

Guatemala  
June 12, 1940

Mr. Secretary of State of the  
Department of Public Education

Mr. Secretary:

You undoubtedly are informed of the archaeological work which the University Museum has been carrying on in the place called Piedras Negras, Department of Peten; our expeditions have carried on studies in that site during the last nine years, thanks to the ample authorization which was generously conceded to us. As you will appreciate, our work in that place has not only augmented to a great degree knowledge of the civilization of the Maya, but has contributed to the enrichment of the extant collections of Maya monuments by many pieces of outstanding importance.

You will recall that, under the terms of the contract signed and executed in 1930, of the monuments recovered by our expedition at Piedras Negras, one half was to be sent to the National Museum of Archaeology and the other half loaned to our Museum for a period of ten years, counting from its arrival in Philadelphia. Under the terms of this generous contract our Museum received five major monuments and the National Museum of Archaeology received an equal number. There are also other pieces of minor importance. The five major pieces which we have been exhibiting in our Museum in accordance with said contract are due to be returned in 1941; the terms for the others will expire in the following years.

The object of my present visit to Guatemala is to beg of you most respectfully that the term of this loan be extended for another five years. The bases of this petition are not only the natural desire which I have to exhibit these notable monuments of Maya sculpture, without rival outside of Guatemala, in my Museum; but also I am sincerely and firmly convinced that their presence in Philadelphia contributes greatly to the creation of greater interest in this country (Guatemala) and induces many travellers to visit Guatemala.

If you should visit Philadelphia and our Museum this argument could be appreciated more completely; there is hardly a day in which a visitor, proceeding from some distant place, does not come to admire the monuments from Piedras Negras, and many of these, after having talked to Dr. Mason or Mr. Satterthwaite (whom you know), leave with a special desire to come to Guatemala.

To this should be added the fact that each winter more than 30,000 students are sent to visit us by the Department of Public Education of Philadelphia, to whom our personnel give talks on the civilization of Central America. These talks are naturally based to a very considerable degree on the monuments from Piedras Negras.

In short, the presence of these monuments in Philadelphia is achieving the results in which you and I are necessarily interested. In view of these reasons, permit me to beg the extension of the generous loan referred to in the confidence that this petition does not exceed reasonable limits.

June 12, 1940

The continuance and extension of work at Piedras Negras is of great importance, and without doubt of equal interest for the office under your distinguished charge as for my Museum; the obtaining of funds for such work would be greatly facilitated for me if I could display the splendid monuments and say that their recovery was effected by our expeditions at Piedras Negras. Reproductions, although they may be faithful copies, in no way have the same effect for this purpose.

But I do not believe it is necessary to speak more of these considerations: now that the Sr. Minister will have spoken of them already. I will leave then in your hands the final decision on my respectful petition for the extension of this most valuable loan, in the confidence that you will appreciate the urgent circumstances which have brought me to Guatemala to submit our request.

With the assurances of my distinguished consideration, I remain,  
your very attentive and obedient servant,

Signed: Horace H. F. Jayne

Director  
Museum of the University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Translation from Spanish by  
Mr. Satterthwaite and Dr. Mason

Guatemala 12 de Junio de 1940

Señor Secretario de Estado y del  
Despacho de Educación Pública,  
P R E S E N T E .-

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Señor Secretario:

Usted está indudablemente al corriente de las labores arqueológicas que ha venido efectuando el Museo de la Universidad de Pennsylvania en el lugar llamado Piedras Negras, del Departamento del Petén: nuestras expediciones han llevado a cabo estudios en dicho sitio durante los últimos nueve años, gracias a la amplia autorización que generosamente se nos concediera. Como Usted podrá apreciar, nuestro trabajo en el lugar mencionado no solo ha aumentado en gran manera los conocimientos existentes sobre la civilización Maya, sino ha contribuido al enriquecimiento de la colección de monumentos mayas que se conocen con muchas piezas de importancia sobresaliente.

Usted recordará que bajo los términos del contrato suscrito en 1930, de los monumentos recobrados por nuestra Expedición a Piedras Negras, la mitad debía ser entregada al Museo Nacional de Arqueología y la otra mitad dada en carácter de préstamo a nuestro Museo por un plazo de diez años a contar de su llegada a Philadelphia. Bajo los términos de este generoso contrato, nuestro Museo recibió cinco monumentos mayores y el Museo Nacional de Arqueología un número igual. También se dividieron otras piezas de menor importancia. Las cinco piezas mayores que hemos venido exhibiendo en nuestro Museo, de acuerdo con el Contrato de referencia, deben ser devueltas a fines de 1941; el término para las otras expira en los años subsiguientes.

El objeto de mi presente visita a Guatemala es solicitar a Usted muy atentamente que el plazo de este préstamo se extienda por otros cinco años. Los fundamentos de esta solicitud no son el natural deseo que yo pueda tener de exhibir en mi Museo estos notables ejemplos de la escul-

tura de los Mayas, sin rival fuera de Guatemala; sino además estoy sinceramente y firmemente convencido de que su presencia en Philadelphia contribuye grandemente a la creación de un interés más amplio acerca de este País e induce a muchos viajeros a visitarlo.

Si Usted visitara Philadelphia y nuestro Museo podría apreciar este argumento de modo más completo: casi no hay día en que un visitante, procedente de lugares distantes, no venga a admirar los monumentos de Piedras Negras, y muchos de ellos, después de hablar con el Dr. Mason o el Dr. Satterthwaite (a quienes Usted conoce), salen con un especial deseo de venir a Guatemala.

A esto debe agregarse que cada invierno nos visitan más de treinta mil escolares que envía al Museo el Departamento de Educación Pública de Philadelphia, y a los cuales nuestro personal dicta conferencias acerca de las civilizaciones de Centro América. Estas conferencias están naturalmente basadas en un grado muy apreciable sobre los monumentos de Piedras Negras.

Brevemente, la presencia de estos monumentos en Philadelphia está logrando resultados en que Usted y yo estamos esencialmente interesados. En vista de estas razones me permito solicitar la extensión del generoso préstamo de referencia, en la confianza de que dicha solicitud no excede los límites razonables.

Es de importancia considerable la continuación y extensión de los trabajos en Piedras Negras, y, sin duda, de igual interés para el despacho del digno cargo de Usted como para mi Museo: la obtención de fondos para tal fin se me facilitaría si pudiese mostrar los valiosos monumentos y decir que ellos son los hallazgos efectuados por nuestras expediciones en Piedras Negras. Las reproducciones, por fieles que sean, no pueden de ninguna manera tener el mismo efecto para estos fines.

Pero no juzgo necesario extenderme en estas consideraciones: ya el Señor Ministro las habrá hecho alguna vez. Dejo pues en sus manos la decisión final acerca de mi respetuosa solicitud por la extensión del valiosísimo préstamo.

mo, en la seguridad que Usted apreciará las circunstancias urgentes que me han traído a Guatemala a someterle nuestra petición.

Con las seguridades de mi distinguida consideración, quedo del Señor Ministro muy Atto. y S. S.

*Horace H. Jayne*

Horace H. F. Jayne  
Director del Museo de la Universidad  
de Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, Pa.

November 30, 1940

The University Museum,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

requisition  
1240  
11/30/40

For drawing plan of Piedras Negras.

November, 1940 — \$125.00

Traveling expenses - Phila - Cambridge. 12.50  
\$137.50

Laraine Prokouskoff.

OK [initials].

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED
NIGHT MESSAGE	CABLE LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	WEEK END LETTER

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

# WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

1206-A

NO.	CASH OR CHG.
CHECK	
TIME FILED	

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

DAY LETTER

October 15, 1940

*American* GEORGE C. VAILLANT  
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

MOST OF 1939 SEASON WORKING OUT ARCHITECTURE AND CERAMICS OF  
STRATIFIED PYRAMID MOUND K-5 AND ASSOCIATIONS WITH MONUMENTS STOP  
FOUR PERIODS PLUS TWO MINOR PHASES STOP NEW SCULPTURED FRAGMENT  
STOP SEE MUSEUM BULLETIN VOLUME SEVEN NUMBERS ONE AND TWO.  
IDENTIFIED SUBSTRUCTURE STYLE SEVERAL OTHER TEMPLES STOP TEST  
PUTTED FOR SHERDS STOP NIGHT PHOTOS FEW STELAE STOP GODFREY  
STUDIED SCULPTURE STOP STAFF SELF WIFE WILLIAM S. GODFREY AND  
INSPECTOR VICTOR M. PINELO.

LINTON SATTERTHWAITE, JR.

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

December 13 - February 5, 1940.

Pedras Negras Expedition  
University Museum

Continuation of Field Dollar Account - Funds  
passing through hands of Field Director:  
excludes expenditures through museum office.

Dr.

Balance per statement Dec. 12 \$ 125.06

Cr.

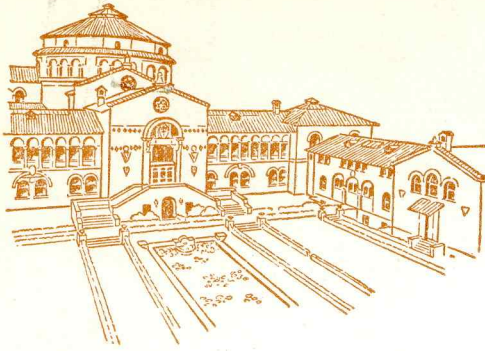
Feb. 5: Transportation & handling charges,  
Jonuta and Salinas figurine  
collection, paid to E.H. Bailey  
& Co. per invoices: Jan. 19 14.31  
Jan. 31 7.50  
21.81

Feb. 5 Refunded to Univ. Museum 103.25 ← - deposited

125.06

Balance

0.00



**THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM**  
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA  
33RD & SPRUCE STREETS, PHILADELPHIA

February 21, 1941

Mr. Percy C. Madeira Jr.  
Land Title Bank and Trust Company  
Broad and Chestnut Streets  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Percy:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a report that I have just finished for Mr. Jenks and the Board of Managers.

Since you are especially interested in this question and will probably like to read the report rather thoroughly in order to form your ideas upon it I had an extra copy made for you. I am also sending a copy to Mr. Jayne.

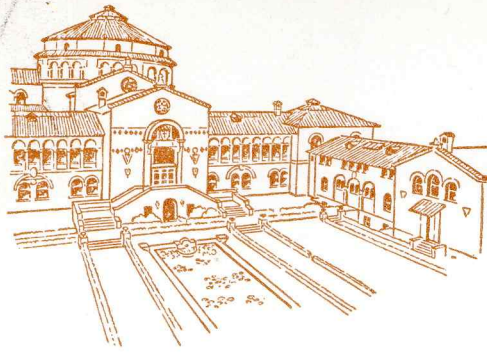
With my cordial personal regards, I am as ever,

Sincerely yours,

J. Alden Mason

JAM:AMU

Enc.



**THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM**  
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA  
33RD & SPRUCE STREETS, PHILADELPHIA

February 26, 1941

Mr. John Story Jenks  
Fidelity Philadelphia Building  
Philadelphia, Pa.

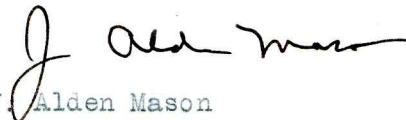
Dear Mr. Jenks:

I enclose herewith a copy on the status of the Guatemalan loan together with an excerpt from a letter received yesterday from Mrs. E. A. Osborne of Guatemala City, who is prominent in archeological circles there.

As you will see she thinks, as I do, that there is little hope of a decision favorable to us in the question of the extension of the loan of the monuments.

I regret that I did not get this into your hands before sending copies to Mr. H. H. F. Jayne and to Mr. Percy C. Madeira Jr.. I intended to get it to your desk at the same time I sent copies to these others but I had been so busy with other matters that I had not had time to give it the final reading-over that I wished to and felt that as you were closer at hand there was not quite so much urgency in getting it into your hands.

Cordially yours,



J. Alden Mason  
Curator, American Section

JAM:AMU

Enc.

REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE LOAN FROM THE GUATEMALA GOVERNMENT

AS OF FEBRUARY 1941.

Last spring the late Director, Mr. H. H. F. Jayne, made a journey to Guatemala and presented to the Guatemalan Government an application for an extension for another five years of the loan of the archeological objects, including the large monuments, secured by the University Museum expeditions at Piedras Negras, Guatemala.

No official reply has been received to this application, but we must expect very soon a refusal and a request for the return of the objects, and we should at once consider what action should be taken. The Guatemalan Government, in all questions concerning national archeology, requests the opinion of the Society of Geography and History, and almost invariably follows such opinion. Recently the Executive Committee of this Society gave an opinion opposing the extension of the loan. This opinion was published in the last Annals of this Society for December, 1940. A translation of this published opinion is appended on a separate sheet. The President and founder of this Society, Sr. J. Antonio Villacorta, C., is also the Minister of Public Education, under which Ministry all archeological work in Guatemala is done.

The contract, under which the University Expeditions worked at Piedras Negras and the objects were exported, was arranged and signed by me in Guatemala in 1930 with the former Minister of Public Education, Sr. Mendoza. This contract was dated May 15, 1930, and was published in the official journal "El Guatemalteco", June 12, 1930 (tomo CXXVI, numero 65, p. 477). A full translation in English is probably in the Museum

office files. The sections referring to the loan of the objects secured are translated herewith:

"2. The Government will allow (proporcionar) the Museum, as a loan, for a term of ten years, half of the stelae and other objects which may result from the excavations, reserving the other half, which shall be delivered at the cost of the said Museum, in the railway station closest to the place which the Government may designate."

The contract did not stipulate from what date the ten years of the loan were to be counted, which partly would be responsible for the cost of the return of the objects lent after the termination of ten years, nor, unfortunately, make any provision for the permanent retention of any objects by the University Museum.

Small objects, mainly broken pottery vessels, but including some minor stonework and pieces of sculpture, were exported by each of the eight expeditions of the University Museum, the last shipment having been received in 1939. The eight major monuments were received here at various times. "Lintel 3" (L-16-381) was brought out by the first expedition and received in the summer of 1931. Stela 12 (L-27-171) and a part of Stela 14 (L-16-382) were received in the spring of 1932, and the rest of the monuments, Stela 13 (L-27-199), Stela 40 (L-27-168), Lintel 12 (L-27-198), Throne I (L-27-170), and one leg of Altar<sup>4</sup> (L-27-200), were received in March 1933. If, therefore, we claim the right of retention in this Museum for ten years, the period for the loan of Lintel 3 expires about June of this year, that for Stela 12 early in 1942, and that for the other monu-

ments in March, 1943. The term for some of the smaller objects does not expire until 1949.

It is to be remembered that eight other large sculptured monuments, and half of the lesser objects, were sent each year to Guatemala. Very few intact pottery vessels were secured, but many of the potsherds were brought here for study. These potsherds compose the major part of the Piedras Negras material not on exhibition.

It seems almost certain that very soon an official communication will be received, refusing the request for an extension of the loan and asking for a return of the objects. The questions of the date for the termination of the ten-year loan, and of the defrayment of the costs of packing and shipment are open to argument. ~~I~~ feel that we have good cause to insist on ten years' possession here. We might therefore send Lintel 3 this summer and keep the others for another year. Since the term for Stela 12 expires in 1942, it might be well to send all the rest of the monuments at that time, rather than break up the symmetry of the exhibition in order to keep the others for another year. As regards payment of costs, I feel sure that the Guatemalan Government expects us to defray that cost, which is, of course, customary when a borrower returns what he has borrowed. We might keep the monuments for some time by haggling over this question, and could probably keep them for a long time before that Government appropriates the money for the freight, but I feel that the value of cordial relations with that Government and others in the future would far outweigh the cost of shipment. In this matter, I might say that

when the monuments were shipped to Philadelphia and to Guatemala City the United Fruit Company gave us free freight, and the Guatemalan railroad an extremely cheap rate. We should ask for similar favors now, but as the Fruit Company is under a new management that is far less generous than formerly I doubt if such favorable terms will be granted again.

As soon as official refusal of the extension of the loan is received, we should make application for the permanent retention of a part of the objects. It is doubtful if the Guatemalan Government will let us keep any of the stelae, "lintels" or throne, but quite likely that, if properly approached, they will grant us the other things.

When I was sent to Guatemala in the spring of 1938 to present the application for the loan on the monuments from Piedras Negras there to the San Francisco Exposition, which application was refused, I also made application for the permanent retention of a part of the objects now on loan here. This secondary application was never acted upon.

This application in 1938 made the following requests; that the ten-year term be counted from the time of receipt in the University Museum; that we be allowed to keep the minor objects now in this Museum, and that we be furthermore permitted to retain three major monuments: Stela 12, Lintel 12, and the stone leg of Altar 4.

The privilege of retaining "minor duplicates" is one generally granted by governments to foreign expeditions, and one that I should have insisted on in the contract with the Guatemalan Government. ~~With the exception of the potsherds,~~ Approximate duplicates of all these minor objects have been sent to Guatemala. That government has little interest

in these minor things and little room to display them in its museum. In particular it has little interest in broken pottery which is of great importance to us. These potsherds are constantly being studied here, especially at present by Mr. Frank Cresson, and their leaving would greatly interfere with our scientific studies. I think that a request for the permanent retention of the smaller objects here would be granted. Also I believe that a request for the permanent retention of the sculptured stone leg of Altar 4 would be granted, since they have already three of them in Guatemala, especially if we send them the cast of this leg that we have here.

I doubt if a request for retention of one of the stelae would be granted, but it is not impossible, as they will have seven others. It is possible that we might be allowed to keep the older and poorer one of the two "lintels", Lintel 12.

Replicas have been made of the eight large stone monuments here. These might temporarily be placed in the Maya Hall to replace the originals when they are sent. These were offered to Tulane University but we understand the offer was not accepted, and fortunately (in the opinion of the American Section) they are still in the Museum. We believe they should remain here, as they are the only replicas of these monuments and of the greatest value for study, especially in case the originals should be lost in transport or injured in one of the earthquakes in Guatemala. The former Guatemalan museum was destroyed by an earthquake; the cast of Stela 12 was fortunately made before the original was slightly damaged in its transport to San Francisco, showed its original

condition, and ~~offered~~<sup>afforded</sup> the data for the repair of the damages. In the Americas Maya culture was analogous to Greek in the Mediterranean ancient world. Making the analogy specific, the Piedras Negras sculptures would be compared with the Elgin Marbles. I understand that the molds from which these casts were made were only temporary ones and have not been preserved; unless good molds can be made from the casts, we recommend that permanent molds be made before the monuments are sent.

It has always been the expectation of the American Section that when the term of the loan on our Maya monuments expired another expedition would be sent to secure others to take their places. There are many more large monuments at Piedras Negras which are gradually disintegrating and suffering damage in the forest. While none of those remaining has quite the combination of art, preservation and intactness of the three largest at present in the Museum, many others closely approach these in these respects, and even exceed in some, as may be seen by the plates in the report of Maler (Memoirs of the Peabody Museum, II, 1, 1901). They are of great importance in showing the evolution toward the finest pieces already rescued. We recommend that the Board consider this plan soon and will be glad to prepare a tentative budget on request. Since many preliminary arrangements have to be made, permission secured ~~for~~<sup>from</sup> the Guatemala Government, the road cleared, transportation equipment assembled, boxing lumber sawn, etc., and since the dry season during which the monuments must be taken over the road is short (April and May), if it should be approved to take out any monuments in the spring of 1942 the preliminary negotiations should be begun at once.

Regarding a request for the permanent retention of the

minor objects at present in the University Museum and possibly a few of the monuments, I suggest that I be empowered to go to Washington and to confer with the Guatemalan <sup>Minist</sup> Ambassador, Sr. Adrien Recinos, with whom I am well acquainted. Sr. Recinos has great archeological interests, great influence with his government, and has a cosmopolitan point of view. When I made my requests to the Guatemalan Government in 1938 I conferred with him. He expressed himself as believing that it is to the interests of his country to have a good exhibition of Guatemalan objects in every large museum in this country, and as favoring the retention here of some of the large monuments. Mr. Jayne also conferred with Sr. Recinos before he made his trip to Guatemala last spring.

J. Allen Mason

Excerpt from

ANALES DE LA SOCIEDAD DE GEOGRAFIA E HISTORIA DE GUATEMALA.

Tomo XVI - Numero 6 - Diciembre de 1940  
pp.430/431

The University of Pennsylvania made a contract with the Government of Guatemala to retain as a loan, and for a period of ten years which terminates in 1941, a certain number of archeological objects found in Piedras Negras of our territory, and with the purpose of exhibiting them in its Museum. Such an agreement was made when we were not counting upon the important museum of La Aurora; this was the reason for the loan.

The University asks an extension of five years to retain these objects and the opinion of the Society has been requested on this point. The Executive Committee was of the opinion that the contract really should not be extended, since we have now a place well suited and better organized in which the said objects may be and ought to be exhibited, and that in such a case they should be returned at the end of the stipulated period.

(Translated from the original Spanish)

EXCERPT FROM A LETTER OF MRS. E. A. OSBORNE

Guatemala City, February 14th,

... Now yesterday I spoke with Villacorta on this subject. He says that there was a new revision being made now and no official decision has as yet been arrived at, and it was being "tramitado" (considered according to the proper formalities) and you would have a definite answer before long.

That is as far as I got and no more, so be patient and there might perhaps (?) be a hope. I personally do not think it likely as long as he is there.

COPY

Please show to Dr. Mason

March 13th, 1941.

Hon. Adrián Recinos,  
Minister of Guatemala,  
Guatemalan Legation,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Señor Recinos:-

Dr. J. Alden Mason has just conferred with me and told me about his conference with you on Monday the 10th, regarding the requested extension of the loan of the objects from the ancient Maya city of Piedras Negras, Guatemala, which are now in this Museum on loan from your Government, in accord with the terms of the contract between this Museum and your Government signed in 1930. Permit me to express on behalf of this Museum my hearty thanks for your kind interest in this question.

As you know, the term of the ten-year loan on some of these objects will soon expire. The former Director of this Museum, Mr. Horace H. F. Jayne, undertook a trip to Guatemala in May of 1940 and made an official request for an extension of the loan of these objects for another five years.

As you may remember, our expeditions to Piedras Negras, by way of Mexico, extended over a period of nine years. As a result, we delivered to the Government of Guatemala four large stelae, four small stone monuments and other valuable objects. What we would now prefer would be an exchange of objects which our Museum excavated, bringing to the American public for educational purposes, other examples of your ancient art and sending you the material which we have tried to show pretty generally to the public here. I fear, however, the expense of transportation would be more than either you or we would care to bear at this time.

You have seen the monuments from Piedras Negras on exhibition here in the University Museum, know what a magnificent display they make, how their loss would detract from the appearance of the Maya Hall, and how much their presence here has meant for the increase of public interest in your country among the many visitors to this Museum. We would appreciate it greatly if you convey to the President of Guatemala our great desire to retain these monuments for a few years more, and also express to him your own opinion on the question.

C O P Y

-2-

As you are fully aware, at no previous time has there been so much interest shown by the people of the United States in the countries of Latin America as at present. We feel that no small part of this interest has been caused by the presence of artistic objects from the countries of Latin America in the museums of this country, and that as a result of these exhibitions a great number of tourists have been induced to visit Guatemala and the other countries of Latin America. We are sure that the magnificent exhibition of these monuments which we lent for display to the Panama Pacific Exposition in California in 1939 played a large part in this awakening of interest in Guatemala and tourist travel thither. We feel there could be no better advertisement for your country than these monuments so artistically displayed in this Museum, and are sure that their longer stay here will result in a continuation and increase in the public interest in your country here.

I hope that you will give these facts due consideration and will transmit them to the President of Guatemala with your personal opinion.

I now find that I will be in Washington on Monday afternoon next, March 17th, for the opening of the new Mellon Gallery. May I call on you on that afternoon? It will be a great pleasure to me to have the opportunity of again seeing you.

With my thanks and sincere greetings, I am,

Sincerely yours,

John Story Jenks,  
President

LEGACION DE GUATEMALA  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 15, 1941.

Mr. John Story Jenks, President,  
The University Museum,  
University of Pennsylvania,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

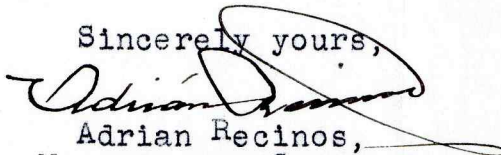
My dear Mr. Jenks:

In reply to your letter of March 13 I take pleasure in informing you that I have transmitted today to the Government of Guatemala your request for an extension of the loan of the objects from the ancient city of Piedras Negras, which were taken to the Museum for the purpose of exhibition as a result of the work undertaken at that place.

In accordance with your wishes I expressed at the same time my favorable personal opinion and I am sure that the matter will be given careful consideration.

It will give me much pleasure to see you in Washington next Monday afternoon, between 3 and 5 o'clock, if this letter reaches you in time.

Sincerely yours,



Adrian Recinos,  
Minister of Guatemala.

P. N.

March 22, 1941

The Secretary of State  
Washington, D. C.

Division of American Republics.

My dear Mr. Secretary:-

I wish to refer to a pleasant call I made on Mr. Paul C. Daniels, Acting Chief of the Division of American Republics, on March 17th.

Our Museum has had archaeological expeditions to Guatemala over a period of nine years, at a site known as Piedras Negras which is approached through Mexico. As a result of our work, we were able to bring out, with difficulty, some large monuments, half of which were delivered to the Government of Guatemala and others we brought to the Museum. In accordance with the terms of the agreement, these monuments now in our Museum were loaned to us for a period of ten years, and this time has about expired. As Director of this Museum, Mr. Horace H. F. Jayne went to Guatemala last May and made a formal request for an extension of the loan of these objects for another five years. I am enclosing a translation in English of his letter dated June 12th, 1940, addressed to the Secretary of the Department of Public Education to which we have had no reply. I also enclose a copy of my letter of March 13th, 1941, to Hon. Adrián Recinos, Minister of Guatemala in Washington.

These stelae and other objects at our Museum we value very highly and we feel that they have been and are still of great educational value both to our country and that of Guatemala by bringing closer relations. This is outlined, in part, in my letter to Señor Recinos.

Mr. Daniels said that he would be glad to hear from me after my call on Señor Recinos, which I made later in the afternoon. I also enclose a copy of Señor Recinos' reply to my letter of March 15th.

March 22, 1941

In our talk, Señor Recinos emphasized more strongly his opinion that the objects should remain with us for the present and he told me that he had addressed his recommendation to the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, who would take it up with his President. We further developed the theory that there might be danger in sending the historic monuments by sea at this time.

I am taking the matter up with you, firstly, so that our Minister to Guatemala may be familiar with this matter; and secondly, with the hope that he may have an opportunity to speak to the President of Guatemala about it and also to the Secretary of Foreign Affairs. If he saw his way clear to thank them for their interest in this matter, I am sure it would be helpful and I hope this action will have your recommendation.

Very truly yours

John Story Jenks  
President

COPY

April 8th, 1941.

Hon. Adrian Recinos,  
Minister of Guatemala,  
Legacion de Guatemala,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Señor Recinos:-

Thank you for your letter of April 7th.

We particularly appreciate your trouble and personal interest in presenting so ably the matter of the Piedras Negras monuments to your Government, and through you and your Minister of Foreign Affairs, we wish to thank your Government for its action.

With kind personal regards to you and with appreciation of your courtesies during my call on you, I am,

Sincerely yours,

John Story Jenks,  
President.

COPY

April 8th, 1941.

Mr. Paul C. Daniels,  
Acting Chief of the Division of American Republics,  
Department of State,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Daniels:-

I beg to confirm my letter of March 22nd addressed to the Secretary of State, as you suggested, a copy of which letter was sent to you. I have received no reply to this letter but I hasten to tell you that we are just in receipt of a letter from Señor Adrian Recinos, Minister of Guatemala, stating that the Government of Guatemala has agreed to extend for a period of three years, the loan of the monuments which we excavated from the ancient city of Piedras Negras in Guatemala. I am enclosing you a copy of his letter. This is very good news for us and I wish to thank you for your cooperation.

If you think it advisable, we would be very happy if our Minister to Guatemala could see his way clear to mention the matter to the President and to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and thank them for their action.

Thanking you for your courtesies on my visit to you in Washington, I am,

Sincerely yours,

John Story Jenks,  
President.

COPY

April 8th, 1941.

Mr. Charles Lyon Chandler,  
Corn Exchange National Bank & Trust Co.,  
Second and Chestnut Streets,  
Philadelphia.

Dear Mr. Chandler:-

Thank you for your interest in the Guatemalan monuments at the Museum. I am enclosing you a copy of a letter I have just written your friend, Mr. Paul C. Daniels, with whom you so kindly arranged an appointment for me. I am very much pleased with the outcome of this whole affair.

Hoping to see you in the near future, I am,

Sincerely yours,

John Story Jenks,  
President.

LEGACION DE GUATEMALA  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

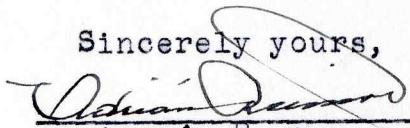
April 7, 1941.

Mr. John Story Jenks, President  
The University Museum,  
University of Pennsylvania,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Mr. Jenks:

Referring further to your letter of March 13th. last, I am pleased to inform you that today I received a letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala informing me that the Government of Guatemala has agreed to extend for a period of three years the loan of the objects from the ancient city of Piedras Negras in Guatemala, and which have been in exhibition at your Museum for the last few years.

Sincerely yours,

  
Adrián Recinos,  
Minister of Guatemala.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to  
RA 814.927/10

April 14, 1941

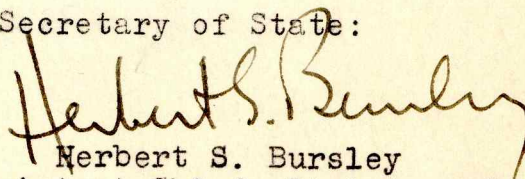
My dear Mr. Jenks:

Reference is made to your letters of March 22 and April 8, 1941 regarding a loan of monuments to The University Museum by the Government of Guatemala.

In compliance with your suggestion, the American Minister in Guatemala is being instructed, in his discretion, to inform the Foreign Minister that you have requested this Department to express through the American Legation in Guatemala your sincere appreciation of the action taken by the Government of Guatemala in this connection.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

  
Herbert S. Bursley  
Assistant Chief, Division of  
the American Republics

Mr. John Story Jenks,  
President, The University Museum,  
University of Pennsylvania,  
33rd and Spruce Streets,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

*P.N. Loan*

April 28, 1941

Carl W. Funk, Esquire  
Drinker, Biddle and Reath  
1429 Walnut Street  
Philadelphia

Dear Mr. Funk:-

Enclosed are copies of the letter from the Guatemalan Minister in regard to the loan of objects from Piedras Negras, and our original contract with the Guatemalan government, paragraph 2 of which has reference to the loan of objects.

Sincerely yours

Alice M. Goudy  
Assistant to the Director

# Construcciones del Sureste, S. A.

CONTRATISTAS EN GENERAL

PRESIDENTE

PAULINO R. CANSECO

GERENTE

JORGE LARREA

Tecosique, Tab, Mexico,  
Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> 1943.

Dr. J. Alden Mason,  
The University Museum,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Doctor Mason:

Maybe this will be a surprise, but here I am, still in the land of the living and working with the Contractors for the railroad on the section from Boca del Cerro to Palenque. I am in charge of the levelling of the road, and work out from Boca del Cerro. The rest of the works are now located at Rio Chacamax 23 kilometers away, building the road - cuts and fills. Naturally, I feel I am in my element.

Am waiting for news from the 2 of my sons that are in this war. The youngest is with the U. S. Air Force and is supposed to be attending Officers Candidate School somewhere in Australia. Was sent there from New Guinea. He was born in Texas and would be nothing else but a Texan. Joined up long before Pearl Harbour. The other is with U. S. Navy. From what I understand, both are likely to make up their minds to stick when the fuss is over if they survive. I think there is a daughter, also, who will be going over. The two want to go. And funny, one is of U. S. breed and the other British.

I am proud of them. The eldest boy is married and is taking care of his family. Maybe I'll wind up 80% war and it will be 50-50 American & British. None of the 2 nations can complain, even now.

# Construcciones del Sureste, S. A.

CONTRATISTAS EN GENERAL

PRESIDENTE  
PAULINO R. CANSECO

GERENTE  
JORGE LARREA

I say 80% because it may be 4 out of my five children that will enter. The Ross family would then be represented in the Air, Land and Sea. I am willing to do my bit too, personally. I know I can do it here, but the U.S. W.P.B. has not heard enough of me and the F.B.I. does not know I am living.

What have you at Piedras Negras that you would sell? I need kitchen utensils and maybe a few other things. Its years since I was up there, but I understand Rufino is watchman in charge. Please let me know if the Museum would care to sell what they have there. Such things are hard to get down here now, and I need some for my camps. I have quite a gang of laborers.

Please tell Peggy that the Mexican end of the Rosses is progressing. She knew two. There are three now. William Alexander came to us a little over 2 years ago. All are perfectly healthy. My little "Peggy" (Margarita) is cute. Says she loves me down to her little gut.

Came across some ruins about 5 miles from Pomona north of the range of hills of Boca del Cerro. Chiniquifa is on the other side of the hills near Santa Margarita.

Best regards, Doctor.

Yours sincerely  
John Ross

C/o Construcciones Sureste,  
Tancitaro, Jalisco.

UNIVERSITY INTRAMURAL CORRESPONDENCE

TO J.A.M.

FROM L.S.Jr.

DATE Nov. 4, 1943.

SUBJECT Equipment at Piedras Negras.

When we left P.N. in 1939, with no particular prospect of returning, and no chance of seeing equipment for as much as cost of transporting it out, it was left with Victor M. Pinelo, the Guatemalan government inspector, and Rufino Ramos, the only permanent resident. The understanding was that there would be no compensation accruing as caretaker, hence no definite responsibility; but that should we return to P.N., or farther up the river, we would save ourselves money by using what still was usable, and compensate Ramos in proportion to what he had guarded.

About a year ago Pinelo, who had moved up river, wanted to purchase the cooking utensils, mostly aluminum and doubtless in good condition. This would have amounted to a gift, as he is an alcoholic; I am ashamed to say I never replied to him. If we ever do return that way, his political lines are such that he would probably again be the inspector, and his good-will important. From that point of view I think he should have his pick of what is there, before it is disposed of to anyone else. Both he and Ramos would be morally entitled to some of it compensation for looking after it and storing it, once we decide not to keep it intact.

We now have a letter from John Ross, who worked with us in 1932-33, also desiring the kitchen utensils and "maybe a few other things". He would be fair and honest in reporting what he took, very low in his estimates of values; he would be more likely than Pinelo to actually pay the prices set, but quite likely to put it off indefinitely. This request requires reply.

No substantial sum is involved. If Ross allowed as much as \$25.00 for what he wanted I should be very much surprised; and rather surprised thereafter if I actually received. On the other hand, if we are sure we shall never be back that way, the stuff might as well be given and/or sold, and do somebody some good.

When the P.N. report is completed I think a logical program might take us back there, or farther up the same river. I would favor keeping the stuff in status quo. If it is decided not to I think we are morally bound to give Victor first choice; and if anything is sold, to pay Rufino something for conserving it up to now, perhaps in kind.

LSJr.

November 11, 1943

Mr. John H. Ross  
Construcciones del Sureste  
Tenosique, Tabasco  
Mexico

Dear John:-

It was good to receive your long letter of October 20th and to hear the news from you and of your family. We rarely hear from Tenosique nowadays; Mrs. Todd wrote me some time ago asking if we could help her finance a hotel there, but none of us is in a financial position to do so; a well-conducted hotel in Tenosique ought to do well.

I conferred with Linton regarding your request to buy some of the equipment at the camp at Piedras Negras, but he has hopes of going in there again to work, possibly as soon as the war is over, and the replacement of this necessary equipment would cost quite a great deal for purchase and transportation; so I am sorry to report that he prefers not to sell any of it at present.

You have reason to be proud of your boys and girls who are in war service. My boy, who will be twenty-one in December, is in Naval Pre-flight School and took his first solo flight two days ago. We hope that the war will be over before he sees actual service. As for personal news around here, the most interesting is that Mary Butler is married and has a little daughter several months old. I haven't seen Dave Anram for some time but believe he is in the city. Linton is busy writing up the report on Piedras Negras and in other studies on the Maya calendar; he has just published the first part of the report on Piedras Negras, an introduction. Miss Proskouriakoff is now with the Carnegie Institute in Boston and making restoration drawings for them. I don't know whether you ever met Mrs. Godfrey and her son Bill; she is now Secretary and Acting Director of the Museum and Bill is in war service. Peggy Satterthwaite is working part time and I don't see her very often. As for myself, there is so much routine and correspondence that I get little worth while done. My last trip was in 1940 when we dug up some fine things in Panama. I would like to get back to Tenosique sometime, but fear that I never shall now.

With my cordial personal regards to you and everyone around there and also regards from the Satterthwaites, I am as ever

Sincerely yours

J. Alden Mason  
Curator,  
American Section

Port. V. W. von Hagen  
Co B. 57th Batt  
Camp Wolters, Texas

J. J. Augustin

Dr. P. Gabriel Saldivar  
Anahuac 86  
Cadena Rova Sur  
Mexico D. F.  
Calleja

H. Geiger Amwake

Arch. Brozier  
Mrs. Heynary  
Oring Rouse  
Junius Bird

End of letter: and made his first solo flight Sunday.  
Regards to you and your fine big family  
Sincerely yours

No. 27

Guatemala City, Guatemala  
April 11, 1945

Dr. George C. Vaillant  
University Museum  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Dr. Vaillant,

Would you please send as soon as you can,  
the weight and all the dimensions possible of the stone  
pieces from Piedras Negras, including the thrones, stelae  
and lintels which the Museum has on loan from Guatemala?

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

*Flavio Rodas N.*  
Flavio Rodas N.

Director of the Museum

LMC:FRN

*Reply over*

MUSEO NACIONAL GUATEMALA

SECCION DE ARQUEOLOGIA

SECRETARIA DE EDUCACION PUBLICA  
SECCION DE ARQUEOLOGIA  
ETNOLOGIA E HISTORIA  
GUATEMALA, C. A.

Copy

Guatemala City, Guatemala  
April 11, 1945

No. 27

Dr. George Vaillant

University Museum

June 1, 1945

University  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Sr. Flavio Rodas F.  
Director, Museo Nacional  
Seccion de Arqueologia  
Secretaria de Educacion Publica  
Guatemala, C. A.

Dear Dr. Vaillant,

Dear Senor Rodas F.

We deeply regret the long delay in replying to your letter of April 11, addressed to Dr. George C. Vaillant, and requesting dimensions and weights of the stone monuments from Piedras Negras on loan in this Museum.

You have doubtless heard that Dr. Vaillant died suddenly three weeks ago. Since that time we have been too upset and too busy taking over his duties to attend to everything, and Dr. Satterthwaite, who was asked to make the measurements and to calculate the weights, a long task, had to take over and prepare for Dr. Vaillant's classes. He has finally, however, found time to make the necessary measurements and calculations, and I take pleasure in enclosing two sheets of data prepared by him.

I trust that the delay has not inconvenienced you and that, in view of the above circumstances, you will forgive it.

With my sincere personal regards to you and to my many good friends in Guatemala, I am as ever

Sincerely yours,

J. Alden Mason  
Curator, American Section

JMC:FBN

PIEDRAS NEGRAS MONUMENTS

Approximate Dimensions (In meters) and Weights (in tons @ 2000 Lbs.)

Note: measurements are approximate, a few cms. over rather than under; and do not reflect non-rectangularities. The estimates of weight were obtained by calculating cubic meters of stone and converting to tons with the constant 2.97 (tons per cubic meter); this is derived from Trautwine's 168 Lbs. per cubic foot; and with 35.3156 cub. feet per cubic meter (Trautwine, 20th Ed. 1922, p p 213; 225).

Total

Parts

<u>Stela 13</u> (L-27-199)	1.85 x .90 x .35 M. 1.67 Ts	Top .90 x .90 x .35 M <del>Back</del> .84 T Bot. .80 x 1.00 x .35 M .83 T
<u>Stela 14</u> (L-16-382)	2.70 x .85 x .40 M 2.97 T	Top 2.15 x .85 x .40 M 2.17 T Bot .80 x .85 x .40 M .80 T
<u>Stela 12</u>	3.10 x 1.05 x .40 M 3.99 T	Top 1.50 x 1.05 x .40 M 1.87 T Bot* 1.70 x 1.05 x .40 M 2.12 T *3 fragments joined
<u>Stela 40</u> (L-27-168)	4.20 x 1.20 x .40 M 6.26 T	Top 2.70 x 1.20 x .40 M 3.84 T Bot 1.70 x 1.20 x .40 M 2.42 T
	or 4.90 x 1.20 x .40 M* 7.01 T*	Butt .70 x .90 x .40 M .75 T
	*including part of plain butt which was buried - omitted as set up in Phila.	
<u>Altar 4 Leg</u> (L-27-200)	.75 x .45 x .48 M .48 T	(one piece - almost identical with three legs already in Guatemala City)
<u>Lintel 3</u> (L-16-381)	1.25 x .65 x .13 .31 T	(three fragments joined, with a fourth "filler" frag. of unsculptured stone - should not be taken apart).
<u>Lintel 12</u> (	1.20 x .55 x .25 M .49 T	(two frgments, joined)
<del>Throne 1</del> <u>Throne 1</u>	Screen (Frgs., joined) : 1.80 x .60 x .15 M - .17 T Seat (or "table top") : 1.80 x .90 x .15 M (fragments and reconstruction in plaster) - .17 T Legs (two); eage : .60 x .29 x .15 M - .02 T each. Total weight, about .96 T	
<u>M.S.S. 16 &amp; 17</u> (L-79-204)	Two frags. joined	: .80 x .62 x .11 M - .05 T

M.S.S. 10 6 Fragments joined in plaster reconstruction : 1.43 x .70 x .10 M - .2 T (rough estimate of weight).

NB. This piece has not be exhibited; is unsuitable for exhibition without special lighting because of poor condition, low relief and missing parts

Note: The foregoing 10 items exhaust the list of pieces which present serious problems in the way of special packing, because of size and/or weight; and which require forethought in planning an exhibition hall. Miscellaneous Sculptured Stones 16 and 10, and Lintels 3 and 12 can be supported on strong walls; Throne 1 requires special light construction, not because of its weight, but because of its form.

1 and 2 are

Lintels ~~at~~ at Harvard; ~~Lintels 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100~~ "Lintels", in many cases single small fragments, are at present distributed as follows:

Left at the Site: Lintels 6, 7, 8, 11, 13, 5, ~~13~~ (13 is highest "lintel" number)  
 At Guatemala City: Lintels 9, 10 (small fragments); Lintel 4  
 At Phila. Lintels 3 and 12

Miscellaneous Sculptured Stones include mere incising. Those of any exhibition value are Nos. 1, 16 and possibly 10 at Phila; 9 and 13 at Guatemala; and 7 at Harvard (the latter is the "Altar leg" shown by Maler, which we assigned a number in this series). Nos. 10 and 16 are covered above; No. 1 is half of a small portable altar, with an I.S. inscription. These numbered pieces are at present distributed as follows:

~~6-19~~ (19 is highest M.S.S. number)  
 Left at Site: M.S.S. No. 2(?); 4, 5, 12, 15(?) / Questioned items to be checked.  
 At Guatemala City: Nos. 9 and 13; 13  
 At Harvard: No. 7  
 At Phila: No. 1 (part of portable altar, with I.S. inscription on side).

- No. 3 rough slab, incised lines, unfinished glyphs in several squares
- No. 6 " " , incised animal head (crude)
- No. 8 " " , incised lines and scratches
- No. 10 see above
- No. 11 small fragment, possibly was sculptured
- No. 14 rough slab, parts of three incised glyphs.
- No. 16 see above; with No. 17

...

General Note: I have given approximate dimensions of the separate parts of the four stelae, using maximum lengths; if totaled, these may exceed the total length of all pieces fitted; usually, different widths and thicknesses of different fragments of the same stone are not allowed for, the maximum being used. The stelae can be taken down and shipped without taking apart. This will save a great deal of labor at the other end and will minimize danger of damage by an inexperienced rigger. The necessary timbers and bolts will greatly add to widths and thicknesses - not much to lengths, - of the units to be handled - and to their weights. The contract price for doing this - exclusive of freight and re-erection - was \$750.00, when they were sent to San Francisco.

UNIVERSITY INTRAMURAL CORRESPONDENCE

TO Mrs Godfrey

FROM Mason

DATE June 19, 1945

SUBJECT Memorandum on present status of Piedras Negras Loan.

I append herewith a copy of the report that I made in February, 1941, of the status of the Piedras Negras loan as of that date. Much of this is still pertinent.

In April, 1941, largely through the kind offices of Sr. Adrián Recinos, then Guatemalan Ambassador in Washington, Mr. Jenks succeeded in securing a three-year extension of the loan; this, therefore, expired over a year ago. A new museum building is now being planned or built in Guatemala City, and the officials are certainly eager for the return of the monuments now in this Museum. The Director, Sr. Flavio Rodas, recently wrote to Dr. Vaillant, inquiring data on the size and weight of the monuments here, obviously with the intent of planning for their erection there. After a regrettable delay, these data were recently sent to Sr. Rodas by Dr. Satterthwaite.

We must, therefore, expect soon a request or demand for the return to Guatemala of the monuments, and possibly of all the material from Piedras Negras, and should at once take the necessary steps to request a modification in the contract to permit us to retain, on some terms, the small objects and some of the large monuments. Fortunately for us, although the new Museum in Guatemala City is scheduled to hold its official opening in October, I understand that freight for Guatemala is still subject to U. S. government priority and permission, and presumably it is not yet practically possible to ship the objects.

I append also a letter from Dr. A. V. Kidder in which he gives important information on the Guatemalan situation. Among the important points therein are: that ex-Ambassador Adrián Recinos, who had a cosmopolitan point of view and expressed to me the opinion that all museums such as ours should have and exhibit good original examples of Maya sculpture, is persona-non-grata in his country at present, and has been expelled therefrom. On the other hand the long-time Minister of Public Education who, unless the local set-up has been changed, is the one who must approve of all modifications in the contract, Sr. J. Antonio Villacorta C., is also "out", together with his son Carlos, who was formerly Director of the Archeological Museum. Antonio Villacorta was also President of the Society of Geography and History and his opinion carried great weight in the decisions of that organization to which such questions are always referred. Sr. Villacorta was very much interested in archeology, and very eager to see the return of our monuments to Guatemala. The new Secretary is said to be "very friendly and cooperative", presumably more broad minded and cosmopolitan, and

with less personal archeological interest.

Dr. Kidder suggests that we allow him to act as our agent when he returns to Guatemala in October or November, to obtain whatever modifications he can in the contract, permitting us to retain some of the material from Piedras Negras. No better man could be found. Dr. Kidder is well acquainted with personalities in Guatemala, is highly regarded there, and always has the best interests of this Museum at heart. Dr. Satterthwaite and I strongly urge that he be given carte blanche to do the best he can for us.

Dr. Satterthwaite and I feel strongly that the most important point in this question is the good reputation of the Museum in Guatemala and in the other Latin-American countries, to permit us to work there in future years; that the contract, with such modifications as we are able to secure, must be lived up to conscientiously, and that modifications in the contract should not be pressed too strongly, or advantage taken of equivocal points in the contract. I feel that there is practically no hope that we may be allowed to retain all the monuments we now have on exhibition, and that we must look forward to losing most of them soon. We may hope to retain several of the monuments and all of the small objects.

Cost of returning objects. The original contract says nothing regarding which party is to pay the cost of returning the loaned objects to Guatemala. I mentioned this point to Sr. Villacorta when I was in Guatemala in 1939, and he replied that of course the Museum would pay the cost. These Latin-American governments are very poor, and stingy about such things, and I do not believe any contract would have been granted in 1930 had I insisted that the Guatemalan Government must pay the cost of return. We might quibble on this point, but do not think we would get anywhere, and would "lose face". By yielding graciously on this point we can make a better appeal for the retention of some of the objects. The cost of packing, and of transportation to the dock will be considerable. When they were first sent, the United Fruit Company granted us free freight on their boats, and the Guatemalan Railroad granted us a very cheap rate. As indicated in Dr. Kidder's letter it is quite likely that similar grants may be secured at present.

Small objects such as potsherds. On the other hand, I should have insisted in the contract that we be permitted to retain the potsherds and other small objects that we now have, since these are needed for scientific study, are very numerous with quantities of duplicates, and the Guatemalan museum already has an equal amount, all that they can possibly use or store. I think that little objection would have been made to this stipulation in the original contract, and anticipate little difficulty in securing this modification thereof.

In 1939 when I was sent to Guatemala to endeavor to persuade the officials to lend the monuments there to the San Francisco Exposition I also made some requests regarding permanent retention of some of the monuments (see my 1941 report). Although the loan to San Francisco was not approved, I believe no official action was taken on the question of the retention of the monuments and small objects here, as the term of loan had not yet expired.

*J. Allen Mason*

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON  
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH  
10 FRISBIE PLACE  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Zone 38

June 4, 1945

Dr. J. Alden Mason  
University Museum  
33rd & Spruce Streets  
Philadelphia 4, Pennsylvania

My dear Alden:

That is the trouble with these meetings. There are so many people around that one can never seem to get down to cases with the people one wants to see.

I shall be glad to write George's obituary and will get it to you in a few days. His bibliography ought certainly to be in the ANTHROPOLOGIST.

Guatemala is a problem. When I was there in January the new government had not come into office so I have had no contact with the present officials. Bob Smith writes me, however, that the Secretary of Education--whose name escapes me--is very friendly and cooperative. Bob, as a matter of fact, has been made chairman of a committee on the new museum which is to be located in one of the fine new buildings at the fair grounds. It is evidently in planning for this installation that they have asked for the size, weight etc. of the monuments now in Philadelphia. Obviously, however, they cannot get them down in time for the opening which I believe is to be in October as the United Fruit Company is not yet accepting freight shipments except those which have a special priority and even in that case I believe they have to go through a pool being run by the government. Both the Villacortas are out and Recinos, who is now in Washington, is in very bad odor with the present government--he was expelled from the country. I do not know who the present Ambassador is. I agree with you that when, as, and if the sculptures go back, it would be best in the long run to pay the freight. I believe, however, that one could get this remitted or at least much reduced by the Fruit Company. I have always found them very cooperative and when the time comes I would be glad to talk with the president, T. Jefferson Coolidge, who is an old friend of mine. As to sherds I certainly should not send any back as at present they have more material of that kind to handle than they know what to do with and there surely would be no objection to your keeping them presumably indefinitely or permanently. I also think that in view of the fact that they have a good collection of other minor antiquities that those could also be kept. And I am not too pessimistic about the possibility of some of the sculptures being retained if it can be explained to the officials that the presence of some originals on permanent or semi-permanent loan in Philadelphia would be of value to Guatemala in the stimulation of tourist travel. I am wondering, therefore, if it would not be best for you to send

Dr. J. A. Mason

- 2 -

June 4, 1945

Flavio Rodas the information he requires and mention that packing and shipping difficulties are likely to result in considerable delay in the actual forwarding of the monuments. Then, if you would like to have me, I would be glad to look into the situation when I go to Guatemala this autumn probably in November or possibly October and see what I can do toward getting permission to leave some of the sculptures in Philadelphia. I shall be going to Washington some time in the not too distant future and will stop off in Philadelphia to talk this whole business over with you if you would like me to for I am not only greatly interested in the Museum because of you and George and Linton but I also feel that the presence of some of the P.N. sculptures there would be useful in stimulating interest in Middle American studies in this country.

It was grand that you had a weekend with John. Our son Jim is still at Midland, Texas, but he is finishing up his refresher course shortly and doesn't know where he will go next.

As ever,

*Ted*

A. V. Kidder

P.S. I have written Gordon Ekholm for a copy of George's bibliography. I think I will wait until I get this before writing the obituary for although I believe I know his most important scientific contributions, there may well be some of a more popular nature which should be included in evaluating his contributions. George did a lot to popularize Mexican studies.

*TK*

DIRECCION DE ARQUEOLOGIA  
ETNOLOGIA E HISTORIA

MUSEO NACIONAL.—"LA AURORA"

GUATEMALA, C. A.

June 15, 1945

*No. 53*  
No. 53

Dr. J. Alden Mason  
Curator, American Section  
University Museum  
University of Pennsylvania  
33rd and Spruce Streets  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Dr. Mason,

I want to thank you and Dr. Satterthwaite for the data we received this week on the stone monuments from Piedras Negras which you have on loan from the Government of Guatemala.

We recently heard of the death of Dr. G. C. Vaillant. The Museum staff wishes to express its deepest sympathy.

Most Sincerely,

*Flavio Rodas N.*  
Flavio Rodas N.

Director of the Museum

FRN:LMC

UNIVERSITY INTRAMURAL CORRESPONDENCE

TO Mrs Godfrey

FROM Mason

DATE June 26, 1945

SUBJECT a) Piedras Negras loan. b) Colored photograph for Sr. Echanove

In reply to my letter asking about the present situation in Guatemala, Mrs Osborne replies that concrete bases have been prepared in the new museum building there for the stalae now here. (This is not an insurmountable difficulty since, should we succeed in securing permission to retain some of the monuments, casts can be sent to occupy the places prepared for the originals. JAM) She thinks there will be no difficulty in arranging to retain the non-art objects that we now have, since the Guatemala museum already has more than it can display or store. She suggests that we authorize Dr. Kidder to make such appeals when he goes down there at the end of this year.

Sr. Echanove writes me that he is returning the first photograph colored by Miss Francksen, of the Chichen-Itza frieze, and is awaiting receipt of the second one, of the mural.

P.S. June 27. Sam Lothrop writes me that he has been taken ill again and has gone to Mattapoissett, Mass., for the summer to pick up health. Will not be here until September.

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON  
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH  
10 FRISBIE PLACE  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Zone 38

July 2, 1945

Dr. J. Alden Mason  
University Museum  
33rd & Spruce Sts.  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Alden:

Many thanks for your good letter of the 29th. I am greatly complimented that the Board is willing that I should represent the Museum in the matter of the Piedras Negras specimens. I hope I can have some luck. Just now the situation looks pretty good but one can never tell what will happen in those countries but anyhow I shall do my best and I shall, of course, see you before I go down, probably in the late autumn. I have finished the first draft of George's obituary and have sent copies to Sue and Duncan Strong. As soon as I hear from them I can put it into final form and I shall send it along. I should think you might get it within ten days or so.

I am glad to have the data as to George's activities in Philadelphia.

No, you hadn't previously asked for material on the Carnegie's last years' work. Not a great deal was done but I am dictating a memorandum about it and will send a copy to Gordon.

As ever,

*Ted*

A. V. Kidder

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON  
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH  
10 FRISBIE PLACE  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

August 29, 1945

Dear Ted:

I apparently haven't written you for a long time, as yours of July 2d is in my unanswered file.

Da Terra was in yesterday and may be in again today. He saw Mrs. Godfrey but, I think, not President Madeira. The official approval of the co-sponsorship of the project and of his research associateship here will probably have to await the first meeting of our Board on September 20. I believe Mrs. Godfrey has written you a letter, and probably gives you the official report. Of course we are all enthusiastic about the project, and about his connection here. He also hopes to get a place in the University Department of Earth Sciences, which would also please us greatly, but which will have to be taken up later through other channels.

Of course we look forward to seeing you here before you go to Guatemala, so we can talk over your acting as our agent there in connection with the loan of the Piedras Negras material. We appreciate so much your offer to do so.

I have decided to send your obituary of George for the October number of the ANTHROPOLOGIST, for the greater part of which we are now reading galley proof. I am adding to it a one-page closely typed summary prepared here, giving all his memberships in societies, etc. I think I sent you a copy of it. Also I'm using the bibliography prepared by Gordon Ekholm, which is a little more complete than the one prepared here, a copy of which I sent you. Sue Vaillant was here and didn't like the photograph that we had and provided one she likes much better; I shall use the latter at her request. I also sent Dune Strong a copy of it, as she wanted it printed in ANTIQUITY also, but Doug Ryers writes me he has the earlier photo already in press. This suits me just as well, as I think it better to have different photos in the two obituaries, and I like the first photo just as well -- maybe better. I think I sent you the personal photo which you requested; if not, let me know.

Thanks for the data on the recent work of the Carnegie. I wrote up the report and sent it to the Britannica a month ago. It ran 4000 words instead of the 2400 for which they asked -- but they took it.

Best regards and good luck; hope you are enjoying a vacation.

Yours as ever

J. Alden Mason

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON  
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH  
10 FRISBIE PLACE  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

*Linton*

Zone 38

October 22, 1945

Dr. J. Alden Mason  
University Museum  
33rd & Spruce Sts.  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Alden:

I don't know when I have enjoyed two days more than I did those passed in such agreeable company in Philadelphia last week. It is always most stimulating to be with you and Linton.

I think we decided that it would be a good idea for me to have photographs of all the stone monuments from Piedras Negras which are now in Philadelphia in order that I can talk more intelligently to the people in Guatemala. In view of the fact that they are making a great splurge with the new museum I am not too optimistic about getting permission for any of them to be left in Philadelphia--but there is no harm in trying. As I told both you and Percy, if before I go down the first of the year it seems best to delegate this business to someone else you must, of course, do so.

As ever,

*Teed*

A. V. Kidder

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON  
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH  
10 FRISBIE PLACE  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Zone 38

October 22, 1945

December 18, 1945

Dr. A. V. Kidder  
Carnegie Institution of Washington  
Division of Historical Research  
10 Frisbie Place  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dr. J. Alden Mason  
University Museum  
325 S. 34th St.  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Alden:

Dear Ted:

I have just been too busy to reply to your letter of October 22nd and for the same reason must make this reply a short one; if I am ever going to get any work done, I must learn to write short letters. I left the question of the Piedras Negras photographs up to Linton and he has informed me that you were presumably sent yesterday photographs of all the major monuments that we have here.

We missed you at the Viking Fund dinner last night though I was surprised at the relatively small attendance there. It is getting toward the end of the year and I presume you will be starting for Guatemala soon. We put our trust entirely in your hands and, like you, hope for the best without too rosy expectations. If you get down this way before you leave, it will be good to see you; if not, our very best regards to you and let us know from time to time how things are getting along.

Cordially yours,

J. Alden Mason  
Curator, American Section

JAM:GS

A. V. Kidder

*not original  
seen from 1/2/48*

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON  
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH  
10 FRISBIE PLACE  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Zone 38

December 21, 1945

Dr. J. Alden Mason  
University Museum  
University of Pennsylvania  
33rd & Spruce Sts.  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Alden:

Thanks for your letter of December 18th. The photographs came some time ago and I am taking them with me to Guatemala. From a recent letter from Bob Smith in which he speaks of arrangements for installing the monuments in the new museum I am not too optimistic about getting permission to allow <sup>any</sup> the sculptural materials to remain in Philadelphia. But there is no harm trying and I have much better hopes as regards the minor antiquities.

Hastily,

*Ted*

A. V. Kidder



## PALACIO NACIONAL

MINISTERIO DE  
EDUCACION PUBLICA

REPUBLICA DE GUATEMALA, C. A.

GUATEMALA.

12 de Diciembre de 1945.

NUM.: 10665
REF.: R723-C.900. Of.M.

AL CONTESTAR, SIRVASE MENCIONAR EL NUMERO  
Y REFERENCIA DE ESTA NOTA

Señor J. Alden Mason  
Museo de la Universidad de Pensylvania.  
Filadelfia. EE. U. U.

CORREO AEREO  
AIR MAIL

Muy señor mío:

El 15 de Mayo de 1930, el Gobierno de la República de Guatemala por medio del Secretario de Estado en el Despacho de Educación Pública, por una parte; y usted, en representación del Museo de la Universidad de Pensylvania, llevaron a cabo un convenio por el cual se autorizó al Museo de esa Universidad para hacer excavaciones en Piedras Negras, departamento del Petén en esta República y para exhibir por el término de diez años en los Estados Unidos la mitad del número de estelas y objetos de valor histórico que encontrase en su investigación.

Como consecuencia de esto, el Museo adquirió cuatro grandes estelas, cuatro monumentos de piedra y otros objetos valiosos que han sido motivo de admiración en Estados Unidos por su valor arqueológico excepcional; esto último, en tal medida, que al vencimiento de los diez años, en 1941, el Museo solicitó prórroga, que fué concedida por el Gobierno, para retener los objetos dados en préstamo, por un nuevo plazo de tres años.

Siendo que este lapso venció el 15 de Mayo de 1943; como, indudablemente, después de trece años de exhibición ésta ha perdido su carácter de novedad en los Estados Unidos; y, en el deseo el Gobierno de la República de recuperar sus haberes arqueológicos, atentamente le ruego disponer que las estelas, monumentos y objetos a que se refirió el convenio de mérito, sean devueltos a Guatemala, consignados al Ministerio de Educación Pública.

Al expresar a usted mis agradecimientos por la atención que le merezca la presente y nuestro reconocimiento por la contribución que a la propaganda turística de Guatemala, prestó el tiempo que duró la exhibición, me es grato subscribirme como su atento seguro servidor,

M. M. Avila A.,  
Subsecretario, encargado  
del Despacho.

emg.

December , 1945

Señor M. M. Avila A.,  
Subsecretario, encargado del Despacho  
Ministerio de Educación Pública  
Palacio Nacional  
Guatemala, C. A.

Dear Sir:

I take pleasure in acknowledging receipt of your letter of 12 Diciembre, Num. 10665, Ref. R723-C.900 Of.M.

Both the Board of Managers of this Museum and I personally are most appreciative of the courtesy of your Government in according us an extension of the period of loan of the archeological objects from Piedras Negras, which period has, as you write, now expired. ~~However, such an extension was unavoidable, since~~ On account of the war, it ~~has~~ <sup>is</sup> both unsafe and impossible to return these objects to Guatemala until recently. While we have not <sup>yet</sup> made specific inquiry, it is our understanding that, on account of scarcity of shipping, it is still impossible to send freight shipments to Guatemala without priority permits from the United States Government. ~~We will investigate this point at once~~

As there are certain questions and details with regard to the shipment that should be taken up with your office, and as it is impossible for me or any other official of this Museum to journey to Guatemala at present, we have asked Dr. Alfred W. Kidder to confer with you on these points. Dr. Kidder is leaving very soon for Guatemala and will act as our representative there. He is doubtless as well known to you as to us and persona grata to both of us. I trust it will be convenient to you, therefore, if we delay any action until hearing from Dr. Kidder after his conference with you.

With assurances of my sincere regards, I am

We will  
most apt  
for the work.

see alternative

(ALTERNATIVE TO REPLACE LAST PARAGRAPH, AS SUGGESTED BY LINTON S.)

All of the four large stelae are restored, and ~~in~~ <sup>consist of</sup> two or more parts. ~~We would like to ship~~ As you doubtless realize from the estimates of weights recently sent you, some of these, especially Stela 40, are very heavy, and will be much heavier after being boxed or crated for shipment. Have you the facilities to handle these at Puerto Barrios and Guatemala City, or would you prefer that we ship the parts separately, at our discretion, to be later put together at your Museum?

As Dr. A. V. Kidder, who is doubtless as persona grata to you as to us, is leaving ~~for~~ Guatemala on January 7, we have appointed him our representative to confer with you regarding details of the return of the Piedras Negras material. He will call upon you shortly after arrival in Guatemala City, and we hope that it will be satisfactory to you if we ~~take no~~ <sup>defer</sup> ~~delay~~ shipment until after such conference.

With assurances of my sincere regard, I beg to remain

Sincerely yours,

J. Alden Mason  
Curator, American Section.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity we have had to display these monuments, due to the cordiality of your Government. They have always drawn a great deal of public interest, and, as you realize, have consequently had a very stimulating effect in attracting tourists to Guatemala -

Approved by A.V. Kidder  
P.C. M.