanned one of them.

I see, by your last letter, May 9, that my last long letter to you, as well as my telegram, had not yet reached you when it was written. These, however, you will have received long before this comes to your hand. I am awfully glad that the loss by the fire was not any greater than it was. You will find enclosed herewith

a list of all dated monuments at Piedras Negras, together with their respective dates, and also another tracing of our old map of Piedras Negras, with the same monuments located thereupon, as well as a tracing of Linton's new map and newly numbered structures at the Acropolis at the West Group. I hope these will serve your purpose.

Alden, I am terribly anxious to see you or Linton before I go west, as I may not be back in the east again until the late fall. When you answer this, can you tell me just about when is the earliest I can expect either of you to be in Philadelphia?

Give my warmest regards to Mendoza and urge him strongly to let you take all parts of the throne to Philadelphia as well as both halves of the new Lintel 12, which I am simply itching to see. The former would make a stunning exhibit built into a niche in the wall of the same size and shape that it originally occupied, and as for Lintel 12, since it is the earliest monument in the city, and possibly likely to be the earliest we will find there, you certainly want that at the Museum tambien.

I will be leaving here early next week on the Munplace of May 25th or 27th for New Orleans, and will go straight to Washington, where you can reach me by air mail almost as quickly as out here. My address there will be Division of Historical Research, Carnegie Institution, 909 Tower Building, Washington, D. C.

Please let me know there, as soon as you can, the earliest either you or Linton will hit Philadelphia. I am going up to Harvard for the Twenty-fifth Reunion of my class on the 20th of June, and if one or the other of you are not in Philadelphia as early as that, but would be by the 24th, I will come back down to Philadelphia from Boston specially to see you. Otherwise I will go directly west from Boston to Chicago.

I do hope that you can take photographs of the sides of the monuments. Mine are none too good, since it requires, first, jimmying the monuments into proper position, and second, good light falling almost parallel with the relief. I did not have this on all occasions at Piedras Negras.

One photograph of importance which I find I have not is of the new small piece (with glyphs on it) of the large sculptured round Altar 1 at the West Group which you found last year. Will you secure a photograph of that also, if you have not already secured one. Finally, if you are not in Philadelphia by the time that I get there, would you have any objection to my getting prints made through Horrie Jayne of some of your last year's negatives?

Well, hoping that your phenomenal luck has continued, and will do so until you have gotten out all the monuments you want to this season, I remain, again, Alden, with most cordial regards to Linton, yourself, Peggy and Mary, and if I may be permitted, to the other two members of the Staff at Piedras Negras, in which Frances and everybody here joins me.

Cordially,

*Sydney*

SGM:EMB

Piedras Negras, May 28.

Dr. Sylvanus G. Morley,  
Carnegie Institution,  
Division of Historical Research,  
909 Tower Building,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sylvanus:

No mail had come to us for some time, so your letter of May was not received until day-before-yesterday when Fausto Aldecoa brought it in with Don Pancho's daughter Amalia to pay us a visit and to bring back to Tenosique her brother Panchito who has been spending some time with us. They are leaving in a few hours, so I am typing furiously and making even more errors than usual which I haven't time to erase, so ruegole dispensarme.

You were to sail yesterday, so I am addressing you in Washington. It is possible that I may see you in the east before you go west; at any rate I am praying that I will! I have set the date of departure from here as a week from tomorrow, June 5, and if I am not held up by official matters in Frontera, or by long waits for boats in Tenosique and Frontera, should be home by June 20th. So I am looking forward to a session with you if possible. It reminds me that my 25th class college anniversary should also be this year, but I have received no notice of it yet, but hope that I will get home before it comes off. Unfortunately you will not be able to see Linton, as he intends to stay on here a week or two longer making quiet archaeological mainly architectural studies. I regret that you won't see him, as he knows a lot more about Maya archeology than I do -- I never pretended to be a Maya specialist and probably never shall be one--, but Lint has developed into quite a Maya scholar and is an enthusiast and a damn good archeologist; I wish you could find a place for him; I doubt if there is a permanent place for him in Philadelphia, tho I would like to keep him if possible.

Good news from here is that stela #12 left Frontera on May 16 for Philadelphia, and may be there by the time you get there, also that Doc Todd got to San Jose all right with the second load of heavy boxes, 10 boxes weighing about ten tons, making fifteen boxes of about 27 tons there now. So there are stelae 12, 40, 14 and 13 for us, lintel 3 and the new early date lintel, the throne and screen and one leg of altar #8; and for Guatemala stelae 36, 6, 15 and 33, lintel 4 and 3 legs of altar #8. Todd could hardly have made it much later, as the rains have begun with very humid weather and daily rains, and he probably could not have made a third trip even if we had had funds to pay him for it.

I think that Linton is writing you in reply to your comments on the dates on the new throne ~~so~~ so I shall not comment upon that (don't know enough about hieroglyphs to do so anyway). The new lintel, the one with the plaster on it has been packed and is at San Jose, and I don't think I have the exact measurements, but my recollection is that it is about 100 x 50 x 15. We cleaned as little of it as necessary, just enough to get the initial series, which I think I sent you together with a cruse rubbing, which was evidently so poor that you could make nothing of it. I think I gave you the date as we interpreted

together with the throne, screen, and all the other lighter objects, and they may be in Philadelphia in time for you to see them before you go west.

- I will get you measurements of lintel 11 before we go, and will send you those of 12 as soon as it is unpacked in Philadelphia. Linton may have the measurements of #11. I am photographing furiously these days, but of course I can't send you any photos until we get home and have them developed. Ojala that they turn out well! I shall try to get you photos of all the things you asked for, but a few it may not be possible to do; all our men quit a few days ago, leaving us only three, and they are not enough to turn monuments in case it needs to be done for photographing.

Please ~~give~~ forgive this very hasty and short and errorfull letter; I hope that I will see you in Philadelphia before the end of June and will then be able to tell you more in a few minutes than I have the time to write here.

Cordial regards from us all

Sincerely yours,

Piedras Negras, June 3d.

Dear Sylvanus:

I never have time to write you a good long letter. Mail arrives in the evening and goes out the next morning, and I have to stay up till midnight or later, and so have to hustle through. It's eleven fifteen now, and I have lots to go yet.

Yours of the 19th arrived today. Fortunately I have written you several times recently, the last one on May 28, so there is little more to say. The enclosed copy of your map of P.N. is most welcome, as we have been discommoded by its lack, as, until Parris gets a map done, we refer to sites by your numbers. It must have been a long job for Jack Boles, as I remember how long it took me to make the tracing I had, even with many others helping me. The list of the stela dates which you enclosed is also very welcome and helpful, and Parris was most pleased to get instructions from Jack on how to shoot Polaris.

I'm ticked that we deciphered Lintel 12 correctly (we are really beginning to doubt if they are lintels). As I wrote you, it is now at San Jose. We cleared only enough glyphs to get the date and will have the rest more carefully done in Philadelphia. I took a photo before we left here but can't have it developed. It probably won't arrive before you go west, but I'll send you another photo as soon as it is well cleared. The screen and altar will go out with us on mules and you may see that in Philly before you go west.

I didn't order as many films as I should have done, and have used them charily, generally making two on a film. The last one was used today. I think I have everyone that you asked for. Among those that were burnt was, or were, two fine negatives showing the four quadrants, the entire circumference, of altar 1. I'll take the small piece that you want, but it will have to be a kodak film. The entire top is now assembled on the ground.

We expected to leave day-after-tomorrow, but the usual difficulties in Mexico are holding us up. We can't go out without a celador, for which I wrote several weeks ago. The Frontera Aduana just replied that no request had been received from me; unfortunately I addressed my letter to the former chief by name, and the chief has been changed, and the new man knows nothing about us, and probably cares less. So Villanueva did not send the mules to take us out today as we expected. It would probably be unwise to take the stuff across the border until a celador comes, so we may be tied up for an unknown length of time, or rather I should say I, for our food was rationed to last until June 1st and will last only a few days longer. I am writing Villanueva in this mail to send mules out Wednesday (this is Friday) whether the celador has come or not. If he has not, we will all go out for lack of food, leaving the boxes here. The others will probably go directly down the river and home, but I will stick around Tenosique until the boxes get out, and not leave Frontera without them. Stanton decided that since we must wait a few days longer he will probably be able to make the studies that he wants, so he will go out with the rest, and possibly before me. So you may possibly see him but not me. It will be nip and tuck

TRANSCRIPTION OF DR. MORLEY'S NOTES ON EPIGRAPHY OF

LINTEL 3, PIEDRAS NEGRAS, GUATEMALA

- A1-B2 Initial series introducing glyph.
- A3-B4 9 baktuns or cycles
- A5-B6 15 katuns
- A7-B8 18 tuns (glyph missing; reconstructed from later dates)
- B9-B10 3 uinals " " " " " "
- A11-B12 13 kins
- A13 5 Ben
- B13 Glyph G of supplementary series; form corresponding to remainder of 1 after division by 9.  $3 \times 20$  plus 13 equals 73; 73 divided by 9 is  $8 \frac{1}{9}$ .
- C1 Glyph F of supplementary series; meaning unknown
- D1 Glyph E of id., with coefficient of 9, meaning moon 29 days, i.e., 20 plus 9; moon sign plus 9.
- C2 Glyph C of supplementary series without coefficient. This means that the date fell in the first lunar month of a group of six.
- D2 Glyph X of supplementary series; meaning unknown
- E1 Glyph B of supplementary series; " "
- F1 Glyph A of id., with coefficient of 10, i.e., death's head. This means that the lunar month in which the date fell was going to have 30 days, i.e., 20 (the moon sign) plus 10.
- E2 16 Chen, i.e., the initial series complete is 9. 15. 18., 3. 13., 5 Ben 16 Chen.
9. 15. 18. 3. 13. 5 Ben 16 Chen
- L1 2
- K2-L2 9. 15. 18. 3. 15. 7 Men 18 Chen
- SI-T1 8. 8. 2. 2
- U1-V1 9. 16. 6. 11. 17. 7 Caban  $\emptyset$  Pax
- U4 3
- V4-U5 9. 16. 6. 12. 0 1 $\emptyset$  Ahau 3 Pax