

*Ann Lee Park  
for St. 14*

Sl. 8

✓ St. 5-665

NOTES ON MIDDLE AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY

St. 23 74

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON

DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH

9.18.10.0.0  
✓ 9.13.0.0.0 Altar 1 - p 70  
✓ 9.17.15.0.0? L. 3 - 677  
9.15.0.0.0? ✓ MSS 16 p 79  
9.14.5.0.0? L. 7 p 80  
9.10.10.0.0? MSS 1 p 81

No. 39

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THE DATING OF SEVEN MONUMENTS AT PIEDRAS NEGRAS

J. Eric S. Thompson

Morley ("Inscriptions of Peten") has reaped a rich harvest of skillful decipherments from the large body of hieroglyphic texts at Piedras Negras. However, fields are seldom reaped so clean that nothing is left for the gleaner, and that is the case with the Piedras Negras texts. New datings are given below for seven monuments. In the order of their decipherment these are: Stela 8, Altar 1, Stela 23, Lintel 3, Miscellaneous Sculptured Stone 16, Lintel 7, and Miscellaneous Sculptured Stone 1. In the discussion that follows readings not offered as amendments are those of Morley except for decipherments credited to Beyer, Proskouriakoff, and Satterthwaite. In tabular presentations new readings are marked with asterisks.

The text of Stela 8 opens on the left side with the Initial Series 9.11.12.7.2 2 Ik 10 Pax. A distance number of 1.2.3.9 carries the count forward to 9.12.14.10.11 9 Chuen 9 Kankin (B18-A19). Morley reads the next date (A22-B22) as (9.11.1.15.16) 12 Cib 14 Chan, a backward move of some 33 years. However, at B20 there is a glyph which resembles somewhat forms of kin used in distance numbers. This has a coefficient of 3. If we assume that this glyph represents a distance number of three days, the eroded Calendar Round date at A22-B22 can be restored as (9.12.14.10.14) 12 Ix 12 Kankin.

St 8 - p 65  
St 23 p 70  
Alt 1 p 70

St 23 p 74

L. 3 p 77

MSS 16 p 79

L. 7 p 80 (had see Berlin, 1952)

MSS 1 p 81

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The last glyph (B24) on the left side is described by Morley as very unusual. Nevertheless, it is the well-known kin variant consisting of one or two inverted Ahaus over a serpent segment (Beyer, "Eine weitere Mayahieroglyphe für 'tag'"). As the coefficient here is plainly 3, the glyph indicates a distance number of three days. The text then passes, not as Morley supposed to the right side of the stela, but to the front, where at E1-F1 2 Caban 15 Kankin, three days after the last date, is plainly recorded. The text for these three dates accordingly reads:

E18-A19	9.12.14.10.11	9 Chuen 9 Kankin
B20	<u>3</u>	
A22-B22	9.12.14.10.14	12 Ix 12 Kankin
B24	<u>3</u>	
E1-F1	9.12.14.10.17	2 Caban 15 Kankin

As added confirmation, it may be noted that the middle date is found also on Stela 7 at this site.

For the various dates in relief on the front of Stela 8 Morley's readings can be accepted except for the text from L3 to M2 inclusive. The glyph at L3 he reads as 2 uinals and an uncertain number of days. To judge by his drawing, the two dots above the sign may not be numerical but may be the inverted Ahau faces of the kin variant (repeated elsewhere on this stela), which consists of the "serpent segment" with one or two inverted Ahau faces above. On that assumption, the whole would record somewhere between 1 and 10 kins. An addition of 3 kins will bring the count to 9.12.14.13.4 10 Kan 2 Kayab which is precisely 1 katun earlier than the first date recorded on the right side of the stela, and 5 tuns earlier than a date recorded on Altar 1. As is well known, the astronomer-priests of Piedras Negras delighted in recording such anniversaries of dates that were not tun-endings. Unfortunately the Calendar Round date and the subsequent Secondary Series are entirely eroded, but the above appears the most probable interpretation. At C1, the first glyph on the right side of the monument, there is a glyph which Morley reads as 2 uinals 8 kins. To get this reading he was forced reluctantly to assume that the coefficient of 8 to the left was reversed, the bar coming in front of the three dots. Such an arrangement is against all Maya tradition and practice.

Fortunately, it is not necessary to impute such an unprecedented arrangement to the Maya. There is little reason to doubt that the glyph is again the kin variant consisting of one or two inverted Ahaus over the "serpent segment." Morley's coefficient of two dots above becomes the two inverted Ahaus of that glyph, and his bar to the left can be read as a somewhat eroded count bracket, such as sometimes accompanies this glyph (cf. Glyph F3, Stela 1, Piedras Negras).

This distance number of 3 kins serves to connect 5 Imix 19 Zac, the last date in relief on the front of the stela, with 8 Kan 2 Ceh, the first date on the right side of the monument, as deciphered by Morley. The only difference is that this last date must be moved forward one Calendar Round from the position given it by Morley, viz.:

Front ....	U1-V1	9.13.14.13.1	5 Imix 19 Zac
Right side	C1	<u>3</u>	
	D1-C2	9.13.14.13.4	8 Kan 2 Ceh

Naturally, the rest of the dates on the right side of this stela must also be moved forward from the positions Morley assigned them. The last date then becomes 9.14.12.7.2 9 Ik 10 Pop.

This last date is followed in C20 by "End of count of 3 Katuns." As this date is precisely 3 katuns later than 9.11.12.7.2 2 Ik 10 Pax, the Initial Series of this text, the various interpretations here offered are certainly correct. Katun and tun anniversaries of non-tun-ending dates are frequent at Piedras Negras. The date 9.13.14.13.1 is another example on this same stela, and the Initial Series of Lintel 3 reads "9.15.18.3.13 5 Ben 16 Chen, count of 1 katun," referring to the anniversary of 9.14.18.3.13 recorded on Stela 11 and Altar 2. As a matter of fact the date 9.13.14.13.4 8 Kan 2 Ceh is also an anniversary, for it is 15 tuns after the date 9.12.19.13.4 3 Kan 17 Muan, which, as we shall see, was declared on Altar 1. There does not, however, appear to be any glyphs indicating the passage of these 15 tuns on the rather weathered surface of the right side of Stela 8. I have in preparation a paper dealing with these numerous anniversaries.

I am indebted to Miss Tatiana Proskouriakoff for the readings on the right side of this stela (except the first distance number). She called my attention to the record of 3 katuns after 9 Ik 10 Pop, pointing out that meaning was given the record by moving the dates forward one Calendar Round from the positions favored by Morley.

The whole text of this stela accordingly reads:

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J.S

Left ....	A1-B8	9.11.12. 7. 2	2 Ik 10 Pax	
	A17-A18	<u>1. 2. 3. 9</u>	Posterior date indicator	
	B18-A19	9.12.14.10.11	9 Chuen 9 Kankin	23 shell Plague.
	B20 *	<u>3</u>		
	A22-B22	*9.12.14.10.14	12 Ix 12 Kankin	26
	B24 *	<u>3</u>		
Front ...	E1-F1	9.12.14.10.17	2 Caban 15 Kankin	510 shell Plague
	G1	<u>(4)</u>		
	H1-G2	9.12.14.11. 1	6 Imix 19 Kankin	0
	I1	<u>2. 0</u>		
	I2-J2	9.12.14.13. 1	7 Imix 19 Pax	
	L3 *	<u>3</u>	(?)	
	M1-N1	*9.12.14.13. 4	10 Kan 2 Kayab (?)	
	M2 *	<u>4.16</u>	(?)	
	N2-N3	9.12.15. 0. 0	2 Ahau 13 Zip, End of tun count	
	O3-P3	<u>5. 0. 0</u>	Posterior date indicator	
	O4-P5	9.13. 0. 0. 0	8 Ahau 8 Uo. End count 13 katuns	
	S1-T2	<u>14.13. 1</u>	S.S. and posterior date indicators	
	U1-V2	9.13.14.13. 1	5 Imix 19 Zac. End count 1 katun	
Right ...	C1 *	<u>3</u>		
	D1-C2	*9.13.14.13. 4	8 Kan 2 Ceh	
	D7-C8	<u>7.16. 5</u>	Posterior date indicator (?)	
	D8-C9	*9.14. 2.11. 9	6 Muluc 7 Mol	
	C13-D13	<u>9. 1. 3</u>	Posterior date indicator (?)	
	C14-D14	*9.14.11.12.12	6 Eb 5 Yaxkin	
	C18-D18	<u>12.10</u>	Posterior date indicator	
	C19-C20	*9.14.12. 7. 2	9 Ik 10 Pop. End count 3 katuns	Handwritten
	D23*	(9.14.15. 0. 0)	11 Ahau (?)	
Incised ..	Y1-Y2	*(9.10. 6. 7. 4)	4 Kan 17 Zotz	
glyphs	Y5-Y8	<u>4. 8. 2.14</u>	Posterior date indicator	
on front	Y9-Y10	*(9.14.14. 9.19)	5 Eznab 16 Zip	

The question next arises as to the dedicatory date of this stela. Morley, having placed the dates on the right side of the stela one Calendar Round too early, considers 9.13.0.0.0 8 Ahau 8 Uo to be the dedicatory date of the stela. Such an ascription was open to question even with his readings, for a Secondary Series carries the count over 14 tuns beyond that date. With the new arrangement there are two dates in the second half of Katun 14, the second of which is only 162 days before 9.14.15.0.0 11 Ahau 18 Zac, and may represent a determinant thereof (18 Zac + 203 = 16 Zip; Gregorian is 200-3/4). That date is probably the dedicatory date of the stela. In fact, 11 Ahau may be inscribed at D23, the last glyph block on this side of the stela. A weathered glyph with what appears to be a day sign cartouche and trinal support is clearly visible. The coefficient is seemingly 11 or 16. As a day sign coefficient of 16 is an impossibility, the whole may read 11 Ahau, an abbreviated reference to 9.14.15.0.0 11 Ahau 18 Zac. The right half of the glyph is even more weathered. Conceivably it might be the "5 tuns lacking" glyph. part

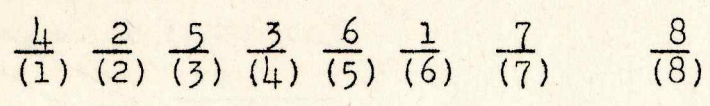
Morley speaks of Stelae 1-8 as forming a single line, but in the more recent map published by Satterthwaite ("Piedras Negras Architecture"), which includes results obtained after Parris' preliminary map was supplied Morley, Stelae 1-7 stand on a single platform, Stela 8 being detached. In his text (p. 30) Satterthwaite notes that Stelae 2-7 were set on this platform, but Stela 8 definitely was not. He remarks that there is a possibility that Stela 1 also may have been off the platform. The sequence of erection of the stelae was as follows:

Stela 6	9.12.15.0.0
2	9.13. 5.0.0
4	9.13.10.0.0
1	9.13.15.0.0
3	9.14. 0.0.0
5	9.14. 5.0.0
7	9.14.10.0.0
8	9.14.15.0.0

Assuming that Stelae 1-7 are on the same platform, and that the katun 9.13.0.0.0 8 Ahau 8 Uo was commemorated, like

St 8-cond  
St. 23  
(See  
later)  
Altar 1

several other katun-endings at Piedras Negras, on a large altar, the sequence of stela erection would have been:



The numbers above refer to sequence of erection; those below to the designations of the stela. Stela 6 was erected first, then Stela 2 well to the left. Next Stela 4 midway between the two. Then starting on the left, Stelae 1, 3, 5, and 7 were erected in that sequence to fill the gaps at the sides of the stelae already in position. With the erection of Stela 7 the platform was filled. Accordingly, Stela 8, the last of the series, was placed by itself a little farther to the side. In view of the discovery of the detachment of Stela 8, this is a more logical arrangement than to suppose that Stela 8 was erected by itself off the platform when only one stela had been placed asymmetrically on the platform.

Morley believes that Stela 23 recorded the date 9.14.15.0.0, to which Stela 8 is now assigned. The reading of the Initial Series of Stela 23 is extremely doubtful, and, because of evidence yet to be presented, it is far from likely that that was the dedicatory date.

St 23

It is reasonably certain that Altar 1 commemorates the katun 9.13.0.0.0 8 Ahau 8 Uo, although that date is no longer visible. There are, however, excellent reasons for believing it was once inscribed on Support 2, the surface of which is now entirely eroded.

In contrast to his brilliant decipherments of most inscriptions at Piedras Negras, Morley commits several errors in deciphering the text of Altar 1. At times even Jove nods. Beyer ("The Maya Hieroglyph 'ending day'") has rectified Morley's date at S1-T2 to 8.13.0.0.0 9 Ahau 3 Zac, and this correction is here utilized.

Altar 1

It is simplest to start the discussion with the two dates recorded on Support 1, although these do not actually open the inscription. The first of these Morley reads 3 Muluc 17 Muan, and places thousands of years in the past. An inspection of

the photograph makes it quite clear that the day sign is Kan. The looped line, the circle above, and the parallel lines below are all quite clear. A position for this date is 9.12.19.13.4 3 Kan 17 Muan, which is just 5 tuns after the restored date on the front of Stela 8, and 15 tuns before another date on that stela. At J'2 there is a winged Cauac glyph with a head coefficient to the left. The head appears to be that of the number 5 (note the tunlike headdress). There seems, therefore, little doubt that this records the end of 5 tuns from the date 9.12.14.13.4 10 Kan 2 Kayab. Next there is a day with a coefficient of 9. Morley reads this as Ahau, but the dot in the center indicates Muluc. The next glyph should be the month sign, but appears to be something different. Unfortunately the next glyph block is eroded.

At K'4-J'5 there is a Secondary Series consisting of 11-13 kins, 1-3 uinals, and a posterior date indicator. This last Morley reads as a tun sign, but the flamelike element of the indicator can be distinguished beneath. The central dot of the uinal coefficient is a shade larger than the flanking dots, making 2 the better reading. If the kin coefficient is read as 1, the date connects with 9.13.0.0.0, viz.:

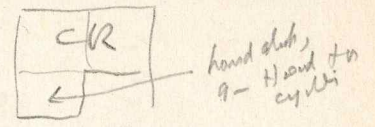
Support 1 ..	J'1-J'2	9.12.19.13. 4	3 Kan 17 Muan.	5 tuns
	K'2-J'3	(9.12.19.15. 9)	9 Muluc (2 Cumhu)	
	K'4-J'5	<u>2.11</u>		
Support 2 ..		(9.13. 0. 0. 0	8 Ahau 8 Uo)	

Anniversaries of the first two dates occur elsewhere at Piedras Negras (Stela 8 and Lintel 7), making it virtually certain that the decipherments are correct. Complete confirmation, however, is supplied by the Secondary Series of 19.13.4 recorded at A2. If this is counted forward from 9.12.0.0.0 10 Ahau 8 Yaxkin, the position 9.12.19.13.4 3 Kan 17 Muan will be reached. Moreover, this latter date lies immediately beneath the position held by that distance number on the perimeter. It is, accordingly, clear that the whole of the text on the perimeter should be read until B2 is reached. Then the inscription passes to Supports 1, 2, and 3 in that order.

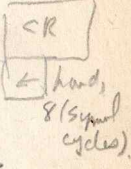
Support 3, as Morley recognized, carries the date 10.0.0.0.0 7 Ahau 18 Zip. However, immediately before this, at N'5a there

is a katun sign with a coefficient of 7. This, of course, links 9.13.0.0.0, which we have already assumed to have been on the weathered Support 2, with 10.0.0.0.0.

The whole text then reads:



- Perimeter **A** E1-E2 ① 9. 0. 0. 0. 0 8 Ahau 18 Pax. End 9 cycles.
  - J2 4.(0. 0. 0. 0) Add 4 (Katun head)
- B** K1-K2 ② 13. 0. 0. 0. 0 4 Ahau 8 Cumhu. End 13 cycles.
  - Q2-R1 8.13.(0. 0. 0) Add 8 (head, 13 (sum added))
- C** S1-T2 ③ 8.13. 0. 0. 0 9 Ahau 3 Zac. End(?) 13 katuns.
  - A'2 \* 11.(0. 0. 0) Add
- D** C'2-D'2 ④ 9. 4. 0. 0, 0 13 Ahau 18 Yax. End count 4 katuns.
  - F'1a \* 6.(0. 0. 0) Add 6 head (mod 55 katun)
- E** H'1-L'1 ⑤ 9.10. 0. 0. 0 1 Ahau 8 Kayab. Count (?) 10 katuns. End tun count.
  - Ala \* 2.(0. 0. 0) (?) Add [half cycle.
- F** Alb ⑥ \*9.12. 0. 0. 0 12 Ahau 8 Yaxkin (?)
  - A2 \* 19.13. 4 Add
- Support 1 **G** J'1-J'2 ⑦ \*9.12.19.13. 4 3 Kan 17 Muan. 5 tuns.
  - H** K'2-J'3 ⑧ \*9.12.19.15. 9 9 Muluc (2 Cumhu)
  - K'4-J'5 \* 2.11 Add
- Support 2 **I** ? ⑨ \*(9.13. 0. 0. 0 8 Ahau 8 Uo)
- Support 3 **J** N'5a \* 7.(0. 0. 0) Add
- O'5-N'6 ⑩ 10. 0. 0. 0. 0 7 Ahau 18 Zip. Count 10 cycles.



8 katun ends

5 tuns. ??

Count 10 cycles. no 2nd

There is a small possibility that 9.12.0.0.0 was not recorded on this altar, but, instead, that the distance number was 2.19.13.4. This is not very probable since Ala probably records 2 katuns, and Alb appears to carry a Calendar Round date, presumably 12 Ahau 8 Yaxkin, although the text is too weathered at this point to be certain of this.

One small matter deserves attention. The glyph blocks on the perimeter are read in fours, for example K1,L1,K2,L2, then M1,N1,M2,N2, etc. However, there is a single vertical pair of glyphs I'1, I'2, which have to be read as a single group. This is clear from the fact that H'1,G'2 record 1 Ahau 8 Kayab, count 10 katuns; H'2 records end of a tun, and I'2 a clear half-cycle. Yet the next four glyphs obviously have to be read in the usual sequence.

they follow the dates

There is a logical explanation for this. After H'2 there remained spaces for only six glyph blocks. Perhaps the last four glyph blocks at A-B had been carved, and it was necessary to fill the two uncarved glyph blocks at I'. One suspects this may have happened from the fact that 1 Ahau 8 Kayab is recorded as "Count (?) 10 katuns, end count of tun, (two eroded and unidentified glyphs), half-cycle glyph." More important dates in this text had been treated with less attention. Moreover, the hand ending sign practically never precedes the tun sign, as here. The information could well have been carved in three glyphs, but five were taken, as though expanded to fill the two extra glyph blocks, for which no provision had been made. Even the Maya may have had to justify margins.

In view of what has been written above, 9.13.0.0.0 or 10.0.0.0.0 must have been the dedicatory date of this altar. I think there can be little doubt that the former was the katun this altar commemorated for the following reasons:

On several monuments calculations lead forward from the dedicatory date to 10.0.0.0.0. Examples are Stelae J and 8, and Altar S, Copan; Temple of the Inscriptions, Palenque; Zoomorph G, Quirigua.

In the texts of Stela J, Copan, and the Temple of Inscriptions, Palenque, these recordings of Cycle 10 are combined with reckonings into the distant past, as on Altar 1, Piedras Negras.

The dates 9.4.0.0.0, 9.10.0.0.0, 9.12.0.0.0, 9.13.0.0.0, and 10.0.0.0.0, all of which occur on Altar 1, are also found on the Temple of the Inscriptions at Palenque, the dedicatory date of which was almost certainly 9.13.0.0.0.

Thirteen katuns was a sacred number. It brought memories of 13 cycles, and thereby gave an impetus to reckonings into the past and future. The commemoration of a Katun 13 gave occasion for seeking various linkages involving the number 13: 9.0.0.0.0 ends on 8 Ahau; Katun 13 falls in the next Cycle 9 and also ends on 8 Ahau. It is 13 cycles and 13 katuns later. The date 8.13.0.0.0 ends 13 katuns just one cycle earlier than 9.13.0.0.0. The katun 9.4.0.0.0 ends on 13 Ahau, and, of course, 4 Ahau 8 Cumhu ends 13 cycles.

Altar 1

and Stela B (1952)

I must express my disagreement with the thesis advanced by Morley that the Maya at Cycle 10 were more apt to make long calculations into the past. Toward the end of the cycle most matters in dispute appear to have been settled, and texts generally become shorter. It was around 9.13.0.0.0 that the liveliest discussions and the fullest research were in progress. Arguments about the length of the solar and lunar years sent the Maya priests calculating far into the past. The following texts, all dating from near 9.13.0.0.0, prove this: Tablets of the Cross, Foliated Cross, Sun, and Inscriptions at Palenque; and Altar I' and Stelae I and J, Copan. This matter has received some comment from Teeple. I consider the presence of these early dates an excellent reason for dating the altar as 9.13.0.0.0.

Lastly, one must consider the position of Altar 1. It is situated in front of Stelae 1-8, which, as we have seen, date from 9.12.15.0.0 to 9.14.15.0.0 with the exception of that one katurun-ending. Furthermore, if Stela 8 was dedicated at 9.14.15.0.0 and Altar 1 at 9.13.0.0.0, every 5-tun-ending from 9.12.5.0.0 to 9.16.0.0.0 inclusive was commemorated by a monument in the plaza of the west group. Similarly dates earlier than 9.12.5.0.0 were commemorated by stelae in the south group, and those subsequent to 9.16.0.0.0 by monuments in the east group.

In rebuttal of one of Morley's arguments for assigning Altar 1 to 10.0.0.0.0, the absence of an Initial Series, it would be well to bear in mind that the glyphs on the surface are entirely eroded. They might have carried an Initial Series. Also, should 10.0.0.0.0 be commemorated by Altar 1 with its lengthy inscription, denoting full cultural activity, where are the stelae to commemorate 9.19.5.0.0, 9.19.10.0.0, and 9.19.15.0.0?

Everything considered, there can be little doubt that Stela 8 commemorates 9.14.15.0.0; Altar 1, 9.13.0.0.0. There remains only the placement of Stela 23.

Teeple and Morley consider that the Initial Series on the left side of Stela 23 records 9.14.15.0.0 11 Ahau 18 Zac, basing this reading partly on the Initial Series introductory glyph, partly on the Initial Series itself, and partly on the moon age.

That the variable element of the Initial Series introductory

glyph is that of the patron of Zac there can be little doubt, but Morley's assumption that the coefficients of the uinal and kin are zero and the further assumption that this Initial Series represents the dedicatory date of the stela are very different matters. There are two Initial Series on this stela, and, accordingly, the chance of that on the left side being the dedicatory date is less than even, for the other Initial Series or a weathered Period Ending might equally well represent the dedicatory date. Of the 36 fairly certain Initial Series at Piedras Negras, 14 do not mark the ends of 5-tun periods or their multiples. Thus the chances of an Initial Series recording a Period Ending are about three to two. More important than this, however, is the fact that the texts of monuments at Piedras Negras almost invariably start on the left side. Since the first of two Initial Series which opens a text is likely to be earlier in date, the chances of the Initial Series on the left side of a monument marking its dedicatory date are not very great.

On the right side (C16-D16) there is a date which Morley deciphers as 7 ? 17 ?, but the circle of Kan is fairly at the top of the day sign. This is followed at C24-D24 by a Secondary Series which Morley deciphers as 9 tuns, 6-13 uinals, 16 kins. The two glyphs immediately beneath them are entirely eroded. To judge by other examples, the final date of the monument may well have been recorded on these weathered blocks.

Leaving the question of this part of the text in abeyance for the moment, let us turn to the back of the monument. Much of the inscription has gone, but a number of glyphs are in fairly good shape in the last two columns. The text closes in the middle of a sentence, for there is a distance number of 11 uinals, 11-13 kins, and lastly the "forward-sky-earth-sun" glyph. This ultimate glyph invariably lies between distance numbers and the dates they reach. As there is no date here, it must have been recorded on the front of the stela or as one of the Initial Series. If the former, it is likely to be a date given elsewhere on the monument.

A possible reconstruction of the part of the text already discussed, together with the dates immediately anterior thereto, would be:

		*(9.17.19. 2.17	7 Caban 0 Kayab)
Back ...	16	<u>13. 3</u>	
	17-J7	*9.17.19.16. 0	10 Ahau 18 Zac
	K2?	* <u>(13)</u>	
	K3-L3	*9.17.19.16.13	10 Ben 11 Ceh
	K7	* <u>11.11</u>	
Right ...	C16	*9.18. 0.10. 4	7 Kan 17 Tzec
	C24-D24	* <u>9. 7.16</u>	
	C25-D25?	*(9.18.10. 0. 0	10 Ahau 8 Zac)

This reconstruction, although far from proved, obtains some confirmation from the pattern of day coefficients. There are three dates with the number 10 and two with the number 7. The former includes the supposed dedicatory date. There are also two occurrences of Ahau and three occurrences of the month Zac, for the Initial Series on the left side fell in that month. As is well known the priest-astrologers of Piedras Negras were much given to such dicing with numbers, days, and months.

The coefficients of the second and third dates and the Kan sign are certain. The first distance number is sure. The uinal coefficient of the second is certain, and the day coefficient is 11, 12, or 13. The two top dots are partly eroded, the bottom one solid. A reading of 11 is possible, although 12 or 13 is somewhat better. The tun and kin coefficients of the third distance number are certain, and the uinal coefficient is 11-16 inclusive.

A dedicatory date of 9.18.10.0.0 10 Ahau 8 Zac for Stela 23 finds some confirmation in the location of that stela in the court of the east group, the deciphered dates of which range from 9.16.5.0.0 to 9.19.0.0.0. It is, of course, possible that the Initial Series on the left side carries the date 9.14.15.0.0 11 Ahau 18 Zac, but for reasons already given this is likely to be the earlier of the two Initial Series.

Attention might also be called to the unusual postfix of uinal glyphs on Stela 23. This suggests lateness and a relaxation of rigid standards of glyphic delineation. It may be a development of the postfix attached to a uinal glyph on Lintel 3, which, as we shall see, probably was dedicated at 9.17.15.0.0.

The evidence for dating Stela 23 at 9.18.10.0.0 can be summarized:

1. The Initial Series on the left side is probably earlier than that on the right because of the order in which sides of stelae at Piedras Negras are almost invariably read. The text on the back breaks off in the middle of a sentence, and therefore it is most probable that the final date is given on the right side (it may have been repeated, according to a fairly common practice, on the now weathered front of the stela).

2. The last distance number on the back probably connects with a date on the right side, and a distance number forward from that can be read to reach 9.18.10.0.0.

3. The juggling with the same numbers and month name supports the interpretations given.

4. The unusual postfix of uinal signs suggests lateness.

5. The location of the stela calls for a late date, one after 9.16.0.0.0.

For the above reasons it is not improbable that Stela 23 was dedicated at 9.18.10.0.0 10 Ahau 8 Zac.

In view of the new dates for Stela 8 and Altar 1 and the probable dedicatory date of Stela 23, it is apparent that in all likelihood no monument was erected at Piedras Negras in a group to which it did not chronologically belong. The monuments are arranged as follows:

9. 4.0.0.0? to 9.12.0.0.0 south group  
9.12.5.0.0 to 9.16.0.0.0 west group  
9.16.5.0.0 to 9.19.0.0.0 east group

The various dates deciphered by Morley on the beautiful Lintel 3 at Piedras Negras do not reach a tun-ending. The latest found by him is 9.16.6.12.0 10 Ahau 3 Pax, and he concludes that the lintel commemorated 9.16.10.0.0, that half-katun-ending being, he believes, inscribed on Lintel 3.

It is very probable that the dedicatory date of Lintel 3 was a katun later or 25 tuns later.

At U7-V7 there is a distance number which appears to have

hard, but scarcely "very clear"  
on card, however, the word is  
slight - some when this was  
ascertained  
78 L.3

escaped Morley's notice. Beyer ("The Maya Hieroglyph 'ending day'") calls attention to it without attempting its decipherment. The katun and tun signs with coefficients of 1 and 4 respectively are very clear. The coefficients of the uinal sign are badly eroded. At U8 there is the "forward-sky-earth-sun" glyph, such as frequently lies between distance numbers and dates at Piedras Negras. The details are weathered, but enough remains to make the identification plain. This is followed in V8 by the day Imix with a blurred coefficient and the month Zip, also with a blurred coefficient. It is, however, clear that both coefficients are high. The only reconstruction which will fit the data is:

scarcely but fairly sure

Sign of coeff. probably zero on card as well as photo

7200  
1440  
240  
8880

V4-U5	9.16. 6.12.0	10 Ahau 3 Pax
U7-U8	* <u>1. 4.12.1</u>	Forward-sky-earth-sun symbol
V8	*9.17.11. 6.1	12 Imix 19 Zip

3 bars same plus dots -  
show any for 4 -  
182.6 best reading

on card  
surrounding  
zero sign,  
probably  
accidental  
error

The date 9.17.11.6.1 3 Imix 19 Zip is just one tun after a date on Throne 1, 9.17.10.6.1 3 Imix 4 Zotz. Furthermore, there are close similarities in hieroglyphs between the two inscriptions. The last four glyphs of Lintel 3 (U11-V12) are almost surely repeated in that order on Throne 1 (I'3-J'4).

Lintel 3 (the designation is retained, although Satterthwaite doubts that it is actually a lintel) was connected with Structure 0-13. The terrace on which this structure stands supported Stelae 15 and 12. These record respectively 9.17.15.0.0 and 9.18.5.0.0 (9.18.0.0.0 is carried by Altar 4 in the center of the plaza). On the assumption that Stelae 15 and 12 were erected shortly after the completion of Structure 0-13, it is reasonable to suppose that Lintel 3 was dedicated to commemorate 9.17.10.0.0 or 9.17.15.0.0. The first would be rather over a tun before the last date recorded; the latter somewhat under 4 tuns later. Most generally the latest non-tun-ending date in a text is earlier than the dedicatory date. Although this is not a hard and fast rule, it is so generally observed that it tips the balance somewhat in favor of 9.17.15.0.0 5 Ahau 3 Muan as the dedicatory date of the lintel.

L.3

1 ←

M 5516

Satterthwaite ("Another Piedras Negras Stela") describes and illustrates part of a monument which bears the designation Miscellaneous Sculptured Stone 16. He thinks this may have been a small stela. The inscription opens with a Calendar Round date, which he reads as 8 Manik 0 Ceh, giving information from Morley for this interpretation. However, the element before the month Ceh is not the spectacle glyph but the tun variant which it has been shown indicates completion. To the five examples I have discussed elsewhere (Thompson, "The Correlation Problem" and "The Initial Series of Stela 14, Piedras Negras") may be added two more: this example on Miscellaneous Sculptured Stone 16, and one on the Hieroglyphic Stairway, Naranjo.

For this example at Piedras Negras there are no distance numbers to place the date in the Long Count. For the Naranjo case, the position in the Long Count is certain, but the glyphs are somewhat weathered. The reconstruction is as follows:

A1	9.10.	3.	2.12	2	Eb,	Uayeb completed
U1	<u>          </u>		<u>1.13.10</u>			
V1	9.10.	4.16.	2	8	Ik 5	Kankin

The calculations are completely clear except for the sign which I read as Uayeb completed at Alb. This is where the month sign should be. It certainly is not Pop. The main element is a fairly clear tun, but the elements which form the superfix are hard to distinguish. Possibly only the superfix of Uayeb is present, the whole indicating the completion of the 365-day year.

The date on Miscellaneous Sculptured Stone 16 must be 8 Manik, Ceh completed, which is the equivalent of 8 Manik 0 Mac. Positions which this could have occupied are:

9.12.	3.	6.7	8	Manik,	Ceh	completed	(or	0	Mac)
9.14.16.	1.7	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
9.17.	8.14.7	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"

The Cauac element is poorly preserved, but the angularity of the infix to the right eliminates any earlier reading than the first (in early inscriptions this element is rounded). As Satterthwaite believes that this sculpture was re-used in Structure 0-13, a date later than the third reading is

M 5516

9.13.0.0.0.7  
9.14.0.0.0.7  
← JAP 9.17.10 ± 2

impossible. Indeed, the third reading itself is for that reason unlikely, for Structure 0-13, as we have seen, was probably dedicated at 9.17.15.0.0. The sculpture would have been brand new at the time it was broken up (unless one is to assume that it broke while being made or was not considered satisfactory for one reason or another; the roughness of the surface might give some support to such an assumption).

None of the three possibilities is an anniversary of some other known date at Piedras Negras, and our knowledge of the accompanying glyphs does not help us to choose between them.

By the use of anniversaries it is possible to suggest a fairly certain dating for Lintel 7. The Initial Series of this monument is 9.9.8.0.?, but there can be no question of that being the contemporaneous date. Morley considers the lintel was dedicated at 9.12.10.0.0, but there is some evidence that the dedicatory date was probably 9.14.5.0.0.

L 7

Much of the inscription is entirely gone, but in the last column of glyphs readings are obtainable. Glyph Block X14 is the Secondary Series introductory glyph. This is followed in Y14-X15 by a distance number of 5 kins 11 uinals. Morley reads the latter as 11 Chuen, but in view of the introductory glyph and the absence of any corresponding month sign it is virtually certain that the glyph is the rather similar uinal sign. X16-X17, as Morley notes, unmistakably records 7 Ahau 8 Kayab.

Employing a position for 7 Ahau 8 Kayab two Calendar Rounds later than that preferred by Morley, the following decipherment is obtained:

Barbier

CO  
SQM → Y  
CO  
SQM → Y

	*9.14. 4.15. 9	13 Muluc 17 Zac
X14-X15	* <u>5.11</u>	
X16-X17	9.14. 5. 3. 0	7 Ahau 8 Kayab

floored off  
SQM b123

The first date is 1 katun and 5 tuns after the date 9.12.19.15.9 9 Muluc 2 Cumhu recorded on Altar 1, an arrangement precisely similar to 9.13.14.13.4 8 Kan 2 Ceh on Stela 8 which is 1 katun 5 tuns after the date 9.12.19.13.4 3 Kan 17 Muan, inscribed on Altar 1 immediately adjacent to the 9 Muluc 2 Cumhu date. Since this double 25-tun anniversary can

Barbier's 9.12.5.11.5 7 Choch 8 Kayab  
(2) and (3) as possible date. (Mc, 1952).

hardly be coincidental, it is virtually certain that the last dates of Lintel 7 are as given above. Conceivably X8 carries 13 Muluc, but this is far from likely.

The dedicatory date of Lintel 7, therefore, is quite probably 9.14.5.0.0. The sophisticated treatment of the subject matter is in agreement with such dating.

Miscellaneous Sculptured Stone 1 has a fragmentary Initial Series, the uinals and kins not having been recovered. Morley suggests filling these as 5 and 9 to obtain the reading 9.10.6.5.9 8 Muluc 2 Zip, although he notes that the variable element in the Initial Series introductory glyph is not that of the month Zip.

Actually that variable element is the youthful head of the patron (or patroness) of the month Kayab. As the date 9.10.6.2.1 5 Imix 19 Kayab occurs on Lintel 4, and has its katun anniversary on Lintel 2, we can be reasonably sure that that was the date commemorated on Miscellaneous Sculptured Stone 1.

For the benefit of nonspecialists in Maya hieroglyphs who may desire to utilize Piedras Negras inscriptions, there are listed below scattered papers containing amended or new readings of Piedras Negras texts which have appeared since the publication of Morley's "Inscriptions of the Peten."

Stela 12: H. Beyer, Rectification of a date on Stela 12, Piedras Negras. El Mexico Antiguo, 5:7-8. Mexico, 1940.

Stela 14: J. E. S. Thompson, The Initial Series of Stela 14, Piedras Negras, Guatemala, and a date on Stela 19, Naranjo, Guatemala. Carnegie Inst. Wash., Div. Historical Research, Notes on Middle Amer. Archaeol. and Ethnol., no. 18. Cambridge, 1943.

L. Satterthwaite, New photographs and the date of Stela 14, Piedras Negras. Carnegie Inst. Wash., Div. Historical Research, Notes on Middle Amer. Archaeol. and Ethnol., no. 28. Cambridge, 1943.

L.7 cancel

M.S.S. 1

List of  
Titles in  
PN since  
Morley

M.S.S.

St. 12

St. 14

St. 14

Stela 38: E. W. Andrews, The inscription on Stela 38, Piedras Negras, El Peten, Guatemala. Amer. Antiquity, 7:364-68. Menasha, 1942.

St. 38

Altar 1: H. Beyer, The Maya hieroglyph "ending day." Proc. 27th Inter. Congress Americanists, 1939, pt. 1, pp. 344-51. Mexico, 1943.

Altar 1

Lintel 2: H. Beyer, Elucidation of a Secondary Series on Lintel 2 of Piedras Negras. El Mexico Antiguo, 4:289-92. Mexico, 1939.

L. 2

Miscellaneous Sculptured Stone 16: L. Satterthwaite, Another Piedras Negras stela. Univ. Mus. Bull., vol. 8, nos. 2-3, pp. 24-27. Philadelphia, 1940.

Mus 16

Jade head: T. Proskouriakoff, An inscription on a jade probably carved at Piedras Negras. Carnegie Inst. Wash., Div. Historical Research, Notes on Middle Amer. Archaeol. and Ethnol. In press.

St. 16.

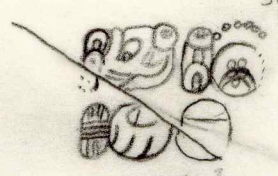
Berlin

4

A B C D E F

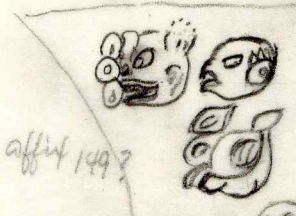
112 P51  
4 580  
P. 205  
gads

P.N 13 - incised  
110:44:580



248 Batab?  
Bacab?  
501 Kelley 220  
173

62  
P.47



affix 149?



44n  
32:818?  
Sacrifice?

L.3  
P.N.12

758 110

672?  
fire ceremony

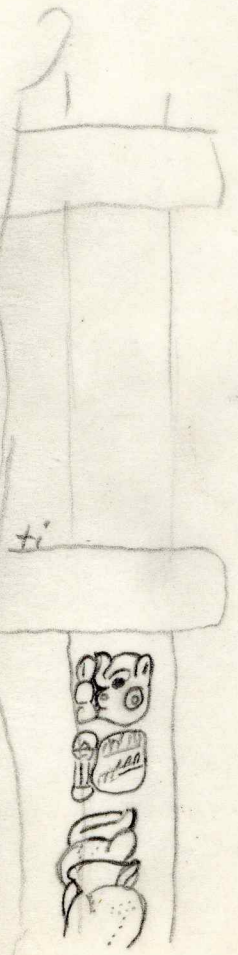
gads + Bones -  
sul Pal. Palace  
Fig 45 -  
Thompson  
P. 279

187:MS.59

581.744b

600:4:87

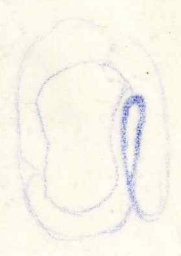
603.1:MS: 136



ti



610?  
620?



1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

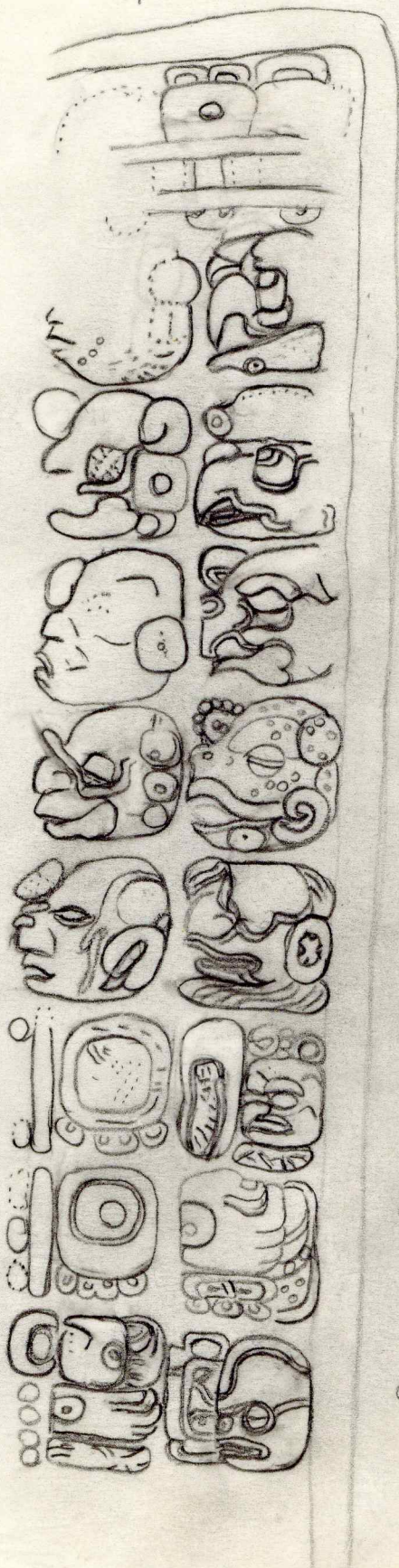
15

16

17

18

A B



9

16

6

17

1

7IMIX

GLYPH E

GLYPH C

1

2

3

4

5

6

GLYPH G 7  
F-T10300

GLYPH D 8

GLYPH X 9

GLYPH B

19  
00

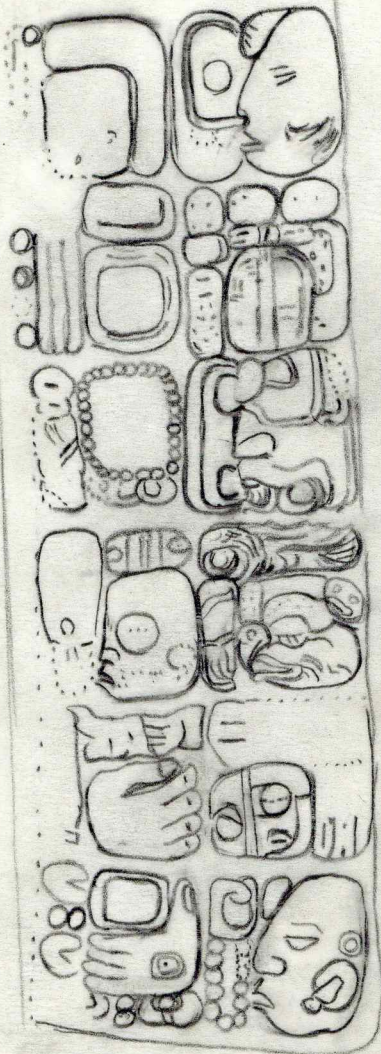
581  
632?

97, 110:

? 60: 713

child of

38: 110008?



GLYPH A 10

INAUGURAL GLYPH 11

4.10136! 12

86 86? 13  
See Kelly  
p. 223  
88.

14  
743, 187

15

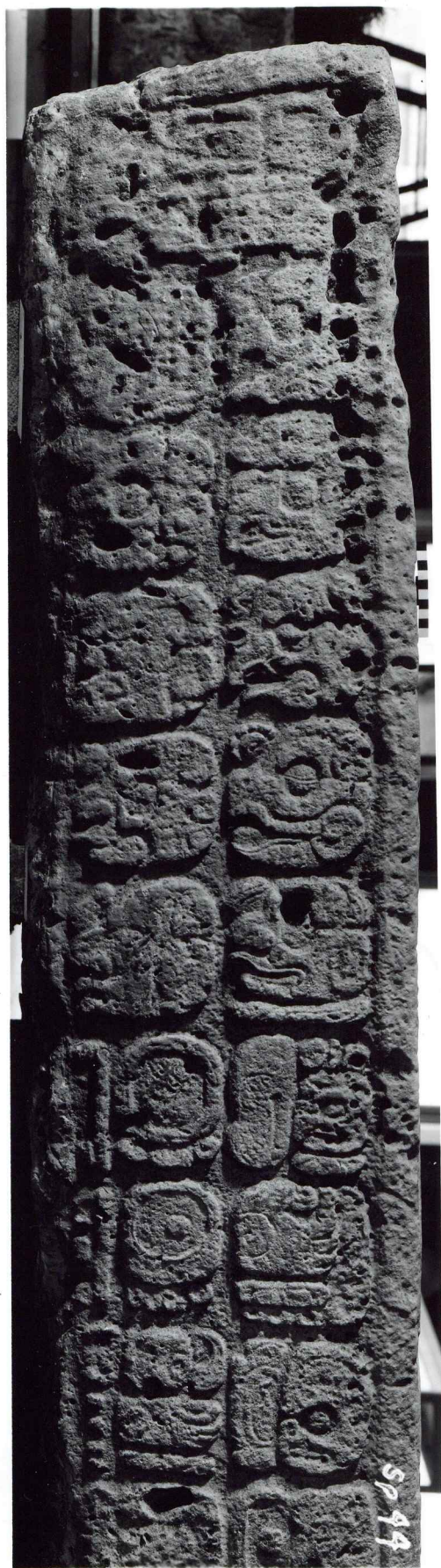
Lady Water Shell



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STELA 14



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