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17. Archaeology in Mexico.

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shaft tapers towards the handle, which presents an oval section, the decorated portion being marked off top and bottom, by a deep encircling groove. The handle ends in a pair of human masks set back to back, which are identical in character show a peculiarity in a concave ear-like projection on either side of the jaw.

Traces of rosin, here and in the hollows of the eyes, bear evidence that the handle-ends before having been rubbed down by wear, bore decorative inlay. A small groove above the forehead indicates the hair or some kind of head-covering (Fig. 2). Dimensions: total length, 401 mm.; greatest diameter of shaft, 31 mm.; total length of handle, 85 mm.; breadth across heads, 50 mm.

These maces were purchased without data in 1907, at a London sale; but to judge by their distinctive ornamentation, it seems probable that they came from different islands. If we may judge by the very small number to be found in collections, this form of mace can never have been common, for their beauty is sure to have attracted attention. Possibly these few examples, of which the exact origin is only known in one instance, may prove to be the sole descendants of an earlier form of stone-headed weapon—survivals which before collectors reached the islands had themselves fallen into desuetude. However this may be, it does not seem probable that such elaborately decorated weapons had ever been numerous, or that any but persons of rank would be allowed to carry them. I can only trace the following six other examples:—

FIG. 2.

1. London, British Museum: one (headless), not unlike Cambridge specimen No. 1. No particulars. *Edge-Partington's Album*, S. I, Pl. 206, Fig. 8.

2, 3. Dresden, Museum Godeffroy: two, one with faceted, inlaid handle-end; and one plain-shafted, carved with a double human-figure terminal. From Malayta. *Schmeltz and Krause, Cat. Mus. Godeffroy*, 1881, Pl. 20, Figs. 6 and 7.

4-6. Sydney: three, two with widely set shell inlay (one with crescent-shaped handle-end). No particulars. University (Maclean) Museum; and one of distinct type, with plain shaft ending in a human head inlaid with *white* shell. No particulars. Australian Museum. *Edge-Partington's Album*, S. III, Pl. 34, Figs. 1, 2, and 3. ANATOLE VON HÜGEL.

Mexico: Archæology.

Archæology in Mexico. By A. Breton.

Within the last few years some important discoveries have been made in Mexican archæology, and a brief note on them may interest those who look forward to the time when the ancient history of the American continent will take its rightful place in the world of science. At present, the small band of workers in this field can do little, although every little helps. Recruits are badly wanted, and, seeing the fascination of the subject, they should be forthcoming.

In the city of Mexico, during the excavations necessary for the great drainage system, vast quantities of objects were found several metres below the surface of the street of Escalerillas, near the site of one of the principal ancient temples, and of the modern cathedral. There were beads and figurines of jadeite and other polished

Breton.

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stones, painted pottery (including beautiful censers covered with symbolic designs), chert daggers and lance-heads, ear, nose, and breast ornaments of thin gold plates, and various archaic stone heads and statues. A large altar with reliefs of skulls and crossbones was also found and is now in the museum. Leopoldo Batres, the Government Inspector of Ruins, superintended these excavations and published an illustrated report.

In 1902 Señor Batres excavated part of the great temple-fortress on Monte Alban, near Oaxaca, and found many sculptured stones, menhirs, and some with hieroglyphs of a type distinct from those of Central America. A report of this was published by the Mexican Government, which has become very energetic as regards the country's antiquities. It is now spending large sums on excavations at Teotihuacán.

Teotihuacán is the best known of ancient Mexican sites, being only an hour by train from the capital. The principal features are the two great pyramids, called of the Sun and Moon, the former facing the centre of the "Street of the Dead," the latter at the far end, and the Cindadela which is apparently a temple-fortress somewhat similar to that on Monte Alban.

The pyramid of the sun is about 66 metres high, 232 metres wide at the base on the north and south sides, and 224 metres wide from east to west. The "north" side faces several degrees north-east. Trees and bushes had grown over the great mound in the course of centuries, for the outer layer of masonry was stripped off when the many villages and towns in the neighbourhood were built by the Spaniards. Not only has the vegetation now been cleared away, but Señor Batres states that he "has removed 7 metres in thickness from the north and south sides and 4.60 metres from the east and west sides." The effect of this has been to render the angles of the three terraces which form the pyramid much more obtuse than formerly (Fig. 1).

Photo. A. Breton, 1905.

FIG. 1.—HOUSE OF THE PRIESTS AND S.W. CORNER OF THE PYRAMID OF THE SUN, TEOTIAUACÁN.

Señor Batres says that the pyramid was constructed of adobes, covered by three thick coats, each consisting alternately of clay and stone. The coat which will now remain visible, has been repaired and cemented. It is of partially shaped stones set more or less in rows, and formed into sections by perpendicular straight rows. It was obviously never intended to be a surface coat, and here and there are outstanding buttresses which helped to sustain the great outer coat of masonry. A shaft is to be sunk from the summit down the middle of the interior. On the south side a long court separates the pyramid from a wide raised platform. This has, at its south-west corner, remains of a chambered dwelling, probably of the priests. On the west side, portions of minor stairways and three small temples have been found, but most of the stones are gone which belonged to the main stairway. Great quantities of labrets and ear ornaments have been found, especially on the top

of the pyramid, also some sculptured stones and a remarkable male torso. The temples which border the Street of the Dead, something after the fashion of those in the Roman Forum, are now being uncovered. One in particular is extraordinary for the way in which it has been altered and added to, as the additions conceal painted stucco walls, and one wall has been painted three times with different frescoes, of which parts remain, one over the other.

Herr Teobert Maler has made several expeditions for the Peabody Museum at Harvard into the difficult and little-known country on the borders of Chiapas and Guatemala, and the two volumes of his report on the ruins have been published by that museum. The photographs give an excellent idea of the very high stage of art which had been reached in that district, shown in the magnificent reliefs on the stele.

Photo. Mrs. James.

FIG. 2.—PART OF THE RELIEF, ACANCEH.

In Yucatan 200 ruins have now been catalogued, all of them buildings constructed of cut stone and with good architecture. But scarcely anything has been done in the way of scientific excavation of the innumerable mounds. Acanceh, a small town an hour south-west from Merida by train, possessed three or four ancient mounds about 40 feet high. One of these had been used as a quarry until a year ago, when the destroyers, having worked across the top, came upon the last remaining face of a building which was covered with painted reliefs in stucco. This is nearly at the top of the mound. At some period the reliefs had been whitewashed, the space in front filled with rough stones up to a few inches from

the wall, and then earth and lime dust thrown in to make all solid. On removing this, a length of 40 feet of wall appeared, with a band of reliefs in panels, surmounted by a cornice with a symbolic design and another border below. Each of the twenty-one panels contains a symbolic bird or a quaint hybrid beast, done with the greatest skill in very high relief, and painted in colours on a red ground (Fig. 2). The ruffled breasts of the birds are curiously given by means of quantities

of chipped flakes of crystalline limestone which stand out from the cement (Fig. 3).^{*} This wall is merely the outer wall of some funeral chambers which appear to have formed the interior of what was the highest terrace of the pyramid. There are other funeral chambers lower down on the half-destroyed side.

Another mound at Acanceh was also being destroyed when they came on a funeral chamber at the top. It contained bones of a man and woman and jars and plates of painted pottery. Below this appeared the original core of the mound, which had been covered with about 20 feet in thickness of rough stones. This core was covered with cement, a terraced pyramid, with gigantic stucco faces in relief. Two of these are visible on the recently destroyed side, but the stucco soon falls with exposure to air and rain. They are in the same style as the colossal head at Izamal. It is quite possible that some of the fifty-nine mounds at Ake contain something similar. Unfortunately, whilst the Government prevents any exploration by foreigners, it cannot prevent destruction by owners of property, nor by time and weather. That the ancient folk built well is shown by the fact that after at least 400 years of desertion so much remains in good condition at Labna, Uxmal, and Chichen. The casual tourist may consider them comparatively modern, but no one will do so who has really studied them.

Photo. A. Breton.

FIG. 3.—CORNER OF RELIEF: BIRD'S WING WITH EYE IN CENTRE AND CLAW BELOW.

ADELA BRETON.

Australia.

Van Gennep.

Questions Australiennes (II). By A. van Gennep.

Par les soins de M. von Leonhardi vient de paraître à Francfort† un volume **18** sur les Australiens Centraux qui confirme plusieurs théories que j'ai exposées ailleurs.‡ Ce volume ne contient encore qu'une faible partie de matériaux recueillis par M. Strehlow, l'un des missionnaires de la station de Hermannsburg, et qui connaît à fond

^{*} The writer removed the untouched stones and earth from this corner, and found that the nearer part seen in the photograph was a mass of breccia, which apparently contained human dust. Although very dry, the breccia was hard to break up, and the peculiar dust was mixed with stones, with no trace of burial or cremation.

† G. Strehlow, *Die Aranda- und Loritja-Stämme in Zentral-Australien*. I. Teil. J. Baer et Cie., 1907. 15 marks.

‡ *Mythes et Légendes d'Australie*, 1906; *Questions Australiennes*, MAN, 1907, 16.