

1210

Corrected Copy

DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

with short notes on the excavations of 1931-1932.

The Map

The earliest map of Piedras Negras is of course Maler's,¹

Maler, 1901, Plate XXXIII

which roughly locates the monuments then known, some of the buildings, and the major topographical features of the central part of the city. In 1920 Dr. Morley published a sketch map to show

location of monuments, in which he numbered a few of the structures.²

² Morley, 1920, Fig. 83, p. 569.

Neither of these maps made any pretence to completeness, except as to monuments. The impression given by them as to assemblage is incorrect in many particulars and it would be best for students of the older literature to acquire a new mental picture of the city plan.

The 1931 Eldridge R. Johnson Expedition of the University Museum, University of Pennsylvania, had the tremendous advantage of a copy of a third map of the city, made by Mr. Oliver G. Ricketson Jr. This was supplied to us, along with a ~~great deal of~~ ^{much} very helpful information and advice, by Dr. Morley, and enabled us to find all the major features in the South, East and West Groups, with the greatest of ease. This map was the only one used during the 1931 season. That season, during which we were constantly crossing and recrossing the area covered, and clearing large areas, demonstrated the desirability of a completely new survey with a transit. This was to show the shapes, heights, orientation and assemblage of all terraces, platforms, mounds and standing structures,

small as well as large, and was to include peripheral areas not thus far recorded. This was about half-completed in 1932 by Mr. Fred P. Parris, the Expedition's Architect, and his work thus far is reproduced in Plates _____ and _____

We have disregarded Maler's nomenclature as to structures, and the ten numbers shown on the 1910 Morley sketch map, in favour of a block system explained below. Mr. Ricketson numbered the structures on his plan consecutively from I to XLIX, but that method is unsuited to a site where several years of work are contemplated and new units are almost certain to be found in areas only partially surveyed. Had that map been published we should, of course, have followed its numeration. Maler's numeration of stelae, altars and lintels, ^(except Altar 6) has been retained with subsequent discoveries by the Carnegie Institution and the University Museum, numbered in sequence, so that nearly all structures on the earlier maps can be identified on the latest by association of the monuments. A table showing the equivalent structure numbers for all three published maps is also placed on the map.

We have numbered all mounds and partially standing buildings thus far surveyed. ^{Nearly all buildings except the Acropolis palaces and Structure P-7} While many more are yet to be surveyed in the peripheral areas, we believe few, if any, have escaped us on the Acropolis, in the West and East Group Plazas, the South Group Court, the elevated area between the latter and the East Group; and the Plaza of Structure R-1. The term "Structure" is used in a broad sense, and we have not hesitated to apply separate numbers to stairways, etc., where their separate identification appears useful.

The system of numeration used is a modification of that adopted by the Carnegie Institution at Chichen Itza, where squares are identified by co-ordinate letters and numbers, as A-1, and all

Acropolis
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X

Small
"S"

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Approved as mere mounds before excavation.

structures within the square numbered in series, so that the first mound indicated in that square would be A-1-1. We felt that the presence of two distinct numbers in a designation tends to error and confusion, particularly in making notes; and since we can cover the main area with no more than 26 squares of reasonable size (200 meters) we have designated them by letters, ^{only} For example, K-5 is the fifth structure described in Square K, the letter of the square appearing within a circle at the southwest corner of the square. Where, as in this case, excavation has shown more than one period of construction, the periods will be further distinguished by numbering the structures from the top downward, or, in cases of "horizontal stratification", from outside inward. K-5 indicated ³ the latest distinguishable structure for our chosen example; K-5-2nd the one immediately under it, and K-5-3rd the next earlier, and so on. We cannot number from the bottom up, since we must publish references before all periods are known. To minimize the danger of confusion in using two numbers in a given designation, we use ordinal numbers for the periods, ^{of building.}

In making the survey Mr. Parris adopted a policy of methodically clearing and surveying the most important parts of the central groups first, without hurry and without skimping the number of points located. While we could not make small-interval contour maps of each mound, every point which seemed to have significance was accurately located horizontally and vertically with the transit from a station or stations on one of several traverses. The schematic representation of Structure R-4, for example, is based on thirteen accurately located points, and indicated ⁵ with virtual certainty the presence of a squarish pyramid with front stairway only. By refusing to be satisfied with what

easily met the eye, ~~however~~, Mr. Parris has made out a fair case that Structure R-16 is further elaborated by the use of in-set corners. Whether this prove true or not, we could not have been sure of even the general orientation of this structure, without locating more than four points at its base.

Contour lines are of course more approximately drawn, and show general slopes but not minor irregularities, of which there are many. Contour lines may be relied on, however, to indicate truthfully the relative base heights of all artificial constructions shown, to within the contour interval. On the ^{original} ~~contour~~ map, the interval is one meter, but a two-meter contour interval is the smallest that can be shown at the scale here used. Contour lines "run under" structures - that is, when a contour line strikes a mound it stops, the mound being represented schematically. The contours are used primarily to indicate slopes which we do not yet know are artificial. Particularly along the river side, large contoured areas may contain terraces or mounds, especially the river side of the Acropolis. Datum, to which all elevations may be referred, is 9.8 meters below the lowest point of the circular band of the Sacrificial Rock. It is approximate low water at that point.

Building plans are based on taped measurements from at least two points (usually corners) located with the transit, assuming for the most part that what appears to be a right-angle corner is one. One exception is the South Group Ball Court (Structure R-11) where all important points were located with the transit and checked with ^{taped} measurements. It is felt that, in future, right angles in buildings should not be assumed. However, minor corrections in ground plans which may be necessary on this score would be scarcely

perceptible with the scale here used.

Broken lines and hatched portions of ground-plans indicate probable features now destroyed, or, more usually, those still buried. We have not made these restorations except where almost certainly correct, as indicated by the known ^{part of the} plan or by the contours of the debris covering them. A case in point is Structure J-12, the solid black representing excavated features and two or three pillars projecting above the debris, the rest of the plan being very clearly indicated by ridges, humps, and associated depressions of the debris as found.

The reader should be cautioned against supposing that all or many of the mounds shown on the map as flat are mere platforms. Probably most of them show some evidence of fallen constructions on the surface. A close study of these surfaces would amply repay the labor, but we have not had time as yet to make it. The concentration of the ground-plans in the West and East Groups is due to our concentration of work there, plus the much better state ^{of} preservation of the Acropolis "palaces".

Solid lines and solid black ~~pochet on~~ actual ground-plans indicate definitely known features, though many walls have not been followed to floor-level.

Finally, Mr. Parris is responsible for the entire map with the following exceptions. The details of Structures O-12, P-7, Q-13, K-5 and the lowest stairway of J-3 are from the notes and drawings of Dr. Mason, supplemented in the case of Structures P-7 and O-13 by sketch plans and sections made by ^{Mr.} T. Egan-Wyer, our engineer during the 1931 season. Details of Structures J-2, J-3, J-20 and J-23 are largely from plans and sections by the writer, as are occasional other minor details in other parts of the Acropolis.

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O-12 /
S /
M /

of

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

In coming to the city from Tenosique the traveler will have noted that he has ascended a limestone plateau area rising to no great height above the coastal plain. He has been picking his way through the bottoms (often flat and boggy) of narrow irregular valleys entirely surrounded by limestone hills. The sides are more or less steep and it is frequently necessary to climb over rocky saddles from one valley to the next. The effect is mountainous, though the highest hills probably rise little more than 150 meters above the lowest adjacent valleys. At Piedras Negras, the perpetually swift current of the Usumacinta has cut a bed many meters below the ends of tributary valleys, which lead to its banks on both sides. At low water the river rushes between eroded masses of bed-rock and huge boulders. At high water it rises about 20 meters to the well-marked vegetation line.

Due to the incompleteness of the map this broken terrain does not there appear clearly. It would be well to bear in mind that the area northwest of the Acropolis is a valley with a bifurcated hill on its other (north-west) side, as high, or higher than, the Acropolis; that a long flat-topped hill perhaps twice as high curves around behind Structures K-5 and O-13, though it is indicated on the map by only the ^{lower} lowest contours. The South Group as shown, is bounded at the south on the map only by a sharply descending bank, artificially re-formed, but this is only the northerly side of Maler's "Transverse valley", the southerly side being formed by a steep though not especially high hill.

The high hill behind ^{structures} K-5 and O-13, and another (off the map)

which bounds the valley of the South-East Group, are narrow, perfectly flat-topped mesas presumably representing an original lime-stone plain at this level. The lower ones ^{hills} examined have been eroded to irregular forms. The sides of all abound in vertical or over-hanging cliffs, many of considerable size, and extremely large fallen blocks of stone are common on the talus slopes. Numbers of true caves must ^{exist} abound, and if searched for methodically could be found.

It should be noted that while on a map of the region access to the outside world - the coast plain to the north - appears easy by water, modern, and almost certainly ancient, river traffic is absolutely cut off by impassable rapids below the city. Upstream, however, the rapids are passable for dug-outs, at least in the dry season, and direct river connection with extensive drainage areas to the south, south-east and south-west may have been maintained in ancient times. Overland communication when the region was densely populated was probably much easier than at present. The present great obstacles are vegetation and, in the rainy season, mud, rather than the hills.

Nearly all of the area under consideration has been built upon, terraced, or leveled off. We know that filling was largely restored to for leveling and terracing, but there may have been some removal of rock as well. There is plenty of evidence that the main groups were originally masses of bed-rock and talus, with little or no subsoil.

As used here a "court" is a nearly level area, more or less rectangular, and more or less surrounded by mounds or buildings. A "plaza" is also approximately level, but it may depart much more from the rectangular form; it tends to be larger, and more often

contains structures built within it as well as around its sides.

Both are, in almost every case, artificially leveled.

of unexcavated structures

The heights, mentioned in the text are usually to the last whole meter; i.e., a recorded height of 13.19 or 13.91 meters is called 13⁰⁰ meters. This avoids a false impression of great exactitude, really meaningless in many cases, such as the top of a mound of debris. Plaza and court dimensions are also approximate. They vary with the points selected for measurement.

In using the terms "left" and "right", unless the context plainly indicates otherwise, we mean the left or right of a structural unit, not of the observer. That is, if the observer stands facing the front of a structure, the left side of the structure (left in the text) is on his right. Use of left or right of the observer, natural at any one position, is felt to lead to confusion, as he sometimes looks toward and sometimes away from the structure being examined.

The site selected for the principal groups (except the Acropolis) is in a large pocket in the hills, open toward the river, its elevated surface devoid of major heights but by no means level, being higher toward the east than near the river, and higher at the north than at the south. It ^{is} ~~was~~ bi-furcated by the ravine between the South and West Groups, which, with other valleys, makes the site of the South Group a tongue of land ending at the south.

To expand beyond this pocket it was necessary to terrace and surmount the enclosing hills, follow the valleys, or cross the river. We know that the first two expedients were adopted, and have an as yet unverified report from workmen sent to explore that there are mounds across the river.

The important thing to remember is that the general lay-out of

the city was largely controlled by the broken terrain and could not expand according to any abstract plan; but that within the pocket there is no topographical feature now visible which would have prevented orientation of structures to the cardinal points. It would have been more difficult but apparently quite possible to so orientate whole courts if their dimensions were changed, and the present dimensions are obviously dictated in general by the topography. ^{HP} The general principles followed seem to have been to place structures at the edges of ravines and valleys, gaining a false appearance of height when seen from the rear; to build them against hillsides, gaining actual height with a minimum of labor; and orientating the remaining free-standing structures around more or less rectangular courts and plazas, the general orientations of which were already determined by locations on the edges of depressions and against hillsides. It should be noted, however, that most courts and plazas are as large as the natural terrain at present visible will permit, and their actual shape may have been determined to a greater extent than is now known, by contours now hidden.

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The city as known falls into five ^E general groups, in the main ^{The influence of the terrain appears rather clearly on the plan and sections.} determined by the terrain. North of the Acropolis is what we provisionally call the Northwest Group. We do not label it on the map because only part of it has been investigated, and less has been mapped. Further investigation in connecting valleys may require a modified nomenclature. Structure J-29 fronts on the plaza of this Group.

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The West Group lies almost entirely in Squares J and K, and includes the Acropolis and its three courts of long "palaces". It is very much cut off from the Northwest Group ^{by the terrain,} ~~by hills and a~~ ~~great difference in elevation,~~ its main plaza being very much higher.

From the West Group terraces and stairways lead down to the East Group, which lies for the most part in Squares O and P.

A gentle rise and fall separate the South and the East Groups, ^{These} which are connected by a broad open space, ^{on this slight elevation, open at either end, and} or ~~corridor~~ ^(We refer to this as a "corridor", the term being merely one of convenience.) beginning in the southerly part of Square O. Most of the South

Group may be seen on the map in Squares R and U. It is still above surrounding valley levels, the Plazas of ~~North-East~~ ^{the} East and ^{of the} South Group being at approximately equal elevations.

To the east of both ^{the} South and ^{the} East Groups is a valley entirely filled with relatively low mounds and terraces, almost entirely unsurveyed. This, like the Northwest Group, has not been labeled on the map, pending further investigation. It lies in Squares P, S and V and is provisionally named the Southeast Group, but may later require subdivision. It is connected with East and South Groups by terraces and stairways, and the rear slopes of three pyramids.

For the benefit of actual visitors, we may add that the trail from Tenosique to El Cayo in Maler's day passed through low mounds of the Northwest Group in the easterly part of Square E and thence up a rising valley behind the hill to the rear of Structures K-5 and O-13; after climbing a saddle (apparently marked by a platform) it descended into and through the valley of the Southeast ^{Group} Section, passing through a welter of low mounds in that valley, ^{and} finally reaching the great Ceiba tree, which still stands.

Since 1931, this trail bears right instead of left from the above mentioned beginning point and ascends to the West Group Plaza; thence passes between Structures K-5 and K-6, descends northeast of Structure K-2 to the East Group Plaza, and leaves the latter by passing between Structures O-12 and P-6; from here it descends a short distance in a southerly direction and rejoins the

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original trail. This new route is likely to be permanent, and every traveler will pass through four of the five main groups of the city. But unless he leaves the trail and cuts some bush he very likely will be unaware of it.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The South Group

This description is framed on a hypothetical walk through the known portions of the city, beginning at the Sacrificial Rock in the river bed southwest of the South Group. Here in the South Group are the oldest monuments; here is the best place for a small party to camp; and here is the only monument (The Sacrificial Rock) which in future will not be hidden by vegetation. If the latter is below water (as it is during much of the rainy season) the prominent high sand bank behind it will make its approximate location easy.

About 425 meters down stream from the Sacrificial Rock are some interesting geometrical patterns cut in broad shallow lines on the tilted flat surface of a rock-ledge in the stream bed. The designs are badly weathered and identifiable with difficulty. They cover several square meters of rock. The designs seem to be limited to spirals.

Returning to the Sacrificial Rock and ascending the high sand bank at a point about 31 degrees east of magnetic north (with the rock as starting point) and climbing beyond we come onto a more or less flat-topped tongue of land in the northwest corner of Square U (see the map). Traversing this in the same direction, we strike at an angle the ruins of a terrace, two or three meters high, which

As we proceed through the East Group we will encounter most of the latest monuments. In the West Group nearly all the monuments bear contemporaneous dates between those of the South and East Group. As these have been studied and will be published by Dr. Morley, we shall not discuss them further here.

which marks the southwesterly limit of the irregular plaza of Structure R-1. We ascend the terrace and almost immediately run into Structure U-1, a small squarish mound set on the edge of the terrace. Its top is about 1 meter above the plaza of Structure R-1 to which we have just climbed^b.

We should here pause to remark that the lower area which we have just traversed and left behind contains many interesting low mounds not as yet surveyed, and on it the wood-cutters who discovered the city made their camp, left tin cans and bottles, and also Lintel 6, which they carried there for a table. *We have left it there leaning against a tree.* The level of this area is from 20 to 22 meters above the Sacrificial Rock, and the plaza is 3 to 4 meters higher.

This plaza may be pictured as ^{having been} in general rectangular, about 80 by 50 meters, with its long axis running from southwest to northeast, ^{later} but with its northwesterly quarter entirely blotted out by the great high platform of Structures R-2, R-3 and R-4. Whether the plaza was in fact originally rectangular, and ^{was} later encroached upon, is of course another matter. Structure R-1 is the only major pyramid with such an unsatisfactory front yard. The encroaching platform, opposite, about 45 by 60 meters, rises 5.00 meters above this lower plaza, maintaining an equal or greater height along the entire rear and both ends; it is only 1.50 meters above the South Group Court, where bed rock occurs within a meter below the surface. Much of the platform must be artificial, but quite possibly much is a projecting tongue of natural rock corresponding to the lower contours to the west and south.

The plaza is defined by the platform; by terraces rising from it (at the northeast); by terraces falling away from it; and by the long low platform of the low mound U-2, resting on the lower of its

two levels.

The higher portion ^{of this platform} is possibly a separate unit. Structure U-4 on the opposite side is also a low mound. Structure U-3 next it, but facing northeast, is a ruined stone building (wall showing) on a higher platform, with a central projection, apparently not a ruined stone stairway. The debris gives a faint suggestion that small stairways were placed against the sides of this projection. Structure U-9 is a tiny projection of the Plaza Platform.

Structure R-1 at the northeast corner of the plaza is the first true pyramid encountered. There is uncertain evidence of a ruined temple at the top, 12.00 meters above the plaza and 26.00 meters above the valley floor to the rear, from which it is quite imposing. The debris indicates that the rear ~~side~~ terraces reached well down into the valley.

As we proceed we shall see that every large pyramid of the city has a broad, usually low terrace along its base at the front, and that, except in the case of Structure O-13, possibly the latest, ^{of all the structures} the central front stairway descends to this terrace rather than to the plaza or court level.

Structure R-1 is no exception, but instead of a short additional central stairway from terrace to plaza, there appears to be a projection of the terrace itself, like that of Structure U-3. Stela 28 lies on the ground in front of the terrace.

Southeast and northwest ^(the southwesterly part of) of the plaza are two systems of broad low terraces, descending in the one case toward the Valley of the Southeast Group and Maler's Transverse Valley, and in the other case toward the river. Only parts of these areas have been explored, but they contain extremely interesting small mounds. Structures U-4, U-5 and U-7 appear to be low platform mounds; ^{structures} U-6 and U-8 are puzzling tiny mounds about 1.00 meter high. The Ceiba tree southeast of

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U-7 is the one mentioned by Maler.

Walking straight out from the center of R-1 to avoid getting lost in the bush, we soon are stopped by the high platform already described, then turn right and follow it a few meters to its north-easterly corner, climbing 2.75 meters to the South Group Court as we do so. This court is nearly square (about 60 meters on a side) and serves five true pyramids, facing it from three sides. Turning left, we follow the platform to the megalithic stairway^(in front) of Structure R-3. ^R This is one of five stairways of a special type thus far identified. Four steps, formed of very large cut stones, one course to a riser, lead to a shallow platform projecting from the main platform. This projection is wider than the steps, giving the effect of shoulders on either side. Such stairways are in each case low, and much wider than deep. In this case, and probably in all, the great stones for the steps are so cut that the riser is battered (slopes back) and the tread is sloping, rising markedly from front to rear. In every known case but this one, the structure to be reached is higher than the megalithic stairway^(part of the). ^{On} The two other excavated examples, fabricated stairways lead to the higher level from the rear of the platform forming the shoulders.

In line with the stairway is Structure R-3, and on its right, Structure R-2. The latter was partially cleared. It is a stone-walled platform 1.50 meters^s high, with central front stairway rising between heavy balustrades or, more probably, rectangular masses with level tops flush with the platform. The walls were nicely designed with a series of mouldings, the bottom one curved in section, with a specialized cut stone to carry it around the corner. Very low ruined walls on the top appear to be traces of a small chamber constructed, for the most part, of perishable

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materials. In the plaster floor (not under it) abutting the northwesterly side at the base of the platform, and near the front corner, was a burial, without ornaments and without grave structure except for a slab set across stones and covering the head. The body was prone, close to the wall, head to the southwest.

Immediately to the northwest is Structure R-3, a pyramid, probably better preserved than any other at the city. The top was investigated and most of the front and sides were cleared. There are apparently four terraces, the lower three being perfectly clear. Their battered retaining walls are pannelled and further elaborated by broad primary and secondary central projections or offsets, as suggested on the plan. Corners are rounded, with a curve of long radius, formed of non-specialized blocks. If the offsets were deeper, the corners would be "inset" in the usual sense.

Remains of an almost completely disrupted stone structure on top indicate but do not satisfactorily prove that it supported a small rectangular temple with two central doorways, spanned by massive stone lintels, carved with glyphs on the under side, in early style. One, (Lintel 11), badly shattered and scaled off, was found in the right (east) doorway and now lies in the supposed chamber. We believe that Stela 29, removed by Maler from the top of this pyramid, was the other. We seem to have here a combination of sculptured stone lintels and roof of perishable materials, for there was insufficient debris for a fallen vault, and the flat slabs forming all known vaults at this city were absent. The floor of the supposed temple was 9.42 meters above the court. Stela 42 (plain) lies on the southeasterly slope, about on the central line. Stela 44 (plain) stands in an excavation at the northwesterly

A roughly cylindrical stone, diameter about 20 cms, length about 30 cms, was found in the debris when it

almost entirely

about male

found in the debris when it

Handwritten marks: a circled question mark, a circled 'X', and several other scribbles.

corner, leaning against Structure R-4. It was found higher up on the northwesterly slope of R-3, near this corner. A floor burial, similar to that just described, was found in the angle between the lowest terrace and the southeasterly stairway retaining wall.

Jammed close against its left flank is Structure R-4, a larger pyramid with its top 14.00 meters above the court. The debris indicates a single front central stairway. On the platform in front of the stairway now lie Stela 30, and a few meters to the southeast, Stelae 31 and 29. ^{on the top of the pyramid} High trees make it impossible to say as yet whether there was a stone temple or not, despite ^{cursor} a small excavation.

On the northwesterly side of the court is Structure R-5, its top 13.00 meters above the court. The debris indicates a single central stairway descending to the typical broad terrace at the base, ^{lowest terrace} This is peculiar in having an inset portion at the center instead of the projection noticed on R-1. Also, it seems to run back on both sides and possibly around the rear. ^{South Group} Maler found Lintel 4 on this pyramid. It is now enroute to Guatemala City. The debris at the top ^{is} ~~is~~ more satisfactory than usual and gives ^{an} some reason for postulating a one-room temple with three front doorways, rather than a single doorway as restored by Maler.

On and in front of the terrace lie Stelae 32, 34, 35, ~~and 37 and 46.~~ ^{somewhat} Stela 46 is part of a carved cylindrical stone very similar to Stela 2, and ~~which~~ ^{has} been called an altar heretofore. Another large ^{fragment} piece of the same form, and probably belonging to it, lies near the left end of the platform, but ^{an} the attempt to ^{join} fit them together has not yet been made. Stela 33, which lay between Stelae 34 and 35, and Stela 36, between Stelae 35 and 37, are now enroute to Guatemala City. The left upper corner of Stela 30 was excavated by Dr. Morley's party in the space between ^{an} this ^{Structure R-5} structure and Structure R-6, a low ^{the latter}

D.C. 5/



mound immediately to the northeast.

On the opposite side of the Court are pyramids R-9 and R-10. The latter conforms to the type already described, but the low front terrace extends several meters to its left, as a platform. The top appears to have supported a ruined temple, the small mound of which is 8.00 meters above the court.

Structure R-9 is puzzling, for the debris gives very little indication of a main stairway at the front or anywhere else. It has a small mound on top (8.00 meters above the court), and the usual broad terrace at the base, with what looks like a ruined stairway connecting the latter with the court. At its left the terrace merges into a slightly higher platform-like construction, extending beyond the pyramid to the left. It is now apparent that while a broad front terrace is almost universal with large pyramids here, its forms are various.

Stelae 24, 25, and 26 lie in the court close to the terrace of R-10, and Stela 27 is in a similar position before R-10. Maler did not realize that Structures R-9 and R-10 are separate units, and assigned all four stelae to the same structure.

A long L-shaped platform 5.00 meters high when viewed from the court, bounds it on the northeast. This apparently consists of two units, the relation of which can best be studied on the plan. R-7 may not have been a building, but it is approached by a megalithic stairway of the type already described and the surface is covered with stone debris. Here, as everywhere in the South Group, one gains the uncertain impression that we are dealing with ruins of stone-walled but not stone-vaulted buildings. In this case, as in all except the first, across the court, the megalithic stairway carries one only to a terrace or "landing",

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Small group

On the platform is a large plain fragment of a stone having a round or oval cross-section. It seems to be part of a stone not unlike Stela 46 across the court.

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at Piedra Neblona

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Structure

Stairway in front of Structure R-3, leads

unlike Stela 46 across the court.

29

46

from the rear of which, in the two excavated examples, at least, fabricated steps lead to higher levels.

The megalithic stairway seems to call for the postulation that Structure R-7 faced southwest, while R-8, at a slightly higher elevation, may have been entered from the same direction, from the southeast, or ^{from} both, according to one's interpretation of suggestive but uncertain debris contours. The two together outline two sides of the southern field of the South Group Ball Court, which we may now enter from the top of R-7. The field is 3.60 meters above the South Group Court, but about 2.00 meters below the "corridor" to the northwest.

The floor of the whole of this field, southwest of the twin Ball Court Structures R-11 a & b, except under a few trees, was skinned off. The structures also have been rather thoroughly cleared, their ends and ^{inner} under sides entirely so. The debris from these excavations is ^{now} collected ^{within} quadrangular stone or wooden "walls" lying on the field, which ^(must not later be mistaken for) are not aboriginal constructions. A number of these walled ^{ball court} mounts lie in other parts of the city, and we hope they will not be There is another, in the northern field, as well as less well-defined piles of debris, resulting from completely clearing the alley between the structures and a broad strip adjoining them in the northerly field.

This court agrees with the Old Empire type ³ Originally identified by Blom

Blom, 1930, pp 167 to 171

in every essential respect. We have the broad low platforms facing the alley, with ^{their} sloping sides; the sloping main walls, without stone rings; and the three drum-shaped stones set in the middle of the alley. The other two ^{stones} on the platforms, found by the Carnegie

Handwritten notes: a circled 'D' with a slash, 'inner', 'all', and an 'X'.

Vertical handwritten note on the right margin: "to be confusing to future investigators."

Expedition at Yaxchilan, whose example set us to work here, are absent. The main sloping walls are faced with stone slabs, as are the bases of the platforms. The surface of the tops and upper part of the slopes of the platforms, however, is of concrete. The tops of both structures were covered with debris of slight depth, entirely disrupted. The parallelogram plan of both structures was carefully determined by measurements and location of many points with the transit.

Let into the sloping main surface of R-11-a, ^(very close to) near the center, was a heavy stone which probably is an ancient stela, here reused (Stela 45). It is 1.92 meters long, .47 meters wide and .17 meters thick, and very slightly rounded at the top. Sides, top and back are nicely tooled, the front (upper) surface showing vestiges of glyphs near the bottom in very low flat relief, with irregular outlines. It has been designated Stela 45 and remains in position. Similarly let into the sloping wall of the opposite structure, also slightly off center, is a worked stone .67 meters by .98 meters ^{and .10 meters} ~~thick~~ with boldly rounded top. It may have been carved on the upper surface, but this is uncertain. Both the southern and northern drums or "markers" in the alley show faint but certain traces of carving on the tops, including glyphs in circular bands at the periphery. They have been designated Miscellaneous Inscribed Stones 4 and 5, respectively, and remain in approximate position. The stone in the center is entirely weathered, if it ever was carved.

l.c. 5/a A ^{Structure} Stairway led to the top of R-11-a from the rear or northwest side. We ^(are fairly sure) could not be sure that R-11-b had ^{no} ~~had~~ corresponding stairway.

R-8/ and, on the northwest, by low ^a terrace retaining the higher ground in ^{R-8}

S/ E/ J/ that direction. The northern field is bounded by a continuation of this terrace, and by the unprotected edge^s of the high platform built in part to form it. A bench 50 cms. high is a constant feature of Structures R-7 and R-8, and ^{of} the northwesterly terraces, where they rise from the ball-court fields, *except that in the northerly field the bench becomes more like a true terrace, and is about 100 meter high.*

The puzzling Structure R-12 leads away from the corner of R-11-b at an angle. Both sides, though badly ruined, appear to consist of double vertically-walled terraces. This runs into a rear corner of Structure R-13, a tiny one-roomed chamber, (as indicated by the debris) set on a squarish platform. The central part of the front of this ^{platform} is inset, somewhat like that of R-5. The platform is only about 1.00 metre high, at its highest point. A massive plain stone lintel lies in the doorway. ^{of R-13}

S/ Passing beyond the front of this we come to Structure R-14, supported on a large platform built out into the valley to the southeast. The structure is now a rectangular mound, about 20 meters long. Apparently it faced to the southeast, as a projecting mass of debris suggests a stairway leading 7.00 meters down from it into what we are for the present calling the Southeast Group.

J/ Retracing our steps across the northern field of the ball-court, and climbing its boundary-terrace a few meters beyond the point where it begins to bend to the north, we will hardly fail to find the two low platforms R-15 and O-1, although they are only about .50 meters high. These bound on one side a sort of a corridor connecting the South Group Court and the East Group Plaza. However, we are not done with what we are still calling the South Group. To avoid getting lost (unless this area is cleared) it would be well to go to the southerly end of R-15, and then, compass in hand, make a bee-line due west over the flat surface for Structure R-16, the largest free-

standing pyramid of the city. The corner of this should be encountered after about 40 meters.

Structure R-16 conforms to type, apparently having a great central staircase leading down the front to a broad low front platform. As might perhaps by now be expected, the platform differs from all the others thus far encountered, its chief distinction in this case being that its retaining walls have little relation to the pyramid.

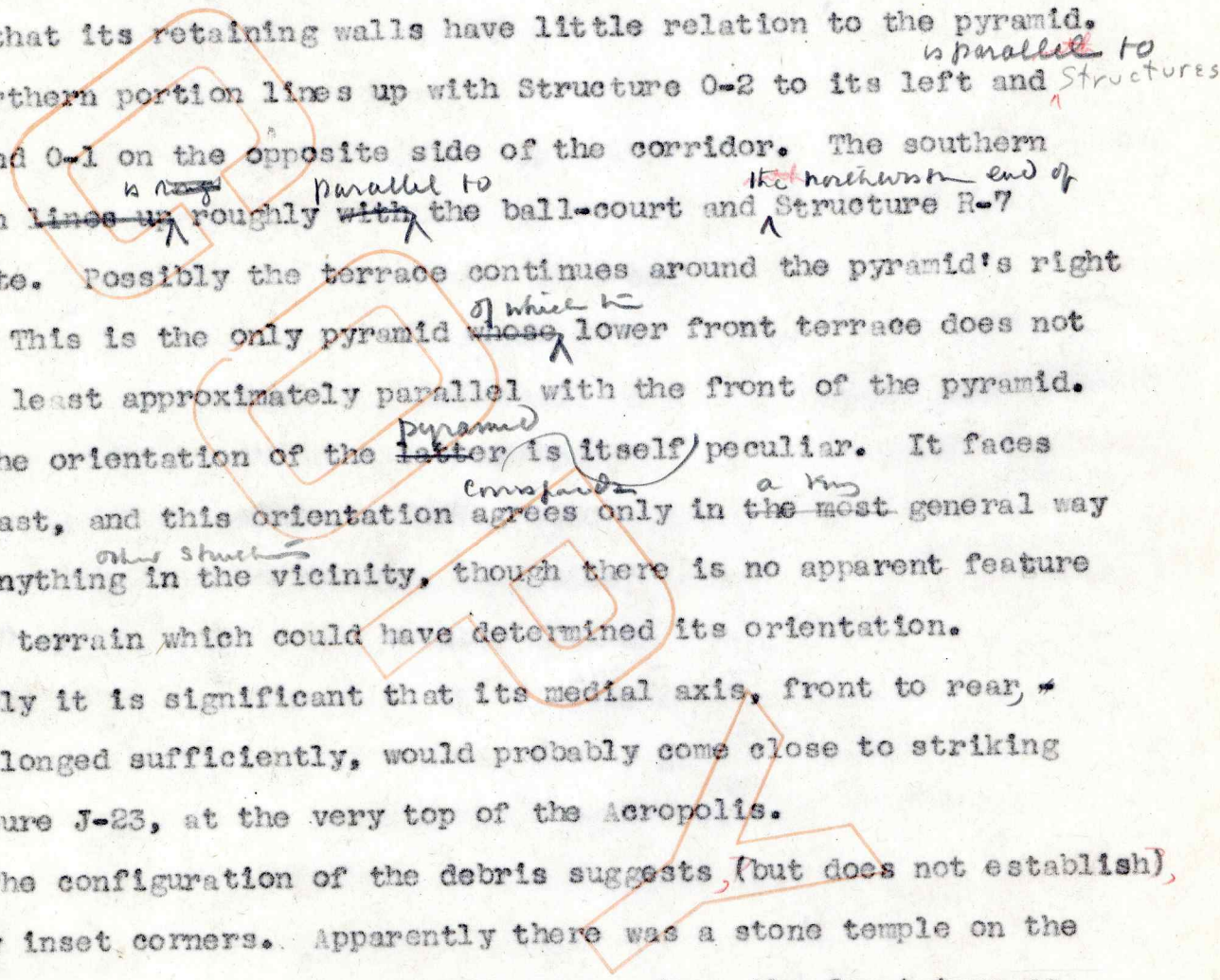
The northern portion lines up with Structure O-2 to its left and R-15 and O-1 on the opposite side of the corridor. The southern portion lines up roughly with the ball-court and Structure R-7 opposite. Possibly the terrace continues around the pyramid's right side. This is the only pyramid whose lower front terrace does not run at least approximately parallel with the front of the pyramid.

The orientation of the pyramid is itself peculiar. It faces southeast, and this orientation agrees only in the most general way with anything in the vicinity, though there is no apparent feature of the terrain which could have determined its orientation.

Possibly it is significant that its medial axis, front to rear, if prolonged sufficiently, would probably come close to striking Structure J-23, at the very top of the Acropolis.

The configuration of the debris suggests, (but does not establish), deeply inset corners. Apparently there was a stone temple on the top. The present height is 18.00 meters above the front terrace, which in turn is from .70 to 4.50 meters above the ground in front, which slopes toward the southwest and Structure R-5. Stela 41 lies on the front terrace, to the south.

Passing along the terrace to the north we immediately encounter the stairway and platform of Structure O-2, the platform at the front being about 2.00 meters high. The plan of this stairway,



particularly the fact that its first flight ^{only partly} ascends ~~only part way~~ ~~up~~ the height to be reached and to a subsidiary terrace extending to form shoulders on either side, raises the suspicion that it is megalithic, like the five others of this plan thus far observed.

However, ~~It~~ has not been cleared. The ruin of structure 0-2 itself is shown as a mere mound, about 1.00 meter high. As a matter of fact ~~it~~ ^{the terrain} shows clearly by a series of depressions that ~~it~~ ^{the structure originally} contained stone-walled chambers.

Descending the stairway, we pass northward about 22.00 meters along a low mound projecting from it, (Structure 0-2-a), and turn left around it into a small court. This court departs considerably from a ^{rect} quadrangular form. This is apparently caused by a desire to line up Structure 0-2-a with the mounds on the ^{opposite} other side of the corridor, which, in turn, ^{were so placed because of the configuration of} took their positions from the terrain. The court is small, about 25.00 by 30.00 meters.

Structure 0-3, on the southerly side, appears from the debris to have been ^{consisted of} a small single chamber with one doorway. It is placed on an irregular platform which itself lies on another, extending out from the rear of 0-2. The total height above the court is about 2.00 meters. On the westerly side is Structure 0-4, on a lower platform built out from the court proper to hold it. We cleared the space in front of its single front doorway to fully expose a massive plain stone lintel, broken in two but still hanging in the doorway. This was a stone-walled building, but whether stone-vaulted, excavations were insufficient to determine. It is fairly certain that the jambs had not be displaced. At the remaining tops they were 25 cms. farther apart than at a point near the bottom, 1.00 meter below. That is, a doorway wider at the top than at the bottom is plainly indicated. Structure 0-5 is

a low mound bounding the northerly side, about which we can say little at present.

On the upper slopes of the ravine northwest of this court we have identified two or three broad platforms, and one low mound or platform, Structure O-6. We should state here that there are very probably a number of such terraces and mounds all along this slope, behind this court, ^{behind} Structures R-16 and R-5, and very possibly connecting with similar constructions south and west of Structure R-4.

We have now made the circuit of what we have called the South Group. It has ^a certain natural unity in that it lies on an elevated tongue of land surrounded by the river, a ravine, Maler's Transverse Valley and the Valley of the Southeast Group (with which Group, however, it is closely connected). Architecturally it is characterized by free-standing pyramids, with variously formed lower front terraces which are relatively low; by the nearly complete absence of any standing walls visible without excavation; by the absence of any visible vestiges of stone vaults (which may yet be found, however); and by masonry, where uncovered, which makes use of larger blocks than are common in the other groups.

Leaving Structure O-5, and passing along the edge of a gentle slope to the left, we come to Structure O-7, about 27.00 meters distant. These two mark the ^{north} entrance ^{to} the corridor between the East and South Groups. The former (Structure O-5) probably faces southwest on the small court; Structure O-7 seems to face northeast onto the East Group Plaza and has therefore been assigned to that group, though possibly incorrectly.

East Group

Structure O-7, which was cleaved, is a low platform mound, apparently actually ascended by a small stairway on the right of what we are

calling its rear. To the left of this rather uncertain stairway, seven drum-shaped altars, are ranged against the base of the vertical wall of the platform. They are about 50 cms. in diameter, but vary from 24 to 30 cms. in height. The top of the rectangular platform itself is divided into two levels, connected by a single step, the lower level facing ^{but not exactly parallel to} the great pyramid O-13 across the plaza. There was certainly no stairway on this side. Along the rear of the top, badly disrupted by trees, was a low broad sill, and a centrally-placed stone cist or altar projected from it. Scattered in two groups on the platform were the remains of 14 additional drum-shaped altars, and parts of 4 more were found scattered on the slopes in front of and to the right of the platform, making a known total of 18 found on or probably fallen from the platform itself. Diameters of these are identical with those of the group of 7 at the rear, but the heights vary from 20 to 40 cms. Only one of the 25 altars showed some uncertain evidence of having been carved. Those not too badly weathered showed that they had been very nicely tooled. Needless to say these altars make this platform extremely interesting. An original suspicion that they were drums from fallen columns was entirely dispelled by the excavations.

Within the higher part of the top, but more or less on the surface, a system of small connecting slab cists had been built, within one of which was carefully erected a small well-worked stone shaft, measuring 11 by 13 by 24 cms. The back of this cist was one of the altars set on edge, apparently dating the cists as built after the altars were scattered in confusion.

The height of this platform renders it rather imposing from the front and right side, where the ground is lower. At the rear it is but 1.00 meter above the surface.

Passing a little south of east from here we enter a small plaza-like cul-de-sac in and around which are grouped four low mounds or platforms, Structures O-8, O-9, O-10 and O-11, with the left side of Pyramid O-12 to the northeast. Beyond Structures O-10 and O-11 are Structures P-1 and P-2, the first a tiny squarish mound, the other a relatively long rectangular one. Both appear to be ruins of stone buildings of some kind. They are set near the ends of a very large platform projecting into the valley, ^(Structure P-5) the great eastern slope of which may have been a stairway. Compare this arrangement with Structures K-1, K-2 and K-3 in Square K, where we know K-2 was a great broad stairway.

From P-1 we may conveniently go around to the front of Pyramid O-12. This conforms to the general type, having had a single front stairway leading to a broad terrace at the base. In this case there are two terraces, one lower and in front of the other, obviously an adaptation to the terrain, which slopes from the pyramid's left to its right. Both terraces run parallel to the front of the pyramid. The front slope was cleared considerably in a search for lintels, which were not found. The lowest steps were intact in some places, with hard plaster on the adjacent portions of the upper of the two terraces. The inside of the temple was cleared, revealing a single-room temple with three front doorways. A narrow sill, hardly a bench, ran along the rear wall on the inside. The width of the room, including this sill, was 1.80 meters. Walls varied from 1.10 meters (front) to 1.50 meters (rear) in thickness. The roof was probably a stone vault, though the evidence for this fact was not recorded.

The temple floor is 17.00 meters above the level portion of the plaza in front of Structure O-13. At this height it commanded an

What is the Comp. P-1 P-2

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East end

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an excellent view over the West Group Plaza to the Acropolis, which it in general faces. Its rear shares with three pyramids of the South Group an imposing position with reference to the largely unmapped Southeast Group. Like those pyramids it backs against a natural depression, thus gaining added height. Its orientation seems to be independent of the terrain.

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Stela 22 lies on the upper front terrace near the north-easterly end. Stela 23 lies much farther to the front, on the gently sloping plaza surface, and about opposite the center of the pyramid.

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Passing around this major pyramid on the slightly falling plaza floor we come to Structure P-6, which completes the southeastern boundary of the plaza. This is a long rectangular ruin, apparently of a stone building, without visible evidence of stone vaults. It is set on a large terraced platform projecting from the natural hillside at its right. It is approached by two flights of stairs, a little to the left of its center. The lower flight, rising to the lower terrace, is a typical megalithic stairway, with flanking shoulders.

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The lower terrace turns an inside corner at the north and thence probably ran in front of Structure P-7. This is Maler's carefully drawn "Temple of the Eight Chambers". It was about two-thirds excavated, and it is necessary to cut his number of ^{surrounding} chambers ~~in half~~ to three. The sanctuary is approached by a depressed passage. There is a rectangular masonry altar in each of the rear rooms. Great quantities of potsherds including ^{one of} several Uloa Valley polychrome type, were found within the sanctuary altar. There is some evidence that the ^{three} four surrounding chambers are later constructions, ~~the~~

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the central shrine showing cornices and niches on the outside walls, and the base of a possible four-sided vault, ^(possibly the base of a roof-comb) ~~(roof-comb)~~ on top. The vaults of the outside rooms spring at 3.20 meters above the floor. A comparison of the great size of complete vaults required to span such wide rooms (3.75 meters) with the relatively small amount of debris in the rooms, raises the question whether they may not have been capped with long beams instead of the usual cap-stones. The walls average ^{only} 85 cms. in thickness. The shrine is beautifully vaulted, the vaults, made of thin slabs, sloping in from four sides. The spring of these vaults is only 75 cms. above the latest floor.

This structure backs against a high hill. Because of its central shrine room and rear altars it would seem to have been a temple, though its outer rooms, from their size, are more suitable than any other vaulted structures in the city for residence, and the temple is only 3.50 meters above the plaza in front of it.

Passing northwest along the edge of the plaza, defined by the hill, the lower slope of which is probably terraced, we come to Structure 0-13. This might perhaps be termed a "false pyramid" since it is built against the steeply sloping hill, standing free from it only at the top. It attains full height only at the front.

From the point of view of sculptural embellishment it is one of the great temples of the whole Maya area. Lintel 1, and the fragment of Lintel 2, both now in the Peabody Museum, ^{at Cambridge} and Lintel 3, now in the University Museum in Philadelphia (Cat. No. L-16-381) probably adorned three of its five front doorways. Stelae 12 and 15, and ^{probably} probably Stelae 13 and 14, all in the very front rank of Maya sculptural art, stood before it on a terrace reached by its very broad and imposing main stairway. Stela 15 is on its way to

Guatemala City, Stelae 13 and 14 are enroute to Philadelphia, while Stela 12 (Cat. No. L-27-19) is already erected in the University Museum. Stelae 16, 17, 18 and 19 lie in a row on the plaza just in front of the front terrace and stairway. Stelae 20 and 21 lie a little farther to the front, and slightly to the southeast.

This temple is ^{atypical} of all other pyramidal buildings known at the city in that the stairway crosses the low front platform and descends directly to the plaza level. The tripod circular table, Altar 5, stood close to the bottom step at the center, where its broken pieces remain.

The stairway, and terraces for several meters on either side, were excavated from bottom to top, and most of the temple building was cleared. The lower terraces appear to have been plain, and are battered; the final wall from the high stelae-bearing terrace to the temple level is also battered, but its design includes buttresses and panels. The corners here are ^{Tach} formed by a single specialized, stones, well cut to give a rounded corner of short radius. The effect is that of angular corners with the sharp line at the corner softened by the curve. Maler's conclusions that there was a short rear stairway and no front stairway were entirely erroneous.

The plan of the temple must speak for itself. Secondary buttresses were added and it is quite possible that the front open gallery as a whole is a later addition. Fragments of elaborate exterior stucco decoration were recovered. Great numbers of caches, including especially large quantities of eccentric flints and obsidians, were found under the floors, especially under the rear chamber, which was fire-blackened. The small objects were usually placed in covered jars or in deep bowls with inverted bowls as covers. In or under this floor was found

Miscellaneous Sculptured Fragment 1, now in Philadelphia (Cat. No. L-16-81). The two halves of Lintel 12 were used as building stones in the walls of the temple, and are now enroute to Philadelphia.

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what is the objection to it?
atypical in the city, but to be able to come down to the front

(October, 1932)

atypical

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 The plaza at this point, 15.80 meters below the floor of the front gallery of the temple, consists of a rubble fill, doubtless formerly surfaced with plaster. Excavations revealed the former presence of a depressed area at least 29.00 meters wide, extending out about 23.00 meters from the front of the pyramid. Its floor was paved with stone slabs, 1.00 meters below the later floor above. Vertical stone retaining walls surround it on the northwest and southwest sides.

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 Structure 0-13-2nd was partially revealed by a deep trench through the upper temple and its substructure. It seems to have been a narrow platform built against the hill and incorporating a huge boulder or projection of bed rock. No evidence for a structure upon it was discovered. Its depth, front to rear, is 4.60^{meters}, its width unknown. It is 4.40 meters below the front gallery of 0-13, 11.40 meters above the latest plaza floor.

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 Two major monuments remain to be mentioned while we are in this part of the plaza. We cannot certainly associate them with any one of the buildings and their location on the plaza floor is best seen on the map. The top of Altar 4, perhaps belonging to Structure 0-12, lies near its original position. Three of its ^(almost identical) grotesque head legs are enroute to Guatemala City, the fourth to the University Museum. Altar 3, northwest of this, still stands on its four legs.

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 From Altar 3 we may conveniently strike due west until we come to the edge of a precipitous ravine, and then follow it around to the right, ^{finally} ~~and then~~ bearing left around its end in order not to ^{be} get lost in the thick bush. If we continue circling the head of the ravine, climbing a little as we go, we will come to a small cul-de-sac running northwest, with Structures 0-14 to 0-16 roughly marking its southern ^{we} side. Possibly these belong with the West Group, front-

ing southwest over the broad platform running out in that direction.

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Structure 0-14 is a small pyramid, now ^{but} a mere mass of ruins, 5.00 meters above the little plaza, much higher when seen from the southeast. Structure 0-15 offers ^{quite} certain evidence of ruined stone-walled chambers. Structure 0-16 is a low mound, possibly a mere platform. Turning back from this enclosure and turning left around the corner of the high platform on our left, we soon come to a protruding mass of debris, in all probability a very ^e sizable stairway serving Structure 0-16 on the platform at its top. Arbitrarily, perhaps, we consider the latter as part of the West Group, and continue northeast to another, a very large stairway, indeed, (Structure K-2). A strip two meters in width was cleared from top to bottom, proving it a stairway of 23 steps with risers about 35 cms. high and steps about 85 cms. wide. The whole stairway is not less than 35 meters wide, more probably 40 meters. It runs back horizontally about 17 meters, rising 9.10 meters in that distance, a relatively gentle slope for Mayan stairways. This one appears to have been intended for constant travel between the East and West Groups.

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5/

If this stairway is correlated with Structure^s 0-13, P-7 and P-6 on the map, disregarding the other^s, something like a quadrangular plaza assemblage will be noted, with a long court axis of about 200 meters. However, Structure 0-12 spoils the effect of this great length considerably. The width can be made almost anything, up to 100 meters, depending on where it is measured. The width of the flat floor is actually much curtailed by the slope on the southeast side. Very possibly this slope, shown by us in contour-lines, hides former low broad terraces. Just northwest of Structure 0-13 the hill behind it turns northward, and forms one side of a finger-like projection of low ground, rising from plaza level until it finally reaches the

level of the West Group Plaza, southeast of Structure K-5. This has been extensively covered with very broad terraces running into the slopes, but we have not as yet identified any surviving evidence of buildings on them. Far up the hill behind these terraces is a small dry cave in which was found Burial No. 6, extended, with ~~2~~ two large carved bone tubes. Instead of following this easy ascent, we will climb the stairway K-2 as the Mayans probably did, to the West Group Plaza.

COPY

The West Group

We come out on a long platform 30 to 70 cms. above the West Group Plaza, noticing the small mounds, Structures K-1 and K-3 flanking the top of the stairway. The first is about 1.50 meters and the second .75 meters high. Both are ruins of stone structures and should repay excavation. Leaving the platform we follow north-east along the edge of the high terrace delimiting this side of the plaza. The long axis of the plaza runs about 115 meters, from south-west to northeast. The width varies from about 65 to about 85 meters. The surface, largely artificial, appears level, but is about 2.00 meters lower at the southerly end. We pass a low mound or platform, Structure K-4, and also a small area of projecting bed rock, apparently untouched by builders who must have cut off or buried dozens of such outcrops.

8/ Almost due north of Structure K-4, and about 15 meters away, is one corner of Structure K-5, the last free-standing pyramid to be described. Like Structure O-12¹² in the East Group, it is the only pyramid of that class in its group.

It conforms to the general type of the South Group, having a single central front stairway rising from a platform at the base. The latter appears to run around the sides of the pyramid and into a gentle slope on which the structure was erected. The floor of the temple is 13.80 meters above the plaza.

Excavations on the upper front slope brought to light Lintel 7, ^(now at the foot of the stairway) apparently from the middle doorway; but failed to disclose the two more which may have spanned the two side doorways. The interior of the temple at the top was completely cleared. Its single chamber was 2.15 by 8.70 meters, inside dimensions; thickness of the rear wall was 1.15 meters, that of the front 1.40 meters. The roof was apparently

a stone vault. A low sill ran across the rear and there was a centrally placed rectangular niche in the rear wall. In the latter was a roughly cylindrical stone, set on end, similar to one found at the top of Structure R-2. In the fill under the floor was found most of a stucco head, ^{realistically human} more than life-size, with traces of red paint. Stelae 38 and 39 lie on the platform at the base, to the right (north-west).

Most of the southeasterly quarter of the substructure was cleared away, to a depth of 5.50 meters below the floor. At about 2.50 meters was found a plaster floor, apparently a platform without ^{stone} walls. In the center was a similar cylindrical stone, fire-blackened, and set on end in this floor (Structure K-5-2nd). About 3.00 meters below this was the floor of a remarkable temple, also with such a stone, fire-blackened, set on end in the supposed middle of the floor. This building (Structure K-5-3rd), assuming the stone was at the center and the chamber half-cleared, consisted of a single-room temple ^{5.00} meters in width and ^{19.00} meters in length (inside dimensions). The ~~rear~~ ^{left side} wall was 1.40 meters thick, the front 1.10 meters thick, and their height not less than 2.00 meters. There were two front doorways (on the above assumption), the one cleared being 3.20 meters wide. A masonry bench .50 meters high and 1.30 meters ^{deep} wide ran along the rear wall.

Because of the great width of this chamber, coupled with the poor quality of the masonry, we must conclude ~~the masonry~~ ^{that} roof was supported by timber. A structure drawn by Maudsley, at Rabinal, Baja Vera Paz, Guatemala, is the only southern Maya chamber known to the writer which is ^{as} wide as this. [#]

4. Maudsley, 1897, Vol 2 of Plates, Pl. 11.

The great pyramid of Structure J-4 rises at the end of and against the Acropolis hill, behind the central and northeasterly portions of the platform or over-grown terrace, Structure J-1. The temple floor is 28 meters above the plaza. The upper three terraces stand free of the hill, much of the walls showing. The terraces of the northeasterly side apparently extended down into the ravine on that side, giving a total apparent height of 36 meters on that side. Maler thought the top was reached from the right side (the left of an observer facing the structure from in front) but this was certainly not the case. There was in all probability a central front stairway, though the bulge of debris is curiously off center at the base, inviting investigation here.

Maler's conclusions regarding the temple at the top were entirely unjustified by the debris. A trench through the middle shows a small stone-vaulted temple with front doorway 1.55 meters wide and rear doorway .95 meters wide, in all probability central and the only doorways. The room was 2.00 meters wide, thickness of rear wall was .75 meters, that of the front wall 1.10 meters. A crude secondary wall was followed a meter or so from the rear wall. Fragments of interior stucco decoration were plentiful.

Descending to the plaza again and passing south along the great stairway of Structure J-2, to which we will return, we come to Structure J-3, a pyramid whose great mass, built against the southwesterly end of the Acropolis hill, balances that of Structure J-4. It faces nearly east, the orientation obviously dictated by the terrain. On its right the lower terraces merge into the hill.

The top of the relatively broad second terrace, 6.40 meters above the plaza, was completely cleared. It is on a level with Structure J-1 the plaza being about a meter lower at this point. On this terrace the cists built near the front to receive Stelae 9, 10 and 11 were located and cleared. Stela 9 lies close to its cist, the broken base

still in the cist, ^{in front of} before the stairway, ^{and} near its right side.

Stela 40 ^{was found lying} lies on the plaza a few meters southeast of the lower stairway and must have been placed to the right of Stela 9, though the location could not be accurately determined. ^{It is now en route to Philadelphia} Stelae 10 and 11 lie across the lower terrace, more or less below their cists, far out near the left (northeast) end of the terrace.

In the cist of Stela 9 were found buried a small drum-shaped stone (diameter 20 cms., height 30 cms.) and an interesting incense burner with cover, unbroken. Similar drum-shaped stones were found in the cists of Stela 11 and of Stela 8. Complete or broken parts of 16 chert knives were found scattered along the terrace near the bottom step of the main stairway leading from it to the top of the pyramid.

This stairway was cleared, together with the flanking terraces so far as they could be followed (about 2.00 meters) on either side. Lintel ⁵ # was found on the slope. Most of the parts were found, assembled and photographed. They are now a meter or so northwest of ^{rectangular} Altar 2, in the plaza.

The structure at the top was badly disrupted, but at the center left no doubt that it was a rubble-filled platform rising in broad low steps from front to rear. The rear and highest step is 28.00 meters above the plaza. A deep trench through this confirmed the fact that no stone building had stood here. Lintel ⁵ #, if a lintel, must have been here reused probably to embellish one of the upper terraces.

Trenching on the stela-bearing second terrace revealed an earlier but ruined stairway under the latest, and a widening of the terrace itself prior to the erection of the stela. This earlier stairway and terrace belong together and are all yet known of Structure J-3-2nd. A minimum age for the terrace in its latest form (9.15.0.0.0, the date of Stela 11) would seem to be established.

This terrace, and the corresponding Structure J-1, differ from all other basal terraces fronting pyramids in height and the presence of a subsidiary narrow and lower terrace along the front. The height is probably dictated by the contours of the hill, and this in turn calls for a subsidiary ornamental terrace in front. A trench in the plaza carried through the lower terrace of Structure J-1 showed bed-rock rising above plaza level just behind the terrace retaining wall.

Before investigating the Acropolis further, we shall complete our circuit of the plaza. Structure N-1 lies on the ^{southwestern} ~~southeastern~~ edge of the plaza, here defined by a drop to lower levels between it and the river. We can add little information to that conveyed by the plan, except to say that this mound is a mass of stone ruins, apparently involving a tiny building centered on a series of superimposed platforms. Its top is about 2.00 meters above the plaza.

The puzzling mass of Structure O-17 defies present interpretation. Its top is about 3.00 meters above the plaza in front, and about 13.00 meters above the flat area to the ^{south} ~~southeast~~. There are a number of low mounds and terraces in that direction, as yet unsurveyed, and possibly a stairway to this lower level. The debris is not convincing.

Proceeding along the edge of the plaza, here a ^{level} mass of stone rubble, showing plainly its artificial construction, we round a corner and come upon Structure O-18. This is a long rectangular platform, about 50 cms high, with small hummocks of stone debris, about 50 cms. high, disposed regularly along each of its long sides. Possibly these, ^{as} disrupted so far as observed, represent stone bases for wooden posts. The known fragment of Lintel 8, (probably about one half of the whole), protruded at the southeasterly edge of this platform, near the southerly end. Trenching here disclosed the small known fragment of Lintel 9, buried in the fill below the floor. Lintel 8 now lies in the center of the structure, a few meters from the southerly end. The

Lintel 9 fragment was sent to Guatemala City in 1931.

Walking somewhat north of west from the southerly end of this structure, toward the center of the stairway of Structure J-2, we should be able to find Altar 2, the last of the great table altars to be mentioned. Dismantled, the top and four legs lie just southeast of their original position. We have to record our inexcusable failure to accurately locate this position, which will be done next season. We believe it stood about 15 meters out from the stairway, and in a direct line with the three doorways piercing Structure J-2 (a palace) and, if so, also in line with the doorway in front of the throne in Structure J-6. However, this lining-up of altar, doorways and throne is as yet uncertain. Possibly the wish is father to the thought. The altar was certainly not directly associated with any stelae, nor with any building other than Structure J-2, or possibly Structure N-1.

The great stairway of Structure J-2, judging from the perfectly even slope it presented, was not less than 30 meters wide. It is badly disrupted, but two cleared strips left no doubt it was a stairway at the points examined. It may have been interrupted about half-way up by a step or terrace broader than the others. It rises 10.70 meters, running back 13.50 meters horizontally in the process, giving an angle of about 37 degrees.

Structure J-2 is the first long palace to be clearly identified. The term as used here is purely one of convenience, without functional significance, and at this city can hardly be said to ^{even} imply-even-the presence of many chambers. For lack of space we must leave these buildings mostly to the ground-plans, first summarizing the general features of the Acropolis and this type of building, and then making a hasty tour of this almost completely made-over hill.

In all probability in the beginning the hill was rugged and broken. Its right side rises abruptly from the river. Its rear and left sides

rise almost as steeply from the valley of the Northwest Group and from a ravine running southeast from that valley. The front or easterly side, probably very uneven, descended on a much gentler slope, facing the area selected for the main groups of the city. The over-all dimensions of this hill were something like 175 meters from side to side, and 245 meters from what we call the front to the rear.

On the sides and rear many vertical escarpments have been left untouched, though much of these sides was covered with constructions built against or upon them. The front or southeastern side, together with the probably narrow original crest at the rear, the highest part of the hill, have been entirely buried by the various constructions.

A glance at the map shows that the Acropolis buildings are for the most part long palaces grouped around three principal small courts. Court 1 nestles between flanking pyramids on either side, its surface 10.50 meters above the West Group Plaza. Court 2 is 10.40 meters higher and Court 3 is ~~is~~ elevated 8.25 meters above Court 2. Finally, Structures J-20 and J-22, built around a high terraced central peak, carry the eye to Structure J-23, built on the peak, bed rock appearing beside it. The floor of this building is 16.20 meters above Court 2, which it overlooks; 37.00 meters above the West Group Plaza; 67.00 meters above the Northwest Group Plaza which it also directly overlooks; and about 90.00 meters above the river at low water. From this building it was possible to see large portions of all known groups of the city.

Apparently it faced two ways. Retaining walls and possibly the ruins of a stairway lead down from it to the little plaza of Structures J-24, J-25 and J-26. Thence a continuous broad strip of fallen debris interrupted by a shelf supporting the low mound, Structure J-27, leads clear down to the Northwest Group Plaza. This debris is almost certainly the ruin of a gigantic series of stairways. (J-28)

(on other section of J-28?)

Access to Court 1 was through Structure J-2 and possibly also around its end; thence a circuitous route through Structure J-8 and around one of the ends of Structure J-9 had to be taken to reach Court 2. We cannot say as yet how Court 3 was reached. Possibly from the latter there was some means of ascending the flat roof of Structure ^(J-22) ~~J-2~~, from the inner edge of which stairways lead to Structure J-23, the highest building of all. This building could also be easily reached from Structure J-20, which is elevated 5.65 meters above its part.

It will be noted that each court is very much cut off from the city at large and in a sense they form a separate group differing in this respect from any others, except one small court in the Southeast Group, not shown in the plan of the city.

All of the buildings on the Acropolis have been trenched for sections. Structure J-2 has been almost completely cleared, Structure J-23 and the throne-room of Structure J-8 entirely cleared. We have also cleared considerably in Structures J-12 and ^(J-17) ~~J-13~~. Many of the palaces stand to the height of the medial cornice, the fallen upper zones nearly filling the rooms to this height. Ground-plans must therefore be read with this caution: we are sure of everything shown in solid black, but we are not sure how much more (especially secondary walls, and interior fittings such as benches and altars) may be omitted. Many walls have been measured where they protrude from the debris, one to two meters above floor level.

In all the free-standing palaces there is a transversely placed end room, usually one at either end. With one exception they are connected ^{with} to the main galleries by small doorways, as shown. All of them make a more or less liberal use of multiple doorways in the facades, resulting in nearly square piers where the walls are thick. There was originally but little division of the long galleries, whether open arcades or not,

into chambers. Nearly all the transverse partition walls shown may have been secondary and several certainly were so. A number of doorways, especially those through the medial wall, have been walled up. Details of this kind cannot be shown on a plan of this scale. The plan of Structure J-18, without the partition walls in its southeasterly gallery, may be taken as the most typical of the free-standing palaces before alterations.

Structures J-6, J-8, J-10 and J-22 are the only long structures which do not include two parallel galleries as the basis of the plan. All four are built against the hillside, their undoubtedly flat roofs serving as terraces or promenades before buildings higher up and behind.

J-12
All the long structures except Structure ~~J-18~~^{J-12} were roofed with stone vaults, springing from 2.00 to 2.20 meters above the floor. The plan will suffice to indicate the wide range in relation of room width to wall thickness. The galleries of Structure J-9 average 1.75 meters in width, wall thickness^{es} being 1.20, 1.10 and 1.30 meters. The galleries of Structure J-11 were 2.90 and 2.60 meters in width (front and rear respectively) while the wall thickness^{es}, front to rear, for these wide vaults, were but .65, .95 and .72 meters at the points measured. The corresponding dimensions for other palaces vary between these extremes.

Remnants of upper zones indicate both steeply sloping and vertical entablatures, and two-member apron medial cornices. We were able to make many interesting observations on these buildings with a minimum of excavation.

Returning our attention to Structure J-2, we may pass through its three doorways opposite the throne of Structure J-6. We face a monumental stairway, the lower flight megalithic, rising from the opposite side of Court 1 to the latter building. Directly behind ~~the~~

the central of the five doorways at the head of the stairway was a carved stone throne (Throne 1), set partly before and partly within a

~~graceful~~ niche in the rear wall and vault of the building. The throne

(We are satisfied that it was intentionally broken up in aboriginal times.)

(Cat. No. L-27-198) is now being restored at the University Museum. The

throne-room and stairway were completely cleared. *The last date on the throne is very clearly 9-17-15.0.0, end of a hotun, apparently establishing the approximate age of the structure in its latest form. The niche appears to have been built to accommodate the throne.*

This building extends to our right (the buildings left) behind

the high platform terrace, Structure J-7. Trenching shows that this

has been doubled in height, (now about 3.00 meters above the court), and

that in its first form it buried structures the ruins of which are still

found at about court level. One of these was a building the large corner

stones of which were more carefully cut than any thus far observed elsewhere

Turning across the court we see a corresponding platform terrace,

(Structure J-5), its top 4.00 meters above the court. Both are ascended

by broad stairways. Within this latter platform was discovered an

elaborate vaulted tomb, richly furnished, with a red painted adult

skeleton and partial remains of two children.

From the rear of this platform a stairway leads to Structure J-8,

4.50 meters higher. Proceeding ~~to Court 2~~ by the route above suggested

we come to Court 2. Structure J-10 is almost entirely destroyed or

buried. Structure J-11 shows remaining portions of masonry vaults over

small inner doorways, found also on Structures J-18 and J-23. Structure

J-12 is of very great interest, as its general plan is typical of the

others, but excavations at the northwesterly end proved beyond doubt

that it was roofed with perishable materials. Its massive walls are

of poorer construction than the others.

Structure J-13 appears from debris configuration and trenching

to be ^a full-width stone-vaulted palace, shortened by the exigencies of

space.

Northeast of Structure J-12 a broad stairway (Structure J-15),

leads

leads down 6.12 meters to a small plaza set against the precipitous slope. Structure J-16 is a low mound, apparently ^{stone} ruins. Structure J-17 is much longer, and had a decided hump in the middle. Incomplete excavations here show a small chamber, ^{with} a huge plain lintel in the ~~single~~ single doorway. The debris was less than a meter in depth, and we are in considerable doubt as to whether the chamber was vaulted. In all probability it was not. This is a peculiar and interesting building, which cannot be discussed at length here.

Returning to Court 2 and climbing over debris to Court 3, we may observe that in the northwesterly end vault of Structure J-21 is a small Palenque style triangular niche. Structure J-19 is a platform mound, about 50 cms. high, covering at least one earlier construction of the same kind. Structure J-20, elevated about 5.50 meters above the court, consists apparently of low foundation walls only. Certainly there were no stone vaults. Its position is very commanding, especially from up or down the river.

Structure J-22, behind and 8.00 meters above Court 2, was undoubtedly vaulted and for the most part was probably an open arcade, turning a right angle at the northeast. Its roof formed one of the terraces of the pyramidal substructure of Structure J-23 above. The position and small size of the latter, plus fragments of interior stucco decoration, suggest that it was a temple. Its plan on the other hand is the typical palace plan at this city.

Northwest Group

The projecting tiny plaza below Structure J-23 to the north west, ^{about} is at the same level as Court 2. It faces northwest and is tied to the Northwest Group, though ^{about 40} meters above the main plaza, by the great series of stairways already mentioned. Structure J-24 was trenched, and is a narrow platform, 1.90 meters high, with about 30 cms. of debris on its

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surface. Structures J-25 and J-26 are low mounds not investigated.

Descending the great stairway, which seems to have been broken by at least one terrace or "landing", we find a broad shelf or terrace at the base, with the tiny mound F-1 to the right.

Farther to the east, beyond a small ravine in the hillside, is the ruin of a pyramid of major proportions, Structure J-29. It is built against the hill, with a large high front terrace at the base. A stairway probably rose from this terrace, as there is no other possible approach to the top. The debris there indicates two buildings, one set behind and above the other. Their present tops are about 27.00 and 20.00 meters above the plaza level.

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At the river end of the valley, (and of the plaza), are Structures E-1, a low mound, and E-2, a stone ruin, associated with a broad terrace or platform. Here is the site of the Expedition's museum's camp.

Nothing further in this group has been mapped. The plaza runs northeast from the river, with a few terraces and mounds on the northwest side, until it intersects the valley of the Tenosique trail. Here is a considerable group of mounds, more or less small and low, with at least one small pyramid, set against the hill. High on the hill opposite Structure J-29 is a group of two steep-sided long mounds, over two meters high, apparently disassociated from anything else.

Southeast Group

Logically, this should have been described with the East and South Groups, with which it is closely associated. It seemed better, however, to cover the well-known areas first. It is marked off from the East and South Groups by a decided drop in elevation and by the character of the mounds. These are mostly small and low. They almost fill the valley, with no large courts or plazas, and rise some distance up the hill to the southeast, not shown on the map.

Going to the East Group and passing beyond it, between Structures 0-12 and P-6, the ground at once begins to drop. On our right we pass a series of broad terraces, on which are the small mounds of Structures P-4 and P-3. Further along is the low mound of Structure S-1, and about 35.00 meters further, Structure S-2, on its own platform. A massive plain stone lintel on this structure was turned, but we did not excavate to determine the presence or absence of stone vaults. An additional 35.00 meters separate this from Structure S-4, a small mound somewhat higher.

As we have proceeded, the level of the valley has been dropping steadily, and we have paid no attention to great numbers of low mounds on our left, which are not yet surveyed. We have been following the Tenosique trail in the direction of El Cayo. If we continued we would pass Maler's Ceiba tree, cross the head of his transverse valley and continue on an indefinite distance, with mounds and terraces on either side. Instead, we will cut across the mound area, leaving Structure S-4 and going in a direction 34.5 degrees east of south (magnetic), climbing up a terrace or two on the way. After about 765 meters we reach Structure V-1. The plan of this ^{mound} represents what we could make out of the building on the northern of its two wings. The ^{stone} walls were originally not over a meter in height, perhaps carried higher with wood or wattle-and-daub construction. Below the floor of this building, possibly a dwelling, were a vault and two slab-covered cist burials, one of the latter ^{was a cluster of} an adult and child. From the rear retaining wall of the ^{substructure} came the known fragment of Lintel 10, sent to Guatemala City in 1931.

Buried below this structure was the ruin of an earlier one, with most, at least, of its walls, only 35 cms. thick. Still lower part of a buried terrace was uncovered, faced with large irregular stones, set on edge.

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Trenching through Structures V-2 and V-3 proved the former presence of stone structures of no great height, without vaults. In the first case a thick deposit of disintegrated plaster on the well-preserved plaster floor suggests the former presence of a beam and mortar roof.

This little complex is set near the base, and at the end of a long high mesa curving southeast to this point from a saddle separating it from the hill behind Structure O-13 in the East Group. This end is terraced to a height of ten meters or so behind (northeast) of the complex. At that height a projecting spur has been made over into a rectangular court with a commanding view on three sides. There are sizable mounds or platforms on all sides of the court, that on the south being about 3.00 meters high. In location and size this court compares with Court 1 of the Acropolis.

The slope behind it is more gentle, and here ^{are} a number of interesting small and roughly circular mounds, about two meters high.

From the court an excellent view of most of the Southeast Group, and probably the major buildings of the South and East Groups, would be afforded if the bush were cleared.

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