



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

CODEX PERESIANUS (PARIS) 22 pp.

CODEX TRO-CORTESIANUS (MADRID) 112 pp.

CODEX DRESDENSIS 74 pp.

Villacorta, J.A. & C.A. Villacorta. 1933. Codices
Mayas. Dresdensis -Peresianus- Tro-Cortes-
ianus. Tipografia Nacional. Guatemala.

CODEX DRESDENSIS: Pl. 65 (bird as in mushroom stone)
in Förstemann No. 36
for KEROX: Pl. 39, 44, 47, 53, 62, 63, 64. F1435
TRO-CORTESIANUS: 56 leaves; 112 sides; 23'6" long. P6³D4

CODEX LAUD 1636. BODLIAN LIBRARY, OXFORD.
ARCHBISHOP Wm. LAUD (1573-1645).

1 CODEX ON FLEXIBLE, TANNED SKIN.

Dr. Peter Furst
Dep't. Latin American Studies
U.C.L.A.

Sr. José Luis Franco
Salamanca 30A
Mexico, D.F.

Dr. Donald Robertson
Art Dep't
Newcomb Coll. N.O.

(I spoke to him: 19-XI-1970)
from Freret St. Library,
Miss LeDoux in charge.

24-V-72. 3:10 PM

Dr. James Raugh, Smithsonian Inst., Wash.
phoned to ask me whether it would be
ok if a colleague of his named Korman (♀)
could send me some photos of model
houses decorated with mushrooms (?) for
identification. She is with the Museum of
Modern Art, New York. I agreed.

Von HAGEN, V. W. 1944. THE AZTEC & MAYA
PAPER MAKERS. N.Y.

RAU, JACK. 1970. THE CODEX AS A BOOK FORM.
THREE MAYA CODICES. THE PRE-COLUMBIAN
PRESS, N.Y. (201 E. 37 ST. N.Y. 10016)

The man Dr. Evans
showed this photo to is
Jim Raul. He said
several things about it
looked authentic, I'll
try to find out who he
is when I next go to
D.C.

Bill H.

ie Jim Raul - I spoke to him

in N.O.

Bill Haag

8 IV-71

Jeroglíficos Mayas

El Centro para las Relaciones Interamericanas, de Nueva York, y el Museo de Arqueología y Etnología Peabody de la Universidad de Harvard presentaron material clave de la escritura maya en una muestra realizada en el citado centro entre el 28 de enero y el 28 de marzo.

Ese material ha contribuido a mirar los indescifrados jeroglíficos mayas —la única forma de escritura conocida en América antes de Colón— en relación con otras lenguas antiguas, ha informado acerca de previos empeños por descifrarlos y ha expuesto algunos de los mejores monumentos e inscripciones mayas originales como obras de arte con derecho propio. Al mismo tiempo, ha llamado la atención a propósito de un estudio de quince años de las inscripciones jeroglíficas mayas, oficialmente iniciado en octubre de 1970, que intentará resolver uno de los problemas más antiguos de la arqueología americana. Dicho estudio va a ser realizado por el Museo Peabody, con la dirección de Ian Graham, erudito explorador británico que preparó la muestra de Nueva York y su magnífico catálogo. La Fundación Charles Guttman, de Nueva York, correrá con parte del costo.

Uno de los directores de la Fundación es Edgar H. Brenner, abogado de la ciudad de Washington que inició la reunión en las oficinas de la Fundación Guttman en noviembre de 1967. Allí, representantes del Centro para las Relaciones Interamericanas, del Museo Peabody, del Museo Norteamericano de Historia Natural y del Departamento de Antropología de la Universidad de Yale tomaron la decisión de publicar las 1.322 inscripciones en piedra que se sepa existen y los tres códices mayas subsistentes.

La mayoría de tales piedras se hallan en las selvas y mezquites de México, Guatemala y Honduras, donde están siendo rápidamente destruidas por la acción del pillaje y de las lluvias, hecho que otorga urgencia al mencionado estudio.

Cuando se reúna el material y se identifiquen y numeren los glifos, la información se someterá a la computadora, lo cual se espera acelerará el desciframiento.



Yeso de una estela procedente de Copán, Honduras, exhibido junto con obras mayas originales en la muestra "El arte de la escritura jeroglífica maya" del Centro de Relaciones Interamericanas, en Nueva York en marzo de 1971. La inscripción jeroglífica aparece en el lado izquierdo de la estela.

Lieferbar

CODEx DRESDENSIS

Berlin 1962. Faksimile-Ausgabe der Maya-Handschrift der Sächsischen Landesbibliothek, Dresden. 74 mehrfarbige Lichtdrucktafeln, 1 Konkordanztafel, 1 achtfarbige Offsettafel. Vorwort von Prof. Dr. Eva Lips, Leipzig. Ganzleinenkassette mit Goldprägung.

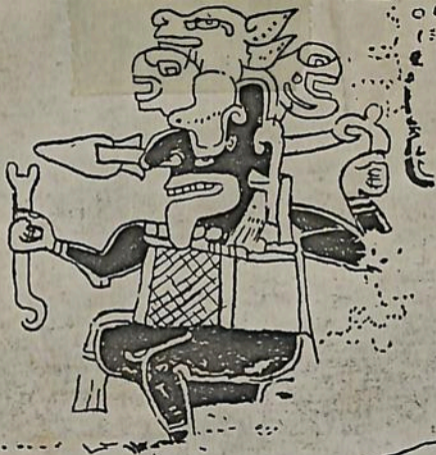
Berlin 1962 Facsimile-edition of the Maya-manuscript of the Sächsische Landesbibliothek, Dresden. 74 multi-coloured phototype plates, 1 plate of concordance, 1 eight colour offset plate. Preface by Prof. Dr. Eva Lips, Leipzig. Full cloth box with gold tooling.

Ladenpreis (list price): öS 2.310,- (DM 361,- US \$ 91.00)

Die vor über 70 Jahren von Ernst Förstemann herausgegebene Faksimile-Ausgabe der Maya-Handschrift der Sächsischen Landesbibliothek zu Dresden stellte einen Markstein in der Geschichte der Mayaforschung dar und bildet seither die unentbehrliche Grundlage des Studiums der Kulturwelt der alten Maya. Das jetzt im Buchmuseum der Dresdener Bibliothek befindliche Original hat den Zweiten Weltkrieg mit nur geringen Wasserschäden überlebt, liegt heute unter Glas und läßt sich schwer transportieren. Deshalb kommt der erfolgten Neuauflage besondere Bedeutung zu, zumal der Nachdruck in mustergültiger Gewissenhaftigkeit erfolgte und eine genaue Farbabstimmung mit dem Original und der alten Lichtdruckausgabe von 1892 durchgeführt wurde. Da sich nur wenige Institutionen glücklich schätzen können, ein Exemplar der Förstemann-Ausgabe zu besitzen, bietet sich nunmehr allen Interessenten die Möglichkeit, eine Lücke in ihren Beständen zu füllen.

Dr. Donald B. Lawrence
Univ. Minnesota *MINNEAPOLIS*
Minnesota,

Mushroom motifs in Buddhist religious art







THE ART OF Latin America

NOTE!

Seating is limited. Please write the New Orleans Museum of Art, P. O. Box 19123, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70119, to reserve seats or return the enclosed reservation card. Requests will be filled in order of receipt. Reservations will be held at the Museum the day of each Symposium.

There are no restaurant facilities at or near the Museum. Box lunches can be made available for Saturday noon if requested in advance. (\$1.50 each).

EXHIBITIONS

NEW ORLEANS MUSEUM OF ART

Mr. James B. Byrnes, Director

The Museum's two special exhibitions provided the inspiration for the total project which is designed to focus attention upon the collection of RUBBINGS OF ANCIENT MAYA RELIEF SCULPTURE made by Merle Greene Robertson of California, now owned by the Latin American Library of Tulane University through the generosity of the Stern Fund. A selection from the more than four hundred examples in the collection will be prepared and mounted for exhibition at the Museum. The majority of these will be shown for the first time and will include a number of unpublished examples.

Of equal interest to students of Latin American Art will be the exhibition of PERUVIAN COLONIAL PAINTING organized by the Brooklyn Museum using examples from their permanent collection augmented by twenty-seven outstanding works from a collection jointly owned by the Stern Fund and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Q. Davis of New Orleans as well as the permanent collection of the New Orleans Museum of Art. An illustrated catalogue prepared by Pál Kelemen accompanies the exhibition.

The occasion will also serve to introduce the recently expanded facilities and program of the New Orleans Museum of Art which has in recent years concentrated on the acquisition of outstanding examples of The Arts of the Americas, particularly in the fields of Colonial Latin American and Pre-Columbian Art.

TULANE UNIVERSITY

MIDDLE AMERICAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE, Dr. Robert Wauchope, Director. Exhibition of Pre-Columbian Art from Central and Middle America and from other Caribbean cultures. Fourth Floor, Dinwiddie Hall, 8:00 am-4:00 pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 866-4511.

LATIN AMERICAN LIBRARY, Miss Majorie LeDoux, Librarian. Exhibition of Selected Holdings from the Rare Book Room, Fourth Floor, Tulane University Library, closed Sunday until 2:00 pm.

TULANE UNIVERSITY SYMPOSIA ON THE ART OF LATIN AMERICA

in cooperation with

THE NEW ORLEANS MUSEUM OF ART

FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 1972, 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM:

Opening Reception: The Gallery, Newcomb College Art Department, Tulane University

SYMPOSIUM ON MAYA ART

Supported by the Samuel H. Kress Foundation

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1972

NEW ORLEANS MUSEUM OF ART, CITY PARK

9:00 AM: REGISTRATION

MAYA PAINTING

9:30 AM to 12:00 Noon

Welcome by Dr. Donald Robertson, Chairman
University Symposia Committee

Moderator:

Dr. Doris Stone, Associate in Archaeology
Middle American Research Institute
Tulane University

Dr. Jacinto Quirarte
Department of Art
University of Texas, Austin

MAYA VASE AND MURAL PAINTING OF THE SOUTHERN LOWLANDS

FIRST CENTURY B.C. TO NINTH CENTURY A.D.

Dr. Frederick J. Dockstader, Director
Museum of the American Indian
The Heye Foundation, New York

A POLYCHROME CACHE FROM COPÁN

Mtra. Marta Foncerrada de Molina, Investigadora
Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

MAYA VASE PAINTING OF THE CLASSIC PERIOD

Dr. Arthur G. Miller
Department of the History of Art
Yale University

MAYA INFLUENCE IN THE MURAL PAINTING OF TEOTIHUACÁN

Dr. J. Eric S. Thompson, Professor Emeritus
Carnegie Institution of Washington
Harvard, Ashdon, Saffron Walden
Essex, England

MYTH, METAPHORS AND OTHER FACTORS IN MAYA REPRESENTATIONS OF FAUNA (to be read *in absentia*)

MAYA SCULPTURE

2:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Moderator:

Dr. Munro Edmonson, Chairman
Department of Anthropology
Tulane University

Mtra. Beatriz de la Fuente, Investigadora
Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

THE HUMAN FIGURE IN MAYA SCULPTURE

Mrs. Merle Greene Robertson, Director
Pre-Columbian Art Research Project
Robert Louis Stevenson School
Pebble Beach, California

THE RITUAL BUNDLES OF THE YAXCHILÁN LINTELS

Dr. John Graham
Department of Anthropology
University of California, Berkeley

SOME FINAL MOMENTS OF CLASSIC MAYA ART

Dr. George A. Kubler, Robert Lehman Professor of the History of Art
Yale University

THE PAIRED ATTENDANTS OF THE TEMPLE TABLETS AT PALENQUE

SYMPOSIUM ON COLONIAL ART

SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 1972

NEW ORLEANS MUSEUM OF ART, CITY PARK

1:00 PM: REGISTRATION

THE SCHOOL OF CUZCO

1:30 PM to 4:00 PM

Welcome by Dr. Donald Robertson, Chairman
University Symposia Committee

Moderator:

Dr. Richard E. Greenleaf, Director
Center for Latin American Studies
Tulane University

Arq. José de Mesa F., Director
Instituto de Investigaciones Artísticas
Universidad Mayor de San Andrés
La Paz, Bolivia

CUZCO PAINTING: ITS CHARACTERISTICS

Arq. Teresa Gisbert de Mesa, Jefe de Investigadores
Instituto de Investigaciones Artísticas
Universidad Mayor de San Andrés
La Paz, Bolivia

PANORAMA OF CUZCO PAINTING

Dr. Leopoldo Castedo, Chairman
Department of Art
State University of New York at Stony Brook

A REAPPRAISAL OF ALTOPERUVIAN 'MESTIZO' ORNAMENTS AND SYMBOLS

Dr. Francisco Stastny, Catedrático Asociado en Historia del Arte
Universidad Mayor de San Marcos
Lima, Perú

MATEO PÉREZ DE ALESIO AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CUZCO SCHOOL

Arq. Graziano Gasparini, Director
Centro de Investigaciones Históricas y Estéticas
Universidad Central de Venezuela, Caracas

THE CUZCO SCHOOL: AN ENCHANTING ART

4:30 PM:

Concert of Spanish Baroque Music
New Orleans Symphony Baroque Ensemble
Stern Auditorium

5:00 PM:

Members' Preview of Exhibitions
Refreshments for Symposia Guests and
Members of the Museum

TULANE UNIVERSITY SYMPOSIA COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Dr. Donald Robertson
Newcomb College Art Department

Dr. Munro Edmonson, Chairman
Department of Anthropology

Dr. Richard E. Greenleaf, Director
Center for Latin American Studies

Dr. Robert Wauchope, Director
Middle American Research Institute

Dr. Daniel Wogan

Department of Spanish

Apartado 69-636
Mexico 21, D.F.
Mexico
12 July 1972

Prof. Bernard Lowie
Dept. of Biology
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

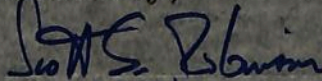
Dear Prof. Lowie:

Recently, some anthropological colleagues gave me your name and mentioned your work among the many species of hallucinogenic mushrooms here in central Mexico. I am wondering if you could send along some reprints of your work and perhaps a short bibliography containing items re the cultural context of their usage.

Myself and a colleague from the Univ. of Minnesota, Mr. John Ingham, are beginning a study of Nahuatl shamanism which still survives in the form of the graniceros who inhabit the small villages on the slopes of Popo and Ixta. We are curious whether there are hallucinogenic mushrooms indigenous to this region ~~which~~ which may have or still do play a role in trance states/curing etc.

Thank you for your help.

Cordially,



Scott S. Robinson



UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL TÉCNICA DE PIURA

PIURA

18 August, 1972

Piura, Peru

Dear Mr. ^Robinson:

Your letter of 12 July arrived in Piura via the circuitous route of ^Baton Rouge and Lima. I have been here only about a week, having spent my first month or so in the ^Madre de Dios region, the Urubamba valley and Cuzco.

The best I can do is to refer you to a colleague of mine who is very knowledgeable in matters concerning hallucinogenic mushrooms of Mexico and who has published a couple of papers that may give you some of the kind of information you are looking for regarding the distribution of these agarics in the central and southern parts of the country. Look for: Dr. Gastón Guzmán at the Escuela Nacional de Ciencias Biológicas del Instituto Politécnico Nacional, México, D.F.

I'll be glad to send you what I have in the way of reprints, which is not much, but it will not be before January 1973 when I return to Baton Rouge. There was an unexpected demand for reprints of my 1971 paper in "Mycologia," and I have no more of them. There is a paper in press in the same journal (August-Sept.) on "Mushroom symbolism in Maya Codices" which may be of interest to you.

In the event this arrives after you have left Mexico, I have indicated your approximate forwarding address in Minnesota. I would like to know whether you receive it at either address. In any case, if you receive this, you should get in touch with Dr. Guzmán.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Bernard Lowy
Professor of Botany

UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS : DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

Dr. R. KALYANASUNDARAM
READER IN MYCOLOGY & PLANT PATHOLOGY

Indira Kalyanasundaram M
Lecturer

CENTRE OF ADVANCED
STUDY IN BOTANY
MADRAS-5, INDIA
16th Nov. 1972

Dr Richard K. Benjamin,
Editor-in-Chief, Mycologia,
Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden,
Claremont, California 91711.

Dear Sir,

This is with reference to the paper entitled "Mushroom symbolism in Maya Codices" by Bernard Lowy (Mycologia 64(4):816-821, 1972).

The object identified as a mushroom by Dr Lowy in Figs. 1-4, looks more like a mace (called gada in Indian languages), a weapon commonly known in ancient India and depicted as being carried by many of the deities in Indian mythology. It has a long handle with a bulbous tip, and a globose head which may be variously ornamented.

The proportions of the object in question with respect to the body of the figure that carries it, the ornate appearance of the head (described as the pileus), and its globose appearance suggested in Fig. 2, as well as the relationship of the Maya civilization to old Indian civilization, indicate that the object may be a mace, rather than a mushroom.

I hope you will publish ^hthis letter or forward it to the author of the paper, even though I am not a member of your esteemed Society. If Dr Lowy is interested, I can send him a picture of a figure bearing a mace. At the moment I am unable to do so as there is a letter-bomb scare in India and we are advised to write in letter-forms with no possible enclosures.

Yours sincerely,

Indira Kalyanasundaram
Indira Kalyanasundaram

Linden-Museum
Stuttgart/Didoni



Dear Dr Lowy -

I wasn't around
when Jim reached you on the
phone Wednesday so I don't
know how much he told
you. We are working on
architectural reconstructions based
on the architectural elements
of pre-columbian pottery.

Although I know
that the objects on the
roof are not mushrooms per
se, Jim said they are
mushroomy enough
to be of interest to
you. So far the
general belief
has been that they are

SANDRA

KURMAN

635 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK 10021

Pigeon houses, as we know
that the Indians in the
Mochica Valley raised a
great deal of pigeons per
quini sabe? If they ring
any sort of bell I would
appreciate your letting me
know.

Even if they don't, thanks
for taking the time to
look at them and have
a wonderful year in Peru.

Thanks again
Sandy Kurman.

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

College of Arts and Sciences

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

29 May, 1972

Dear Miss Kurman:

Thanks for your letter and the excellent photo. When Jim Raugh called me on the 24th he mentioned that you were associated with the Museum of Modern Art and that among other things you were studying a ceramic house with mushrooms or objects that looked like them.

My ignorance of Peruvian ceramics is vast. The three objects of course look quite convincingly mushroomic but whether they are so in fact - es harina de otra costal. I have seen nothing like it (which doesn't mean much) but I expect to pursue ethnomycological matters during my stay in Peru and Ecuador.

There is solid evidence that sacred mushrooms played a significant role in pre-Columbian societies (mushrooms in ritual use are shown in the Codex Vindobonensis Mexicanus I and also I think in the codices Madrid and Dresdensis) and there are the pottery mushrooms of El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico, but so far, such evidence has not been found in Peru. The priestly class is generally assumed to have been strong during the Mochica and Early Chimú periods. Were hallucinogens known to them? Probably. Anyway, I am going to look into the distribution of hallucinogenic plants - including hongos.

Enclosed is a xerox copy of a recent paper that might interest you. I regret that there are no more reprints.

Best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

B. Lowy
Bernard Lowy
Professor of Botany

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

College of Arts and Sciences

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

March 27, 1972

Prof. George E. Fay
Department of Anthropology
Colorado State College
Greeley, Colorado 80631

Dear Prof. Fay:

Kindly enter my subscription to "Katunob" for the coming year. I find that the last issue on hand in our library is dated 1967. I would appreciate receiving a set of back numbers of the last issue published, if this is still available. My check for \$4.00 is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

B. Lowy

Bernard Lowy
Professor of Botany

OK march 27, 72.

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

College of Arts and Sciences

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

April 18, 1972

Dear Dr. Fay,

Thanks for sending me the back numbers of "Kotumb." I would appreciate it if you corrected my address to: Botany Department. This would avoid future delays in delivery.

I note that you are leaving for Europe in August or so, so let me wish you good luck. I shall also be away on a Fulbright to Peru beginning in June, so please keep me on your mailing list.

Sincerely,

B. Lowry

Professor of Botany

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO
From

Greeley, Colorado
80631 Museum of Anthropology
Anthropology: Fay

TO:

Dr. Bernard Lowry, Prof. of Botany
~~Dept. of Anthropology~~ 316 Life Science
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

70803

POSTMASTER: This parcel may be opened for postal inspection if necessary. 4th Class Rate.

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE . LOUISIANA . 70803

College of Arts and Sciences

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

April 19, 1972

Dear Dr. Kelley:

I am chagrined to find that I no longer have reprints of the paper I had intended to send you in return for your kindness in giving me reprints of your own. The paper on mushroom stones appeared in *Mycologia* 63: 983-993. 1971 (Sept.-Oct.) under the title: "New records of mushroom stones from Guatemala." Apparently it was not without interest to Mayan scholars, since I received a letter from Dr. Michael Coe regarding a toad effigy on a stone illustrated in that paper. It seems to confirm his idea that bufotonine was known and used as a hallucinogen by the Olmecs.

Please accept the enclosed unpublished photograph of a mushroom stone that I found in a private collection in Guatemala last summer.

With kindest regards,

Cordially,

B. Lowy
Bernard Lowy
Professor of Botany

Thought you might be
interested. I enjoyed your
article so much. Will
send you my Yatchela revised
article with your suggestions
included.

Mae Robertson

[30-1-'73]

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE . LOUISIANA . 70803

College of Arts and Sciences

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

April 17, 1972

Mrs. Merle Greene Robertson
Robert Louis Stevenson School
Pebble Beach, Calif., 93953

Dear Mrs. Robertson:

I have enclosed a xerox copy of the corrected galley of a paper of mine which is to appear shortly in "Mycologia." I believe that the role of mushrooms and other hallucinogens used ritually by Middle American precolumbian societies (and obviously continuing to some extent until the present day) has not been adequately explored. In this connection, I wonder whether you would be good enough to give me further information on the use of the (presumably) hallucinogenic mushrooms by contemporary tribe(s) along the Usumacinta (?) which you mentioned in your paper. Have you collected specimens of the mushrooms and have they been identified? Your interpretation of the possible use of the ritual bundles shown in the Yaxchilán lintels, as containers for paraphernalia associated with hallucinogens used ritually, is of the greatest interest.

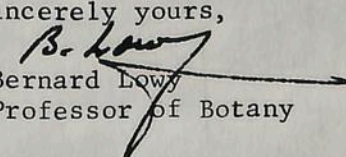
Also enclosed is a reprint of a paper in which I touch on the question of the use of Psilocybe spp in sacred ceremonies and a brief account of my participation in such a ceremony in Huautla de Jiménez. The slide of Madrid Lib which I showed you in New Orleans is also enclosed.

I plan to leave for Peru in June on a teaching-research mission supported by the Fulbright Program and among other things, I hope to pursue the question of the use of hallucinogens in some parts of the sierra and the montaña, as well as in southeastern Ecuador.

I was deeply impressed both with the examples of your beautiful work which adorned the museum and the interpretations you offered in your exemplary paper. Although some of these questions may never be completely solved, the search for substantive evidence must surely continue.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,


Bernard Lowy
Professor of Botany

Stanley H. Boggs

Apartado 1600
San Salvador,
El Salvador, C. A.

14 March 1972

Dr. Bernard Lowy
L.S.U. -- Dpt. of Botany
Baton Rouge, La. 70803

Dear Dr. Lowy:

Thank you for your note of 23 February and the photos of the mushroom stones from Guatemala. I think I've seen several of them at the Guatemalan museum recently, but I had no record of them and am grateful for the prints.

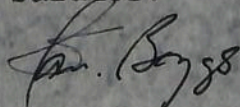
Several more -- usually fragmentary -- mushroom stones have turned up over the past six months here in collections, but as they were purchased from the usual campesinos, no one has any idea of their discovery context nor more than the vaguest ideas of their general area of provenance. I've often speculated whether they weren't individually owned, carried by the owners to a specific ceremony, and then carted back to the scattered dwellings of the owners, rather than concentrated in any one locality. I think something of the sort occurred with regard to "hachas" and Palmas, for they've not been found at any ball court -- where they must have been used: their scattered distribution, only occasionally in graves, suggests they were individual possessions rather than held at the point of a ceremony. Of course, a few instances of the mushroom stones and of the hachas having been found in considerable quantity together are known but so far these occurrences are exceptions. Obviously, we all need better and more specific information of the finding sites and contexts.

Thank you very much for the reprint on the mushroom stones, which was more than usually interesting. Congratulations, and keep at it.

If you are coming through here on the way to Ecuador, please drop in for a visit. We will probably be here most of the time, except possibly the first week or so of May, when I may go to Miami for a meeting.

With all best personal regards and

Saludos!



LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

College of Arts and Sciences — Agricultural Experiment Station

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY

January 24, 1972.

Dear Dr. Coe,

I was glad to have your informative letter. The discovery of the use of hallucinogenic mushrooms in Palenque by your students Allen Turner and Barbara Risk is certainly of very great interest. Have they published a report on this yet? I wonder whether they have voucher specimens of the mushrooms used. But it would be more appropriate to make these and other inquiries of your students, whose address you have kindly given me.

Although the use of psychoactive mushrooms by the native inhabitants of Palenque would be the first such report (to my knowledge), there are earlier published accounts on the distribution of mushrooms belonging to the genus Psilocybe in Maya territory (Chiapas). Two papers in which this is reported are by my colleague Dr. Gastón Guzmán: in "Ciencia (Méx.)" 20: 85-88, 1960, and in "Ciencia (Méx.)" 26: 25-28, 1968. But the findings of your students obviously extends significantly the area



in which hallucinogenic mushrooms are known
to have an influence among contemporary native
populations of Mexico.

with best wishes,

B. Lowry

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DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY

January 25, 1972

Dear Mr. Turner:

I have just heard from Dr. Coe about the exciting work that you and your colleague Barbara Rich are doing in the Palenque region. I am deeply interested in ethnomycological questions and for some years, chiefly in Guatemala but in El Salvador as well, have been looking into some aspects of these problems. Enclosed is a recent reprint concerning the interpretation of mushroom stones. I have tried to find evidence for the existence of a contemporary mushroom cult in these areas, with negative results. But further work is needed. There are too few people who are interested in pursuing these questions.

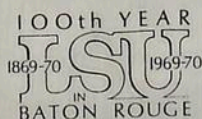
Have you extended your inquiries to the Lacandones? I have not been among them but it would certainly be worth while to try to get some pertinent data there. Some years ago, when I visited Dr. Frans Blom in San Cristóbal Las Casas, I asked him about the mycophagic habits of the Lacandones whom he knew quite well, but he could tell me nothing about this aspect of their lives.

I understand from Dr. Coe that you have observed the use of hallucinogenic mushrooms by some people in the Palenque area. Is the associated ritual comparable to what we know about the Mazatecs and others in Oaxaca? Have the mushrooms been identified? I hope you may find the time to write to me.

With best wishes for your continued success in your investigations.

Sincerely yours,

B. Lowy
Bernard Lowy
Professor of Botany



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College of Arts and Sciences

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

January 18, 1972

Dr. Michael D. Coe
Department of Anthropology
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut

Dear Dr. Coe:

After I had sent a reprint of my paper on mushroom stones to Dr. LaBarre, he called my attention to your article in "Horizon" entitled "The Shadow of the Olmecs." I believe that the evidence from a number of sources is now strong enough to postulate that the Maya had a hieratic cult associated with sacred, hallucinogenic mushrooms and that their mushroom stones were an integral part of it.

Your conjecture that the Olmecs may have used the hallucinogen bufotenine from toad skins is extremely interesting and provocative and I believe it is supported by the archeological evidence that I have found in the mushroom stone bearing the effigy of a toad (fig. 6 in the enclosed reprint).

If you have reprints of your paper in "Horizon", I would very much appreciate receiving one.

Sincerely yours,

B. Lowry
Bernard Lowry
Professor of Botany



PEABODY MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138 U.S.A.

Telephone (617) UN8-7600 Cable Address PEAMUSE

January 20, 1972

Dr. Bernard Lowy
Dept. of Botany and Plant Pathology
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, La. 70803

Dear Prof. Lowy:

I just had the pleasure of reading your recently published article on the mushroom stones in Mycologia. I enjoyed seeing such a concise and informative introduction to some of the problems posed by these stone objects.

I noticed that it has been some time since we last corresponded. At that time I was trying to raise money to go to Guatemala for more field research on the mushroom stones for my dissertation. Unfortunately I have not been totally successful in my fund raising attempts. I do, however, have half of what I need and am hopeful that the remainder will be available within the next few months. In the meanwhile I have been busy with library research and cataloging all the known examples of mushroom stones, pottery mushrooms and related artifacts. Most of these are from Borhegyi's file. I have over 200 artifacts cataloged at this time!

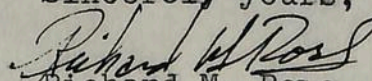
Would it be possible to get an off-print of your article in Mycologia? Mine is a Xeroxed copy which does not do justice to the photographs of the stones.

As soon as I know our departure date for Guatemala I will let you know in hopes that we will be able to meet either in Louisiana or Guatemala.

By the way, have you ever found or heard of hallucinogenic mushrooms growing in Guatemala? There are unconfirmed reports of psychoactive mushrooms at Palenque and I have heard that there are Indians in the Huehuetenango area who use these mushrooms.

My wife and I look forward to meeting you soon.

Sincerely yours,


Richard M. Rose

Home address:

Jackson Rd.
Hardwick, Mass 01037



PEABODY MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138 U.S.A.

Telephone (617) UN8-7600 Cable Address PEAMUSE

April 6, 1971

Dr. B. Lowy
Dept. of Botany and Plant Pathology
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803

Dear Dr. Lowy:

Please excuse the long delay in answering your letter of February 12. The New England winters tend to make one lethargic. Spring and a new burst of energy have arrived.

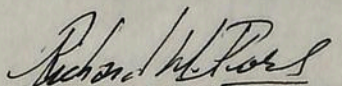
I was happy to learn of your work in Guatemala and El Salvador. I'm sure we can be of help to each other. Unfortunately, I will not be going to Guatemala until August or September when you will probably be returning to Louisiana. My wife is going to have a baby soon and we want to wait until it is a few months old before traveling. Perhaps we can drive to Mexico by way of Louisiana if you will be there.

Thank you for the photos of mushroom stones. I was familiar with most of them except for the two tall ones (56cm. & 50cm.) from the Mendez collection. Although I cannot say for sure I think these are fakes. Stylistically they are quite crude combining both Preclassic human effigy figures with Late Classic tripod bases. In addition, they are 15 to 20 cm. taller than most other examples. Dr. Lee A. Parsons with whom I am studying Preclassic stone sculpture of highland and Pacific Guatemala also doubts their authenticity.

Just the other day I heard that hallucinogenic mushrooms were seen growing at Palenque by students of Michael Coe of Yale. I have written to Coe for more information which I will send to you if you are interested. To my knowledge these are the first occurrences of mushrooms reported outside the Oaxaca-northern Mexico area. I have also heard of hallucinogenic mushrooms in Huehuetenango but have not yet been able to verify this. I have also had reports that Stropharia cubensis can be found in Colombia in the Cali area.

Best wishes for a happy Spring.

Sincerely yours,


RICHARD M. ROSE

PEABODY MUSEUM
OF
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CABLE ADDRESS: PEAMUSE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

February 4, 1971

Dr. Bernard Lowy
Dept. of Botany & Plant Pathology
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, La. 70803

Dear Professor Lowy:

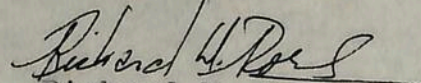
I first heard your name and of your interest in the mushroom stones and hallucinogenic mushrooms of Mexico and Guatemala from Ed Shook with whom I am presently working on the Monte Alto project in Guatemala. As a matter of fact, I was in Guatemala when you visited in 1970 and was disappointed we did not meet at that time.

I am a Ph.D. candidate in Archaeology at Harvard University. My dissertation will be on the Mushroom Stones of Middle America. In addition to studying the known mushroom stones and related artifacts within their archaeological context I will attempt to prove my thesis that psychoactive mushrooms were used by the Ancient Maya of Guatemala and southern Mexico.

I am in possession of the mushroom stone photographs and complete notes left by Stephen Borhegyi. I hope to review and refine Borhegyi's data in addition to considering the ethnohistoric, ethnographic and botanical data on the ancient and contemporary Maya. Professors Gordon R. Willey, Evon Z. Vogt and Lee A. Parsons comprise my thesis committee. I feel this is an ambitious project - some aspects of which I am not too qualified to undertake in that I am not a mycologist. I will be returning to Guatemala late Summer or early Autumn for my research in the field.

I am, of course, curious about your work in Guatemala. There are so many questions I would like to ask you but find them difficult to phrase considering my ignorance of your work. I hope that we can be of help to one another. I would enjoy hearing from you at your earliest convenience. Until then, I am,

Sincerely yours,


Richard M. Rose

P.S. I have seen your photo of the pregnant woman mushroom stone. It is quite fascinating. Reminds me of the Middle to Late Pre-classic potbellied figures of highland Guatemala.

EVON Z. VOGT. BELKNAP PRESS OF HARVARD UNIV. PRESS. 1969. 753 pp.

Other Cultivated Food Crops

Other native Middle American plants cultivated by the Zinacantecos include chilies and chayotes. The chilies are planted in both highlands and lowlands. The most important of the many varieties are BAK 'ICH (which is green, but turns red), SAKIL 'ICH (which is white and short), and PUH 'UT 'ICH (which is white and long). Besides salt, chilies are the most important condiment for dishes of beans, squash, and meat.

Chayotes (CH'UM TE') are grown in mats with their long vines climbing over woodwork lattices especially constructed for them in the highland house compounds. They are ripe in late October and are eaten boiled. Zinacantecos also cultivate and eat cabbages and potatoes in the highland hamlets. The hamlets at lower elevations also cultivate coffee, avocado, and banana trees.

Although the Zinacantecos have not taken up the growing of cereal crops such as wheat, as have some of their Indian neighbors (for example, in Huistán, Amatenango, and Aguacatenango), they have enthusiastically started apples, pears, quince, and especially peaches, and occasionally figs, plums, and passion fruit, and many house compounds now possess one or more fruit trees. Most of the fruit is eaten ripe, but some is sold in the market.

Hunting and Gathering

Hunting animals for food is currently unimportant for the Zinacanteco diet. An occasional rabbit is shot, and hunters from the hamlets close to the lowlands bring back deer from time to time. But the Chiapas highlands have been populated so densely for such a long period that almost all forms of edible mammals have long since been hunted off. However, rats, mice, and doves are caught in traps.

On the other hand, there is relatively full exploitation of edible wild plants, insects of various types, snails, and iguanas. While working in the lowlands, men chew on the stems of a purple flowery plant (VALAPOHOV) to quench thirst, and they season their beans with KULANTU (coriander). In the highlands various types of greens are collected by the women and cooked for meals, including NAPUSH, BOTIL NICHIM, and 'UNEN MU. At least sixteen types of mushrooms have Tzotzil names and are collected for food, the most common being CHECHEV, YUY, and MONI?. One type (YISIM CHIH) closely resembles a poisonous variety of mushroom and extreme care must be exercised to collect the edible species; in 1964 an entire Chamula family

see p. 621. CHECHEV = "A TYPE OF MUSHROOM." is PATRONYMIC

died from eating the poisonous species. The mushrooms are eaten either roasted on the coals or boiled.

The most commonly eaten insect is the larvae (MUM) of a wasp found under the ground. The mud "case" is heated by the fire until the larvae ooze out. Two types of snails are collected—large, black land snails (TONTOB), which are not considered very good eating, and small snails (PUY) that live in the lowland rivers and are considered a delicacy. Another lowland delicacy is the iguana (?INATAB), whose meat is sometimes substituted for the chicken required in ceremonies for the lowland maize fields. Finally, like their Maya ancestors, Zinacantecos are fond of honey (?AHA-POM) from wild bees (CHANUL POM) which they collect mostly in December and January.

Domesticated Animals

If the ancestors of the Zinacantecos had domesticated animals or fowl in pre-Columbian times, they must have had only dogs and turkeys. Most Zinacanteco houses still have one or more dogs, and there are a few turkeys (Figure 20). But much more important now are the domesticated animals which came with the Spanish: chickens, pigs, cows, sheep, horses, and mules.

Almost all Zinacanteco households maintain a flock of about a dozen chickens (KASHLAN) that are owned and tended by the women. These are red, white, or black, but the favored color is black, since only black chickens can be used in curing ceremonies. Some families have coops for the chickens, others keep them inside the house, but most chickens roost in trees in the house compound. They lay their eggs in old pots kept partly filled with grass at the edge of the house, under the overhang of the roof. The women feed them, mainly on maize kernels, twice a day.

Chickens are killed by pulling the head loose from, but not off, the neck. The feathers are plucked after the chicken has been dipped in hot water. The entrails are removed with a knife, and the chicken is cut into pieces and boiled. Although ordinarily served in a broth with chile, the pieces of chicken are served cold with tortillas when the Zinacantecos are on pilgrimages to their mountaintop shrines. (These crucial functions of the chicken in the ceremonial life of Zinacantan lead me to suspect that the chicken has replaced the aboriginal turkey which was probably once used in a comparable manner.)

Pigs are a minor item in the economy of Zinacantan. In fact, most pork consumed is purchased in the market in San Cristóbal. The one or two pigs

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DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY

February 12, 1971

Dear Mr. Rose:

The chief purpose of my travels and study in Latin America continues to be mycological research. But in recent years I have rather broadly defined this to include my interest in the mycophagic habits and folklore of indigenous populations and to some extent of linguistics insofar as it relates to the fungi. My knowledge in these areas is extremely limited but I am trying to build a greater competence with each visit. There is certainly no danger of my exhausting the field, even should I live to be a hundred. But there is a certain urgency in getting ahead with these problems and I am glad to know that you have chosen to pursue this much neglected discipline of ethnomycology. Old customs are dying out as "civilization" encroaches ever further on folkways. We have everything to learn from native people and little or nothing to offer them.

I think it would be best if we could meet and talk. I expect to return to Guatemala this summer but shall probably be spending most of my time in El Salvador. Perhaps we could arrange to meet in Guatemala. I tentatively plan to leave (for Mexico first) early in June then by stages to Guatemala and El Salvador. I have no fixed dates for anything yet.

Enclosed are a few still unpublished prints of mushroom stones for your personal file. Also, a reprint of a note published in 1968. A report on some aspects of my Guatemala findings (1970) is in preparation.

Wishing you the best of luck in your work,

Sincerely yours,

B. Lowy
B. Lowy
Professor of Botany

PS - Among many other things, it would be interesting to identify "Yim Chih" (see Vogt's "Zinacantan", p. 66). I have a clue that might be useful to follow up. In Tikal, I found the word "siquinche" in popular use and have identified the fungus to which it refers as Schizophyllum commune, an edible species. It seems to me not unlikely that "Yim Chih" is a corruption of "siquinche". According to an informant in Tikal - and others

also, in Flores - The edibility of a fungus is believed to be dependent on the substrate upon which it grows. Only those should be eaten which grow on the wood of "jobo" and "chacá". I have a small list of native words (mostly Tzotzil) and the corresponding mushroom species that I have identified, to which they refer. I could get this together for you some time if you think it worthwhile.

6 prints included - Natterbahr call.
+ Méndez pair

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DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY

January 25, 1972.

Dear Mr. Rose,

I would be glad to see you and your wife if you could manage to get here some time before the end of April. This is a sabbatical year for me and I plan to leave for Peru on a Fulbright at about that time.

I have enclosed a reprint of the paper you requested.

Sincerely yours,

B. Lewis

Apartado Postal 195
Antigua, Guatemala, C.A.
Jan. 7, 1972

Dr. Bernard Lowy
Dept. of Botany and Plant Pathology
Louisiana State Univ.
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Lowy

Many thanks for your paper "New Records of
Mushroom Stones from Guatemala." It is a most
interesting discussion, and I hope to see the
two examples, Fig. 7, in the shop in Guatemala City.
They don't look too good from what I can tell
from the photos.

As you know, I am far from being
convinced that the Maya had a mushroom cult
and that mushroom stones had anything to do
with the organic mushrooms. But, you have
planted the thought and proof may eventually
be found.

With best wishes for the continued
success of your research.

Sincerely,

Edwin M. Shook

Karl-Herbert Mayer
Raffaltweg 11
A-8010 GRAZ
Austria

Prof. Bernard Lowy
Louisiana State University
Department of Plant Pathology
Baton Rouge Louisiana 70803
U.S.A.

Graz, November 17, 1971

Dear Dr. Lowy:

I just came back from a trip to Mexico and found your nice letter of October 5, 1971 and the enclosed paper with your interesting article. I am very grateful for your informations and I am looking forward to read your next paper in Mycologia which is not yet arrived in the library of the University of Graz. I suppose Mr. Nottebohm misunderstood your information about the Amanita Muscaria collected or seen around San Cristobal Las Casas. I understand that the color print you sent to Mr. Nottebohm was a picture of a mushroom of the species Amanita caesarea which is not an hallucinogenic species.

I am preparing a paper about the mushroom cult in Mesoamerica because there is no book existing in the German language. Mostly is written in English, Spanish and French. Only a few articles have been published on that subject. I am checking all the literature I can get and I was not able to find anything in the 3 surviving Maya codices so far. Therefore I am very curious to learn about your found evidence that a mushroom cult existed in the Maya culture. I would be very glad to hear from you as soon this paper is available that I can order it.

I spent only 4 weeks in Mexico and because I lacked time and money was not able to go to Guatemala or El Salvador to see in the National Museums or private collections the mushroom representations in stone or clay.

I have seen a few pottery mushrooms in the Museo Frissell de Arte Zapoteca in Mitla, Oaxaca and in Tuxtla Gutierrez (BYU-New World Arch. Foundation and Regional Museum). Mr. Gareth Lowe of the BYU was kind enough to supply a black and white print of a photograph he made many years ago in the old National Museum in San Salvador. I suppose because of your mentioning that you are familiar with these objects. Interesting was the fact that in Salvador are similar mushroom stones as found in Chiapas.

If you are interested, I can send you a copy of Lowe's photograph.

In the Mitla Museum I was surprised to see very tiny mushroom ?! representations, about of one to two cm, which I think are as yet undescribed. Do you know about them?

I spent a short time in Huautla de Jimenez, met Maria Sabina for a talk, and because it was the late season for hongos, I found with the help of 2 young Mazatecos only 2 said hallucinogenic mushrooms growing in the field. I made color slides of them, but I am not able to name the species. Would it be possible for you to identify them when I send you a slide? I assume they belong to the species Psilocybe caerulescens var. mazatecorum. I found and collected them around the mid of October amidst grass, close to a foot path near coffee plantages. I bought furthermore fresh and dried mushrooms in Huautla and only dried ones in San Pedro Nexapa, close to Amecameca.

I spent only 2 days in San Cristobal de Las Casas and saw in the surrounding forests many mushrooms, including many Amanita Muscarias, but there was not evidence to find that any mushrooms were used in any rituals at all among the Tzotzil Indians.

Professor Lowy, I have to apologize for the delay in writing ^{to} you and hope to get a few lines from you again and when I receive a letter from you I will answer you right away because I am staying now in Graz. It was very kind to send me the paper and such an interesting letter with many informations and I am therefore very sure that many new facts about the whole mushroom problem will be found and published in the near future.

Karl-Herbert Mayer
Raffaltweg 11
A-8010 GRAZ
Austria, Europe

Dr. B. Lowy
College of Arts and Sciences
Botany and Plant Pathology
Agricultural Experiment Station
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803
U.S.A.

Graz, September 29, 1971

Dear Dr. Lowy:

Mr. Karl-Heinz Nottebohm, Guatemala City was so kind to give me your name and address. He informed me, that you are investigating the narcotic fungi of Mexico and that you took pictures of his own "mushroom" stones and furthermore, that you sent him last year a color photograph of hallucinogenic mushrooms (*amanita caesaria*?) in Chiapas, Mexico.

At the moment I am preparing a paper on hallucinogenic mushrooms of Mexico and the possible archaeological proofs of them like the so-called "mushroom"-stones and the pottery "mushrooms" of Mesoamerica.

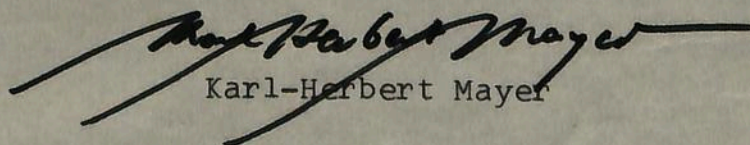
I am familiar with a lot of works done by R.G. Wasson, R. Heim, St.F. de Borhegyi, R. Ravicz, Schultes, P. Furst, T. Herrera, M. Zenteno, etc....

It would be interesting for me, if you have already published something on this problem and where I could obtain it.

Especially I am very curious of your findings in San Cristobal de Las Casas, Chiapas. The reported fungi were until now mostly belonging to *Psilocybe*, *Stropharia* and only, as far as I know, Pablo Reko assumed, that an *Amanita* was used in Mexico once.

I hope that you could give me a short information and thank you in advance for your kind help.

Yours very truly,


Karl-Herbert Mayer

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DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY

October 5, 1971

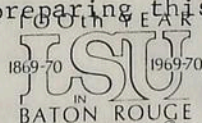
Mr. Karl-Herbert Mayer
Raffaltweg 11
A-8010 Graz
Austria

Dear Mr. Mayer:

In the summer of 1970, Mr. Nottebohm was kind enough to allow me to photograph his collection of mushroom stones and since that time I have seen and photographed many others in private collections and museums in Guatemala and El Salvador. It is true that I sent a color print of Amanita caesaria to Mr. Nottebohm, but of course this is not a hallucinogenic species (as you undoubtedly know) but an eminently edible one. I am sure that you must be referring to Amanita muscaria (Fliegenpilz) which has hallucinogenic properties, but which to my knowledge has not been used in recent times in the Americas in the way that Psilocybe spp. are presently used in some parts of Oaxaca. Enclosed is a reprint of a paper in which I comment on the problem of mushroom stones and give a brief account of my personal experience with the hallucinogenic Psilocybe caerulea var mazatecorum in Huautla de Jiménez in the summer of 1969.

There is a paper now in press in Mycologia in which I offer some further observations on mushroom stones. This is scheduled to appear in the September-October issue of the journal. In this paper I have included my photograph of one of Mr. Nottebohm's mushroom stones which has as its effigy a figure which I interpret as that of a human pregnancy. Consequently, fertility is also associated with mushroom stones for the first time.

I believe it is no longer justifiable to refer to these artifacts as "so-called" mushroom stones, because there is now sufficient evidence, in my judgement, to make such a statement without qualification. Some of this evidence is briefly reviewed in the enclosed paper. One of the most extraordinary mushroom stones that I have seen (in photo only) is in the Nottebohm collection, but unluckily it was on loan at the time that I photographed the others. I describe it in the enclosed reprint but you will find an excellent photograph of it in "Arts Mayas du Guatemala", Paris, 1968, figure 53. There is also a German edition of this work. The effigy on this stone is of an individual who is unmistakably hallucinating. I believe that this extremely provocative figure cannot be misinterpreted. I am pursuing still another line of evidence (also mentioned in passing in the enclosed paper) which I think will show that a mushroom cult existed among the Maya. I have carefully avoided making such a positive statement in print, but after further study of the Maya Codices, I believe that I have found the evidence to show that such a cult in all probability existed. I am now preparing this paper for publication.

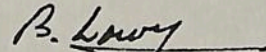


Concerning the pottery mushrooms that Borhegyi (1963) has described, I have no doubt about the interpretation of at least one such artifact which is in the Wasson collection (see my reprint). I have also seen these objects in El Salvador (as yet undescribed) and in Mexico.

I am not sure that I have correctly understood your reference to my work in Chiapas (including San Cristobal de Las Casas). I have never implied that Amanita muscaria is used there or anywhere else in Mexico or the Americas today as part of a hallucinogenic mushroom cult. To my knowledge, only species of Psilocybe are so used (Oaxaca). I have, however, often collected Amanita muscaria in Mexico and in Guatemala.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,



Bernard Lowy
Professor of Botany

Stanley H. Boggs

Apartado 1600
San Salvador,
El Salvador, C. A.

26 August 1971

Dear Dr. Lowy --

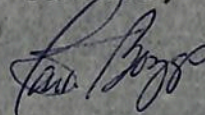
Just a note to accompany this slide of yours which I found mixed up with mine. Trust its loss hadn't caused you too much anxiety.

Mushroom stones and pots continue to appear slowly here, but I've seen nothing unusual about recently found examples. Think your range is yet complete.

Trust the remainder of your trip was pleasant and you find Baton Rouge less humid than usual.

All best and

Saludos,



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DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY

30-VIII-1971

Dear Dr. Boggs:

Many thanks for your kindness in returning the slide of my favorite curandera, María Sabina. For a brief interval she was the most important person in my life. The enclosed paper tells part of the story.

The generous hospitality that you and your wife offered me while I was in San Salvador helped make my trip really memorable.

I have not yet made prints of my slides but when I do I'll send you a few examples ^{of} the mushroom stone types that I have come across, just _^ for your record.

Los afectuosos saludos a Vd y su simpatiquísima esposa

de su amigo

B. Lowy
B. Lowy

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

College of Arts and Sciences — Agricultural Experiment Station

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY

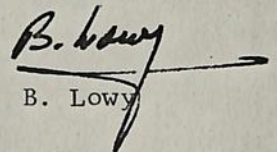
30-VIII-1971

Estimado Sr. Vilanova:

Hace poco que regresé a la universidad, después de pasar otra vez por Guatemala y México. En Guatemala conseguí fotos de algunos hongos de piedra que se encuentra en una colección particular y también datos interesantes sobre un código Maya, que no tenía antes.

Recuerdo con muchísimo placer la tarde que pasé en su casa con Vd. y su amable esposa.

Reciban Vds. los cordiales saludos de su amigo


B. Lowy

Incluyo con esto algunos fotos que saqué en su notable jardín.

Sr. Timoteo Vilanova M.
7 CALLE ORIENTE 2-7
STA TECLA,
EL SALVADOR, C. A.

100th YEAR
1869-70 1969-70
LSU
IN
BATON ROUGE

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

College of Arts and Sciences

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

February 23, 1972

Dear Dr. Boggs:

What is new on the mushroom stone front ? Have any lately come to your attention associated with burial sites ? I don't know whether you already have all the enclosed examples, but I am sending them in case you might be interested anyway. I hope that you received a reprint on mushroom stones sent to you some time ago.

I am getting ready to go on sabbatical leave for about 6 months. I have a Fulbright for teaching and research in Peru and hope to get into the Amazonian region of Ecuador as well.

With kindest regards,

Un abrazo cordial de

B. Lowry

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

409 SOCIAL SCIENCES BUILDING
UNIVERSITY PARK, PENNSYLVANIA 16802

College of the Liberal Arts
Department of Anthropology

January 3, 1972

Area Code 814
865-2509

Dr. B. Lowy
Mycological Herbarium
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, La. 70803

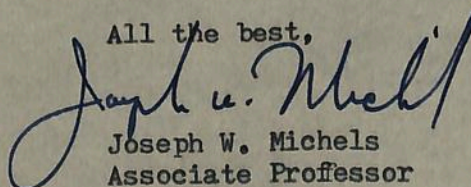
Dear Dr. Lowy:

Thank you for the reprint of your article on mushroom stones. I found it very informative. Do you have any reprints dealing with the ethnographic evidence for a mushroom cult in the Highlands of Guatemala? The one thing that disturbs me is the virtual absence of mushroom stones at Kaminaljuyu. From your article I get the impression that only about six have definitely been identified as having come from Kaminaljuyu. When you consider that we have excavated approximately 18 mounds and have opened up 550 settlement test trenches randomly distributed over the site and have come up with really only one mushroom stone it is very puzzling. My impression is that the majority of specimens are coming from minor civic centers and/or rural settlements.

I am inclined to agree with your interpretation of the function of the mushroom stones, but their distribution is a mystery that needs to be solved.

Good luck in your future investigations.

All the best,



Joseph W. Michels
Associate Professor

Duke University
DURHAM
NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
AND ANTHROPOLOGY

29 December 1971
GM Duke Station

POSTAL CODE 27706

Dear Dr. Lowy,

Cordial thanks for your offprints
on ethnomycology and mushroom stones!

As the enclosure indicates, I think
your Figure 6 on page 989 of the latter is a
stunning confirmation of Michael Coe's article,
"The Shadow of the Olmecs", HORIZON, 13 #4 (Autumn
1971) 66-75, pp. 73-74, in which he conjectures
that toad bones in Olmec remains may indicate use
of bufotenin: "We are now looking into the
possibility that the Olmecs used them for a
hallucinogenic substance called bufotenine, which
is one of the active ingredients of the poison
[in toad skins]."

Sincerely yours,

Weston La Barre
Weston La Barre
James B. Duke Professor
of Anthropology

"LA TINAJA"

GUATEMALA HANDICRAFT

12 CALLE 4-80, ZONA 1
GUATEMALA CITY

TELEFONO
20278

December 14th. 1971

Prof. Bernard Lowy
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, La.

Dear Profesor Lowy:

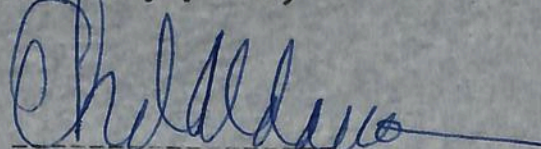
Kindly excuse the delay I have had in answering your letter of Nov. 25th. Last. Due to the coming holidays I had had extra work at the shop, plus a number of personal things I have had to attend to.

I am delighted to be of any service to you in obtaining the Villacorta books you so much desire. Upon receipt of your letter I visited Mr. Donat and, ofcourse not mentioning it was for you, I inquired about the Codices Mayas as a gift I wanted for a friend at Xmas. He has sold the Codices - or so he said - for \$30.00. He has the Arqueologia Guatemalteca by the same author, which is evidently the one you purchased, for \$15.00, and not a cent less. I have tried elsewhere since, but unsuccessfully. However, I am not going to give up and promise you that I shall inquire with friends and at different local places where I could purchase the Códices Mayas. Perhaps the Tipografia Nacional can give me a clue, or even be able to sell a forgotten copy (wishful thinking) I can not promise you I shall be able to succeed or be able to do much before the holidays but will gladly continue the search.

I am looking forward to receiving your illustrated paper on the mushroom stones. The color print you sent me of the monkey effigy here at the shop was greatly admired by my partner - Mr. Horton - who took it with him after leaving Guatemala last Oct; he was here for a short visit and may have to go back to Africa with Texaco again.

All my best wishes to you for the coming holidays.

Sincerely yours,



E. L. de Aldana

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

College of Arts and Sciences

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

December 17, 1971

Dear Sra. de Aldana:

I have just received your gracious letter and very much appreciate your kindness in making the inquiry for me about Villacorta's "Códices Mayas". It is, by the way, a single volume and includes drawings of the 3 Maya codices.

I have also just received the reprints of my paper on mushroom stones, a copy of which is enclosed with my thanks. Although it has just appeared in print, it has been in press for about 8 months, which is about par as far as waiting time is concerned in most professional journals today.

Should you come across a copy of the "Códices" at any time, I would be happy to hear about it.

Please accept my best wishes for the holiday season and for your happiness in the new year.

Cordially yours,

B. Lowy

~~Bernard Lowy~~
Professor of Botany

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

College of Arts and Sciences

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

Fr. Elvira de Aldera

Nov. 25, 1971.

La Tunaja

12C. 4-80, Zona 1 Guate.

I wrote requesting a copy of Villacosta's
"Códice de Maya" from Donat's, across from her
shop. I suggested a price of \$15-20. Also promised
to send her a reprint of my "Mythology" paper in
mexican stones. ¹
"Revista Interamericana"

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

College of Arts and Sciences — Agricultural Experiment Station

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY

August 27, 1971

Dr. James Rauh
Department of Anthropology
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Rauh:

During our brief telephone conversation in New Orleans in November, 1970, I spoke of a Maya codex that I had seen in Guatemala and I believe I sent you a kodachrome duplicate of part of it. My photographs at that time were not detailed enough for careful study, but I now have another set which I took recently in Guatemala. The enclosed print is an example.

I have spent considerable time in tracing the origin of this document and have found that it has its counterpart in the Madrid Codex. The enclosed print corresponds closely except for some details, including the glyphs, with page LIb of the Madrid from which I presume it might have been copied.

The enclosed frame of the Galindo codex (which I have named for the present owner) is of special interest to me, quite apart from the fact that a very similar one exists in the Madrid. Examination will show that the personage standing at the right is holding a conspicuous object the interpretation of which, as well as I can determine, is in doubt. Förstemann and Villacorta after him, identify this as a rattle ("sonaja") or as a calendar wheel. I believe, however, there is a good possibility that this could be a sacred mushroom. The evidence from mushroom stones leaves little doubt that mushrooms played some role in the lives of the Maya. How important this role was is a question that has not been satisfactorily answered. If I have correctly interpreted this panel as a sacred mushroom offering (the same object appears also in XXVa, XXVIa, XXVIIa and XXVIIIa of the Dresdensis) this would be quite compatible with what we already know about the mushroomic inclinations of the Aztecs as well. The Madrid plate XCVb is I think particularly provocative, since directly above the mushroom cap is the glyph "cimi", for death, here associated intimately with the hallucinogenic mushroom itself. The irregularities on the surface of the cap may be a representation of the large, irregular scales found on the cap surface of Amanita muscaria.

Of the 24 paintings (on both sides of 12 panels) in the Galindo codex, I have traced 23 of them to the Madrid, a few of them occurring in the same sequence. Many of them also have identical glyphs but there are some variations.

Sincerely yours,

B. Lowry

Bernard Lowry
Professor of Botany



M. GALINDO Y JIMENO
APDO. POST-18
HUEHUETENANGO
REP. DE GUATEMALA, C.A.

SEPT. 23 - 70

DR. Bernard Lowy.
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Estimado Sr. Lowy:

Con un poco de retraso
contesto su grata 14- de los 15, mucho
agradezco su finca de enviarme las fotos
lamento lo principal no saliera bien el color
es pues nosotros si estamos bastante bien.
espero en otra ocasion las cosas salgan
mejor, ojalá sea pronto pues tengo interés
en venderlo así como la colección de ollas
idolos y piedras antiguas ya estoy casi
siego y viejo no veo ya interés en esas
cosas. y si le soy sincero tengo deseos
de vender las cosas y terreno que tengo
en esta, tal vez Ud. tuviera algún amigo
que se interesara mucho le agradecería
interesarse tal vez por su medio se en-
cuentra algo. recuerde el panorama tan
bonito, el clima tan grato siempre. ni
frio ni caliente no cabe duda que es
ideal.

Con mis mejores deseos por su
bienestar y por verlo por esta su casa
muy pronto soy de Ud. atto & amigo.

Mariano Galindo

SR. JOSÉ MARIANO GALINDO Y JIMENO
APARTADO POSTAL 18
HUEHUETENANGO GUATEMALA

14 de Septiembre de 1970

Estimado Sr. Galindo:

Hace poco tiempo que regresé a la universidad de mi viaje a Guatemala y estoy actualmente trabajando con los datos que conseguí sobre el asunto de los hongos de piedra que estudié en varias partes de su país.

Recuerdo con mucho placer mi visita a su casa donde Vd. tenía la bondad de mostrarme algunas de sus valiosas colecciones, incluso el códice interesantísimo en su posesión. En cuanto a este, me fijé que en una de las láminas había la pintura de un hombre agarrando un hongo gigantesco en la mano y es evidente que está ofreciéndolo al personaje (muy posiblemente un sacerdote) quien está en frente de él. Lamentablemente mi foto ~~no~~ salió mostrando poco detalle (en otro viaje me gustaría tener su permiso sacarlo otra vez con otro aparato) pero de todos modos se ve las figuras en la copia que está incluido en el sobre. Me gustaría pedirle otro favor. No tiene Vd. algunos otros datos específicos sobre el origen del códice? Quiero decir, si Vd. sabe por casualidad, la fecha aproximada cuando entró el códice en la posesión de su familia?

La representación de los hongos en algunos otros códices está conocido pero se encuentra con poca frecuencia. En mi opinión es otra prueba que algunas especies de hongos tenían bastante importancia en la vida de los Maya - y no solo como artículo comestible - (que seguramente también conocieron) mas relacionado en toda probabilidad con la religión de la gente.

Le agradecería mucho por cualquier otro informe que Vd. pueda darme en cuanto a la historia del códice mismo.

Reciba Vd. los afectuosos saludos de su amigo

Bernard Lowy
Profesor de Botánica

M. GALINDO Y JIMENO
APTDO. POST-18
HUCHUETENANGO
REP. DE GUATEMALA, C.A.

SEPT. 23 - 70

DR. Bernard Lowy.
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Estimado Sr. Lowy:

Con un poco de retraso
contestó su grata 14 de los cets, mucho
agradezco su finesa de enviarme las fotos
lamento lo principal no sabía bien el code-
ce pues nosotros si estamos bastante bien.
espero en otra ocasión las cosas salgan
mejor, ojalá sea pronto pues tengo interés
en venderlo así como la colección de ollas
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cuentre algo. recuerde el panorama tan
bonito, el clima tan grato siempre ni
frio ni caliente no cabe duda que es
ideal.

Con mis mejores deseos por su
bienestar y por verlo por esta su casa
muy pronto soy de Ud. atto B y amigo.

Mariano Galindo

FERNANDO J. RECINOS G.

11 avenida "A" 7-52, zona 1

Guatemala, C. A.

Guatemala 3 de Mayo de 1971

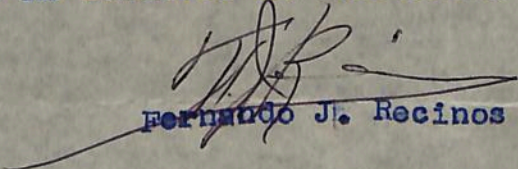
Doctor Bernard Lowy
Louisiana State University

Estimado Doctor Lowy:

Por este medio tengo el gusto de saludarlo, desiendo su buena conservacion.

Fue en mi poder su atenta cartita de fecha 9 de abril y enterado de ella vuelbo a escribirle con respecto al codice quiero me diga Ud. el precio que paga por el, pues yo no se cuanto le pidio mi Tio por el codice, como le indique en mi carta anterior que me urge venderlo por esa razon quiero que me diga Ud. cuanto me da por el.

Sin otra cosa mas por el momento y en espera de sus gratas ordene me suscribo su afectisimo servidor y amigo.



Fernando J. Recinos G.

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE
BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

College of Arts and Sciences — Agricultural Experiment Station

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY

13 de Mayo de 1971

Estimado Sr. Recinos:

Recién llegó su amable carta y quiero escribirle sin demora, porque al fin de este mes pienso ya en comenzar mi viaje a México y a Guatemala para seguir mis estudios. Como he hecho en años anteriores, voy a coleccionar especímenes de hongos para mi estudio taxonómico, y según mis expectativas estaré en Guatemala más o menos a mediados de Junio o posiblemente un poquito antes. Hágame el favor de entregarme su número de teléfono para facilitar nuestro encuentro.

Su tío me sugirió el precio de mil dólares para el códice, pero como le expliqué a él, es una cantidad completamente afuera de mis posibilidades. Claro que no recibí respuesta a mi carta porque sin duda llegó en el momento cuando su tío se enfermó. Para ser realista, puedo ofrecerle el sumo de \$350. Creo francamente que sería difícil encontrar con una persona quien tendrá bastante interés en el documento a ofrecerle más, y muy probablemente mucho menos.

Pues de todos modos, Sr. Recinos, yo quisiera mantener con Vd. la misma amistosa relación que yo tenía con su tío y ojalá que Vd. sería dispuesto a considerar este, mi sincero ofrecimiento, y platicar sobre el asunto como amigos debieran hacer.

Reciba Vd, los cordiales saludos de su amigo

B. Lowy
B. Lowy

Almacén Puerto Libre

CABLES: MAGAMAR - APARTADO POSTAL 182 - 6A. AV. 9-49, ZONA 1 - TELEFONO 86-7-38 - GUATEMALA, C.A.

28 de mayo de 1,971

Señor
Bernard Lowy
Botany Department,
Louisiana State University,
Baton Rouge, La. 70803

Estimado señor Lowy:

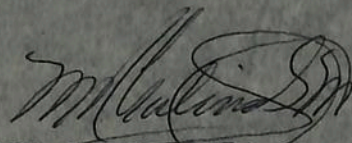
Acuso recibo de su carta de fecha 21 del mes en curso.

Debo de aclararle que el señor FERNANDO J. RECINOS, es persona que recientemente conocí y no es ningún pariente de este su servidor. Dicho señor Recinos en vida mi padre le comisionó para que vendiera dicho Códice, pero obviamente es solamente conmigo con quien se podrá hacer el negocio.

Cambié mis planes y ya no llegaré a Nueva Orleans, iré a Europa vía Miami, de consiguiente lamento no tener la oportunidad de conocerlo.

Espero que su estadía en Guatemala, le sea placentera.

Lo saluda muy corcialmente,



MARIO R. GALINDO M.

RADIOS - RADIOLAS - WESTINGHOUSE - NIVICO - MITSUBISHI - JULIETTE

Almacén Puerto Libre

CABLES: MAGAMAR - APARTADO POSTAL 182 - 6A. AV. 9-49, ZONA 1 - TELEFONO 86-7-38 - GUATEMALA, C. A.

17 de mayo de 1,971

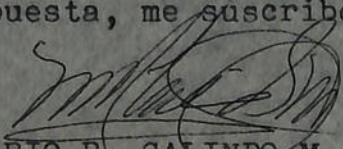
Señor
Bernard Lowy,
Botany Department
Louisiana State University,
Baton Rouge, La. 70803

Estimado señor:

Soy hijo de MARIO GALINDO JIMENO a quien usted probablemente conoció en lo que fué su residencia en -- las cercanías de las ruinas de Zaculeu, del departamento de Huehuetenango, de esta república.

Mi señor Padre falleció en el mes de enero del corriente año, dentro de las cosas que mi padre me dejó, encontré dos cartas que usted le enviara en la que hacía mención a el interés que tenía de comprar el "CODICE MAYA" que mi papá le mostró. Fué con base en esas cartas por las que obviamente supe de su nombre y dirección, el "CODICE" actualmente deseo venderlo, de consiguiente le ruego que indique si le interesaría comprarlo. El precio del mismo es de QUINCEMIL DOLARES (\$15,000.00), de conformidad y si su respuesta fuera favorable, aprovecharía que dentro de algunos días tengo que llegar a los -- Estados Unidos de Norteamérica (a Nueva Orleans), razón que aprovecharía para cambiar impresiones con usted y cerrar esta operación.

En espera de su pronta respuesta, me suscribo - de usted muy atentamente.


MARIO R. GALINDO M.

RADIOS - RADIOLAS - WESTINGHOUSE - NIVICO - MITSUBISHI - JULIETTE

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

College of Arts and Sciences — Agricultural Experiment Station

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY

21 de Mayo de 1971

Sr. Mario R. Galindo M.
Almacén Puerto Libre
Apartado Postal 182- 6A
Av. 9-49, Zona 1
Guatemala, C.A.

Estimado Sr. Galindo:

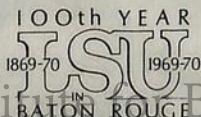
No quiero esconder de Vd., por razones que voy a indicar, que la llegada de su carta era una gran sorpresa. Primero quiero expresar a Vd. mis sinceros sentimientos de pésame en el fallecimiento de su padre. Como Vd. adivinó correctamente, me encontré con su padre en Zaculeu en Julio de 1970. En esa ocasión, a pesar de que él no me conoció anteriormente, me recibió en su casa con la gentileza y amistad que es tan característica de sus compatriotas. Entre las muchas otras cosas que su padre me mostró, era el código, de lo cual saqué fotos que infelizmente salieron mal.

Ahora, tengo que confesar que me encuentro en una situación un poco delicado, porque en estos días estaba comunicando conmigo un primo suyo, el Sr. Fernando J. Recinos G., quien también me ofreció vender el mismo documento ! Créame, Sr. Galindo, cuando digo que la cosa más lejos de mis pensamientos es meterme en un asunto familiar.

Pues de todos modos, si Vd. está pensando en llegar a New Orleans en estos días, podríamos platicar allá si Vd. quiere. Pero puedo por lo menos señalar ahora que el sumo de dinero que Vd. pide para el código es totalmente afuera de mis posibilidades. No quiero alargar esta carta porque creo que sería mucho mejor hablar juntos tranquilamente. De todos modos, me gustaría saludarle si Vd. llega a New Orleans. Hágame el favor de decirme cuando estará Vd. aquí. Por casualidad, yo tengo un proyecto de estudios botánicos este verano en su país otra vez y también en El Salvador, y pienso en llegar a Guatemala más o menos a mediados de Junio. Si Vd. prefiere, podríamos encontrarnos en su país o aquí o los dos. Pero salgo de la universidad el 4 de Junio para comenzar mi viaje, así que avísame por favor, cuales son sus planes.

Reciba Vd. los cordiales saludos de

B. Lowy
Bernard Lowy
Profesor de Botánica



FERNANDO J. RECINOS G.

11 avenida "A" 7-52, zona 1

Guatemala, C. A.

Guatemala 5 de Abril de 1971

Doctor Bernard Lowy
Louisiana State University

Apreciable Doctor Lowy:

Por la presente me doy el mayor gusto de saludarlo, desiendo su buena conservacion y bien estar personal.

Fue en mi poder su atenta carta de fecha 30 de Marzo y me alegra mucho la noticia al saver que Ud. viene a esta en el mes de Junio, pues ya sabe que aqui lo espero con los brazos abiertos, Doctor despues de todo quiero indicarle lo siguiente con respecto al código pue^sme urge venderlo por esa razon vuelbo a molestar su fina atension, quiero me diga si Ud. lo compra pues se lo doy en un precio bastante favorable a Ud. y si no para ver que por su medio yo pueda venderlo, le dire la verdad Doctor que necesito dinero pues puede Ud. hacerme una oferta por el.

Bueno Doctor me despido de Ud. y en espera de sus apreciables ordenes me suscribo su afectisimo servidor y amigo.


Fernando J. Recinos G.

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE
BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

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DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY

9 de Abril de 1971

Sr. Fernando J. Recinos G.
11 Avenida "A" 7-52, Zona 1
Guatemala, C.A.

Estimado Sr. Recinos:

Muchas gracias por su atenta carta. El año pasado, en correspondencia con su tío, le expliqué a él que mi interés en el códice tiene que hacer con el estudio y llamé su atención a una de las figuras pintadas en una de las láminas, que muestra una persona agarrando en las manos un hongo - o por lo menos un objeto que a mis ojos es parecido a un hongo grande. Claro, esa figura tenía para mi - como botánico y micólogo - un interés especial. Pero yo ni pensé en la posibilidad de comprar el documento antes que el Sr. Galindo me lo ofreció.

Como dije en mi carta del 16 de Diciembre, tengo todavía un interés en el códice, por las razones que ya indiqué, pero la verdad es que mis recursos de ninguna manera alcanzan para comprarlo al precio que sugirió su buen tío. Lamentablemente, como casi todos de mi profesión, tengo recursos bastante modestos. Así que si Vd. sería dispuesto, Sr. Recinos, a considerar un precio mucho más conforme a mis capacidades, yo con placer querría pensar en su ofrecimiento. Ojalá que con buena voluntad podríamos llegar a una determinación completamente aceptable a los dos.

Reciba Vd. los cordiales saludos de su amigo,

B. Lowy
Bernard Lowy

FERNANDO J. RECINOS G.

11 avenida "A" 7-52, zona 1
Guatemala, C. A.

Guatemala 26 de Marzo de 1971

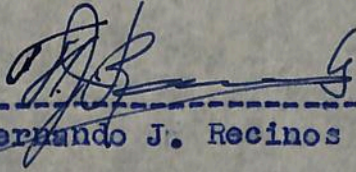
Señor
Bernard Lowy
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge La. 70803

Estimado Señor Lowy:

Por la presente me doy el gusto de saludarlo, a un no tengo el mayor gusto de conocerlo personalmente, pero por referencias de mi tío Mario quien falleció el día 22 de 5 de este mes le escribo la presente para comunicarle el fallecimiento. Mi tío me mostro su última carta suya de fecha 16 de Diciembre de 1970 la cual creo que ya no se la contesto motivo a su enfermedad que le ataco y la cual lo llevo al descanso final.

Señor Lowy, el objeto de mi presente es para comunicarle lo siguiente como ud. le indicaba a mi Tío Mario que le interesaba el CODICE MAYA pues le cuento que me quedo a mi y yo con mucho gusto se lo vendo a si que cuando Ud. disponga venir a esta ciudad ya sabe que me tiene a sus ordenes y me gustaria que ud. se quedara con el, siempre le agradecere me indique si todavia tiene interes en el.

Bueno amigo Lowy en espera de sus noticias y teniendo pronto respuesta suya me suscribo de ud. atento servidor y amigo.



Fernando J. Recinos Galindo

Sr. Recinos visited me at LSU on 16-V-1984. His daughter, Sra. Maria Elena Belcher (7160 Poinsettia, 356-7736) lives in Baton Rouge, and showed me to say that her father would like to meet me while he is visiting here. He is acting as an agent for a friend who wants to sell Maya ceramics

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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

For the purpose of the present study, it is necessary to have a clear idea of the political situation in El Salvador where an "election" for President has just taken place. Napoleon Duarte is declared the winner, Daubesian the loser. The latter has contested the results. He is a ruffian linked to the notorious Death Squads.

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he contact the curators of museums with Maya holdings, we
tained of the deplorable political situation in El Salvador where an
"election" for President has just taken place. Napoleon Duarte is
declared the winner, Daubesian the loser. The latter has contested
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LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
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BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

College of Arts and Sciences — Agricultural Experiment Station

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY

30 de Marzo de 1971

Sr. Fernando J. Recinos G.
11 Avenida "A" 7-52, Zona 1
Guatemala, C.A.

Estimado Sr. Recinos:

Recién llegó su carta con las tristes noticias del fallecimiento de su tío, el Sr. Mariano Galindo y Jimeno. Lo lamento mucho y le ruego que reciba Vd. mis sinceros sentimientos de pésame.

A pesar de que llegué a la casa de su tío en Huehuetenango sin que él me conociera, me recibió con la gentileza y amistad que es tan característica de sus compatriotas y me mostró la linda colección de artefactos que tenía allá. Entre las otras cosas me mostró el códice, de lo cual, como Vd. ya sabe, saqué dos fotos que infelizmente resultaron inadecuados para el estudio. Es efectivamente el estudio del documento que me interesa más.

Como Vd. posiblemente no sabe, yo, como botánico (y no arqueólogo) estaba en su país con el propósito de coleccionar especímenes de plantas y setas para el estudio, como es mi costumbre durante mis viajes a América Latina. Tengo aparte (como extensión del conocimiento de micología) un interés especial en los objetos conocidos por el nombre de "hongos de piedra" que se encuentra en varias partes de su país y estudié la amplia colección que está actualmente en el Museo Nacional.

En Junio pienso otra vez en viajar a Guatemala para seguir mis estudios botánicos y micológicos y estaré casi sin falta en la capital también. Si Vd. estará en la ciudad más o menos a mediados de Junio, me gustaría mucho encontrarme con Vd. y platicar sobre el asunto del códice.

Reciba Vd. los cordiales saludos de su amigo

B. Lowy
Bernard Lowy
Profesor de Botánica

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DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY

7 de Septiembre de 1971

Sr. Mario Galindo
Puerto Libre
9a Calle 6-84, Zona 1
Guatemala, C.A.

Estimado Sr. Galindo:

Le mando con esta carta las fotos que saqué del códice durante mi visita a su casa el 6 de Junio pasado. Son enumeradas al revés de I a XII y IR a XIIR, de manera que el número IR corresponde al lado revés de I etc.

Más importante es que he estudiado cada foto, comparándola con reproducciones de los códices legítimos que tengo a mano y encontré que su códice está copiado del códice Tro-Cortesianus (también conocido por el nombre de Madrid) el original de lo cual se encuentra actualmente en Madrid. El códice Madrid es un documento que consiste en 56 hojas (112 lados) y después de estudiar cada una de ellas, encontré que de los 24 lados de su códice, 23 de ellos conforman con el Madrid. Solo un lado del suyo es dudoso pero en toda probabilidad está copiado también, si no del Madrid entonces de algún otro. Incluyo aquí una copia xerox de dos dibujos del códice Madrid que muestran la correspondencia entre el legítimo y el suyo. "A" corresponde al XI de su códice y "B" al XIR.

Ha sido para mi de bastante interés hacer este estudio y ojalá que sea útil para Vd. también. A pesar de que su códice carece de valor como documento original, es no obstante de interés como copia. Si después de considerarlo y después de consultar con cualquier experto que Vd quiera, si Vd. está siempre dispuesto a venderlo, hágame el favor de avisarme de su decisión.

Reciba Vd. los cordiales saludos de su amigo

B. Lowy
Bernard Lowy
Profesor de Bota

Almacén Puerto Libre

CABLES: MAGAMAR - APARTADO POSTAL 182 - 6A. AV. 9-49, ZONA 1 - TELEFONO 86-7-38 - GUATEMALA, C. A.

14 de septiembre de 1,971

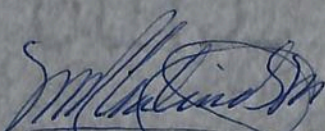
Señor
Bernard Lowy
Botany Department,
Louisiana State University,
Baton Rouge, La. 70803

Estimado señor Lowy:

Acuso recibo de su carta del 7 de los corrientes, le estoy muy agradecido por la fineza que tuvo de mandarme las fotografías que corresponden al Códice que tengo en mi poder, y de los demás datos que me dá; los cuales son muy interesantes.

En el último párrafo de su carta, me pregunta si estoy dispuesto a venderlo, dado el caso que no es documento original, mucho le agradeceré me indique si está dispuesto a comprarlo, que oferta me hace; no está demás recordarle que si fuera auténtico estimo su valor sería incalculable, pero si esta copia es de alta calidad y antigua, calculo el precio del mismo en \$8,000.00 salvo esté equivocado, en ese caso con toda franqueza - hágamele saber.

Lo saluda muy afectuosamente su amigo,


MARIO R. GALINDO M.

RADIOS - RADIOLAS - WESTINGHOUSE - NIVICO - MITSUBISHI - JULIETTE

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DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY

21 de Septiembre de 1971

Sr. Mario R. Galindo M.
Almacén Puerto Libre
Apartado Postal 182- 6A
9-49, Zona 1, Guatemala

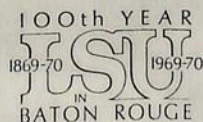
Estimado Sr. Galindo:

Tengo a mano su carta del 14 de este mes. En cuanto a su ofrecimiento de vender su códice, como le comenté a Vd. en nuestra conversación en Junio, sería difícil calcular el valor del mismo, siendo original. Pero como copia es otra cosa. Yo no sé exactamente como estimar el valor del documento, pero tengo la idea que debe ser en la misma manera de calcular el valor de una copia de una pintura, digamos, de Goya o de cualquier otro pintor de renombre. Si uno de sus originales vale 100,000, que vale una copia, lo excelente que sea? Vd. como negociante está en mejores condiciones que yo a calcularlo. Pero en cierto sentido, la copia no tuviera ningún valor intrínseco; solo el valor que la gente está dispuesto a pagar. Hablando con toda franqueza pues, el precio de 8000 que Vd. sugiere me parece un poco exagerado. Pero supongo que la mejor manera de determinar su valor es ofrecerlo a varias personas interesadas y averiguar cuanto están dispuesto a pagar. En este caso me parece pues, que establecer un precio justo puede ser una cosa bastante caprichosa que dependería tanto en la voluntad y capacidad del comprador que en el deseo del vendedor a cobrar lo máximo posible. En una palabra, quiero decir en toda honestidad, que para mi el documento no tendría ni la décima parte del valor de que Vd. sugiere.

Desde mi última carta, después de varias horas más de trabajo, encontré el origen del último dibujo de su códice - el único que consideré como dudoso - y ya determiné que está también definitivamente copiado del Códice Madrid.

Reciba Vd. como siempre, los cordiales saludos de su amigo

B. Lowy
~~B. Lowy~~



Almacén Puerto Libre

CABLES: MAGAMAR - APARTADO POSTAL 182 - 6A. AV. 9-49, ZONA 1 - TELEFONO 86-7-38 - GUATEMALA, C.A.

13 de enero de 1,972

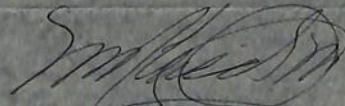
Señor
Bernard Lowy,
Louisiana State University,
Baton Rouge-Louisiana, 70803
Departamento de Botanica,
Estados Unidos,

Estimado señor Lowy:

Le ruego disculpar que hasta ahora conteste su carta fechada Noviembre 25/71, obedeciendo a lo ocupado que estuve para la preparación de las fiestas navideñas.

El códice se vendió a unos señores de nacionalidad -- Alemana, y no quisieron dar sus nombres, con respecto a sus -- preguntas, francamente me son difíciles de contestar, él que -- sabía toda esta historia era mi padre (Q.E.P.D.), a mis manos llegó por el fallecimiento del mismo, pero no sé más de lo que le platiqué personalmente.

Le deseo muy feliz año, lo saluda su amigo,



MARIO R. GALINDO M.

copy

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DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

Sr. Mario R. Galindo
Almacén Puerto Libre
A. P. 182-64
9-49, Zona 1, Guatemala

25 de Noviembre de 1971

Estimado Sr. Galindo:

Estoy preparando una pequeña publicación sobre un
códice y me gustaría otra vez pedir su valiosa colaboración.
Sería muy útil tener algunos datos exactos si fuera posible, o
aproximados si no, sobre la adquisición del códice por su familia.
Es una pregunta estrictamente histórica que sería de interés
incluso tanto en los otros datos referentes al documento. No
sabría Ud. por ejemplo, cuando entró el códice por primera
vez en la posesión de su familia? O se recuerda Ud.
por casualidad, algún cuento de su padre sobre esto asunto?
Ojalá que no parezcan a Ud. estas preguntas algo impertinentes,
porque le aseguro que son objetivas y servirían para completar
el estudio que hago, en cual Ud. ha sido tan amable y
entendedor. Hágame pues, el favor de informarme sobre estas
cuestiones lo mejor que Ud. pueda.
Como he pasado tantas horas en el estudio del códice,
tengo cierto afecto por el mismo y espero que si Ud. siempre

esta' dispuesto a ofrecerlo a vender que Vd. no se olvidará
de mí.

Recibe Vd. los afectuosos saludos de su amigo

Bl

Nebaj, Quiché, 20 de marzo de 1971.-

Señor Doctor:
Bernard Lowy.
Mycological Herbarium.
Louisiana State University.
Baton Rouge, La. 70803.

Distinguido Doctor Lowy:

Discúlpeme que un poco tarde me dirija a usted, pero al hacerlo, es mi deseo que junto a su digna familia disfrute de muchísima salud.-

Mis alumnos y yo lo recordamos en su rápida permanencia por éste lugar y nos sentimos honrados al recordar la amable visita que usted hizo a ésta escuela.-

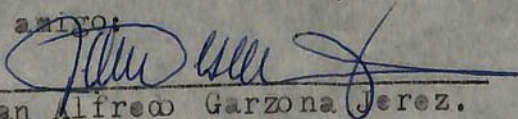
Muchas gracias por los hongos "Siquinché", al respecto - quiero manifestarle que he preguntado y de esa misma clase - hay en un pueblo cercano que se llama Cotzal. Dicho hongo dicen que es venenoso y recibe el nombre de Ríchín-Tzé' que quiere decir: "Oreja de Palo". Hay otros hongos comestibles de color café conocido con el nombre de Rok'on y Zaji-Tzá' de color café y blanco respectivamente.-

Muchas gracias por el valioso libro acerca de los hongos, con la ayuda de unos amigos norteamericanos que residen aquí - iré traduciendo el contenido, es una obra maravillosa, por lo menos eso creo yo y por lo mismo la estimaré tanto por el valor científico como por haber sido enviada por un investigador que nunca pensé tener. Los hongos Siquinché, los he mostrado a mis alumnos, ellos lo recuerdan porque usted les obsequió unos hongos que traís de Chichicastenango. Tenemos nuestro lugar de -- Ciencias dentro del aula y allí estarán los hongos de Tikal.-

Ojalá exista otra oportunidad de conversar con usted, -- sería muy importante.

Cúidese Doctor Lowy y por aquí, estoy a sus órdenes.-

Su amigo:



Juan Alfredo Garzona Jerez.

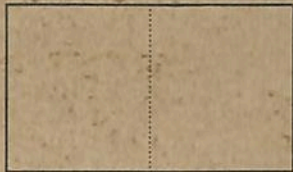
Prof. Esc. Nac. Varones.

Nebaj, Quiché, Guatemala C.A.-

Juan Alfredo Garzona,
esposa e hijos, descom-
ponen al distinguido
científico Bernard Lamy
y familia, un feliz y
prospero año 1971. -

Lago Atitlán
Lake Atitlán
GUATEMALA, C. A.

No. 40 Distribuidores Librería "PROGRESO" 52 AV. No. 16 - 42 ZONA 1



Doctor

Bernard Lamy

Universidad de Louisiana

E. E. U. U.

Rebaj, Quiché, Guate. 18/1/71



Votos fervientes para que la
alegría de Navidad perdure
a través del Año Nuevo, -
en el hogar del distinguido -
Doctor Bernard Lorry, a quien
se le recuerda con mucho afecto
por esta región de la "Tierra del
Quetzal". -

Juon Alfredo Garzón, señora e hijos. -

January 3, 1971

Dear Dr. LaBarre:

Thank you for the information about Dr. Coe's hypothesis concerning the use by the Olmecs of the hallucinogen bufotenine, found in frog skins. Since the toad and certain hallucinogenic mushrooms were closely associated by the Maya, as I have pointed out in my paper, then if Dr. Coe is right about the Olmecs, then it would seem most likely that the Maya made a similar discovery.

I have been studying the Maya codices and believe that I have found in two of them a direct and most striking confirmation of the hypothesis that sacred mushrooms (probably Amanita muscaria, for reasons that I have indicated) did indeed play an important role in the hieratic cult of the Maya.

Enclosed are copies of two papers, one of which, "Mushroom symbolism in Maya codices," is now in press in "Mycologia." The other, "A newly discovered copy of a Maya codex," I have submitted to Dr. Edwin N. Wilmsen, editor of "American Antiquity," for his consideration, but he has not yet informed me whether or not he will accept it for publication. The Galindo Codex, heretofore unknown, has its counterparts in the Madrid, a matter I believe is worthy of calling to the attention of scholars. I have also enclosed a color print (it is poorly copied in fig. 2 of the "Mycologia" paper) of Galindo XI (=Madrid 51b). This will be reproduced in black and white in the journal. Quite apart from my interpretations of specific illustrations on the Madrid, Dresden and Galindo codices, the Galindo itself may be of sufficient interest to warrant its publication in color, but I do not know of a journal that would be willing to undertake the expense of such a project.

Sincerely yours,

Bernard Lowy
Professor of Botany

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



Jan 2, 1971.

Dear Dr. Lowy:

I would deeply appreciate receiving separates of your article on the mushroom stones in Mycologia, 63, #5 and any other articles referring to hallucinogens.

Thanking you, I am

Sincerely yours,

R. S. Schultes

Dec. 1970.

recordado Doctor Lowy:

Lo saludo con mucha admiración y le deseo muchas felicidades.-

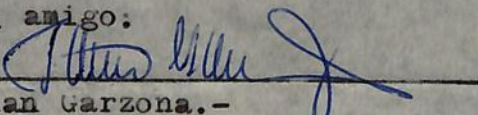
Quiero contarle que fui informado que en el lugar de mi patria llamado "Ixcán" (Ishcán) cerca de Nebaj hasta donde usted llegó a soportar un día de intenso frío, hay lo que usted llama "Los hongos de piedra".

Ixcán es del municipio de Chajul, siempre en El Quiché.-

Los indígenas de esta región identifican a los hongos VENENOSOS y a los NO VENENOSOS - por algunas características o circunstancias:

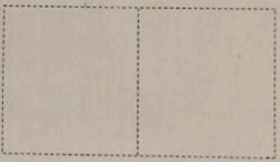
- 1.- Los hongos que en el tallo tienen una especie de tela, SON ALIMENTICIOS, los que no poseen esa tela son VENENOSOS.-
 - 2.- También los identifican en comestibles o no comestibles, según la clase de vegetación - en donde los hongos crecen.-
- Continuaré investigando y gustosamente le transmitiré por éste mismo medio el resultado, y esto será un gusto para mí.-
Cúidese Doctor.-

Su amigo:



Juan Garzona.-

PROF. ESCUELA PRIMARIA URBANA
NEBAJ, QUICHÉ, GUATEMALA



Nr. 168 — Printed in Guatemala by Lito. B. Zedik & Co.
Copyright by SITTNER, 12c. 6-14, Z. 1. — Guatemala, City

Doctor:
Bernard Lorry
"Universidad de Louisiana"
E. E. U. U.

Juan Sepedo Garza,
desea para usted
y su familia, una
Feliz Navidad y
un Venturoso Año
Nuevo. -



Retaj, Quiché, Guate. XII/70

Palace of Capitanes Generales
Antigua Guatemala

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BATON ROUGE . LOUISIANA . 70803

College of Arts and Sciences — Agricultural Experiment Station

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY

4 de Enero de 1971

Estimado Profesor Garzona:

Muchas gracias por su amable carta con los datos interesantes sobre las creencias de la gente indígena en cuanto a los hongos comestibles y venenosos. En Junio del año pasado, durante mi visita al Petén, en los alrededores de Flores como en Tikal, averigué que la gente clasificaron los hongos precisamente en la manera que Vd. indica, según la clase de vegetación en donde crece. En Tikal, el hongo comestible que parece más conocido, se llama por el nombre local de "siquinché", que según mi identificación es Schizophyllum commune, un pequeño ejemplar de lo cual está incluido con esta carta. Lo interesante para mi es que según las creencias folklóricas, la propiedad de un hongo (que sea comestible o venenoso) no reside en el hongo mismo mas en el palo donde crece. Por ejemplo, una señora en Tikal me dijo que solo los hongos que crecen en los palos que se llama "jobo" o "chacá" deben ser comestibles. Tengo ya un pequeño vocabulario (que me interesa mucho en alargar) en "lengua" (el término que mucha gente usa para indicar su idioma indígena que sea Tzotzil, Tzeltal etc.) que pertenece a los hongos en distintas partes de su país. Como ejemplar, el hongo venenoso (sagrado para los Hindúes) que dejé con Vd. antes de salir de Nebaj (Amanita muscaria) se conoce acerca de Totonicapán con el nombre de "shtantilok" o "shtantalok" que en "lengua" (Tzotzil ?) quiere decir "relámpago", según mis datos. Posiblemente tiene otros nombres comunes también.

Le mando con esto una copia de un papel que recién escribí y que es todavía inédito, sobre los hongos de piedra de su país. Lo escribí en español porque pienso en ofrecerlo a una revista Latinoamericana. Tal vez sería de interés a Vd. a pesar de que es todavía en forma incompleta. Las fotos son de hongos de piedra que pertenecen a la colección personal de la familia Nottebohm de la capital. Aparte le voy a mandar un libro ilustrado con muchos fotos de hongos (pero escrito en inglés por un colega mío) que posiblemente le puede servir no tanto por la identificación de los hongos de su región (porque muchos de allá son distintos y no se los encuentra en un solo libro) que una introducción a la morfología de algunos hongos macroscópicos.

Le saluda cordialmente su amigo

B. Lowy
B. Lowy

100th YEAR
1869-70 1969-70
LSU
BATON ROUGE

MUSHROOM HUNTER'S FIELD GUIDE
1st ED. SENT. 5-I-1971

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DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY

16 de Diciembre de 1970.

Estimado Sr. Galindo,

No estoy seguro si Ud. recibió una carta mía que le envié el 4 de Noviembre. De todos modos, quiero que Ud. sepa que todavía me interesa el códice que Ud. me ofreció.

Según mis planes actuales, es muy posible que tendré que regresar a mi país en 1971. y en este caso me gustaría saludarle otra vez y platicar con Ud. sobre el asunto.

Mientras tanto, recibe Ud. mis mejores deseos para su bienestar y felicidad en Navidad y en el año nuevo.

Afectuosas saludos de su amigo,

B. Lowry

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
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DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY

6 de Octubre de 1970

Estimado Sr. Galindo:

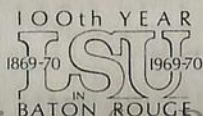
Recién recibí su amable carta en la cual Vd. refiere a su interés en vender algunos de sus numerosos artefactos de la época de los Mayas. Como Vd. ya sabe, a mi me interesa más el códice que Vd. tuvo la bondad de mostrarme en la ocasión de mi visita a su casa.

Le agradecería mucho si Vd. podría avisarme de lo que Vd. considera un precio razonable y justo para ese documento. Le ruego que considerase Vd. que yo no soy un hombre de negocios, mas que mi único interés siempre ha sido en la enseñanza y en los estudios y en consecuencia mis recursos son limitados, como los de la gran mayoría de personas de mi profesión.

Sin más por el momento, reciba Vd. los afectuosos saludos de su amigo

Bernard Lowy

Botany Department
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, La. 70803



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DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY

4 de Noviembre de 1970

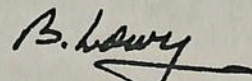
Estimado Sr. Galindo:

Discúlpeme que no he contestado hasta ahora su amable carta pero es porque yo estaba tan ocupado con mis deberes en la universidad que no podía escribirle antes.

Como le he explicado en mi carta anterior, mi interés en el códice es grande pero mis recursos son pequeños. A pesar de que Vd. me lo ofrece a un precio que seguramente a Vd. parece bajo, no obstante es para mi una cantidad alta. De todos modos, antes que seguir más adelante con este asunto, me gustaría pedirle otro favor importante. Esto es, si sea posible, que Vd. contitara a un fotógrafo profesional en la ciudad quien pueda sacar fotos detallados y buenos de varias secciones del códice (incluso la parte que muestro en ~~la~~ foto que le mando con esta carta) en blanco y negro y en tamaño grande. Sería un gasto pequeño que de todos modos yo insistaría en pagar y tendría la ventaja de permitir un estudio definitivo del códice. Lamentablemente mis fotos son inútiles en este sentido. Si Vd. sea tan amable pues, de hacer esto y mandarme las copias lo más pronto posible, le agradecería muchísimo su atención.

Lamento molestarle con este pedido, pero creo francamente que es necesario proceder en esta manera. Ojalá que no sea para Vd. una inconveniencia insuperable.

Reciba Vd. como siempre los afectuosos saludos de su amigo



Bernard Lowy
Botany Department
Louisiana State Univ.
Baton Rouge, La. 70803

Sturace. Oct. 14. 70.

Estimado Sr. Lowry:

Contesto su oferta de los entos, deseando todo sea benéfico por esas tierras.

Refiriendome al codice que a Ud. interesa estoy dispuesto a venderle ya casi no miro y ya estoy viejo y necesito dinero, yo difícilmente podría ir a proponerle a esos lugares que son los que podría pagarlo bien, así que está en sus manos y por \$5,000⁰⁰ (Cinco mil Dhs.) se lo daría, me da dicho que podría venderse en veinte mil pero francamente no estoy para esperar un milagro.

Con mis mejores deseos por que se manejen bien, soy de Ud. atto. S. y amigo.

A. Galindo J.

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

College of Arts and Sciences — Agricultural Experiment Station

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY

October 7, 1970

Dr. Tatiana Proskouriakoff
Peabody Museum of Archeology and Ethnology
Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Proskouriakoff:

For the past decade or more, I have been carrying out extensive field work throughout the American tropics, both in Central and South America, in connection with my special interest in fungi. Since the first publications on mushroom stones by the late Dr. Stephan Borhegyi (beginning in 1957) and after some initial encouragement from him, I was attracted to this problem and have collected data concerning it whenever the opportunity has presented itself.

This summer, while gathering additional information on these artifacts and on related ethnobotanical questions in various parts of Guatemala, I was shown a codex which is an heirloom owned by a gentleman in Huehuetenango. From my conversation with this individual, I have every reason to believe his trustworthiness and I do not doubt that the document is genuine. I photographed it and have enclosed a print of a part of the codex. I was struck by a detail on one of the panels (beneath the notch in the print) in which an individual is shown holding with both hands what appears to be a large mushroom which he is offering to the personage before him. I have seen mushrooms clearly depicted in other codices (as in fig. 6, p. 24 of the Codex Vidbonensis), but such representations do not appear to be common. Unfortunately, the print does not show quite as much detail as my original color slide in which the glyphs can plainly be seen. I am having duplicate slides made and should you think this merits further study, I will gladly send you a copy. In the panel that I have marked, the individuals are colored red and the areas that appear solid black are in the original blue. The background is of a brownish hue. There are 12 panels in the codex, both surfaces of which bear representations of human figures, glyphs, etc. The material itself is parchment and is in an excellent state of preservation.

My interest is principally in the interpretation of the indicated panel but should either you or your colleagues wish to study the document as a whole, I would be glad to give you such additional information concerning it as I have.

Sincerely yours,

B. Lowry

Bernard Lowry
Professor of Botany



TATIANA PROSKOURIAKOFF
CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON

MAILING ADDRESS:

PEABODY MUSEUM
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
CAMBRIDGE, MASS. 02138

October 15, 1970

Dr. Bernard Lowy
Louisiana State University
College of Arts and Sciences,
Agricultural Experiment Station,
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803/

Dear Dr. Lowy:

Thank you for sending me a photograph of the Maya codex from Huehuetenango. I do not question the sincerity of the owner, but in my opinion the chance that this codex is genuine is very slight. There are no known authentic examples of its kind, but a number of falsifications made many years ago, some purchased in good faith and still in existence. I have never made a study of them, and don't know if this particular codex is known. There is always a possibility that copies of older surviving manuscripts were made in colonial times on parchment, but I don't know of any example that doesn't show evidence of being deliberately concocted from known sources.

Unfortunately your photograph is not clear enough to permit a check of detail, and in any case I would not make a final judgment without examining the original, but the possibility of its being a precolumbian codex seems so remote, that it does not warrant a lengthy and difficult investigation.

I do advise, however, that you consult another expert, possibly J.E.S. Thompson or James Rauh (American Museum of Natural History, N.Y.). I am confident they would confirm my judgment, but it is always good to have a second opinion. I am taking the liberty of showing your photo to John Glass, who has made a bibliographic index of all native picture manuscripts of Middle America, and I would like to have your permission to give it to him for his files.

Sincerely yours,

Tatiana Proskouriakoff

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

College of Arts and Sciences — Agricultural Experiment Station

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY

October 20, 1970

Dear Dr. Proskouriakoff:

Many thanks for your kind reply to my earlier letter. I have of course no competence in judging whether or not the document that I have called to your attention is genuine. If my informant may be believed, the codex has been in his family for several generations, at least, he says, since the time of his bisabuelo. If there exists even a remote possibility that it is authentic, it would seem to be at least potentially a loss to the scholarly world to allow even the slenderest of leads to go unverified. But I fully realize that this may not be a simple undertaking.

I greatly appreciate your willingness to have given your opinion. Certainly you may give my print to Mr. Glass for his files. I expect shortly to have a more satisfactory copy and will forward this to you when I receive it. You may dispose of it as you see fit. For Mr. Glass's record I add the following data. I took the photograph on July 3, 1970 in Zaculeu, Guatemala. The owner of the codex is Sr. José Mariano Galindo y Jimeno, whose address is Apartado Postal 18, Huehuetenango, Guatemala.

Thank you very much for suggesting the names of J.E.S. Thompson and James Rauh. Upon your advise, perhaps I shall call this matter to their attention as well.

Sincerely yours,

B. Lowy
Bernard Lowy



LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE . LOUISIANA . 70803

College of Arts and Sciences — Agricultural Experiment Station

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY

December 16, 1970

Dr. Tatiana Proskouriakoff
Peabody Museum of Archeology and Ethnology
Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Proskouriakoff:

After receiving your kind letter in answer to my questions concerning the Guatemalan codex which I photographed last summer, I acted upon your suggestion and got in touch with James Rauh, who has just completed his doctoral work at Tulane University. From the print that I gave him, he was unable to reach any conclusions but I was nevertheless encouraged to pursue the matter further. Sr. Galindo has offered to sell the document and negotiations are currently in progress.

I have been reading some of your studies on Mayan glyphs and other related matters and am filled with wonder and admiration for your work.

With many thanks,

Sincerely yours,

B. Lowy
Bernard Lowy

OTTO HARRASSOWITZ

Inhaber: Gertrud Harrassowitz, Wilfred Becker, Richard W. Dorn, Felix O. Weigel, Wilfred C. Becker

Buchhandlung und Antiquariat

6200 WIESBADEN

Taunusstrasse 5
Postfach 349
Telefon (06121) 52 10 46
Fernschreiber 04 18 61 35

Mr. Bernard Lowy
Professor of Botany
Department of Botany & Plant Pathology
Louisiana State University

B a t o n R o u g e

Louisiana 70803
U S A

20th November 1970
D/eh

Dear Mr. Lowy,

In reply to your letter of November 5, 1970, I have pleasure in sending you by surface mail a catalogue in which you will find on pages 26 and following, facsimile editions of Codices about old Mexican and other Middle and Latin American cultures.

The Dresden Codex is described on the enclosed cutting, but not contained in the catalogue itself. We should be very happy to supply you or the university library with any of these Codices.

Yours sincerely

OTTO HARRASSOWITZ


R. W. Dorn

Enclosure

November 24, 1970

Mr. R.W.Dorn
6200 Wiesbaden
Postfach 349
Germany

Dear Mr. Dorn:

Kindly send me at once your facsimilie edition of the Codex Peresianus. I find that our library does not have this and I am requesting that they purchase it. However, the copy I am now ordering will be for my personal use, so you should bill me for it directly. Should you offer a discount on the catalogue price of \$47.00, please allow me to take advantage of it. If not, I shall remit the list price on receipt of the Codex.

Sincerely yours,

Bernard Lowy
Professor of Botany

Dear Sir:

I have received no response to this letter to date. Would you please let me know whether this facsimile is available?

B. Lowy

Jan. 6, 1971.

OTTO HARRASSOWITZ

Buchhandlung · Antiquariat · Library Agency · 6200 Wiesbaden (Germany) · Postfach 349

Professor B. Lowy
Louisiana State University
Department of Plant Pathology

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803

USA

Rechnung - Invoice

* 21767*-5.FEB71

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OTTO HARRASSOWITZ

Library Agency
62 Wiesbaden 1 (Germany) · POB 349

Professor B. Lowy

To Louisiana State Univ.
Department of Plant Pathology
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803

Date: 8.2.71

Reference: Os/K1

Message:

Dear Sir:

With reference to your claim letter of Jan.6,1971 concerning CODEX PERESIANUS, I wish to report that this volume was supplied on 1.11.71.

However, we have noticed that this volume and the invoice (see the attached copy) were sent to the General Library. We are, therefore, enclosing credit for the General Library for our invoice no. 10819--11.Jan.1971. Attached is an amended invoice in your name.

We our sorry for our mistake and hope that you have located your volume of CODEX PERESIANUS.

Reply: Thank you for your order!

P.S. We would appreciate very much your forwarding this credit note to the General Library!
Thank you!

Sincerely,

OTTO HARRASSOWITZ · WIESBADEN
POSTFACH 349
TAUNUSSTRASSE 4

Otto Harrassowitz
i.A. Kay Langner

(Kay Langner)

Date:

Reference:

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

College of Arts and Sciences — Agricultural Experiment Station

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY

October 20, 1970

Dr. James Rauh
Middle American Research Institute
Tulane University
New Orleans, La.

Dear Dr. Rauh:

Enclosed you will find a duplicate slide and color print of the codex which Dr. Wauchope passed on to you some time ago in the form of a black and white print. Of course I am not competent to judge the authenticity of this document and perhaps this could only be verified by direct examination of the codex itself. I can only testify to the fact that I was informed in good faith (in my best judgement) that it has been in the family of the present owner since the time of his great grandfather. Since so few codices (genuine) are extant, even the slender possibility that this one may be authentic would seem worthy of investigation.

That I see a mushroom in the marked panel (on the black and white print) may be the reflection of a prejudiced view, but the fact that mushrooms have been shown in other codices makes this interpretation not entirely improbable. But this is why I have troubled you. I would be very grateful to have your opinion if you can give one with the material at hand. The owner of the codex is Sr. José Mariano Galindo y Jimeno, whose address is Apartado Postal 18, Huehuetenango, Guatemala.

Sincerely yours,

B. Lowy
Bernard Lowy

On November 3, 1970, I spoke by phone to Mr. Rauh (who is about to receive his doctoral degree from Tulane) after which he expects to go to the Smithsonian Institution. He expressed great interest in the codex and though unable to give an interpretation on the basis of the print and slide I had sent him, thought it worthy of further pursuit and thought well of my idea of publishing this as a document the authenticity of which is under study. Bl

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
1869-70 1969-70

Duke University
DURHAM
NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
AND ANTHROPOLOGY

28 October 1970
6M Duke Sta

POSTAL CODE 27706

Dear Dr Lowy,

Thank you for your
generous remarks on The Overt Dance; the
enclosure indicates you have others who agree
with you.

Yes, have seen and read
Allegro. He is off his rocker if he thinks
massive loanwords, ad hoc etymologies, total
lack of sound-change laws or method proves
anything, except that the moon is made of green
cheese. It is hilariously pseudo-scholarly,
like Morris.

Early Comments on The Ghost Dance: The Origins of Religion

It is a magnificent book and quite possibly the best thing that has ever been written on the origins of religion. Its scholarship is broad and deep, and La Barre's skill as a writer is such that his book remains unflinchingly readable from first to last. The Ghost Dance constitutes a major achievement. It is bound to become a classic. M. F. Ashley Montagu, Princeton

This looks to me like something in a class with the very best that has ever been written on religion. It is even better than The Human Animal. It seems to me to have everything: the grand vision, the originality, the complete mastery of everything relevant, the erudition, the personal style that has an impact. Having written such a book is justification enough for having lived...This book is genius...It is better than Freud on religion.

George Devereux, Collège de France

As I expected, an exhilarating experience, a combination of erudition, insight, and sophistication, of culture and biology, of psychoanalysis and ethnography, that few -- if any -- social scientists can equal. This is one of the most stimulating books on religion I have read, and one of the most important. Melford E. Spiro, University of California at San Diego

I have been reading this book with deep interest and a sense of excitement. Books on the subject of religion are countless, but very few have achieved the profundity of this chef d'oeuvre. In our discipline, Weston La Barre is unique in his ability to combine the insights of an anthropologist on the one hand and a psychologist on the other. These two insights now play together and now play apart for repeated illumination of this most complex of human phenomena. I have long felt, and this book does nothing to disabuse me of this feeling, that Weston La Barre sets the highest standards of scholarship in our discipline. He is an example to all of us. Out of that scholarship comes an insight that very few others possess.

James W. Fernandez, Dartmouth

This book is the result of a life devoted to the study of man all over the world and in all stages of individual and historical development. His intimate knowledge of anthropology and psychiatry gives Weston La Barre a unique position in his field. The result of his work, his knowledge and his insight is documented in this phenomenal book which is almost overwhelming. Weston La Barre's book is a truly great book and shows psychoanalytic anthropology at its best.

Martin Grotjahn, University of Southern California

This new book has achieved the nearly impossible integrating not only anthropology and comparative religion with psychoanalytic theory but it covers the broad and picturesque estuary of human experience and endeavour and will surely be a milestone in the history of the science of man. This is the book I'd wished I had conceived and written.

Warner Muensterberger, State University of New York

I found this book exceedingly well conceived and highly instructive. Professor La Barre is, I feel, to be complimented on the depth and scope of his erudition.

Robert F. Spencer, Minnesota

...brilliant -- a formidable synthesis by a highly original intelligence...he writes extraordinarily well and with wit. Katherine Brown, Natural History Press

...All this, wrapped up in the author's literary talent makes for an immensely readable and stimulating package that, scholarly though it be in intention and execution, will have an appeal far beyond academe. Kirkus Service (5/18/70), New York

I consider The Ghost Dance a book to be set along side Tylor's Primitive Culture, Durkheim's Elementary Forms, Levi-Strauss' The Savage Mind and a few other such key works on primitive religious thought and the origins of religion. [It has] improved considerably upon Freud's writings on religion while remaining quite within his frame of thought. It is good to find someone in anthropology who is interested in meanings, [and] insistence on a holistic approach I heartily endorse.

Mac Linscott Ricketts

Sent to me by Dr. Weston La Barre. 2-21-70.

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

College of Arts and Sciences — Agricultural Experiment Station

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY

October 26, 1970.

Dear Dr. La Barre,

My weekend was occupied with the reading of "The ghost dance." It is a vitally important, fascinating book - a mine of information and insights about this believing world. I chose an appropriate moment to read it, since there was among us a much advertised shaman of the western world, Billy Graham. He boasted that by the year 2000 all Africa would be Christian. What benefits would flow from this condition remain (to me) obscure.

Sincerely,

B. Lowry

P.S. Have you seen J. M. Allegro's "The sacred mushroom and the cross"?

Enclosed is a still unpublished photograph which I took this summer in Guatemala, showing for the first time what I believe to be a human pregnancy associated with a mushroom stone. This will be one of the illustrations of a paper now in preparation.

100th YEAR
1869-70 **LSU** 1969-70
IN
BATON ROUGE

SRA. BIANKA DE MÉNDEZ
EL PATIO
11 CALLE 3-57, ZONA 1
GUATEMALA, CA.

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

College of Arts and Sciences — Agricultural Experiment Station

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY

el 28 de Septiembre de 1970

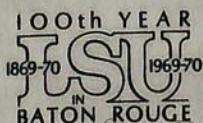
Estimada Sra. Méndez:

Hace poco que regresé a la universidad después de mis estudios en su país. Recuerdo con mucha satisfacción mi visita a su casa donde Vd. era tan amable de permitirme sacar algunas fotos de las dos piedras grandes en su colección personal.

Según los datos que Vd. me dió, se encontraron las piedras en La Nueva Concepción entre Tejote y Las Lisas, zona Pipil, al sur de Escuintla. Lamento que antes que salir del país no tenía la oportunidad de llamarle otra vez para averiguar si habían algunos ^{datos} pertinentes. Por ejemplo: si las encontraron cerca del superficie o en una tumba o si estaban las figuras una al lado de la otra. Le agradecería mucho, señora, por cualquier otra información que Vd. pudiera darme.

Reciba Vd. los cordiales saludos de su amigo

B. Lowy
Bernard Lowy
Profesor de Botánica



CARLOS H. NOTTEBOHM
15 CALLE 4-34, ZONA 10
GUATEMALA CAPITAL
GUATEMALA, C. A.

Guatemala, September 15, 1970

Dr. Bernard Lowy
Professor of Botany
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge
Louisiana 70803

Dear Dr. Lowy:

I received your letter of September 8th which you wrote following your visit to Guatemala. You met my son, Carlos L. Nottebohm, who showed you part of our collection. Both Mrs. Nottebohm and I are sorry that we missed your visit and we sincerely hope that you will let us know about your next trip sometime ahead of time so that we could meet you.

As to your questions about the miniature mushroom stones in our collection:

Stephan F. de Borhegyi published most of the miniature mushroom stones from our collection shortly after we acquired them. The information he published in American Antiquity Volume 26 Number 4 of April 1961 is as authentic as we could give it to him at that time and I cannot recall that more than the "famous" nine miniature mushroom stones were found in one cache. Of course you can never be 100 % sure of what you are being told unless you did the dig yourself. I am sorry that I cannot give you any other information. The mushroom stones as published by Borhegyi will be exhibited now in the Metropolitan Museum of Art starting September 30th in their special exhibit "Before Cortez".

You very kindly offered to send us prints of the pictures you took of our collection. I do hope that you got most of our mushroom stones but I shall check on that as soon as I get your prints. We have one other mushroom stone on exhibit now in the Palais of Beaux-Arts in Bruxelles from October through December in connection with a Maya Exhibit that traveled from Paris, Stockholm and Rome to Bruxelles; I shall try to have a Xerox Copy made for your records.

If there is anything else I possibly could be of any help, please do not hesitate to call on me.

With best regards, in which my son joins me, I am

Sincerely Yours



LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE • LOUISIANA • 70803

College of Arts and Sciences - Agricultural Experiment Station

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY

September 21, 1970

Dear Mr. Nottebohm:

Thank you for your kind reply to my letter of September 8. I also much regret that I missed meeting you and your wife during my brief visit and hope that it may be possible to see you on some future occasion.

I am glad to have your confirmation regarding the group of nine miniature stones and the information that they will be exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art beginning September 30. I am assuming then, that the miniature which I photographed at your home (print N enclosed) was not part of the original cache but was found separately at some other time and place (although most likely also from the Kaminaljuyú area). If this is so, then the situation is clarified. I hope you will understand that my purpose is neither to erect nor to demolish theories but only to draw such conclusions as seem reasonable from the evidence at hand. In any case, I think it is proper to remember Borhegyi's own careful admonition that "any attempt at identification of mushroom stones with the nine gods of the Aztec or Maya pantheon, is on very shaky ground."

Many thanks for the xerox copy of one of your stones now on loan in Bruxelles. It is unique and certainly one of the most interesting of all that I have seen. While I was working at the Museo de Antropología with the collaboration of Lic. Luis Luján Muñoz, I came across its illustration (fig. 53 in "Arts Maya du Guatemala." 1968; also in the German and Italian editions of the book) and I made a tracing of it since no duplicating machine was at hand. If as I believe to be most probable, these stones may be linked to a mushroom cult among the ancient Maya, then your dream stone is most provocative and the interpretation that it represents "un homme en transe sous l'effet d'un champignon hallucinatoire" seems entirely reasonable.

Please accept the enclosed set of prints which are enlargements of my original Ektachromes. I expect to use duplicates of them in a paper to be illustrated largely by these stone plus a few from other sources. On the reverse of each print, in the upper right-hand corner, I have lettered them A - N. I have no data on the place where these were found and if information that you consider to be reliable is at hand, I would be very glad to have it. I realize that for the great majority of these stones such data are unavailable. It would be better to say "unknown" than to indicate a location that is questionable or that has not been verified. The print of the nine tripods that I saw in your collection is numbered on the reverse, No. 1 beginning at upper left. No. 10 (by itself in the third row) is without a base and as I recall, is not broken but so designed.

I sincerely appreciate your willingness to "help". In fact, scholars everywhere have been traditionally indebted to you and to others like yourself without whose generous cooperation investigations in certain areas of knowledge, would come to nothing.

With kindest regards to you and
an abrazo cordial to your son,

100th YEAR
1869-70 1969-70
LSU
BATON ROUGE

Sincerely yours,

B.

P.S. Also included for your interest is a print of two stones of exceptional design in the private collection of Sr. Pierre de Melchior. These are 56 cm and 50 cm in height.

Galdeck
Fidelity Onion Skin
100% COTTON

September 8, 1970

Mr. Carlos H. Nottebohm
15 Calle, 14-34, Zona 10
Guatemala City

Dear Mr. Nottebohm:

I only recently returned to the university following my stay in Guatemala and Mexico and I have begun to organize my notes on mushroom stones, preparing them for publication. I am very grateful for your having given me your valuable time and shown me your kind hospitality.

The photographs I took turned out well enough so that enlargements of my color slides will I believe be suitable for conversion to black and white prints for publication. When these become available I shall send you a complete set. Of course your generous help will appropriately be acknowledged in any publication concerned with your collection of mushroom stones.

There is one point that I would like to raise again on which your confirmation would be most important. This has to do with the single miniature stone you showed me (14 cm in height). As I recall, you indicated that this stone constituted part of the original cache of miniatures from the Verbena cemetery area of Kaminaljuyú. Would it be possible for you to verify the exact number of miniatures in the original collection? If the stone that you showed me was found along with all the other miniatures, that would mean, of course, that there had been at least 10 stones in the original group. Even if you cannot at the moment tell me the exact number (total) of miniatures in your collection, if you are sure that the one I saw was really part of the original group and that this number was greater than nine, that would be sufficient. Your clarification of this point would be extremely useful.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Bernard Lowy
Professor of Botany



Foto U. H. N.

Felices Pascuas



Familia K. H. Nottebohm
Guatemala.

XII-1970.

POST CARD

Maya woman with child, dog. Clay. 16.5
cm. high. Vicinity of Palenque, Chiapas,
Mexico. About 600 A.D.



Printed by THE MERIDEN GRAVURE COMPANY, Meriden, Conn.

Dr. W. S. Hoopes has passed ~~his~~ letter on to
me. As I have been doing research
on the Maya Codices. I would
like very much to see your slides
as the photo you sent is too indistinct
I'm not too helpful about the Codex
you have photographed but will
be glad to give my opinion on
the slides. Have you seen the
American Museum of Natural History's
Pre-Columbian Mexico & Central America
in its cover this side of the page
with a clearly depicted mushroom? ~~text~~ near Jim Rauh

Professor Bernard Lowy
Louisiana State University
Dept of Botany & plant Pathology
Baton Rouge Louisiana 70803

!

Received: Oct-6, 1970.

THIS SIDE FOR ADDRESS

September 30, 1970

Dr. Robert Wauchope
Middle American Research Institute
Tulane University
New Orleans, La.

Dear Dr. Wauchope:

For the past decade or so I have been carrying out extensive field work throughout the American tropics, both in Central and South America, in connection with my interest in fungi. Since the publications on mushroom stones by the late Dr. Borhegyi (beginning in 1957) and after some initial encouragement by Borhegyi, I was attracted to this problem and have collected data concerning it whenever the opportunity presented itself.

This summer, while gathering additional information on these stones and related ethnobotanical questions in various parts of Guatemala from the Petén to the Costa Sur, I was shown a codex which is an heirloom owned by a gentleman in Huehuetenango. He allowed me to photograph it and a print of part of this document is enclosed. It attracted my attention not only because I had previously seen only reproductions of other codices, but I was struck by a detail on one of the panels (beneath the notch in the print) in which an individual is shown holding with both hands what appears to be a large mushroom which he is offering to the personage before him. I have seen mushrooms clearly depicted in other codices (as in fig. 6, p. 24 of the Codex Viduonensis), but such representations do not appear to be common. The print does not show quite as much detail as my original color slide in which the glyphs can clearly be seen and should be decipherable with the aid of a good hand lens or under low power of a binocular microscope. I am having duplicate slides made and should you think this merits further study I will gladly send you a copy. In the panel I have marked, the individuals are colored red and the parts that appear solid black, in the original are blue (including the mushroom). The background is of a brownish hue. There are 12 panels in the codex, both surfaces of which are filled with human figures, glyphs, etc. The material itself is a parchment and is in an excellent state of preservation.

My interest is principally in the interpretation of the indicated panel but should either you or your colleagues wish to study the document as a whole, I would be glad to give you such additional information concerning it as I have. In any case, I would greatly appreciate having your opinion regarding the mushroom shaped object, if you find this to be possible from the enclosed print.

Sincerely yours,

Bernard Lowy
Professor of Botany

TEL. 866-0607

Duke University
DURHAM
NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
AND ANTHROPOLOGY

20 August 1970
Mt. Sinai Road

POSTAL CODE 27706

Dear Dr. Lowy,

Thank you for your news and the developments on mushroom stones. I had not known that the late Dr. Borhegyi had the ideas from Professor Shook, since Wasson, usually a most meticulous writer, seemed to give the credit to Borhegyi.

I wish I could tell you more about the stones, but have told you all I know. If you had not yet received reply from Furst, it may be for the reason that he is on another Mexican field trip; Gordon Wasson, last I knew, was still at 42 Long Ridge Road in Danbury, Connecticut 06810.

When you publish your Guatemala findings, please remember me with a reprint.

Sincerely yours,

Weston LaBarre
James B. Duke Professor
of Anthropology

My latest book, on primitive religion, The Great Dance, may interest you, published by Doubleday just last month.

August 18, 1970

Dr. E. M. Shook
Peabody Museum
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Dr. Shook:

I returned from Guatemala only a few days ago and have begun to work up my notes on mushroom stones. I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to speak with you about them and to have had clarified certain details about which I previously knew nothing.

I wonder whether you had the time to look at the two exceptionally tall effigy tripod stones at the home of Sra. Blanca de Mendez in Guatemala, which I described to you briefly when we met in the museum on July 22 just prior to your leaving for Lima. They are certainly extraordinary and if genuine would appear to be unique of their kind. Most provocative is the difference in sex of the figures on the shafts. In the light of current shamanic practices in Oaxaca, where hallucinogenic mushrooms are administered in pairs--one representing a male, the other female--it might be tempting to interpret this as an atavism for which these stones may serve as evidence. At least the land marker theory would not seem to fit these so well.

In my survey I located, photographed, and measured more than 50 mushroom stones previously unrecorded; but as in the case of other stones of this class, with few exceptions (as you pointed out), their precise origin is either unknown or the data unreliable. I did obtain exact data on one tripod (late classic) stone found in a grave site by Ismael Tercero in 1968 at the Monticulo de I.N.C.A.P. It was associated with human skeletal remains about one meter beneath the surface.

With kindest regards,

Bernard Lowy
Professor of Botany

cg

August 17, 1970

Dr. Weston LaBarre
James B. Duke Professor of Anthropology
Duke University
Durham, North Carolina 27706

Dear Dr. LaBarre:

Thank you for your letter of June 1st and the xerox copy of the corrected page-proof of your paper. I returned from Guatemala only a few days ago after almost 9 weeks of intensive travel and investigation throughout the country, the chief purpose of which was to gather information concerning mushroom stones which since the late Dr. Borhegyi's work about a decade ago has been relatively neglected. I made an effort to see out and examine as many of these artifacts as possible and succeeded in locating, photographing and measuring over 50 stones heretofore unreported, principally in museums and in private collections. Among them are some that fit no current classification. Unfortunately, as in the case of almost all the stones previously reported by Borhegyi and others, their precise source is unknown, but with the cooperation of Drs. Michel and Sanders (Univ. Penn.) who are now working on what remains of Kaminaljuyu (a housing project has been built on the site!) I obtained exact data on a mushroom stone excavated from a grave site there last year.

I was not previously aware of the considerable clandestine traffic in archeological finds, verified for me by unimpeachable sources. The curator presently in charge of Tikal was among those who told me in some detail of the methods used in the theft of undetermined numbers of archeological treasures including stelae. Only few of the apparently ~~knowledgeable~~ knowledgeable and skillful thieves have been apprehended and at the time of my visit two of them were being held in jail at Flores (Peten). A disproportionate amount of time is spent by the curator at Tikal in establishing the genuineness of artifacts (stolen) then submitting reports which are used as evidence against the miscreants. The curator also informed me that he is always careful not to personally confront a suspect, for fear of reprisals. There can be no doubt that as a result of the misdirected zeal of some individuals, archeological sites known only to themselves have been discovered and exploited for private gain. Could these hunters be engaged as bona fide scouts and paid decently for their laboursbut this quixotic suggestion draw a response that might have been worthy of Sancho himself. In any event, understaffing makes it virtually impossible to adequately police an area as large as the Peten.

I have not yet received the slides of my photographs, some of which I hope may be good enough to publish as part of my report. Besides Sanders and Michels I have consulted Dr. Edwin Shook, who among contemporary archeologists is I believe foremost in his knowledge of mushroom stones. Your information that Dr. Furst's "grave ceramics" in Mexico "may be related to Sapper's 'Pilzformige Gotzenbilder'" is of great interest and I would much appreciate having such additional data as you might care to give me concerning it.

Incidentally, it was Dr. Shook's data upon which Borhegyi (a student of Shook) based much of his early work on mushroom stones. Although I believe that the weight of available evidence points to the probable use of mushroom stones as symbols of a long-forgotten mushroom cult in Guatemala, other possible interpretations have not been adequately explored. Chief among these is that the stones may have been used as land markers. This idea originated with Shook (personal communication) and was certainly known to Borhegyi, although the latter made no mention of this in his publications.

With kindest regards,

Bernard Lowy

May 15, 1970

Dr. Weston La Barre
Department of Anthropology
Duke University
Durham, North Carolina

Dear Dr. La Barre:

One of the questions you raise in your recent paper on "Old and New World narcotics" in *Economic Botany* 24(1): 73-80, 1970, is of special interest to me and I wonder whether you would be kind enough to comment further on it. Is your reference to the "alleged mushroom stones of the Maya" an indication that you do not completely accept the interpretation that these artifacts are mushroomic symbols? I am familiar with the late Dr. Borhegyi's work and his classification of these objects in Wasson's "Mushrooms, Russia and History" (1957) and again in *Amer. Antiquity* 26(4): 498-504, 1961. Since Sapper first denied that these were phallic and called them "pilzförmige Götzenbilder", I do not know of any other way in which they have been interpreted.

My interest in mushroom stones stems from an acquaintance with Borhegyi's work, but my professional competence is in neotropical mycology and for some years I have done rather extensive field work throughout the Americas. During a mycological tour of Guatemala in 1963, I was told in Panajachel that jade mushrooms were known to the people of the Quiché area but I did not then have the time to try to verify this. It was also alleged that these sculptures were considered sacred, hence the unwillingness of the people to part with them. In any case, some of the questions raised by the mushroom stones would seem to merit further investigation and I plan to pursue the matter in Guatemala this summer.

Sincerely yours,

Bernard Lowy
Professor of Botany

Duke University

DURHAM
NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
AND ANTHROPOLOGY

1 June 1970
114 Wilkins Drive

POSTAL CODE 27706

Dear Dr. Lowy,

Thank you for your interesting letter concerning my Economic Botany article.

Concerning my phrase "alleged mushroom stones" I should have perhaps been more specific, though a non-archeologist's judgment in an ethnobotanical article might border on the irrelevant, so far as any extended discussion was concerned.

Since Borhegyi's opinion in Wassons' Mushrooms, Russia and History, I have been myself convinced ^{that} of the traditional "phallic" interpretation ^{was} as being wrong, and the Sapper-Borhegyi "mushroom stone" ^{was} correct; "alleged" meant that it was so-argued, that I did not comment on an archeological matter, but not ^{was} that I ^{included in my} myself had any personal doubts.

Since then, Dr. Peter Furst has written me of certain grave-ceramics in Mexico that I think may be related to Sapper's "Pilzförmige Götzenbilder" and if my conjecture be right, then this would still further support Borhegyi. I am transmitting your data to Peter Furst, who is actively interested in the question.

Mindful of how long Econ. Botany took to publish the article, I suspect that offprints are still very far off. Can you perhaps use the enclosed Xerox of the corrected page-proof? Both Dr. Furst and I will be much interested in the consequences of your field work; I hope you will remember us with reprints.

Sincerely yours,


Weston LaBarre
James B. Duke Professor

of Anthropology

January 20, 1970

Sra. Isabel Larco de Alvarez Calderon
Av. Bolivar 1515
Pueblo Libre
Lima, Peru

My dear Sra. de Alvarez Calderon:

When I visited the museum last December, you were good enough to give me certain information regarding a jaguar in wood that was on display, a part of which I thought might represent a mushroomic symbol but which you interpreted as the symbol of a ceremonial knife. ()

Just prior to my leaving the city, since I had no time to do otherwise, I left a large manila envelope in charge of the hotel management (Hotel Alcazar) who assured me they would mail it to you. Included in the envelope was a 5 X 7 photograph in color of a mushroom stone from Guatemala, a subject about which we conversed briefly, together with one or two other bits of pertinent ethnomycological information. I hope you have received this. If not, I shall write to the hotel to inquire about its disposition.

In any case, I am still fascinated by the jaguar and since I did not photograph it, I wonder whether you would be kind enough to send me a print of that figure. I would also much appreciate knowing the place and date of its publication. An ethnomycological inquiry into the ceramic and textile work of early Peruvian civilizations might very well prove rewarding.

With kindest regards and best wishes for the New Year,

Sincerely yours,

Bernard Lowy
Professor of Botany

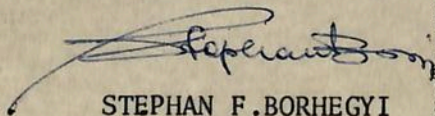
THE NEW MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM
New six-story building located in Milwaukee's
Civic Center, made possible by a \$7,500,000 City
bond issue; Eschweiler, Eschweiler & Sielaf,
architects. Established in 1881, it is the fourth
largest Natural History Museum in the United
States.

Feb. 15, 1965

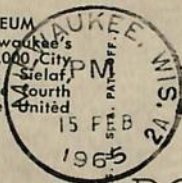
Dear Dr. Lowy:

Many thanks for the excellent
black-and-white photo of your
mushroomstone. I am most
grateful for your prompt
cooperation.

Cordially,


STEPHAN F. BORHEGYI

Director



ALWAYS
YOUR ZIP

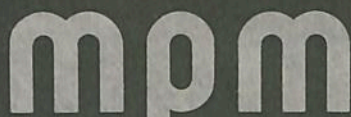


POST CARD

Dr. Bernard Lowy
Professor of Botany
Mixcological Herbarium
Louisiana State University

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
70803

CURTEICHOLOR® 3-D NATURAL COLOR REPRODUCTION



MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM / MILWAUKEE WISCONSIN 53233 / BROADWAY 1-6810

January 28, 1965

Dr. B. Lowy
Professor of Botany
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803

Dear Dr. Lowy:

Many thanks for yours of January 26 and for the fine color slide of your Type B tripod mushroom stone from Mixco Viejo. It is indeed wonderful to have your data since my records show only Late Classic and one Post Classic mushroom stone from this site. It is good to know that you have a Pre-Classic specimen from this area. Can you send me a black-and-white photo of it, too?

I would also be very much interested about your Highland Guatemalan and Costa Rican data on mushroom stores. Mr. Wasson and I have not been fortunate to collect any pertinent information in these areas about the use of hallucinogenic mushrooms. Did you run into any information on this subject?

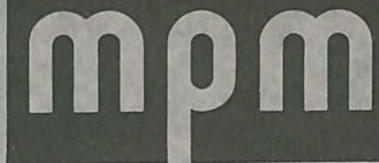
Waiting for your answer with much anticipation, I am

Cordially,

Stephan F. Borhegyi, Director

SFB:R

CC: Mr. Wasson



MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM / MILWAUKEE WISCONSIN 53233 / BROADWAY 1-6810

February 12, 1965

Dr. Bernard Lowy
Professor of Botany
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803

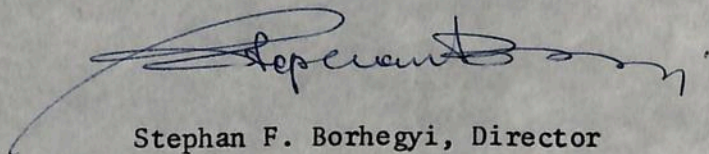
Dear Dr. Lowy:

Many thanks for your good and detailed letter of February 2. I will await your black-and-white photos and some of your additional information about the Shipibo's interest in mushrooms.

As to your experience with Don Emilio Crespo, I need to caution you. While Don Emilio (whom I know quite well) is a wonderful raconteur, his stories need careful checking. He is a real minden hájjal megkent individual. He makes (and sells) excellent Pre-Columbian fakes, especially of jade. However, I will certainly bear in mind your information and when I am again in Guatemala I will give the "third degree" to our friend Emilio.

Meanwhile, with best regards.

Cordially,



Stephan F. Borhegyi, Director

SFB:R

CC: Dr. R. Gordon Wasson

January 20, 1970

Dr. Stephan F. Borhegyi
Milwaukee Public Museum
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Borhegyi:

Since our correspondence in 1965, concerning mushroom stones and related matters, I have been working principally on a taxonomic monograph of neotropical fungi based largely on my collections throughout the neotropical zone. A book is now in press, so I am able to turn my attention more closely to ethnomycological pursuits.

I hope to return to Mexico this summer to look into the question of whether or not Psilocybe spp. are being cultivated (by curanderos ?) to meet the demand for specimens, which in recent years has probably been somewhat in excess of the quantity that may be expected to be found at any given time in the natural habitat. As we know, rapid changes have been taking place in Puautla and other areas because of the intrusion of certain extraneous and unsympathetic elements and this would seem to be an appropriate time to look into some of these changes in terms of the response of the curanderos themselves. I am also still deeply interested in mushroom stones and as my preliminary venture in Guatemala indicated, a further investigation there, particularly in El Quiche, Alta and Baja Verapaz and adjacent regions, might be very useful.

I have outlined to you these summer plans because I expect to apply for a grant-in-aid to Sigma Xi to enable me to travel and I would like to solicit your support for this project. If you would be willing to write a letter of recommendation for me, I shall gladly send you such additional information as you may need. Meanwhile, I shall delay sending my application to the Society until I hear from you.

With best regards,

Cordially yours,

Bernard Lowy
Professor of Botany

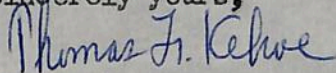
January 27, 1970

Dr. Bernard Lowy
Professor of Botany
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, La.

Dear Dr. Lowy:

Your letter of January 20 has been turned over to me for reply. Dr. Borhegyi was killed in an auto accident in late September so will be unable to write a letter of recommendation in support of your application for a Sigma Xi grant-in-aid.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas F. Kehoe
Associate Curator of
Anthropology

January 26, 1965

Dr. Stephan F. De Borhegyi
Milwaukee Public Museum
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Borhegyi:

During the summer of 1963, while on a mycological research project in Guatemala, I acquired a mushroom stone, a photograph of which is enclosed. Since the publication of your chart on the classification and distribution of these artifacts (in Wasson), I have had more than a passing interest in them. In my travels in Mexico, Guatemala and Costa Rica in recent years, I have made inquiries of the local people in many villages, concerning their knowledge of mushroom lore.

The photograph shows the circular groove around the cap which identifies it as belonging to "Type B". It is from the Mixco II (Mixco Viejo) area, Departamento de Chimaltenango, which may be a locality not previously recorded as a site for these stones and therefore of possible interest to you. I have noted the dimensions on the slide, which you may keep.

Sincerely yours,

B. Lowy
Professor of Botany

ljl

encl.

February 2, 1965

Dear Dr. Borhegyi:

I am glad to know that the data I sent you fills a gap in the archeological record. All my photographs are Kodachromes or Ektachromes but I shall take one of the stone in black and white and send you a copy presently.

My notes on mushroom lore in Mexico, Guatemala and Costa Rica have been gathered in the market place, from vendors of mushrooms or from anyone I happened to meet in the field. In Peru (1958), when I stayed briefly among the Shipibo Indians while I was a guest of Instituto Linguístico de Verano at Pucallpa, I was often accompanied in the field by a Shipibo adult or younger person and had an opportunity to question my informants about the uses they had, if any, for various fungi. I cannot attempt to summarize this information, since it is still scattered in my notes. But I do not want to give you the impression that I have a great fund of knowledge in these matters. I certainly do not, but I have a great respect and profound admiration for the botanical, zoological and mycological knowledge of the Indians of the few tribes with which I came in contact, and I am sure that we professionals have much to learn from them.

Concerning the hallucinogenic cult, I had a tantalizing experience in Guatemala I will tell you about briefly. Since no evidence has yet been found that would indicate the existence of such a cult in present-day Guatemala, it may be of special interest. While in Panajachel (13 July 1963), I met an old gentleman, Don Emilio Crespo, a resident of that village and well known there. Don Emilio had just returned from a trip to the Quiche country and was loaded with specimens of wood, rocks, hides and snake skins (or rather his donkeys were so loaded). He is a weather-beaten old man who has seen a lot in his lifetime. I would judge him to be in his late 70's and if I may make use of an old Hungarian expression which I remember from childhood and which seems appropos here, I would say of him that "mindenfele hájjal meg van kenve". In a long conversation with him, after getting around to the matter of mushroom stones (4 of which I saw along with other miscellaneous stone idols, all thrown together in an untidy heap) Don Emilio told me that he had seen in the possession of Indians in the Quiche, small carvings of mushrooms in jade. When I asked him whether he had ever acquired such pieces, he replied that he had tried to do so but found it impossible because the Indians told him that if they sold these objects they would die. I can vouch for what Don Emilio told me but unfortunately, not for the veracity of his story, since I had no way of verifying it. I had to leave Panajachel on the following day and went in quest of tremellaceous fungi.

With kindest regards,

Cordially yours,

B. Lowy
Bernard Lowy
Professor of Botany

February 2, 1965

Dear Dr. Borhegyi:

I am glad to know that the data I sent you fills a gap in the archeological record. All my photographs are Kodachromes or Ektachromes but I shall take one of the stone in black and white and send you a copy presently.

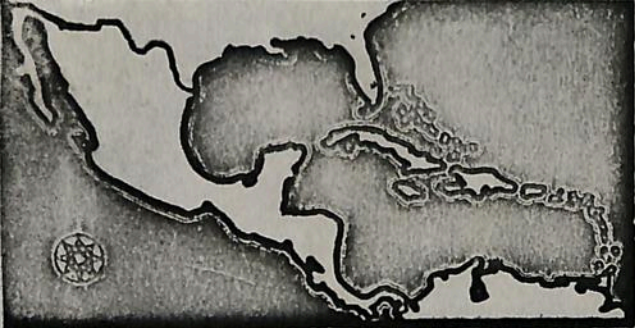
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With kindest regards,

Cordially yours,

B. Low
Bernard Low
Professor of Botany



MIDDLE AMERICAN
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

TULANE UNIVERSITY
NEW ORLEANS 18 • LOUISIANA

January 20, 1965

Mrs. Eulava Dupree
Library
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803

Dear Mrs. Dupree:

This Institute did not publish the item by Borhegyi requested in your letter of January 14. Borhegyi has published several articles on mushroom stones, although I do not know of the particular one you specified. He has written on "Pre-Columbian Pottery Mushrooms of Mesoamerica," American Antiquity, Volume 28, No. 3, page 328. He also published an article on mushroom stones from Guatemala in the same journal, Volume 26, No. 4, page 498. His chart on the distribution of mushroom stones in Middle America appeared in "Mushrooms, Russia and History" by Valentina P. and R. Gordon Wasson, Appendix to Volume 2, Pantheon Books.

We are sending you herewith a price list of our current publications, from which you may order the items you lack. We do not operate on an exchange basis with LSU, for LSU does not publish in the Middle American field, which is the only one in which we are interested in increasing our library holdings.

Sincerely,

Robert Wauchoppe
Robert Wauchoppe
Director

RW:ip
Enc.

Stephan F. de Borhegyi
Milwaukee Public Museum
Milwaukee, wis.

Pre-Columbian pottery mushrooms from
Meso-America.
Amer. Ant. 28(3)5

Amer. Ant. 1961. miniature mushroom stones from Guatemala.

26(4) = 498-504, 328-338.
Digitized by the Hunt Institute for Botanical Document Analysis
Miniature stone up to 1.9cm high.

570.5
Am345

→ "Enigmatic mushroom stones of Mesoamerica"

Campus Correspondence

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

FROM: Evangeline Lynch, Librarian
Louisiana Room

TO: Dr. Bernard Lowy
Room 213, Stubbs Hall

DATE: July 29, 1960

A letter from Tulane University regarding the Middle American Research Institute publication entitled "Enigmatic Mushroom Stones of Meso-America" tells us that they have not yet received the manuscript from the author. They do not know what number the publication will be given when they do receive it. They suggest you write the following for further information:

Dr. S. F. Borhegyi
Milwaukee Public Museum
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

I am sorry, but I believe that until we receive the preprint from Tulane (and I will notify you immediately when we do) the Library has done all that it can toward obtaining the material.

I wish I could have been more helpful, and best wishes to you for a pleasant vacation.

Call Mrs. Hill, Soc. Sci. Libr.

Kidder, A. V., J. D. Jennings, & E. M. Shook
1946. Excavations at Kaminaljuyu, Guatemala.
Of Washington, Publication 561, Washington.

veracruz. There is a specimen with a monkey head in relief on one side, said to be from Utatlan (Lothrop, 1936, p. 83, fig. 81); one with a birdlike head from the Department of Quetzaltenango in the University of Pennsylvania Museum; and a plain one from Chama. Our southernmost records are from Salvador: Department of Sonsonate (Zanotti collection), Department of La Libertad (Longyear, 1944, p. 54). The type should not be confused with the smaller and much more carefully finished "mace heads" found commonly in Michoacan (cf. Noguera, 1944, fig. 29a).

"MUSHROOM" STONES

(1) Part of head and stem. Gray, nonvesicular lava. The stem bears traces of carving in relief. Diam. of head 16 cm. (fill of Structure B-5). (2) Head only (fig. 58,c). Small pit pecked in middle of convex surface. Fine-grained sandstone. Diam. 17 cm. (with other stones in grouting of A-II platform). (3) Two specimens with carved stems but lacking heads were found in 1944 in the digging of a ditch some 30 m. southwest of Mound B (fig. 160,f,h). (4) As stated in its description, the pisote effigy (fig. 42) is probably from the stem of a "mushroom" stone.

COMMENT. The peculiar and as yet unexplained objects represented by these fragments are about 20-30 cm. high (fig. 160). Each consists of a base, a cylindrical shaft, and a round, mushroomlike head. The base may be round or rectangular with flat bottom or may have three short legs. The shaft is sometimes plain, sometimes bears a simple carved face; less commonly it represents a grotesque anthropomorphic figure (this type of shaft is illustrated in Sapper, 1898, and in Villacorta and Villacorta, 1930, fig. 11; both specimens have rectangular base); sometimes it bears an animal (fig. 42) or a bird (fig. 160,d). The head is always plain and, save for the apparently secondarily worked pit in our Mound A specimen, shows no signs of use. These objects must have been turned out in considerable quantities, as they are found in most collections from the Guatemala highlands. They also appear on the Pacific slope in the Department of Escuintla (specimens from El Baul will be described in a forthcoming report by J. E. S. Thompson). The easternmost record is from an unspecified locality in eastern Salvador (Longyear, 1944, pl. XII, 16), the westernmost two examples, said to be from Ococingo, Chiapas, in the regional museum at Tuxtla Gutierrez (fig. 160,a,b; the rings in relief

about the stems of these have not been noted in

Guatemala). In Salvador, but apparently never in Guatemala, occur plain hollow pottery objects of similar shape (Lothrop, 1933, fig. 11; Longyear, 1944, pl. IX, 26). Aside from the fact that the above-described fragments from Kaminaljuyu cannot be later than Esperanza, there are no data as to the age of the "mushrooms," nor is their purpose known. Sapper (1898) refutes the opinion often expressed by collectors that they are phalli. They are sometimes referred to as seats, but this identification also seems to us improbable.

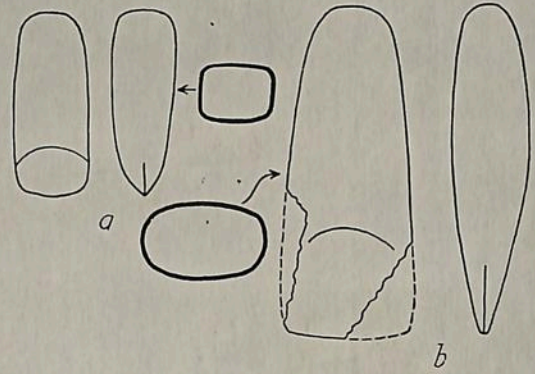


FIG. 60—CELTS

a: Black stone. Length 5 cm. [fill of Structure B-4].
b: Greenish black stone. Length 8.8 cm. [on or near surface, Mound A].

CELTS

(1) From near surface at edge of Mound A, therefore possibly later than Esperanza phase (fig. 60,b—no celts were found in the tombs at Mounds A and B, but there were three in an Esperanza grave at the hospital site—p. 85). Dark green, fine-grained stone. Badly battered, edge blunted, but bitt originally well polished. Length 8.8 cm. (2) Small celt, fine-grained black stone. Length 5 cm. (fig. 60,a—fill of Structure B-5).

BARK BEATERS

(1) Small fragment, fine-grained dark stone, narrow, close-set incisions on one face, other apparently not corrugated. As the sides are not present, the method of haft-grooving is unknown (fill of Structure B-4). (2) Large, three-quarter grooved specimen (fig. 61), coarse brown stone unlike the fine-grained material generally used for bark beaters. On one face seven wide incisions, the intervening ridges showing much wear; other face convex, no wear. Length 11.5 cm. (in Amatlé-Pamplona refuse near Mound B).



FIG. 160

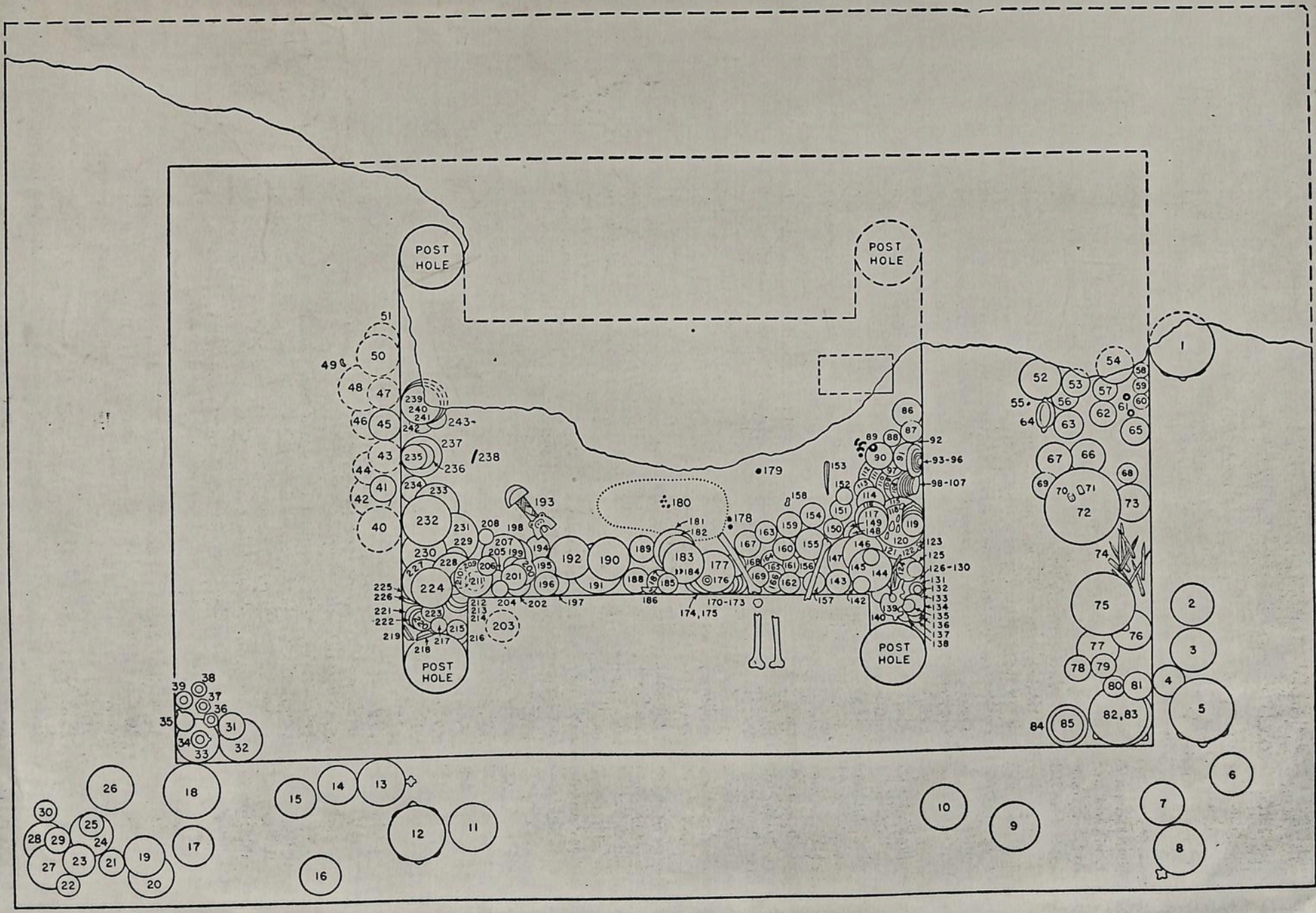


FIG. 13—TOMB I, PLAN

It carried no offerings. Prints of rectangular wooden (?) blocks that supported the burial

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*Dr. S. F. Borhegyi gratefully acknowledges the receipt of your gift
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Stephan F. Borhegyi, Director

Experts Smuggling Ancient Mexican Art to a Profitable Market

By RICHARD SEVERO

Special to The New York Times

MEXICO CITY, June 11—A few months ago in Manhattan a well-dressed young woman got off a creaking elevator and knocked at a second-floor gallery overlooking Madison Avenue. After the door was unlocked the visitor was greeted by the person in charge, a middle-aged, olive-complexioned man in a bright colored turtleneck and dark slacks.

"It's for our new house," the visitor explained. "Essentially, we're interested in an altar, a major piece. In fact, we're so fond of pre-Columbian pieces that we want to have our architect design a room around it."

The proprietor of the establishment listened with the reverent attentiveness of an undertaker receiving an order for a solid gold coffin. "Then I take it you're interested in classical Mayan?" he asked.

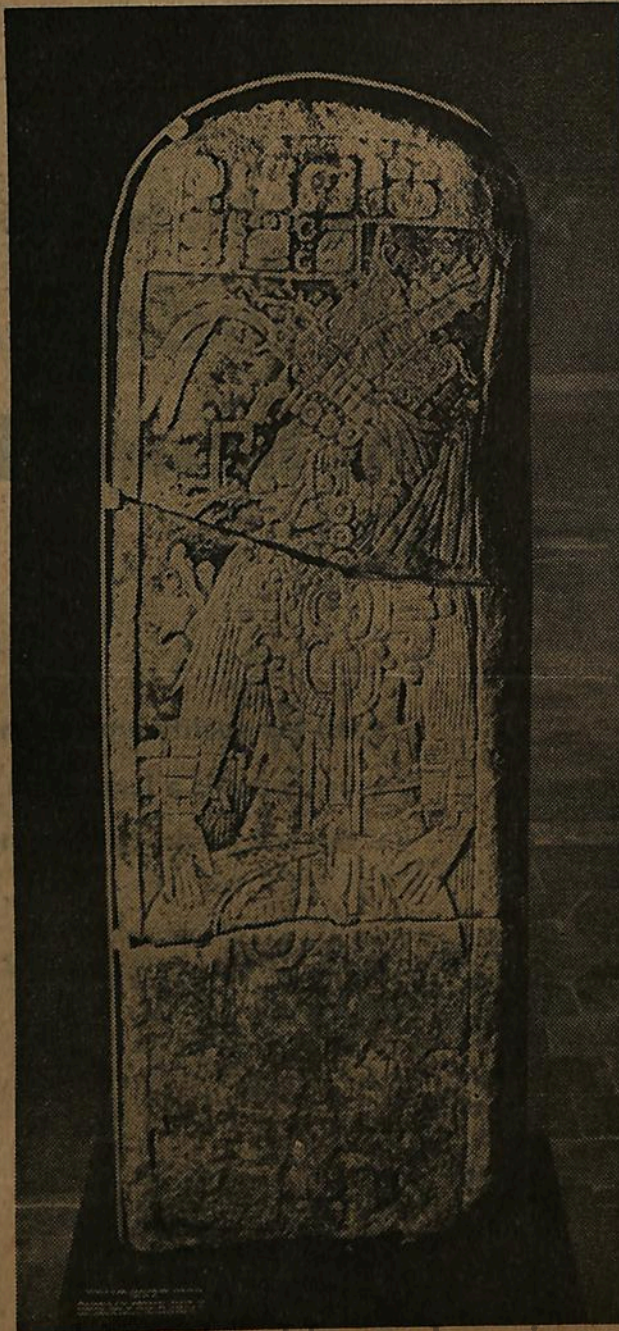
"Yes," the customer replied. "I believe classical Mayan would do nicely."

But What to Do?

The conversation that followed underscored a practice that both the Mexican and the United States Governments have agreed must stop—except that no one seems quite certain how to do it.

Art smuggling out of Mexico—and Guatemala as well—is not only a big and violent business but a profitable one. Arrests are mounting, but the smugglers apparently feel that the enormous profits outweigh the risks.

In 1970 President Luis Echeverría Alvarez signed a "cultural heritage" law, which prohibits removing anything, both pre-Columbian objects and those from the Spanish conquest, that might be part of Mexico's cultural



This monolith was cut by smugglers into three pieces, for easier removal from discovery site. Retrieved by au-

way. Even if they were not, a smuggler is usually able to find a poor Indian who, for a few dollars, can lead him to a Mayan temple in the middle of a rain forest—a site that might ultimately yields hundreds of thousands of dollars in the United States or Europe.

The smugglers have also found that it is not impossible to bribe a policeman or a border guard and that shipment from remote areas is relatively easy.

When money fails to persuade, the smugglers are not afraid to use violence; Indians have been murdered in the jungles of southern Mexico.

There is other violence. Last month an inspector for the National Museum of Anthropology in San Miguel Allende, in central Mexico, shot himself after destroying a collection of some 5,000 archeological pieces. He had been accused of plundering ancient sites and being part of a scheme to smuggle the loot out of Mexico. If convicted, he could have been sentenced to as much as 30 years in prison.

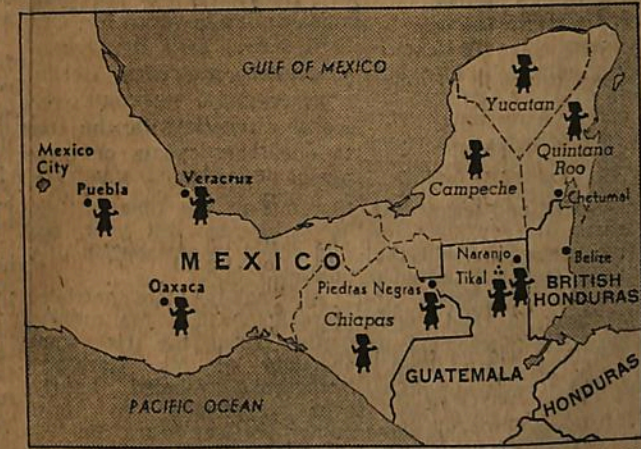
U.S.-Mexican Agreement

The authorities are still trying to determine who his contacts were.

In 1970 the United States and Mexico signed a treaty of cooperation "providing for recovery and return of stolen archeological, historical and cultural properties." No treaty has been reached with Guatemala.

The one with Mexico, which is not retroactive, has had minimal effect because it still lacks implementing legislation in the United States.

Problems will remain even if such legislation is passed. Americans sympathetic to the Mexican position note that with so many ports of entry, it would be difficult for American agents to gain

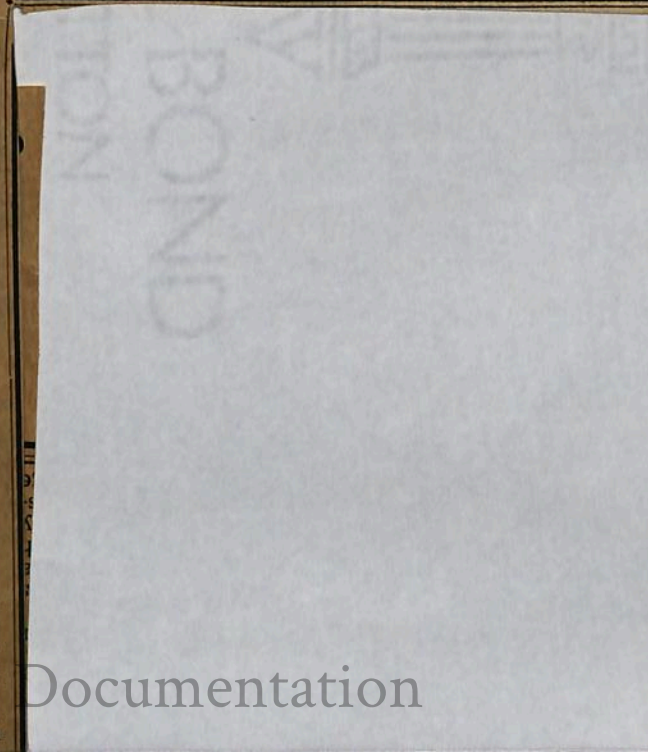


The New York Times/June 17, 1972

Statuette symbols indicate some of the areas in Mexico and Guatemala where ancient art treasures can be found.

country of origin. Items without proper papers would be impounded and returned if the country of origin could be determined.

The problem has intensified in recent years because European collectors have become increasingly interested in pre-Columbian art.



Documentation

Evidence gathered from Mexicans and Americans familiar with the situation suggests that various contraband operations are being carried out by unlikely alliances of connoisseurs familiar with what will bring the highest prices in New York and Europe; Indians and other inhabitants of remote areas who know where untouched Mayan ruins are; craftsmen unafraid to put power saws to large objects so that they can be smuggled easily; owners and pilots of small planes or boats who are not particular about cargo or passengers, and an assortment of international rogues who know how to use a gun or bribe a border guard.

A Single Deal: \$500,000

The results of their enterprise are the stocks of certain galleries in New York, London and Paris, where the beauty created a thousand years ago can bring \$500,000 in a single deal.

The woman who visited the Madison Avenue gallery had made it clear that money was not the problem; only the quality of the work mattered.

"Well, I do have one piece that might do," the man said. "Seven feet two in the round, and then we could find some lovely vases that would—"

"No, I don't want something that will just do!" the customer said. "It has to be an altar. Price is no object, but what we want is a Mayan altar."

"Uh, well, there are problems in such an acquisition. It is rather dangerous."

"But price is no object," the woman reiterated, smiling. The man smiled too.

The woman said her husband was traveling in Mexico and suggested that he make contact with the dealer's agent, wherever he might be in Central America, to facilitate selection. This was, after all, a transaction that

might run to \$100,000 or more; she felt she ought to see the altar before she bought it.

The gallery man did not like the suggestion. "I never talk to people in Mexico on the telephone," he explained. "I want nothing to do with them. The less I hear from them or they from me the better. And as for your husband meeting with someone down there—why, I have spent years developing those contacts. No reputable dealer would do such a thing. I would not tell anyone ever who they are."

The woman left, but not before she was given a smart catalogue listing 50 pre-Columbian objects taken "from a site in Veracruz" in south-central Mexico. All were fairly small pieces, including seven whistles. There was the image of the goddess Xochiquetzal and many of those strange, smiling figures frequently found in the Veracruz area. The catalogue did not say how the pieces got to New York or who had found them.

Mules and Chain Saws

Dealers, both Mexican and American, sometimes complain that small objects taken from sites should not be the source of concern. But archeologists and anthropologists say the dealers are missing the point.

"What we really want to stop is bad excavating," said Ignacio Bernal, director of the vast National Museum of Anthropology and History here. "Once something is removed from its original place, future possibilities of uncovering the site properly and determining the relationships is impossible."

He regards illegal excavating as an assault on history that robs Mexico of a chance to learn more about her pre-Hispanic past, much of which remains the subject of conjecture.

Huge monoliths—called stelae—and multi-ton altars

have been smuggled out of jungle wildernesses in Mexico and Guatemala. Frequently there are no roads—at least nothing big enough for a truck—so the smugglers invade the jungle with power-driven, diamond-tipped chain saws, with which they cut large pieces into components that can be carried by mule or in the bottom of a small boat.

A few such objects have been retrieved by the authorities, and inspection indicates that the cutting was done by persons sensitive to the problems of restoration: saw marks that avoid faces and delicate carving, striving to mate the requirements of the gallery with those of the huaqueros, which in Spanish means "grave robbers."

Not all cutting is successful, however, and the chips and fragments of failure are sometimes found at ancient sites.

According to Mr. Bernal, Mexico has more than 11,000 archeological sites, many lying unexcavated for more than a thousand years. It is impossible, he says, to guard all of them adequately.

The richest sites are in southern Mexico, in Yucatán, Quintana Roo, Chiapas and Campeche. Other areas known to hold treasure and the remains of Indian civilizations include the hills around the city of Veracruz and sites near Puebla and Oaxaca.

In Guatemala there are sites in the area between Mexico and British Honduras, at Naranjo, Tikal and Piedras Negras.

The Smugglers' Routes

The smuggling routes are diverse, but one of the most active is the border between Quintana Roo and British Honduras. Sources here say that both Chetumal and Belize are active transshipment points.

It is not difficult to find sites. Driving south from Veracruz, for example, the grass-covered pyramids are clearly visible from the high-

the expertise needed to spot important pieces. Moreover, much of the loot does not show up in normal channels. Finally, since the Mexicans seldom know when something is taken from an unprotected site, they cannot alert the authorities in other countries.

There have been a few bright spots. Some American museums, including the Metropolitan in New York, have returned important pieces to the countries from which they were taken. Recently the Brooklyn Museum turned over to Guatemala portions of a Mayan monument, from a vandalized site in the Petén jungle, it had owned since 1964.

Under pending legislation in the United States, it would no longer accept a pre-Columbian object unless it was accompanied by a certificate of authorization from the