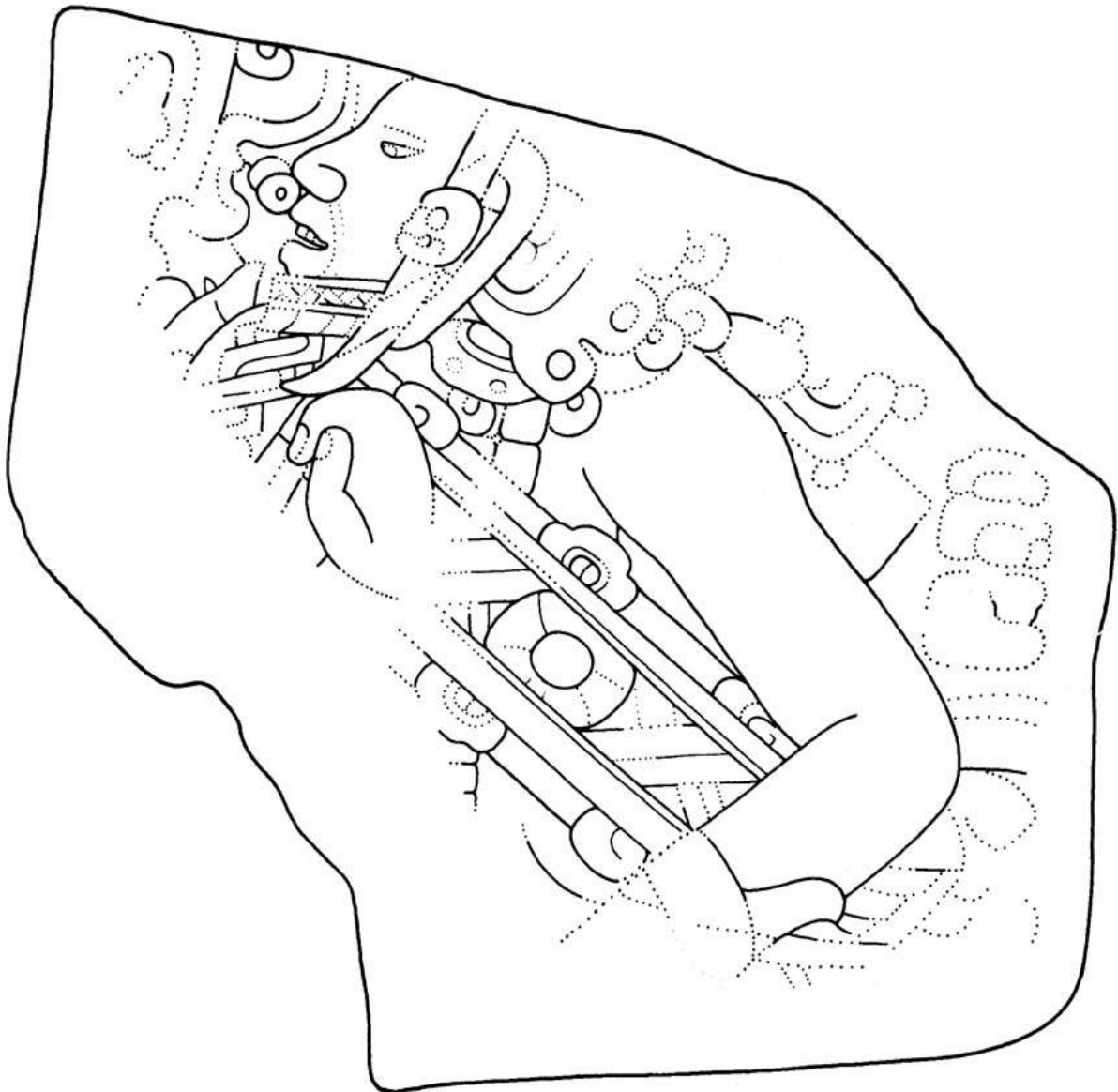**Reports Submitted to FAMSI:**
**Phillip J. Wanyerka**


**The Southern Belize Epigraphic Project:**
**The Hieroglyphic Inscriptions of Southern Belize**

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# The Southern Belize Epigraphic Project:
# The Hieroglyphic Inscriptions of Southern Belize

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# The Southern Belize Epigraphic Project:
## The Hieroglyphic Inscriptions of Southern Belize

## Introduction

The following report is the result of thirteen years of extensive and thorough epigraphic investigations of the hieroglyphic inscriptions of the Maya Mountains region of southern Belize. The carved monuments of the Toledo and Stann Creek Districts of southern Belize are perhaps one of the least understood corpuses in the entire Maya Lowlands and are best known today because of their unusual style of hieroglyphic syntax and iconographic themes. Recent archaeological and epigraphic evidence now suggests that this region may have played a critical role in the overall development, expansion, and decline of Classic Maya civilization (see Dunham *et al.* 1989, Graham 1983, 1987, Hammond 1975, Laporte 1992a, Laporte and Mejía 2000, Leventhal 1990, 1992, MacKinnon 1989, McKillop and Healy 1989, Wanyerka 2004). Unfortunately, until now, only a small portion of this corpus has ever been published or drawn to professional standards (see Grube *et al.* 1999, Joyce 1929, Joyce *et al.* 1928; Morley 1937-1938, Prager 2002, Wanyerka 1996, 1999b, 1999c). Because this corpus was so poorly documented and was in constant danger of being lost due to rampant looting, repeated acts of vandalism, and due to continued exposure to the elements, it was vital that the entire corpus be properly documented as soon as possible. Based on a generous grant in 2001 from the Foundation for the Advancement of Mesoamerican Studies, Inc., the entire hieroglyphic and sculptural corpus of southern Belize has now been professionally drawn by John Montgomery (Ph.D, University of New Mexico). Featured in the following report are new line drawings of some 80 carved monuments and/or inscriptions. All of the data presented here was collected and compiled while serving as both project epigrapher for the Maya Mountains Archaeological Project (MMAP); a multiyear/multidisciplinary project exploring ancient Maya resource exploitation and exchange in the southern Maya Mountains (Peter S. Dunham, Director), and as project director of the Southern Belize Epigraphic Project (SBEP), a multiyear study of the iconography and hieroglyphic inscriptions of southern Belize (FAMSI Grant #00077, 2001).

## Geographic Background

The Maya Mountains were once considered by some archaeologists to be unimportant in the overall development of Classic Maya civilization. However, recent archaeological investigations have now identified and mapped more than 200 sites in this region, many of whose economic activities appear to be tied to resource exploitation and exchange (Dunham et al. 1989; Graham 1983, 1987; Hammond 1975, 1981; Laporte 1992, Laporte and Mejía 2000; Leventhal 1990, 1992; MacKinnon 1989; McKillop and Heally 1989; Wanyerka 2004). Archaeological evidence now suggests that the Maya Mountains region were heavily occupied during the Classic Period and many sites have also been found that feature distinct elite groups that appear to be the loci for production or exchange of specialized resources (Dunham 1996; Dunham *et al.* 1993; Laporte 1992b, 1996, 1997).

The Maya Mountains are home to a variety of raw materials used by the ancient Maya, many of which were widely believed to have come from far distant locations, primarily the Guatemalan Highlands. The Maya Mountains are the only significant mountain range in the Southeastern Maya Lowlands and they sit atop an ancient uplifted geological fault composed of Late Paleozoic

sedimentary and volcanic rocks belonging to the Santa Rosa Group (Abramiuk 2002:1). Among other resources, there are huge deposits of granite, volcanics, volcaniclastics, mudstone, siltstone, and limestone used for grinding stones; pyrites, slate and hematite for mirrors; high quality clays for ceramics; and a host of other minerals for pigments. Given the resource diversity of the Maya Mountains region the area would have been of great economic interest to the ruling elite in and around the region. Recent petrographic analysis has revealed that a large number of grinding stones found at the sites of Tikal, Seibal, Xunantunich, and Uaxactun can be traced back to the Maya Mountains region and sourced to known deposits in the Bladen River Drainage (Abramiuk 2002; Shipley and Graham 1987). Chert and obsidian are two resources noticeably absent from the geological record of the southern Maya Mountains. Both of these resources had to be imported into the region. Nearly all of the obsidian found at sites throughout the Maya Mountains have been sourced either through neutron activation or x-ray fluorescence to three distinct sources (El Chayal, San Martin Jilotepeque, and Ixtepeque) all located in the Highlands of Guatemala (Graham 1994:90; McKillop and Jackson 1989:62). Trade and exchange appears to have been an important economic and political mechanism for the rise and prosperity of sites in this region. The variation in the distribution and appearance of both local and non-local natural resources in this region suggests that resource procurement and  exchange may have been the economic stimulus for the development and growth of polities and trade routes in the Maya Mountains region.

**Project Background**

The data presented here stems in part from the author's own extensive archaeological and epigraphic investigations of some 23 Classic Maya sites located within the Maya Mountains Regional Sphere. The Maya Mountains Regional Sphere, as geographically defined here, includes all of southern Belize (all of the Stann Creek and Toledo Districts, and portions of the Cayo District) and the adjacent portions of southeastern Guatemala (the Municipios of Dolores, Melchor de Mencos, Poptun, and San Luis). Located within this vast regional sphere are more than 200 archaeological sites containing a corpus of more than 170 hieroglyphic inscriptions. However, the following report is restricted to those 12 sites recording iconographic or hieroglyphic texts located within the southern Belize portion of the Maya Mountains Regional Sphere (Figure 1): Lubaantún, Nim Li Punit, Pusilhá, Xnaheb, Uxbenka Tzimín Ché, Caterino's Site, Choco, Pearce Ruin, Lagarto Ruin, Papayal, and Bladen Cave 2.

The epigraphic data presented here represents only a small portion of the author's current Ph.D dissertation research aimed at investigating the nature of Classic Maya political organization in the lesser-known peripheral regions of the Maya Lowlands (see Wanyerka 2004). No where is this more important than in regions like the Maya Mountains where there are numerous smaller emblem-glyph-bearing polities with hieroglyphic inscriptions that appear to chronicle the same sorts of hegemonic features characteristic of those described by Martin and Grube in the central Petén (1994, 1998, 2000). The author's current research is aimed at investigating whether same types of political relationships and hierarchies, now thought to exemplify the Classic Maya can be found in the lesser-known or peripheral regions like the Maya Mountains. Rather than looking at Classic Maya political organization from a superordinate's perspective, the author's dissertation is aimed at investigating this question from the perspective of sites located in the lesser-known or peripheral zones, specifically the Southern Maya Mountains Regional Sphere of Belize and adjacent southeastern Guatemala.
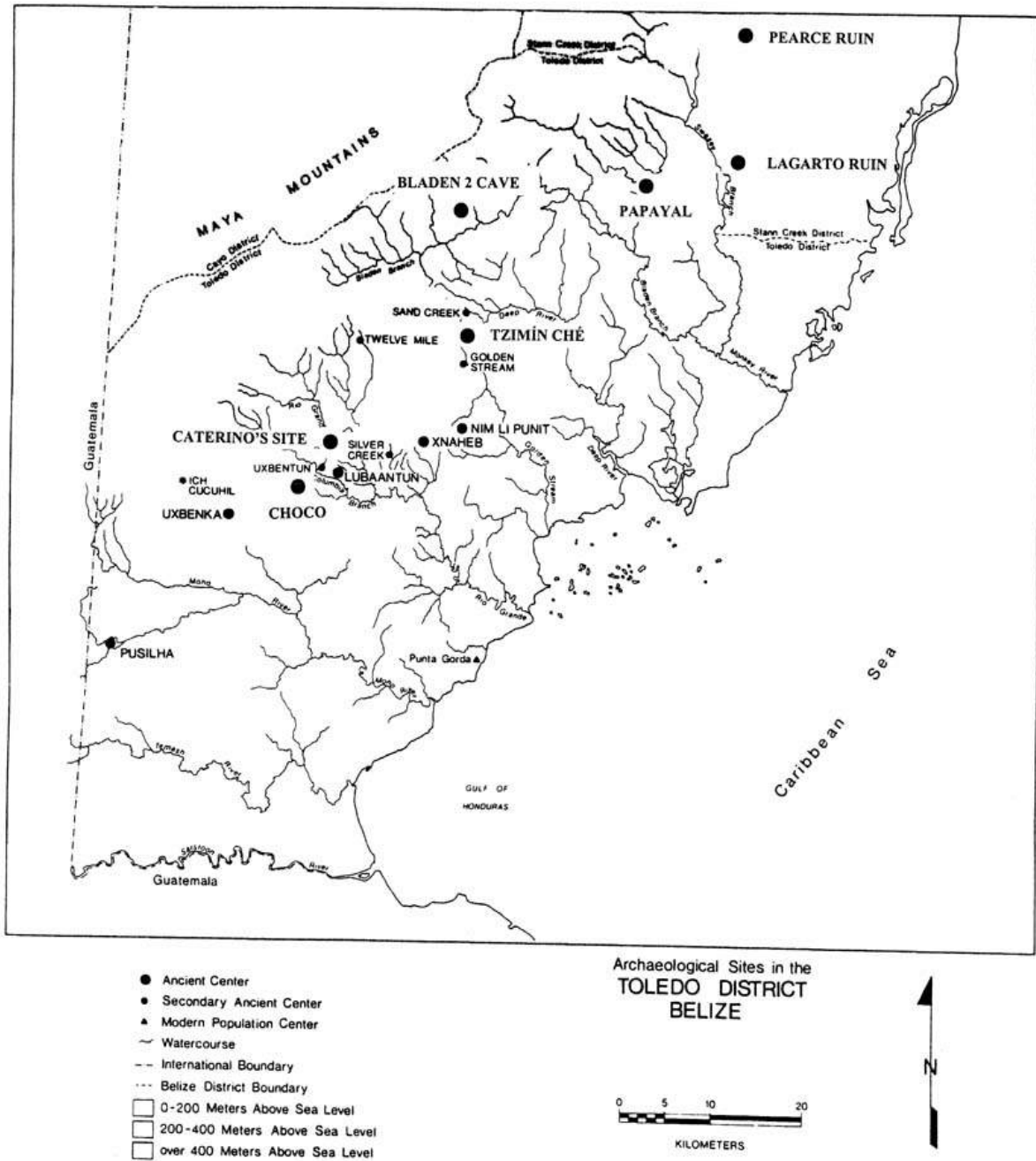
**Figure 1. Map of Southern Belize. (Drawing by Richard Leventhal, [Leventhal 1990: Map 8.1], modified by Wanyerka 2004)**

This research was intended to accomplish four specific and interrelated goals. First, to analyze all of the hieroglyphic inscriptions of the Maya Mountains region using the methods of modern linguistics and epigraphy (along with the archaeological data) to test whether the same hegemonic characteristics described by Martin and Grube for the central core region of the Maya Lowlands can be found here. The implications of such a study would not only demonstrate that peripheral regions fully participated in a macro-political/hegemonic system during Classic Period times, but it would also strengthen the validity of Martin and Grube's overall interpretation of Classic Maya political organization. If no epigraphic evidence can be found to support a hegemonic system in the inscriptions of the Maya Mountains region then Martin and Grube's reconstruction of Classic Maya political organization might have to be reevaluated. The second goal is to develop and reconstruct a regional chronology and dynastic history of sites located within the Maya Mountains region. The third goal is to examine and define the cultural, geographic, economic, ideological, and political processes that may have contributed to the growth and prosperity of this region. And finally, the fourth goal is to examine how the economies of less-powerful peripheral communities were integrated into the "realm" of larger hegemonic states and how this affects our overall understanding of the political and economic dynamics of Classic Maya civilization.

The hieroglyphic inscriptions of the Southern Maya Mountains Regional Sphere are perhaps the least understood in the entire Maya Lowlands. As a corpus unto itself, the monuments of this region are best known because of their unusual style of hieroglyphic syntax and iconographic themes. The earliest dedicatory date in the region is 9.7.0.0.0 (A.D. 573) as recorded on Pusilhá Stela O and the latest dedicatory date in this region is 10.4.0.0.0 (A.D. 909) as recorded on Tzimín Ché Stela 1. However, based on stylistic and iconographic evidence, the earliest monuments in the Maya Mountains region come from the site of Uxbenka, a site located approximately 10 km east of the Guatemala/Belize border in the southern foothills of the Maya Mountains. Stylistically dated by the author to between 8.16.3.10.2 and 8.17.1.4.12 (A.D. 360-378) or shortly thereafter, Uxbenka Stela 11 is clearly the earliest carved monument in Belize and one of the earliest in the entire southeastern Maya Lowlands. The date assigned for Stela 11 is based on the appearance of a well-known Early Classic ruler's name from the site of Tikal named *Chaak Tok Ich'aak I* ("Great Burning Claw"). *Chaak Tok Ich'aak I* is the Tikal ruler who met his untimely death in A.D. 378 with the infamous "arrival" event of the Teotihuacanoes at Tikal. In total, the hieroglyphic inscriptions of the Maya Mountains region record an internal dynastic history spanning some 549 years.

One of the long-range goals of the SBEP is to use the inscriptions of this region, along with archaeological data, to test whether resource exploitation and exchange may have been the primary economic motivation for the development of a macro-political system in the Maya Mountains region. If this hypothesis is correct, then we should expect to see evidence of this interaction by way of explicit patronage, alliance, and subordination phrases reflected in the hieroglyphic inscriptions of this region and in fact, there are many such references. Interlaced within the dynastic inscriptions of Nim Li Punit and Pusilhá there are several explicit references to accessions and other important events taking place under the auspices of rulers from foreign polities. Based on these findings, it now seems quite clear that this corpus can significantly change and alter our current understanding of the political landscape and interactions of sites located within the Southern Maya Mountains Regional Sphere.

Since this corpus was so poorly documented and was in constant danger of being lost, due to looting, repeated acts of vandalism, and due to continued exposure to the elements, it was critically important that this corpus be properly documented to the standards set forth by the *Corpus of Maya Hieroglyphic Inscription Project* (Graham 1975). Thus, based on a generous grant from the Foundation for the Advancement of Mesoamerican Studies, Inc. in 2001, a final season of fieldwork enabled the SBEP to document all of the remaining sculpture in the Toledo and Stann Creek Districts of southern Belize. In addition, we were also able to document all of the monuments removed from Pusilhá by the British Museum Expeditions of the late 1920's. This comprehensive corpus will now provide scholars with an accurate source for further epigraphic and iconographic analysis.

**Methodology**

Methodologically, the SBEP utilized primary data obtained from previous and ongoing archaeological investigations and from the extensive photographic archives obtained by the author as project epigrapher for the Maya Mountains Archaeological Project. Prior to the start of this project, only a small portion of this corpus had been properly documented. Detailed photographs and a few line drawings of the best-preserved monuments have appeared in several publications (Grube *et al.* 1999; Hammond 1975; Hammond *et al.* 1999; Joyce 1929; Joyce et al. 1928; Leventhal 1990, 1992; Morley 1937-1938; Prager 2002; Wanyerka 1996, 1999a, 1999b, 1999c). However, many of the existing technical drawings that have been produced thus far were simply not accurate and many lacked the accompanying figural scenes. By establishing and maintaining a close working relationship with all of the principle archaeologists and epigraphers who have worked in southern Belize over the years, the author was able to secure copies of all of their relevant archaeological reports, field notes, photographs, slides, and preliminary drawings. Without the enthusiastic help and support of colleagues like Geoffrey Braswell, Peter Dunham, Nikolai Grube, Norman Hammond, Nicholas Hellmuth, Steve Houston, Richard Leventhal, Barbara MacLeod, Christian Prager, and Dorie Reents-Budet this report could never have been written. This material, as well as data obtained during the 2001 field season, serve as the basis of interpretation for many of the new technical drawings contained within this final report.

The project photographer, Jack Sulak, using a NIKON N90S camera with an assortment of Nikon lenses, photographed all of the carved monuments in southern Belize. Each monument was also digitally photographed using a Nikon 990 Coolpix Digital Camera. To highlight specific details, side lighting or the use of dual-flash units was also employed during principal photography. Approximately 1800 35mm slides and over 1200 digital photographs were taken by the SBEP during the 2001 field season. These images, as well as photographic archives provided by the above mentioned colleagues (totally more than 5,000 images), were then scanned using a Nikon LS-1000 35mm Slide Scanner and the final images were then burned onto CD ROMS. Thus far, the photographic archive of the SBEP totals more than 100 CD ROMS, each cataloged by site and by sculpture. Once all of the images were scanned, the images were then printed that served as the templates for the new technical drawings. All of the drawings featured in this report, with the exception of the Bladen Cave paintings, were all drawn by the project's graphic artist John Montgomery (Ph.D., University of New Mexico). Preliminary field sketches were made prior to our arrival in Belize and checked against the original monument while in the field where applicable. To ensure accuracy of the drawings, John worked closely with the author using the SBEP's massive photographic archive to help in the final preparations for all of the new technical drawings.

In all, some 130 carved or plain monuments were documented during the 2001 field season. This final report features a nearly complete site-by-site inventory of all the known carved sculpture and hieroglyphic texts of southern Belize. Be sure to look for addition updates of this report on the FAMSI website. The format of this final report is based largely on the format used by Ian Graham as part of his Corpus of Maya Hieroglyphic Inscriptions Project (1975). Thus, the type of data collected and complied here includes information regarding provenance, monument condition, the type of material used, its shape, its precise dimensions, its carved areas, the dedicatory date of the monument, references to earlier drawings or photographs, and a brief commentary on the iconography and/or hieroglyphic inscription of each monument.

## A Note about Monument Dimensions

The following is a key to the abbreviations used in this report:

HT:   Overall Height of the Monument
MW:  Maximum Width of the Monument
HSA:  Maximum Height of the Sculptural Area
WSA:  Maximum Width of the Sculptural Area
WBC:  Maximum Width at the Base of the Carving
WTC:  Maximum Width at the Top of the Carving
MTH:  Maximum Thickness of the Monument
RELS:  Maximum Depth of Relief of the Sculptural Area
RELG:  Maximum Depth of Relief of the Glyphic Area

## A Note on the Epigraphic Conventions and Orthography

Each hieroglyphic text was analyzed on a glyph-by-glyph basis according to the conventions of proper epigraphic transliteration and translation (see Fox and Justeson 1984:363-366, Stuart 1988:7-12). This means that each glyph or glyph block was analyzed according to its constituent components (affixes and main signs) and assigned a corresponding Thompson (T) Number for easy identification (Thompson 1962). Some of the values for the T-numbers used in this report come from the glyphic revision of the Thompson catalog published by Ringle and Smith-Stark in 1996. Logographic readings are capitalized and syllabic or phonetic readings are in lower case. A single period (.) between each sign value represents a horizontal alignment of the reading order and a colon (:) is used to denote a vertical relationship between signs.

In general, this report uses the orthography for Maya words that have been accepted by the Academia de Lenguas Mayas in Guatemala.

Any errors, omissions or misidentifications that appear in this report are the sole responsibility of the author. The author welcomes any insights, comments, or criticisms you might have concerning this report.

## Acknowledgements

The professional documentation of this corpus could not have been conducted were it not for the generous support of the Foundation for the Advancement of Mesoamerican Studies, Inc. The

# The Hieroglyphic Inscriptions of Southern Belize

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# The Glyphic Corpus of Lubaantún, Toledo District, Belize

## The Monumental Inscriptions
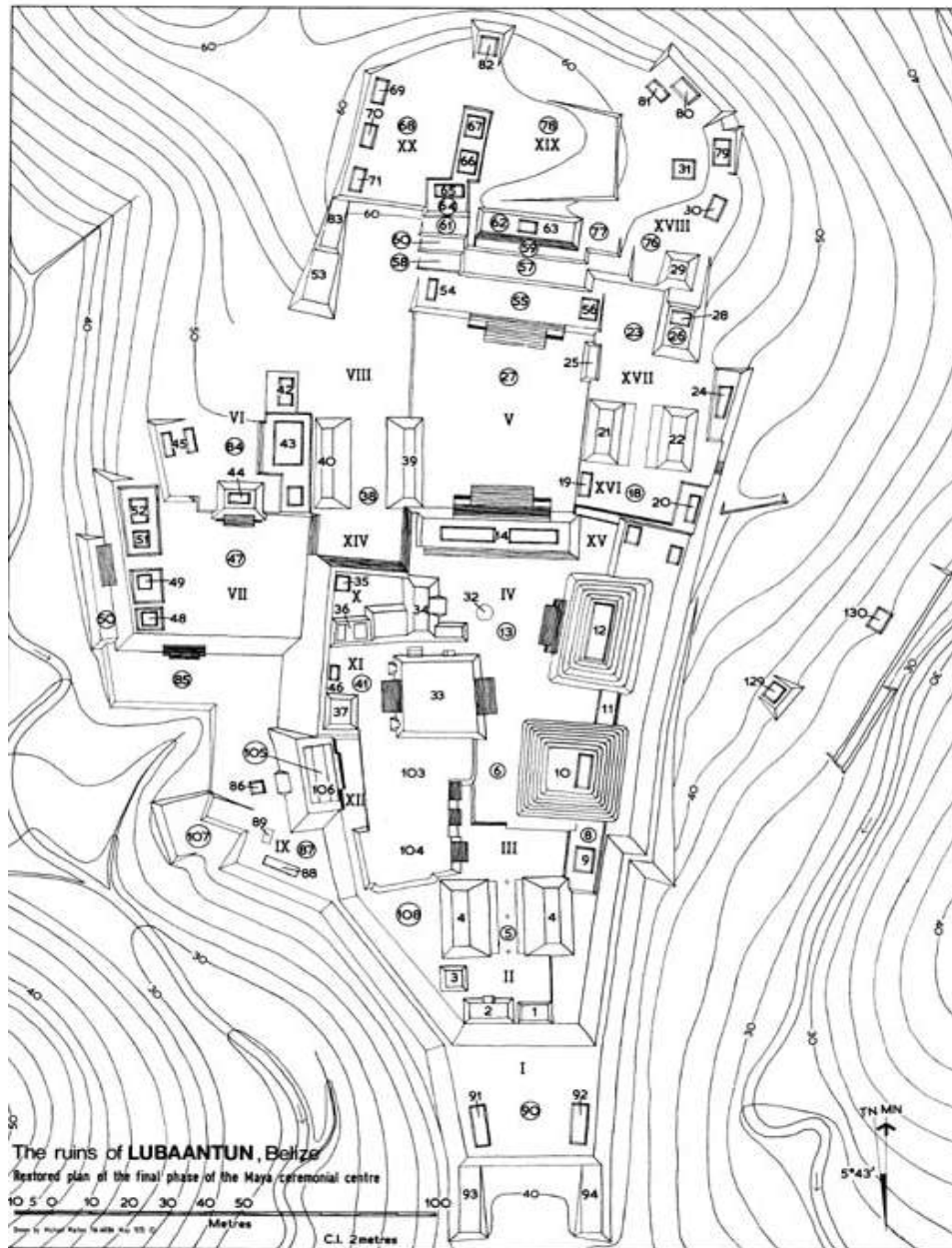


**Figure 2. Plan Map of Lubaantún (Drawn by Michael Walton, Courtesy of Dr. Norman Hammond [Hammond 1972: Figure 20.4])**
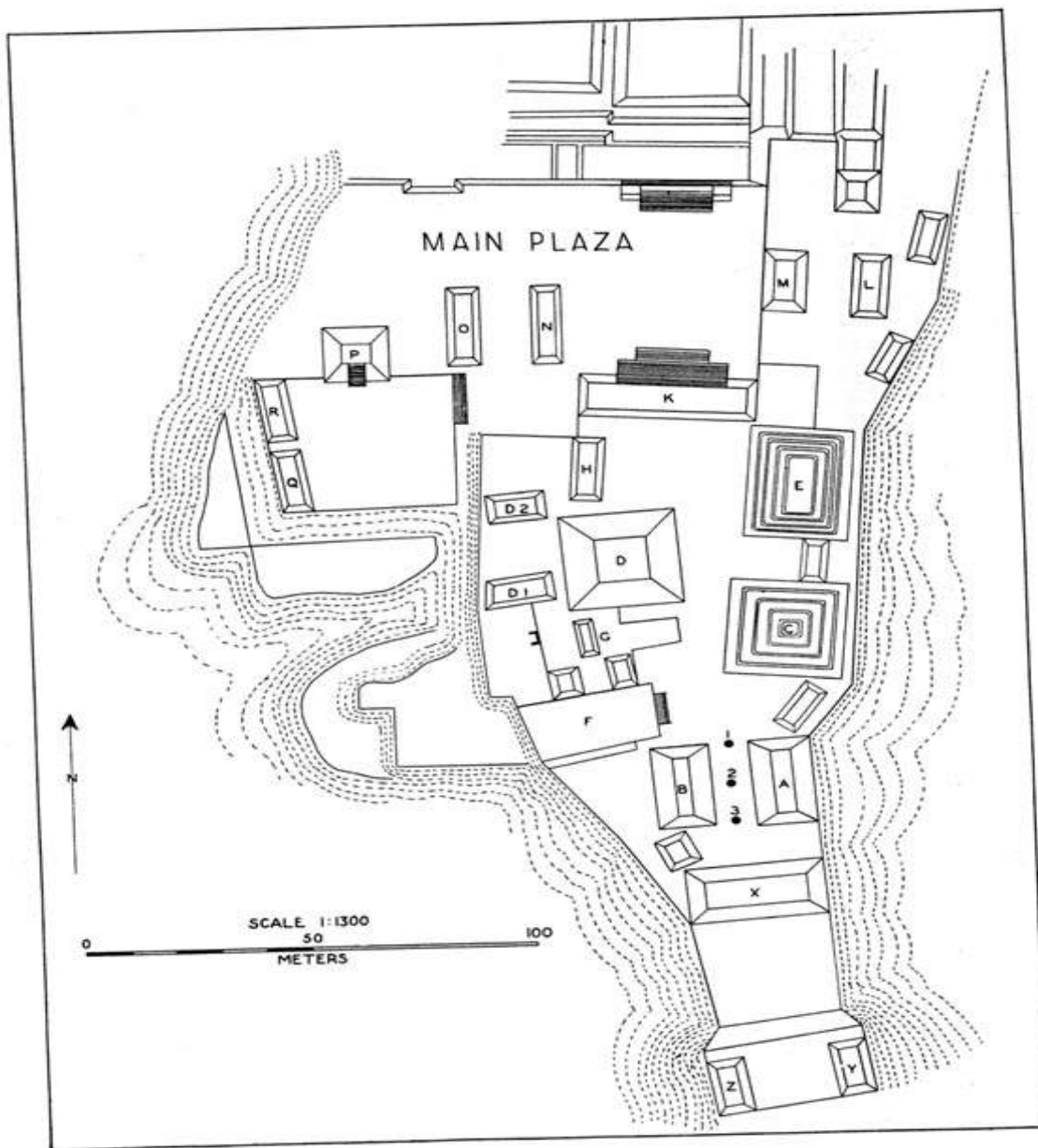
**Figure 2.1. Plan Map of Lubaantún showing the original location of the Ballcourt Markers (Morley 1937-38: Vol. V: Plate 213).**
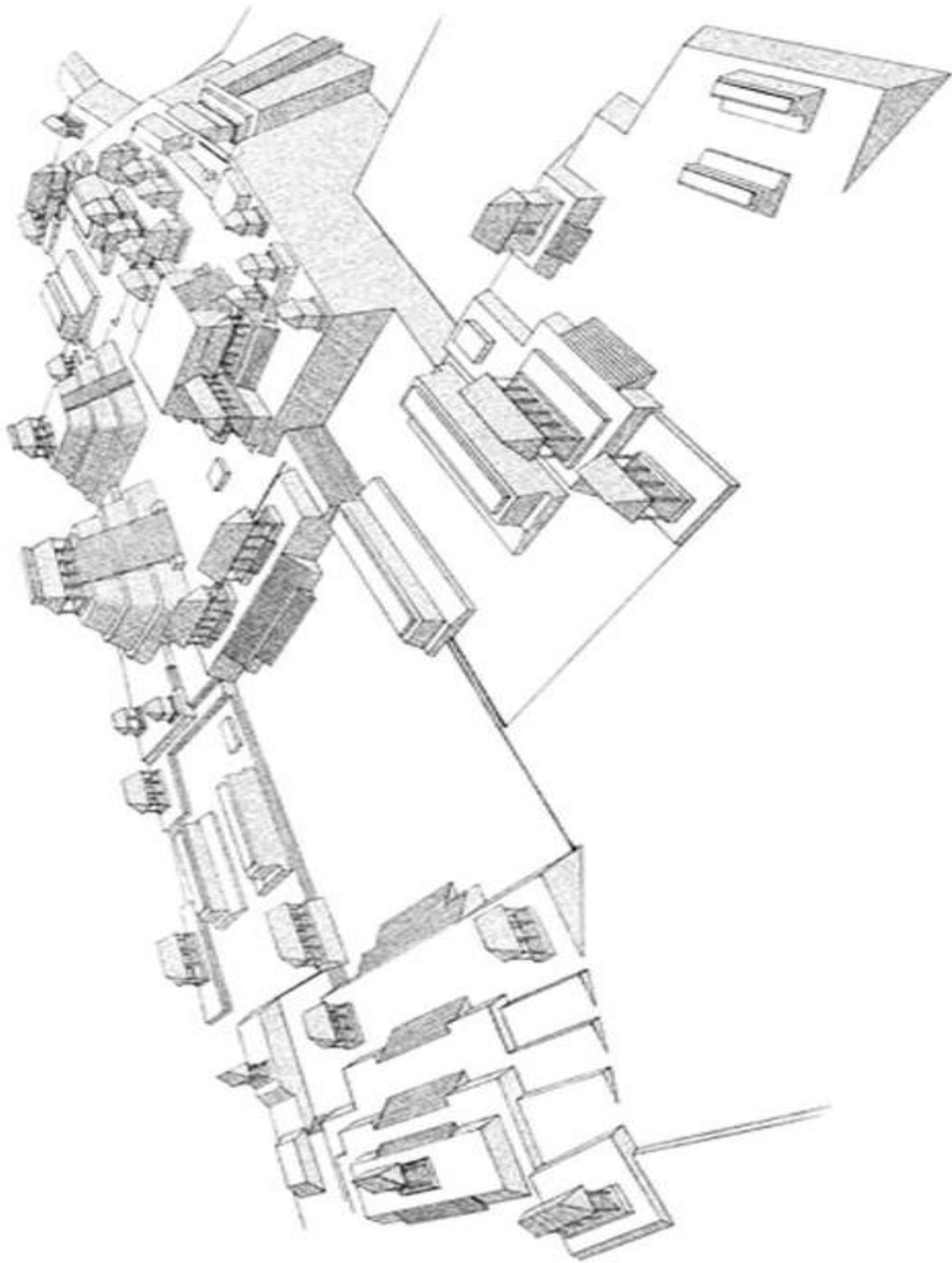
**Figure 2.2. Reconstruction of Lubaantún Site Core. (Drawing by David Morgan, San Francisco, CA, for a long range project on Maya ballcourt architecture co-authored by Nicholas Hellmuth, FLAAR)**

**Figure 3. Lubaantún, Ballcourt Marker I (North). (Drawing by J. Montgomery)**

**Lubaantún, Ball Court Marker I (North Marker)**

**Location:** Originally located by Merwin (1915) face-up at the north end of the southern Ballcourt (Structure 4). Now located in the Peabody Museum at Harvard University.

**Condition:** Intact, but severely eroded.

**Material:** Finely burnished limestone.

**Shape:** Circular

**Dimensions:** (Morley 1938:Vol. IV:5-8)
    MW:   .54 m
    MTH:  .32 m

**Carved Areas:** Top only. L-shaped text block (6 glyphs) and two ballplayers.

**Dedicatory Date: \***Late Classic Period: 9.17.10.0.0 – 9.18.0.0.0 (AD 780-790)

**Line Drawings:**
    John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 3)
    Barbara Page (Graham 1971:35)
    J. Eric Thompson (1963: Figure 10)

**Photographic References:**
    Graham (1971: Plate 16)
    Hammond (1975: Figure 148)
    Hammond (1982: Figure 9.26)
    Joyce and Shumaker (1995: Plate, Page 59)
    Leyenaar and Parsons (1988: Figure 16)
    Morley (1937-38: Vol. V: Plate 162a)
    Whittington (2001: Figure 38)

**Other References:**
    Graham (1971: 34-35)
    Hammond (1970: 216, 220)
    Hammond (1971: 26)
    Hammond (1972: 9-11)
    Hammond (1975:375-377)
    Hammond (1977: 103-104)
    Hammond (1982: 266)
    Joyce and Shumaker (1995: 58-59)
    Leyenaar and Parsons (1988:74)
    Merwin (1914-1916)
    Morley (1937-38: Vol. IV: 1-11)
    Rice (1974: 33, 39)
    Wanyerka (2000: 12-13)
    Wanyerka (2004)
    Whittington (2001: 171)

**Commentary:** The text contains a total of 6 eroded glyph blocks, most of which cannot be read with any certainty. However, the glyph at A2 may in fact be the well-known ballplayer title read *Aj Pitzil*. Morley was the first scholar to provisionally date all three ballcourt markers to between 9.17.10.0.0 to 9.18.0.0.0 (A.D. 780-790) based on stylistic evidence. Hammond's analysis of the ceramics associated with the ballcourt also seem to confirm Morley's tentative date (1975:375).

Text:

A1: TV.?:23   **JO'.?:na**
A2: TV.?:?.?:? or T12.200:507.178:506 **(AJ. pi:tsi.la:wa)**
A3: T59.?:?   **ti.?:?**
B1: T126.128:?:?      **ya.ch'a:?:?**
C1: T?:?:?      **?:?:?**
D1: T?:?:?:?.?:?        **?:?:?.?:?:?**

**Figure 4. Lubaantún, Ballcourt Marker II (Center Marker). (Drawing by J. Montgomery)**

**Lubaantún, Ballcourt Marker II (Center Marker)**

**Location:** Originally located by Merwin (1915) face-up in the central alley of the southern ballcourt (Structure 4) between the north and south ballcourt markers. Now located in the Peabody Museum at Harvard University.

**Condition:** Intact, but severely eroded.

**Material:** Finely burnished limestone.

**Shape:** Circular

**Dimensions:** (Morley 1937-38:Vol.IV:9-10)
      MW:   .59 m
      MTH:  .31 m

**Carved Areas:** Top only. Two glyphic captions consisting of 13 total hieroglyphs and two ballplayers.

**Dedicatory Date:** *Late Classic Period: 9.17.10.0.0 – 9.18.0.0.0 (AD 780-790)

**Line Drawing:**
      John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 4)

**Photographic References:**
      Hammond (1972: Figure 4)
      Hammond (1975: Figure 148)
      Hammond (1977: Figure 2)
      Morley (1937-38:Vol.V: Plate 162b)

**Other References:**
      Hammond (1970: 216, 220)
      Hammond (1972: 9-11)
      Hammond (1975: 375-377)
      Hammond (1977: 104)
      Merwin (1914-1916)
      Morley (1937-38: Vol. IV: 9-10)
      Rice (1974: 33, 39)
      Wanyerka (2000: 12-13)
      Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** The text contains a total of 13 eroded glyph blocks, most of which cannot be read with any certainty. The main sign of the glyph located at A2 looks suspiciously like the T714 *TZAK* hand for the verb "to conjure" and this is followed by several highly eroded glyphs ending with a T1000 *AJAW* head at B1. The text continues with a glyph for either "stairway" (*EB'*) or the well-known "dedication" verb read *TAB'*. In this case, the text appears to be mentioning the dedication of a stairway, presumably at the site of Lubaantún. What makes this text even more intriguing is the glyph that follows includes the well-known *EK' XUKPI* or "Black Bat" Title common in the texts of Nim Li Punit and Quiriguá. While the meaning of this title is not clear, it

has been argued by many scholars, that the title in some way must refer to the kingdom of Quirigua, probably as province or vassal state to the greater kingdom of Copan. The *Ek' Xukpi'* title appears at Nim Li Punit four times in three separate texts (Stela 2, 4, and 15). Perhaps the most notable instance where this title appears at Nim Li Punit is in a passage recorded on Stela 2 that describes a monument dedication or "planting of a stone" in the "company of" an *Ek' Xukpi* lord. If this is in fact, a reference to either Quirigua or by extension to Copan, then this text on Ballcourt Marker II at Lubaantún is extremely important in understanding the political interactions and relationships between sites in southern Belize and the major polities of the southeastern Maya Lowlands. Given the paucity of hieroglyphic inscriptions at Lubaantún, the political relationship between Lubaantún and the southeast will have to remain speculative and unclear. The text continues with another event written as the antipassive *U-CHOK-wa* indicating a "scattering" event. Unfortunately the name of the individual involved and more importantly, the location of where this event took place are now both eroded. Given the fact that "scattering" events are commonly recorded for major Period Endings, Morley's tentative date for this ballcourt marker may be valid.

Text:

A1: T?.?:?:?    **?.?:?:?**
A2: T?:714?    **?:TZAK**
A3: T1.?    **U.?**
B1: T?.1000    **?.AJAW**
B2: T?.?:?    **?.:?:?**

C1: T?.843    **?.EB'/TAB'**
D1: T?.?:756    **?.?:XUKPI?**
C2: T?.?:?    **?.?:?**
D2: T1.?:?    **u.?:?**
D3: T?.?:130    **?.?:wa**
E1: T13.710:130    **u.CHOK:wa**
E2: T603?.?    **CH'AJ?**
E3: T?.?:?    **?.?:?**
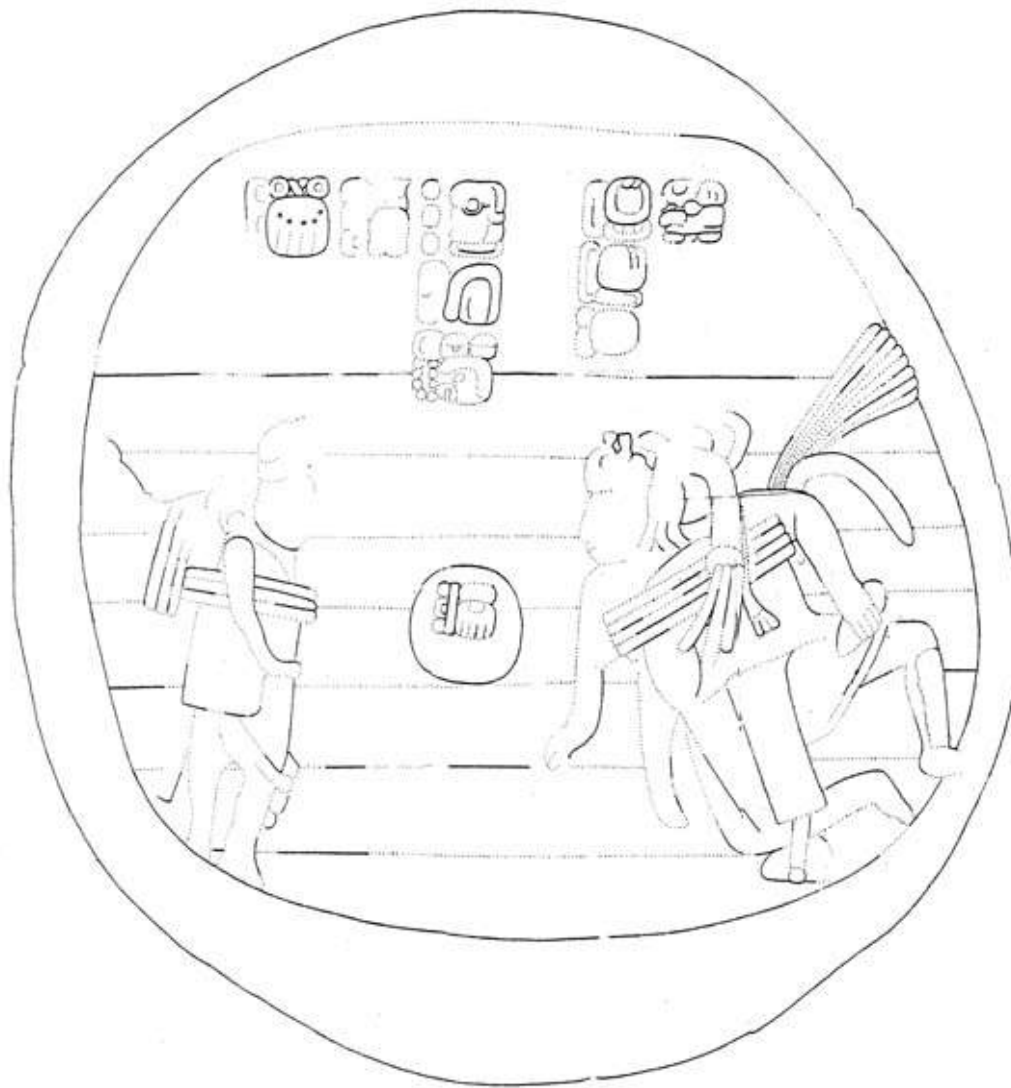
**Figure 5. Lubaantún, Ballcourt Marker III (South Marker). (Drawing by J. Montgomery)**

**Lubaantún, Ballcourt Marker III (South Marker)**

**Location:** Originally located by Merwin (1915) face-up at the south end of the southern Ballcourt (Structure 4). Now located in the Peabody Museum at Harvard University.

**Condition:** Intact, but severely eroded.

**Material:** Finely burnished limestone.

**Shape:** Circular

**Dimensions:** (Morley 1937-38: Vol. IV:8-9)
      MW:   .57 m
      MTH:  .37 m

**Carved Areas:** Top only. Two "L-shaped" text blocks (9 glyphs) and two ballplayers.

**Dedicatory Date: \***Late Classic Period: 9.17.10.0.0 – 9.18.0.0.0 (AD 780-790)

**Line Drawings:**
      John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 5)

**Photographic References:**
      Hammond (1971: Figure 7)
      Hammond (1975: Figure 148)
      Morley (1937-38:Vol.V: Plate 162c)

**Other References:**
      Hammond (1970: 216, 220)
      Hammond (1971: 29)
      Hammond (1972: 9-11)
      Hammond (1975: 375-377)
      Hammond (1977: 103-104)
      Merwin (1914-1916)
      Morley (1937-38: Vol. IV: 8-9)
      Rice (1974: 33, 39)
      Wanyerka (2000: 12-13)
      Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** The text contains a total of 9 glyph blocks, most of which cannot be read with any certainty. The text begins with auxiliary verb (*u-b'a*) meaning "his being" or "his self." Unfortunately, the subject is now eroded, but the end of the first passage contains what appears to be the emblem glyph of Lubaantún. This main sign of the Lubaantún emblem glyph is the T1016 *K'U* or *K'UHUL* head variant. The possibility exists here that this emblem glyph is simply a generic form stating that the individual mentioned above in the text was a "divine lord." However, there is some glyphic evidence to suggest that this *K'UHUL* head is in fact the main sign of the Lubaantún emblem glyph. In 2001, the SBEP photographed a small ceramic figural plaque (see Figural Plaque #2) in the collections housed at the Lubaantún Visitor Center that featured the same main sign in association with a "writing" dedication event. If this reading is

correct, then we can now add Lubaantún to the list of Classic Maya polities that carries its own specific emblem glyph. The second text is almost totally unreadable; however, the glyph at D3 looks suspiciously like another emblem glyph minus the *ajaw* superfix. What follows is a variant of the T1029 bird head which can mean either *KA'AN* or *b'i*. However, in this context with a possible emblem glyph at D3, the sign looks very similar to the "bird-form" of the Nim Li Punit emblem glyph (see NLP Stela 1). If this is correct, then somewhere in the eroded section of text, perhaps at D2, there was a *yichnal* expression indicating a relationship between the ruler of Lubaantún and Nim Li Punit.  Again, this will have to remain tentative at best; however, this is certainly a viable possibility given the short geographic distance between these two polities.

Text:

A1: T13.501     **U.b'a**
B1: T?.?:?        **?.?:?**
C1: TIII.?:?      **OX.?:?**
C2: T?.515       **?.chu?**
C3: T36.168:1016       **K'U.AJAW:K'UHUL**

D1: T?.?:?        **?.?:?**
D2: T?.?:?        **?.?:? (YICHNAL?)**
D3: T36?.?       **K'U.?**
E1: T1029:130         **KA'AN/b'i (NLP Main Sign?)**

F1: TVII.25:501         **WUK.ka:b'a**

# The Ceramic Inscriptions
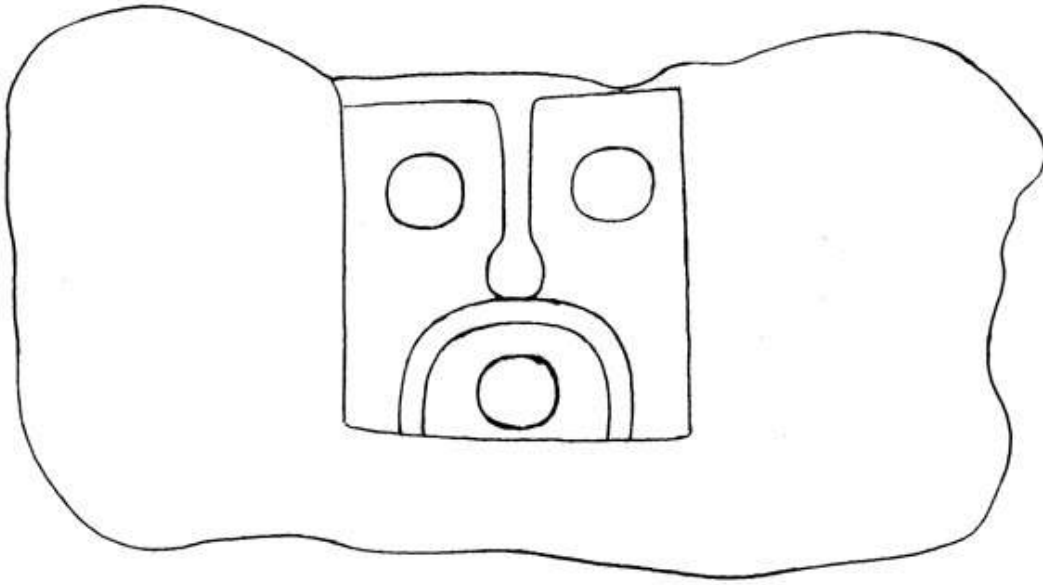


**Figure 6. Lubaantún, Figural Plaque 1. (Drawing by J. Montgomery)**

**Lubaantún, Figural Plaque 1**

**Location:** Unknown. Now located in the archaeological collections of the Lubaantún Visitor Center.

**Condition:** Broken. Contains traces of red and black pigments.

**Material:** Ceramic. Mold-Made "Lubaantún-Style"

**Shape:** Rectangular. Represents the lower portion of a standard Lubaantún-Style Figural Plaque.

**Dimensions:**
      HT:   2.3 cm
      MW:  4.2 cm

**Carved Areas:** Front side only. Contains a single glyph.

**Dedicatory Date:** *Late Classic Period (?).

**Line Drawings:**
      John Montgomery (SBEP, <u>Figure 6</u>)

**Photographic References:**
      Sulak (Unpublished)
      Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
      Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** The image portrays a single T533 *AJAW* glyph.
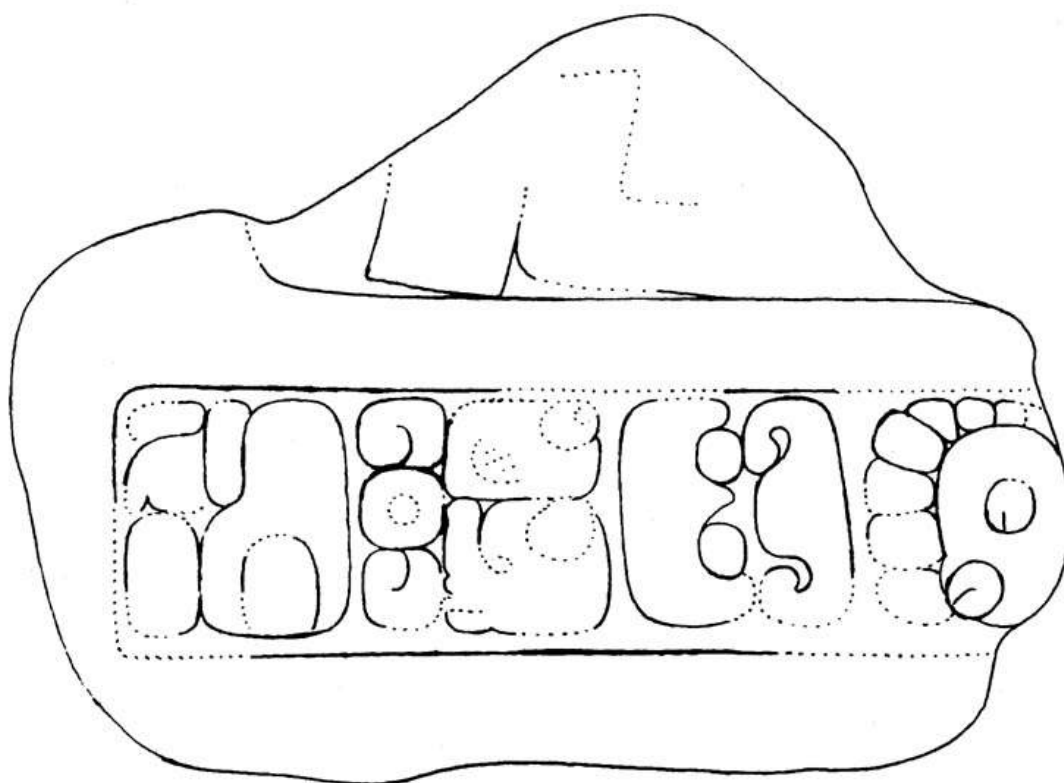
**Figure 7. Lubaantún, Figural Plaque 2. (Drawing by J. Montgomery)**

**<u>Lubaantún, Figural Plaque 2</u>**

**Location:** Unknown. Now located in the archaeological collections of the Lubaantún Visitor Center.

**Condition:** Broken. Contains traces of red and black pigments.

**Material:** Ceramic. Mold-Made "Lubaantún-Style"

**Shape:** Rectangular. Represents the lower portion of a standard Lubaantún-Style Figural Plaque.

**Dimensions:**
      HT:    5.6 cm
      MW:  7.2 cm

**Carved Areas:** Front side only. Contains 4 glyph blocks.

**Dedicatory Date:** *Late Classic Period (?).

**Line Drawings:**
      John Montgomery (SBEP, <u>Figure 7</u>)

**Photographic References:**
      Sulak (Unpublished)
      Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
      Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** The text appears to describe a standard "presentation" or "dedication" event that includes a possible reference to "fire." The final glyph, is perhaps the most interesting, for it seems to be another version of the main sign of the Lubaantún emblem glyph (see Ballcourt Marker III).

Text:

A1: T45.843[17]     **TAB'[iy]**
B1: T61.568:756    **yu.lu:xu**
C1: T1.122?       **U.K'AK'?**
D1: T41v          **K'U/K'UHUL**
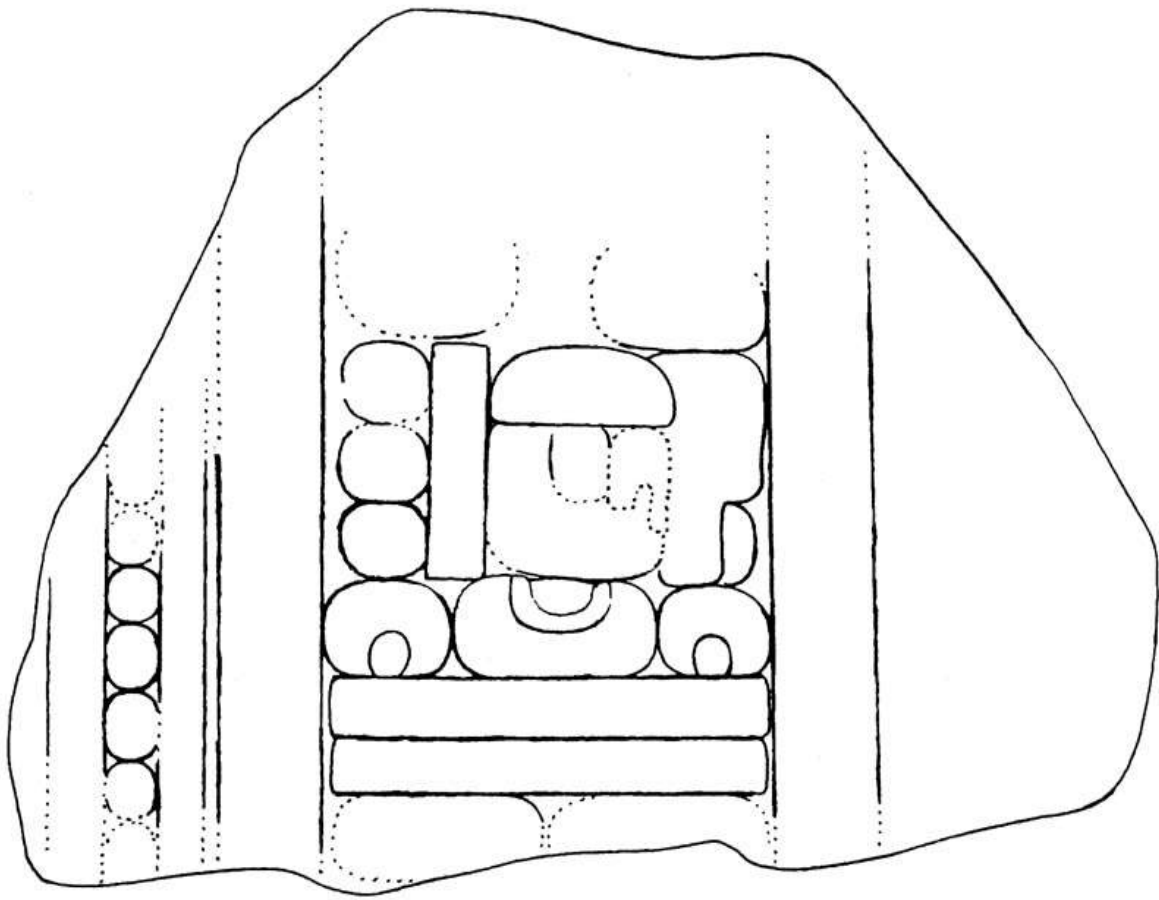
**Figure 8. Lubaantún, Figural Plaque 3. (Drawing by J. Montgomery)**

**<u>Lubaantún, Figural Plaque 3</u>**
**Location:** Unknown. Now located in the archaeological collections of the Lubaantún Visitor Center.

**Condition:** Broken.

**Material:** Ceramic. Mold-Made "Lubaantún-Style"

**Shape:** Irregular. Represents a central portion of a standard Lubaantún-Style Figural Plaque.

**Dimensions:**
     HT:   5 cm
     MW:  5.1 cm

**Carved Areas:** Front side only. Contains two glyph blocks.

**Dedicatory Date:** *Late Classic Period (?).

**Line Drawings:**
     John Montgomery (SBEP, <u>Figure 8</u>)

**Photographic References:**
     Sulak (Unpublished)
     Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
     Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** The remaining portion of text appears to be calendrical in nature based on the bar and dot notation, but not enough survives to arrive at a secure date.

Text:

a1: TVIII.?.?  **WAXAK.?.?**
a2: TXII:?     **LAJKA':?**
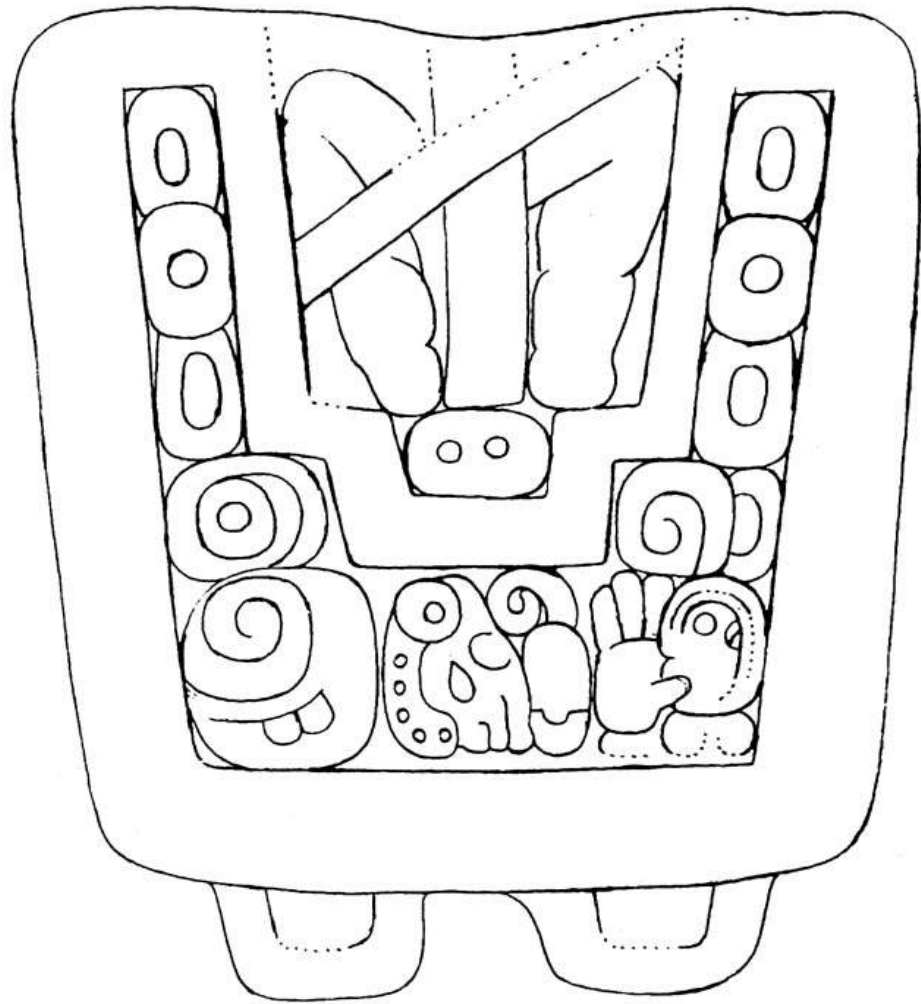
**Figure 9. Lubaantún, Figural Plaque 4. (Drawing by J. Montgomery)**

**Lubaantún, Figural Plaque 4**

**Location:** Unknown. Now located in the archaeological collections of the Lubaantún Visitor Center.

**Condition:** Broken.

**Material:** Ceramic. Mold-Made "Lubaantún-Style"

**Shape:** Rectangular. Represents the lower portion of a standard Lubaantún-Style Figural Plaque.

**Dimensions:**
    HT:    6.3 cm
    MW:   4.5 cm

**Carved Areas:** Front side only. Top portion of plaque features the lower torso of a seated figure holding a staff. Contains 3 glyph blocks.

**Dedicatory Date:**  **\***Late Classic Period (?).

**Line Drawings:**
    John Montgomery (SBEP, <u>Figure 9</u>)

**Photographic References:**
    Sulak (Unpublished)
    Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
    Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** While this partial text caption is highly unusual in both glyphic form and style, some aspects can be discerned. The glyph located at B1 appears to the T1066 logograph (*O'*), perhaps a foreshortened spelling to indicate "heart" or "heart of" and this is followed by the T1028c logograph read *Kelem* meaning "strong", "young", or "youthful." Notice that the individual is seated within what appears to be a sacred quadripartite cartouche, perhaps indicating that the figure is seated within a sacred cave or some kind of enclosure like that mentioned by the accompanying text.

Text:

A1: T683?   **Ja/K'AL**
B1: T1066?   **O'/Ol**
C1: T1028c   **KELEM**
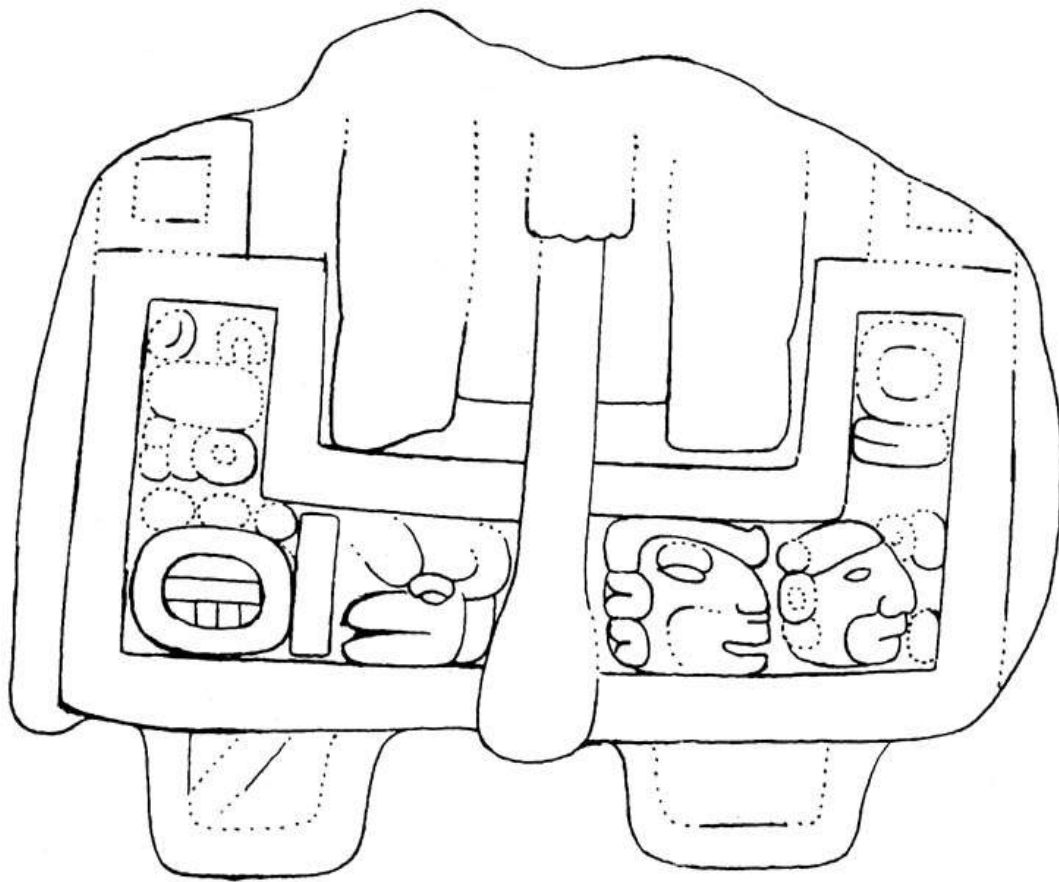
**Figure 10. Lubaantún, Figural Plaque 5. (Drawing by J. Montgomery)**

## Lubaantún, Figural Plaque 5

**Location:** Unknown. Now located in the archaeological collections of the Lubaantún Visitor Center.

**Condition:** Broken.

**Material:** Ceramic. Mold-Made "Lubaantún-Style"

**Shape:** Rectangular. Represents the lower portion of a standard Lubaantún-Style Figural Plaque.

**Dimensions:**
- HT: 4.6 cm
- MW: 6.7 cm

**Carved Areas:** Front side only. Top portion features the lower torso of a seated figure who is enclosed within a quadripartite-shaped cartouche. Contains 6 glyph blocks.

**Dedicatory Date: *** Late Classic Period (?).

**Line Drawings:**
John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 10)

**Photographic References:**
Sulak (Unpublished)
Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** The text seems to make reference to the "tying of the *Huun Winik Ka'an* Headdress." Unfortunately, the style of hieroglyphic writing at Lubaantún is difficult to ascertain due to the frequent appearance and use of unique glyphic forms. The *Huun Winik Ka'an* is the name of a well-known Vision Serpent commonly associated with bloodletting rites.

Text:

A1: T128:23?:60(?)   **ch'a:na:HUUN**
A2: TI:683?          **HUUN:WINIK**
B1: TV. 764v?        **JÓ.KA'AN**
C1: T758v?           **CH'OK?**
D1: T?               **?**
D2: T1000?           **AJAW?**
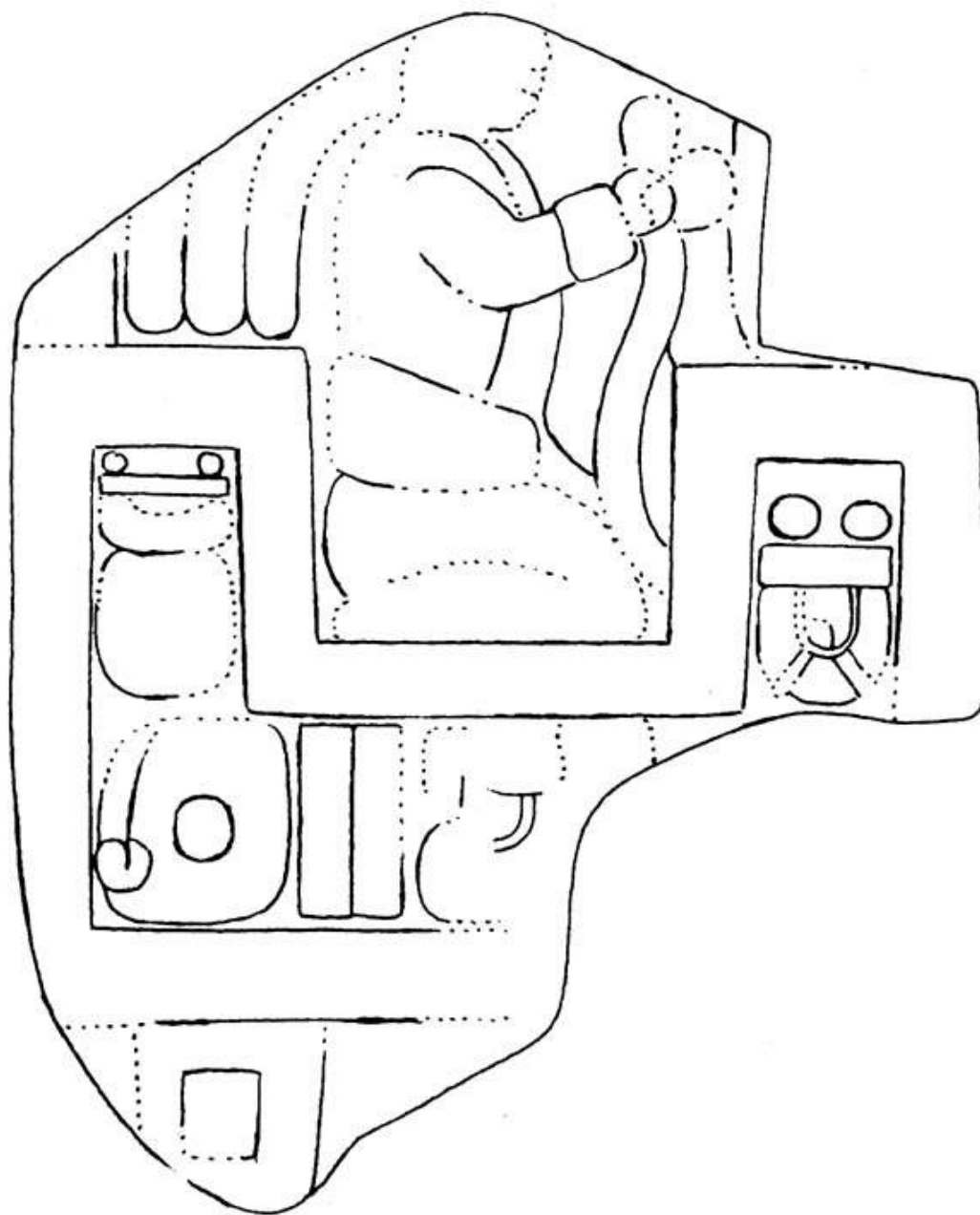
**Figure 11. Lubaantún, Figural Plaque 6. (Drawing by J. Montgomery)**

**Lubaantún, Figural Plaque 6**

**Location:** Unknown. Now located in the archaeological collections of the Lubaantún Visitor Center.

**Condition:** Broken.

**Material:** Ceramic. Mold-Made "Lubaantún-Style"

**Shape:** Rectangular. Represents the lower portion of a standard Lubaantún-Style Figural Plaque.

**Dimensions:**
      HT:   7.0 cm
      MW:  4.3 cm

**Carved Areas:** Front side only. Top portion of plaque features a portrait of a seated individual facing right holding some sort of ritual object. Contains 5 glyph blocks.

**Dedicatory Date:**  *Late Classic Period (?).

**Line Drawings:**
      John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 11)

**Photographic References:**
      Sulak (Unpublished)
      Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
      Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** Unfortunately little can be interpreted from this particular plaque except for a possible "birth" glyph read *Sij* at A2. It is interesting to note that the following glyph (the subject of the verb), located at B1, contains the number 10 (*Lajun*) and an unknown head variant. A similar name appears on Stela 1 at the nearby site of Nim Li Punit. There at Nim Li Punit, the name of the ruling king is *Lajun Ka'an* or "10 Sky" which is the proper name of one of the five Gods of Venus as Morning Star as recorded in the Dresden Codex.

Text:

A1: TVII:?:?   **WUK:?:?**
A2: T740      **SIJ**
B1: TX        **LAJUN**
C1: T?         **?**
D1: TVII:?    **WUK:?**

# The Glyphic Corpus of Nim Li Punit, Toledo District, Belize

# The Monumental Inscriptions
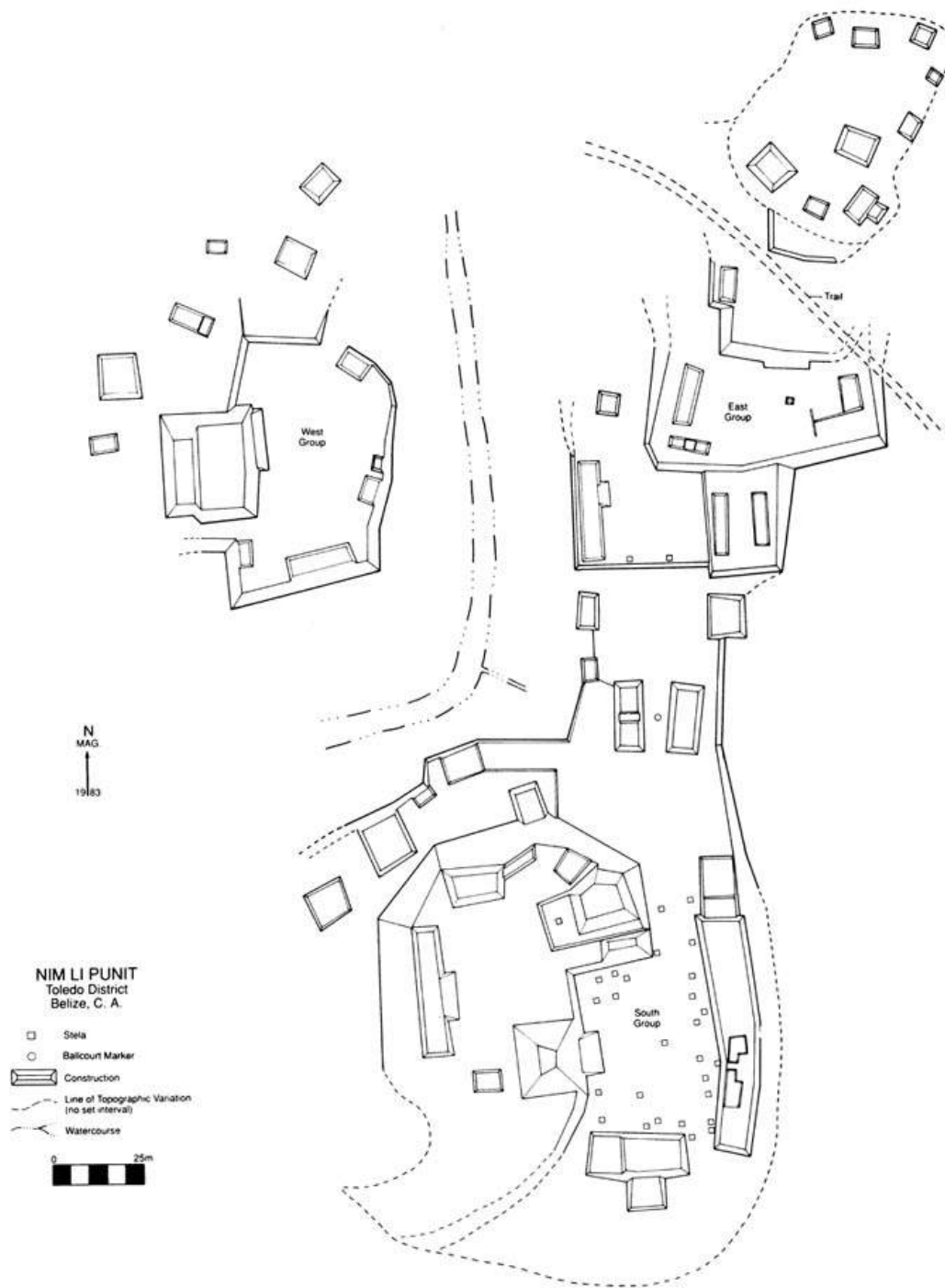
**Figure 12. Plan Map of Nim Li Punit. (Drawing courtesy of Richard Leventhal [Leventhal 1990: Map 8.2])**
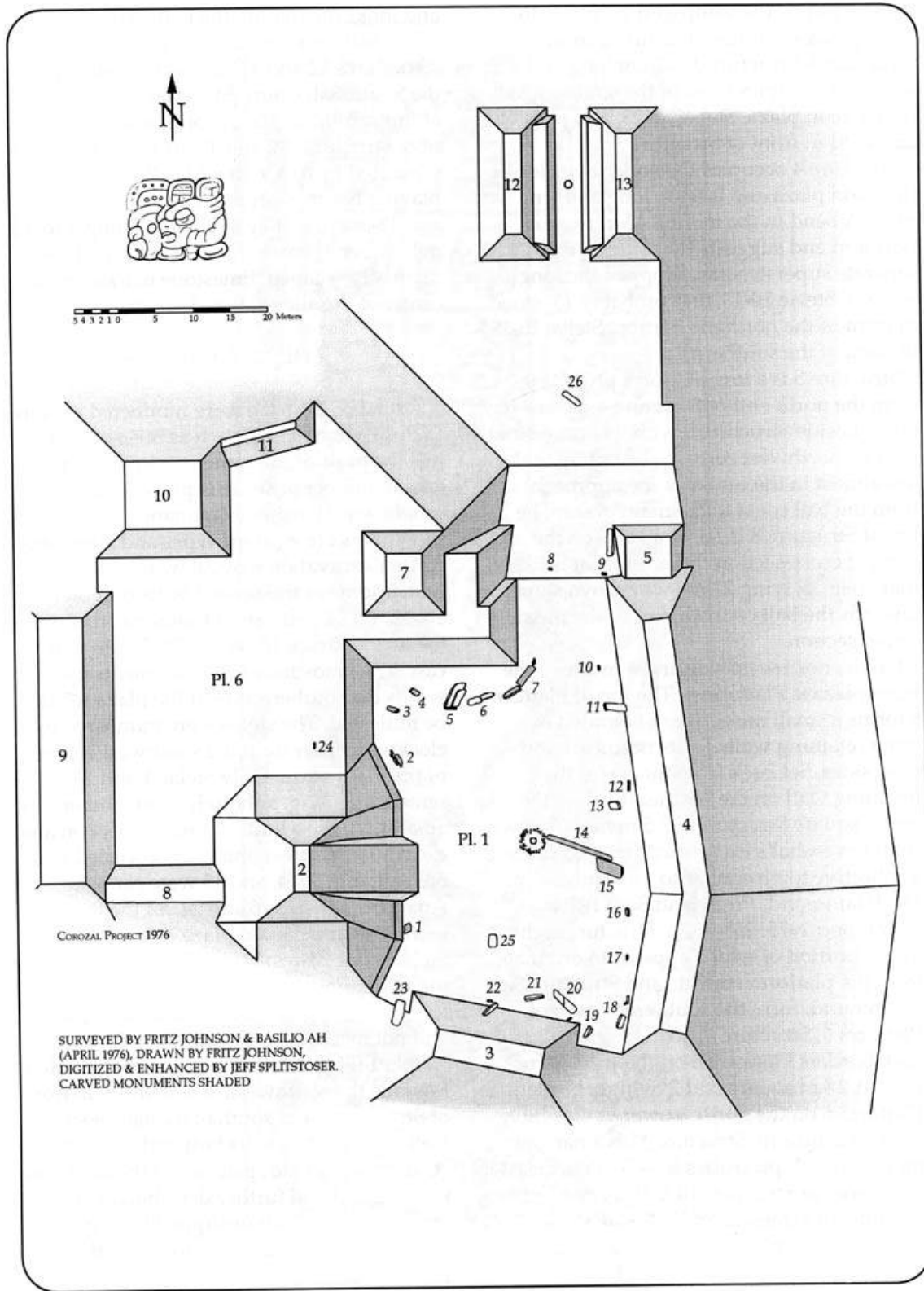
**Figure 13. Plan Map of the Main Architectural Group at Nim Li Punit. (Map drawn by Fritz Johnson, Courtesy of Dr. Norman Hammond [Hammond *et al*. 1999: Figure 2])**
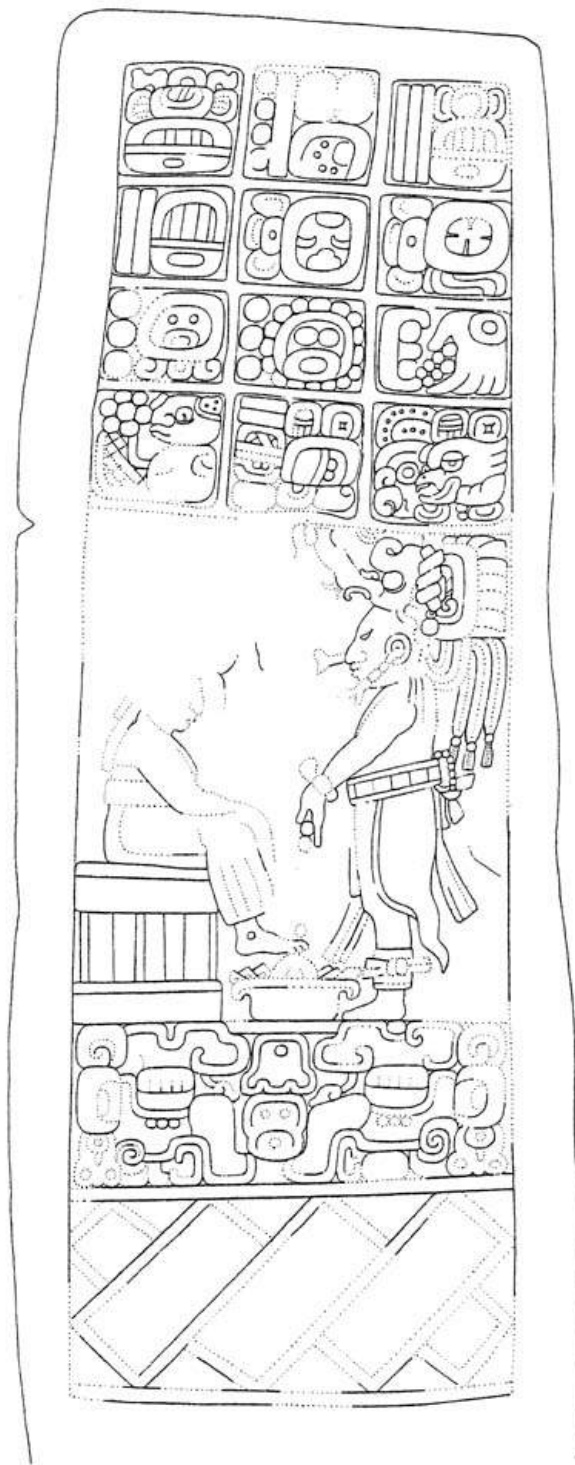
**Figure 14. Nim Li Punit, Stela 1. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**<u>Nim Li Punit, Stela 1</u>**

**Location:** Stela 1 was found in situ standing in the main stelae plaza at the southeast corner of Structure 2, just south of the central stairway. It was first reported by the Corozal Project in 1976.

**Condition:** Broken in two pieces with the monument butt still in situ. The monument was carved in extremely low relief and a central portion of the text is in danger of flaking off due to the erosional effects of weathering and cracking.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Rectangular with well-dressed parallel sides.

**Dimensions:**

| | |
|---|---|
| HT: | 2.79 m |
| MW: | 1.14 m |
| HSA: | 2.56 m |
| WSA: | .83 m |
| WBC: | 1.40 m |
| WTC: | .90 m |
| MTH: | .29 m |
| RELS: | 7.9 mm |
| RELG: | 2.8 mm |

**Carved Areas:** Front only. Includes a 3 column,12 glyph text and a figural scene depicting two individuals in the midst of a scattering rite. The figural scene sits atop an unusual *Witz'* Monster Pedestal that incorporates two separate *Witz'* Monster profile heads that together form a larger image. Below the *Witz'* Monster Pedestal is a huge "mat" symbol.

**Dedicatory Date:** Late Classic Period. 9.15.10.0.0  3 *Ajaw* 3 *Mol* (26, June 741)

**Line Drawings:**
Ian Graham (Unpublished)
Nikolai Grube (In Grube *et al*. 1999: Figure 6)
Nikolai Grube (In Wanyerka 1999a: Figure 11)
Sheena Howarth (In Hammond 1976a: Figure 27)
Sheena Howarth (In Hammond 1976b: Figure, Page 49)
Sheena Howarth (In Hammond and Howarth 1999: Figure 1)
Sheena Howarth (In Hammond, Howarth, and Wilk 1999)
Sheena Howarth (In Hellmuth 1993: Figure, Page 66)
Barbara MacLeod (1981: Figure 1)
Barbara MacLeod (In Wanyerka 1991: Figure 5)
John Montgomery (SBEP, <u>Figure 14</u>)

**Photographic References:**
Hellmuth (Unpublished)
Robertson ("Rubbing" In Hammond *et al*. 1999: Figure 3)
Robertson (CD ROM 1995: File Number D20164.PCT)
Sulak (Unpublished)

Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
Grube *et al*. (1999: 32-34)
Hammond (1976b: 49)
Hammond *et al*. (1999: 4-6)
Hammond and Howarth (1999:1-3)
Hellmuth (1993: 65-66)
MacLeod (1981:23-24)
Wanyerka (1991: 8-15)
Wanyerka (1999a: 16-18, 38)
Wanyerka (2000: 11)
Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** The text on Stela 1 records a "scattering" ritual conducted by the king of Nim Li Punit, *Lajun Ka'an*, in commemoration of the 9.15.10.0.0 Period Ending.

Text:
A1: T124:25.?.25:548  **tzi:ka.?.ka:HAAB'**
B1: TIX.200:528  **B'OLON.PI':PIK**
C1: TXV.28:548  **JO'LAJUN.K'ATUN:TUN**
A2: TX.548  **LAJUN.TUN**
B2: T173.521  **mi.WINAL**
C2: T173.544:116  **mi.K'IN:ni**
A3: TIII.533  **OX.AJAW**
B3: TIII.581  **OX.MOL**
C3: T1.710  **u.CHOK**
A4: T93.741a:?  **ch'a.E':?**
B4: TX:561a:23.168:518:130 **LAJUN.KA'AN:na.AJAW:te:wa**
C4: T41.168:?:126  **K'U.AJAW:(NLP): ya**

**Figure 15. Nim Li Punit, Stela 2. (Drawing by J. Montgomery)**
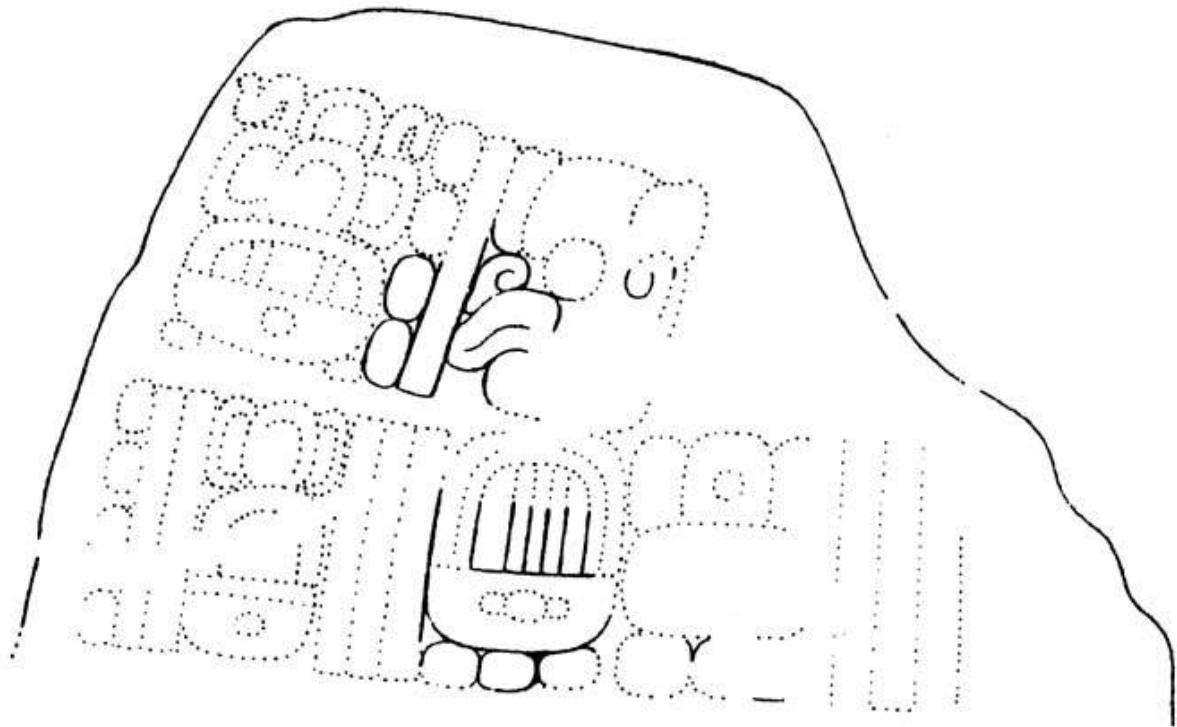
**Figure 16. Nim Li Punit, Stela 2, Upper Text Detail. (Drawing by J. Montgomery)**
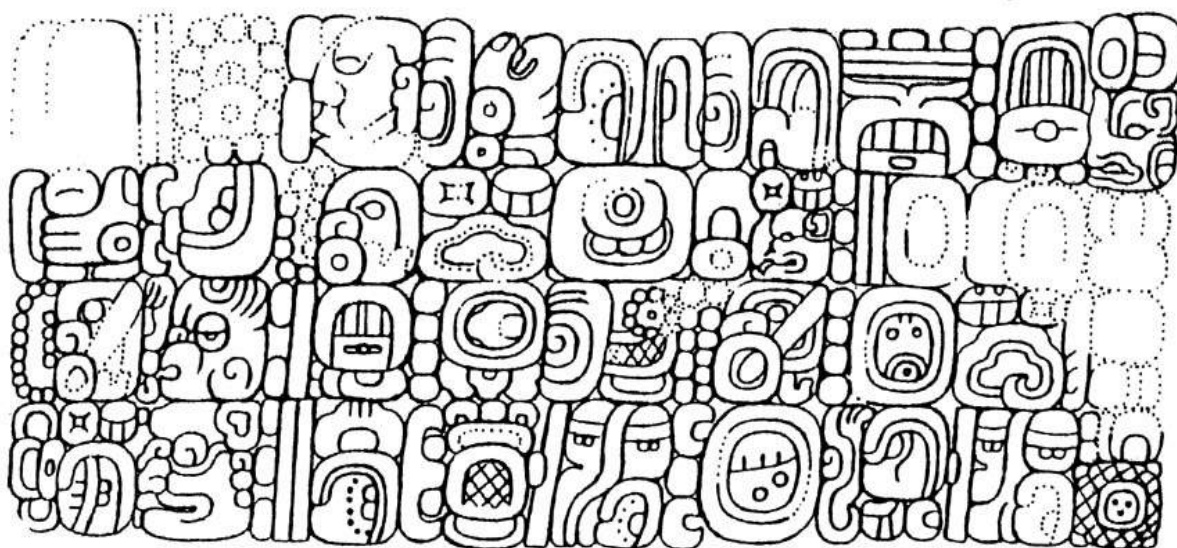
**Figure 17. Nim Li Punit, Stela 2, Main Text Detail. (Drawing by J. Montgomery)**
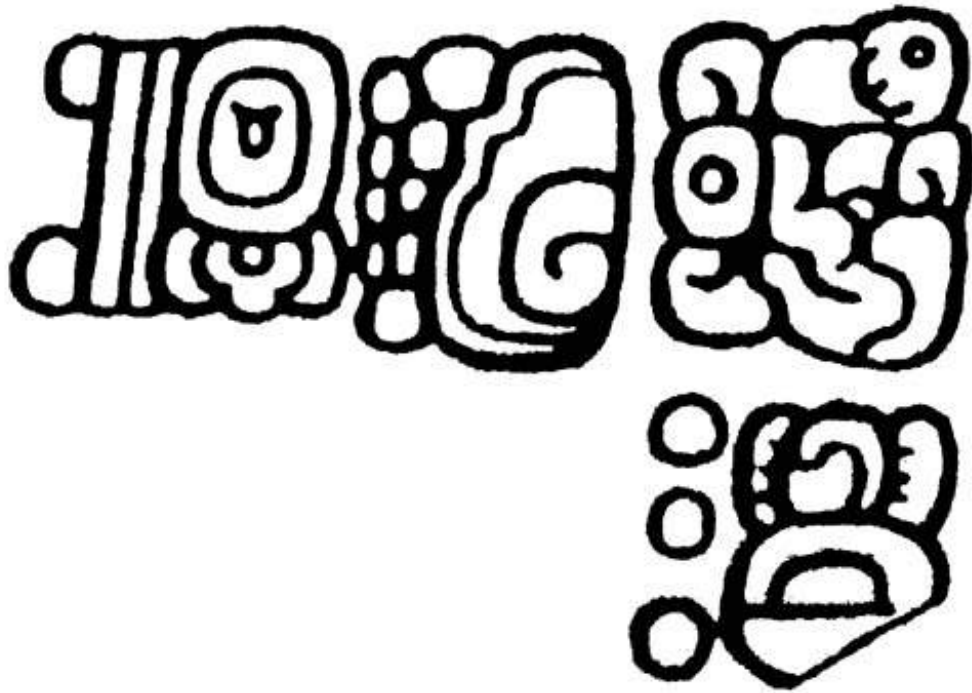
**Figure 18. Nim Li Punit, Stela 2, Scribal Signature Detail. (Drawing by J. Montgomery)**

**<u>Nim Li Punit, Stela 2</u>**

**Location:** Originally located in the main stelae plaza at the northeastern corner of Structure 2, just north of the central stairway. Location mirrors Stela 1. Stela 2 was first reported by the Corozal Project in 1976 and was moved by the Maya Archaeological Sites Development Program Project (M.A S.D.P.) as part of a comprehensive restoration and consolidation project in 1998, to the newly created Nim Li Punit Visitor Center.

**Condition:** The monument was found broken in 8 pieces, 2 of which are still missing today. The base of the Stela 2 can still be seen in front of Structure 2. The monument was carved in deep relief with excellent preservation; however, the monument has been the target of repeated acts of vandalism aimed at intentionally defacing or stealing portions of its carved surface. The first major attack on Stela 2 occurred in 1981(Jackson and McKillop (1985:36-39) where the portrait of the central standing figure, (most notably the ruler's face, headdress, and much of his upper torso) was chopped to pieces from repeated blows by a machete. The monument was again attacked during the late 1990's, just prior to the beginning of the consolidation work at the site, that resulted in the looting of two sculptural pieces from this monument.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Rectangular with well-dressed parallel sides.

**Dimensions:**
    HT:             4.40 m
    MW:             1.49 m
    HSA (Fig.):     2.68 m
    WSA (Fig):      1.40 m
    HSA (L.Text):   .56 m
    WSA (L.Text):   1.39 m
    WBC:            1.44 m
    WTC:            Broken
    MTH:            .22 m
    RELS:           11.6 mm
    RELG:           5.8 mm

**Carved Areas:** Front only. Includes four text registers (an upper text register containing 6 glyph blocks; a partial secondary text register located in front of the central standing figure containing 2 glyph blocks; a lower text register containing 36 glyph blocks; and a scribal signature located at the bottom of the monument containing 4 glyph blocks) and a figural scene involving a scattering rite. Like most of the monuments at Nim Li Punit, the figural scene rests atop an unusual Witz' Monster Pedestal that incorporates Otherworld beings including the infamous Waterliliy Jaguar and a slithering snake.

**Dedicatory Date:** Late Classic Period. *9.14.15.4.14?  1 *Ix* 12 *Pax* (13, September 726)

**Line Drawings:**
    Nikolai Grube (1999: Figure 4b)
    Ian Graham (Unpublished)
    Steve Houston (1989: Figure 15)

Steve Houston (In Grube *et al.* 1999: Figure 4a)
Steve Houston (In Wanyerka 1991: Figure 16)
Steve Houston (In Wanyerka 1999a: Figure 13)
Sheena Howarth (In Hammond 1976a: Figure 27a)
Sheena Howarth (In Hammond 1976b: Figure, Page 50)
Sheena Howarth (In Hammond *et al*. 1999: Figure 4)
Sheena Howarth (In Miller 1983: Figure 10)
Sheena Howarth (In Wanyerka 1991: Figure 15)
Barbara MacLeod (1981: Figure 2)
Barbara MacLeod (In Jackson and McKillop 1985: Figure 2)
Barbara McLeod (In Wanyerka 1991: Figure 14)
Barbara MacLeod (In Wanyerka 1999a: Figure 12)
John Montgomery (In Hellmuth 1993: Figure, Page 63a-64b)
John Montgomery (SBEP, <u>Figure 15, Figure 16, Figure 17, Figure 18</u>)
Linda Schele (In Grube *et al.* 1995: Figure 10)

**Photographic/Other References:**
Hellmuth (Unpublished)
Robertson (CD ROM 1995: File Number D20165.PCT)
Sulak (Unpublished)
Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
Dunham *et al.* (1989: 268)
Grube *et al.* (1995: 4)
Grube et al. (1999: 25-32)
Hammond (1976b: 50)
Hammond *et al.* (1999: 6-9)
Hellmuth (1993: 63-65)
Houston (1989: 26)
Jackson and McKillop (1985:338)
Looper (1995:67-68)
MacLeod (1981: 16-23)
Miller (1983: 32)
Wanyerka (1991: 16-30)
Wanyerka (1999a: 19-23, 25-26, 41-46)
Wanyerka (2000: 10-11)
Wanyerka (2003: 10)
Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** The text of Stela 2 is critical in understanding the overall importance of Nim Li Punit within the larger political scheme of Classic Maya civilization. Based on our fieldwork, it is now clear that the Initial Series Introductory Date recorded in the upper effaced surface of Stela 2 is in fact 9.14.15.4.14 *1 *Ix* 12 *Pax* (16, December 726). It is also clear that the Initial Series must have extended further down the monument that included a distance number leading to a second Calendar Round (*2 *Ajaw* 18 *Mol*, or 12, July 738) recorded in the lower text.

The text is critical for it describes a series of events taking place under the "supervision" of two foreign lords; one from the so-called "Water-Scroll" site (probably a reference to Altun Há) and one from either Quirigua or Copan. Unfortunately, the figural scene offers no clues as to the identities of these personages present for these events at Nim Li Punit. The lower text begins with an "accession" reference involving the king of Nim Li Punit, who carries a most unusual form of the "Lord of the Tree" title. The text further describes that this accession took place *y-ichnal* ("with", "before", or "in the company of") a lord from the "Water-Scroll" site. Epigraphic evidence now suggests that the main sign or "water-scroll" emblem can be attributed to the site of Altun Há, a site located some 120 km northeast of Nim Li Punit. Based on multiple lines of archaeological and epigraphic evidence, it now seems quite clear that Altun Há was involved in the Late Classic politics of southern Belize (see Wanyerka 2004). Although the extent of this interaction is unknown, historically Altun Há was an important member and ally of the Tikal alliance (Guenter 2002, Wanyerka 2004). Given the fact that the name of a well-known Early Classic Tikal ruler's name (*Chaak Tok Ich'aak I*) is prominently featured in a text at Uxbenka (Stela 11), strongly suggests that during the Early Classic Period at least one site in southern Belize was in direct contact with the central Petén. However, the loyalties and hegemonies seem to switch at sites in southern Belize at the start of the Late Classic Period. By the time Nim Li Punit begins to coalesce and consolidate its power in the southern foothills of the Maya Mountains during the start of the 8th century AD, loyalties have changed. There is now a major shift in the political interactions of, sites in southern Belize to the southeastern Maya kingdoms of Quirigua and Copan. Given the political turbulence and unrest of the central Petén during the 8th century, it is quite possible that as political power began to wane in the Maya core, a vacuum was created in the peripheral regions of the Maya Lowlands. This vacuum allowed numerous sites to rise on an unprecedented level as sites throughout the Maya Lowlands began to asset themselves politically. At the same time, all of these newly-formed sites (like Nim Li Punit, Lubaantún, and Xnaheb to name just a few) began to jockey for control of the resource-rich territories or valuable exchange networks of the southern Maya Mountains.

The text continues with a distance number of 7 tuns leading back to the 9.15.0.0.0 4 *Ajaw* 13 *Yax* Period Ending and the "planting of a stone" in commemoration of that date "with" or "in the company of" the *Ek' Xukpi Ajaw* ("Black Copan Lord"). As argued elsewhere (see Wanyerka 2004), this unnamed Quirigua individual appears to be the local regent or lord of the 6th Tzuk or "province." The "partition" title appears most frequently in the inscriptions of southern Belize and adjacent Guatemala. However, the numerical coefficient appears to be site specific, perhaps as a formal means of identifying or describing the political and geographic boundaries of sites located within a common hegemonic political sphere or perhaps as a formal means of identifying tributary provinces. Following the "stone planting" the text continues with a restatement of the Initial Series Date (9.14.15.4.14 1 *Ix* 12 *Pax*, 16, December 726) from which a distance number leads back to the 9.15.0.0.0 Period Ending. In observance of this important Period Ending (18, August 731) was the "Water-Scroll" lord and presumably the Nim Li Punit lord; however, the text explicitly states that this event was in the 6th "Province" was "supervised" by the *Ek' Xukpi* person. Unfortunately, the final column of text is too eroded to ascertain anything further except for the final glyph. Here we see an enigmatic reference involving a *TOOK' PAKAL*. As a well-known metaphor for "war" (Genet 1934 [translation in Houston, Chinchilla Mazariegos, and Stuart 2001:285-290]) the notion of "flints and shields" has recently been re-interpreted by Simon Martin (2001) to be a pluralized titular reference to either "military warriors" or better yet, to the Maya notion of an "army." If this is in fact the case, this is the first reference to warfare in the inscriptions of Nim Li Punit.

The text concludes with a relatively rare, short scribal signature. This text begins with a truncated and ambiguous Calendar Round date of 12 *Ik'*. Given the range of possibilities here, it is virtually impossible to calculate the exact date of this monument dedication. The text continues with the "presentation" or "dedication" verb describing the carving followed by a 3 k'atun title. Unfortunately, the monument is broken here. Perhaps someday the base of Stela 2 can be examined to see whether more of this scribal signature exists.

Chronology:

A1-D1:  9.14.15.4.14  *1 *Ix* 12 *Pax* (16, December 726)

E1-F1:  *9.15.7.0.0  2 *Ajaw* 18 *Mol* (12, July 738)

G3-G4:  *9.15.7.0.0  2 Ajaw 18 Mol (12, July 738)
          -      7.0.0
          *9.15.0.0.0  4 *Ajaw* 13 *Yax* (18, August 731)

J4-K1:  *9.14.15.4.14  1 *Ix* 12 *Pax* (16, December 726)

L1-K3:  *9.14.15. 4.14  1 *Ix* 12 *Pax* (16, December 726)
          +      4. 13. 6
           9.15. 0.  0.  0  4 *Ajaw* *13 *Yax* (18, August 731)

N1:  12 *Ik'* (Corresponding Long Count Date Unknown)

Text:

A1: T124:25.?.25:548  **tzi:ka.?.ka:Haab'**
B1: TIX.1033  **B'OLON.PÍ**
A2: TXIV.28:548  **KANLAJUN.K'ATUN:HAAB'**
B2:  TXV.548:142  **JO'LAJUN.TUUN:ma**
C1: T IV:?:?  **KAN:?:?**
D1: TXIV.?  **KANLAJUN.?**

E1: T?.?  **(KA'.AJAW)**
F1: T?.581  **(WAXAKLAJUN).MOL**
E2: T1.670:130  **u.CH'AM:wa**
F2: T1030d  **K'AWIIL**
E3: T32.1016[653]  **K'U.K'UHUL[HUL]**
F3: T224?:130?  **ka.wa? (Nim Li Punit)**
E4: T173.168:518c  **MI'. AHAW:TÉ**
F4: T753v?  **TZUK?**
G1: T?.1000c  **?. AJAW**
H1: T18.671:86  **yi.chi:NAL**
G2: T32.1016  **K'U.K'UHUL**
H2: T168:578v  **AJAW:JA? (Altun Há)**
G3: TVII.548:93  **WUK.TUUN:tu**
H3: TIV.533  **KAN.AJAW**
G4: TXIII.16:528v  **OXLAJUN.YAX.?**

| | |
|---|---|
| H4: T1.68:576a | **u.tz'a:pa** |
| | |
| I1: T528.512a | **TUUN.ye'** |
| J1: T18.565a | **yi.ta** |
| I2: T683 | **ja** |
| J2: T95.168:756 | **EK'.AJAW:xu (XUKPI)** |
| I3: T18.93:25 | **yi.ch'a.ka** |
| J3: T32.1016b[653] | **K'U.K'UHUL [HUL]** |
| I4: TVI.?:528 | **WAK.TZUK:ku** |
| J4: TI.524 | **JUUN.IX** |
| | |
| K1: TXIII:549 | **OXLAJUN:PAX** |
| L1: TIV.548:126 | **KAN.TUUN:yi** |
| K2: TXIII.521 | **OXLAJUN.WINAL** |
| L2: T?.? | **(WAK.KIN)** |
| K3: TIV.533 | **KAN.AJAW** |
| L3: T168:578v | **AJAW:JA** |
| K4: T204.526:130 | **u.KAB'.wa** |
| L4: TVI.?:528 | **WAK.TZUK.ku** |
| | |
| M1: T95:756 | **EK':xu (XUKPI)** |
| M2: T?:? | **?:?** |
| M3: T?:? | **?:?** |
| M4: T?.?:624 | **(u).TOOK':PAKAL** |
| | |
| N1: TXII.503 | **LAJKA'.IK'** |
| O1: T32v.843v | **K'U.TAB'** |
| P1: T61.568:756 | **yu.lu:xu** |
| P2: TIII.28:548 | **OX.K'ATUN:TUUN** |
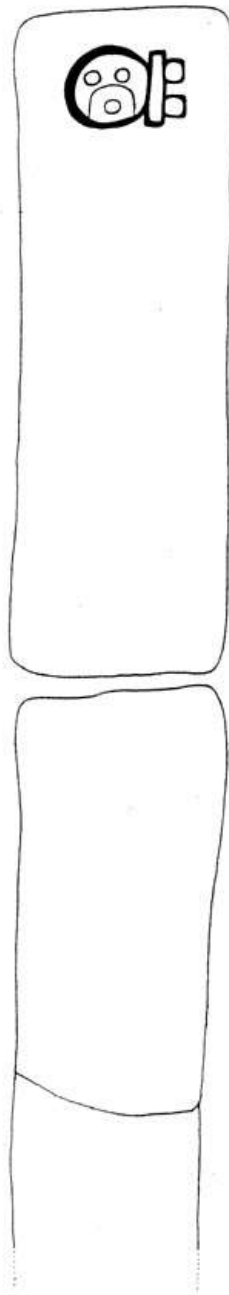
**Figure 19. Nim Li Punit, Stela 3. (Drawing by John Montgomery).**

**<u>Nim Li Punit, Stela 3</u>**

**Location:** Located in the extreme northwest corner of the stelae plaza, one meter west of Stela 4. Stela 3 was first reported by the Southern Belize Epigraphic Project in 1986.

**Condition:** Broken in three pieces. The base and the lower portion of Stela 3 were reassembled in situ as part of the M.A.S.D.P. in 1998. The carved upper half of Stela 3 is lying on the ground adjacent to the base.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Rectangular with well-dressed parallel sides.

**Dimensions:**

| | |
|---|---|
| HT: | 5.23 m (Overall Height) |
| MW: | .77 m |
| HAS: | .29 m |
| WSA: | .42 m |
| WBC: | .65 m |
| WTC: | .93 m |
| MTH: | .28 m |
| RELG: | 7 mm |

**Carved Areas:** Front only. Includes a single 7 *Ajaw* glyph written in reverse order.

**Dedicatory Date:** Late Classic/Terminal Classic Period. *10.0.0.0.0  7 *Ajaw* 18 *Sip* (11, March 830)

**Line Drawings:**
Christophe Helmke (In Helmke and Awe 1998: Figure 17)
John Hlucky (In Wanyerka 1991: Figure 35)
John Montgomery (SBEP, <u>Figure 19</u>)
Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Photographic References:**
Sulak (Unpublished)
Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
Grube *et al.* (1999:36)
Hammond *et al.* (1999: 9)
Helmke and Awe (1998:187)
Wanyerka (1991: 55-59)
Wanyerka (2000:14)
Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** The *Ajaw* stelae of southern Belize are among the latest dated monuments in Belize. To date, two monuments have been found in the Maya Mountains region that contain single *Ajaw* glyphs with numerical coefficients (Nim Li Punit Stela 3 and Tzimín Ché Stela 1).

Satterthwaite (1951) was among the first to suggest that *Ajaw* dates represent a Short Count calendrical system and that the date of these monuments could be interpreted through the *K'atun* cycle. The *ajaw* glyph did not necessarily have to specify the dedicatory date of the monument, rather it indicated the day upon which the current *k'atun* started . In this case, 7 *Ajaw* can refer to either one of two dates: the 9.7.0.0.0  (7 *Ajaw* 3 *K'ank'in*) Period Ending or the 10.0.0.0.0 (7 *Ajaw* 18 *Sip*) Period Ending. The 9.7.0.0.0 Period Ending (AD 573) is too early based on archaeological and epigraphic evidence.  Thus, the most likely date for Stela 3 is 10.0.0.0.0 (11, March 830). This date corresponds nicely with the archaeological evidence that suggests that Nim Li Punit was occupied well into the 9th century (Wanyerka 2004).
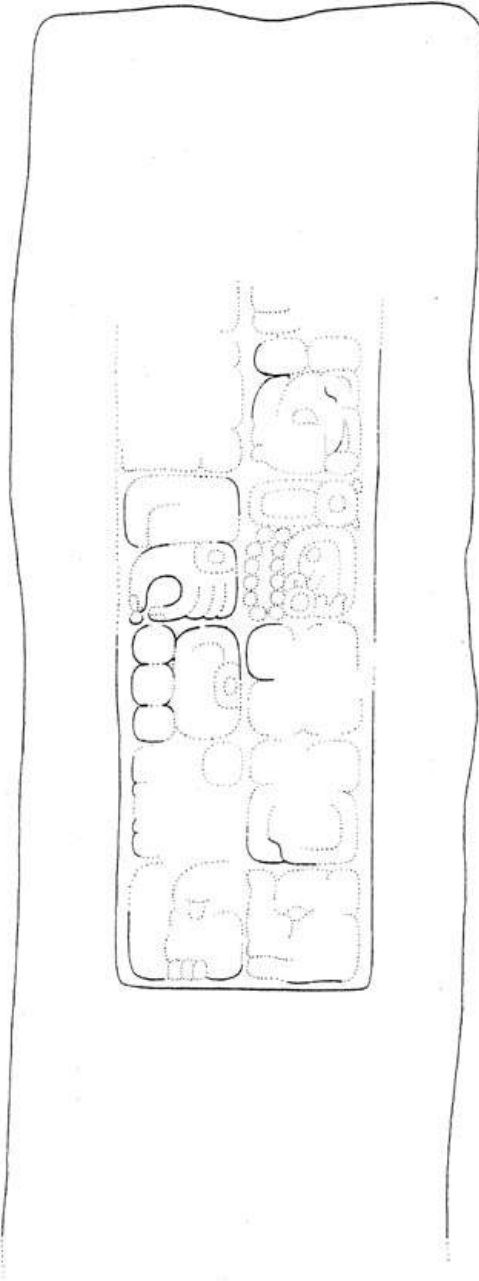
**Figure 20. Nim Li Punit, Stela 4. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**<u>Nim Li Punit, Stela 4</u>**

**Location:** Located in the extreme northwest corner of the stelae plaza, one meter east of Stela 3. Stela 4 was first reported by the Corozal Project in 1976.

**Condition:** Standing, but broken. The upper portion of this stela has flaked off and contains modern graffiti. Due to the erosional effects of weathering, the text is now almost totally obliterated.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Rectangular with well-dressed parallel sides.

**Dimensions:**

| | |
|---|---|
| HT: | 1.67 m |
| MW: | .58 m |
| HAS: | 1.02 m |
| WSA: | .32 m |
| WBC: | .57 m |
| WTC: | .60 m |
| MTH: | .20 m |
| RELG: | 6.7 mm |

**Carved Areas:** Front only. Includes a two-column text consisting of 16 glyph blocks, 12 of which are still visible today.

**Dedicatory Date:** Late Classic Period. * 9.14.15.4.14 – 9.19.0.0.0 (Based on *Ek' Xukpi* Title)

**Line Drawings:**
John Hlucky (In Wanyerka 1991: Figure 21)
John Montgomery (SBEP, <u>Figure 20</u>)
Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Photographic References:**
Sulak (Unpublished)
Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
Hammond *et al.* (1999: 9)
Wanyerka (2003: 10)
Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** Although the text is highly eroded and broken, the text does provide additional glyphic evidence that political ties and interactions existed between Nim Li Punit and the southeastern Maya polities of Quirigua and/or Copan. The evidence comes in the form of the *Xukpi Ajaw* title that appears at B4 (see NLP, Stela 2 for further commentary). Following this important title is a "scattering" event. Though the Calendar Round date of Stela 4 is now missing, it would appear that this text dates to somewhere between 9.14.15.4.14 and 9.19.0.0.0 based on other references to the *Ek' Xukpi* Title. It is highly likely the "scattering" event involved

the joint participation of a Nim Li Punit ruler and an individual who carries the *Ek' Xukpi* title as part of his name phrase. The name of the Nim Li Punit ruler is now missing, but the *K'uhul* part of his name or title is written exactly as it appears on Nim Li Punit Stela 2 with a portrait head or full form of the *K'uhul* glyph. It is interesting to note that this sign also appears either as a generic *ajaw* title or main sign of the Lubaantún emblem glyph (see Lubaantún BC Marker 3 and Figural Plaque 2).

Unfortunately, the rest of the text is just too eroded to read; however, a possible *witz'* or "mountain" glyph may be recorded at B6. The final two glyphs of Stela 4 seem to record a another possible reference to a Quirigua or Copan lord based on the second appearance of the "bat" head glyph at B8. In either case, the strange syntax of this text is typical of most of the hieroglyphic inscriptions of southern Belize. Other unusual anomalies include incorrect Calendar Round dates, unusual Lunar Series arrangements, incorrect moon ages, Distance Numbers that feature no anterior or posterior date indicators or Calendar Round dates that connect the dates of one event to the date of another, the use of two Initial Series dates with supporting lunar series within the same inscriptions, and unusual reading orders (Wanyerka 2000).

Text:
A1: Missing                 **??**
B1: Missing                 **??**
A2: Missing                 **??**
B2: Missing                 **??**
A3: Missing                 **??**
B3: Missing                 **??**
A4: ?????                   **??**
B4: T168:756d               **AJAW:XUKPI (Ek' Xukpi Ajaw)**
A5: T1:710                  **u:CHOK**
B5: T93.32.1016[653]        **CH'A:K'U.K'UHUL [JUL]**
A6: TIII.?                  **OX.?**
B6: T529?                   **WITZ'?**
A7: T??                     **??**
B7: T?.?:?                  **?.?:?**
A8: T?.1040                 **JOL**
B8: T756d                   **XU/XUKPI**
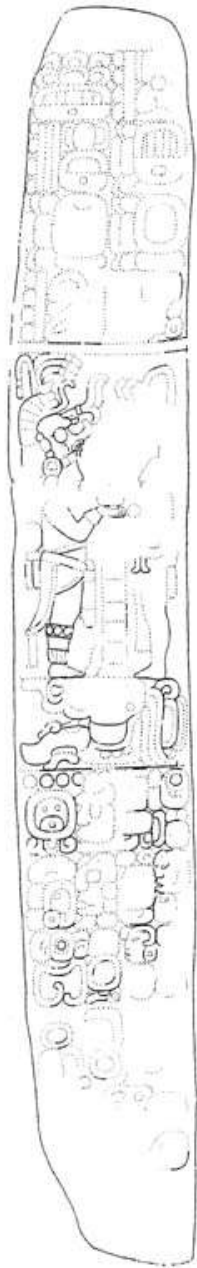
**Figure 21. Nim Li Punit, Stela 7. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Figure 22. Nim Li Punit, Stela 7, Figural Scene. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Figure 23. Nim Li Punit, Stela 7, Upper Text. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**
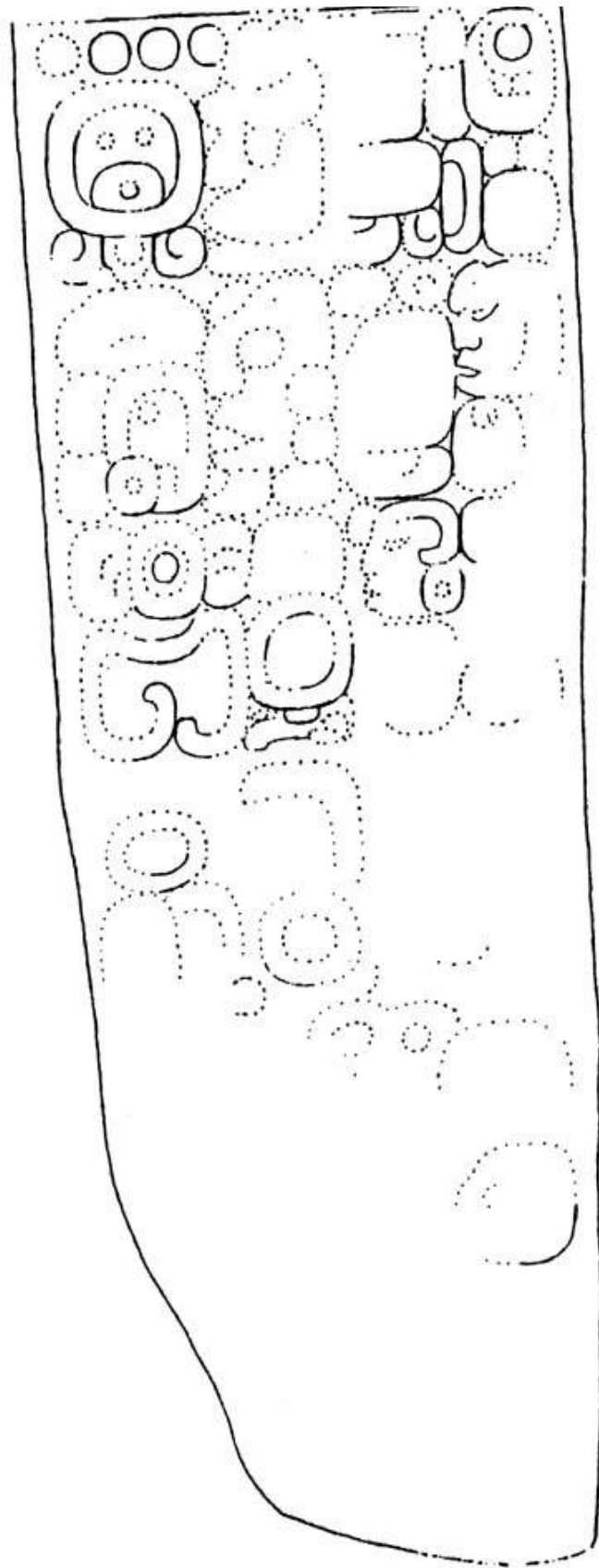
**Figure 24. Nim Li Punit, Stela 7, Lower Text. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**NIM LI PUNIT, STELA 7**

**Location:** Originally located at the southeastern corner of the northern terrace near the entrance to the main stelae plaza. Stela 7 was first reported by the Corozal Project in 1976 and moved by the M.A.S.D.P. as part of a comprehensive restoration and consolidation project in 1998, to the bodega of the newly created Nim Li Punit Visitor Center.

**Condition:** Broken in three pieces. The base of Stela 7 still stands in situ in the stelae plaza. The text is highly eroded and has suffered the effects of repeated blows by a machete attack sometime during the 1990's.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Rectangular with well-dressed parallel sides.

**Dimensions:**
|      |          |
|------|----------|
| HT:  | 5.53 m   |
| MW:  | .82 m    |
| HAS: | 5.20 m   |
| WSA: | .72 m    |
| WBC: | .70 m    |
| WTC: | .60 m    |
| MTH: | .29 m    |
| RELS:| 10 mm    |
| RELG:| 6.6 mm   |

**Carved Areas:** Front only. Includes three text registers (an upper and lower text and a secondary text located between the two standing figures) for a total of 24 glyph blocks) and a figural scene depicting two standing individuals facing each other standing atop a *Witz* Monster Pedestal.

**Dedicatory Date:** Late Classic Period. 9.19.0.0.0  9 *Ajaw* 18 *Mol* (24, June 810)

**Line Drawings:**
John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 21, Figure 22, Figure 23, Figure 24)

**Photographic/Other References:**
Sulak (Unpublished)
Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
Grube *et al*. (1999:36)
Hammond (1976b:50)
Hammond *et al*. (1999:9)
MacLeod (1981:30-31)
Wanyerka (1991:32-34)
Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** This text epitomizes the anomalous inscriptions of southern Belize. While the upper text clearly records an Initial Series date of 9.19.0.0.0  9 *Ajaw* 18 *Mol* (24, June, 810), the

lower text begins with a Calendar Round date of 4 *Ajaw*. Thus, the date for the lower text is not entirely clear since there is no intervening Distance Number that leads from the Initial Series date to the date of the next event. Due to the severity of the erosion along the lower half of Stela 7, virtually nothing can be gained from this text except for the *K'uhul Ajaw* expression at A6 that probably signals the name phrase or title for one of the individuals featured on the monument. A glyph that look suspiciously like the head variant for *huun* appears as the final part of 6 and the last two glyphs appear to record a location involving a "patron mountain place." Curiously, the rest of the lower half of Stela 7 contains a series on concentric circles that do not appear to be glyphic in nature and thus their purpose remains a mystery.

Text:
A1: T124:25.?25:548        **tzi:ka.?.:Haab'**
B1: TIX.1033               **B'OLON.PÍ**
A2: TXIX.28:548            **B'OLONLAJUN.K'ATUN:TUUN**
B2: T173.548               **mi.TUUN**
A3: T173.521:136?          **mi.WINAL.ji**
B3: T173.544:116           **mi.K'IN.ni**
A4: TIX.?                  **B'OLON.(AJAW)**
B4: T?.?                   **(WAXAKLJAUN MOL?)**

A5: TIV.533:125.?:?        **KAN.AJAW:?:?**
B5: T?:?:130.?.683:?.?:?   **?:?:wa.?.K'AL/ja:?.?:?**
A6: T?:?.1016a.1000f:130   **?:?.K'UHUL.AJAW:wa**
B6: T?:?:?.1000a?:?.?      **?:?:?.JUUN?:?.?**
A7: T60?:529/856?.?:1031c  **TAH/JUUN/ji:WITZ/NEN.?:HAAB'/TUUN**
B7: T1008.?:?.?            **XIB'/NAL.?:?.?**

**Figure 25. Nim Li Punit, Stela 14. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Figure 26. Nim Li Punit, Stela 14, Figural Scene. (Drawing by John. Montgomery)**
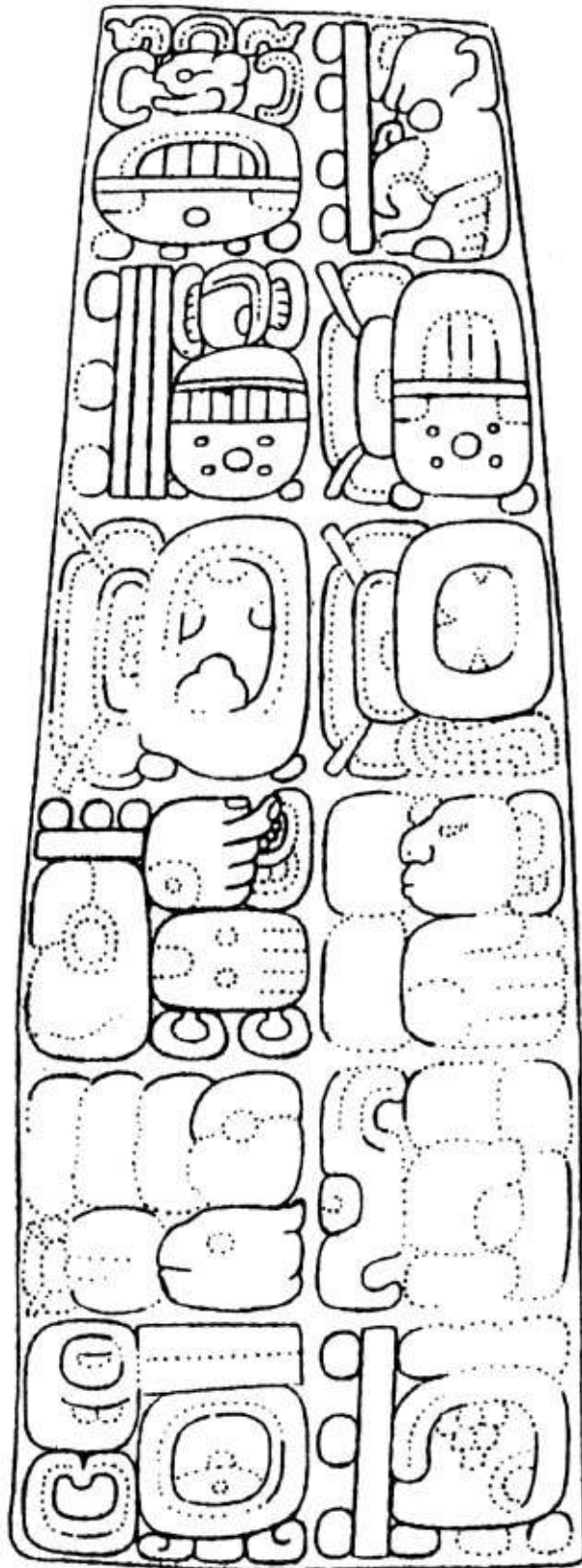
**Figure 27. Nim Li Punit, Stela 14, Upper Text. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**
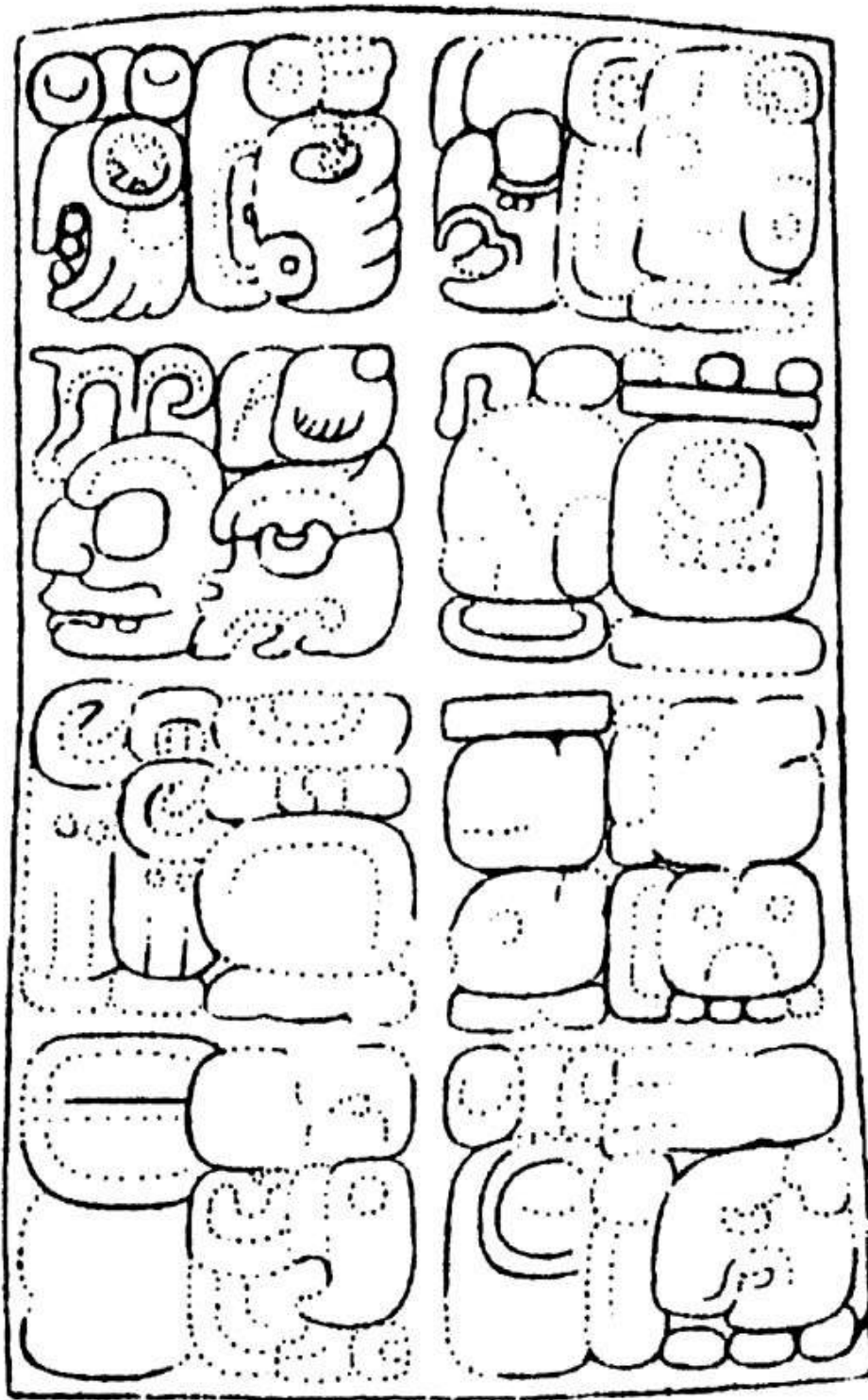
**Figure 28. Nim Li Punit, Stela 14, Lower Text. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

## NIM LI PUNIT, STELA 14

**Location:** Originally located near the center of the stelae plaza near a stone-lined pit that probably supported the monument. Stela 14 first reported by the Corozal Project in 1976 and was moved by the M.A.S.D.P. as part of a comprehensive restoration and consolidation project in 1998, to the newly created Nim Li Punit Visitor Center.

**Condition:** Intact. The monument was carved in low relief and has suffered from the effects of both weather and vandalism. In 1981 vandals attacked Stela 14 with a machete and left deep cuts (.5 cm deep) across the top of the first two rows of glyphs (see Jackson and McKillop 1985). Subsequent attacks to Stela 14 have left the monument with more than 25 deep gashes throughout both the figural scene and the upper and lower text.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Rectangular and needle-like with well-dressed parallel sides.

**Dimensions:**

| | |
|---|---|
| HT: | 9.29 m |
| MW: | .80 m |
| HSA: | 6.22 m |
| WSA: | .64 m |
| WBC: | .24 m |
| WTC: | .80 m |
| MTH: | .45 m |
| RELS: | 9 mm |
| RELG: | 9.6 mm |

**Carved Areas:** Front only. Includes two text registers (an upper and lower) consisting of some 20 glyph blocks and a figural scene depicting a single individual in the midst of a "scattering" rite.

**Dedicatory Date:** Late Classic Period. 9.18.0.0.0  *11Ajaw 18 Mak (7, October 790)

**Line Drawings:**
Nikolai Grube (In Grube *et al.* 1999: Figure 7)
Nikolai Grube (In Wanyerka 1999a: Figure 14)
Ian Graham (Unpublished)
Sheena Howarth (In Hammond 1976a: Figure 28)
Sheena Howarth (In Hammond 1976b: Figure, Page 49)
Sheena Howarth (In Hammond *et al.* 1999: Figure 5)
Sheena Howarth (In Wanyerka 1991: Figure 26)
Barbara MacLeod (1981: Figures 3-5)
Barbara MacLeod (In Wanyerka 1991: Figure 25)
John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 25, Figure 26, Figure 27, Figure 28)

**Photographic/Other References:**
Hellmuth (Unpublished)
Robertson (CD ROM 1995: File Number D20162.PCT)

Sulak (Unpublished)
Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
Dunham *et al*. (1989:268)
Grube *et al.* (1991:34-35)
Hammond (1976b: 49-50)
Hammond *et al.* (1999:10)
Jackson and McKillop (1985:38)
MacLeod (1981:25-29)
Wanyerka (1991:35-42)
Wanyerka (1999a: 16-18, 23-25, 48-50)

**Commentary:** Stela 14 is the second tallest stelae ever carved by the ancient Maya (Quirigua Stela E is the tallest) and is the monument from which the site takes its Q'eqchí name Nim LI Punit meaning "Big-Hat". The text of Stela 14 is perhaps best known for the error or anomaly within the Initial Serial date of some 10 years. The Long Count date, as recorded on Stela 14, is clearly 9.18.0.0.0 which would require a Calendar Round date of 11 *Ajaw* 18 *Mak* (or 7, October 790). However, the accompanying Calendar Round date is clearly 10 *Ajaw* 8 *Sak* that corresponds to the Long Count date of 9.18.10.0.0 (15, August 800). While some might be inclined to view this anomaly as a true monumental error on behalf of the scribe who carved Stela 14, but there is some epigraphic evidence to suggest that both dates may have been intentionally linked to commemorate both the 9.18.0.0.0 and 9.18.10.0.0 Period Endings. In either case, the supporting lunar information does not support either of the two possible Long Count dates.

Following the Long Count date is a combination of a "scatter" glyph and the well-known *y-ichnal* relationship glyph at A7 indicating that the "scattering" was taking place "before" or "in the company of" an individual who is then named in the text. It is interesting to note that the name of the protagonist at B7 is also named on Nim Li Punit Stela 21 (C3). Based on this identification it is now clear that we have at least one named Nim Li Punit ruler mentioned on more than one monument. He is nicknamed *Macaw Jaguar God of the Underworld* and his name may continue into glyph block A8 that could also be interpreted as some sort of "fire-burning" event. The text is just not clear here in this portion of the text. In either case, the text continues with a parentage statement that provides the names of both parents of *Macaw Jaguar God of the Underworld*. What is interesting here, is the parentage statement includes the 28 *Winik* title, a title of unknown meaning, that is restricted to the hieroglyphic inscriptions of numerous sites within the Maya Mountains region of both Belize (Nim Li Punit) and Guatemala (Naj Tunich, Dos Pilas, Machaquila, Ixtutz, Naranjo). All of these sites seem to be regionally linked through the use of this unusual title. In the case of Stela 14, the parentage statement is prefaced as *juntan* "the cherished one" of the "28 *Winiks*." This is followed by the *B'akab'* or "First Earth" title and another *u-juntan* expression that seems to involve a person or place possibly known as *Jo' Kab'*. Again, what is interesting here is the possibility that the *Jo' Kab'* mentioned in this text could refer to the Maya kingdom of Ixtutz, a site also known as *Jo' Kab'* or the "Five Earth Place." Unfortunately, the text is eroded here to ascertain what was really recorded in the first half of B9. However, the second half of B9 is also recorded on Nim Li Punit Stela 21(C5) where it clearly refers to the ruler's mother who seems to be a noble woman from the *B'alam* site. This may be the same *B'alam* site that is mentioned in the texts of Pusilha (Sculptural Fragment 17)

and at Naj Tunich (Drawing 48) and if so, it would suggest that the *B'alam* site, located somewhere in this region, had non-antagonistic relations with Nim Li Punit. The text then continues with the name phrase of the noble woman from *B'alam* at A10 and the father's name at B10 which is also recorded on Nim Li Punit Stela 21 (D6).

Text:
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| A1: T124:25.?.25:548 | | tzi:ka.?.ka:Haab' |
| B1: TIX.1032 | | B'OLON. PÍ |
| A2: TXVIII.28:548[585] | | WAXAKLAJUN.K'ATUN[HAAB'] |
| B2: T173.548[585] | | mi.JAAB' |
| A3: T173.521 | | mi. WINAL |
| B3: T173.544:116 | | mi.K'in:ni |
| A4: TVIII.683.713.181:82:126 | | WAXAK.K'AL. JUL.ja:li:ya |
| B4: T?:?.1000a.181:713a | | ?:?.IXIK.ja:K'AL |
| A5: T?.?.?.?:173.?.738? | | ?.?.?.:mi.?.ka? |
| B5: T204.187:758a:110 | | u.K'AB'A:CH'OK:ko |
| A6: T683:517v.XV:533 | | K'AL:LAJUN.JO'LAJUN:AJAW |
| B6: TVIII.58:528 | | WAXAK.SAK:ku |
| A7: T13:710.18.86.671 | | u:CHOK.yi.NAL.chi |
| B7: T744?.279.?.88 | | MÓ.Ó.(JGU).ji |
| A8: T?.21?.568:849? | | K'AK'/PUL.b'u:lu:? |
| B8: TI.606:23.VIII:683:102 | | JUUN.TAN:na.WAXAK:WINIK:ki |
| A9: T501.25:501.?:60:606:23 | | b'a.ka:b'a.?:JUUN.TAN:na |
| B9: TV:669b:?:?.?:?.533:? | | JÓ:JOM/KAB':?:?.AJAW:? |
| A10: T561?:?.168:38.751:142 | | CHAN?:?.AJAW:K'U.B'ALAM:ma |
| B10: T13:501.?:88.751.142 | | u:b'a.?:ji.B'ALAM.ma |
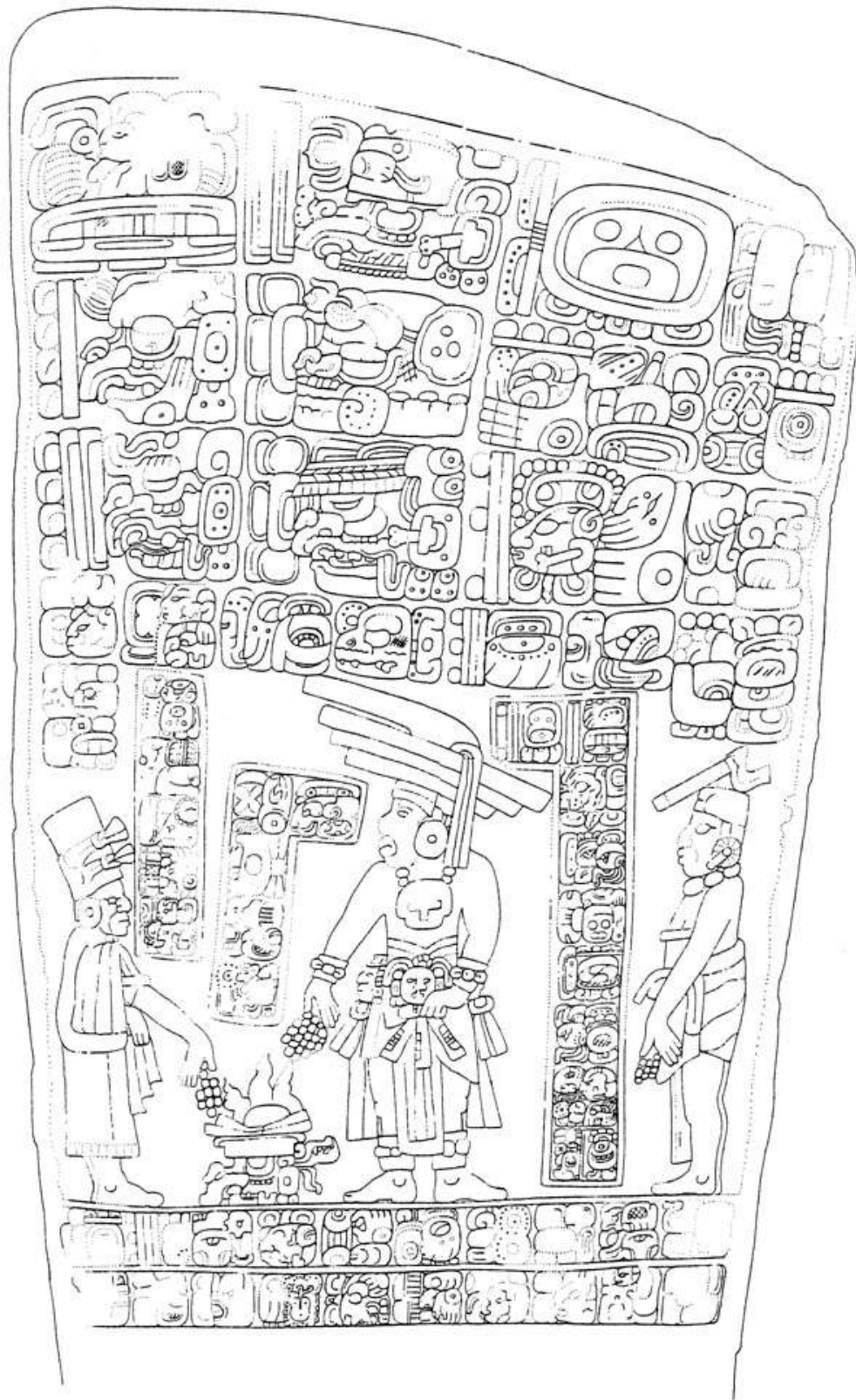
**Figure 29. Nim Li Punit, Stela 15. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**
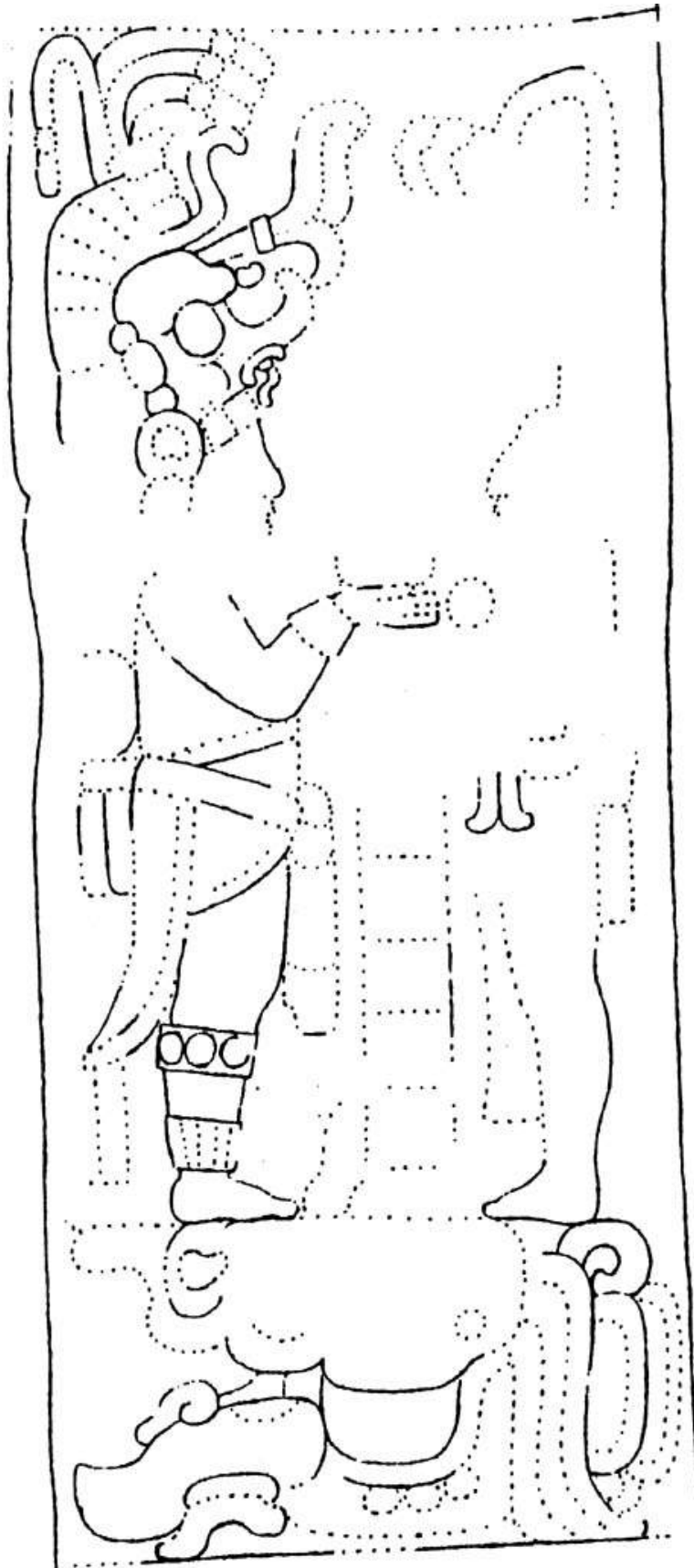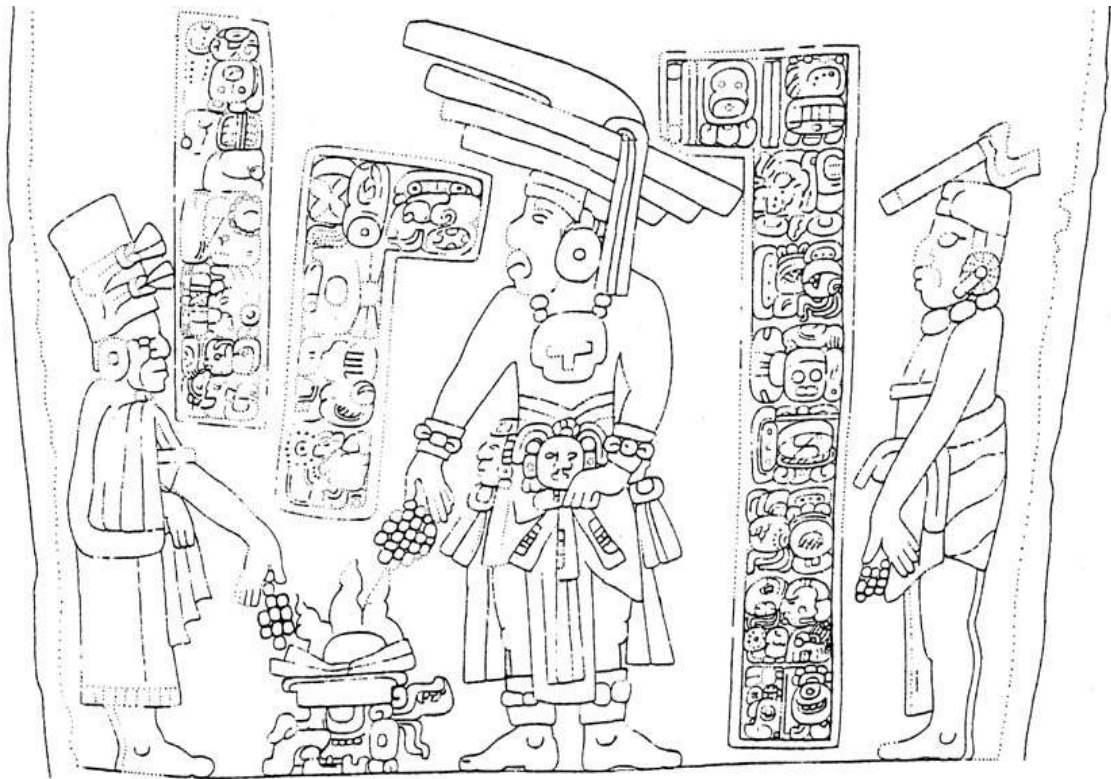
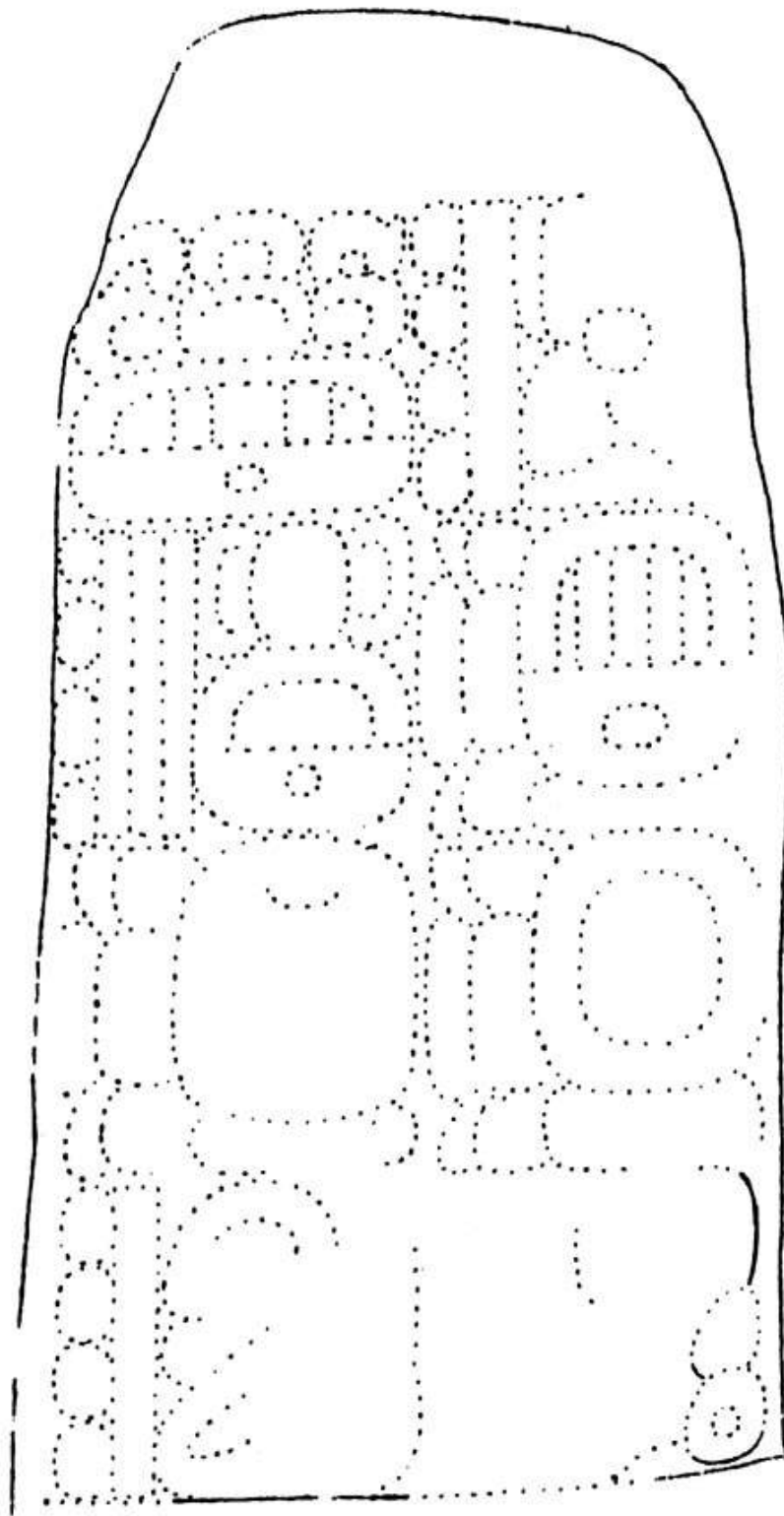**Figure 30. Nim Li Punit, Stela 15, Figural Scene. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Figure 31. Nim Li Punit, Stela 15, Secondary Texts. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Nim Li Punit, Stela 15**

**Location:** The stela was originally found face down, approximately 5 meters to the east of Stela 14, along the eastern side of the stelae plaza near the center of Structure 4. It was first reported by the Corozal Project in 1976 and was moved by the M.A.S.D.P. as part of a comprehensive restoration and consolidation project in 1998, to the newly created Nim Li Punit Visitor Center.

**Condition:** Intact with no apparent breaks. However, this monument, like many of the others at Nim Li Punit, has been the subject of repeated blows by a machete resulting in some 26 deep gashes to much of the upper text and to two of the central figures depicted in the figural scene.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Rectangular with well-dressed parallel sides.

**Dimensions:**

| | |
|---|---|
| HT (LT Side): | 2.89 m |
| HT (RT.Side): | 2.39 m |
| MW: | 1.64 m |
| HSA: | 2.58 m |
| WSA: | 1.48 m |
| WBC: | 1.64 m |
| WTC: | 1.79 m |
| MTH: | .21 m |
| RELS: | 6.2 mm |
| RELG: | 7.1 mm |

**Carved Areas:** Front only. Includes an upper (20 glyph blocks) and lower (20 glyph blocks) text register, three secondary texts (19 total glyph blocks), and a figural scene depicting three individuals in the midst of a "scattering" rite.

**Dedicatory Date:** 9.14.10.0.0  6 *Ajaw* 3 *Mak* (9, October 721)

**Line Drawings:**
Ian Graham (Unpublished)
Nikolai Grube (In Grube *et al.* 1999: Figure 2)
Nikolai Grube (In Schele and Grube 1994a:98)
Nikolai Grube (In Schele and Grube 1994b:84)
Nikolai Grube (In Schele and Looper 1996a:123)
Nikolai Grube (In Schele and Looper 1996b:102)
Nikolai Grube (In Wanyerka 1999a: Figure 15)
Hellmuth (Unpublished)
Sheena Howarth (In Hammond and Howarth 1999: Figure 2)
Barbara MacLeod (1981:Figures 12-14)
Barbara MacLeod (In Wanyerka 1991: Figure 30)
John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 29, Figure 30, Figure 31)
John Montgomery (In Wanyerka 1999a: Figure 16)

**Photographic References:**

Hellmuth (Unpublished)
Robertson (In Grube *et al*. 1999: Figure 1)
Robertson (In Hammond *et al.* 1999: Figure 6)
Robertson (CD ROM 1995: File Number D20163.PCT)
Sulak (Unpublished)
Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
Dunham *et al.* (1989:268)
Grube *et al*. 1995:4)
Grube *et al.* (1999:18-25)
Hammond (1976b:49-50)
Hammond and Howarth (1999: 3-6)
Hammond *et al.* (1999:10-13)
Hellmuth (1993:66)
Jackson and McKillop (1985: 38-39)
Looper (1995:67-68)
MacLeod (1981:4-16)
Schele and Grube (1994a:98)
Schele and Grube (1994b:84)
Schele and Looper (1996a:123 )
Schele and Looper (1996b:102)
Wanyerka (1991:43-54)
Wanyerka (1999a:21-25, 27-29, 53-63)
Wanyerka (2000:11-12)
Wanyerka (2003:9-10)
Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** The text of Stela 15 is important for it contains several important political references to the southeastern kingdoms of Quirigua and Copan as well as another reference to the unidentified *B'alam* site. In addition, the text also mentions a unique astronomical event involving a partial lunar eclipse that was visible at Nim Li Punit on the evening of October 9th, 721.

The text begins with an unusual Initial Series date (9.14.10.0.0 5 *Ajaw* 3 *Mak* or 9, October 721) that includes a reference to a "fire-scattering" ritual that presumably occurred "in front of" or "before" this monument on the day of its dedication. The text then continues with a reference to the well-known Teotihuacan War Serpent (the *Waxakalajun U-B'aj Ka'an*) whose image was "created" or "conjured" through a bloodletting rite by a royal woman named *Ixik K'an K'uhul* who appears to be a *B'a Ajaw* or "Head or First Lord." The *B'a Ajaw* epithet is a title restricted to the leader of a kingdom's non-royal nobility (see Houston and Stuart 2001:62) and in this case, she is portrayed on the monument as the figure on the extreme left.

The text continues at the bottom of the monument with a partially eroded Calendar Round date of 6 *Ajaw* 18 *Sak*. This Calendar Round date can correspond to one of three possible Long Count dates (9.12.10.7.0, 9.15.3.2.0, or 9.17.15.15.0). The best guess here, is that this Calendar Round date corresponds to *9.15.3.2.0 or 11, September 734). Unfortunately, the first part of the verb is now unreadable (K2-L2), but the second part is clearly an unusual disharmonic spelling of the

*chok* or "scatter" verb (M1). This rite was performed by his "vassal lord", the *Ek' Xukpi (Ajaw)*, who carries the rare *B'a Max* or "First Shield" title. The text further states that this individual was the "guardian of the "White Earth, he the youngster or youth of the Divine House." The text is then broken, but is clearly states at R1 that "he was in lordship" and unfortunately, then rset of his personal name is now completely unreadable, except that the individual was a *K'u B'alam Ajaw* or a "Divine Lord from the *B'alam* site." The final portion of this lower text is extremely interesting for it seems to make reference to a possible tribute offering. Unfortunately what was given or how much of it was given is now eroded, but the *Ek' Xukpi* title does appear again in the extreme upper half of S2. Thus it would seem that Nim Li Punit was much more involved in the politics of the southeastern Maya Lowlands than previously believed or recognized by scholars (see Wanyerka 2004).

The three secondary texts also provide critical information concerning the extent of these relationships. The first secondary text (located just to the right of the left figure) begins with a reference to some sort of "fire" ritual and the individual responsible may be named as a *sajal*. Remember, according to the main text this individual must be *Ixik K'an K'uhul* and even though the text is really quite eroded here, this must be a reference to her. Even more interesting is the fact this person's full name appears to be *K'inich K'uk'* and the last glyph names this individual as a Copan person (*U-Xukpi Winik….*).

The middle secondary text appears to include the recently discovered quotative particle (*che'en*) indicating that what follows is in first person. Unfortunately, the text is broken here to ascertain what was being said, but the secondary text ends with the Nim Li Punit emblem glyph. The last and longest of the secondary texts begins with a truncated Calendar Round date of 12 *Ajaw*, perhaps indicating the Long Count date of 9.4.10.0.0 12 *Ajaw* 8 *Mol* (24, August 524) which is exactly 10 *k'atuns* before the Initial Series date of the monument. Here the text states that a "stone was planted" and that it was the 6th "accumulated grand stone that was planted." Nim Li Punit is perhaps best known for the number and average size of its monuments. To date, more than 32 stelae have been found at Nim Li Punit and the average size of most monuments is approximately 3.5 meters. The name of the person responsible is next named in the text as a "Sun-Eyed or Sun-Faced Scatterer, the Youthful Lord, the Tree Lord of Nim Li Punit, and he carries the 28 Winik title, in this case written as a "divine 28 Lord. "

Chronology:
|  |  |  |
|---|---|---|
| A1-D4: | 9.14.10.0.0  5 *Ajaw* 3 *Mak* | (9, October 721) |
| K1-L1: | *9.15.3.2.0  6 *Ajaw* 18 *Sak* | (11, September 734) |
| X1-Y1: | *9.4.10.0.0  12 *Ajaw* 8 *Mol* | (24, August 524) |

Text:
| A1: T124:25.?.25:548 | **tzi:ka.?.ka:HAAB'** |
|---|---|
| A2: TIX.1033 | **B'OLON.PÍ** |
| A3: TXIV.? | **KANLAJUN.K'ATUN** |
| B1: TX.1031v | **LAJUN.TUUN** |
| B2: T173.741 | **mi.WINAL** |
| B3: T173.K'IN | **mi.K'IN** |
| C1: TV.533:125 | **JO'.AJAW:?** |

C2: TIX:38.1016:670.126:60:23v     **B'OLON.K'U.K'UHUL:CH'AM.ch'a:HUUN:na**
C3: TXIII.45:?:125.?:670     **OXLAJUN.JUL:?:ya.?:CH'AM**
D1: T?:?.548:116.?.?:IV.?.?     **?:?.TUUN:ni.?.?:KAN.?.?**
D2: T11:128:287.110.IX:683     **u:ch'a:CHOK.ko.B'OLON:K'AL**
D3: T219v:122:24.11:86:565:23     **PUK:K'AK':li.u:NAL:TAN:na**

**(Reversed Reading Order)**
D4: TIII:74?:617v?:246.68:586:683   **OX:ma?:ka?:ji-ya.tz'a:pa:ja**
E1:  T204:528[767v]:116     **u:TUUM[LAKAM]:ni**
F1: TXVIII.11:501     **WAXAKLAJUN.u.b'a**
G1: T764.23     **KA'AN.na**
H1: T204.501.1:712     **u.b'a.u:CH'AB'**
I1: T281:23.1000a:41     **K'AN:na.IXIK:K'U**
J1: T?:?.?:1000a     **?:?.?:IXIK**
J2: T1000a:38?.168:?:518:130     **IXIK:K'U?.AJAW:?:AJAW:wa**

K1: T87.VI:533     **te.WAK:AJAW**
L1: TXIII.58:528     **OXLAJUN.SAK:K'U**
K2: T??     **??**
L2: T?.?:568     **?.?:lu**
M1: T590:520:229     **cho:ka:AJ**
N1: T125:1000     **ya:AJAW**
M2: T95.756     **EK'.XUK (XUKPI)**
N2: T501.142:536     **b'a.ma:xo**
O1: T110.219.188     **ko.ke.le**
P1: T58.25:501     **SAK.ka:b'a**
O2: T1.758a     **u.CH'OK**
P2: T685.1?:710     **K'U NAJ.u.CHOK**
Q1: T17:?:?.277     **yi:?:?.?**
R1: T168:518:130.116     **AJAW:AJAW:wa.ni**
Q2: T?:?.?     **?:?.?**
R2: T36.168:751     **K'U.AJAW:B'ALAM**
S1: T229.669b:506     **a.k'a:wa**
T1: T?:?.?     **?:?.?**
S2: T95.756:?.?     **EK'.XUKPI:?.?**
T2: T?.?:?     **?.?:?**

U1: T36.741a:534?:?     **K'U.E':la:?**
U2: T?.630:?     **?.sa:?**
U3: T501.?.582:?     **b'a.?.MO':?**
U4: T74.184.744     **ma.K'INICH.K'UK'**
U5: T204.756.528:683.743?.?:506   **u.xu.ku:WINIK.a.?:wa**

V1: T1:757     **u:B'AAJ**
W1: 544:116:670     **K'IN:ni:chi**
W2: T741a:148     **E':che'**
W3: T229.?:568     **AJ.?:lu**
W4: T36.168:?:1000:130     **K'U.AJAW:AJAW:wa**

X1: TXII.533:125 **LAJKA'.AJAW:?**
Y1: TX.IV:28:548:142 **LAJUN.KAN:K'ATUN:TUUN:ma**
Y2: T?.87:125 **u.te:ya**
Y3: T11.68:586b:181.11:528.116 **u.tz'a:pa:ja.u:TUUN:ni**
Y4: T109.204:542.23 **CHAK.u.na:na**
Y5: T11.VI:573:25:178 **u.WAK:TZ'AK:ka:la**
Y6: T767v:528:116.11:68:586b:683c **LAKAM:TUUN:ni.u.tz'a:pa:ja**
Y7: T670[544]:116.93.607:142.1000e:758a **ch'i[K'IN]:ni.ch'a,jo:ma.AJAW:CH'OK**
Y8: T145:168:743.VIII.32:683b:130 **che:AJAW:AK'E?.WAXAK.K'U:K'AL:wa**
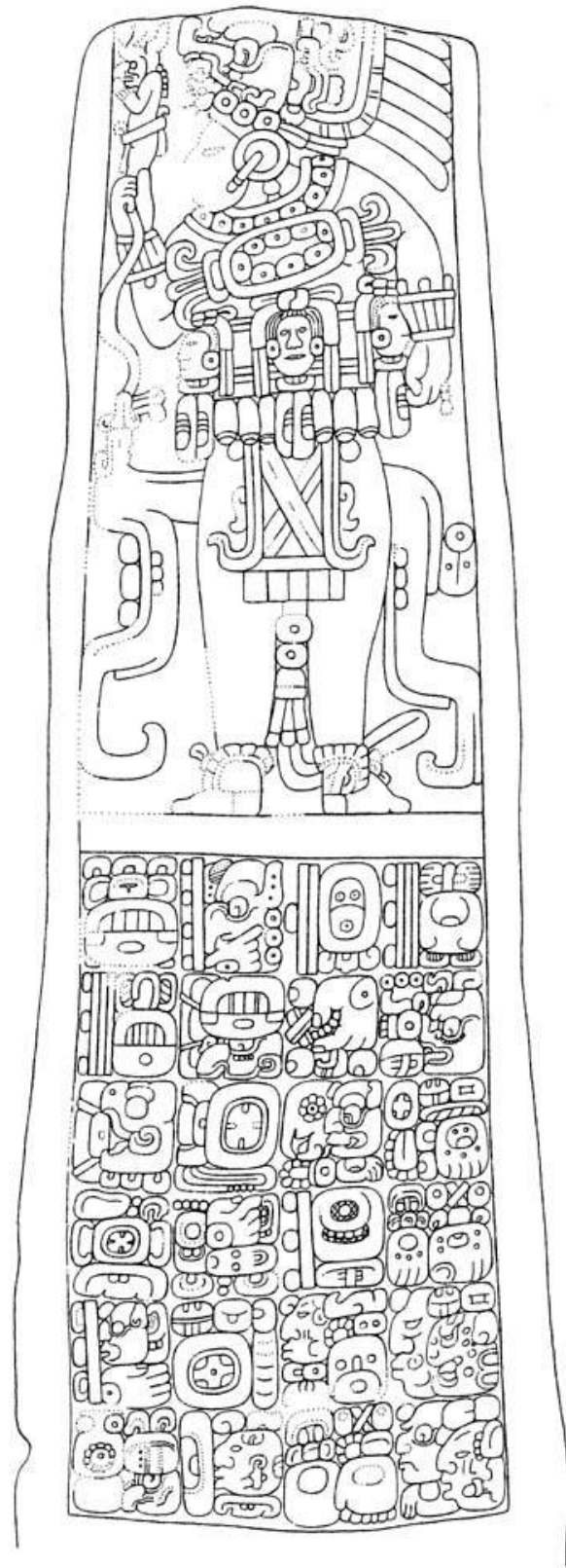
**Figure 32. Nim Li Punit, Stela 21. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**
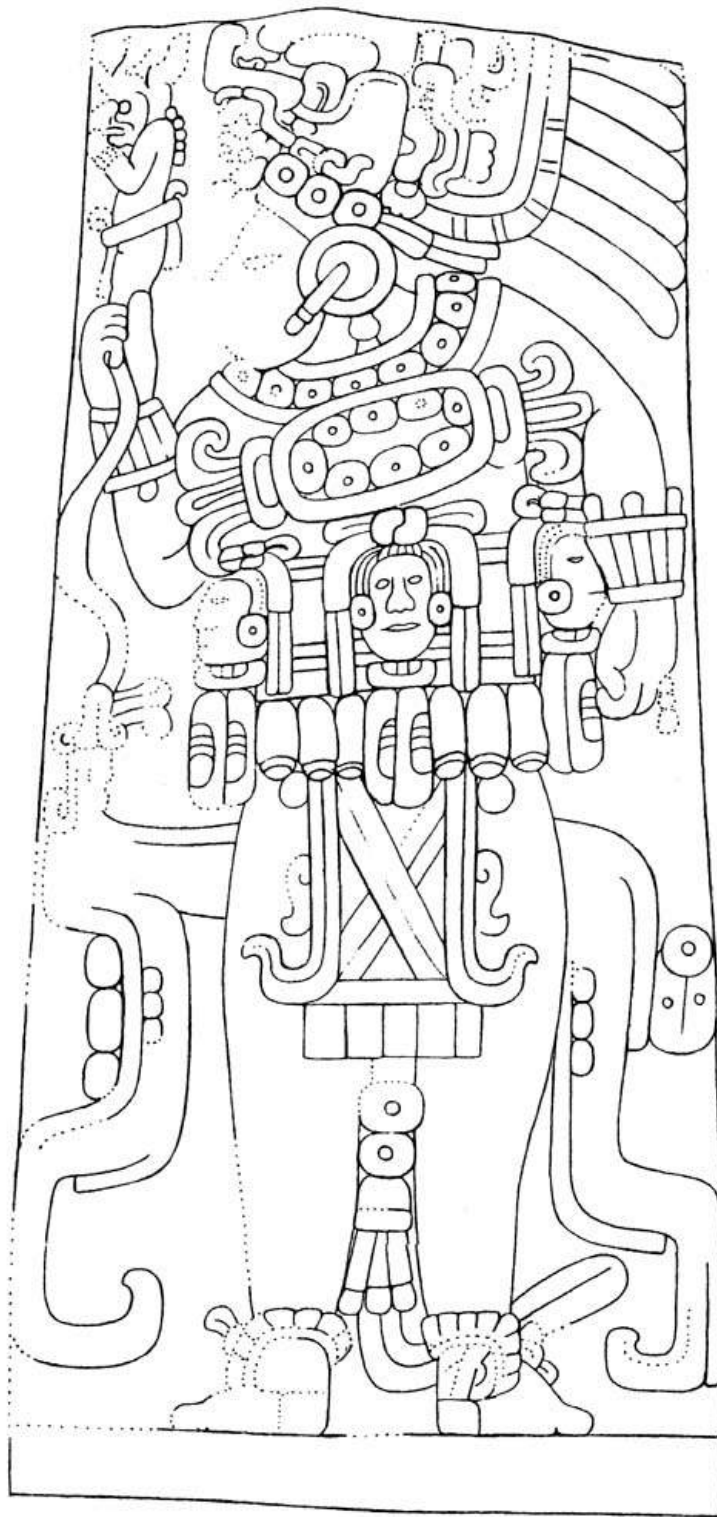
**Figure 33. Nim Li Punit, Stela 21, Figural Scene. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

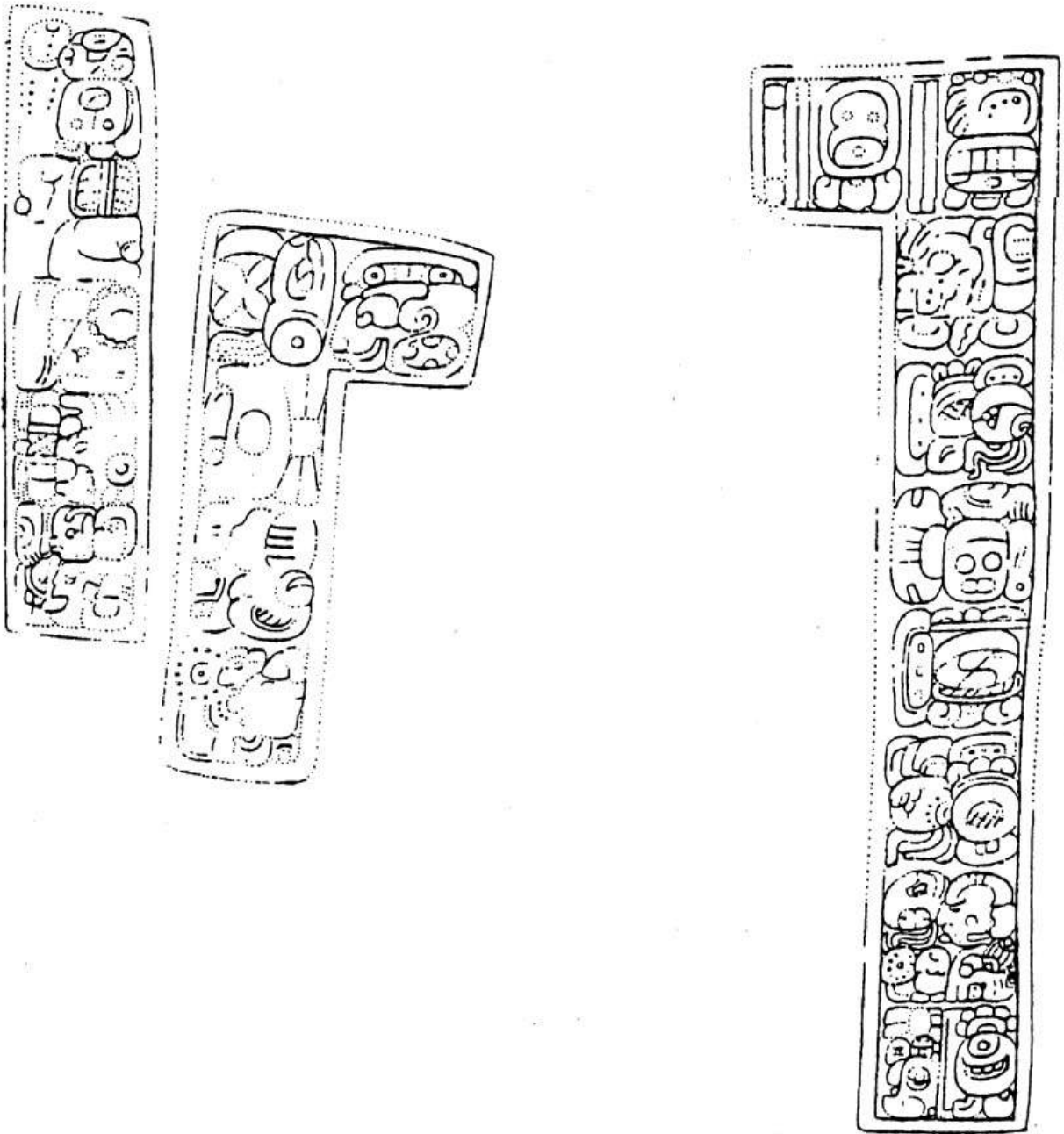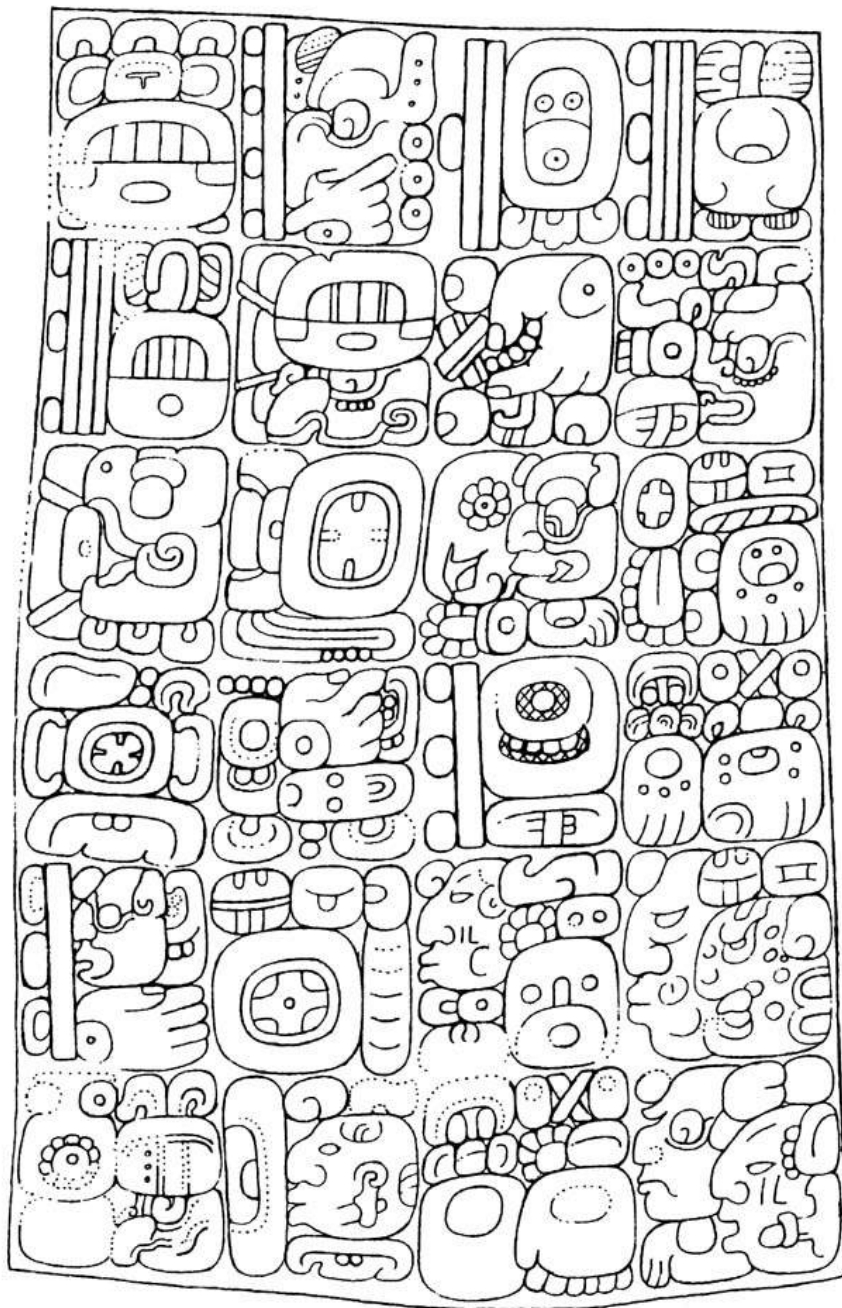**Figure 34. Nim Li Punit, Stela 21, Text. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**<u>Nim Li Punit, Stela 21</u>**

**Location:** Originally located face down along the north side of stela plaza near the center of Structure 3 midway between Stela 22 and Stela 20. Stela 21 was first reported by the Corozal Project in 1976; however, it was not thought to be carved. Then in the spring of 1998 workmen flipped this monument as part of the first comprehensive restoration and consolidation project (M.A.S.D.P.) at Nim Li Punit and realized that it contained a nearly pristine text and image. The monument was then moved to the newly created Nim Li Punit Visitor Center.

**Condition:** Intact. The text and image are pristine, except for a small slightly eroded section around the ruler's face and along the left side of the figural scene.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Rectangular with well-dressed parallel sides.

**Dimensions:**

| | |
|---|---|
| HT: | 2.45 m |
| MW: | .91 m |
| HSA: | 2.27 m |
| WSA: | .69 m |
| WBC: | .91 m |
| WTC: | .65 m |
| MTH: | .30 m |
| RELS: | 11.6 mm |
| RELG: | 7 mm |

**Carved Areas:** Front only. Includes a figural scene depicting a standing ruler looking left holding a *K'awiil* Scepter and a text containing 24 glyph blocks.

**Dedicatory Date:** 9.18.0.0.0  11 *Ajaw* 18 *Mak* (7, October 790)

**Line Drawings:**
Kirk D. Straight (Unpublished)
Nikolai Grube (In Bonor and Opstal (nd:14)
Nikolai Grube (In Stuart and Grube 2000:Figure 2)
Nikolai Grube (In Wanyerka 1999a: Figure 17)
Sheena Howarth (In Stuart and Grube 2000: Figure 1)
John Montgomery (SBEP, <u>Figure 32, Figure 33, Figure 34</u>)

**Photographic References:**
Leventhal (Unpublished)
Riou (In Stuart and Grube 2000: Figure 1)
Sulak (Unpublished)
Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
Bonor and van Opstal (nd: 14-15)
Martin and Grube (2000:201)

Stuart and Grube (2000:1-7)
Wanyerka (1999a:16-19, 23-25, 65-68)
Wanyerka (2000:12)
Wanyerka (2003:10)
Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** The text of Stela 21 is interesting for it makes reference to another "fire" ritual taking place within the Initial Series date itself. While its placement within the Lunar Series just prior to the Calendar Round is unusual, this phenomenon is relatively common in the hieroglyphic inscriptions of southern Belize. The text then continues with a "scattering" event that presumably took place at a Copan location known as the *Ox Witik* ("The Three Roots"). This toponym appears in numerous Copan inscriptions (Copan, Stela 10, Stela 12, Structure 12, Altar L, Altar Q, and Temple 11, West) and seems to refer to either the "three families" or the "three royal lineages" of the Copan Dynasty. If correct, then this passage may provide additional epigraphic evidence that the ruler of Nim Li Punit may have ascended from one of these Copan lineages. Following this location is the name of the Nim Li Punit ruler *K'awiil Mo' Jaguar God of the Underworld* who is a "Divine Nim Li Punit Lord." There are at least three versions of the Nim Li Punit emblem glyph and here on Stela 21 the main sign of the emblem glyph is spelled syllabically as *ka-wa-ma* or *Kawam*. Unfortunately, it is not clear what *Kawam* means, but based on the other two versions of the Nim Li Punit emblem glyph that feature a "raptor" of some sort, it is most likely that *Kawam* might refers to this particular bird, perhaps a Harpy Eagle. The ruler carries the 28 *Winik* title and the rest of the text provides a parentage statement that parallels the text of Stela 14. The text states that the ruler of Nim Li Punit was the "cherished one of" a noble lady from the *B'alam* site and then the final two glyphs of Stela 21 record the father's name.

Text:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| A1: | T124:25.503.25:548 | **tzi:ka.MAK.ka:HAAB'** |
| B1: | TIX.1033 | **B'OLON. PÍ** |
| A2: | TXVIII.28:548 | **WAXAKLAJUN.K'ATUN:TUUN** |
| B2: | T173.1031 | **mi. TUUN** |
| A3: | T173.741a:136 | **mi.WINAL:ji** |
| B3: | T173.544:116 | **mi.K'IN:ni** |
| A4: | T128:60[544]:23 | **ch'a:HUUN[K'IN]:na** |
| B4: | TIV.683.713b:181:82:126 | **KAN:K'AL.JUL:ja:li:yi** |
| A5: | VI.751a:181:713a | **WAK.B'ALAM:ja:K'AL** |
| B5: | T168:544:188 | **AJAW:K'AN.le** |
| A6: | T?:?:?.1035 | **?:?:?.K'AK'/BUTZ'** |
| B6: | T121.1010c?:23 | **li.PUL:na** |
| C1: | TXI.533 | **B'ULUK.AJAW** |
| D1: | TXVIII.74:520:25.25 | **WAXAKLAJUN.ma:ka:ka:ka** |
| C2: | T13.710:130 | **u.CHOK:wa** |
| D2: | TIII.117:59:102.1030v | **OX.wi.ti:ki.K'AWIIL** |
| C3: | T744b:280.?.88 | **MÓ:Ó.(JGU)?.ji** |
| D3: | T36.168:25:130.502 | **K'U.AJAW:ka.wa.ma (NLP)** |
| C4: | TVIII.683:102 | **WAXAK.WINIK:ki** |
| D4: | T1:60:501.13.I:606 | **u.HUUN:b'a.u.HUUN:TAN** |
| C5: | T1000a:?:?.?:?:533 | **IXIK:?:?.?:?:AJAW** |
| D5: | T1000a.168.751 | **IXIK.AJAW.B'ALAM** |

C6: T1.60:501.13.?.?:712        **u.HUUN:b'a.u.?.?:CH'AB**
D6: T?:88.?:1000                **(JGU):ji.?:AJAW**

# Miscellaneous Sculpture
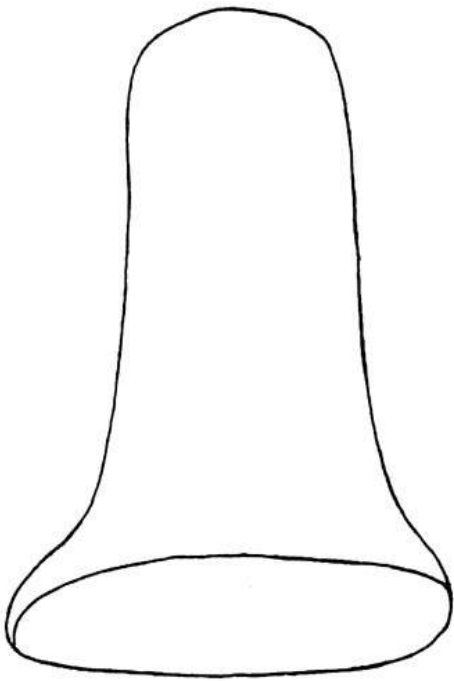
**Side View**
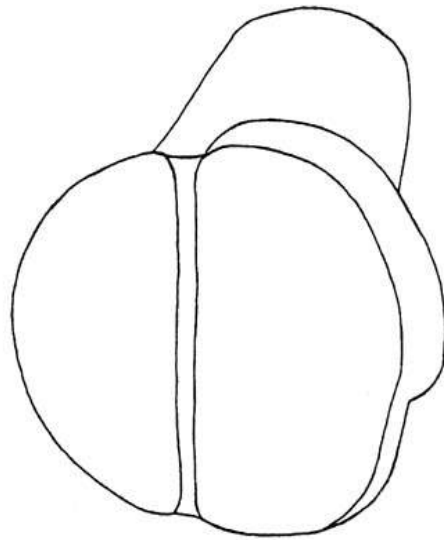
**Underside of Pedestal**

**Figure 35. Nim Li Punit, Miscellaneous Sculpture 1. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**<u>Nim Li Punit, Miscellaneous Sculpture 1</u>**

**Location:** Originally located by Nim Li Punit caretaker Placido Ash in the natural spring waterway that divides the West and South Groups. Now located under a thatched protective structure near the center of the stelae plaza.

**Condition:** Intact.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** "Bell-Shaped" tenon with well-polished sides. The circular flange at the base of the monument contains a narrow deep groove (1cm) that extends some 21cms up the length of the shaft.

**Dimensions:**
> HT:    .56 m
> MW:   .40 m
> WTC:  .22 m
> WBC:  .40 m
> MTH:  .22 m

**Line Drawings:**
> Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)
> John Montgomery, (SBEP, <u>Figure 35</u>)

**Photographic/Other References:**
> Sulak (Unpublished)
> Wanyerka (Unpublished)

# The Glyphic Corpus of Xnaheb, Toledo District, Belize

## The Monumental Inscriptions
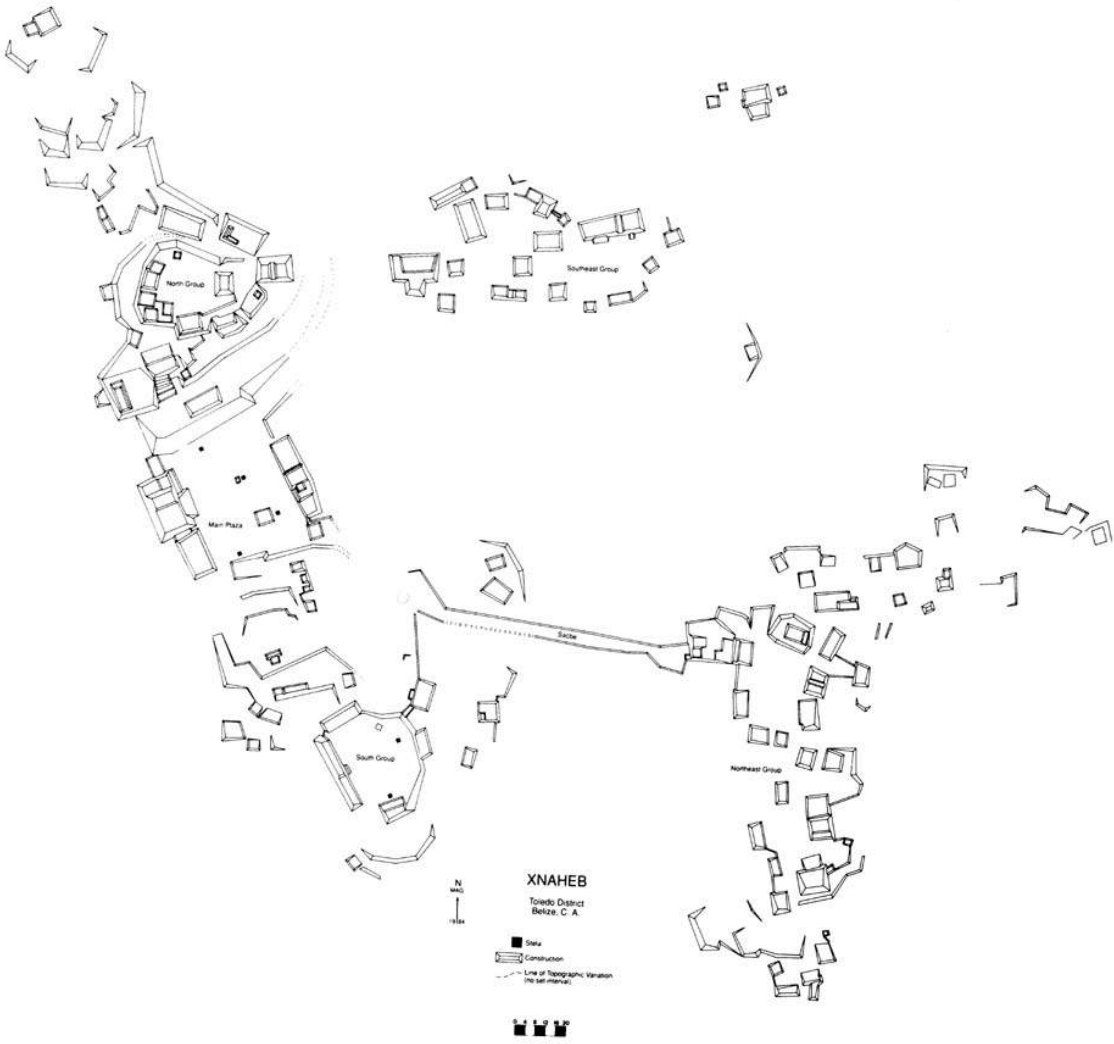


**Figure 36. Plan Map of Xnaheb.  (Drawn by and Courtesy of Richard Leventhal [Leventhal 1990: Map 8.3])**
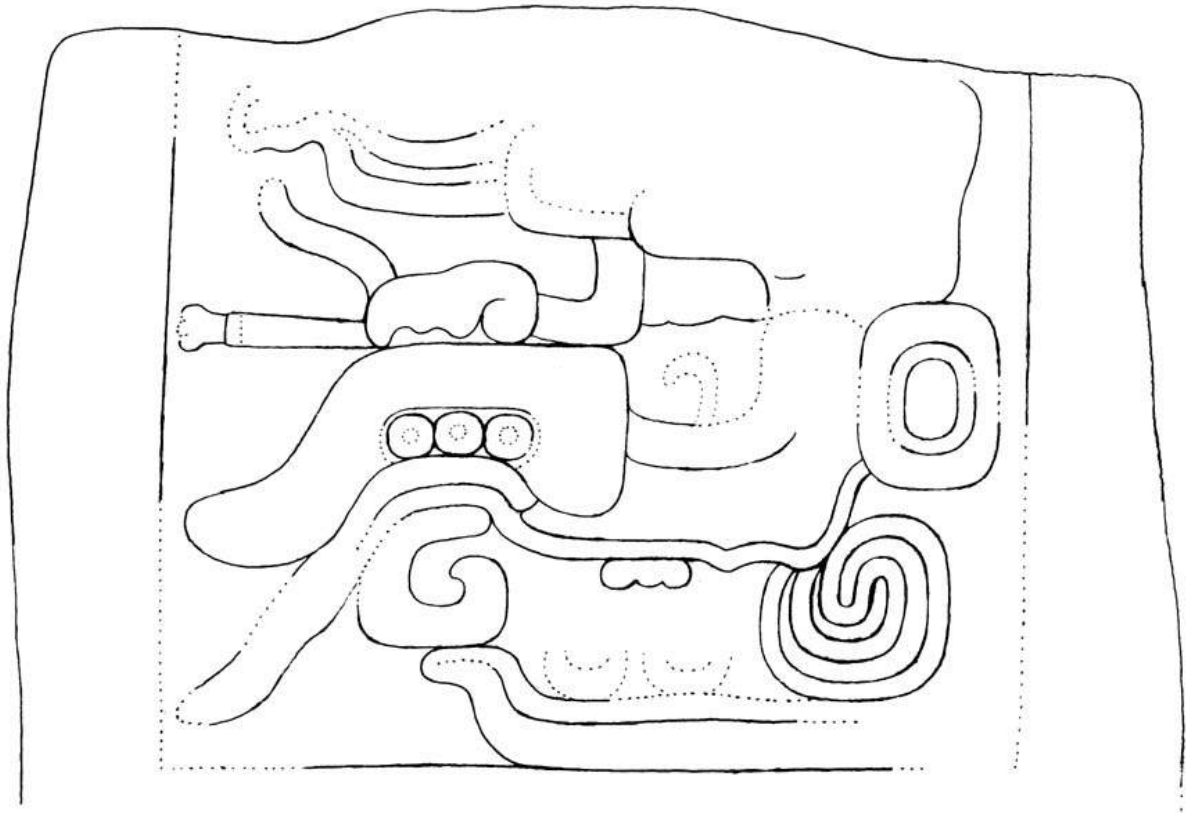
**Figure 37. Xnaheb, Stela 1. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

## Xnaheb, Stela 1

**Location:** Stela 1 was found by the Southern Belize Archaeological Project in 1986, standing directly against and behind Stela 2, in the northwest corner of the main plaza.

**Condition:** Broken. Stela 1 appears to be the lower half of a larger stela that has yet to be found. The surviving figural image is intact and deeply carved; however, parts of the upper surface of the image are now beginning to flake off due to the extreme fragility of the type of stone used in creating this monument.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Rectangular with well-dressed parallel sides. The upper half of the stela is now missing, but based on similarities to the monuments of Nim Li Punit, it is clear that this image of a *Witz* Monster probably served as a pedestal for the rest of the figural image and text of Stela 1.

**Dimensions:**

| | |
|---|---|
| HT: | .48 m (Base still buried and not included in overall measurement) |
| MW: | .59 m |
| HSA: | .32 m |
| WSA: | .46 m |
| WBC: | .59 m |
| WTC: | .59 m |
| MTH: | .34 m |
| RELS: | 14.8 mm |

**Carved Areas:** Front only. Depicts a profile head of a *Witz* Monster facing left. The upper portion of them monument has never been located.

**Dedicatory Date:** Late Classic Period. c.a. *9.17.10.0.0 12 *Ajaw* 8 *Pax* (28. November 780), based on dedicatory date of Stela 3, the only securely dated monument at the site.

**Line Drawings:**
John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 37)

**Photographic References:**
Hammond (Unpublished)
Leventhal (Unpublished)
Sulak (Unpublished)
Wanyerka (1999c: Figure 2)

**Other References:**
Dunham (1990:182)
Leventhal (1990:134)
Van Eysden *et al.* (1986:5)
Wanyerka (1999c:18)
Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** Stela 1 consists of a single image of a broken *Witz* Monster. The image probably served as a pedestal separating a figural scene and text that have not been located.
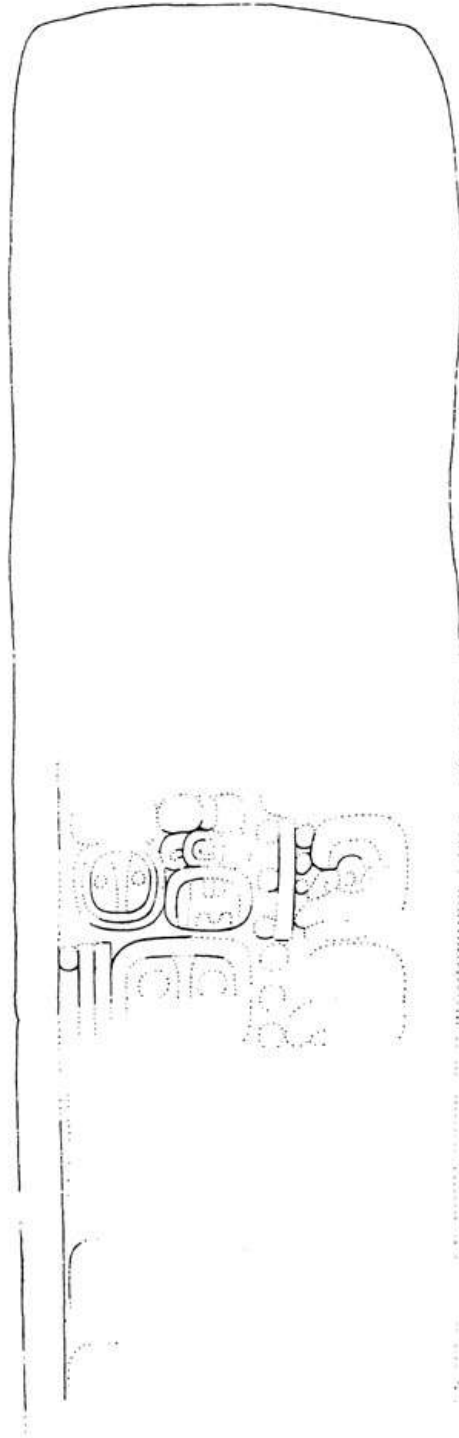
**Figure 38. Xnaheb, Stela 2, Lower Half. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**
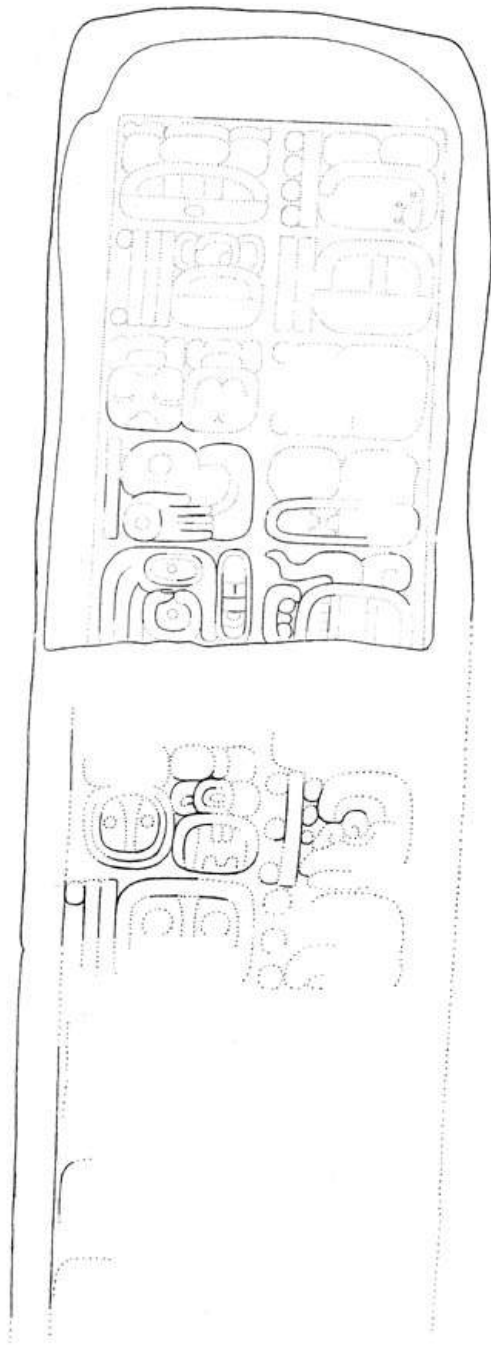
**Figure 39. Xnaheb, Stela 2, Overall. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Xnaheb, Stela 2**

**Location:** Stela 2 was found by the Southern Belize Archaeological Project in 1986 standing against and directly in front of the lower half of Stela 1, in the northwest corner of main plaza.

**Condition:** Broken. The entire upper surface of Stela 2 appears to have been removed, either intentionally or as a result of erosion whereby the upper half of the stela broke off as a result of cleaving. It now appears likely that the upper half of Stela 2 is in fact known and that it is probably the monument formerly known as *Stela 3 (see Figure 38 and Figure 39). The text is badly eroded, but the Initial Series Date of 9.17.10.0.0 can still be seen.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Rectangular with well-dressed parallel sides.

**Dimensions:**
      HT:     2.94 m
      MW:     .74  m
      HSA:   1.01 m (Lower Half)/ 1.13 m (Upper Half [*Stela 3] /Total Height: 2.14 m
      WSA:    .59 m
      WBC:    .64 m
      WTC:    .72 m
      MTH:    .27 m (Base)/ .16 m (Top)
      RELG:  9.8 mm

**Carved Areas:** Front only. The lower portion of Stela 2 includes the eroded remains of at least 8 glyph blocks and the upper portion of Stela 2 (formerly known as Stela 3) includes the recorded remains of 10 glyph blocks. Based on new measurements, photographs, and epigraphic date (Lunar Series and Calendar Round Date) it is likely that Stela 3 is the upper face of Stela 2.

**Dedicatory Date:** Late Classic Period. 9.17.10.0.0  12 *Ajaw* 8 *Pax* (28, November 780)

**Line Drawings:**
      Christian Prager (In Wanyerka 1999c:Figures 3 and 4)
      John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 39, Figure 40)

**Photographic References:**
      Norman Hammond (Unpublished)
      Richard Leventhal (Unpublished)
      Sulak (Unpublished)
      Wanyerka (1999c: Figure 2)

**Other References:**
      Dunham, Peter (1990:182)
      Leventhal (1990:134)
      Van Eysden *et al.* (1986:5)
      Wanyerka (1999c:18-19)
      Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** The text records the Initial Series Date of 9.17.10.0.0 and includes a typical "Fire Drilling" event as part of the Lunar Series information. The lower half of Stela 2 clearly records Glyph F and E of the Lunar Series as well as the first half of the Calendar Round date (12 *Ajaw*). Unfortunately, the rest of the text is now completely obliterated and is no longer readable. However, the vestiges of at least four glyph blocks can still be seen running along the left edge of the monument.

Text:
(Based on Stela 2 and the monument formerly known as Stela 3)

| | |
|---|---|
| A1: T124:25.?.25:548 | **tzi:ka.?.ka:HAAB'** |
| B1: TIX.200:548 | **B'OLON.PÍ/B'AK'TUUN:TUUN** |
| A2: TXVII.28:548 | **WUKLAJUN.K'ATUN:TUUN** |
| B2: TX.548 | **LAJUN.TUUN** |
| A3: T173:521.173:544 | **mi:WINAL.mi:K'IN** |
| B3: T?.? | **?.?** |
| A4: TV.683:713a.181 | **JÓ.UH:K'AL.ja (Glyph D)** |
| B4: T?.? | **?.?** |
| A5: T219[671].8? | **JÓ[chi].li?** |
| B6: T1.122:248 | **u.K'AK'/BUTZ:tzi** |
| A6: T?:675.128:60:23 | **?.?.ch'a.HUUN.na  (Glyph G2?/Glyph F)** |
| B6: TVIII.? | **WAXAK.? (Glyph E?)** |
| A7: TXII.533 | **LAJKÁ.AJAW** |
| B7: TIII.? | **OX.?** |
| A8: T?? | **??** |
| B8: T?? | **??** |
| A9: T?? | **??** |
| A10: T?? | **??** |

# Miscellaneous Sculpture
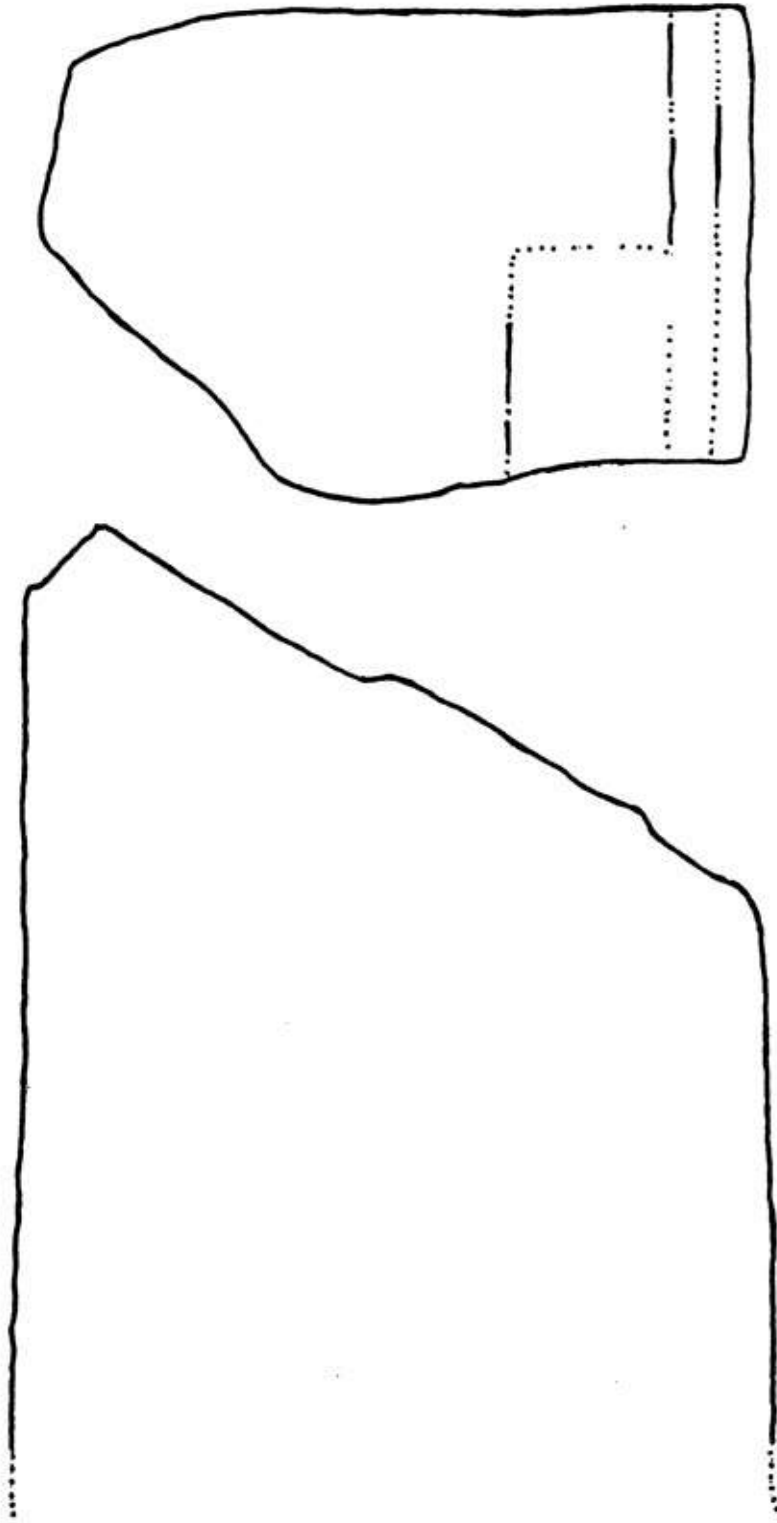


**Figure 40. Xnaheb, Stela 3. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**<u>Xnaheb, Stela 3 (*Formerly Known as Stela 4)</u>**
**Location:** Located along the south terrace of the main plaza.

**Condition:** Broken in six pieces. Large portions of this monument have now cleaved off in thin-sections that are between 9-16 cm thick.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Rectangular with well-dressed parallel sides.

**Dimensions:**
      HT:    2.14 m
      MW:   1.18 m
      HSA:  Text Border .72 m
      WSA:  Text Border .08 m
      WBC: 1.18 m
      WTC:   .98 m
      MTH:  .22 m
      RELS: 10.5 mm

**Carved Areas:** Front only. The only image visible on the monument today is a partial text border running along the upper right side of the monument.

**Dedicatory Date:** *Late Classic Period. (Based on dedicatory date of Stela 2)

**Line Drawings:**
      Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)
      John Montgomery (SBEP, <u>Figure 40</u>)

**Photographic References:**
      Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Commentary:** Nothing remains of the original text or figural scene, except for a partial text border.

# The Glyphic Corpus of Pusilhá, Toledo District, Belize

## The Monumental Inscriptions
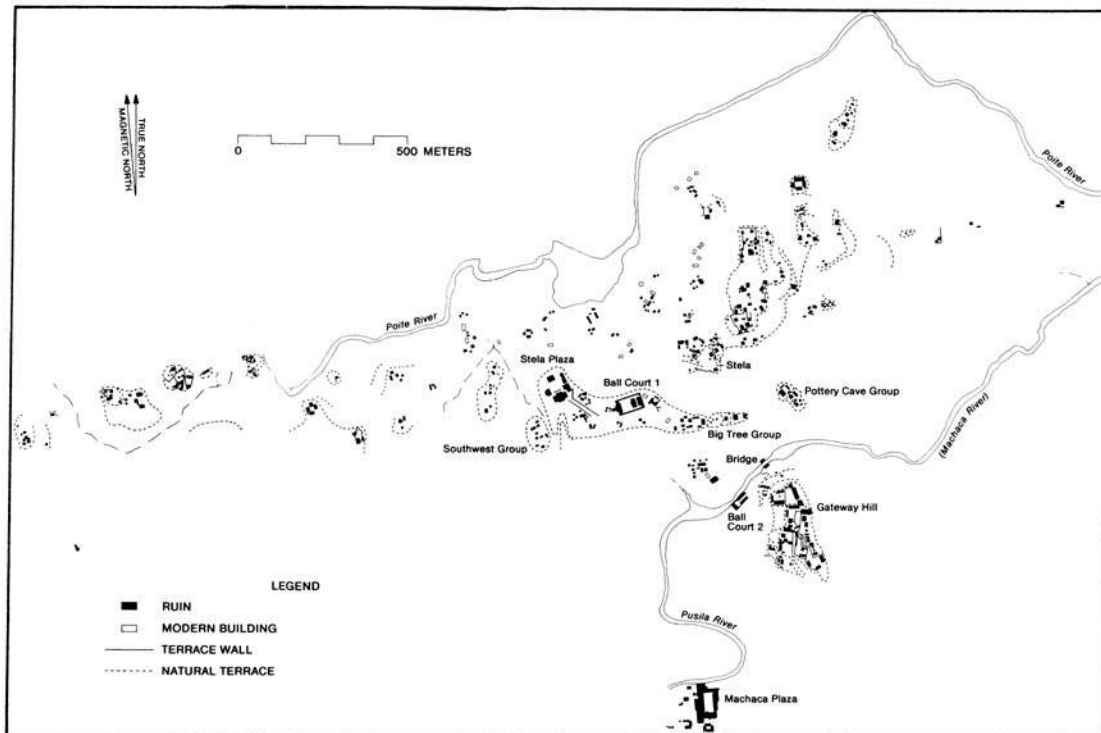


**Figure 41. Map of Pusilhá (Drawn by and Courtesy of Richard Leventhal [Leventhal 1990: Map 8.1])**
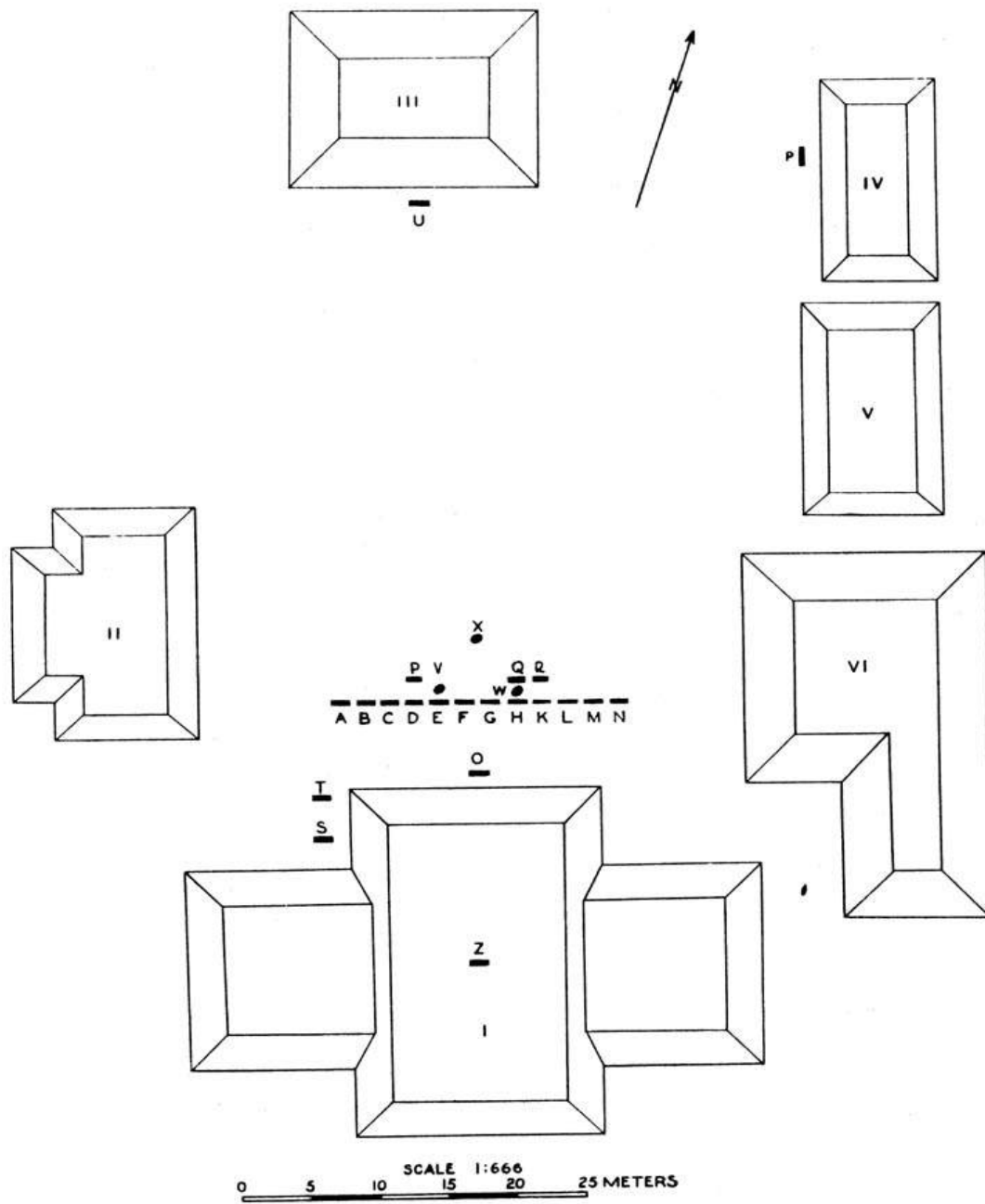
**Figure 42. Plan Map of Pusilhá Stela Plaza (Drawn by Sylvanus Morley, 1937-38:Vol. V:Plate 199a )**
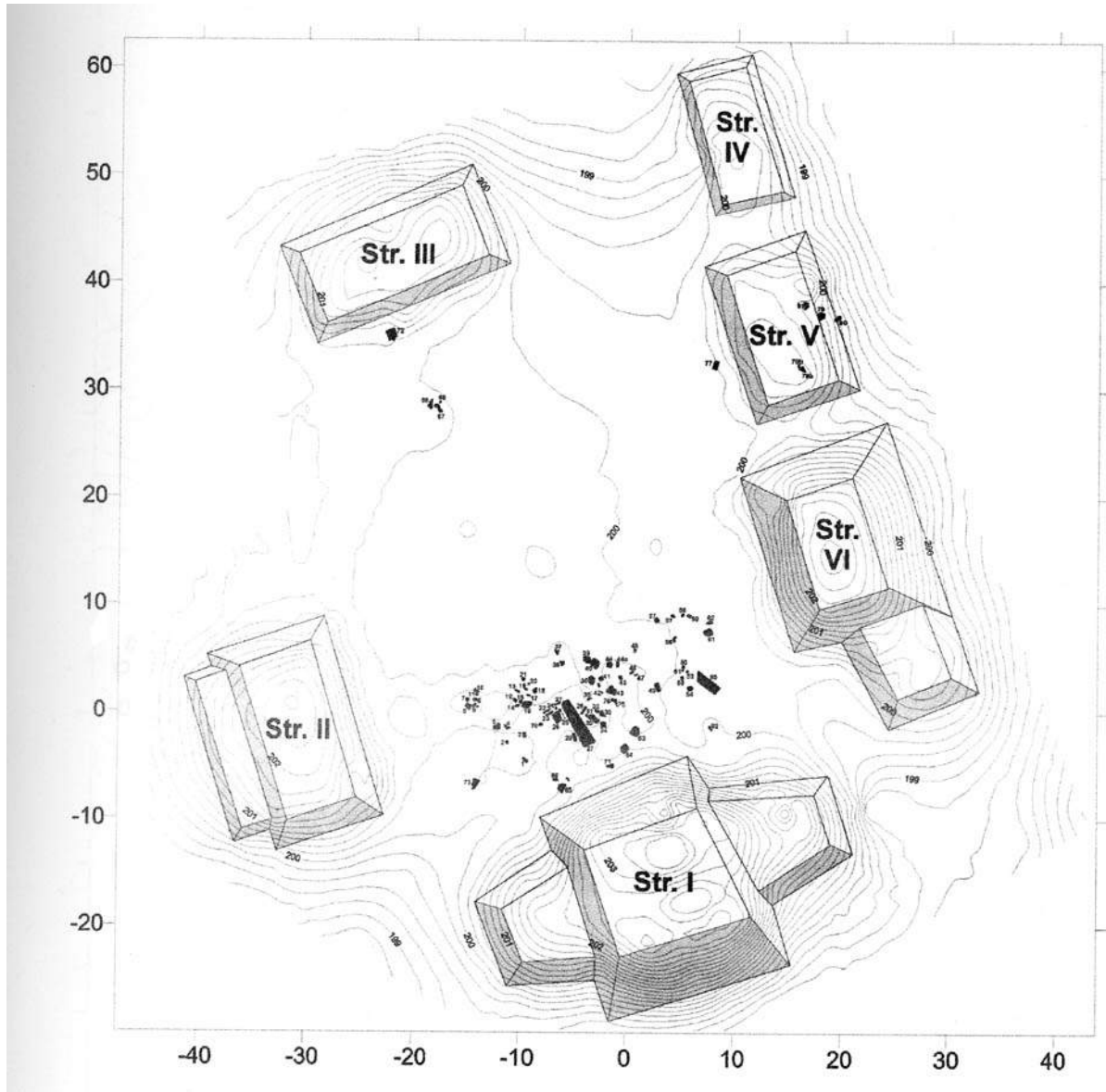
**Figure 43. Plan Map of the Pusilhá Stela Plaza. (Drawn by and Courtesy of Geoffrey E. Braswell [Braswell *et al*. 2002:Figure 1.2])**

**Figure 44. Pusilhá, Stela C. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

# Kan Ch'ok Tzuk Title
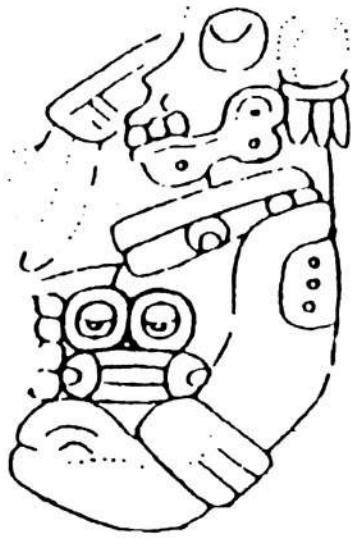
Qurigua: St. J

Copan: St. 7

Copan: St. I

Pusilha: St. C

**Figure 45. The *Kan Ch'ok* and *Kan Ch'ok Tzuk* Title.**
    **a). Pusilhá, Stela C: Headdress: (Drawing by John Montgomery)**
    **b). Quirigua, Stela J: G8: (Drawing by Matt Looper)**
    **c). Copan, Stela 7: B9: (Drawing by Barbara Fash)**
    **d). Copan, Stela I: B2: Drawing by Barbara Fash)**

**Pusilhá, Stela C**
**Location:** Stela C was originally located third from the right in the row of 12 monuments in front (north) of Structure 1 in the south side of the Main Plaza. The stela was first reported by T.W.F. Gann in December 1927 as part of the British Museum Expedition to British Honduras. Joyce moved the stela to London in 1929 where it now resides in storage at the British Museum.

**Condition:** Broken into at least four pieces with the base of Stela C still in situ at the site. Portions of the monument are still missing. The monument was carved in low relief and has suffered the effects of weathering, especially along the upper half of the monument.

**Material:** Joyce *et al.* (1928:330) reports the monument as being made of conglomerate while Morley (1937-38: Vol. IV: 25) reports the monument was made of from a coarse white limestone.

**Shape:** Rectangular with well-dressed parallel sides.

**Dimensions:** (All dimensions come from Morley 1937-38:Vol. IV:25, except where noted).
HT:            2.89 m
MW:           1.05 m
MTH:           .30 m
RELS:          1.8 cm (Prager 2002:19)

**Carved Areas:** Front only. Includes a portrait of a standing male figure facing left holding a Double-Headed Serpent Bar with elaborate images of Tlaloc emerging from both ends. In addition, the stela contains a two glyph block text, located in the lower right-hand portion of the figural scene and a single glyph in the headdress.

**Dedicatory Date:** *Middle Classic Period. Morley (1937-38:Vol. IV:24) dates Stela C to 9.9.0.0.0  3 *Ajaw* 3 *Sotz* (9, May 613) based on stylistic evidence. However, based on the glyphic reference to the *Kan Ch'ok* or "Four Youths" Title as recorded in the individual's headdress, a reference that also appears in the inscriptions of both Quirigua (Stela J at G8, 9.15.6.14.6) and Copan (Stela I at B2, 9.12.3.14.0), Morley's date is probably correct. On Copan, Stela 7 (B9) the *Kan Ch'ok* title is recorded in nearly the same identical fashion, although the Stela C lacks the *tzuk* or "partition" part of the full glyphic title (see Wanyerka 2004 and Figure 45).

**Line Drawings:**
Christian Prager (2002: Figure 1)
Berthold Riese (1980: Figure 1)
John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 44)

**Photographic References:**
Gann (1928:128)
Joyce *et al.* 1928: Plate XXVI)
Morley (1938:Vol.V:Plate 166c)

**Other References:**
Gann (1929:120, 124-125, 129-132, 147)
Gann (1930:189)

Hammond (1975:272-274)
Joyce *et al.* (1928:329-331)
Morley (1938: Vol. IV:24-26)
Prager 2002:17-23)
Proskouriakoff (1993:46)
Reents (1982:30)
Rice (1974:Table 1)
Riese (1980:4)
Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** The iconography of Stela C is perhaps the most elaborate and complex in all of southern Belize. The figural scene clearly depicts a standing male figure, facing left cradling a Double-Headed Serpent Bar in hie arms. Emerging from both ends of his Serpent bar are two stunning images of the goggle-eyed God Tlaloc who appear in the open mouths of two separate reptilian heads mounted at either end of the Serpent Bar. In addition, two other ancestral images can be found emerging from two other reptilian heads to the front and rear of the individual's headdress. Perhaps the most interesting aspect of Stela C is the small full-figured portrait of a seated skeletal deity, located at the top of the monument as a central element of the individual's headdress. While the identity of this small figure is unknown, he cradles a three-part glyph that as a title, reads *KAN ch'o-ko* or *Kan Ch'ok* meaning "Four Youths." This title appears in the inscriptions of both Quirigua and Copan in titular phrases that appear to refer to the "Four Sacred Partition Youths" as perhaps a metaphorical reference to the four most important dynastic lineages presumably of Copan (see Wanyerka 2004). The two-glyph block text located at the lower right of the figural scene is a text captions for a seated captive whose headdress is still visible on the monument, just below this text. The name of the captive appears to include the glyphic collocation *Itz'am B'alam*. Unfortunately, who this individual was and where he came from cannot be ascertained at the present time; however, the appearance of a captive and his name glyph indicates that the ruler of Pusilhá probably participated in some "captive-taking" warfare event around the year 613.

Text:
pA1: TIV.287:110     **KAN.CH'OK/ch'o:ko**

pB1: T?.?            **?.?**
pC1: T152.752      **ITZ'AM.B'ALAM**

**Figure 46. Pusilhá, Stela D, Front. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Figure 47. Pusilhá, Stela D, Back. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Pusilhá, Stela D**

**Location:** Stela D was originally located fourth from the right in the row of 12 monuments in front (north) of Structure 1 in the south side of the Main Plaza. The stela was first reported by J. Eric Thompson on October 3, 1927 as part of the British Museum Expedition to British Honduras and later moved to London in 1929 where it now resides in storage at the British Museum.

**Condition:** Broken into four pieces. The monument was carved in low relief and has suffered the effects of weathering, especially along the break lines of the text. The front of Stela D is extremely eroded and only the rough vestiges of the upper torso and head of a standing figure facing left can be seen.

**Material:** Joyce *et al.* (1928:331) reports the monument as being made of white limestone.

**Shape:** Rectangular with well-dressed parallel sides.

**Dimensions:** (All dimensions come from Morley 1938:Vol.IV:25, except where noted).
HT:           2.84 m
MW:           1.16 m
HSA:          2.11 m
MTH:           .16 m
RELG:      0.9-1.2 cm (Prager 2002:26)

**Carved Areas:** Front and Back. The front of Stela D features a badly eroded image of a standing ruler, with a huge flowing headdress facing left. The back of Stela D features a long 112 glyph-block text.

**Dedicatory Date:** Late Classic Period. 9.10.15.0.0  6 *Ajaw* 13 *Mak* (7, November 647)

**Line Drawings:**
Morley (1938:Vol. 5: Plate 47c and d)
Christian Prager (2002: Figure 4)
Berthold Riese (1980: Figure 2)
J. Eric Thompson (1928: 96, Figure C)
John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 46, Figure 47)

**Photographic References:**
Gann (1929:130)
Gann (1930: Plate II)
Joyce (1929: Plate 38: Figure 2)
Joyce *et al.* (1928: Plate 27: Figure 1, and Plate 36)
Morley (1938:Vol. V: Plate 163d)

**Other References:**
Braswell (2001:8, 11)
Braswell (2002:6)
Braswell (2003a:102)
Braswell *et al.* (2002:6-8)

Gann (1929: 120, 124-125, 127, 132-134, 147, 157)
Hammond (1975:272-274)
Joyce (1929:452)
Joyce *et al.* (1928:329-332, 346)
Morley (1928:318-320)
Morley (1938: Vol. IV.36-45)
Prager (2002:24-30)
Proskouriakoff (1993:56)
Reents (1982:1, 4-5, 10, 12, 17-20)
Rice (1974:25-27
Riese (1974: 4-5)
Schele and Grube (1994a:103-105, 126-137)
Schele and Grube (1994b:118
Schele and Looper (1996a:119)
Schele and Looper (1996b:88)
Teeple (1930:50: Table 3)
Thompson (1928:215)
Thompson (1928:95-97)
Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** Stela D contains one of the longest hieroglyphic texts in Belize. The text describes a series of battles against an individual from the "Water Scroll" site (perhaps Altun Há). At least two other antagonistic battles or events are described on this stela involving the "breaking in half of stelae" at a site, presumably in Guatemala, that has yet to be identified archaeologically. However, based on other epigraphic evidence, primarily a captive name on Sculptural Fragment 17 from Pusilhá that names an individual from the *B'alam* site, may suggest that this was the site that was repeatedly attacked.

Perhaps the most intriguing passage on Stela D is a reference within an *u-kab'iij* "agency" expression that names a personage resembling the contemporary king of Copan *K'ak' U-Naab' K'awiil*. It would appear that the rulers of Pusilhá were either borrowing the names of Copan rulers or these could in fact, be actual references to specific Copan kings who may have claimed dominion over the site of Pusilhá, perhaps as one of Copan's tributary provinces. However, this remains to be seen.

Chronology:

A1-A7:    *9.8.0.0.0  5 *Ajaw* 3 *Ch'en* (22, August 593). The Initial Series date as recorded on the monument appears to be 9.3.0.0.0    5 *Ajaw* 3 *Sak*; however, for the rest of the math to work out properly the Initial Series date must be 9.8.0.0.0.

C8-C11:    9.8.0. 0. 0   5 *Ajaw* 3 *Ch'en*
+    1.12.17
9.8.1.12.8   2 *Lamat* 1 *Sip* (22, April 595)

E10-E12:    9.8.1.12.8    2 *Lamat* 1 *Sip*
+2.13.5.12
9.10.15.0.0   6 *Ajaw* 13 *Mak*  (7, November 647)

G3-G10:      9.10.15.0.0   6 *Ajaw* 13 *Mak* (7, November 647)

Text:
A1-B2: T124:25.683.25:548:255     **tzi:ka.JA.ka:HAAB':DET.**
A3: TIX.200               **B'OLON.PÍ**
B3: TIII:28:548:142        **OX:K'ATUN:TUUN:ma**
A4: T173:548             **mi:TUUN**
B4: T173:521             **mi:WINAL**
A5: T173:541.V:533        **mi:K'IN.JÓ.AJAW**
B5: T135:?:60:23           **ch'a:?:HUUN:na**
A6: TXVII.218:24.126      **WUKLAJUN.JUL:li:ya**
B6: TIV:1000a:713.181    **KAN.IXIK:K'AL.ja**
A7: T683:X.III:58:60:528  **K'AL:LAJUN.OX:SAK:hi.ku**
B7: T218:575             **TZUTZ:yi**
A8: TVIII:28:548:255      **WAXAK:K'ATUN:TUUN:ma**
B8: T4:218?:142           **NAJ:TZUTZ?:ma**
A9: T904                **AK'AB'**
B9: T905                **K'IN**
A10: T1:68:586a.130       **u:tz'a:pa.wa**
B10:1084               **LAKAM**
A11: T32:35.528          **K'UL:K'UHUL.TUUN**
B11: T1:591             **u:CH'EN**
A12: T?:?               **?:?**
B12: T?:117:507         **?:wi:tzi**
A13: T59.33:?            **ti.K'UHUL:?**
B13: T1:526:125        **u:KAB':ya**
A14: TVII:1135:764     **WUK:CHAPAT:CHAN/KA'AN**
B14: T1030d:561:23     **K'AWIIL:CHAN/KA'AN:na**

C1: T1030d[561]:23     **K'AWIIL[CHAN/KA'AN]:na**
D1: T671[544]:116      **chi[K'IN]:ni**
C2: TIII.XI:200         **OX.B'ULUK:PÍ**
D2: T228.168:518?      **AJ.AJAW:AJAW?**
C3: TIV.28:548         **KAN.K'ATUN:TUUN**
D3: T93.672:142        **ch'a.jó:ma**
C4: T1030d[561]:23     **K'AWIIL[CHAN/KA'AN]:na**
D4: T671[544]:116      **chi[K'IN]:ni**
C5: T1008v?            **WÉ**
D5: T58:203b.592:23     **SAK:tz'u.nu:na**
C6: T954:541.116      **OCH:K'IN.ni**
D6: T[74:513?.528]:87    **[KALOOM]:te**
C7: T12:671.671       **AJ:chi.chi**
D7: T33.168:559:130    **K'UHUL.AJAW:TZUK/UNIIW:130**
C8: T1.573:12         **u.TZ'AK:AJ**
D8: TXVII:574:130     **WUKLAJUN:É:wo**
C9: TXII:521:136      **LAJKÁ:WINIK:ji**
D9: T60:548:126       **HUUN:HAAB':ya**

C10: T1:59:126     **u:ti:ya**
D10: TV:533     **JÓ.AJAW**
C11: TIII.?:528:142   **OX.?:SIHOM:ma**
D11: T679.669:630:126  **Í.k'a:sa:ya**
C12: T767.528:116   **LAKAM.TUUN:ni**
D12: T1:526.136.126   **u:KAB':ji.ya**
C13: T116.578:585a   **ni.ja:b'i**
D13: T266:21:17    **ju:b'u:yi**
C14: T1:245.1:624:139  **u:TOOK'.u:PAKAL:?**
D14: T74:504:178    **ma:AK'AB':la**

E1: T?        **?**
F1: T?        **?**
E2: T122:578    **K'AK':JÁ?**
F2: T?:?       **?:?**
E3: T1.1040     **u.JOL**
F3: ?:?       **?:?**
E4: T1:59:126     **u:ti:ya**
F4: T?:?:?      **?:?:?**
E5: T220:?      **ko/ye:É**
F5: T528:116     **TUUN:ni**
E6: T1.526:136.126   **u.KAB':ji.ya**
F6: TIV:756     **KAN:xu**
E7: T928?      **k'e (Xuk?)**
F7: T12:115.221    **AJ.yo.k'o**
E8: T501?:136     **b'a:ji**
F8: T77:77:17     **ch'i:ch'i:yi**
E9: TII:510     **KÁ:LAMAT**
F9: TI.109:552    **HUUN.CHAK:K'AT**
E10: T1.573:12    **u.TZAK:AJ**
F10: TXII:574    **LAJKÁ:É**
E11: TV.52:125    **JÓ.WINIK:ya**
F11: TVIII:548:126   **WAXAK:HAAB':ya**
E12: TII.28:548:126   **KÁ.K'ATUN:TUUN:ya**
F12: T669:630:126   **k'a:sa:ya**
E13: T767.528:116   **LAKAM.TUUN:ni**
F13: T1:526:136    **u:KAB':ji**
E14: T578:116.585   **JÁ:ni.b'i**
F14: T679:765:178.181  **Í.WÁ:la.ja**

G1: T?:?       **?:?**
H1: T?.?:?      **?.?:?**
G2: TVI.533     **WAK.AJAW**
H2: TXIII.74:25:?   **OXLAJUN.ma:ka:?**
G3: T1.573:12     **u.TZ'AK:AJ**
H3: T124:25.?.25:548  **tzi:ka.?.ka:HAAB'**
G4: TIX:200     **B'OLON:PÍ**
H4: TX.28:548    **LAJUN.K'ATUN:TUUN**
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G5: TXV.548:142    **JÓLAJUN.TUUN.ma**
H5: T173:521    **mi:WINAL**
G6: T173.541:116   **mi.K'IN:ni**
H6: TVI:533    **WAK:AJAW**
G7: T135:544:116   **cha:K'IN:ni**
H7: T128:60:23    **ch'a:JUUN:na**
G8: TIII:683:534   **OX:K'AL:la**
H8: T266:88:126   **ju:li:ya**
G9: TIII:?.181:713   **OX:?.ja:K'AL**
H9: T683:X     **K'AL:LAJUN**
G10: TXIII.74:617?:25  **OXLAJUN.ma:?:ka**
H10: T1:68:586.130   **u:tz'a:pa.wa**
G11: T1084     **LAKAM**
H11: T45:33.528:116   **K'UHUL:K'UHUL.TUUN:ni**
G12: T150.117:779   **ta.wi:tzi**
H12: T59.33:561?/569?  **ti.K'UHUL:KA'AN/MUTUL?/**
G13: T1:526:136   **u:KAB':ji**
H13: T1:122.561:23   **u:K'AK'.CHAN/KA'AN:na**
G14: T33:561    **K'UHUL:CHAN/KA'AN**
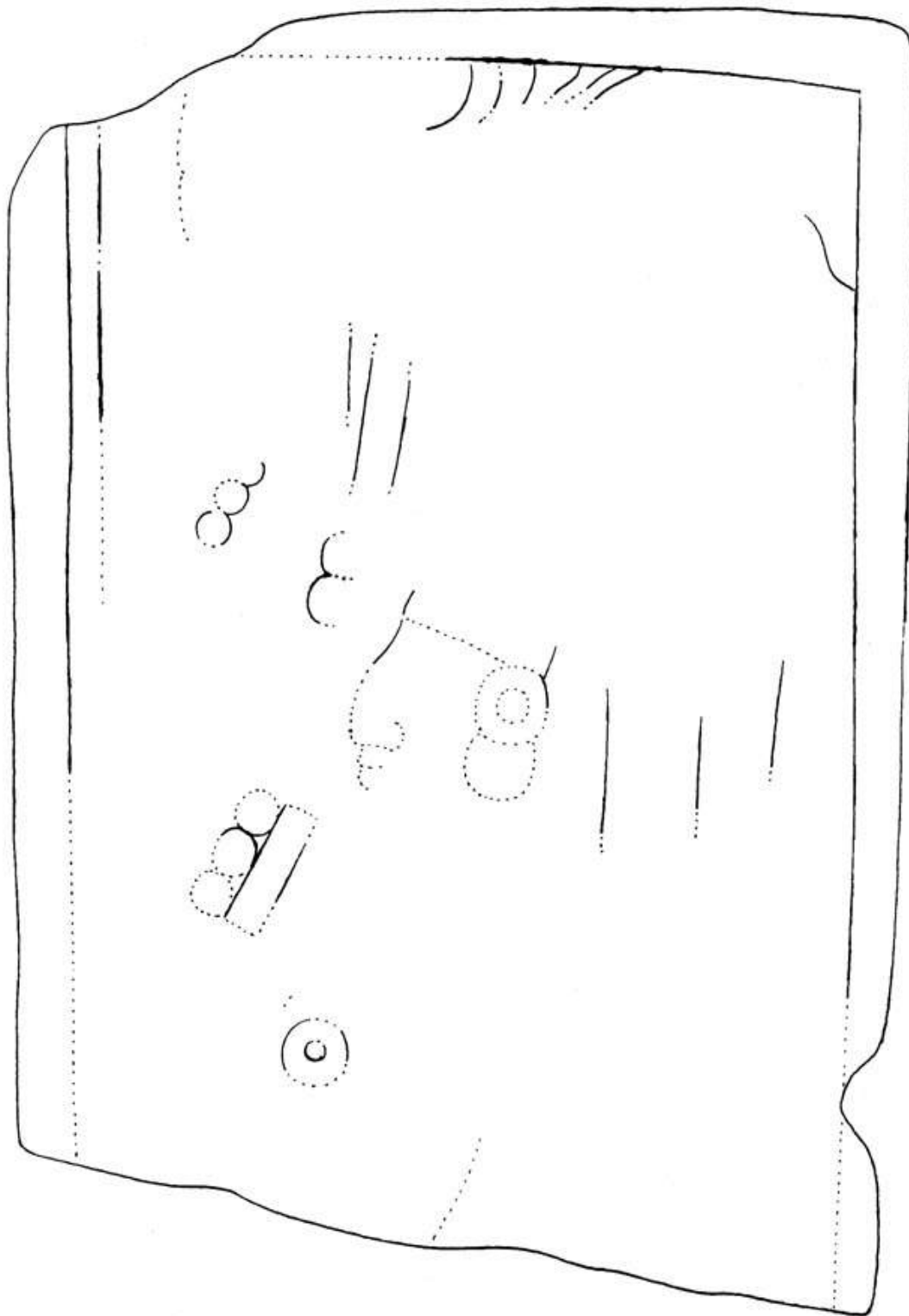H14: T168:559.130   **AJAW:TZUK/UNIIW.wa**

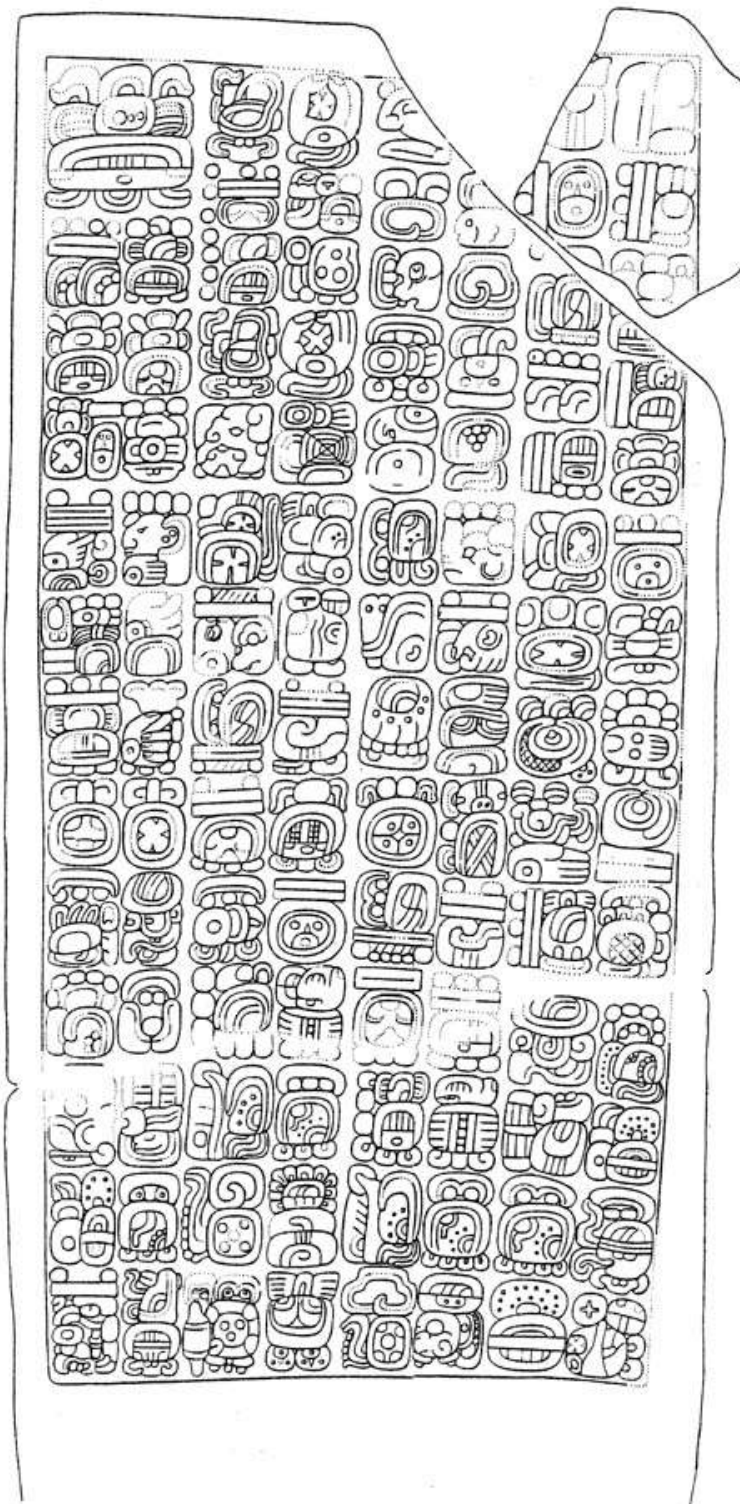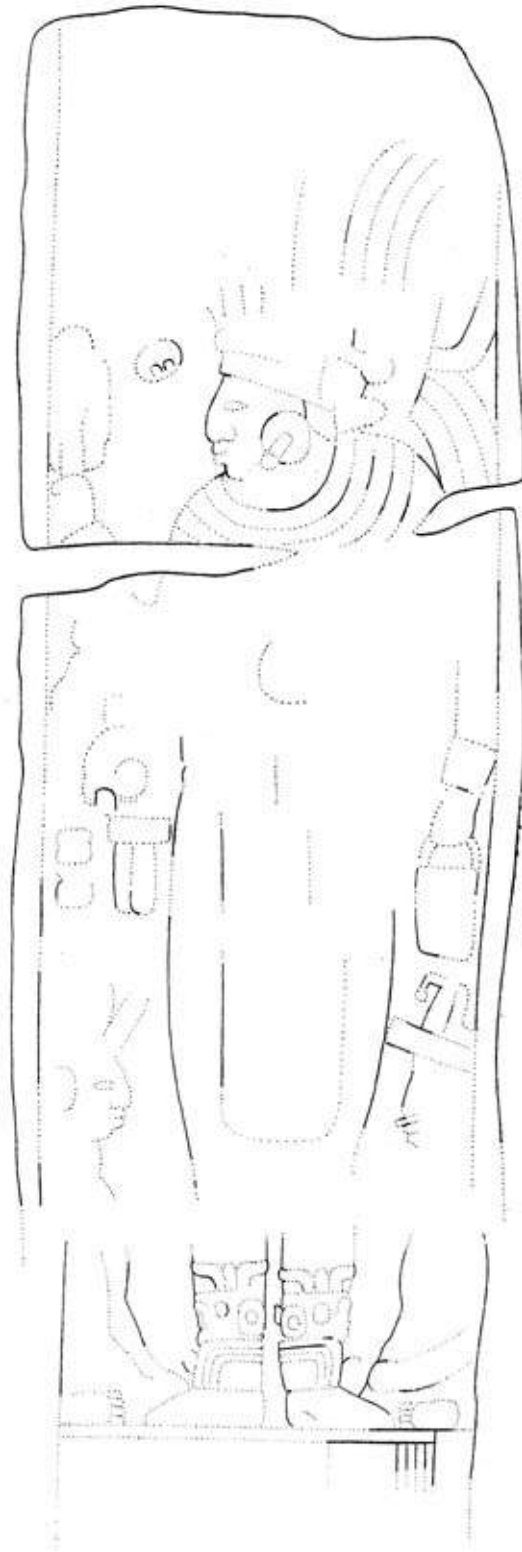**Figure 48. Pusilhá, Stela E, Front. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**
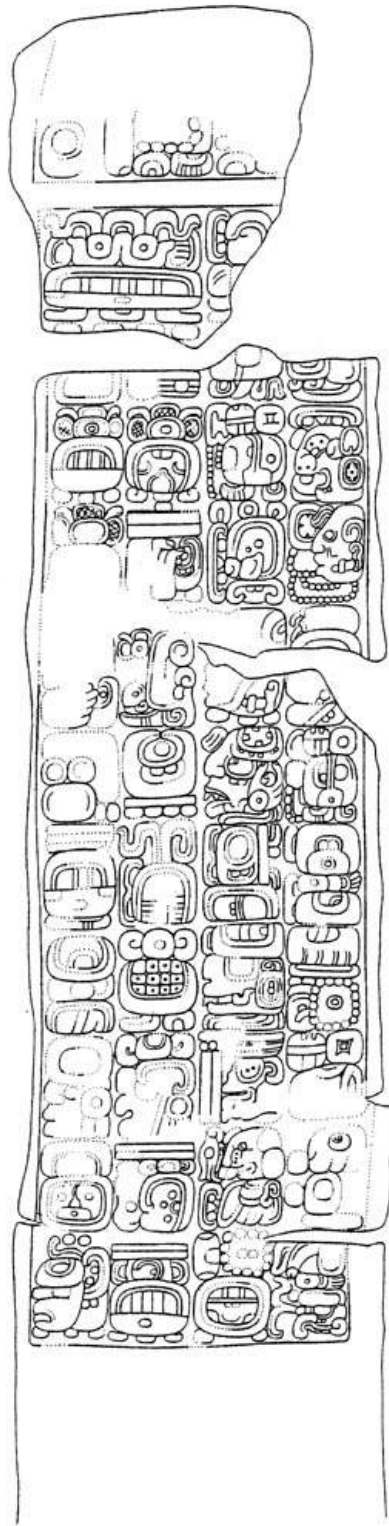
**Figure 49. Pusilhá, Stela E, Back. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Pusilhá, Stela E**

**Location:** Stela E was originally located fifth from the right in the row of 12 monuments in front (north) of Structure 1 in the south side of the Main Plaza. The stela was first reported by T.W.F. Gann in the spring of 1928 as part of the British Museum Expedition to British Honduras. Joyce moved the stela to London in 1929 where it now resides in storage at the British Museum.

**Condition:** Broken into at least six pieces with a fragment of the upper right-hand text still missing. The base of the monument, that includes the feet of a standing ruler along with two flanking seated captives, is still in situ at the site today. The front of Stela E is badly eroded and little details can be discerned. The textual side of Stela E was carved in low relief and much of its text is still visible today.

**Material:** Morley (1937-38: Vol. IV:56) reports the monument was made of a hard limestone.

**Shape:** Rectangular with well-dressed parallel sides.

**Dimensions: (**All dimensions come from Morley 1937-38: Vol.IV:57, except where noted).
        HT:             3.5 m
        MW:             .81 m
        HSA:            2.62 m
        MTH:            .30 m
        RELG:           .4 cm (Prager 2002:33)

**Carved Areas:** Front and Back. The front of Stela E depicts a standing male individual facing left, holding an incense bag in his left hand and perhaps a scepter in his right. Flanking the ruler's legs are two seated captives. The back of Stela E features a 46 glyph block text recorded in four columns.

**Dedicatory Date:** Late Classic Period. 9.15.0.0.0  4 *Ajaw* 13 *Yax* (18, August 731)

**Line Drawings:**
        John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 48, Figure 49)
        Sylvanus G. Morley (1937-38: Vol. V: Plate 46e)
        Christian Prager (2002: Figure 6 and Figure 7)
        Berthold Riese (1980: Figure 3)

**Photographic References:**
        Gann (1929:132)
        Joyce *et al.* (1928:Plate 27, Figure 2; Plate 37, Figure 1)
        Morley (1937-38: Vol. V: Plate 165a and 166e)

**Other References:**
        Braswell *et al.* (2002:6, 8)
        Gann (1929:120, 124-125, 127, 129, 134-136, 153-155)
        Gann (1930:189-190)
        Hammond (1975:272-274)
        Joyce (1929:452)
        Joyce *et al.* (1928:329-330, 333, 339, 346)

Morley (1928:319-320)
Morley (1937-38: Vol. IV: 56-60)
Prager (2002: 31-37)
Proskouriakoff (1993:91)
Reents (1982: 1-2, 6-7)
Rice (1974:25, Table I)
Riese (1980:5)
Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** The text of Stela E is written in a slightly unusual fashion. The main text does not begin with the standard Initial Series count. Unfortunately, little can be read of this upper portion of the text due to breakage and erosion. The text then continues with the actual Initial Series Date of 9.15.0.0.0 (4 *Ajaw* 13 *Yax*, or 18, August 731) and supporting Lunar Series. The text then includes a reference to another "fire" ritual within the Lunar Series data followed by the Calendar Round date. On this day, a "stone-binding" ritual was performed by *K'ak' ...Ka'an,* the ruler of Pusilhá. The text then provides a parentage statement for this ruler. His mother's name was *Ixik K'inich Ich'ak ...* ("Lady Great or Resplendent Claw") and she appears to have been a divine woman of Pusilhá. The father is also named and his name appears to be *K'inich Bak Mo'* ("Great Bone Macaw…"). Unfortunately, due to a breakage in the monument it is unclear as to where he hails from.

Chronology:
            E1-F11:          *9.15.0.0.0    4 *Ajaw* 13 *Yax* (18, August 731)

            F12:                 the 15th *K'atun*

Text:
A1: T??                        **??**
B1: T?:130                     **?:wa**
C1: T??                        **??**
D1:  Missing                   **??**

E1-F2: T124:25.510.25:548:255       **tzi:ka.EK'.ka:HAAB'/TUUN:ma**
E3: TIX:?                       **B'OLON:(PÍ)**
F3: TXV:?                       **JÓLAJUN:(K'ATUN)**
E4: T173:548:142               **mi:TUUN:ma**
F4: T173:521:126               **mi.WINAL:ya**
E5: T173:?                     **mi.(TUUN)**
F5: TXI:953.181                **B'ULUK:JUL.ja**
E6: T?:713.181                 **?:K'AL.ja**
F6: T173:32.1132               **mi:K'U.CHAN/KA'AN**
E7: T?.187:287:110             **?.K'AB'A:CH'OK:ko**
F7: T683:X                     **K'AL:LAJUN**
E8: T283:548:?                 **?:TUUN:?**
F8: T122:1.248                 **K'AK'/BUTZ':u.tzi**
E9: T121:676:88                **li:TAL:ji**
F9: T61:708:130                **yu:ko:wa**
E10: T617:?                    **li:?**

F10: T?:?                    **?:?**
E11: T59:533             **ti:AJAW**
F11: TXIII:16.60:528?      **OXLAJUN:YAX.HUUN:?**
E12: T1017².181        **tzutzu.ja**
F12: TXV:28:548:255      **JÓLAJUN:K'ATUN:TUUN:ma**

G1: T1.528:713?         **U.TUUN:K'AL**
H1: Missing              **??**
G2: T?.?                    **?:?**
H2: Missing               **??**
G3: T?:122               **?:K'AK'**
H3: T?.561?:?            **?.CHAN/KA'AN:?**
G4: T37.168:559:130       **K'U.AJAW:TZUK/UNIIW:wa**
H4: T1:757               **u:B'AJ**
G5: T1.I:606:23           **u.HUUN:TAN:na**
H5: T1001                **JOY K'UHUL IXIK**
G6: T1000a               **IXIK**
H6: T931:?:102           **ICH'AK:?:ki**
G7: T1010[671]:116       **K'IN[chi]:ni**
H7: T36.168:559:130       **K'U.AJAW:TZUK/UNIIW:130**
G8: T1.57:88             **u/si:ji**
H8: T1.580:59:712         **u.CHIT:ti:CH'AB'**
G9: T1010[671]:116       **K'IN[chi]:ni**
H9: T501:25:57.582        **ba:ka:si.MO'**
G10: TX.?:?              **LAJUN.?:?**
H10: T168:?             **AJAW:?**
G11: T204.757:1.712       **u.B'AJ:u.CH'AB'**
H11: T?.?:I.1008v:130      **?.?:HUUN.WÉ:wa**
G12: T109:?:281          **CHAK:?K'AN**
H12: T1030               **K'AWIIL**
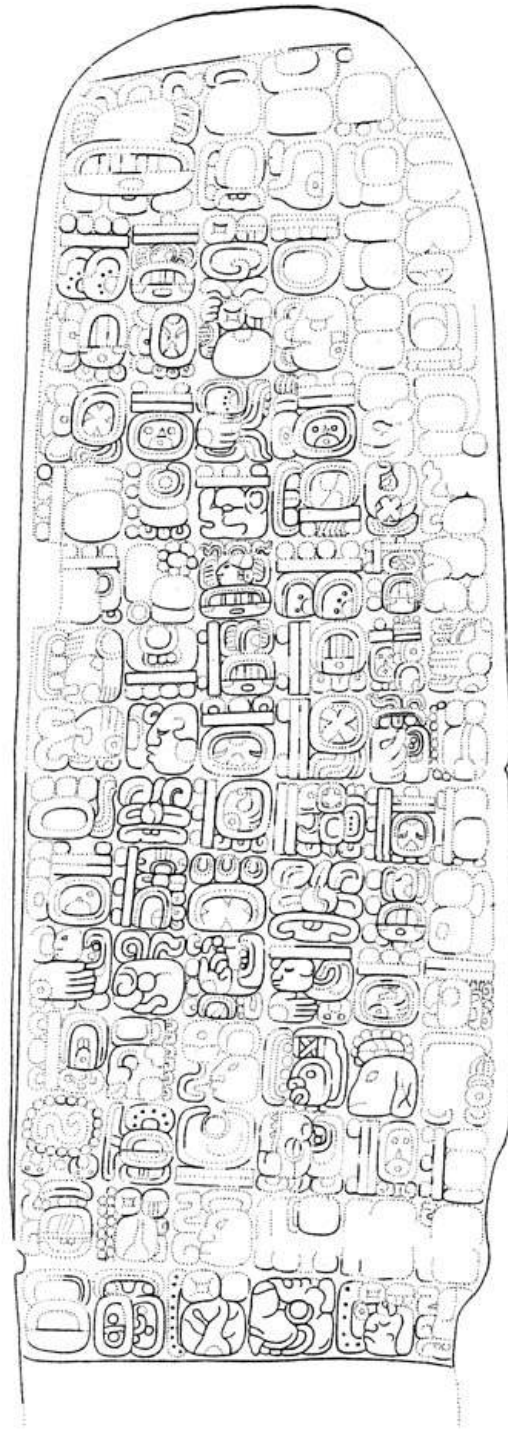
**Figure 50. Pusilhá, Stela H, Back. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Pusilhá, Stela H**

**Location:** Stela H was originally located eighth from the right in the row of 12 monuments in front (north) of Structure 1 in the south side of the Main Plaza. The stela was first reported by T.W.F. Gann in the spring of 1928 as part of the British Museum Expedition to British Honduras. Joyce moved the stela to London in 1929 where it now resides in storage at the British Museum.

**Condition:** Broken in two pieces with the base of Stela H still in situ at the site. Large areas of the text, especially along the sides of the monument are now badly eroded. No my knowledge no photographs of the front side of Stela H exist.

**Material:** Morley (1937-38:Vol. IV:25) reports the monument was made from a tough limestone.

**Shape:** Rectangular with well-dressed parallel sides.

**Dimensions:** (All dimensions come from Morley 1937-38: Vol.IV:46, except where noted).
HT:     3.10 m
MW:     .89 m
HAS:   2.25 m
MTH:   .28 m
RELG:   0.8 cm (Prager 2002:44)

**Carved Areas:** Front and Back. According to Morley's (1937-38: Vol. IV: 46) very brief account, the front of Stela H features a standing figure. The back of Stela H features a 96 glyph block text consisting of 6 columns of text.

**Dedicatory Date:** Late Classic Period. 9.11.0.0.0   12 *Ajaw* 8 *Keh* (11, October 752)

**Line Drawings:**
John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 50)
Sylvanus Morley (1937-38: Vol. V: Plate 47e and 47 f)
Christian Prager (2002: Figure 10)
Berthold Riese (1980: Figure 5)

**Photographic References:**
Gann (1929:138, No. 1)
Gruning (1930:Plate 20, No.1)
Joyce (1929:Plate 38, Figure 1)
Joyce *et al.* (1928:Plate 28, Figure 1)
Morley (1937-38:Vol. V: Plate 164a)

**Other References:**
Braswell *et al.* (2002:6-8)
Gann (1929:120, 124-125, 127-129, 139-140, 148, 153-155)
Gann (1930: 189-190)
Gruning (1930:482)
Hammond (1975:272-274)

Joyce *et al.* (1928:329-330, 334, 337, 339)
Morley (1928:319-320)
Morley (1937-38: Vol. IV:45-49)
Prager (2002:43-47)
Proskouriakoff (1993:46)
Reents (1982:1-2, 5)
Rice (1974:25, Table I)
Riese (1980:6-7)
Thompson (1929:223, 230)
Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** The text of Stela H is unusual in that two complete Initial Series Introductory dates with supporting lunar series data are provided in this lengthy text. The first Initial Series records the 9.11.0.0.0 12 *Ajaw* 8 *Keh* Period Ending and like numerous texts throughout southern Belize, a "fire-scattering" rite is included as part of the lunar series. In addition, another "fire" rite was conducted for a dedication of a stairway by a ruler named *Muyal Naj K'uhul K'ak' U-Chan.* The next passage of Stela H is eroded, but the text does describe a capture event involving a "Water Scroll" Lord, perhaps a lord from Altun Há. This is then followed by a reconfirmation of the Initial Series date at D5-C6 that leads to a second full Initial Series date. The date here is 9.7.12.6.7 8 *Manik* 10 *Kayab'* (7, February 586) which recalls the birth date of *Muyal Naj K'uhul K'ak' U-Chan* who was the son of Lady *K'uk'* . The next passage is also badly eroded, but the event does seem to pertain directly to the ruler of Pusilhá. The text then jumps back even further in time to tie the accession of this ruler on 9.7.0.0.0 6 *Ajaw* 13 *Sak* (14, October 583) to the current Period Ending of 9.11.0.0.0 12 *Ajaw* 8 *Keh* (11, October 652).

Chronology:

| | |
|---|---|
| A1-A6: | 9.11.0.0.0 12 *Ajaw* 8 *Keh* (11, October 652) |
| A11-B12: | (9.11.0.0.0) 12 *Ajaw* 8 *Keh* |
| D5-C6: | (9.11.3.11.0) 12 *Ajaw* 8 *Sotz* (3, May 656) |
| D6-D10: | 9.7.12.6.7 8 *Manik* 10 *Kayab'* (7, February 656) |
| E7-F7: | 9.7.12.6.7 8 *Manik* 10 *Kayab'* |
| | -    2.6.7 |
| | 9.7.10.0.0 6 *Ajaw* 13 *Sak* (14, October 583) |
| E10-F12: | 9.11. 0. 0. 0 12 *Ajaw* 8 *Keh* (11, October 652) (Date of 1st Initial Series) |
| | -  3. 7. 11.13 |
| |   9. 7.12. 6. 7 8 *Manik* 10 *Kayab'* (7, February 586) |
| E14-F14: | (9.11.0.0.0) 12 *Ajaw* 8 *Keh* (11, October 652) |

Text:
A1-B2: T124:25.?.25:548:255      **tzi:ka.?.ka:HAAB'/TUUN/ma**
A3: TIX:200      **B'OLON:PÍ**

| | |
|---|---|
| B3: XI:28:548 | **B'ULUK:K'ATUN:TUUN** |
| A4: T173.548:126 | **mi.TUUN:ya** |
| B4: T173.521:136:126 | **mi.WINAL:ji:ya** |
| A5: T173.544:116 | **mi.K'IN:ni** |
| B5: TXII:533 | **LAJKÁ:AJAW** |
| | |
| A6: TVIII.109:60:538v:142 | **WAXAK.CHAK:HUUN:SIHOM:ma** |
| B6: TIV.218.181:24:126 | **KAN.JUL.ja:li:ya** |
| A7: TIV:?:713.181 | **KAN:?:K'AL.ja** |
| B7: T?.582:?:? | **?.mo':?:?** |
| A8: T1.187[758] | **u.K'AB'A[CHOK]** |
| B8: T683:IX | **K'AL:B'OLON** |
| A9: T122.711:130 | **K'AK'.PUK:wa** |
| B9: T109?:1006 | **CHAK?:NAL** |
| A10: T135:544.116 | **cha:K'IN:ni** |
| B10: T77.128:60:23 | **ch'a.ch'a:HUUN:na** |
| A11: T59.XII:533 | **ti.LAJKÁ:AJAW** |
| B11: TVIII.109:60:528v | **WAXAK.CHAK:HUUN:SIHOM** |
| A12: T1.?:713.181:142? | **u.?:K'AL.ja:ma?** |
| B12: T89:757:136 | **tu:B'AJ:ji** |
| A14: T632:178 | **MUYAL:la** |
| B14: T4.33:? | **NAJ.K'UHUL:?** |
| A15: T122.1:561 | **K'AK'.u:CHAN/KA'AN** |
| B15: T33.168:559.130 | **K'U.AJAW:TZUK/UNIIW.wa** |
| A16: T?:679? | **?:Í** |
| B16: T1:?.21 | **u:?.b'u** |
| | |
| C1: T1:?.? | **u:?.?** |
| D1: T?:? | **?:?** |
| C2: T1.?.23? | **u.?.na?** |
| D2: T515[197] | **CHU[ke]** |
| C3: T168:578?:130 | **AJAW:ja?:wa** |
| D3: T1:? | **u:?** |
| C4: T110.168:? | **ko.AJAW:?** |
| D4: T60:1042 | **ja:HA'I** |
| C5: T528:713:116.117 | **TUUN:K'AL:ni.wi** |
| D5: T59.XII:533 | **ti.LAJKÁ:AJAW** |
| C6: TVIII:756 | **WAXAK:SOTZ'** |
| D6: T1:573:12 | **u:TZ'AK:AJ** |
| C7: T124:25.?.25:548 | **tzi:ka.?.ka:HAAB'** |
| D7: TIX:200 | **B'OLON:PÍ** |
| C8: TVII.28:548 | **WUK.K'ATUN:TUUN** |
| D8: XII.544:126 | **LAJKÁ.TUUN:ya** |
| C9: TVI:521 | **WAK:WINAL** |
| D9: TVII.544:116 | **WUK.K'IN:ni** |
| C10: TVIII.671:125 | **WAXAK.MANIK':(DET)** |
| D10: TX.743[281].57:126 | **LAJUN.Á[K'AN].si:ya** |
| C11: T135:544 | **cha:K'IN** |

D11: T77.128:60:23          **ch'a.ch'a:HUUN:na**
C12: TII.218.181:24:126     **KÁ.JUL.ja:li:ya**
D12: TV:1000a:181.713:178   **JÓ:IXIK:ja.K'AL:la**
C13: T?:?.561v              **?:?.CHAN/KA'AN**
D13: T1.187[758]           **u.K'AB'A[CHOK]**
C14: T683:X                **K'AL:LAJUN**
D14: T740.181:126          **SÍ.ja:ya**
C15: T122.1:?              **K'AK'.u:(CHAN/KA'AN)**
D15: T??                   **??**
C16: T33.168:559           **K'U.AJAW:TZUK/UNIIW**
D16: T1000a.744            **IXIK.K'UK'**

E1: T?:?                   **?:?**
F1: T?:?                   **?:?**
E2: T59.33:?              **ti.K'UHUL:?**
F2: T?:?                   **?:?**
E3: T?:?.?.               **?:?.?**
F3: T?:?                   **?:?**
E4: T?:?                   **?:?**
F4: T?:?.?:?              **?:?.?:?**
E5: T?:?                   **?:?**
F5: T?:?.?                **?:?.?**
E6: T671[544]:116         **chi[K'IN]:ni**
F6: T122.?                **K'AK'.?**
E7: TVII.VI:521:II.548    **WUK.WAK:WINAL:KÁ.TUUN**
F7: T?:?.?                **?:?.?**
E8: TVI:533.XIII:58:?     **WAK:AJAW.OXLAJUN:SAK:?**
F8: T?:670?:130?          **(K'AWIIL):CH'AM:wa?**
E9: T122:1:?             **K'AK':u:?**
F9: T33.168:559           **K'U.AJAW:TZUK/UNIIW**
E10: TXIII.XI:521:142?    **OXLAJUN.B'ULUK:WINAL:ma?**
F10: TVII.?:548:142?      **WUK.?:TUUN:ma**
E11: TIII.28:548:142?     **OX.K'ATUN:TUUN:ma**
F11: T?:?.181             **?:?.ja**
E12: TVIII:671            **WAXAK:MANIK'**
F12: TX:743[281].57:126   **LAJUN:Á[K'AN].si:ya**
E13: T266:?:116          **hu:?:ni**
F13: T?.59:126           **(u).ti:ya**
E14: TXII.533:125         **LAJKÁ.AJAW:(DET)**
F14: TVIII.109.60:528     **WAXAK.CHAK.HUUN:SIHOM**
E15: T?.?                 **?.?**
F15: T?.?                 **?.?**
E16: T33.168:559          **K'U.AJAW:TZUK/UNIIW**
F16: T1030d[561]:23       **K'AWIIL[CHAN/KA'AN]:na**

**Figure 51. Pusilhá, Stela K, Front. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Figure 52. Pusilhá, Stela K, Back. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**<u>Pusilhá, Stela K</u>**

**Location:** Stela K was originally located ninth from the right in the row of 12 monuments in front (north) of Structure 1 in the south side of the Main Plaza. The stela was first reported by J. Eric Thompson on October 3rd, 1927 as part of the British Museum Expedition to British Honduras and was moved to London in 1930 where it now resides in storage in the British Museum.

**Condition:** Broken in three pieces with a single piece still missing. The front face of the monument is badly eroded and only the outlines of a standing figure cradling a Double-Headed Serpent Bar and two seated captives are visible today. The back of Stela K is also badly eroded, especially along the left and right edge of the monument partially obscuring the glyphic text.

**Material:** Morley (1937-38:Vol. IV:50) reports the monument was made from a dark brown limestone.

**Shape:** Rectangular with well-dressed parallel sides.

**Dimensions:** (All dimensions come from Morley 1937-38:Vol. IV:50, except where noted).
| | |
|---|---|
| HT: | 2.90 m |
| MW: | .95 m |
| HSC: | 2.12 m |
| MTH: | .14 m |
| RELG: | 0.8 cm (Prager 2002:49) |

**Carved Areas:** Front and Back. The front of Stela K depicts a standing ruler holding a Double-Headed Serpent Bar facing left. Flanking this figure are two bound and seated captives (the right captive has a partial one-glyph nametag in front of his face. The back of Stela K features a 55-glyph block text written in 5 columns.

**Dedicatory Date:** Late Classic Period.  9.12.0.0.0   10 *Ajaw* 8 *Yaxk'in* (28, June 672)

**Line Drawings:**
John Montgomery (SBEP, <u>Figure 51 and Figure 52</u>)
Sylvanus Morley (1937-38:Vol. V: Plate 46d)
Christian Prager (In Braswell *et al*. 2002:Figure 1.9)
Christian Prager (2002:Figure 11 and Figure 12)
Berthold Riese (1980: Figure 6)
J. Eric Thompson (1928: Figure 1)

**Photographic References:**
Gann (1929:140)
Gruning (1930:Plate 20, No. 2)
Joyce *et al*. (1928:Plate 28, Figure 2; Plate 37, Figure 2)
Morley (1937-38: Vol. V: Plate 164b and 166d)

**Other References:**
Braswell (2001:16)
Braswell (2002:11)

Braswell *et al*. (2002:6-8)
Gann (1929:120,124-125, 127-128, 141-143, 154-155)
Gann (1930: 189-190)
Grube and Martin (2001a:11)
Grube and Martin (2001b: 26-27)
Gruning (1930:482)
Hammond (1975:272-274)
Joyce *et al.* (1928:329-330, 334-335)
Morley (1928:319-320)
Morley (1937-38: Vol. IV:50-53)
Prager (2002:48-53)
Reents (1982: 1-2, 5)
Rice (1974: 25, Table 1)
Riese (1980:7)
Thompson (1928:215)
Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** The text of Stela K is written in a highly unusual reading order. The first two columns of text appear to be read first even though a clear Initial Series Introductory Glyph and accompanying date can be seen recorded in the second and third column of this text. The text actually begins with a Distance Number and Calendar Round Date that presumably leads back in time from the true Initial Series Date of the monument. This first date recorded on the monument is a retrospective commemoration to an important event that occurred in the year AD 159 involving a person nicknamed "*Foliated Ajaw*" who may be a predynastic ruler of Copan. This event must have been an important political event for the southeastern Maya Lowlands since it was also recorded on at least three other monuments at the site of Copan (Copan, Stela 4, Stela 17, and Stela I). Recently Stan Guenter has proposed that this character may have been a lord from Kaminaljuyu based on the identification of a known toponymic reference (a "Deer Throne" Place) in conjunction with this individual's name phrase. If correct, this would suggest that both Pusilhá and Copan might have been under the influence of Kaminaljuyu during Late Preclassic times (see Wanyerka 2004). Unfortunately, most of this section of text on Stela K is highly eroded and extremely problematic. Thus, any interpretation must remain highly questionable and tentative at best.

The Initial Series Date of Stela K is recorded in the second and third columns of the text. It records a commemoration of the 9.12.0.0.0 Period Ending (28, June 672) that seems to involve a deity known as *Chaak Xib' Chaak*. Here again, the last column of text is severely eroded and little details can be made from this section of text except that the protagonist of the event was clearly a "Divine Lord of Pusilhá."

Chronology:
    C4-B5:        (*8.6.0.0.0) 10 *Ajaw* 13 *Ch'en* (19, December 159)

    D1-E11:       9.12.0.0.0   10 *Ajaw* 8 *Yaxk'in* (28, June 672)

Text:
pA1: T796?                **CHIJ?**

B1: T?:521:126  **?:WINAL:ya**
C1: TV.?:548:126  **JÓ.?:HAAB':ya**
B2: T?.28:548:142  **?.K'ATUN:TUUN:ma**
C2: T1.528.116:713  **u.TUUN.ni:K'AL**
B3: T?:142  **?:ma**
C3: T?[533]:126  **?[AJAW]:ya (Foliated Ajaw Name)**
B4: TIII?:?  **OX:?**
C4: T59.X:533  **ti.LAJUN:AJAW**
B5: TXIII.?:528  **OXLAJUN.?:SIHOM**
C5: T513.59:126  **u.ti:ya**
B6: T?.?:?  **?.?:?**
C6: T671:316[?]  **chi:?[?]**
B7: T??  **??**
C7: T?.?:?  **?.?:?**
B8: Missing  **??**
C8: Missing  **??**
B9: Missing  **??**
C9: Missing  **??**
B10: Missing  **??**
C10: 764?  **CHAN/KA'AN**
B11: T??  **??**
C11: T116.544:?  **ni.K'IN:?**

D1-E2: T124:25.1010.25:548:255  **tzi:ka.K'in.ka:HAAB'/TUUN.ma**
D3: TIX:200  **B'OLON:PÍ**
E3: TXII:28:548:126  **LAJKÁ:K'ATUN:TUUN:ya**
D4: T417.173:548:126  **?.mi:TUUN:ya**
E4: T173:521:102  **mi.WINIK:ki**
D5: T417:173.544  **?:mi.K'IN**
E5: TI.77?:953:24  **HUUN.ch'a?:JUL:li**
D6: TIII.1000a:713.181  **OX.IXIK:K'AL.ja**
E6: T61:57:?:200.61:216?:110  **yu:si:?:PÍ.yu:su?:ko**
D7: T1.187:758[110]  **u.K'AB'A:CH'OK[ko]**
E7: TX.683:?  **LAJUN.K'AL:?**
D8: T?.?  **?.?**
E8: T?:?  **?:?**
D9: T109?.1008  **CHAAK.XIB'**
E9: T1011:25  **CHAAK**
D10: T135:544v  **cha:K'IN**
E10: T944.23:60  **ti.na:HUUN**
D11: TX:533  **LAJUN:AJAW**
E11: TVIII.16:544:116  **WAXAK.YAX:K'IN:ni**

F1: Missing  **??**
F2: T59.?:?  **ti.?:?**
F3: T?:?:?  **?:?:?**
F4: T?:?:?.?:?  **?:?:?.?:?**
F5: T120.?  **NÉ.?**

F6: T58.?　　　　　　　**SAK.?**
F7: TI:?.?　　　　　　　**HUUN:?.?**
F8: T?　　　　　　　　　**?**
F9: T12?1000c?　　　　　**AJ?AJAW?**
F10: T37v.168:559　　　　**K'U.AJAW:TZUK/UNIIW**
F11: T1017?.530:703?:561　**TZUK?.ku:XIB'?:CHAN?KA'AN**
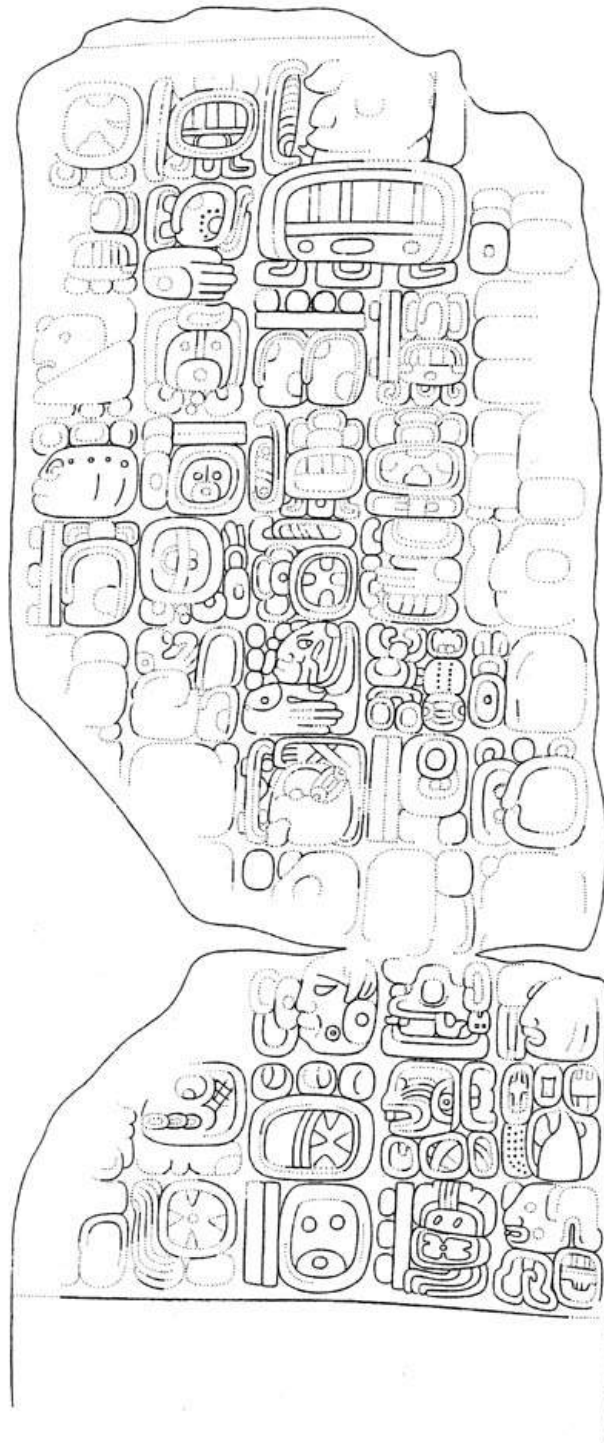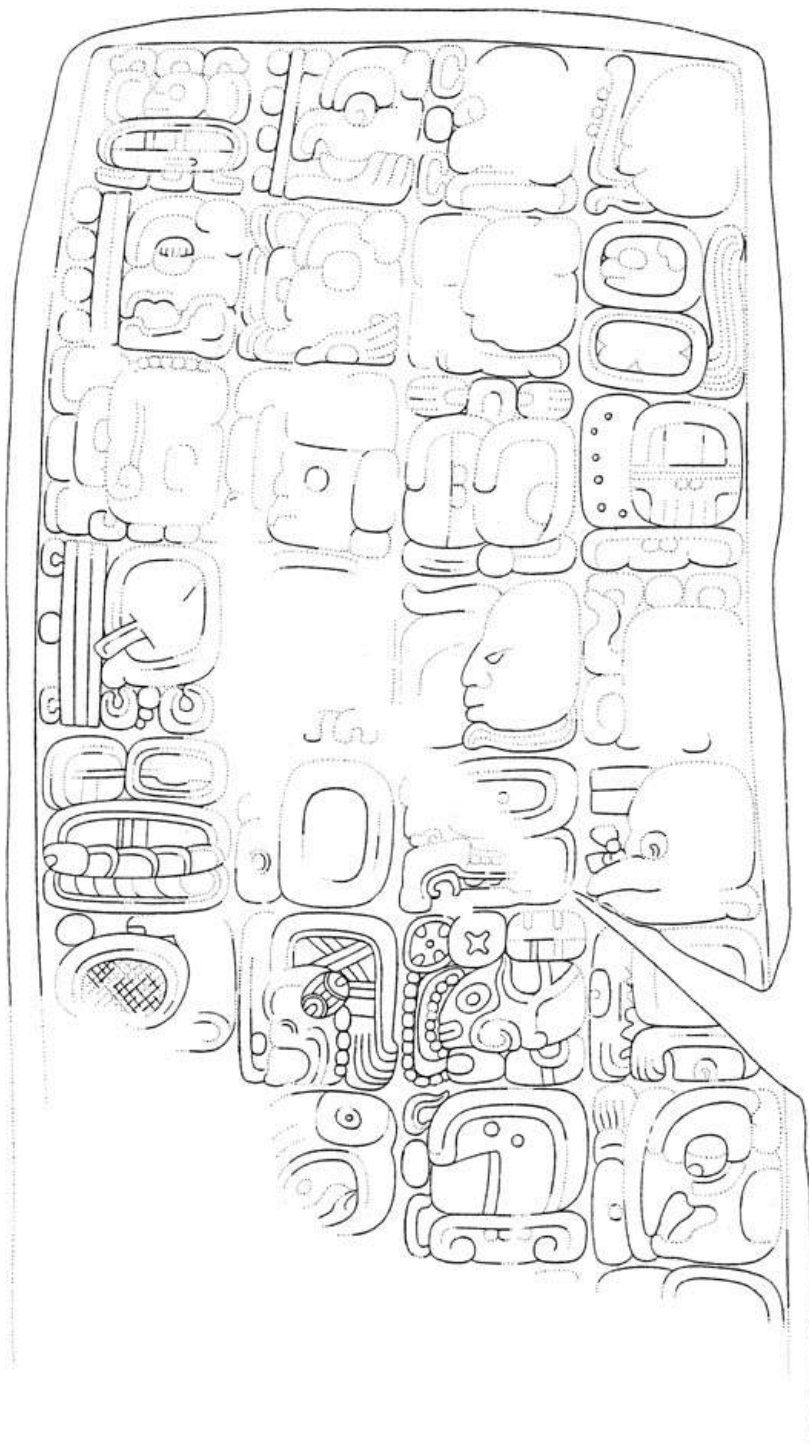
**Figure 53. Pusilhá, Stela M, Back. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

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## Pusilhá, Stela M

**Location:** Stela M was originally located eleventh from the right in the row of 12 monuments in front (north) of Structure 1 in the south side of the Main Plaza. J. Eric Thompson first reported the stela on October 3rd,1927 as part of the British Museum Expedition to British Honduras. Gann moved the stela to London in the spring of 1928 where it now resides in storage at the British Museum.

**Condition:** Broken in three pieces with the base still missing. The lower portion of the main text is also missing. The front face of the monument has never been published though Morley (1937-38:Vol. IV:54) states that the front did feature a portrait of a Pusilhá ruler. The back of Stela M is badly eroded, especially along the upper and lower portion of the text.

**Material:** Morley (1937-38: Vol. IV:54) reports the monument was made from a hard limestone.

**Shape:** Rectangular will well-dressed parallel sides.

**Dimensions:** (All dimensions come from Morley 1937-38: Vol. IV:54, except where noted).
     HT:    1.47 m
     MW:   .86 m
     MTH:  .15 m
     RELG:  0.5 cm (Prager 2002:57)

**Carved Areas:** Front and Back. The front of Stela M depicts an image of a Pusilhá ruler; however, photographs of this face have never been published. The back of Stela M features a four-column, 32 glyph block text. The lower portion of the text is now missing.

**Dedicatory Date:** Late Classic Period. 9.14.0.0.0 6 *Ajaw* 13 *Muwaan* (1, December 711)

**Line Drawings:**
     John Montgomery (SBEP, <u>Figure 53</u>)
     Christian Prager (2002:Figure 13)
     Berthold Riese (1980: Figure 7)
     Linda Schele (In Schele and Looper 1996a:119)
     Linda Schele (In Schele and Looper 1996b:88)

**Photographic References:**
     Gann (1929:152, Figure 1)
     Gann (1930: Plate 3, Figure 1)
     Joyce *et al.* (1928:Plate 29, Figure 1)
     Morley (1937-38: Vol. V: Plate 164c)

**Other References:**
     Braswell *et al.* (2002:6, 8)
     Gann (1929:120,124-125, 127-128, 143-144, 228-229)
     Gann (1930:185,189-190)
     Hammond (1975:272-274)
     Joyce *et al.* (1928:335-336)
     Morley (1928: 319-320)

Morley (1937-38: Vol. IV:54-56)
Prager (2002:56-59)
Proskouriakoff (1993:91)
Reents (1982:6)
Rice (1974:25, Table 1)
Riese (1980: 8)
Schele and Looper (1996a:119)
Schele and Looper (1996b:88)
Thompson (1928:215)
Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** The text of Stela M begins with an Initial Series Date of 9.14.0.0.0 that also includes a "fire-scattering" rite written within the supporting Lunar Series data. Though the verb is now missing, the text seems to refer to a Pusilhá ruler whose name and titles include the all-important West Kaloomté title along with a "Divine Sky" title. The text then seems to mention a possible reference to the ruler's family (*y-ón*) followed by the name of the contemporary Pusilhá ruler *K'ak' U-...K'awiil*, a name that looks suspiciously like the name of the Copan king. The name of the ruler is then followed by an eroded parentage statement that includes the name of his mother *K'u K'uk'*.

Chronology:

|  |  |  |
|---|---|---|
| A1-B7: | 9.14.0.0.0 (6 *Ajaw* 13 *Muwaan*) | (1, December 711) |

Text:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| A1: T124:25.?.25:548:255 | **tzi:ka.?.ka:HAAB'/TUUN:ma** |
| B1: TIX.1033 | **B'OLON.PÍ** |
| A2: TXIV.746 | **KANLAJUN.K'ATUN** |
| B2: T173.1034 | **mi.TUUN** |
| A3: T173.741:126 | **mi.WINAL:ya** |
| B3: T173.544:116 | **mi.K'IN:ni** |
| A4: TXVI.653:126 | **WAKLAJUN.JUL:ya** |
| B4: T?:713.181 | **?:K'AL.ja** |
| A5: T168?:565:25 | **AJAW?:ta:ka** |
| B5: T?.? | **?.?** |
| A6: TI:586:711? | **HUUN:pa:ke?** |
| B6: T1.187:758[110] | **u.K'AB'A:CH'OK[ko]** |
| A7: Missing | **??** |
| B7: T219? | **PUK?** |
| A8: Missing | **??** |
| B8: Missing | **??** |
| | |
| C1: I.?:23 | **HUUN.(TAN?):na** |
| D1: T117.? | **wi.?** |
| C2: T?.751?.23 | **?.B'ALAM?.na** |
| D2: T954:541:116 | **OCH:K'IN:ni** |
| C3: T[74:513.528.74?] | **KALOOMTÉ** |
| D3: T33.526:23 | **K'U.CHAN/KA'AN:na** |
| C4: T115.753:116 | **yo.ÓN:ni** |

D4: T1:122.?               **U.K'AK'.?**
C5: T1030?                 **K'AWIIL**
D5: T?:23                  **?:na**
C6: T36.168:559v:130       **K'U.AJAW:TZUK/UNIIW:wa**
D6: T204.757:88            **u.b'a.ji**
C7: TI.606:23              **HUUN.TAN:na**
D7: T59.40.744             **ti.K'U.K'UK'**
C8: Missing                **??**
D8: T?.?                   **?.?**
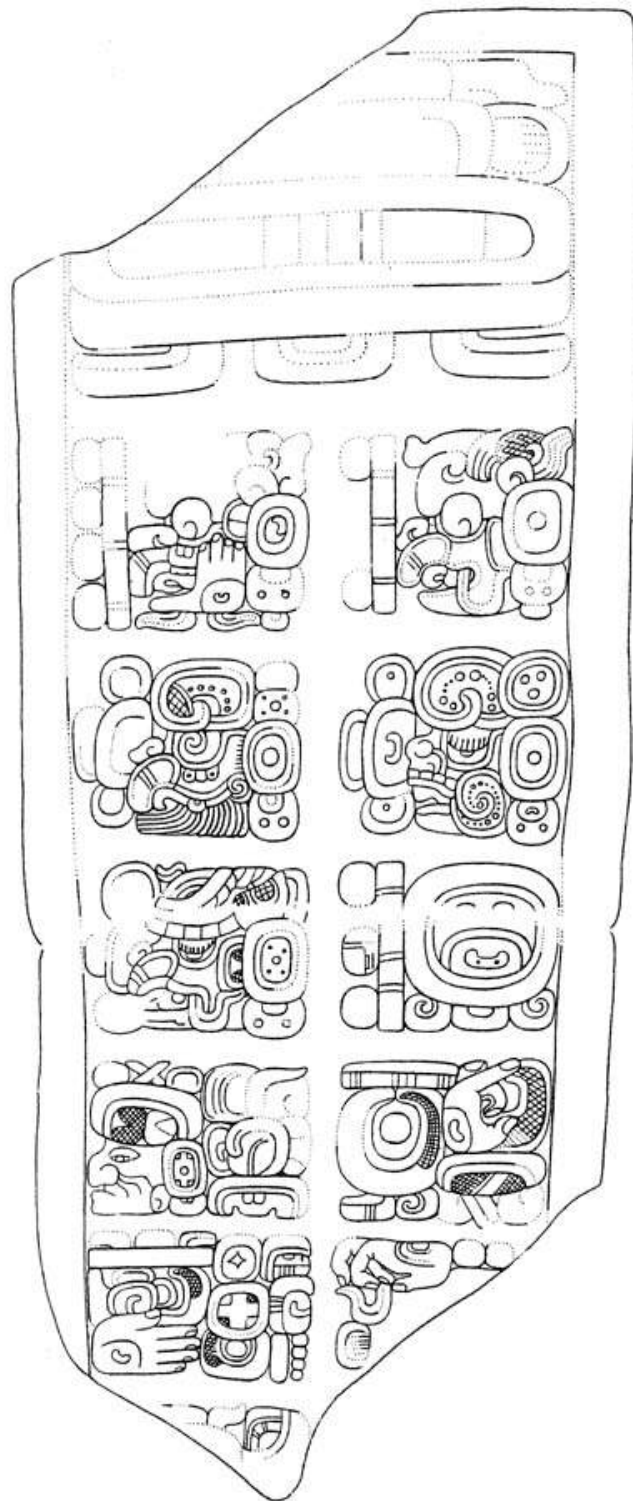
**Figure 54. Pusilhá, Stela O, Back. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**<u>Pusilha, Stela O</u>**
**Location:** Stela O was originally found on the north slope of Structure 1 near the center point of the structure along the south side of the Main Plaza. The stela was first reported by J. Eric Thompson on October 3rd, 1927 as part of the British Museum Expedition to British Honduras. The monument was moved to London in the spring of 1928 where it now resides in storage at the British Museum.

**Condition:** Broken in at least four pieces, two of which survive today. It is not clear whether the front face of Stela O contained a figural scene due to the extreme nature of the flaking and cleaving of the monument's front face. Morley (1937-38: Vol.IV.:20) reports that the original thickness of the monument cannot be ascertained due to the fact that at least three laminae may have cleaved off prior to its discovery. The back of Stela O was carved in low relief and is broken in both the upper left-hand corner and bottom portions of the monument.

**Material:** Morley (1937-38: Vol.IV:20) reports the monument was made of limestone.

**Shape:** Rectangular with well-dressed parallel sides.

**Dimensions:** (All dimensions come from Morley 1937-38: Vol.IV:20, except where noted).
    HT:            1.65 m
    MW:            .71 m
    MTH:           10 cm (Prager 2002:65)
    RELG:          1 cm (Prager 2002:65)

**Carved Areas:** Front only. Includes a 13 glyph block text consisting in a double-column format. There may have originally been a front face of Stela O; however, due to the erosional nature of the stone nothing exists today.

**Dedicatory Date:** Middle Classic Period.  9.7.0.0.0  7 *Ajaw* (*3 *Kank'in*)  (5, December 573)

**Line Drawings:**
        Thomas Gann (1929:144)
        John Montgomery (SBEP, <u>Figure 54</u>)
        Sylvanus Morley (1937-38: Vol.V: Plate 46a)
        Christian Prager (2002: Figure 15)
        Berthold Riese (1980: Figure 9)
        J. Eric Thompson (1928:96, Figure A)

**Photographic References:**
        Gann (1929:148, No.2)
        Gann (1930:Plate III, Figure 2)
        Joyce *et al.* (1928:Plate 29, Figure 2)
        Morley (1937-38:Vol.V: Plate 163a)

**Other References:**
        Braswell (2001:8)
        Braswell (2002a:6-7)
        Braswell *et al.* (2002b:6-7)

Gann (1929:30, 125, 127, 145-147, 229)
Gann (1930:185, 189-190)
Hammond (1975:272-274)
Joyce *et al.* (1928:329-330, 336-337, 346)
Morley (1928:319-320)
Morley (1937-38: Vol. IV: 19-22)
Prager (2002:64-67)
Proskouriakoff (1993:35)
Reents (1982: 3-4)
Rice (1974:25, Table 1)
Riese (1980:9)
Thompson (1928:96-97)
Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** Stela O is the earliest dated Initial Series monument in all of southern Belize. The Long Count date recorded on Stela O is 9.7.0.0.0  7 *Ajaw* 3 *Kank'in* (5, December 573). Unfortunately, due to the breakage of the monument, nothing can really be said of text except that it, like so many other monuments in southern Belize, contains a reference to a "fire-scattering" rite contained within the Initial Series date.

Text:
A1-B1: T124:25.?.25:548:255?        **tzi:ka.?.ka:HAAB'/TUUN:ma**
A2: TIX.1033                                 **B'OLON.PÍ**
B2: TVII.1110                                **WUK.K'ATUN**
A3: T173.1034                               **mi. TUUN**
B3: T173.741                                 **mi.WINAL**
A4: T173.1112                               **mi.K'IN**
B4: TVII.533                                  **WUK.AJAW**
A5: T135:1117.128:60:23                **cha:K'IN.ch'a:HUUN:na**
B5: TV:683:130.953.181:24.126     **JÓ:K'AL:wa.JUL.ja:li.ya**
A6: TVI:680?.181:713.168:281:17.683.IX  **WAK:?.ja:K'AL.AJAW:K'AN:yi.K'AL.B'OLON**
B6: T219:122:?.?                             **PUK:K'AK':?.?**
A7: T?.1030d?                               **?.K'AWIIL?**
B7: Missing                                   **??**

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**Figure 55. Pusilhá, Stela P, Front. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**
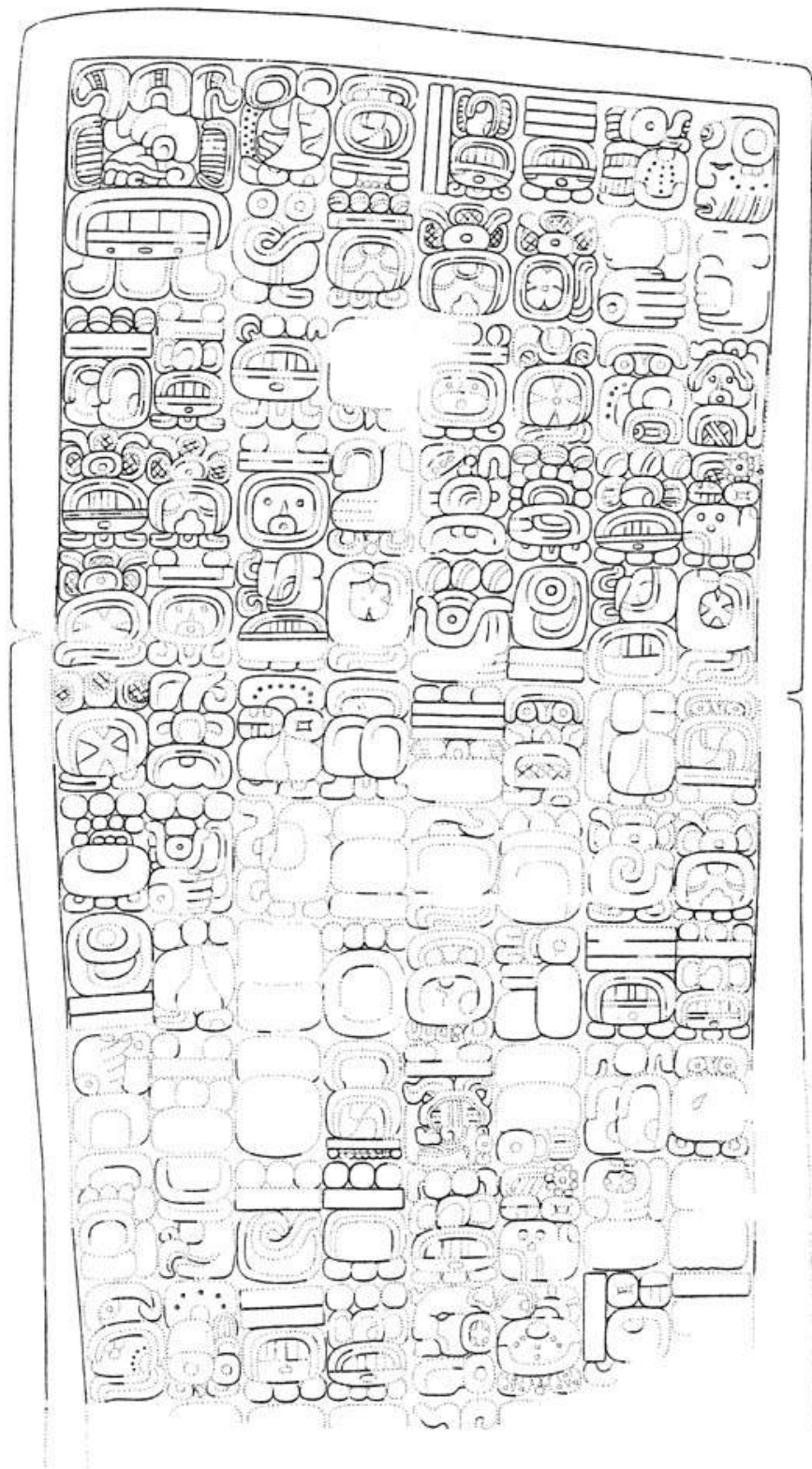
**Figure 56. Pusilhá, Stela P, Back. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

## Pusilhá, Stela P

**Location:** T.W.F. Gann first reported Stela P in April of 1928 as part of the British Museum Expedition to British Honduras. The stela was originally found broken in 7 large pieces and it is not clear where the monument originally stood. The upper third of Stela P (formerly known as Stela Y) was found 6 meters south of the northwest corner of Structure IV on the east side of the Main Plaza. The middle third of Stela P was found about 5 meters north of Structure 1, just north of the row of 12 monuments, on the south side of the Main Plaza. Gann moved the stela to London in 1928 where it now resides in storage at the British Museum.

**Condition:** Broken in 7 pieces. Most of the figural scene on the front of Stela P is now lost and the surviving fragment is badly eroded. The textual side of Stela P is relatively intact, though badly weathered, especially along the breaks of the lower fragment of the monument. In addition, at least 1, perhaps 2 or even 3 additional rows of text are now missing along the lower part of the overall inscription.

**Material:** (Gann 1929:147) reports the monument was made of a hard limestone.

**Shape:** Rectangular with well-dressed parallel sides.

**Dimensions:** (All dimensions come from Morley 1937-38: Vol.IV:31, except where noted).
      HT:    1.98 m (probably closer to 3 m in height if one includes the missing base)
      MW:  1.21 m
      MTH:  .20 m
      RELG:  1 cm        (Prager 2002:70)

**Carved Areas:** Front and Back. The front of Stela P features a portrait of a standing male figure holding a Double-Headed Serpent Bar, facing left. The overall figural scene is highly reminiscent to that of Stela C based on the appearance of a similar image of the Maya god *Tlaloc* located to the front of the ruler's headdress. The back of Stela P features a 96 glyph block text recorded in 8 columns. Based on the overall closeness in both size and shape to that of Stela D, it is thought that the original full-text of Stela P probably featured 112 total glyph blocks.

**Dedicatory Date:** Late Classic Period. 9.10.15.0.0  6 *Ajaw* 13 *Mak* (7, November 647)

**Line Drawings:**
      John Montgomery (SBEP, <u>Figure 55 and Figure 56</u>)
      Sylvanus Morley (1937-38: Vol.V: Plate 47a and 47b)
      Christian Prager (2002: Figure 16 and 17)
      Berthold Riese (1980: Figure 10)
      J. Eric Thompson (1934:250, Figure 3b)

**Photographic References:**
      Gann (1929:138, No. 2; 146, No. 1; 152, No. 2)
      Gann (1930: Plate IV, Figure 1)
      Joyce *et al.* (1928: Plate 30, Figure 1 and Figure 2)
      Morley (1937-38: Vol. V: Plate 163c and 166a)

**Other References:**

Braswell (2002:7)
Braswell (2003:101-102)
Braswell *et al*. (2002:6-8)
Gann (1929: 122, 125, 127, 132, 147-148, 150-152)
Gann (1930: 184, 189-190)
Hammond (1975:272-274)
Joyce *et al.* (1928:288-330, 337-339, 346)
Morley (1928:319-320)
Morley (1937-38: Vol. IV:30-36)
Prager (2002:68-74)
Proskouriakoff (1993:46, 56)
Reents (1982:1-2, 4-5)
Rice (1974: 25, Table 1)
Riese (1980:10)
Thompson (1929:223)
Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** The text of Stela P, tied with Stela H as the second longest inscription at the site, is unusual in that it features two complete Initial Series Dates. The first Initial Series Date is a commemoration of the 9.7.0.0.0 Period Ending. As part of the Period Ending festivities, a *lakam-tuun* or "grand monument" was "planted" by the king of Pusilhá. The second passage begins with a Distance Number that moves the chronology back in time to the Long Count date of 9.6.17.8.18 (17, June 571) for the accession of *K'awiil Ka'an K'inich* the "divine lord of Pusilhá." Unfortunately, the next passage of Stela P is highly eroded and little historical information can be extracted from the written text. However, another Distance Number pushes the chronology either forward or backwards 3.10.8.8 depending on one's interpretation of the missing lower portion of text on Stela P. If the Distance Number is subtracted then the date for the now missing event would be 9.3.7.0.10  10 *Ok'* 13 *Kank'in* (2, January 502). If the Distance Number is added then the Long Count date would be 9.10.7.17.6    7 *Kimi* 14 *Kank'in* (29, November 640). Because of the unusual chronological structure of the Pusilhá texts and generally of the chronological structure of most southern Belize texts, it is just not clear what date was referred to in this passage. This is a perfect example of just how difficult it is to correctly identify the chronological sequence of dates in this region. In several cases, there are examples where Distance Numbers are given that do not appear linked in any concrete chronological sequence. To compound matters even further is the fact that what follows next in the text is the second of two full Initial Series dates recorded on this stela. This second Initial Series date records the Long Count date of 9.10.15.0.0  6 *Ajaw* 13 *Mak* (7, November 747). On that day another *lakam-tuun* was "planted"; however, this time the "planting" over "overseen" or "supervised by" an individual whose name appears to be *Sak..Wuk Chapat* who was a 2 *K'atun* Scatterer Lord, a First Tree, and a Ballplayer. Unfortunately, the lower portion of text is missing; however, it would appear that this event probably occurred at a location that is named at the top of the text at G1and H1. The location seems to involve a place known as *Tz'am Witz* or "Throne Mountain" and again, the text is eroded, but it seems to refer to some sort of "completion" event (G2-H2). The text makes reference to perhaps the ruler as "the first youth, the child of…" and he was the child of the 3 *K'atun* Scatterer Lord, *K'awiil Chan K'inich*, who was the "Divine Lord of Pusilhá." The final passage recorded on Stela P includes another Distance Number of 1.8.15.0.0 that seems to connect back to the 8.2.0.0.0 Period Ending. Unfortunately, what occurred on this day and who the protagonists were are now missing; however, the last surviving glyph at G11

appears very much like the emblem glyph of Iztutz. The ancient name of Ixtutz was *Jó Kab'* meaning "Five Earth Place" and if this is correct then we now have additional epigraphic evidence of a larger regional interaction among sites in southern Belize (see Wanyerka 2004).

Chronology:

 A3-B8:   9.7.0.0.0  7 *Ajaw* 3 *Kank'in* (5, December 573)

 C2-C4:   9.7. 0. 0. 0
    DN  ___ - 2. 9. 2
     9.6.17.8.18 (2 *Etznab'* 11 *Sek*) (17, June 571)

 D9-D11:  *9.6.17.8.18
    DN  -  3.10.8. 8
     *9.3.  7.0.10  (10 *Ok'* 13 *Kank'in*) (2, January 502)

       or

     *9.6.17.8.18
    DN  +  3.10.8.  8
     *9.10.7.17.6  (7 *Kimi* 14 *Kank'in*) (29, November 640)

 E1-E6:   9.10.15.0.0  6 *Ajaw* 13 *Mak* (7, November 647)

 H6-G9:   9.10.15.0.0
    DN  - 1.  8.15.0.0
     8.  2. 0. 0.0  5 *Ajaw* (8 *Sak*) (11, February 81)

Text:
A1-B2: T124:25.1045.25:548:255  **tzi:ka.Kank'in.ka:HAAB'/TUUN:ma**
A3: TIX:200       **B'OLON:PÍ**
B3: TVII:28:548:255    **WUK:K'ATUN:TUUN:ma**
A4: T173:548:255     **mi:TUUN:ma**
B4: T173:521:255     **mi.WINAL:ma**
A5: T173:541:116     **mi:K'IN:ni**
B5: TVII:533      **WUK:AJAW**
A6: T135:544:?      **cha:K'IN:?**
B6: T128:60:23      **ch'a:HUUN:na**
A7: TIII:266:24:126    **OX:JUL:li:ya**
B7: TIII:680?.191:713   **OX:?.ja:K'AL**
A8: T683:X       **K'AL:LAJUN**
B8: TIII:559?:?      **OX:KANK'IN?:?**
A9: T218.?       **TZUTZ.?**
B9: TVII:28:548     **WUK:K'ATUN:TUUN**
A10: T1:68:586.130    **u:tz'a:pa.wa**
B10: T1084       **LAKAM**
A11: T767:528:116    **LAKAM:TUUN:ni**
B11: T679:513.59:126   **Í:u.ti:ya**

A12: Missing       **??**
B12: Missing       **??**

C1: T33.168:559:130       **K'U.AJAW:TZUK/UNIIW:wa**
D1: T1:573:12       **u:TZ'AK:AJ**
C2: TII:574:130       **KÁ:É:wa**
D2: TIX:521:246       **B'OLON:WINAL:ji-ya**
C3: TII:548:255       **KÁ:TUUN:ma**
D3: T?:126       **?:ya**
C4: TVII:533       **WUK:AJAW**
D4: T?:670:126       **u?:CH'AM:ya**
C5: T1030d:561:23       **K'AWIIL:CHAN/KA'AN:na**
D5: T671[544]:116       **chi[K'IN]:ni**
C6: T33:168:559:130       **K'U:AJAW:TZUK/UNIIW:wa**
D6: T?:?:126       **?:?:ya**
C7: T1030d       **K'AWIIL**
D7: T?:?:?       **?:?:?**
C8: T?:?       **?:?**
D8: TIV:?       **KAN:?**
C9: T?:?       **?:?**
D9: T1:573:12       **u:TZ'AK:AJ**
C10: TVIII:574       **WAXAK:É**
D10: TIX:521:125       **WAXAK:WINAL:ya**
C11: TX:548:125       **LAJUN:TUUN:ya**
D11: TIII:28:548:142       **OX:K'ATUN:TUUN:ma**
C12: Missing       **??**
C12: Missing       **??**

E1: TX:28:548:142       **LAJUN:K'ATUN:TUUN:ma**
F1: TXVL548:142       **JÓLAJUN:TUUN:ma**
E2: T173:521       **mi:WINAL**
F2: T173:541:116       **mi:K'IN:ni**
E3: TVI:533       **WAK:AJAW**
F3: T135:544:116       **cha:K'IN:ni**
E4: T128:60:23       **ch'a:HUUN:na**
F4: TIIIL266:88:126       **OX:ju:li:ya**
E5: TIII:680?.183:713       **OX:?.ja.K'AL**
F5: T683:X       **K'AL:LAJUN**
E6: TXIII:74:?       **OXLAJUN:ma:(ka?)**
F6: T1:68:586:130       **u:tz'a:pa:wa**
E7: T767:528:116       **LAKAM:TUUN:ni**
F7: T?:?:?       **?:?:?**
E8: T1:526:136:126       **u:KAB':ji:ya**
F8: T58:?:?       **SAK:?:?**
E9: TVII:1134:?       **WUK:CHAPAT:?**
F9: T?:?:59       **?:?:ti**
E10: TII:28:548:142       **KÁ:K'ATUN:TUUN:ma**
F10: T93:168:672       **ch'a:AJAW:JOM**

E11: T757:87                 **B'AJ:TÉ**
F11: T177:507:178       **pi:tzi:la**
E12: T122:?                **K'AK':?**
F12: Missing            **??**

G1: T59:150.117:507     **ti.TZAM.wi:tzi**
H1: T?                  **?**
G2: T?:181:713           **?:ja:K'AL**
H2: T?                  **?**
G3: T1:35.16?:?[110]      **u:K'U.YAX?:(CHOK?)[ko]**
H3: T535:?.4              **NIK:?.na**
G4: TIII:28:548:125       **OX:K'ATUN:TUUN:ya**
H4: T93:168:672:142     **ch'a:AJAW:jo:ma**
G5: T1030d:561          **K'AWIIL:CHAN/KA'AN**
H5: T671[544]:116        **chi[K'IN]:ni**
G6: T33.168:559:130     **K'U.AJAW:TZUK/UNIIW:wa**
H6: T1:573:12                    **u:TZ'AK:AJ**
G7: T173:574:130         **mi:É:wa**
H7: T173:521:246         **mi:WINAL:ji-ya**
G8: TXV:548:142           **JÓLAJUN:TUUN:ma**
H8: TVIII:28:548:142     **WAXAK:K'ATUN:TUUN:ma**
G9: TI:200                 **HUUN:PÍ**
H9: T1:?:?:126            **u:?:?:ya**
G10: T671[544].116:?     **chi[K'IN].ni:?**
H10: T?:?                **?:?**
G11: TV.168:526:130      **JÓ.AJAW:KAB':wa**
H11: TV:?               **JÓ: (AJAW)**

**Figure 57. Pusilhá, Stela Q. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Pusilhá, Stela Q**

**Location:** Stela Q was originally located directly in front (north) of Stela H on the north side of Structure 1 along the south side of the Main Plaza. T.W.F. Gann first reported the stela in December of 1927 as part of the British Museum Expedition to British Honduras. Gann moved the stela to London in 1928 where it now resides in storage at the British Museum.

**Condition:** Broken. Only one fragment of Stela Q has thus far been recovered. The fragment features three partially eroded glyphs.

**Material:** Morley (1937-38:Vol. IV:22) reports the monument was made of a soft limestone.

**Shape:** Irregular.

**Dimensions:** (All dimensions come from Morley 1937-38: Vol. IV:22, except where noted).
- HT: .58 m
- MW: 39.5 cm (Prager 2002:76)
- MTH: 14 cm (Prager 2002:76)
- RELG: 0.8 cm (Prager 2002: 76)

**Carved Areas:** Front only. The front of Stela Q features a three-glyph block, partially eroded text. The text appears to be a second column of a longer Long Count date.

**Dedicatory Date:** Middle Classic Period. (*9.8.0.0.0 5 *Ajaw* 3 *Ch'en*) (22, August 593)

**Line Drawings:**
John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 57)
Sylvanus Morley (1937-38: Vol. V: Plate 46b)
Christian Prager (2002:Figure 19)
Berthold Riese (1980: Figure 11)

**Photographic References:**
Gann (1929:150)
Gann (1930:Plate IV, No.2)
Morley (1937-38:Vol.V:Plate 163b)

**Other References:**
Braswell *et al.* (2002:6-7)
Gann (1929:148-149, 229)
Gann (1930: 185, 189-190)
Hammond (1975:272-274)
Joyce *et al.* (1928: 329-330, 337)
Morley (1928:319-320)
Morley (1937-38:Vol. IV: 22-24)
Prager (2002: 64-67)
Reents (1982:2, 4)
Rice (1974: 25, Table 1)
Riese (1980: 11)
Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** The partially eroded three glyph block text recorded on Stela Q records the Long Count date of 9.8.0.0.0  5 *Ajaw* 3 *Ch'en*.

Text:
pA1: TVIII:746?     **WAXAK:K'ATUUN?**
pA2: T173.741       **mi.WINAL**
pA3: TV.1000v        **JÓ.AJAW**
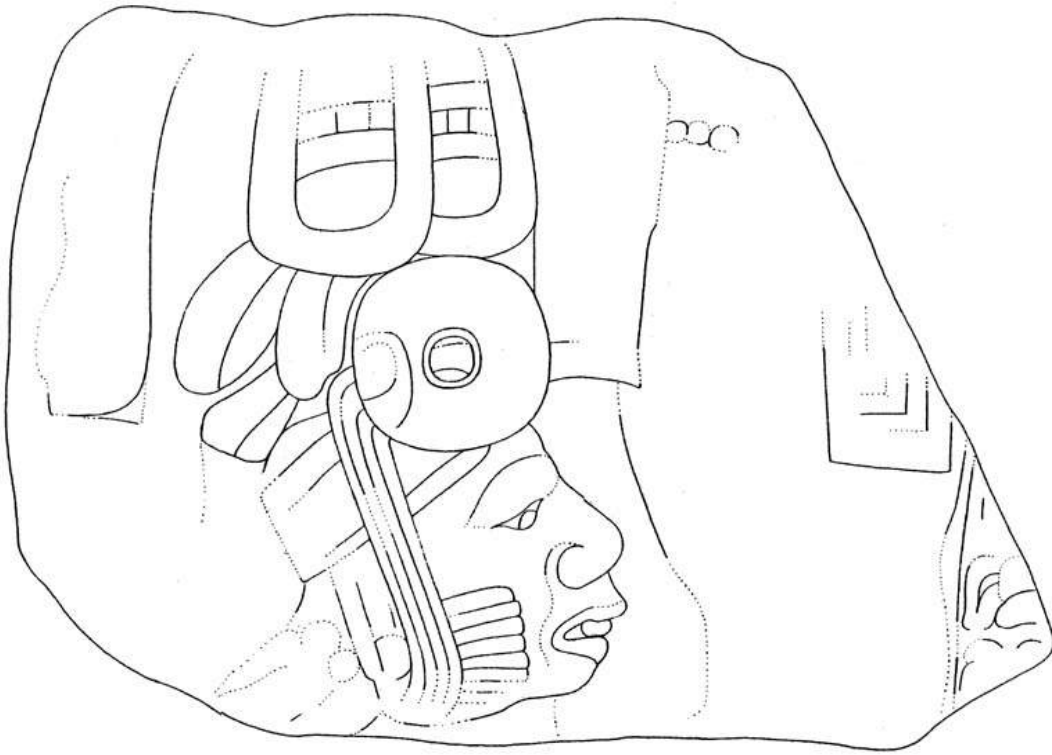
**Figure 58. Pusilhá, Stela R. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Pusilhá, Stela R**
**Location:** Stela R was found just east of Stela Q, north of the row of 12 monuments that originally lined the north face of Structure 1 in the south side of the Main Plaza. T.W.F. Gann first reported the stela in the spring of 1928 as part of the British Museum Expedition to British Honduras. The stela was moved to London in 1928 where it now resides in storage at the British Museum.

**Condition:** Broken fragment. Other portions of this monument have yet to be located or identified. The monument was carved in low relief and thus the only details still clearly visible today are the face and a partial headdress of a male figure facing right.

**Material:** Morley (1928: Vol. IV:66) reports the monument was made from a hard limestone.

**Shape:** Irregular.

**Dimensions:** (All dimensions come from Prager 2002: 79).
        HT:     40.7 cm
        MW:    27.3 cm
        MTH:    10 cm
        RELG:     1 cm

**Carved Areas:** Front only. Includes a profile head and headdress of a male figure.

**Dedicatory Date: \*Late Classic Period. Morley (1937-38:Vol.IV:66) stylistically dates Stela R between 9.16.0.0.0 (5, May 751) and 9.19.0.0.0 (24, June 810).

**Line Drawings:**
        John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 58)
        Christian Prager (2002: Figure 20)
        Berthold Riese (1980: 12)

**Photographic References:**
        Gann (1929:148, No.1)
        Gann (1930:Plate IV, No.3)
        Joyce *et al.* (1928:Plate 32, Figure 3)
        Morley (1937-38:Vol.V:Plate 161a)

**Other References:**
        Gann (1929:125, 141, 149-150)
        Gann (1930:185, 189-190)
        Hammond (1975:272-274)
        Joyce *et al.* (1928:329, 337)
        Morley (1937-38:Vol. IV:65-66)
        Prager (2002:78-80)
        Riese (1980: 11)
        Rice (1974:25-26, Table 1)
        Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** Depicted on Stela R is a partially eroded profile of a male figure's head facing right and wearing an ornate headdress. Located in the extreme right-hand side of the scene one can see the eroded vestiges of a partial text, none of which can be read.
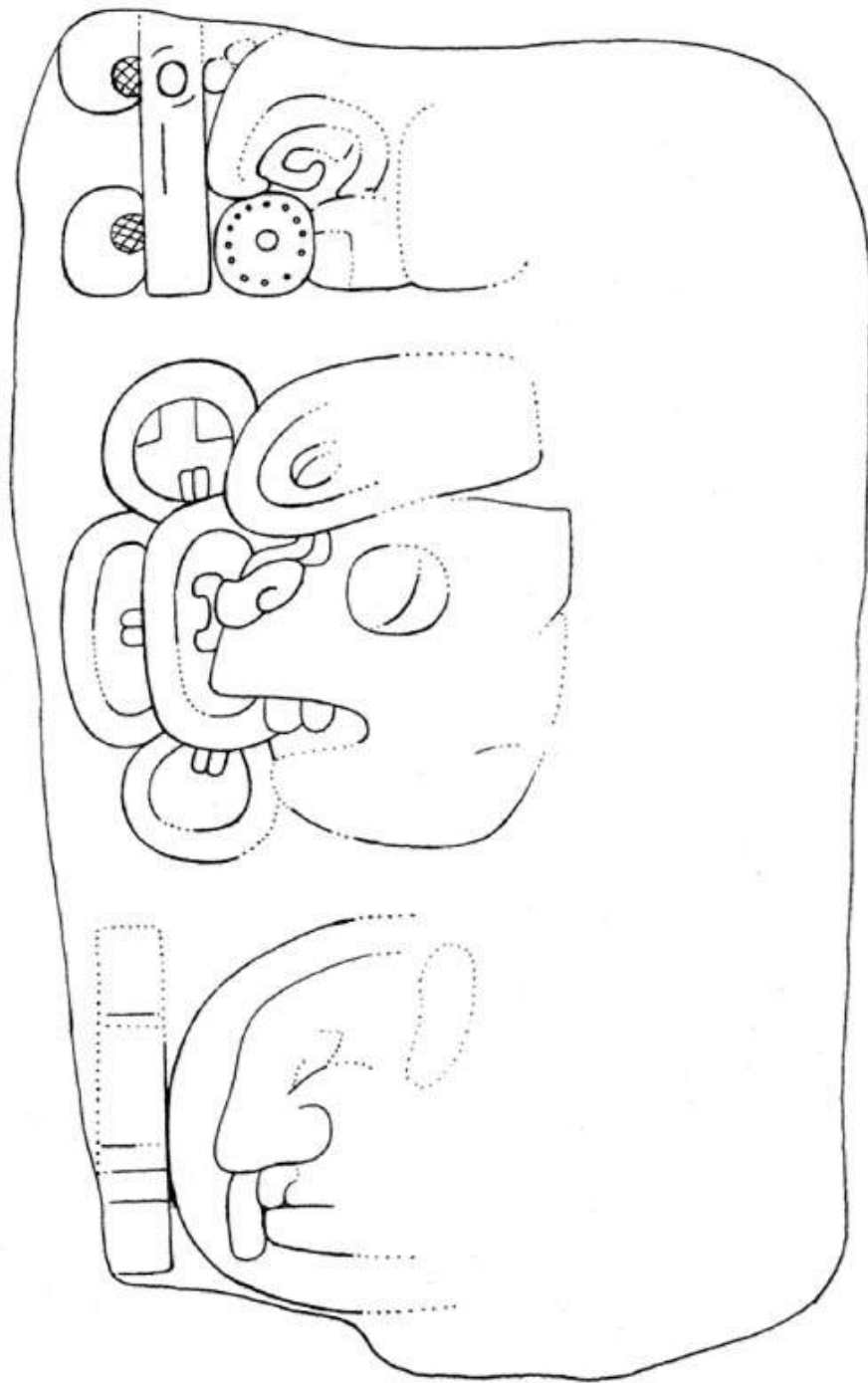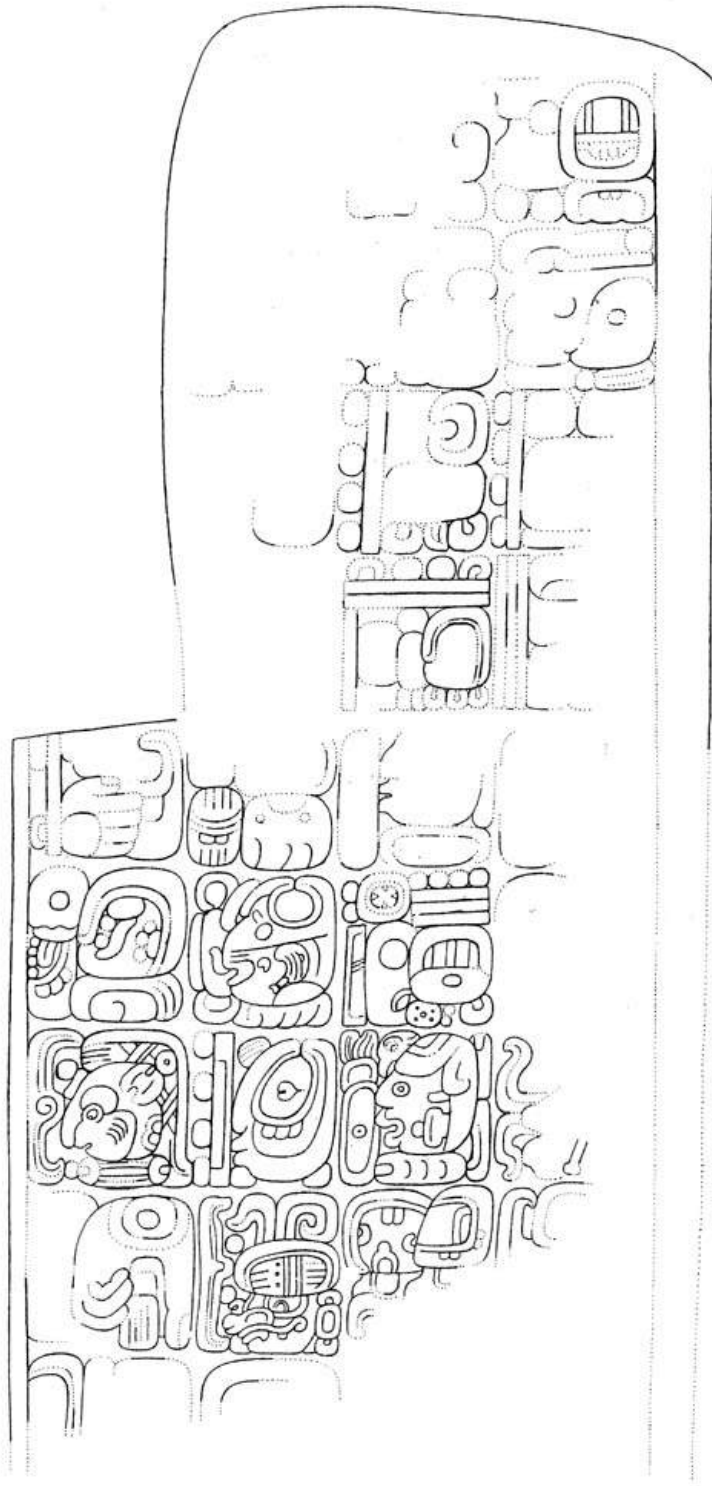
**Figure 59. Pusilhá, Stela U. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

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## Pusilhá, Stela U

**Location:** Stela U was originally located in front (south) of the middle of Structure III on the north side of the Main Plaza. The monument was first reported by J. Eric Thompson on October 3rd, 1927 and is still located at the site.

**Condition:** Broken in at least four pieces, two of which are still missing. The monument was carved in low relief and has suffered the effects of weathering, especially along the breaks of the upper and lower fragments. In addition, the upper fragment has lost the entire first column of text and most of the second column is now totally effaced.

**Material:** Morley (1937-38: Vol. IV: 60) reports the monument was made of a limestone.

**Shape:** Rectangular with well-dressed parallel sides.

**Dimensions:** (All dimensions come from Morley 1938:Vol.IV:60, except where noted).
HT:     1.85 m
MW:     .90 m
MTH:    .20 m
RELG:  2-4 cm (Prager 2002:86)

**Carved Areas:** Front and Back. According to Morley (1937-38: Vol.IV: 60) the front of Stela U features a portrait of standing male figure. Unfortunately, photographs have never been published of the front side of this monument. The back of Stela U features a 36-glyph block text arranged in four columns.

**Dedicatory Date:** Late Classic Period. (*9.15.0.0.0   4 *Ajaw* 13 *Yax*, 18, August 731). Due to the severity of the erosion and the missing first column of text, it is hard to discern what the original Initial Series date may have recorded. Morley (1937-38:Vol.IV:60-61) tentatively assigned the Long Count date of 9.16.0.0.0 based on the fact that most of the other monuments at Pusilhá record *K'atun*-Endings and that the surviving Lunar Series may in fact support a 9.16.0.0.0 date. However, Prager (2002:88-89) favors an Initial Series date of 9.15.0.0.0 based on the rough outlines of a possible coefficient and month sign at C4. I also favor Prager's Initial Series date based on the partial appearance of three bars for the number 15 at D4. If true, this could be a reference locking the Initial Series date to the 15th *K'atun*. However, all of this must remain tentative until we can get a better look at Stela U under raking light.

**Line Drawings:**
John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 59)
Christian Prager (2002: Figure 21 and Figure 22)
Berthold Riese (1980: Figure 13)

**Photographic References:**
Joyce (1929:Plate 39)
Morley (1937-38: Vol. V: Plate 165c)

**Other References:**
Braswell *et al.* (2002:6)
Gann (1929:122, 125, 136, 150)

Gann (1930:189)
Hammond (1975:272-274)
Joyce (1929: 457-459)
Joyce *et al.* (1928:329, 338)
Morley (1928:319)
Morley (1937-38:Vol.V:60-63)
Prager (2003:85-89)
Reents (1982:6)
Rice (1974:26, Table1)
Riese (1980: 12)
Thompson (1928:96)
Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** Besides the above-mentioned problems assigning a Long Count date to Stela U, the text is interesting in that it does make reference to another one of these "Fire-Scattering" rites within the supporting Lunar Series information. Virtually nothing can be said with any degree of detail or confidence concerning additional events recorded on this monument except that an unusual Distance Number does appear to be written at C6. However, the accompanying Calendar Round date is also missing making the chronology even more difficult. If the Distance Number of 19.5.2 is subtracted from the tentative Initial Series date of 9.15.0.0.0, the date arrived would be 9.14.0.12.18   4 *Etz'nab'* 6 *Yax* (15, August 712). If this chronology is correct than the reference to someone in "lordship" at C7 could be the accession statement of another Pusilhá ruler whose name appears to be *K'ak' Winal* or *K'ak' Jun Winik K'awiil*.

Chronology:

A1-B2:          **\*9.15.0.0.0    4 *Ajaw* 13 *Yax* (18, August 731)

D4:             15th (*K'atun*?)

C6:             **\*9.15. 0. 0. 0   4 *Ajaw* 13 *Yax*
        DN      -      19. 5. 2
                 9.14. 0.12.18  4 *Etz'nab'* 6 *Yax* (15, August 712)

Text:
A1: Missing             **??**
B1: Missing             **??**
A2: Missing             **??**
B2: Missing             **??**
A3: Missing             **??**
B3: Missing             **??**
A4: Missing             **??**
B4: Missing             **??**
A5: TVI.?:713.181       **WAK.?:K'AL.ja**
B5: T?:216.?:502        **?:su.?:ma**
A6: T229.528:17         **AJ/Á.ku:yi**
B6: T173.738?:?         **mi.KA?:?**
A7: T204.187:758:110    **u.K'AB'A:CH'OK:ko**
B7: TIX.683             **B'OLON.K'AL**

A8: T?.219v[?]      **(u?).PUK[?]**
B8: T1.1035      **u.K'AK'/BUTZ**
A9: T?.?.?      **?.?.?**
B9: T?      **?**
C1: T?:?      **?:?**
D1: T?:?.561?:23      **?:?.CHAN/KA'AN:na**
C2: T?.?:?:?      **?.?:?:?**
D2: T?:?:?.?:?:?      **?:?:?:?:?:?**
C3: TIX.?.?:?:126      **B'OLON.?.?:?:ya**
D3: TIX.?:?:?      **B'OLON.?:?:?**
C4: TXII:?.?.?:136      **LAKJÁ:?.?.?:ji**
D4: XV.?:?      **JÓLAJUN.?:?**
C5: T?.?:?      **?.?:?**
D5: Missing      **??**
C6: TII.544:V.521.XIX:548:126[585]
     **KÁ.K'IN:JÓ.WINIK.B'OLONLAJUN:HAAB':ya[b'i]**
D6: Missing      **??**
C7: T59.1000d:188.130      **ti.AJAW:le.wa**
D7: T122.?      **K'AK'.?**
C8: T1032a?.1030      **WINAL/HUUN WINIK.K'AWIIL**
D8: T?.?      **??**
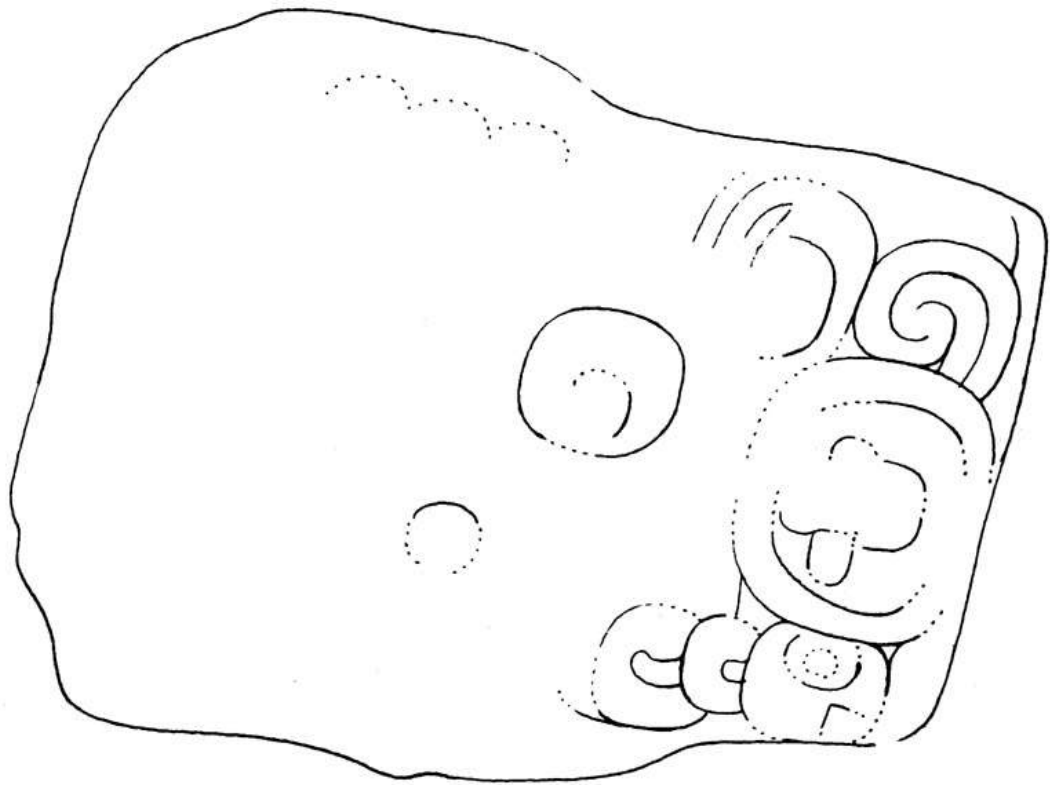
**Figure 60. Pusilhá, Stela Z. (drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Pusilhá, Stela Z**

**Location:** Stela Z was originally found during excavations conducted by T.W.F. Gann as part of the British Museum Expedition to British Honduras, atop the middle part of Structure 1. The fragment was found amongst the building fill rubble. The fragment was moved to London in 1928 where it now resides in storage at the British Museum.

**Condition:** Broken and highly eroded stela fragment.

**Material:** Unknown. (Probably made of limestone)

**Shape:** Irregular.

**Dimensions:** (All dimensions come from Prager 2002:91)
>     HT:    .20 m
>     MW:   .37 m
>     MTH:    5 cm

**Carved Areas:** Front only. The image featured on Stela Z is either a partially eroded glyphic head variant or an image of some zoomorphic creature head with a huge earflare assemblage as part of an unknown figural scene.

**Dedicatory Date:** *Early/Middle Classic Period. Morley (1937-38: Vol.IV:19) believes that the style of carving is extremely early (9.0.0.0.0 to 9.5.0.0.0) based upon its cursive style and location deep within the building fill of Structure 1.

**Line Drawings:**
>     John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 60)
>     Christian Prager (2002: Figure 24)

**Photographic References:**
>     Unknown Photographic Reference

**Other References:**
>     Braswell (2002:6)
>     Gann (1928: 121, 123)
>     Joyce *et al.* (1928:328)
>     Morley (1937-38: Vol. IV: 19)
>     Prager (2002: 90-92)
>     Rice (1974:23, Table 1)
>     Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** Little can be said other than the fact that the image appears to either be a partially eroded head variant of some unspecified glyph or a profile head of some unknown zoomorphic/reptilian creature head who sports an elaborate earflare assemblage as part of the overall image.
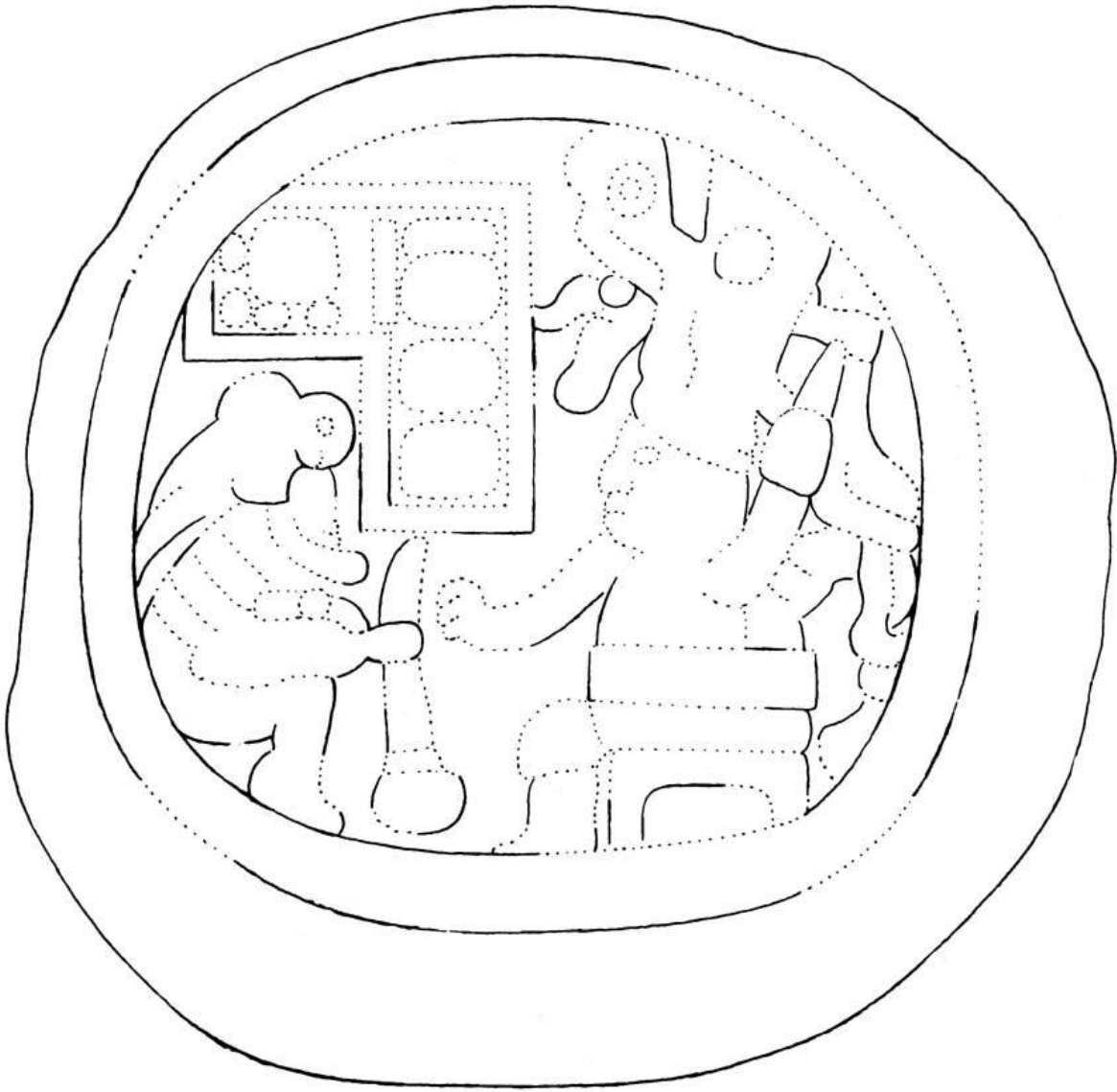
**Figure 61. Pusilhá, Ballcourt Marker 1, East Marker. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**
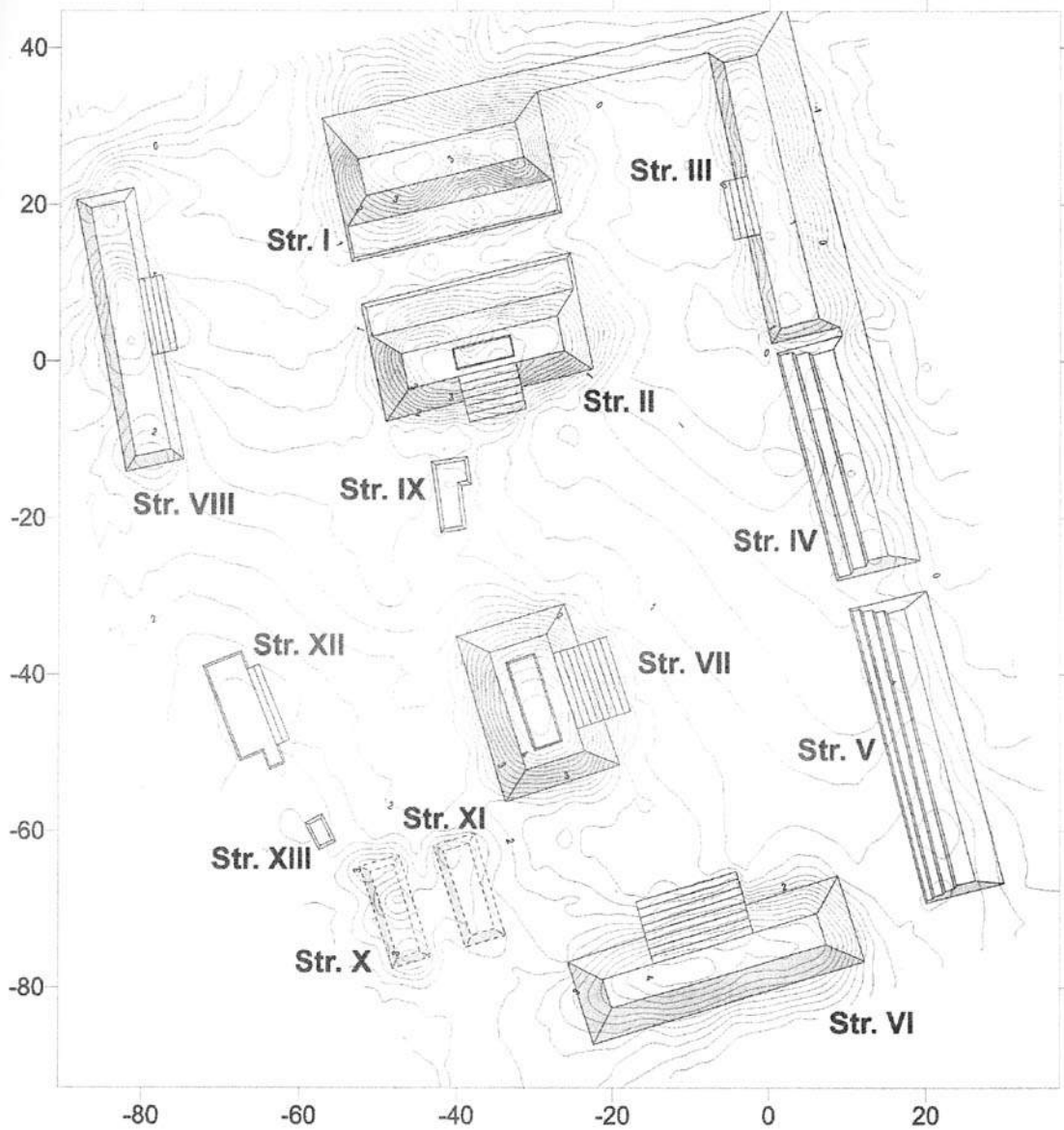
**Figure 62. Plan Map of the Moho Plaza Group where the three ballcourt markers were found. (Drawn by and courtesy of Geoffrey Braswell [Braswell *et al*. 2002:Figure 1.4]).**

**<u>Pusilhá, Ballcourt Marker 1, East Marker</u>**

**Location:** Ballcourt Marker 1 was first reported in 1989 by members of the Maya Ceremonial Caves Project, directed by Gary Rex Walters (Walters and Weller 1992: 3) in the ballcourt located within the Moho Plaza Group (see <u>Figure 62</u>). Walters later conducted a systematic settlement survey in 1992 where it became clear that sometime after the initial discovery of the three ballcourt markers, they were moved from their original location to an area approximately 30 meters north of the ballcourt.

**Condition:** Intact, but extremely eroded. The text is no longer legible.

**Material:** A fine, highly burnished, white limestone.

**Shape:** Circular with a slightly recessed border.

**Dimensions:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Diameter N/S: | .68 m |
| Diameter E/W: | .69 m |
| MTH: | .33 m |
| REL: | 0.4 – 1.5 cm (Prager 2002:102) |

**Carved Areas:** Top only. Includes portraits of two ballplayers and an inverted "L-Shaped" text box that may contain either 3 or 4 glyph blocks.

**Dedicatory Date:** *Late Classic Period, "Lubaantún-Style": 9.16.0.0.0 – 9.18.0.0.0 (AD 751-790). The overall size, style, shape, and format of the three ballcourt markers at Pusilhá closely resemble the three ballcourt markers found at Lubaantún. In fact, the same type of stone appears to have been used at both sites.

**Line Drawings:**
John Montgomery (SBEP, <u>Figure 61</u>)
Christian Prager (2002: Figure 28)
Gary Rex Walters and Lorington Weller (1994: Figure 7a)
Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Photographic References:**
Sulak (Unpublished)
Walters and Weller (1994: Figure 6a and Figure 7b)
Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
Braswell (2001:9
Braswell (2002: 6)
Braswell *et al.* (2002:7)
Prager (2002: 101-103)
Walters and Weller (1994: 3, 7, 10-12, 24-29)
Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** The figural scene featured on Ballcourt Marker 1 is unusual in that both figures appear to be seated yet wearing all of their ballplayer attire. An exchange of some sort of elongated object also appears to be taking place. The figure to the right of the scene is clearly seated on a small throne or stool. He holds his left arm up behind his head and with his right, he reaches to out to the individual seated in front of him to receive a most unusual object. Unfortunately, this object is not clearly understood. Both figures wear elaborate flowing headdresses: one in the form of a probable *Witz* Monster (right figure) and the one in the form of a macaw (left figure). Both ballplayers are wearing defensive pads around their waists and the left figure also sports a chinstrap as part of his helmeted headgear.

As for the text, it cannot be read with any degree of confidence. Upon closer examination of this ballcourt marker it would appear that a Calendar Round date begins the three or four glyph block text. A1 appears to record a numerical coefficient of either 2 or 3 and the Haab' position may record a bar and a single dot for the number 6. However, due to the severity of the erosion along the top surface of this monument, the date of this monument will have to remain a question.

Text:
A1: TII/III.?       **KÁ/OX.?**
B1: TVI?.?:?        **WAK?.?:?**
B2: T?              **??**
B3: T?              **??**
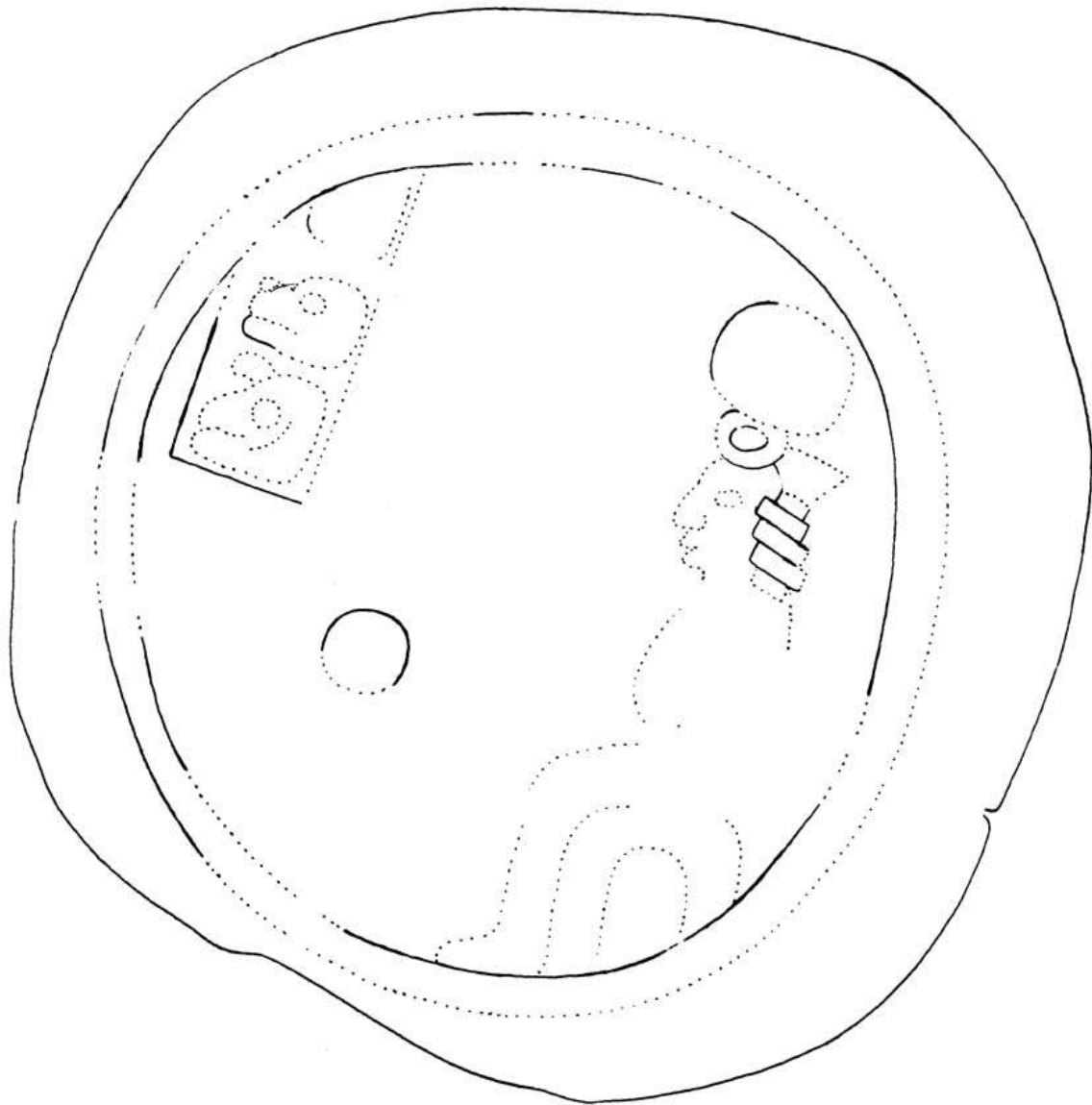
**Figure 63. Pusilhá, Ballcourt Marker 2, Center Marker. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Pusilhá, Ballcourt Marker 2, Center Marker**

**Location:** Ballcourt Marker 2 was first reported by Gary Rex Walters in 1992 as part of his Pusilhá Project (Walters and Weller 1994:7) in the ballcourt located within the Moho Plaza Group (see Figure 62). Subsequent to its discovery, the ballcourt marker was moved to a location approximately 30 meters north of the ballcourt.

**Condition:** Intact, but extremely eroded. Little of the figural scene and accompanying three-glyph block text are visible today.

**Material:** A fine, highly burnished, white limestone.

**Shape:** Circular with a slightly recessed border.

**Dimensions:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Diameter N/S: | .68 m |
| Diameter E/W: | .69 m |
| MTH: | .19 m |
| REL: | 0.4 cm (Prager 2002:105) |

**Carved Areas:** Top only. Includes portraits of two ballplayers and a short three-glyph block text.

**Dedicatory Date:** *Late Classic Period, "Lubaantún Style": 9.16.0.0.0 – 9.18.0.0.0 (AD 751-790). The overall size, style, shape, and format of the three Pusilhá ballcourt markers closely resemble the three ballcourt markers found at Lubaantún. The same type of stone appears to have been used at both sides.

**Line Drawings:**
John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 63)
Christian Prager (2002: Figure 29)
Gary Rex Walters and Lorington Weller (1994: Figure 8a)
Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Photographic References:**
Sulak (Unpublished)
Walters and Weller (1994: Figure 6b and Figure 8b)
Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
Braswell (2001:9)
Braswell (2002a:9)
Braswell (2000b:7)
Prager (2002:104-106)
Walters and Weller (1994:3, 7, 24-29)
Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** Unfortunately, little of the figural scene of Ballcourt Marker 2 is legible today. The scene does seem to portray at least one ballplayer who appears to be sitting on a small stool or throne. He wears a headdress reminiscent of the one worn by the figure portrayed on Stela R.

A ball may be represented in the scene located near the center of the scene. In addition, a short three glyph block text appears in the upper left-hand corner of the scene which may include a T764 logographic *Ka'an* or *Chan* sign and a possible T1000 *Ajaw* sign.

Text:
A1: T?            **??**
A2: T764?         **KA'AAN/CHAN**
A3: T1000?        **AJAW?**
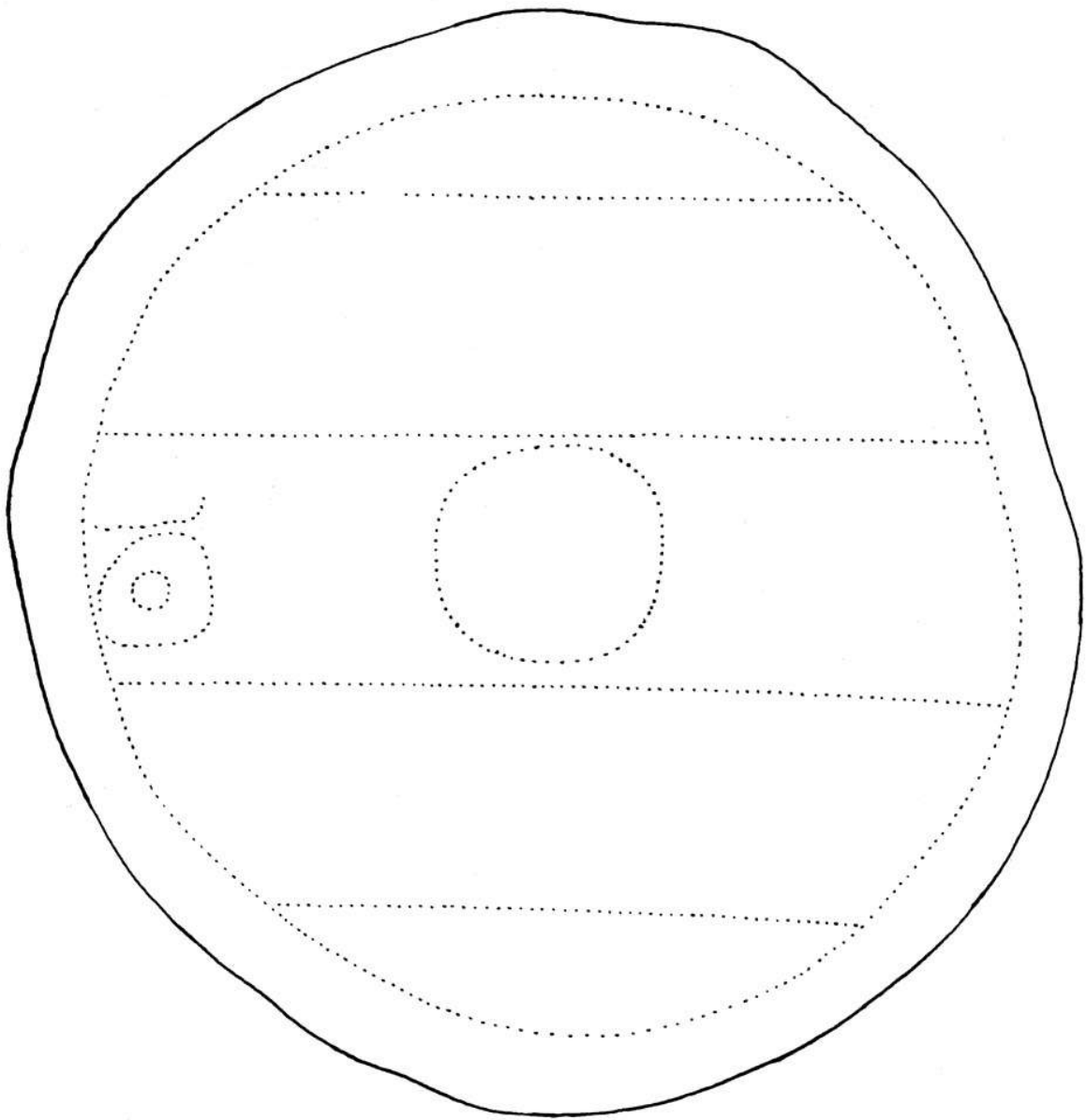
**Figure 64. Pusilhá, Ballcourt Marker 3, West Marker. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Pusilhá, Ballcourt Marker 3, West Marker**

**Location:** Ballcourt Marker 3 was first reported by Gary Rex Walters in 1992 as part of his Pusilhá Project (Walters and Weller 1994:7) in the ballcourt located within the Moho Plaza Group (see Figure 62). Subsequent to its discovery, the ballcourt marker was moved to a location approximately 30 meters north of the ballcourt.

**Condition:** Broken into at least 7 pieces and the figural scene is totally eroded except for a series of 4 lines that probably represent the steps or risers of a ballcourt stairway. In addition, a representation of a ball can still be seen in the middle of the scene. Today, the monument is all but destroyed and pulverized.

**Material:** A fine, highly burnished, white limestone.

**Shape:** Circular with a slightly recessed border.

**Dimensions:**
    Diameter N/S:          .68 m
    Diameter E/W:          .69 m
    MTH:                   .19 m
    REL:                   0.2 cm (Prager 2002:108)

**Carved Areas:** Top only. Includes a series of four evenly spaced, horizontal lines that probably represent the steps or risers of a ballcourt stairway. No text is visible.

**Dedicatory Date:** *Late Classic Period, "Lubaantún-Style": 9.16.0.0.0 – 9.18.0.0.0 (AD 751-790). The overall size, style, shape, and format of the three Pusilhá ballcourt markers closely resemble the three ballcourt markers at Lubaantún. The same type of stone appears to have been used at both sites.

**Line Drawings:**
    John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 64)
    Christian Prager (2002:Figure 30)
    Gary Rex Walters and Lorington Weller (1994:Figure 9a)
    Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Photographic References:**
    Sulak (Unpublished)
    Walters and Weller (1994: Figure 6c, Figure 9a)
    Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
    Braswell (2001: 9)
    Braswell (2002: 6)
    Braswell *et al.* (2002: 7)
    Prager (2002: 107-108)
    Walters and Weller (1994: 3, 7, 10-12, 24-25, 28-29)
    Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** The only vestiges of a figural scene still visible at the time of this ballcourt markers discovery are four horizontal lines that probably represent the stairs or risers of a ballcourt. Located dead center in the figural scene is a large ball. Presumably, either one or two individuals were originally depicted in the scene; however, no traces of either can be found today.
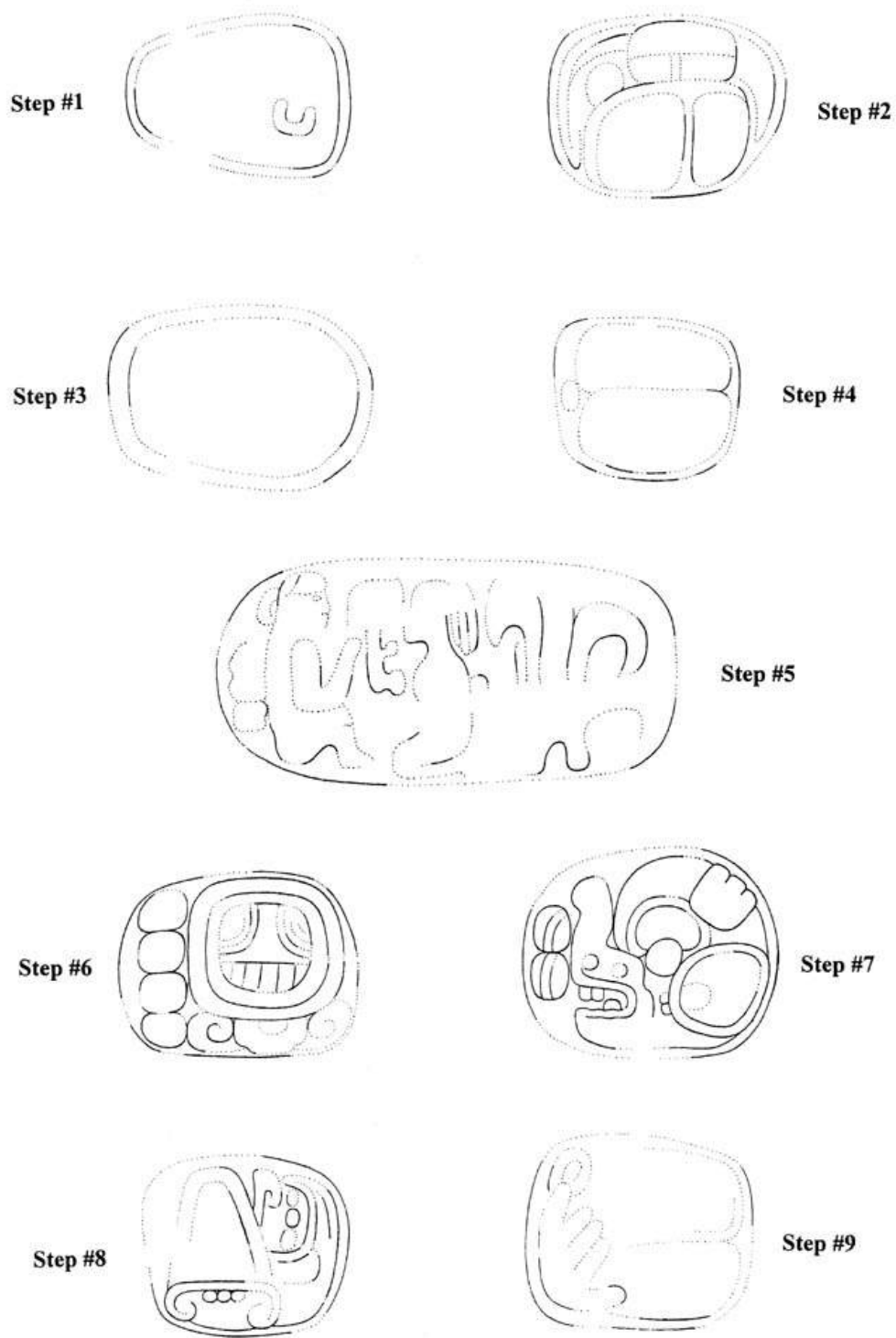
**Figure 65. Pusilhá, Hieroglyphic Stairway 1, Steps 1 –9. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**
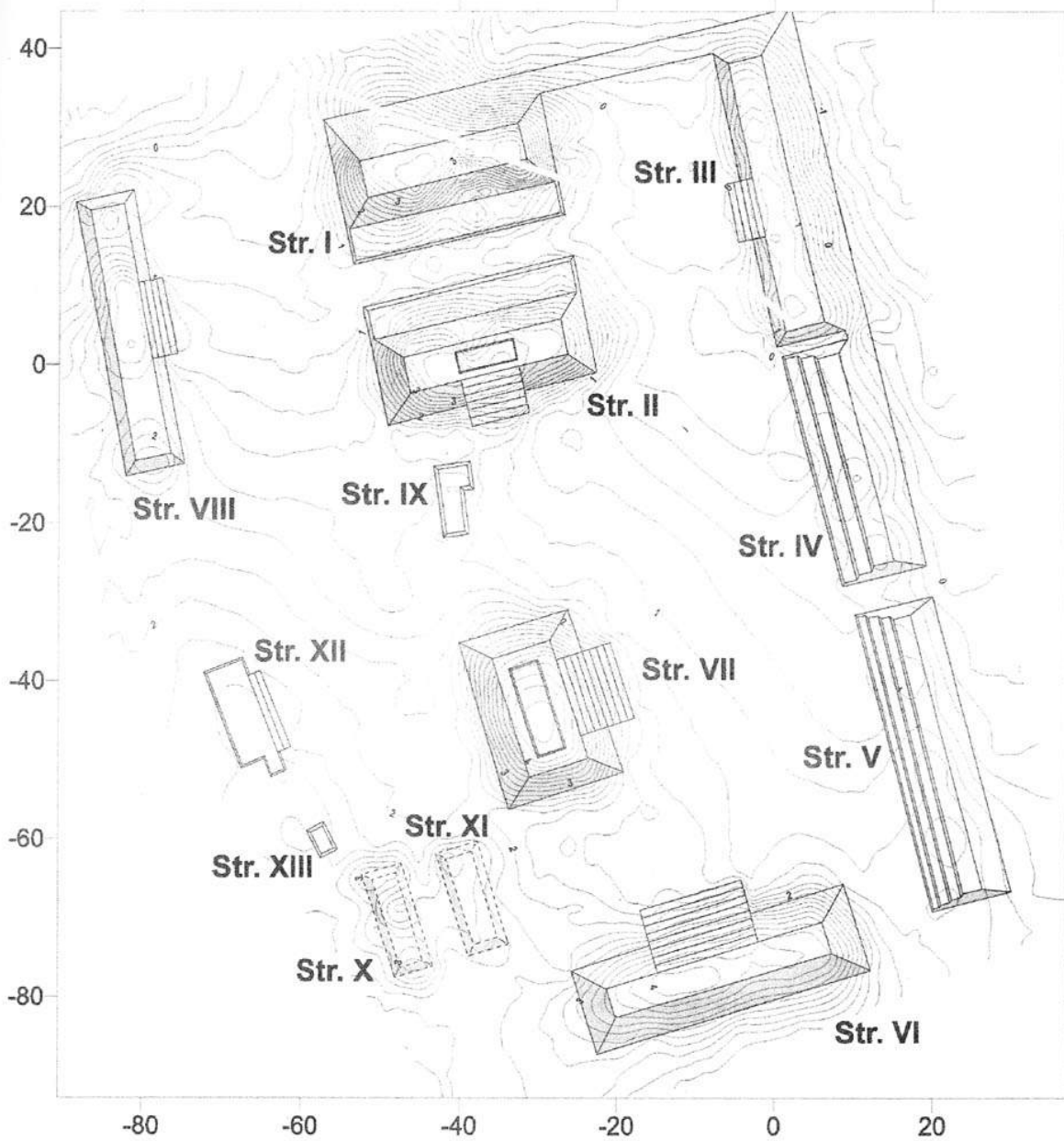
**Figure 66. Plan Map of the Moho Plaza Group showing the location of Hieroglyphic Stairway 1 atop Structure VI. (Drawn by and courtesy of Geoffrey Braswell [Braswell *et al*. 2002: Figure 1.4)**
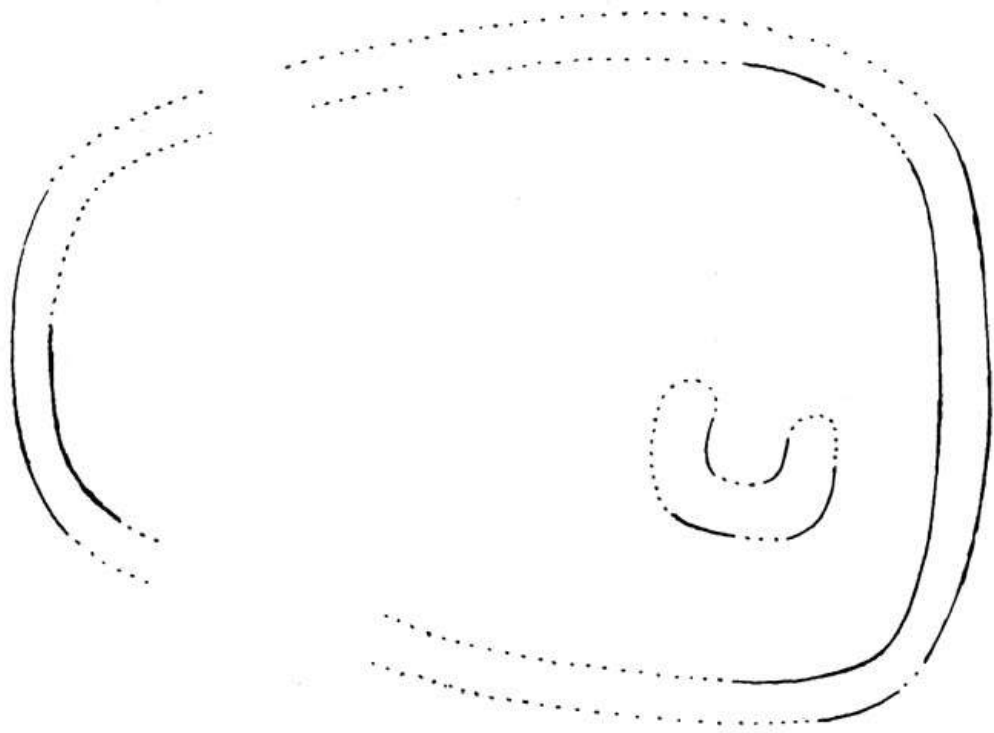
**Figure 67. Pusilhá, Hieroglyphic Stairway 1, Step 1. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**
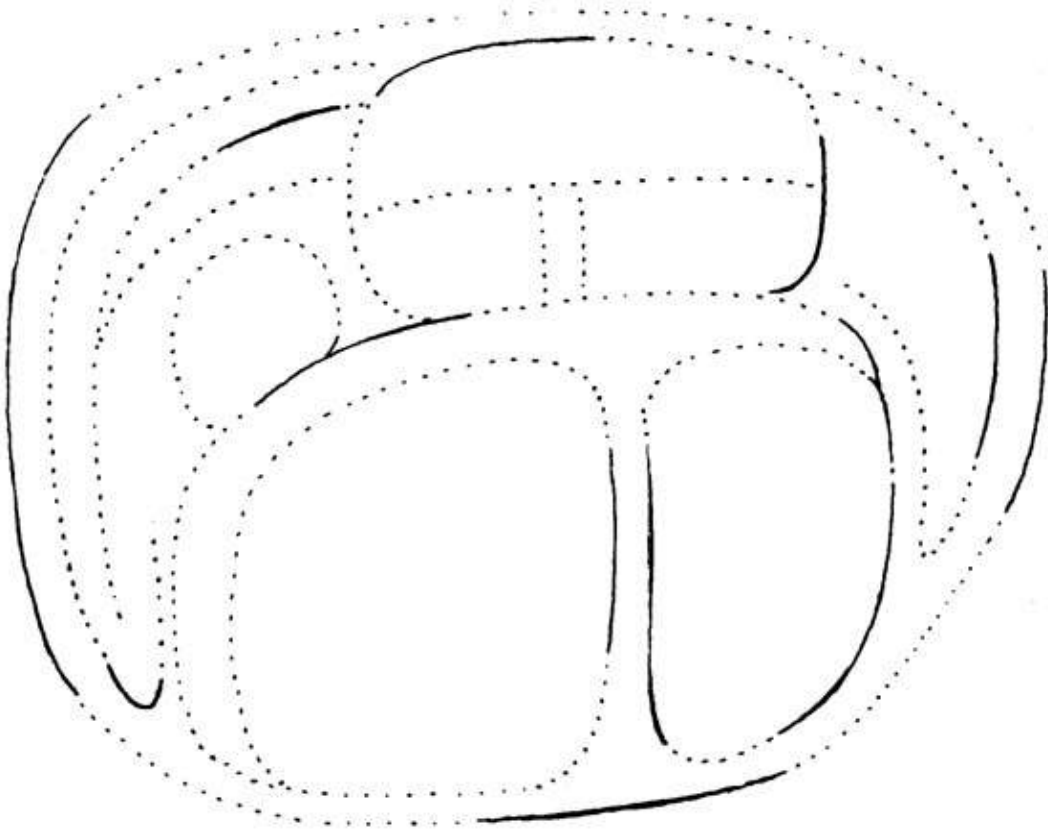
**Figure 68. Pusilhá, Hieroglyphic Stairway 1, Step 2. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**
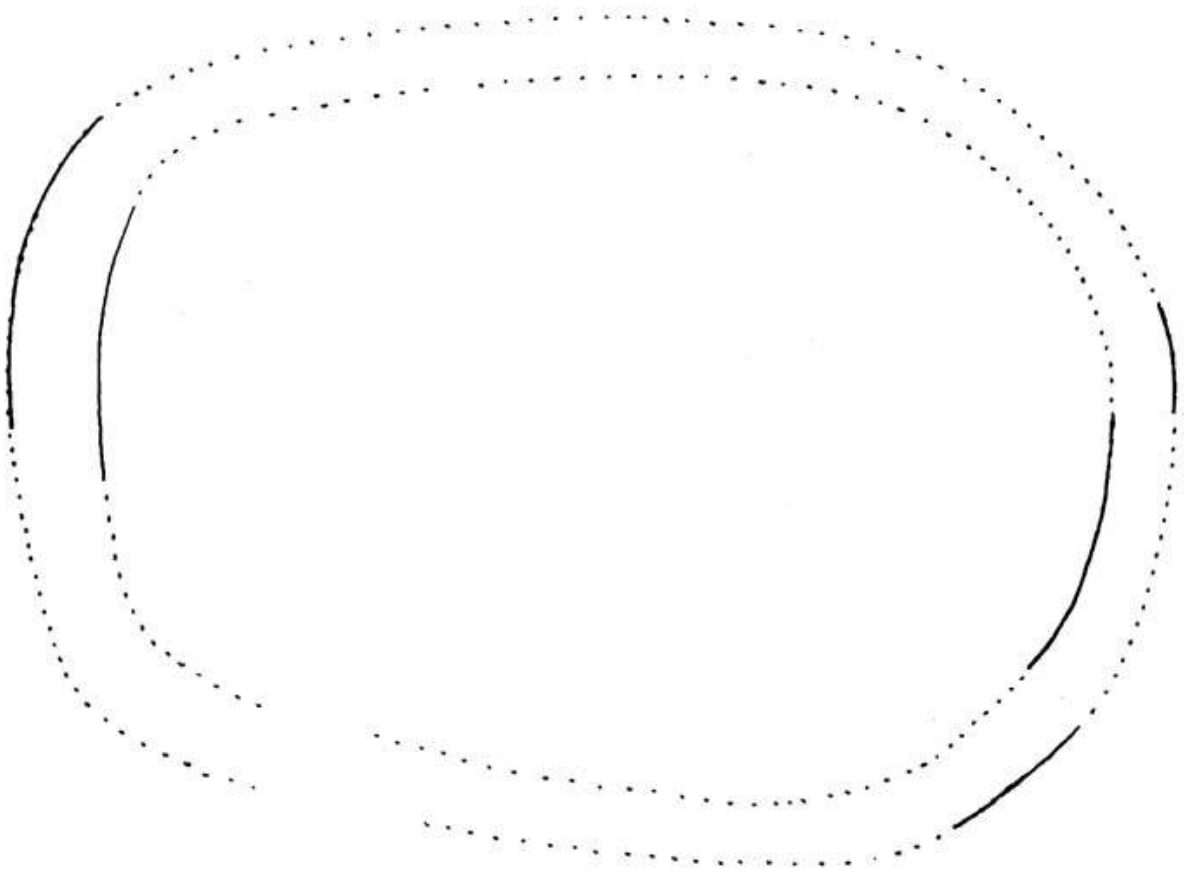
**Figure 69. Pusilhá, Hieroglyphic Stairway 1, Step 3. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**
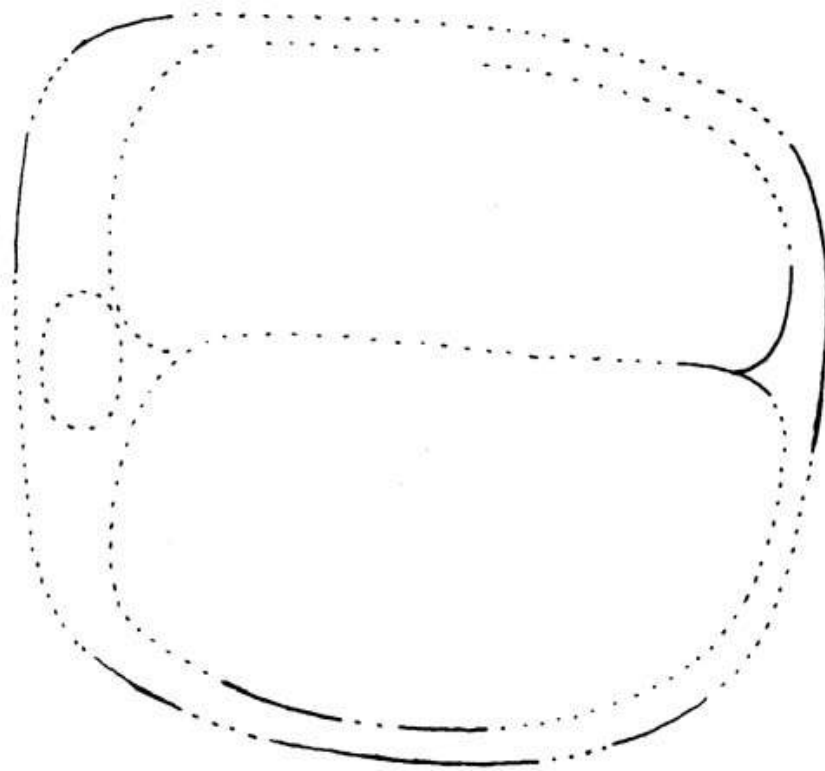
**Figure 70. Pusilhá, Hieroglyphic Stairway 1, Step 4. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**
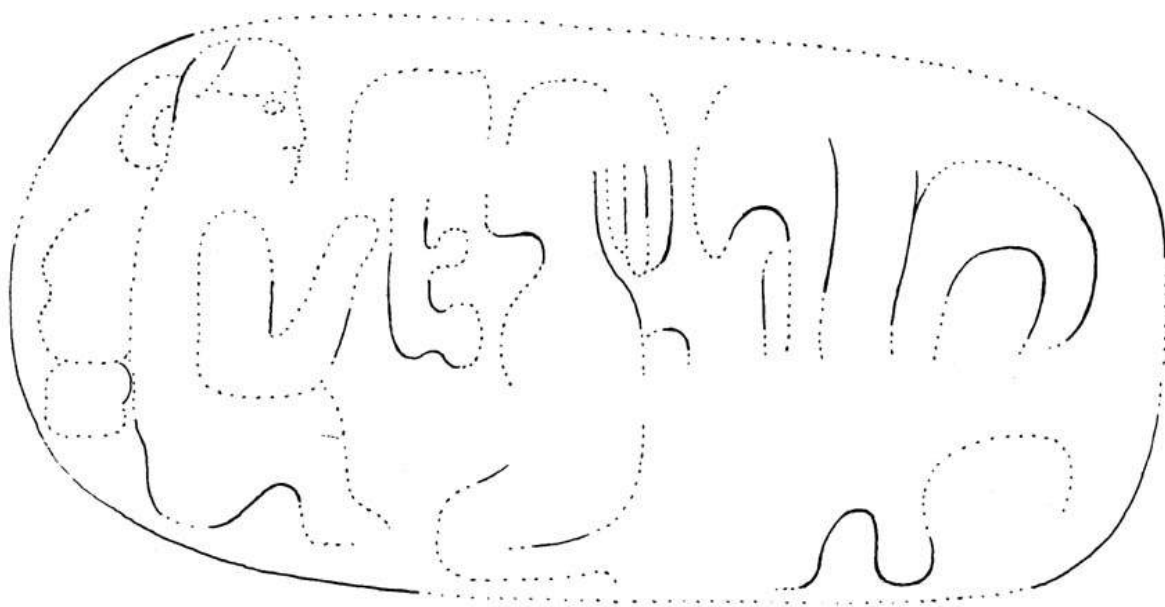
**Figure 71. Pusilhá, Hieroglyphic Stairway 1, Step 5. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**
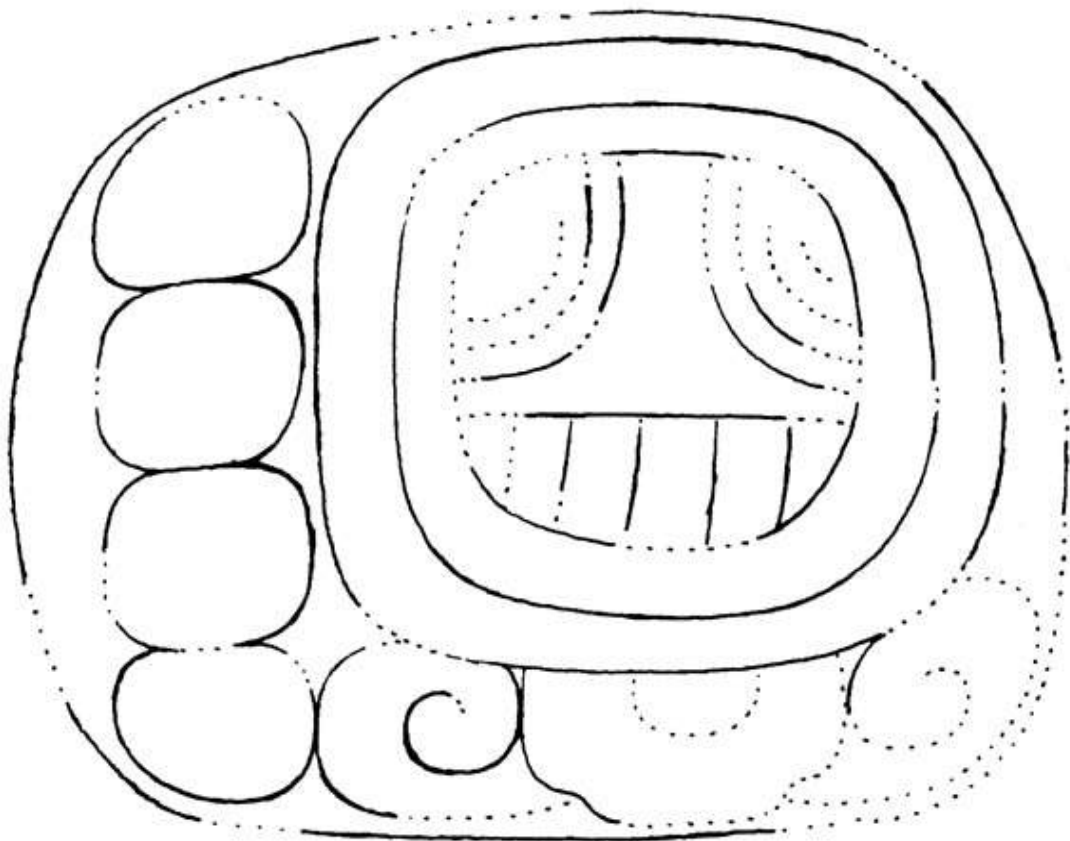
**Figure 72. Pusilhá, Hieroglyphic Stairway 1, Step 6. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**
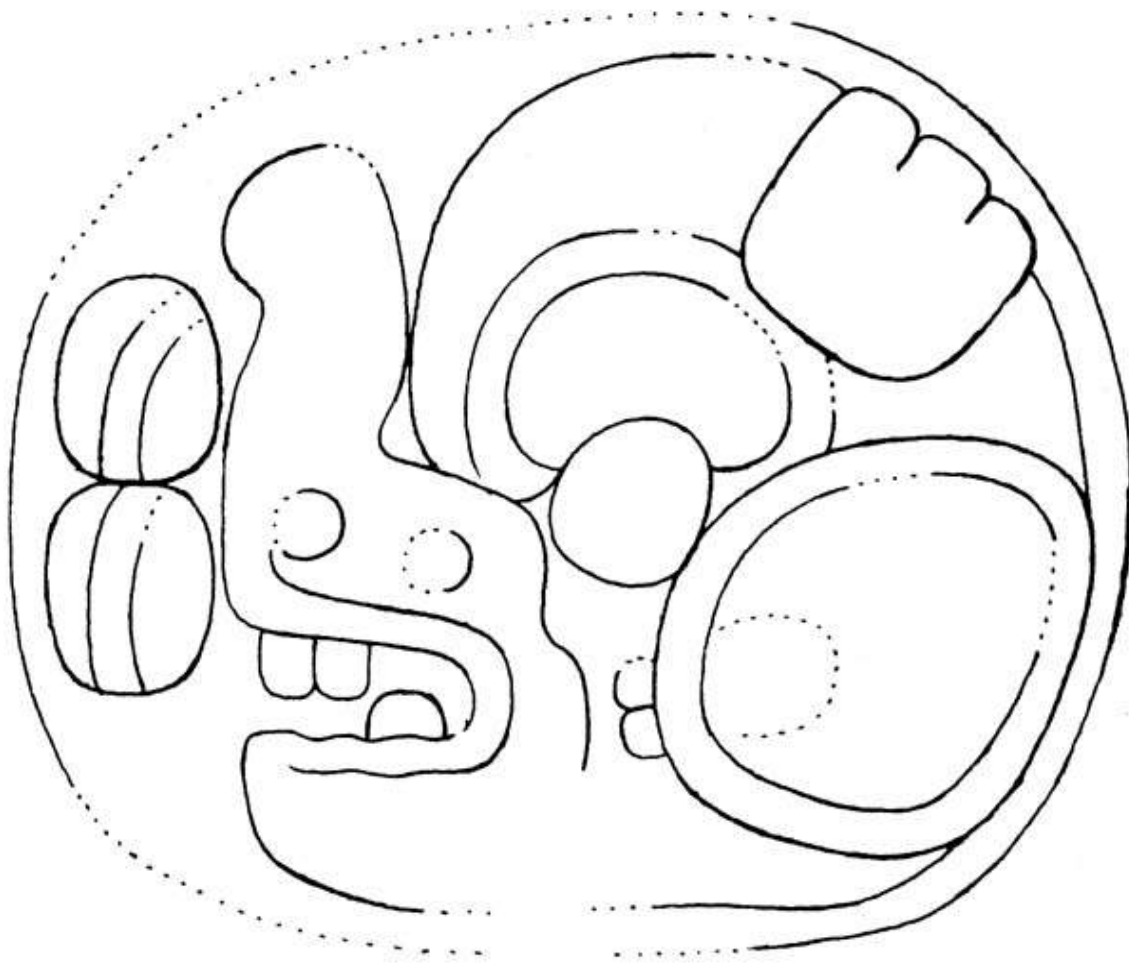
**Figure 73. Pusilhá, Hieroglyphic Stairway 1, Step 7. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**
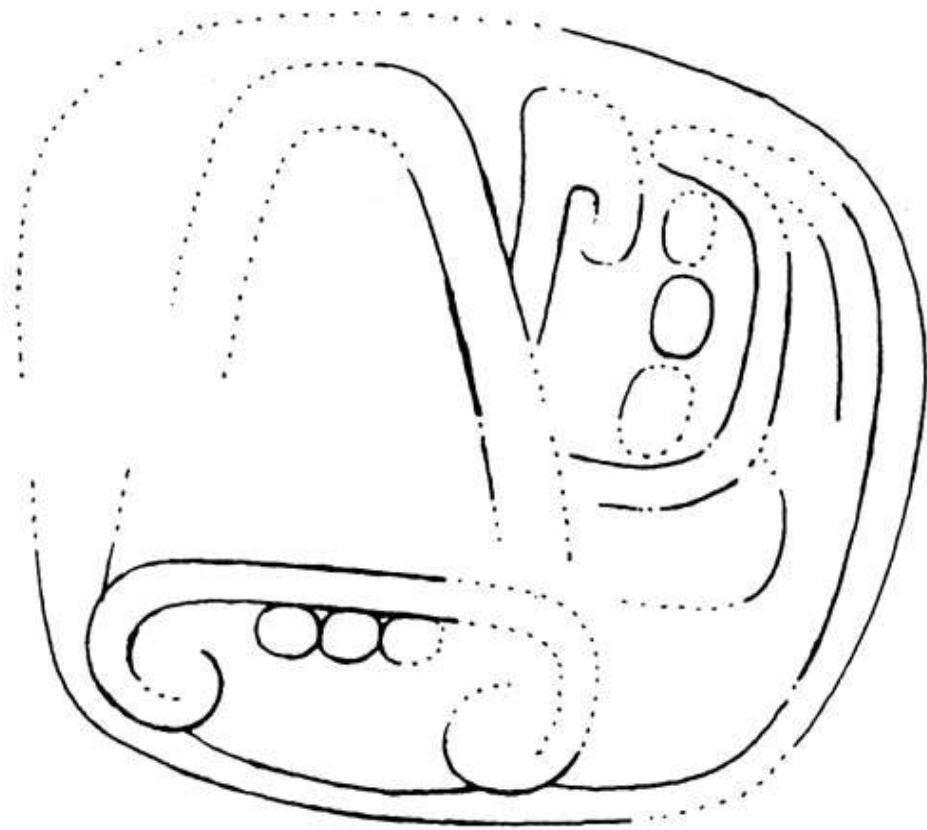
**Figure 74. Pusilhá, Hieroglyphic Stairway 1, Step 8. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Figure 75. Pusilhá, Hieroglyphic Stairway 1, Step 9. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Pusilhá, Hieroglyphic Stairway 1, (Structure VI)**

**Location:** Gary Rex Walters first reported The Hieroglyphic Stairway in 1992 as part of his Pusilha Project (Walters and Weller 1992: 5). The stairway was found along the front portion of the staircase leading up Structure VI in a previously unreported plaza group known today the Moho Plaza (see Figure 66). This new group is located approximately ¾ mile upstream from the famous Pusilhá bridge abutments. The jumbled appearance of the stairway today gives the impression that it either fell or slumped in antiquity or was the subject of disturbance by looters.

**Condition:** The nine steps that have thus far been reported are in extremely poor shape and are badly eroded and cracked. Two of the best-preserved steps (Step 6 and Step 7) may provide a probable Calendar Round date.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Limestone

**Shape:** Each of the nine-glyph blocks was carved individually on separate cut-stone blocks. Each glyph is contained within a circular or oblong cartouche.

**Dimensions:** (All dimensions come from Prager 2002: 110)

| **Block 1:** | Height: 29 cm<br>Width:  71 cm<br>Depth:   60 cm | **Cartouche Dimensions:** | Height: 27 cm<br>Width: 22 cm<br>REL:   0.4 cm |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Block 2:** | Height:  26 cm<br>Width:  79 cm<br>Depth:  68 cm | **Cartouche Dimensions:** | Height: 28 cm<br>Width:  24 cm<br>REL:    0.4 cm |
| **Block 3:** | Height:  40 cm<br>Width:   78 cm<br>Depth:   80 cm | **Cartouche Dimensions:** | Height:  28 cm<br>Width: 24 cm<br>REL:    0.4 cm |
| **Block 4:** | Height:  40 cm<br>Width:   80 cm<br>Depth:   74 cm | **Cartouche Dimensions:** | Height:    28 cm<br>Width:    24 cm<br>REL:     0.4 cm |
| **Block 5:** | Height:   40 cm<br>Width:  120 cm<br>Depth:    86 cm | **Cartouche Dimensions:** | Height:    57 cm<br>Width:    26 cm<br>REL:     0.4 cm |
| **Block 6:** | Data Missing (Block could not be relocated) | | |
| **Block 7:** | Data Missing (Block could not be relocated) | | |
| **Block 8:** | Height:   40 cm<br>Width:    60 cm<br>Depth:    59 cm | **Cartouche Dimensions:** | Height:    30 cm<br>Width:    26 cm<br>REL:     0.4 cm |

**Block 9:**  Height: 39 cm    **Cartouche Dimensions:**  Height: 24 cm
Width: 84 cm                                              Width: 24 cm
Depth: 59 cm                                              REL:     0.4 cm

**Carved Areas:** Front only. The text is presumably carved onto the riser or front face of the stairway.

**Dedicatory Date:** *Late Classic Period. Though it is clear that at least 9 individually carved stones exist today, the original text probably contained several more stones. Unfortunately, dating this inscription has proven to be extremely problematic and troublesome. At least two stones (Stone 6 and Stone 7) appear to record a Calendar Round date. Stone 6 appears to record a *Tzolk'in* date of 4 *Ak'bal* while Stone 7 appears to record a *Haab'* date of 2 *Sotz*. However, this correspondence must be incorrect since 2 *Sotz* will never appear with 4 *Ak'bal*. In order for a *Sotz* date to match the *Tzolk'in* date of 4 *Ak'bal* the numerical coefficients can only be 1, 6, 11, 16. This leads to a major calendrical conundrum in trying to resolve the issue of this date.

There are three ways of analyzing this date. First, the *Tzolk'in* date may not be *Ak'bal,* rather there is a possibility that the main sign is actually a variant form of the day name *K'an*. If true, there are three possibilities as to what the remaining Calendar Round date could be:

9.7.10.0.1  4 *K'an* 2 *Sotz* (15, April 706)

9.16.7.0.4  4 *K'an* 2 *Sotz* (2, April 758)

9.18.19.13.4  4 *K'an* 2 *Sotz* (20, March 810)

All of these dates fall within a realistic realm given Pusilhá's chronology. The second way of interpreting this Calendar Round is that the *Haab'* date was incorrectly recorded as 2 *Sotz*. Prager (2002:111) favors a different interpretation of these two glyph blocks. He reads them as a Calendar Round date of 4 *Ak'bal* 1 *Sotz* which leads to three real possibilities:

9.13.2.2.3  4 Ak'bal 1 Sotz    (17, April 694)

9.15.14.15.3  4 Ak'bal 1 Sotz (4, April 746)

9.18.7.10.3  4 Ak'bal 1 Sotz (22, March 798)

Prager (2002:111) favors the third date of 9.18.7.10.3. However, there still exists the real possibility that more of this text may exist somewhere in the vicinity of Structure VI and that these two blocks never actually corresponded with one another. Rather, they represent two separate Calendar Round dates and each is missing its own corresponding Tzolk'in or Haab' date. Part of the problem here may also lie in the fact that these two steps could not be relocated by either the Southern Belize Epigraphic Project or by the Pusilhá Archaeological Project. Given the great importance of these two blocks it is vital that they be relocated and examined by an epigrapher using artificial light to confirm the glyphic details of each block. The photographs used in drawing these two blocks come from photographs provided by Gary Rex Walters and John Mack in 1994. While these photographs do provide some assurances of what the glyph blocks may have originally contained, they are hardly definitive proof either way. Until these

blocks can be relocated and the drawings confirmed, the date of this inscription will remain in question.

**Line Drawings:**
John Montgomery (SBEP, <u>Figure 65, Figure 67, Figure 68, Figure 69, Figure 70, Figure 71, Figure 72, Figure 73, Figure 74, Figure 75</u>)
Christian Prager (2002: Figure 31)
Christian Prager (In Braswell 2000b:Figure 1.5)
Gary Rex Walters and Lorington Weller (1994: Figures 12-15)

**Photographic References:**
Sulak (Unpublished)
Walters and Weller (1994: Figures 11-15)
Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
Braswell (2001:9)
Braswell (2002a:7)
Braswell (2002b:6-8)
Prager (2002:109-112)
Walters and Weller (1994: 3, 7, 14, 30-37)
Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** Unfortunately, the text itself offers no real clues that could help to lock the date down. If the text named a known Pusilha ruler than there might be some hope of dating this text. However, if there was a reference to a Pusilha ruler, it is no longer visible today. The reading order of the text appears to begin with Steps 6 and 7 and continue with Step 9 with a possible reference to a "scattering" rite. The text then continues with Step 8 that may be a reference to a *K'ul Naj* or "Divine House" based on a possible suffix recorded in second part of the glyph block. The rest of the text is highly questionable as to its correct reading order. Step 5 appears to be either a figural scene or a text consisting of full-figured hieroglyphs. Unfortunately, not enough survives of the sculptural surface to ascertain either way. However, the scene does seem to include a seated figure on the left who is faced by another seated and bound figure, perhaps a captive, on the right.

Text: (Note that the following steps are not in their proper reading order)
Step 1: T?                 **??**

Step 2: T?[?]:?        **?[?]:?**

Step 3: T?                 **??**

Step 4: TI?.?:?        **HUUN?.?:?**

Step 5: Figural Scene or Full-Figured Hieroglyphs ??

Step 6: TIV.504/506?:125    **KAN.AK'BAL/K'AN?:(DET)**

Step 7: TII.657    **KÁ. SOTZ**

Step 8: T685?:23.181 **K'UL NAJ?:na.ja**

Step 9: T?.219?.?:? **?.PUK?.?:?**
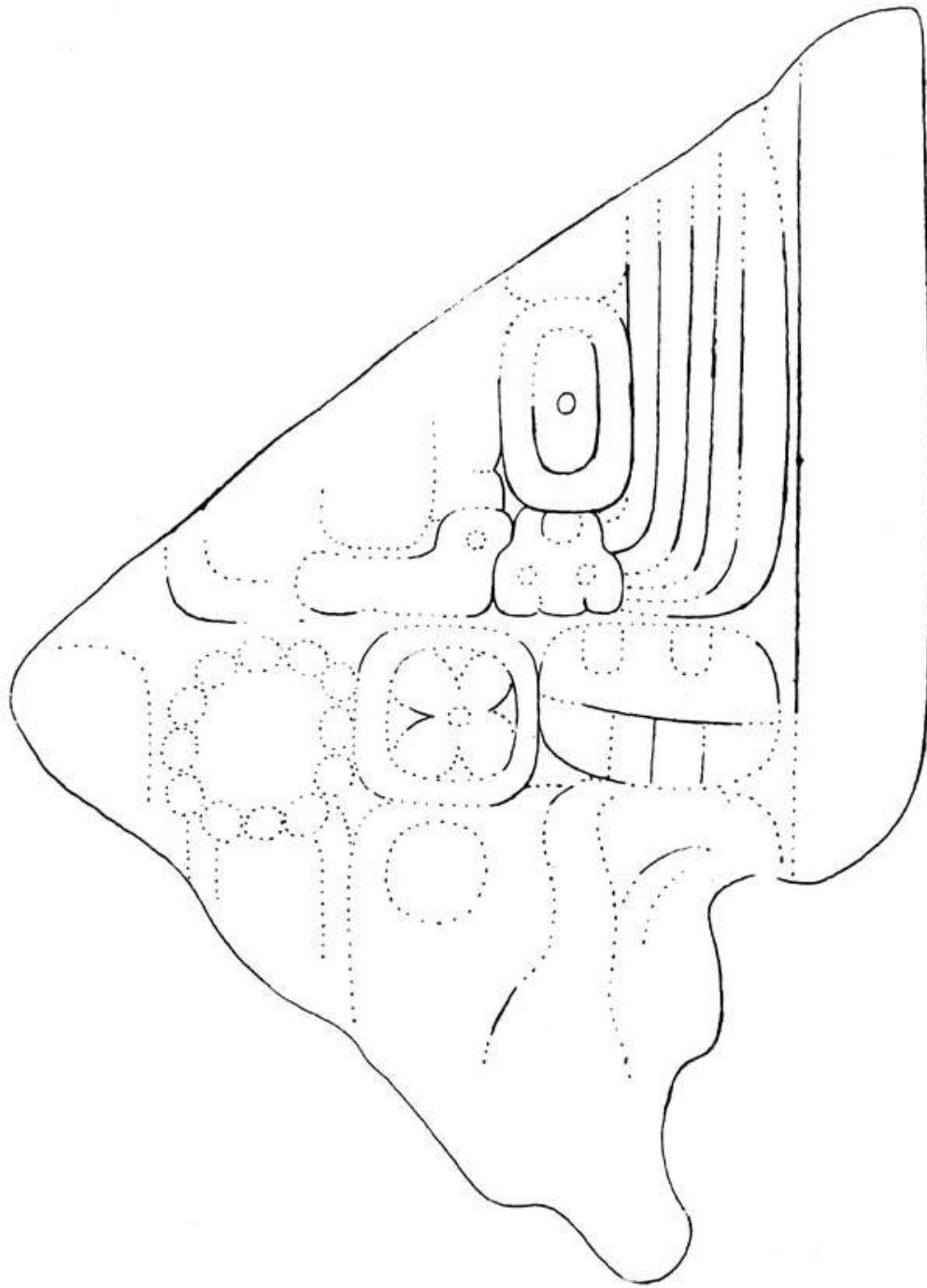
**Figure 76. Pusilhá, Sculptural Fragment 3. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

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**Pusilhá, Sculptural Fragment 3**

**Location:** Original location unknown. Riese identified sculptural Fragment 3 as a Pusilhá text in 1971. Riese (1971:14) believes the fragment belongs to Stela E; however, it is not really clear if this is the correct interpretation. The fragment is now in London where it resides in storage at the British Museum.

**Condition:** Broken monument fragment. Though the fragment is heavily eroded, the outlines of at least three hieroglyphs can be seen. The lower glyph of the three-glyph block text clearly records the Pusilhá Emblem Glyph.

**Material:** Unknown.

**Shape:** Irregular. The right-hand side of Sculptural Fragment 3 clearly depicts a text border and thus, this fragment belongs in the right-hand column of some unknown stela.

**Dimensions:** Unknown.

**Carved Areas:** Front only. Depicted on Sculptural Fragment 3 are three hieroglyphs representing a right-hand section of some unknown text.

**Dedicatory Date:** *Late Classic Period (?)

**Line Drawings:**
John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 76)
Christian Prager (2002: Figure 33)
Berthold Riese (1980: Figure 14)

**Photographic References:**
Unpublished photograph (Courtesy of Christian Prager)

**Other References:**
Braswell (2002b:6)
Prager (2002:116-117)
Riese (1980:14)
(Wanyerka 2004)

**Commentary:** Carved on this monument fragment are the remains of three hieroglyphs and a text border. The first and second glyphs are unknown, but the third (the lower) glyph represents the Pusilhá Emblem Glyph.

Text:
b1: T?.?:116          **?.?:ni**
a2: Missing           **??**
b3: T36.168:559       **K'U.AJAW:TZUK/UNIIW**
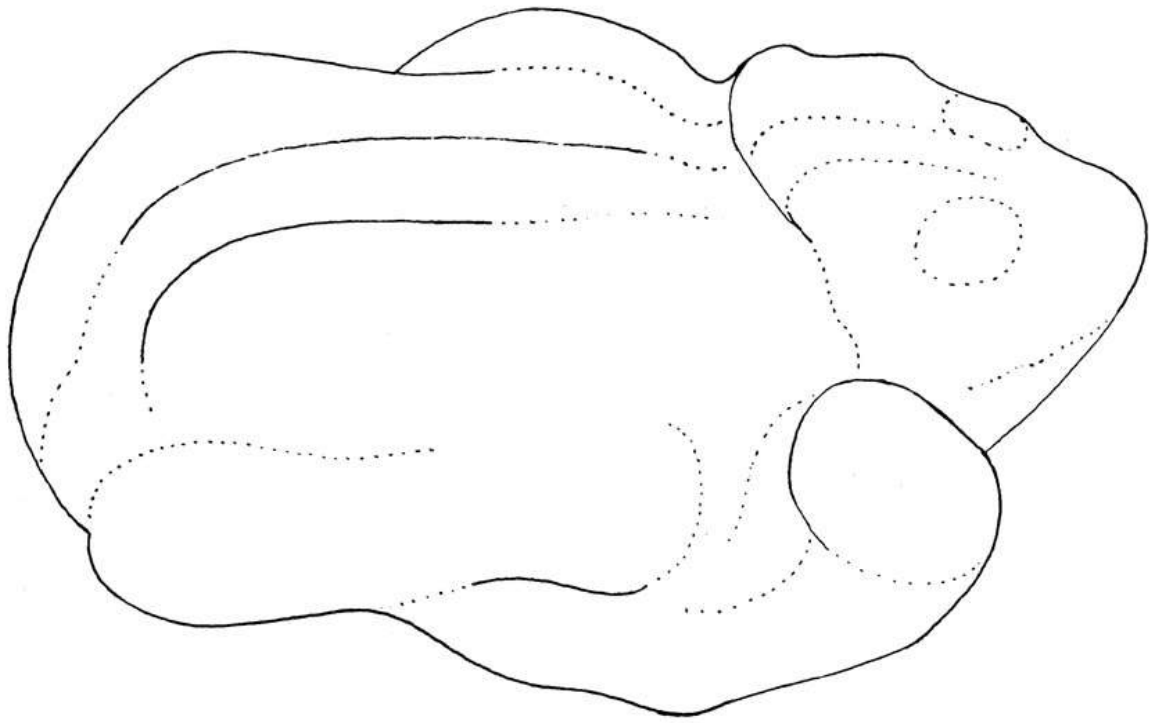
**Figure 77. Pusilhá, Altar W, Top View. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**
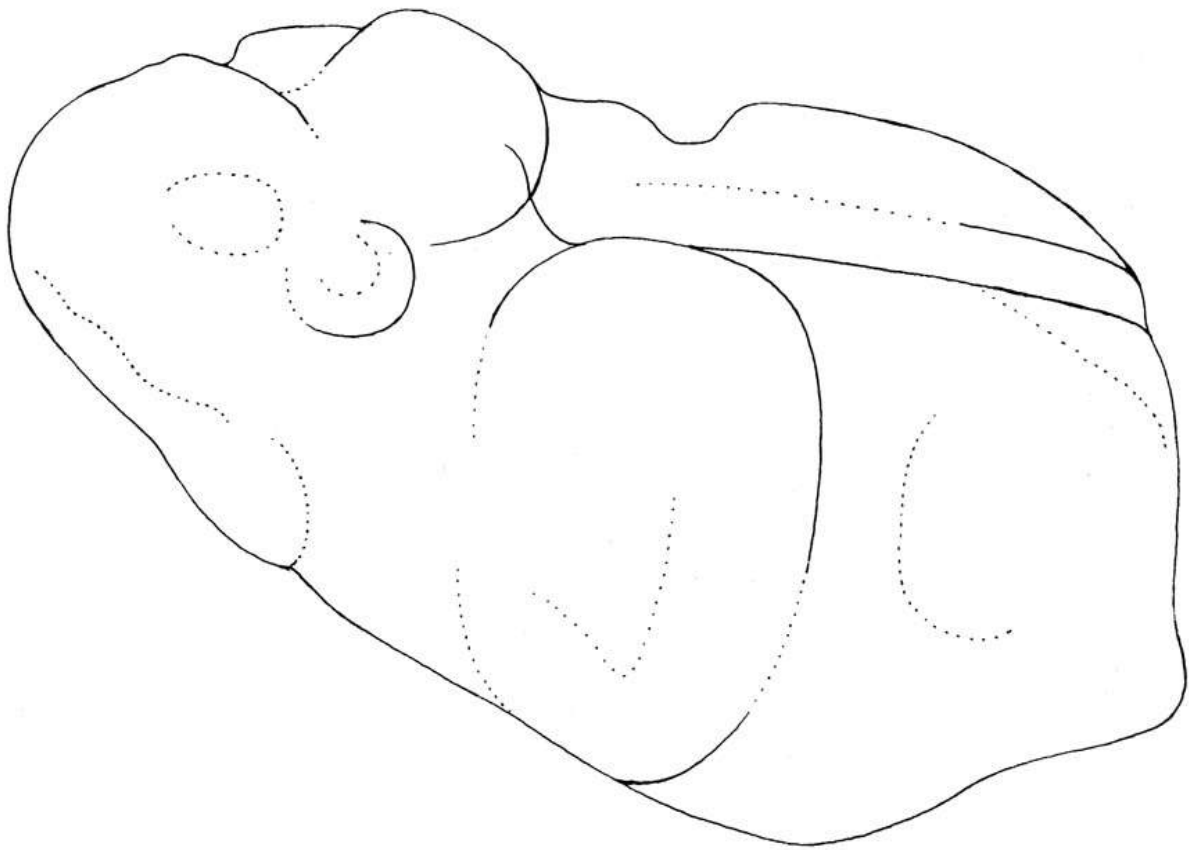
**Figure 78. Pusilhá, Altar W, Side View. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**
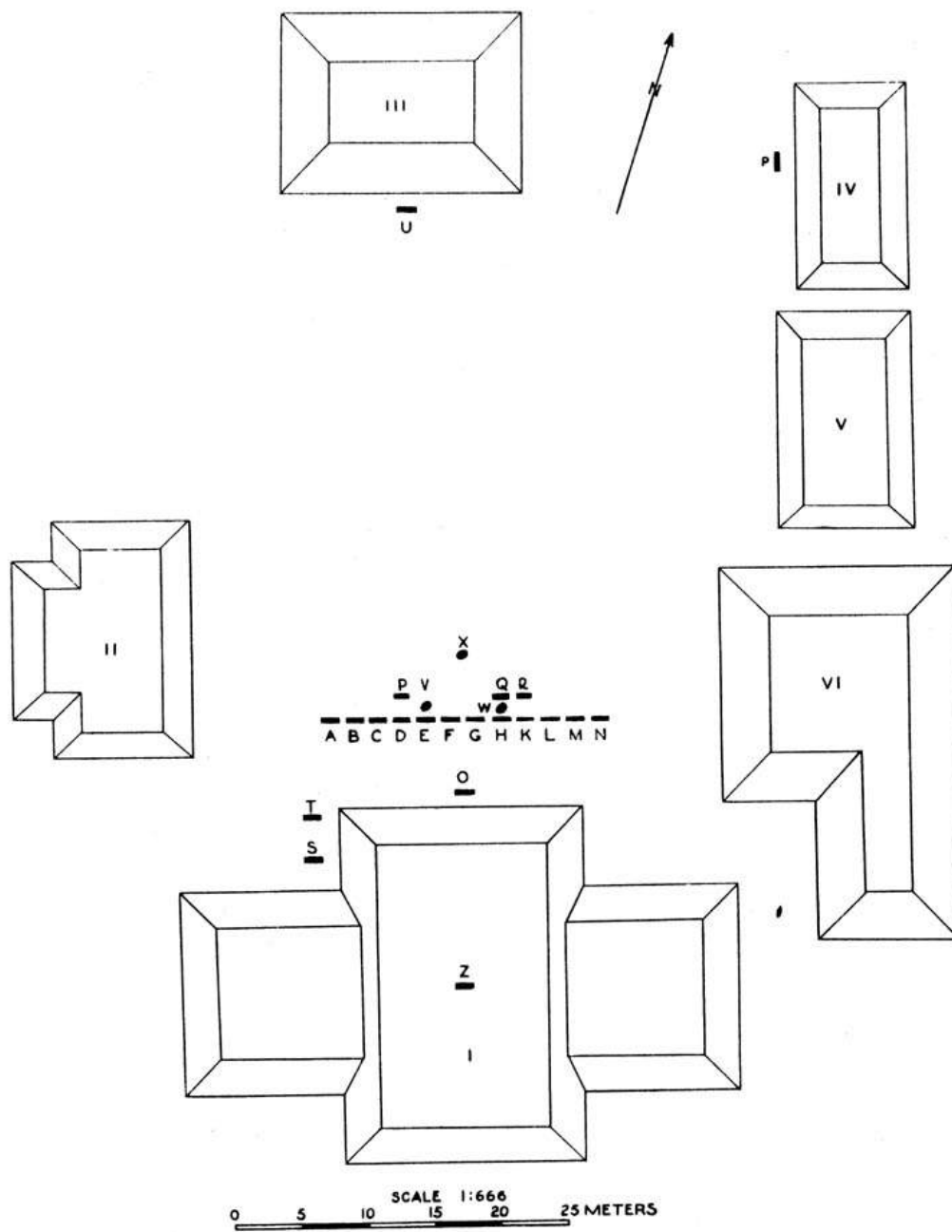
**Figure 79. Morley's Plan Map of the Stela Plaza Showing the Location of Altars W and X (Morley 1937-1938:Vol. V: Plate 199a).**

**Pusilhá, Altar W**

**Location:** T.W.F. Gann first reported Altar W in 1928 as part of the British Museum Expedition to British Honduras. The altar was found about ¾ meter north of Stela H (see Figure 79) in front of the row of 12 monuments that originally lined the front of Structure I (Morley 1937-38: Vol. IV:49). The altar is still in situ at the site.

**Condition:** Intact. Altar W is in a fair state of preservation today. Much of the upper surface is now partially eroded and chipped, but overall, the altar is in remarkably good shape.

**Material:** Limestone.

**Shape:** Altar W is a small sculpted in the round, zoomorphic portrait of a marine toad, presumably a *bufo marinus*.

**Dimensions:** (All dimensions come from Morley 1937-38: Vol. IV: 49).
Height .25 m
Length: 1 m
Width: .50 m

**Dedicatory Date:** *Late Classic Period. Altar W may be paired with Stela H whose dedicatory date is 9.11.0.0.0 12 *Ajaw* 8 *Keh* (11, October 652).

**Line Drawings:**
John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 77 and Figure 78)

**Photographic References:**
Gann (1929: 156)
Joyce *et al.* (1928:Plate 35, Figure3)
Morley (1937-38: Vol. V: Plate 167a and 167b)
Prager (2002: Figure 26)

**Other References:**
Braswell *et al*. (2002:6)
Gann (1930: 190)
Hammond (1975:272-275)
Joyce *et al.* (1928:339)
Morley (1937-38:Vol.IV:49, 68)
Prager (2002: 96-98)
Rice (1974: 25-26)
Riese (1980:13)
Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** Depicted on Altar W is a crude portrait of the largest toad in the Western Hemisphere, the *bufo marinus*. The *bufo marinus* was highly revered by the ancient Maya for the hallucinogenic toxin it secrets from a set of glands located on the toad's back. Similar zoomorphic altars have also been found at both Quirigua and Copan that feature reptilian creatures.
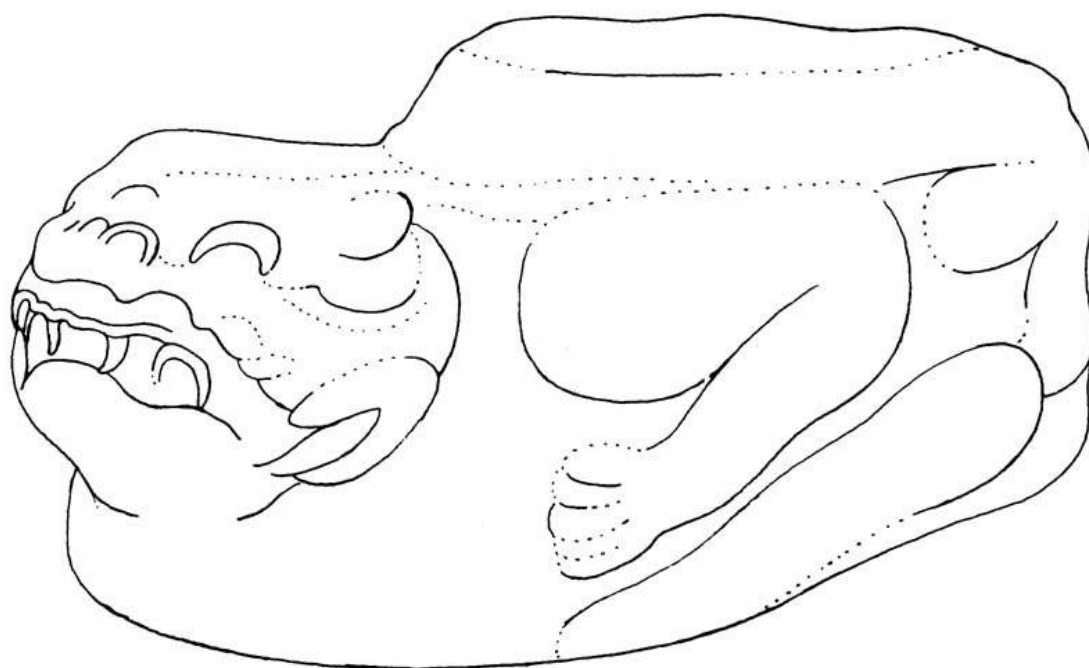
**Figure 80. Pusilhá, Altar X. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Pusilhá, Altar X**

**Location:** T.W.F. Gann first reported Altar X in 1928 as part of the British Museum Expedition to British Honduras. The altar was found approximately 10 meters north of Structure 1 in front of the line of 12 monuments that originally stood in front of this structure. Morley (1937-38: Vol. IV:29) hypothesizes that Altar X may have originally served as an altar for Stela F.
The altar is still in situ at the site today.

**Condition:** Intact. Altar X is in a poor state of preservation today. Much of its upper surface is now partially eroded, chipped, and it also contains a huge crack along its upper surface.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Limestone.

**Shape:** Altar X is a small sculpted in the round, zoomorphic portrait of a feline/reptilian figure, probably some sort of conflation of a spotted cat, perhaps an ocelot or a jaguar, and a toad, perhaps the *bufo marinus*.

**Dimensions:** (All dimensions come from Prager 2002:100)
      Height:      .34 m
      Length:      .77 m
      Width:      .64 m

**Dedicatory Date:** *Late Classic Period. Altar X may be paired with Stela F whose dedicatory date is 9.16.0.0.0  2 *Ajaw* 13 *Sek* (5, May 751), but this is purely speculation.

**Line Drawings:**
      John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 80)
      Donald Rice (1974: Figure 12)

**Photographic References:**
      Gruning (1930: Figure 1 and Figure 2)
      Morley (1937-38: Vol.V: Plate 167a and b)
      Prager (2002: Figure 27)

**Other References:**
      Braswell (2002: 6)
      Gann (1930:190)
      Hammond (1975:272-275)
      Joyce *et al.* (1928:339)
      Morley (1937-38: Vol.IV: 29, 68)
      Prager (2002:99-100)
      Rice (1974:25-26)
      Riese (1980:13)
      Wanyerka (2002)

**Commentary:** Depicted on Altar X is a crude zoomorphic portrait of a jaguarian/reptilian creature. Though toad-like in its general sculpted form, the face clearly depicts sharp carnivorous teeth, like that of a jaguar. Thus, this sculpture appears to be a conflation between these two creatures. Similar zoomorphic altars have also been found at both Quirigua and Copan.
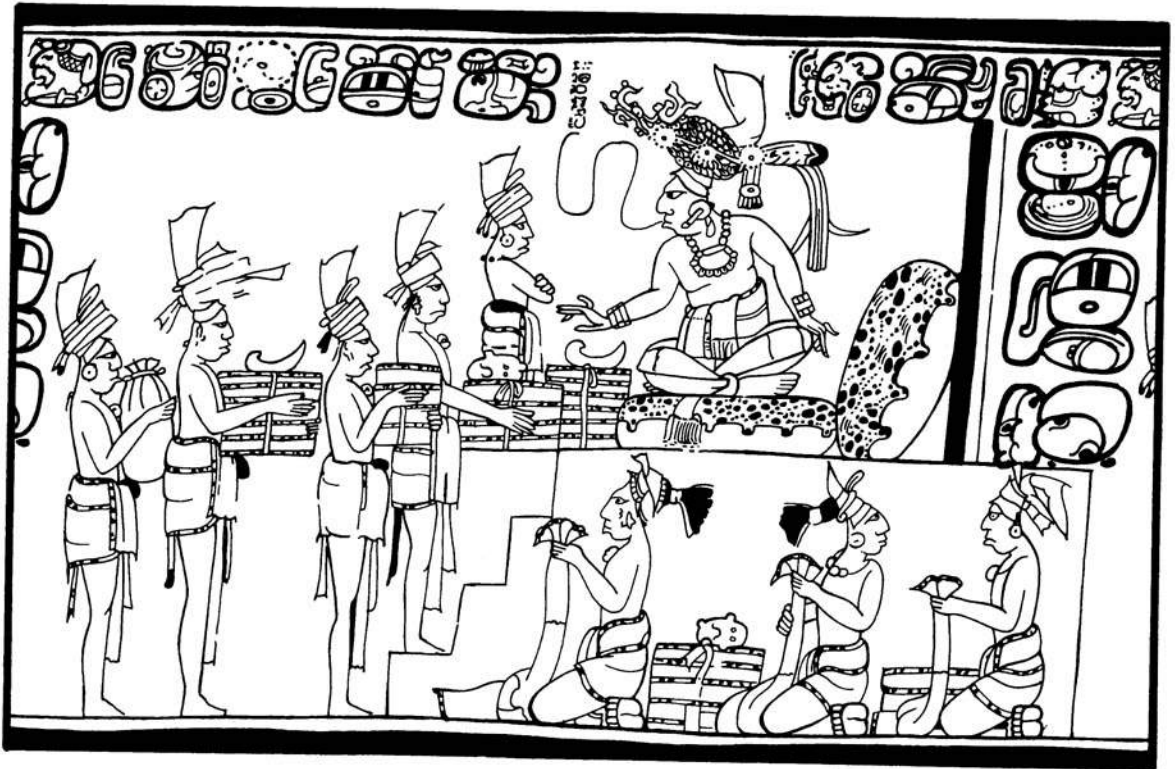
**Figure 81. Pusilhá, Polychrome Vase (Kerr 8089). (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Pusilhá, Polychrome Vase (Kerr 8089)**

**Location:** Unknown Provenance. The vase is reportedly in a private collection. Based on the appearance of the Pusilhá Emblem Glyph, it is thought to have originally come from the site.

**Condition:** Intact. It is unclear as to whether this vase has been restored.

**Material:** Ceramic. Polychrome.

**Shape:** Cylinder Vase.

Dimensions: (All dimensions come from Kerr (http://famsi/research/kerr))
    Height:            40.8 cm
    Diameter:         18.5 cm
    Circumference:  59.2 cm

**Dedicatory Date:** *Late Classic Period.

**Line Drawings:**
    John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 81)

**Photographic References:**
    Kerr (1999: **http://famsi.org/research/kerr** [In Maya Vase Database type 8089] )
    Kerr (2000: 1017: File No. K8089)

**Other References:**
    Kerr (1999: **http://famsi.org/research/kerr** [In Maya Vase Database type 8089] )
    Kerr (2000: 1017: File No. K8089)
    Prager (2002: 71, 74-75)
    Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** Polychrome Vase K8089 is perhaps one of the tallest Late Classic cylinder vases known. The vase features an extraordinary palace scene that depicts a total of 9 individuals. Five individuals are shown awaiting their chance to present bundles of woven cloth to the seated king, perhaps as a formal offering of tribute. Kneeling below the king are three tattooed individuals who are clearly unraveling the cloth bundles to inspect their quality. In fact, the center figure is portrayed looking back to the individual behind him as if he were checking this individual's progress. The king is portrayed seated on a beautiful jaguar-pelt throne accepting the tribute as can be seen by his hand gesture. He wears an elaborate macaw headdress with a small image of *K'awiil* protruding out the front. In addition, a speech-scroll can clearly be seen coming from the mouth of the king leading to a small illegible secondary text.

The accompanying hieroglyphic inscription, written in 11 glyph blocks, describes the figural scene as taking place within a royal court (*Tajnal*). What seems to be taking place is tribute (*patan*) and the person receiving the tribute is named *K'inich Sak Mo'* (that may also be represented in the headdress the ruler wears). The location of this event seems to be connected in some way to a "Stone Place" of the Pusilhá Lord. The final section of text is difficult to discern, but it seems to deal with a "stone veneration."

Text:
A1: T2.757            **u.B'AJ**
B1: T 86:565.181      **NAL:ta.ja**
C1: T88.748           **ji.MUWAAN**
D1: T1014v/1023.88    **TAB'/PÁ.ji**
E1: T671[544].58      **chi[K'IN].SAK**
F1: T582:280?.88      **MÓ:ó.ji**
G1: T86:548.?         **NAL:TUUN/AB'.?**
H1: T168:559.130      **AJAW:TZUK/UNIIW.wa**
I1: T507b:683b.266?/565?   **tzi:K'AL/ja.ju/ta**
I2: T115.548:102      **yo.TUUN/AB':ki**
I3: T266?/565?.526    **ju?/ta.KAB'**

**Figure 82. Pusilhá Region, Slate Scepter, Front Side (K3409). (Photograph © and courtesy of Justin Kerr, see http://www.famsi.org/research/kerr in PreCoumbian Portfolio type in 3409)**

**Figure 83. Pusilhá Region, Slate Scepter, Back Side (K3409). (Photograph © and courtesy of Justin Kerr, see http://www.famsi.org/research/kerr in PreCoumbian Portfolio type in 3409)**

**Figure 84. Pusilhá Region, Slate Scepter, Edge Text. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**<u>Pusilhá Region, Slate Scepter Handle, Edge Text</u>**

**Location:** Unknown Provenance. The scepter is reportedly in a private collection. Based on the appearance of the Pusilhá Emblem Glyph on scepter's edge text, it is thought to have originally come from an unknown site in the region between southern Belize and adjacent Guatemala.

**Condition:** Intact and pristine. Both the image and text are in an excellent state of preservation.

**Material:** Slate.

**Dimensions:** (All dimensions come from Grube and Martin 2001:152).
Height:       24.4 cm
Width:        8.75 cm
Thickness:    Unknown

**Carved Areas:** Front, Back, and Rear Edge. The front side of the scepter features a stunning portrait of an elaborately dressed ruler seated on a low throne. The back of the slate scepter depicts a beautiful portrait of a standing *Hunahpú* (one of the mythic Hero Twins of *Popol Vuj* fame) holding his blowgun with his left hand and smoking a cigar with his right. The finely incised edge text names the owner of the scepter and describes his capture of a Pusilhá lord.

**Dedicatory Date:** *Late Classic Period. A.D. 600-900.

**Line Drawings:**
Edge Text:
John Montgomery (SBEP, <u>Figure 82</u>)
Elizabeth Wagner (Unpublished Drawing)

**Photographic References:**
Coe (1989: Figure 9)
Coe and Kerr (1998: Plate 35 and Plate 36)
Kerr (2000: **http://famsi.org/research/kerr/** [in PreColumbian Portfolio type 3409] )
Grube and Martin (2001c:Plate 230)
Prager (2002:74)

**Other References:**
Coe (1989: 169)
Coe and Kerr (1998:85-86)
Grube and Martin (2001c:152)
Prager (2002: 71-72, 74)
Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** As previously described, the front side of this scepter depicts a regally dressed ruler, presumably the scepter's owner, sitting of a low bench or throne. He appears to be addressing someone as can be seen by his outstretched hand gesture. He wears an elaborate double-stacked monster headdress with a host of feathers attached to its backside. The accompanying hieroglyphic inscription makes special reference to this scepter as the personal property of the owner.

The edge text is interesting for it describes the owner of the scepter as the individual who "grabs, take's hold of, or conjures the stone" in the Emergent One's Headband House and he is the "captor or guardian of the Divine Pusilhá lord."

The backside of the scepter depicts a portrait of *Hunahpú* wearing his Hunter's Headdress holding a blowgun and smoking a cigar. The accompanying hieroglyphic inscription is difficult to discern, but it also seems to make reference to the owner of the scepter as well. The first part of the text is not clear but it does seem to refer to a "god-like person" of the "Sky or Serpent House" and he was a "*Muluux* Lord of the East."

Text:
Front Text:
A1: T3.738v:188         **u.KAL:le**
B1: T528:116.88?.511?.181:116  **TUUN:ni.ji?.PET?.ja:ni**
B2: T60:670.229         **ji/HUUN:chi.AJ**

Edge Text:
C1: T738v/205         **U.**
C2: T757         **B'AJ**
C3: T714v[528]         **TZAK[TUUN]**
C4: TI.115v:563v:518v         **HUUN.yo:to:te**
C5: T758a:110         **CH'OK:ko**
C6: T205         **U.**
C7: T108:764a         **ka/cha:KA'AN/CHAN**
C8: T33.168:559:130         **K'U.AJAW:TZUK/UNIIW:wa**

Back Text:
D1: T1.757         **u.B'AJ**
E1: T59.?         **ti.CH'EN?**
F1: T[19.741v]         **[mu]?**
G1: T36.1016.102?         **K'U.K'UHUL.ki?**
H1: T764?         **KA'AN/CHAN?**
H2: T614:115v:514v:59         **OTOT:yo:te:ti**
H3: T[19.741v?]         **[mu]?**
H4: 568a         **lu**
H5: T1048?         **xi (Muluux?)**
H6: 1000i:130         **AJAW:wa**
H7: T546:544.116:544v         **EL.K'IN.ni:K'IN**
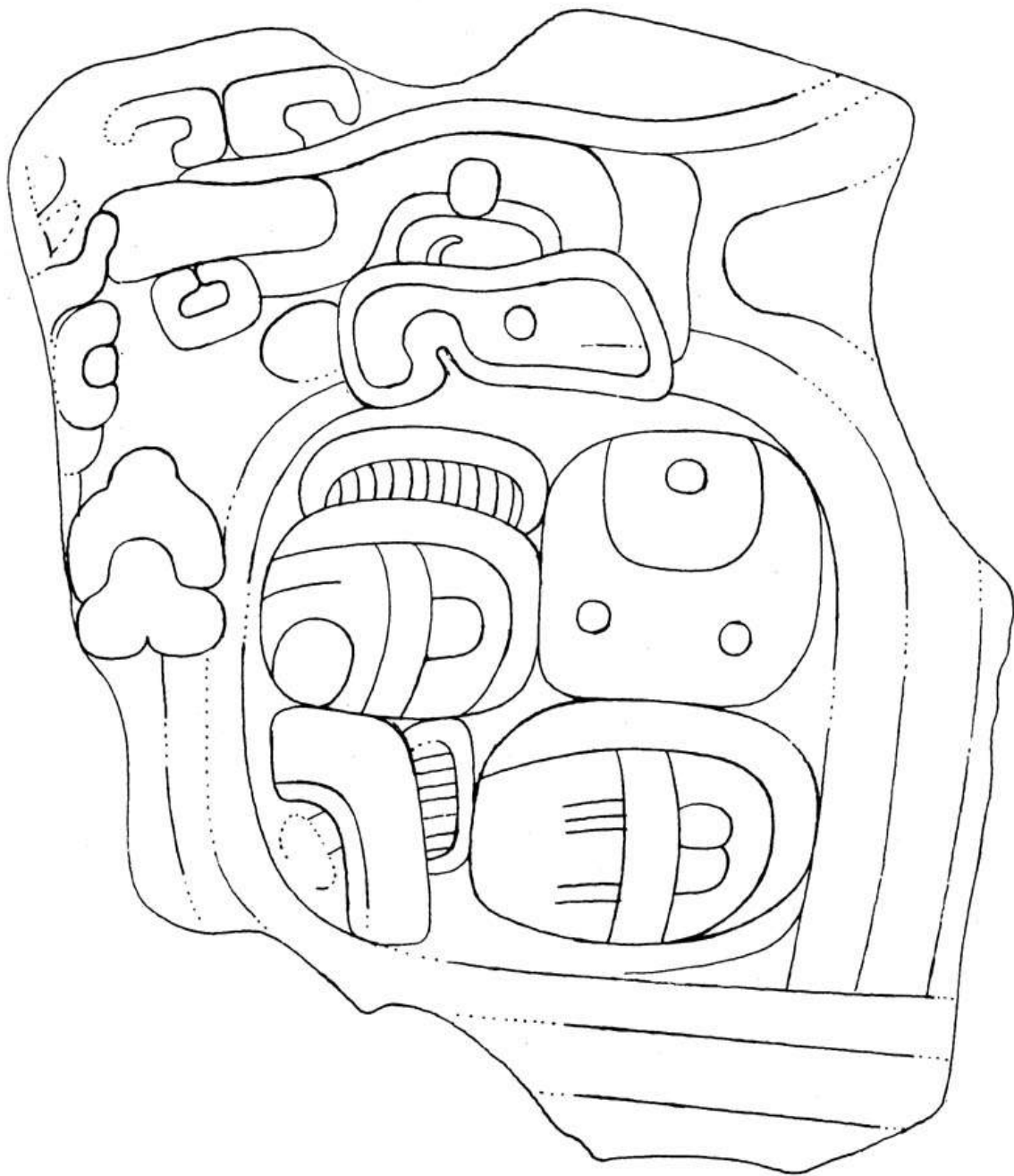
**Figure 85. Pusilhá, Miscellaneous Text 1, Carved Human Mandible. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**
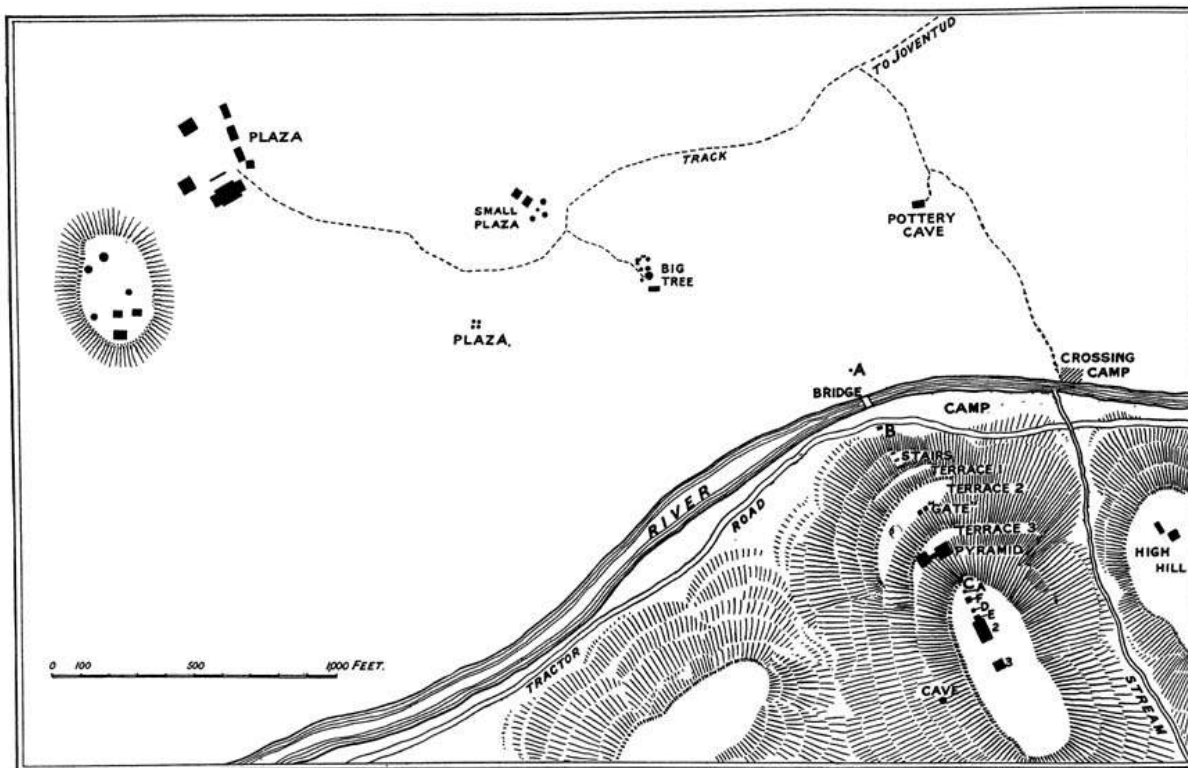
**Figure 86. Plan View of Pusilhá Showing the Location of Pottery Cave (Gruning 1930:Figure 1).**

**<u>Pusilhá, Miscellaneous Text 1, Carved Human Mandible</u>**

**Location:** Miscellaneous Text 1 was originally found in an excavation of a cave (Cave 3) east of the Main Plaza (see <u>Figure 86</u>). Joyce et al. (1928: 346) as part of the British Museum Expedition first reported the piece to British Honduras and it was moved to London where it now resides in the collections of the British Museum.

**Condition:** Broken. The object appears to be in relatively good shape, though portions of the outer edges of the mandible are slightly eroded and chipped.

**Material:** The object was carved from a portion of the right ascending ramus of a right lower human mandible.

**Shape:** Irregular.

**Dimensions:** (All dimensions come from Prager 2002: 146)
        Height:      5.2 cm
        Width:       4.4 cm

**Carved Areas:** Front only. Joyce (1929:446-447) describes the object as being a carved pendant or pectoral based on a drill-hole located near the eye of the rattlesnake head. The object includes a short four glyph block inscription that is enclosed or framed by an image of a rattlesnake whose head is shown facing right.

**Dedicatory Date:** *Late Classic Period.

**Line Drawings:**
        John Montgomery (SBEP, <u>Figure 85</u>)
        Christian Prager (1997: Figure 12 and 13)
        Christian Prager (2002: Figure 48)

**Photographic References:**
        Joyce (1929:Plate XLII, Figure 3)
        Mayer (1997: Figure 11)

**Other References:**
        Joyce (1929a: 446-447)
        Joyce (1929b: 964-965)
        Joyce *et al.* (1928: 346)
        Mayer (1997:22-23)
        Prager (2002:146-147)
        Thompson (1962:113)
        Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** This short text, like many of the texts thus far discussed, is also problematic. The reading order seems to be read in double columns based on the very clear T333 *ch'ak* sign and accompanying phonetic complement at B2. However, the upper two glyphs are a bit more problematic. While it is clear that the first sign of A1 is T25 *ka*, the second sign of this glyph block is not clear. Thompson (1962:113) referred to this glyph block as a unique substitution for

the day name *Muluk,* but that no longer seems to be valid. Unfortunately, whatever was spelled here it began with a *ka* and ended with a *la.*

Text:

A1: T25:?          **ka:?**
B1: T534          **la**
A2: T333.25      **CH'AK.ka**
B2: T102          **ki**

**Figure 87. Pusilhá, Incensario Fragment. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Pusilhá, Incensario Fragment**

**Location:** The carved incensario fragment was found in a midden deposit in a cave situated at the base of a limestone cliff near the north side of the Pusilhá bridge abutment. According to Gann (1930:191-192) the cave where this fragment was found consisted of a small circular chamber (some 12' in diameter) that contained two narrow passages. One of these passages contained a midden that extended from the floor of the cave to the ceiling (approximately 6 feet in height). Evidently this cave was used as a repository for a long period of time for it contained enormous quantities of potsherds (plain and decorated), flint and obsidian debitage, broken implements and projectile points, incensario fragments, a variety of shells and animal bones, human remains, and "beautifully painted and incised wares, decorated with human figures, hieroglyphs, and geometrical devices" (Gann 1930:192). It is now clear from the literature whether this incensario fragment was sent to the British Museum as part of the British Museum Expedition to British Honduras.

**Condition:** Broken and slightly eroded and chipped.

**Material:**  Ceramic.

**Shape:** Irregular and unknown.

**Dimensions:** Unknown.

**Carved Areas:** Front only. The image depicts a profile head of individual facing left wearing an elaborate headdress that features a reptilian creature sitting atop some type of budding plant.

**Dedicatory Date:** *Late Classic Period (?).

**Line Drawings:**
John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 86)

**Photographic References:**
Gann (1929: 192)
Gann (1930:Plate V: Figure 2)
Gann (1934: Plate II: Figure 3)
Joyce *et al*. (1928: Plate XXXIII: Figure 1)

**Other References:**
Gann (1929:191-194)
Gann (1930:191-192)
Gann (1934:52)
Gruning (1930: 481, 483)
Joyce (1929:440-443)
Joyce (1929b: 964-965)
Joyce *et al.* (1928: 343-346)
Morley (1937-38: Vol. IV: 14)
Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** The incensario fragment is interesting for it contains an elaborate image of an individual facing left wearing a royal headdress. The headdress itself appears to depict a profile head of some sort of open-mouthed, reptilian creature facing right. Spouting from the individual's head, just below the reptilian creature, are four branches or some type of budding plant as can be seen at the end of the branches. In addition, a human hand can also be seen in the lower right-hand corner of the scene.
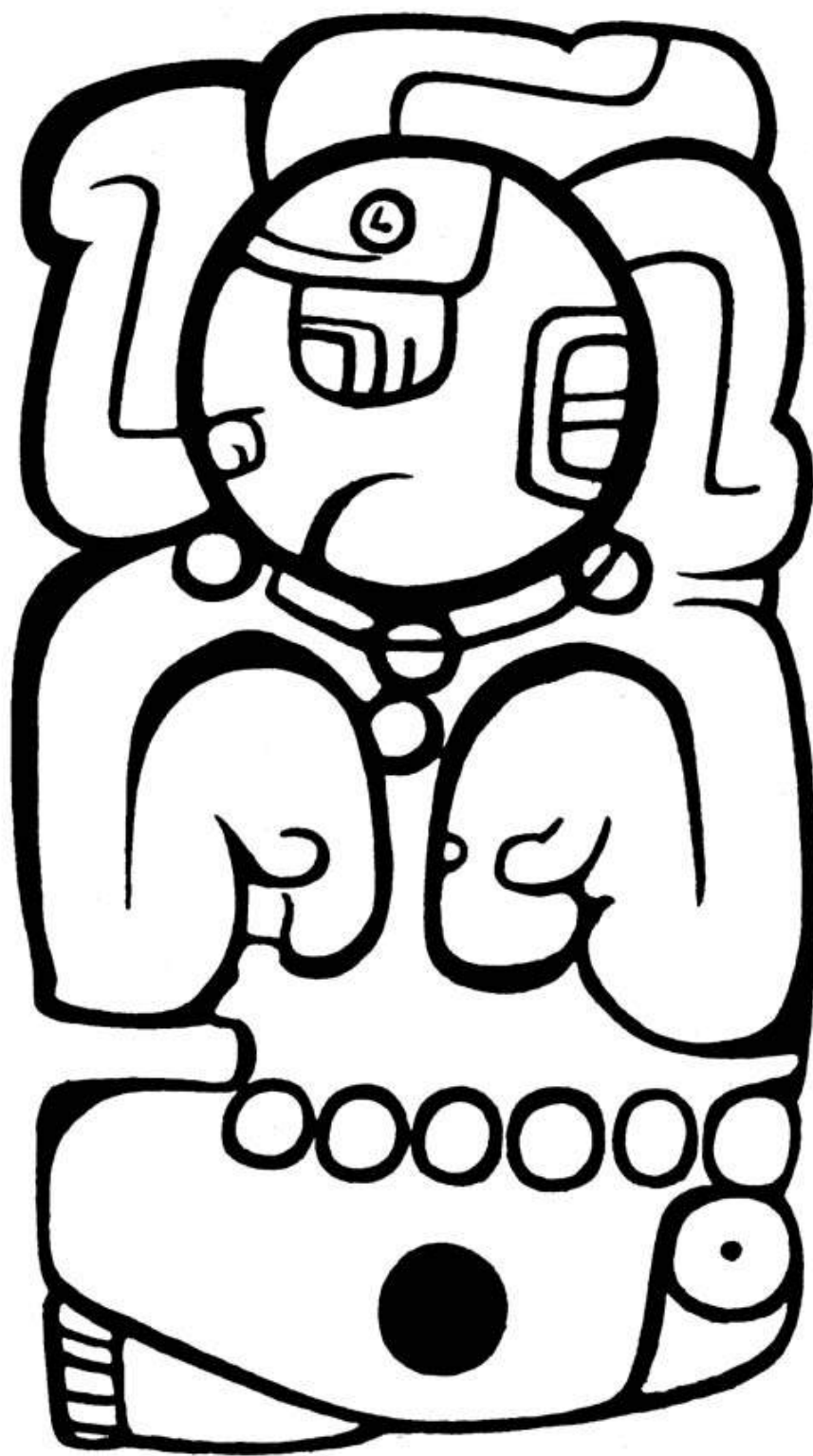
**Figure 88. Pusilhá, Jade Pendant. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Pusilhá, Jade Pendant**

**Location:** According to Gruning (1929:478) the jade pendant was originally found, in excavations conducted by the British Museum Expedition to British Honduras, along a partially collapsed structure in the area around Terrace 3 (refer back to Figure 86). The jade is now in London where it is housed in the collections of the British Museum.

**Condition:** Intact and in perfect condition.

**Material:** Jade or Jadeite.

**Shape:** Carved in the form of a small seated figure.

**Dimensions:** Unknown.

**Carved Areas:** Front only. Contains a drilled hole for its suspension or for the mounting of this piece into a headdress.

**Dedicatory Date:** *Early Classic Period. While it is unclear as to when this beautiful jade was carved, the style of the iconography is extremely early based on the pose of the figure that includes down-turned "pawed" hands.

**Line Drawings:**
John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 88)

**Photographic References:**
Gruning (1930: Plate XXI: Figure 2)

**Other References:**
Gruning (1930: 478)

**Commentary:** Gruning (1930:478) describes this unusual jade as a "figure of a jaguar in a begging position" and the head is indicated by a glyph in a variant form of the Day-Sign *Ok*." While creative, it is doubtful that this is the correct interpretation. Rather, because of the foliation appearing around the head of this figure it might actually depict some variant form of the Maize God.

# The Glyphic Corpus of Uxbenka, Toledo District, Belize

## The Monumental Inscriptions
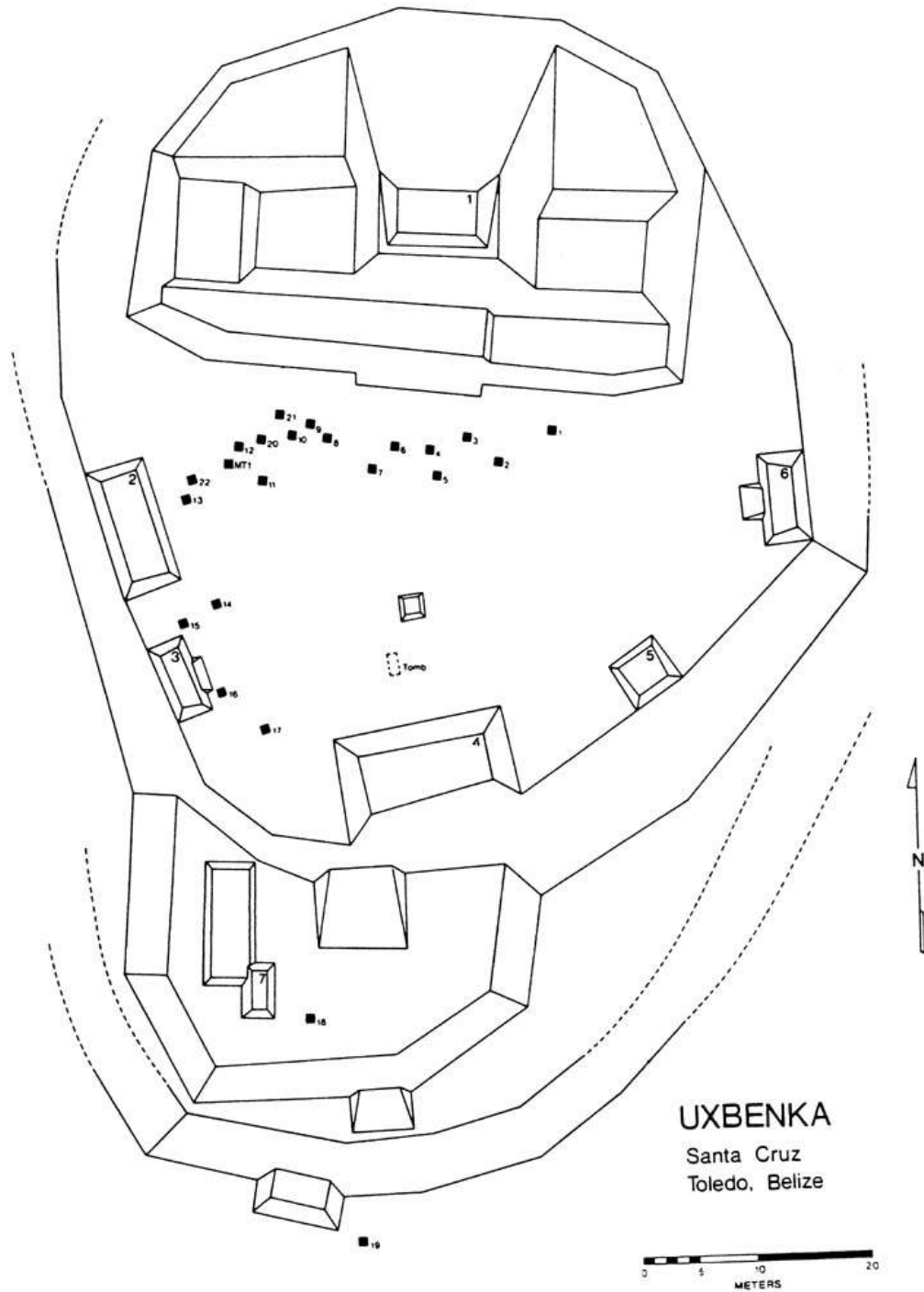


**Figure 89. Plan Map of Uxbenka (Drawn by and Courtesy of Richard Leventhal [Leventhal 1992:Figure 11.1])**
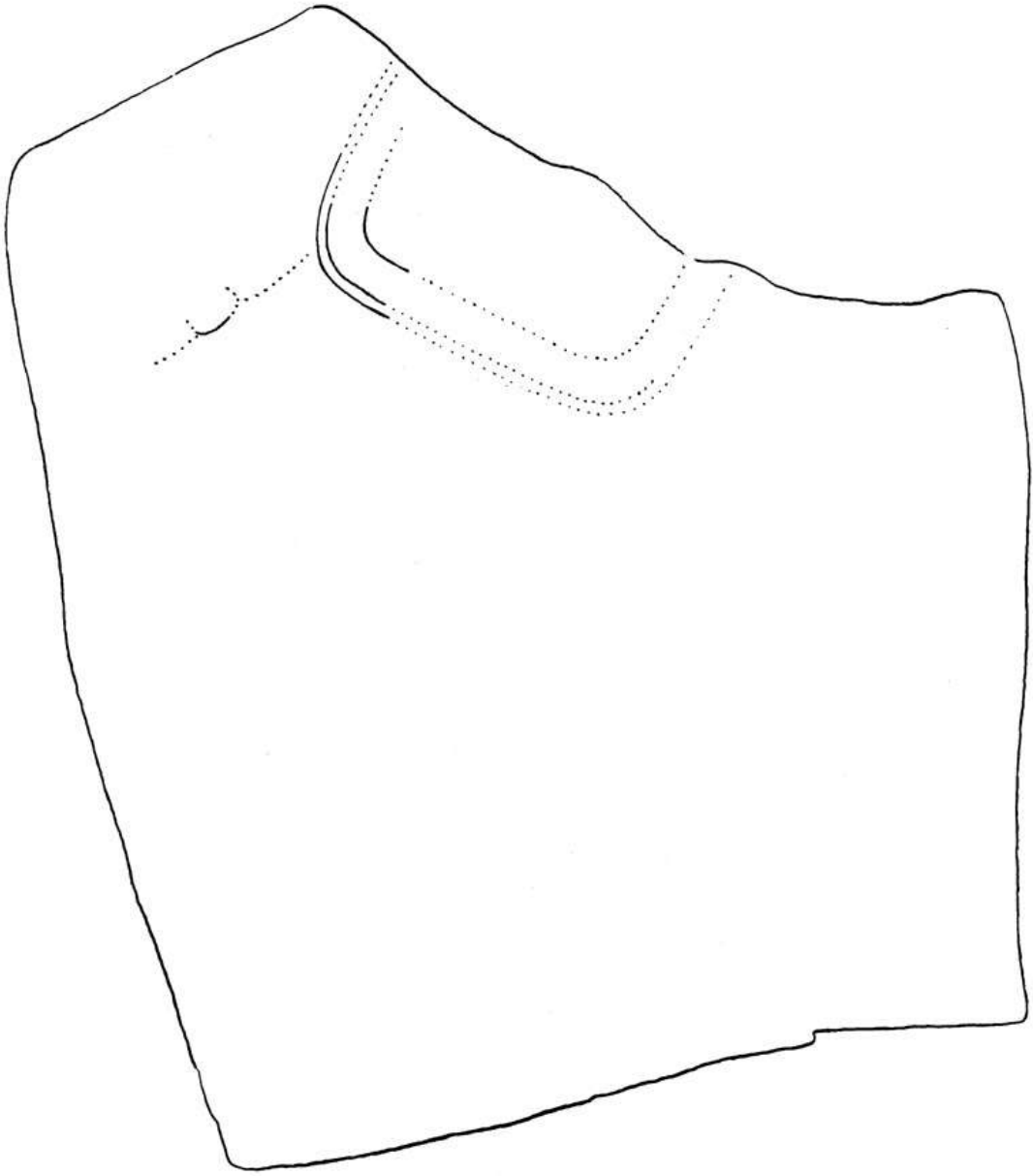
**Figure 90. Uxbenka, Stela 3. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Uxbenka, Stela 3**

**Location:** Stela 3 was first reported as a carved monument by the Southern Belize Epigraphic Project in 2001. The stela is located approximately three meters south of Structure 1, third from the right in a row of 13 monuments that originally lined the south face of Structure 1. The stela is still standing, but it is clear that this piece was thrust into the ground sometime after the initial breakage occurred.

**Condition:** Broken into at least four pieces. Due to erosion and continued exposure to the elements, little of the carving is still visible today.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Irregular, but most likely the stela was rectangular-shaped.

**Dimensions:** (The following dimensions are for carved fragment only)
HT: .97 m
MW: .96 m
MTH: .18 m
RELS: 2 mm

**Carved Areas:** Front only. The only image remaining today is a probable neckline of a now missing individual.

**Dedicatory Date:** Unknown.

**Line Drawings:**
John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 90)
Phil Wanyerka (SBEP, Unpublished)

**Photographic Preferences:**
Richard Leventhal (SBAP, Unpublished)
Jack Sulak (SBEP, Unpublished)
Phil Wanyerka (SBEP, Unpublished)

**Other References:**
Phil Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** Virtually nothing can be said with any degree of confidence or certainty concerning the image carved on this stela. Today, only the rough outlines of a partial neckline, presumably from a portrait of a standing figure is that can be seen.
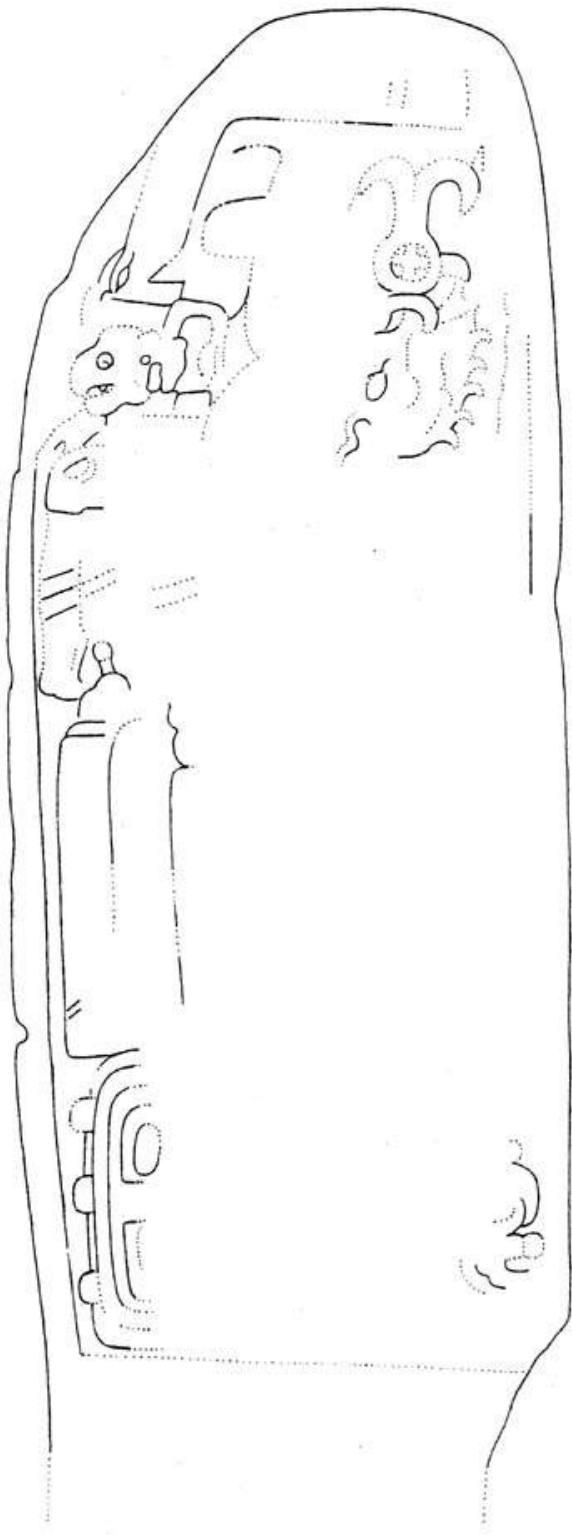
**Figure 91. Uxbenka, Stela 5. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

## Uxbenka, Stela 5

**Location:** Stela 5 was first reported by Richard Leventhal in 1984 with the discovery of the site as part of his Southern Belize Archaeological Project. The stela is located on its side, approximately 8 meters south of Structure 1, the fourth stela from the right in a row of 13 monuments that originally lined the south face of Structure 1. The stela is still at the site today.

**Condition:** Intact, but severely eroded. Much of the stela's carved surface has either flaked or chipped off.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Rectangular with well-dressed parallel sides that curve inward only the top left portion of the monument.

**Dimensions:**
    HT:    3.20 m
    MW:    .84 m
    HSA:  2.18 m
    WSA:  .80 m
    WBC:  .67 m
    WTC:  .84 m
    MTH:  .18 m
    RELS:  7.1 mm

**Carved Areas:** Front only. The image carved on Stela 5 features a portrait of a standing male figure. There is evidence that a single text column ran along the left edge of the figural scene; however, nothing can be discerned from it today.

**Dedicatory Date:** *Late Classic Period ?

**Line Drawings:**
    John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 91)
    Phil Wanyerka (SBEP, Unpublished)

**Photographic References:**
    Richard Leventhal (SBAP, Unpublished)
    Jack Sulak (SBEP, Unpublished)
    Phil Wanyerka (SBEP, Unpublished)

**Other References:**
    Wanyerka (1996:30)
    Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** Stela 5 features an eroded portrait of a standing male figure who wears an elaborate headdress. At least two zoomorphic creatures can be seen as part of this figure's royal headdress. In addition, a short single text column can also be seen along the left edge of the monument. Unfortunately, nothing can be read of this text today. Finally, based on the shape of

the rough outlines, it would appear that the individual stands on or within a Witz Monster Pedestal.
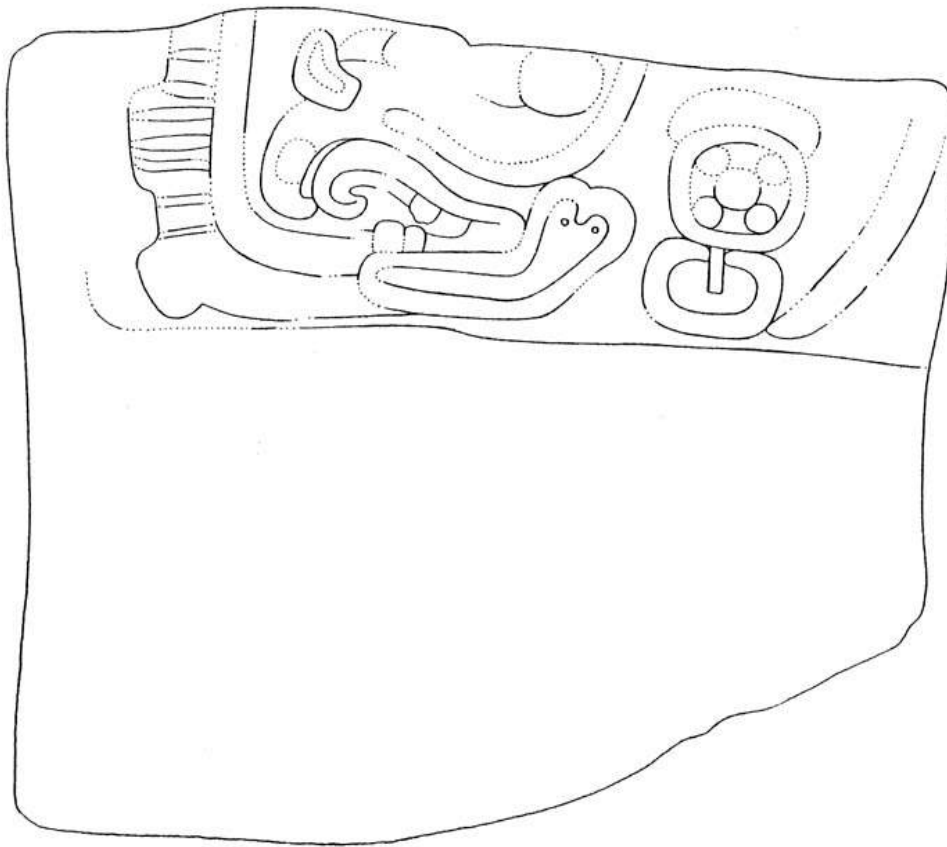
**Figure 92. Uxbenka, Stela 6. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**<u>Uxbenka, Stela 6</u>**

**Location:** Stela 6, representing the base of the monument, was found standing approximately 6 meters south of Structure 1, the sixth stela from the right in a row of 13 monuments that originally lined the south face of Structure 1. Leventhal first reported it in 1984 as part of the Southern Belize Archaeological Project. The stela is still at the site today.

**Condition:** Broken. The upper half of Stela 6 has not been found or identified. The lower base of Stela 6 when originally reported contained a partially eroded image of a *Witz* Monster and a single hieroglyph. However, sometime during the interval between 1994 and 2001, a large section along the bottom left-hand corner of the surviving fragment has either flaked off or was looted.

**Material:** Fine –Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Rectangular?  Although only the base of Stela 6 survives today, it is fairly clear that the monument was originally rectangular in shape.

**Dimensions:**
>     HT:     .73 m
>     MW:     .81 m
>     HSA:    .25 m
>     WSA:    .70 m
>     WBC:    .74 m
>     WTC:    .81 m
>     MTH:    .18 m
>     RELG:  6.9 mm

**Carved Areas:** Front only. The image carved on Stela 6 features an eroded portrait of a *Witz* Monster and a single hieroglyph.

**Dedicatory Date:** *Late Classic Period (?).  Based on a cache associated with Stela 6, Jamison *et al.* (1991:6) date this monument to the Late Classic Period. In addition, the probable *Witz* Monster image, a motif popular during Late Classic times at sites throughout Southern Belize, is also a clear indication that Stela 6 probably dates to the Late Classic Period.

**Line Drawings:**
>     John Montgomery (SBEP, <u>Figure 92</u>)

**Photographic References:**
>     Richard Leventhal (Unpublished)
>     Jack Sulak (Unpublished)
>     Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
>     Jamison, Leventhal, and Roberston (1991:6)
>     Leventhal (1992:148)
>     Leventhal and Schele (nd:3-4)
>     Wanyerka (1996:31)

Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** Stela 6 features a profile of the lower half of a *Witz* Monster Pedestal. The *Witz* Monster is a common sculptural motif among the Late Classic monuments of southern Belize (NLP Stela 1, 2, 7; Xnaheb Stela 1; Uxbenka Stela 14). In most cases, anywhere between one to three individuals are portrayed either standing or sitting atop a *Witz* Monster Pedestal. The stela contains a single hieroglyph located to the right of the *Witz* Monster's lower jaw. Unfortunately, the entire reading of this hieroglyph remains obscure. The glyph appears to begin with the third-person personal pronoun *u* followed by a T585a *b'i* sign; however, the lower sign is unique and looks very much like a variant form of the T145 *yi* sign. If correct, the glyphic combination may read something like *u-b'i* or *u-b'iy* perhaps having something to do with either the *Witz* Monster's "name" or something to do with "his road."
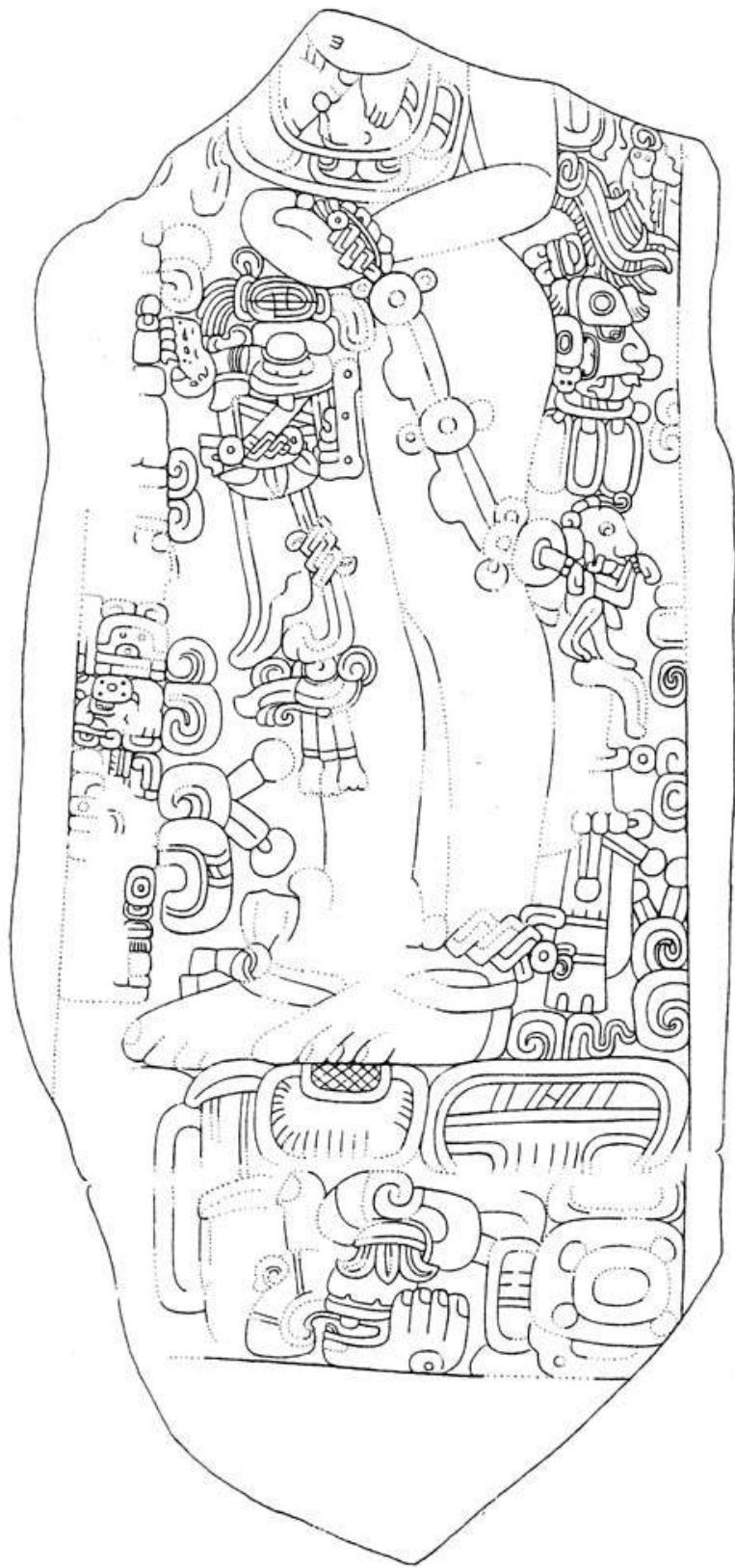
**Figure 93. Uxbenka, Stela 11. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

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**Uxbenka, Stela 11**

**Location:** Stela 11 was originally found face-down, approximately 10 meters east of the middle of Structure 2, in the northern portion of the Main Plaza. The stela was first reported by Richard Leventhal in 1984 as part of his Southern Belize Archaeological Project. The monument is still at the site today, but has been moved from its original location several times since its initial discovery.

**Condition:** Broken into three pieces. The upper portion of Stela 11, that would have featured the head and headdress of the individual portrayed on this monument has never been located. Much of Stela 11 is now badly eroded and severely damaged. The left-hand side of Stela 11 is especially damaged. Shortly after its initial discovery, someone from the local community of Santa Cruz in 1985 intentionally defaced much of the carving on Stela 11 with a machete (Dunham and Leventhal nd: 2). In addition, in 1994 vandals attacked the site again, this time with spray paint, leaving graffiti on most of the monuments, including this one, at the site. In 2001, as part of the Southern Belize Eigraphic Project's fieldwork at Uxbenka, it was clear that at least two portions of the lower half of Stela 11 were broken off and presumably removed from the site. It is also clear that runaway milpa fires in the area around Uxbenka, has also damaged many of the monuments at the site, including Stela 11.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Rectangular with well-dressed parallel sides.

**Dimensions:**
        HT:     1.70 m
        MW:     .82 m
        HSA:    1.54 m
        WBC:    .28 m
        WTC:    .82 m
        MTH:    .9 m
        RELS:   2.9 mm
        RELG:   3.3 mm

**Carved Areas:** Front only. The image carved on Stela 11 features an elaborate portrait of an Early Classic ruler, a single ten glyph block text running down the left edge of the monument, and a short four glyph block toponymic location below the standing figure.

**Dedicatory Date:** *Early Classic Period. Based on the appearance of a well-known Tikal ruler's name *Chak Tok Ich'aak I* ("Jaguar Paw") it would appear that Stela 11 may date to sometime between his accession (8.16.3.10.2   11 *IK'* 10 *Sek* {7, August 360}) and his death (8.17.1.4.12 11 *Eb'* 15 *Mak* {15, January 378}) or shortly after. Schele and Looper (1996a:103) date Stela 11 slightly later to 9.0.2.0.0  (29, November 437). As argued in my dissertation, I favor a slightly later date, but a date earlier than the one advocated by Schele and Looper based on a number of different archaeological and epigraphic variables (see Wanyerka 2004).

**Line Drawings:**
        John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 93)
        Linda Schele (In Fields 1989: Figure 10)

Linda Schele (In Grube *et al.* 1995: Figure 8)
Linda Schele (In Jamison *et al.* 1991: Figure 2)
Linda Schele (In Leventhal 1990: Figure 5)
Linda Schele (In Leventhal 1992: Figure 11.5b)
Linda Schele (In Leventhal and Schele nd: Figure 3)
Linda Schele (In Schele and Grube 1994a:91)
Linda Schele (In Schele and Grube 1994b:60)
Linda Schele (In Schele and Looper (1996a: 103)
Linda Schele (In Schele and Looper (1996b:56)
Linda Schele (In Wanyerka 1991:Figure 42)
Linda Schele (In Wanyerka 1996: Figure 4)

**Photographic References:**
Richard Leventhal (1992: Figure 11.5a)
Richard Leventhal (Unpublished)
Jack Sulak (Unpublished)
Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
Dunham (1990:465)
Dunham *et al.* 1989:265-268)
Dunham and Leventhal (nd: 1-2)
Fields (1989:15)
Grube *et al.* 1995:4)
Healy and Awe (2001:61)
Jamison *et al.* 1991: 2-5)
Leventhal (1990a: 2-6)
Leventhal (1990b: 134-137)
Leventhal (1992:148-150)
Leventhal and Schele (nd: 4-10)
Schele and Grube (1994a:91)
Schele and Grube (1994b:60)
Schele and Looper (1996a: 103)
Schele and Looper (1996b:56)
Wanyerka (1991:63-71)
Wanyerka 1996: 31)
Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** Stela 11 is the earliest and perhaps the most important monument in all of southern Belize. Featured on Stela 11 is an extraordinary Early Classic portrait of a standing male figure facing left cradling a flaccid Double-Headed Serpent Bar. What makes this portrait extraordinary is the fine overall detail of the iconography and imagery, very reminiscent of many of the Early Classic monuments at Tikal, especially Tikal Stela 1, 2, 31, and 40. The individual is shown wearing an elaborate royal bet assemblage that includes portraits of the Sun God and *Chaak Xib' Chaak*. In addition, a fine-line portrait of an owl can be seen in the mouth of the Double-Headed Serpent just behind the ruler's left arm. One wonder's whether this is simply an iconic image or whether it may actually refer to the individual known as "Spearthrower Owl", the famous Teotihuacano responsible for the great upheaval to the early dynastic line of Tikal in AD.

378. If true, it might suggest that this monument is slightly later in date than previously believed (see Wanyerka 2004 for a full discussion of the date). By far, the most important element of this monument is the iconic reference to *Chak Tok Ich'aak I* that hangs from the front of this person's loincloth. This well-known "Jaguar-Paw" motif is also found on Uolantun Stela 1 and a similar version has been found on Tikal Stela 39 and all three versions clearly refer to the famous Tikal king *Chak Tok Ich'aak I.* Based on the iconography alone, Stela 11 is unlike any of the other monuments in all of southern Belize. It looks as if it were actually carved by a sculptor either trained in the iconographic conventions of Early Classic Tikal or a sculptor from the site itself.

Epigraphic evidence for a possible connection between Tikal and Uxbenka can also be seen from the highly eroded and broken section of text that runs along the left edge of the monument. Though most of the original text is now completely obliterated due to the machete attack in 1985, the text does include a parentage reference that states that someone was the "flower of" or "child of" (A6) a "divine person." Now that in itself is not unusual; however, what follows is extremely interesting. Located in the upper right-hand section of the glyph block at A10 are the partial remains of a glyph that looks very much like the main sign of the Tikal emblem Glyph. I have examined this glyph in close detail and believe this to be a true and direct reference to Tikal. Unfortunately, little of the overall text survives so it is not clear as to whom the text actually describes or the event commemorated by this monument, but it does seem clear that this person's father hailed from the site of Tikal. Therefore, I date stela 11 to the period just after the famous "entrada" event of AD 378. In fact, I think there is a good possibility that a member of the royal family, perhaps a brother of *Chak Tok Ich'aak* I, fled Tikal for southern Belize at the beginning of the Teotihuacan "entrada" (see Wanyerka 2004).

Located below the figural scene in four glyph blocks is a toponymic location that seems to include a reference to a "water-sky cave or city" and its "flints and shields." Thus together, this could be a reference to warfare. Simon Martin (2001:5-6) has recently proposed that the "flint and shield" metaphor may actually be a reference to "warriors" or by extension a reference to an "army." Therefore the reference recorded on Stela 11 may in fact, be a glyphic reference to the presumable defeat of some unknown site at a location known as the "Water-Sky" Place.

Text:
A1: Missing          **??**
A2: T?.?             **?.?**
A3: T?:?             **?:?**
A4: T?               **??**
A5: Missing          **??**
A6: T?.535:12        **?.NIK:AJ**
A7: T1029.ka         **KA'AN.ka**
A8: T?:1016.?:?      **?:K'U.?:?**
A9: T?               **??**
A10: T?.569?:?.?:?   **?.MUTUL?:?.?:?**

B1-C2: T1.150.501v.561g:1073?.1.257?:624:178?
                    **u.ta.NAAB'.KA'AN:CH'EN.1.TOOK'?:PAKAL:la?**

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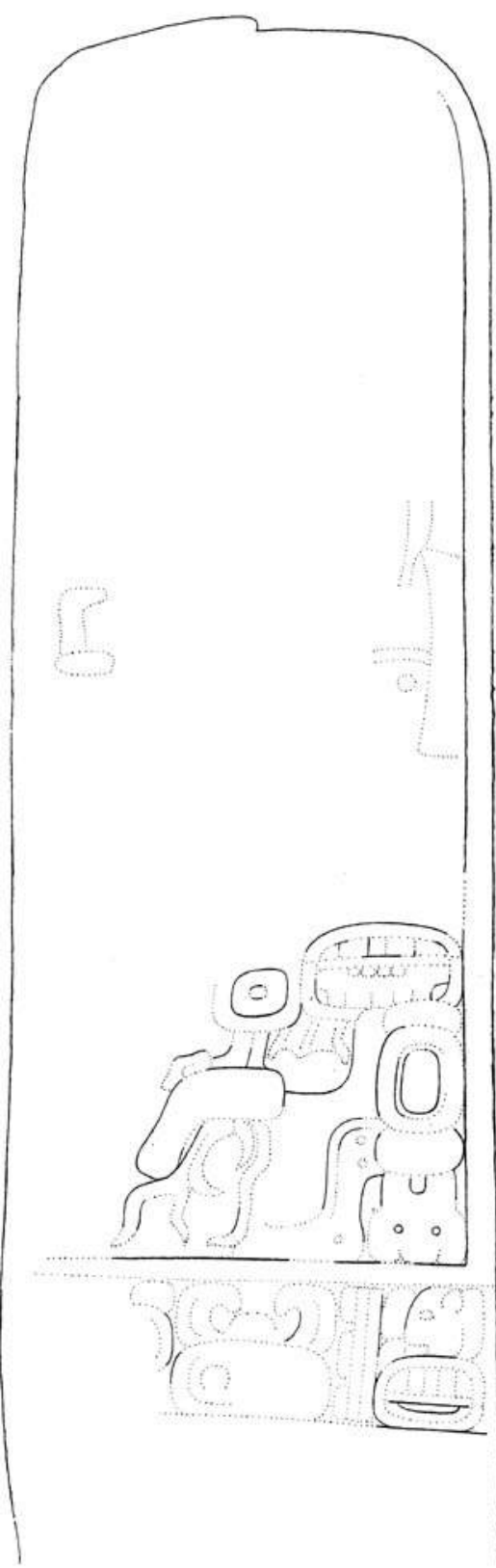
**Figure 94. Uxbenka, Stela 14. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**<u>Uxbenka, Stela 14</u>**

**Location:** Stela 14 is located some 5 meters off the northeastern corner of Structure 3 along the western portion of the Main Plaza. The stela, still standing today at the site, was first reported by Richard Leventhal in 1984 as part of his Southern Belize Archaeological Project.

**Condition:** Intact; however, much of the upper portion of the stela has flaked off. The lower portion of Stela 14 is severely eroded and was carved in low relief. Only the vestiges of a carved image in the lower right-hand corner of the scene and three partial glyph blocks survive.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Rectangular with well-dressed parallel sides.

**Dimensions:**
> HT:   3.10 m
> MW:   .89 m
> HSA:  1.20 m
> WSA:  .79 m
> WBC:  .79 m
> WTC:  .89 m
> MTH:  .18 m
> RELS: 7.6 mm

**Carved Areas:** Front only. The original image carved of Stela 14 probably featured a portrait of a standing figure atop a *Witz* Monster Pedestal. The only visible image today is the *Witz* Monster Pedestal and three glyph blocks.

**Dedicatory Date: Late Classic Period (?).** Based on the partial outlines of an Initial Series Date that includes a probable 12 *k'atuns* statement, the date of Stela 14 can tentatively be placed at 9.12.0.0.0  10 *Ajaw* 8 *Yaxk'in* (28, June 672).

**Line Drawings:**
> John Montgomery (SBEP, <u>Figure 94</u>)
> Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Photographic References:**
> Richard Leventhal (Unpublished)
> Jack Sulak (Unpublished)
> Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
> Wanyerka (1996:32)
> Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** Stela 14 features an eroded portrait of a *Witz* Monster Pedestal whose profile head includes a T561a *Ka'an* infix. The upper portion of the figural scene probably contained an image of a standing ruler. Unfortunately, the entire upper part of Steal 14 has either flaked off or

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has completely been erased due to erosion.  The three glyph block text, visible just below the *Witz* Monster, cannot be read except for a possible 12 *K'atun* statement at B3.

**Figure 95. Uxbenka, Stela 15. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

## Uxbenka, Stela 15

**Location:** Stela 15 was originally located approximately 1 meter north of the northeastern corner of Structure 3, along the western portion of the Main Plaza. The stela was first reported by Richard Leventhal as part of his Southern Belize Epigraphic Project in 1984. Stela 15 has been moved several times over the years and is now located atop Structure 3.

**Condition:** Broken in at least three pieces. The text is severely weathered, but an Initial Series date can be read. In 1994 vandals spray-painted graffiti on this monument in bright red paint.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Rectangular with well-dressed parallel sides.

**Dimensions:**
    HT:     2.68 m
    MW:     .80 m
    HSA:   2.21 m
    WSA:   .57 m
    WBC:   .59 m
    WTC:   .76 m
    MTH:   .20 m
    RELG:  11 mm

**Carved Areas:** Front only. Stela 15 contains the eroded remains of 16 glyph blocks.

**Dedicatory Date:** Late Classic Period. 9.17.10.0.0   12 *Ajaw* 8 *Pax* (28, November 780).

**Line Drawings:**
    John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 95)
    Linda Schele (In Leventhal and Schele nd: Figure 5)
    Linda Schele (In Wanyerka 1996: Figure 5)

**Photographic References:**
    Leventhal (1992: Figure 11.4)

**Other References:**
    Dunham *et al.* (1989: 263)
    Leventhal (1990: 134)
    Leventhal and Schele (nd: 10-11)
    Wanyerka (1996:32-33)
    Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** Stela 15 commemorates the 9.17.10.0.0 Period Ending, a Period Ending that was extremely popular in the hieroglyphic inscriptions of southern Belize. The text is also unusual in that features a reference to "fire-drilling" as part of the Lunar Series information. Unfortunately, the verb and protagonist are no longer legible, but the protagonist does carry the 28 *Winik* title, a royal title common among the ancient rulers of southern Belize and adjacent Guatemala.
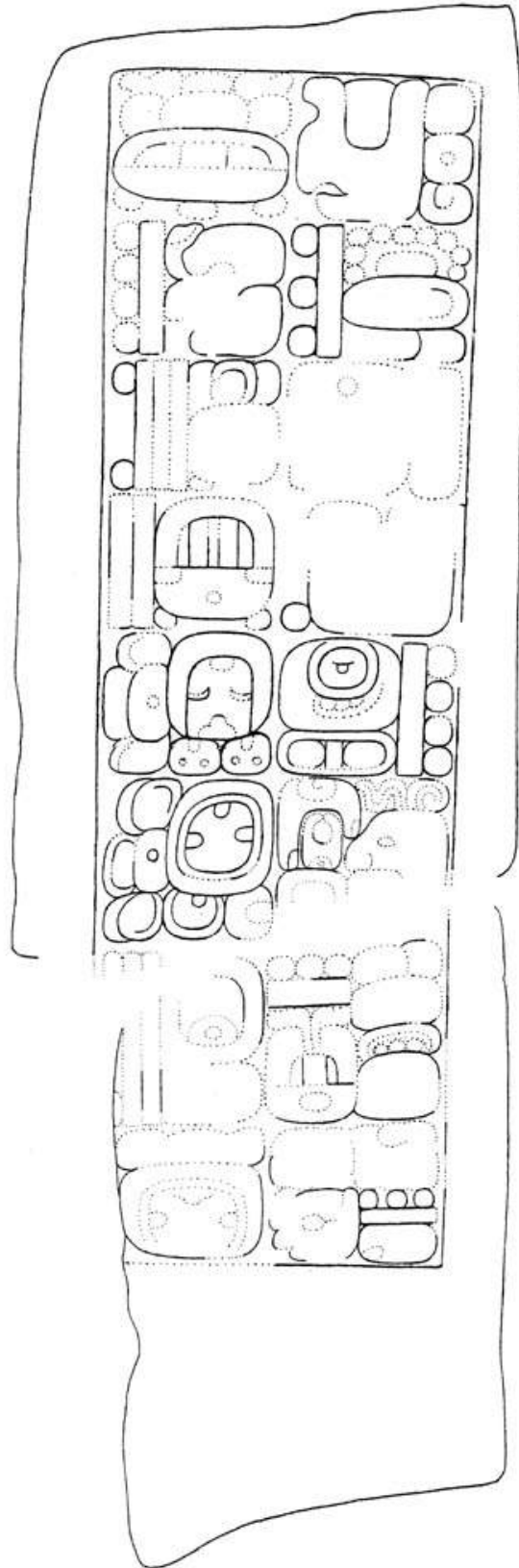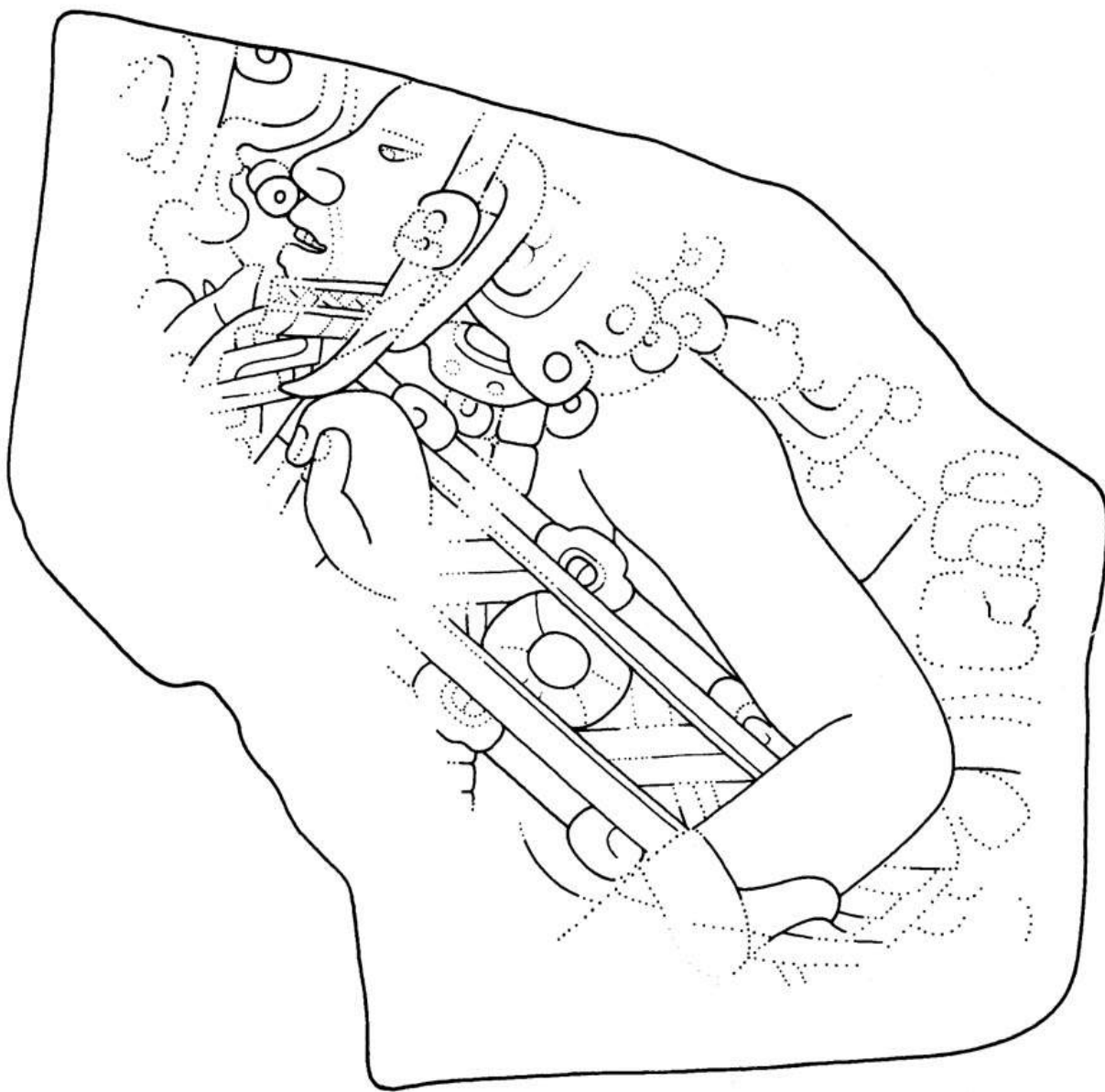
**Figure 96. Uxbenka, Stela 18. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

## Uxbenka, Stela 18

**Location:** Stela 18 was originally located atop the first medial terrace, approximately 2 meters east of the southeastern corner of Structure 7. The stela is still located in this area today.

**Condition:** Broken in several large fragments. The base of Stela 18 is still in situ. The surviving carved fragment is partially eroded, especially along the right side of the monument.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Irregular and presumably rectangular.

**Dimensions:**
Upper Fragment:
        HT:     .47 m
        MW:   .80 m
        HSA:  .47 m
        WSA:  .80 m
        MTH:  10 m
        RELS:    4 mm

Base:
        HT:     .66 m
        MW:   .80 m
        MTH:  .12 m

**Carved Areas:** Front only. The image carved on Stela 18 features an Early Classic portrait of a Uxbenka ruler's face and upper torso.

**Dedicatory Date:** *Early Classic Period. Linda Schele was the first scholar to date Stela 18 to sometime between 8.17.0.0.0 and 9.0.0.0.0 based on the style and pose of the carving (Leventhal and Schele nd: 13). I would also agree with this date based on other archaeological and epigraphic evidence (see Wanyerka 2004).

**Line Drawings:**
        Sue Darus (Unpublished)
        John Hlucky (Wanyerka 1991: Figure 22)
        John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 96)
        John Montgomery (In Wanyerka 1996: Figure 6)

**Photographic References:**
        Richard Leventhal (Unpublished)
        Jack Sulak (Unpublished)
        Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)
        Phil Wanyerka (1991: Figure 23)

**Other References:**
        Dunham *et al.* 1989:265-268)
        Healy and Awe (2001: 61)

Jamison *et al.* (1991: 2-3)
Leventhal 1990:134-135)
Leventhal 1992: 148)
Wanyerka (1991: 77-80)
Wanyerka (1996:33)
Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** Stela 18 features an Early Classic portrait of a ruler dressed in the guise of the "Skycracker Chaak" cradling a Double-Headed Serpent Bar under his arms (Wanyerka 1996:33). As part of this very specific costume, the ruler wears a helmeted headdress with a chinstrap that features a twisted piece of rope from which a small skull is mounted. He also sports a tripartite shell earflare assemblage and jade bead in his nose. Similar representations of this costume can also be seen on Tikal Stela 29, Tikal Stela 31, and El Zapote Stela 1. Located along the right-hand side of Stela 18 is a short two glyph block text. Unfortunately, the text is no longer legible.

Text:
pA1:   T16?:?          **YAX:?**
pA2:   T?              **??**
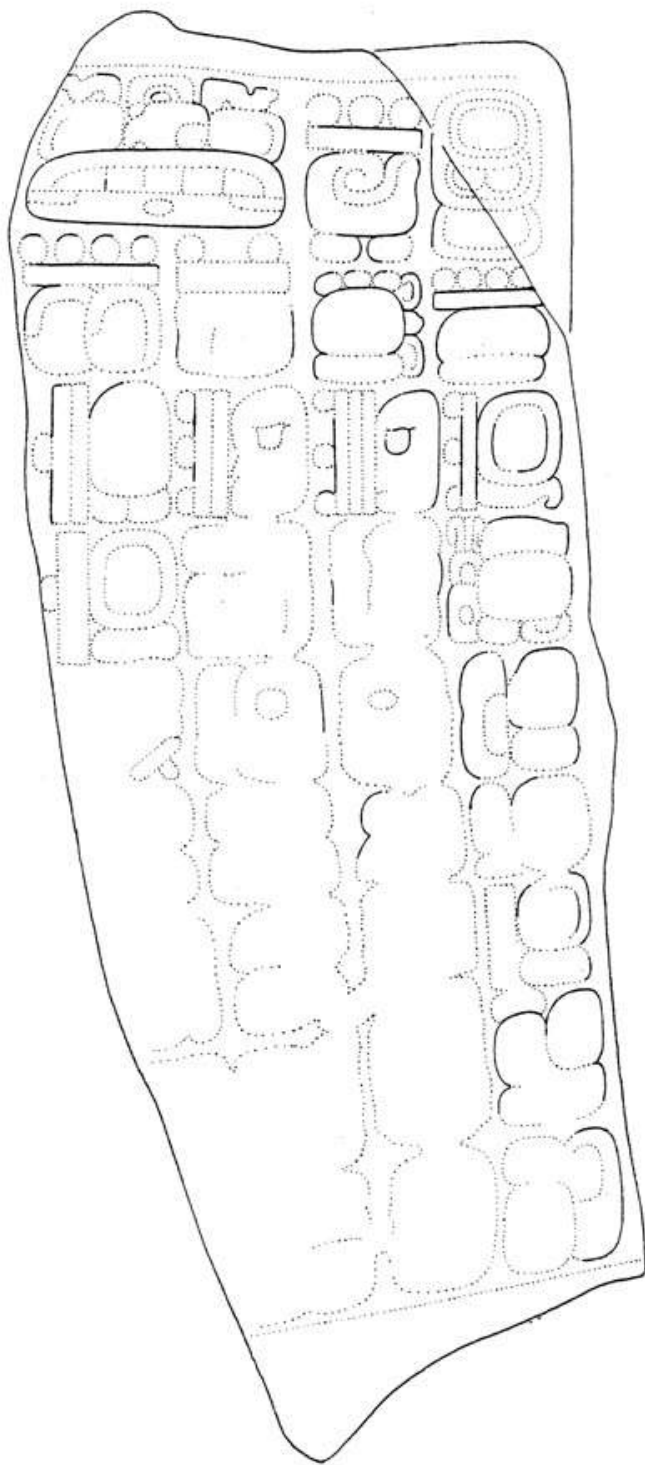
**Figure 97. Uxbenka, Stela 19. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Uxbenka, Stela 19**
**Location:** Stela 19 is located at the base of the hilltop that contains the Stela Plaza. The stela was first reported by Richard Leventhal in 1984 as part of his Southern Belize Archaeological Project.

**Condition:** Broken in two pieces. Because the monument was found face-up, most of the surface details of the text are now completely illegible. In 1994, vandals spray-painted graffiti on this monument in bright red paint.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Rectangular with well-dressed parallel sides that curve inwards towards the bottom of the stela.

**Dimensions:**
    HT:    1.76 m
    MW:    .81 m
    HSA:   1.70 m
    WSA:   .86 m
    WBC:   .76 m
    WTC:   .81 m
    MTH:   .26 m
    RELG: 14.6 mm

**Carved Areas:** Front only. Contains the weathered remains of a 36 glyph block text.

**Dedicatory Date:** Late Classic Period. 9.12.11.13.11  3 *Chuwen* 4 *Kumk'u* (28, January 684).

**Line Drawings:**
    John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 97)
    Linda Schele (In Leventhal and Schele nd: Figure 6)
    Linda Schele (In Wanyerka 1996:Figure 7)

**Photographic References:**
    Leventhal (Unpublished)
    Leventhal (1992: Figure 11.3)
    Jack Sulak (Unpublished)
    Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
    Dunham *et al.* 1989:268)
    Leventhal (1990a:134-137)
    Leventhal (1992: 147-148)
    Leventhal and Schele (nd: 11)
    Wanyerka (1996:33)
    Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** Stela 19 begins with an Initial Series date of 9.12.11.13.11 (3 *Chuwen* 4 *Kum'u*). Unfortunately, most of the remaining text is no longer legible. A Distance Number of perhaps 8 *k'ins*, 1 *winal*, and 3 *tuns* is partially legible at the top of columns C and D, but again, not enough detail survives to reconstruct the chronology. The enigmatic *y-itaj* verb may also be present at D5, but again, nothing else is legible except for the last glyph that appears to be the *B'akab'* title.
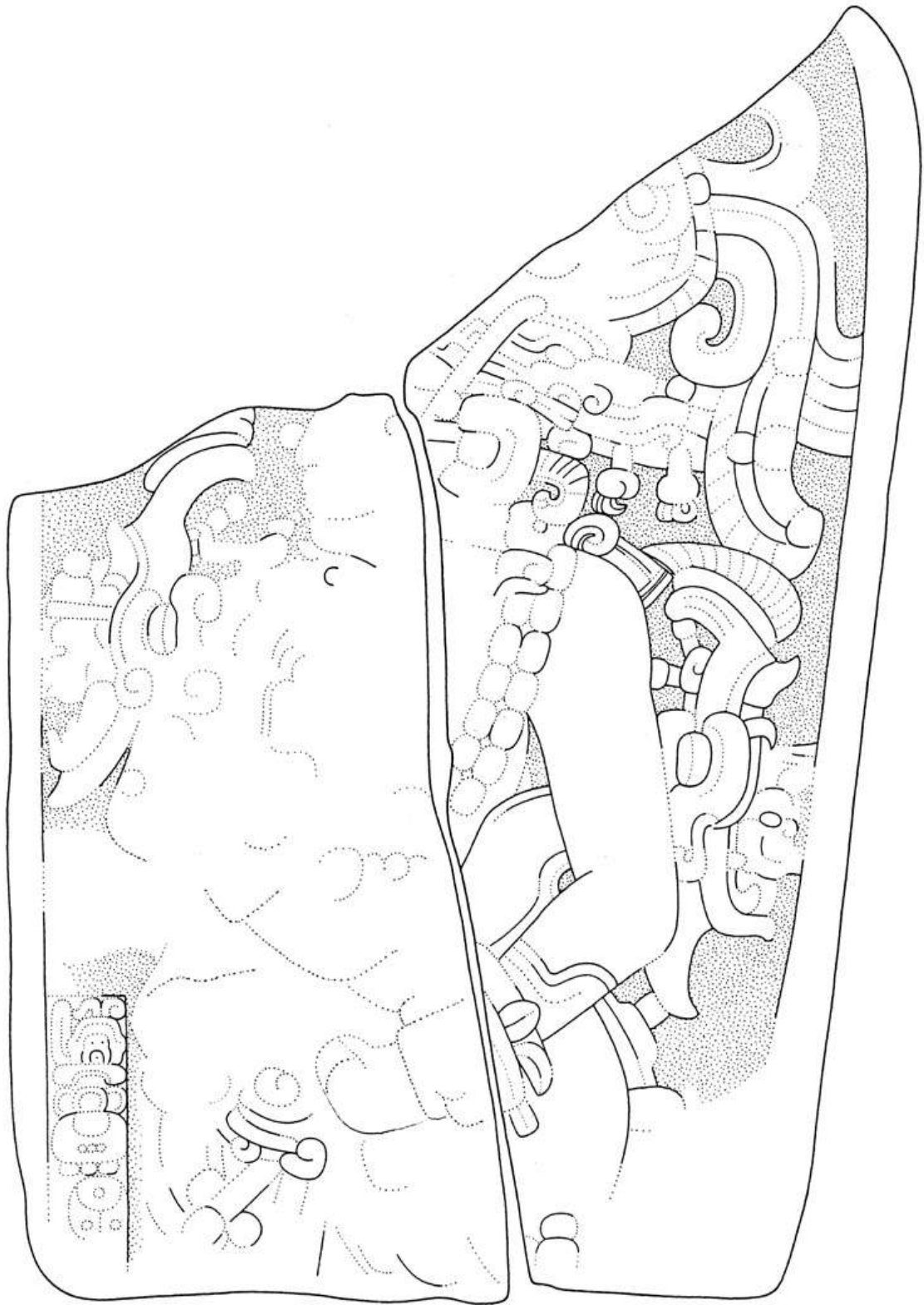
**Figure 98. Uxbenka, Stela 21. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**<u>Uxbenka, Stela 21</u>**

**Location:** The left side of Stela 21 was originally located 11th from the right, in the row of 13 monuments that once lined the south face of Structure 1. It was first reported by Richard Leventhal in 1984 as part of his Southern Belize Archaeological Project. Subsequent to its discovery, the stela fragment was moved to an area east of Structure 3 were it was protected for some time under a thatched hut. In 1993, members of the Maya Mountains Archaeological Project (directed by Peter Dunham) discovered what would later be identified by myself in 1994, as the missing right hand side of Stela 21 in a looter's pit near Stela 15 (Dunham et al. 1993: 22). Today, both fragments sit side-by-side in the area east of Structure 3.

**Condition:** Broken into at least three pieces. The left side is extremely eroded, while the right side of Stela 21 was in an excellent state of preservation. Together, both pieces portray a portrait of an Early Classic ruler holding a Double-Headed Serpent Bar. Unfortunately, sometime after 1994, the right side of Stela 21 was spray-painted with graffiti by vandals in bright red paint and later turned up missing. While the SBEP was working at the site in 2001, a local villager, after seeing an earlier drawing of the monument, walked over to Structure 3 and picked up a very thin stone (now only 2 cm thick) containing a portion of the missing right-hand side of Stela 21. The upper half of the right side text is now missing and presumed lost. The villager stated that the reason he moved the stone was to protect it from looters.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Rectangular.

**Dimensions:**

|      | Left Side | Right Side | Overall |
|------|-----------|------------|---------|
| HT:  | .76 m     | 1.03 m     |         |
| MW:  | .39 m     | .61 m      | 1 m     |
| HSA: | .76 m     | 1.03 m     |         |
| WSA: | .35 m     | .58 m      | .93 m   |
| WBC: | .39 m     | .22 m      | .61 m   |
| WTC: | .37 m     | .61 m      | .98 m   |
| MTH: | .17 m     | .17 m      | .17 m   |
| RELS:| 7.6 mm    | 7.6 mm     | 7.6 mm  |

**Carved Areas:** Front only. The image carved on Stela 21 features a portrait of an Early Classic ruler and a short three glyph block text running along the lower left-hand side of the monument.

**Dedicatory Date:** *Early Classic Period. Linda Schele was the first scholar to date the left side of Stela 21 to sometime between 8.17.0.0.0 and 9.0.0.0.0 based on the style and pose of the carving (Leventhal and Schele nd:13). I would also, agree with the date based on other archaeological and epigraphic evidence (see Wanyerka 2004).

**Line Drawings:**
　　　Sue Darus (In Dunham *et al.* 1993: Figure 20)
　　　John Hlucky (In Wanyerka 1991: Figure 62)
　　　John Montgomery (SBEP, <u>Figure 98</u>)
　　　Linda Schele (In Wanyerka 1996; Figure 8)

**Photographic References:**
Richard Leventhal (Unpublished)
Jack Sulak (Unpublished)
Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
Dunham *et al.* 1989:268-269)
Dunham *et al.* (1993: 22-23)
Healy and Awe (2001:61)
Jamison *et al*. (1991:2-7)
Leventhal (1990:134-137)
Leventhal (1992: 148-150)
Wanyerka (1991:82)
Wanyerka (1996:33-34)

**Commentary:** Stela 21 features a royal portrait of an early Classic ruler facing left, holding a flaccid Double-Headed Serpent Bar. Emerging from the mouths of the Serpent bar are the profile heads of two ancestral deities. The individual is also dressed in an elaborate array of fine accoutrements, including jade beads, wristlets, and a huge jade earflare. The overall portrait of Stela 21 is very reminiscent of the individual featured on Uxbenka Stela 11 and Stela 18. Included in the headdress of this individual are profile heads of at least two zoomorphic creatures. Accompanying the figural scene is a short three-glyph block text, written in a single column format, along the left-side of the monument. The text is important for it may reinforce the notion that the individual named on Stela 11 was the "child of" a possible Tikal lord. Here on Stela 21 the texts states that the individual, presumably named on an upper piece of this monument, was the "child of" the "*Mi*' or *K'atun Ajawal*."
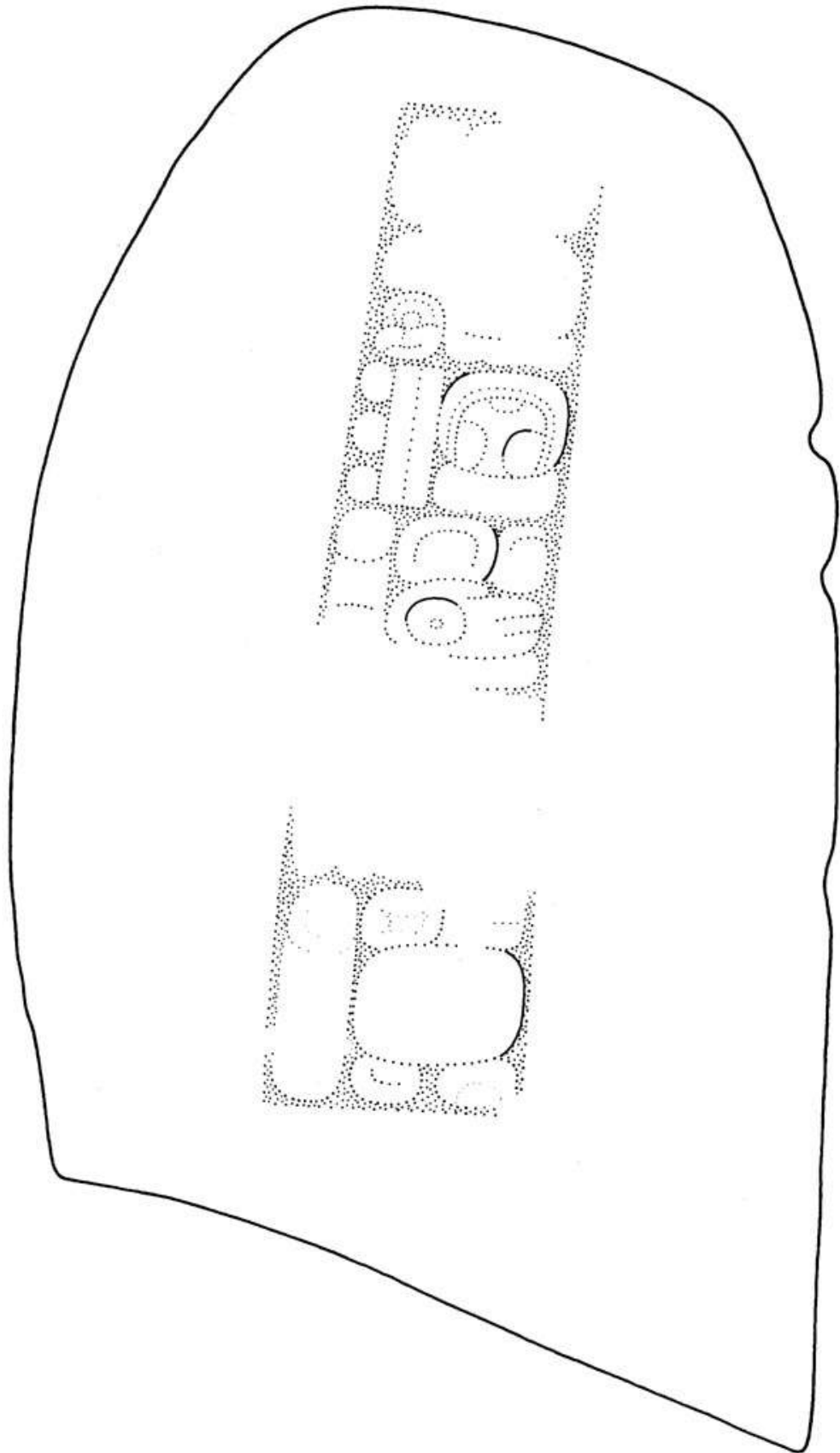
**Figure 99. Uxbenka, Stela 22. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

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**Uxbenka, Stela 22**

**Location:** Stela 22 was found face-up approximately 2 meters southeast of the northeastern corner of Structure 2. The stela was first reported in 1986 by the Southern Belize Archaeological Project. The stela is still at the site today.

**Condition:** Intact, but severely eroded.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Rectangular with parallel sides that curve inwards towards the top and bottom of the monument.

**Dimensions:**
- HT:    1.53 m
- MW:    .96 m
- HSA:  1.03 m
- WSA:  .31 m
- WBC:  .96 m
- WTC:  .94 m
- MTH:  .18 m
- RELG:  5.6 mm

**Carved Areas:** Front only. Contains a 6 glyph block text in single column format.

**Dedicatory Date:** Late Classic Period. 9.16.0.0.0  2 *Ajaw* 13 *Sek* (5, May 751)

**Line Drawings:**
- John Hlucky (In Wanyerka 1991: Figure 68)
- John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 99)
- John Montgomery (In Wanyerka 1996: Figure 9)

**Photographic References:**
- Richard Leventhal (Unpublished)
- Jack Sulak (Unpublished)
- Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
- Wanyerka (1991: 85)
- Wanyerka (1996: 34)
- Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** The text recorded on Stela 22 commemorates the 9.16.0.0.0 Period Ending. Written in an abbreviated Calendar Round form, the confirmation of this date comes from the "tun-in-hand" glyph at A4. The name of the protagonist is now totally obliterated, but he was clearly a Divine Lord , presumably of Uxbenka as the outlines of an Emblem Glyph can be seen at A6. Unfortunately, the main sign is no longer legible; however, its appearance does provide epigraphic evidence that Uxbenka was an Emblem-Glyph-bearing site during Classic times. One other thing that is interesting here is the fact that Uxbenka, like most of the inscriptions at

Pusilhá, is clearly spells its month names with Yukatek spellings. Here (A3) we see the month *Sek* spelled out phonetically as *se-ka* much like we see in the codices.

Text:
| | |
|---|---|
| A1: T?:? | **?:?** |
| A2: TII[738?]?:? | **KÁ[ka?]?:?  (Ajaw)** |
| A3: TXIII.520:25? | **OXLAJUN.SE:ka   (Sek)** |
| A4: T13.528.116:713a:130 | **u.TUUN.ni:K'AL:wa** |
| A5: T?.?:? | **?.?:?** |
| A6: T36.168:?:130 | **K'U.AJAW:?:wa** |

**Figure 100. Uxbenka, Miscellaneous Text 1. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**<u>Uxbenka, Miscellaneous Text 1</u>**

**Location:** Miscellaneous Text 1 was found in the northwest region of the Main Plaza, approximately 2 meters east of Stela 22. This fragment was found by the Southern Belize Archaeological Project in 1988 and has not been relocated since its initial discovery. It is now feared lost.

**Condition:** Broken and more than half of the carved surface has flaked off.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Irregular.

**Dimensions:**
　　　All dimensions are unknown.

**Carved Areas:** Front only. Contains a partially eroded figural scene that includes an image of a turtle and a single glyph block.

**Dedicatory Date:** Unknown.

**Line Drawings:**
　　　John Montgomery (SBEP, <u>Figure 100</u>)
　　　John Montgomery (In Wanyerka 1996: Figure 10)
　　　Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Photographic References:**
　　　Richard Leventhal (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
　　　Wanyerka (1996: 34)
　　　Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** Featured on Miscellaneous Text 1 is a partially eroded zoomorphic image of a turtle or *ak*. In addition, a partial image of a shield can also be seen below the turtle. It is not clear as to what this fragment represents to the overall image. Due to the severe level of flaking and erosion to the surface of this fragment, only a single glyph block exists today. The glyph block clearly records the "binding" or "wrapping of the *tuun*."

Text:
pA1: T1.528.130:713a　　　**u.TUUN.wa:K'AL**

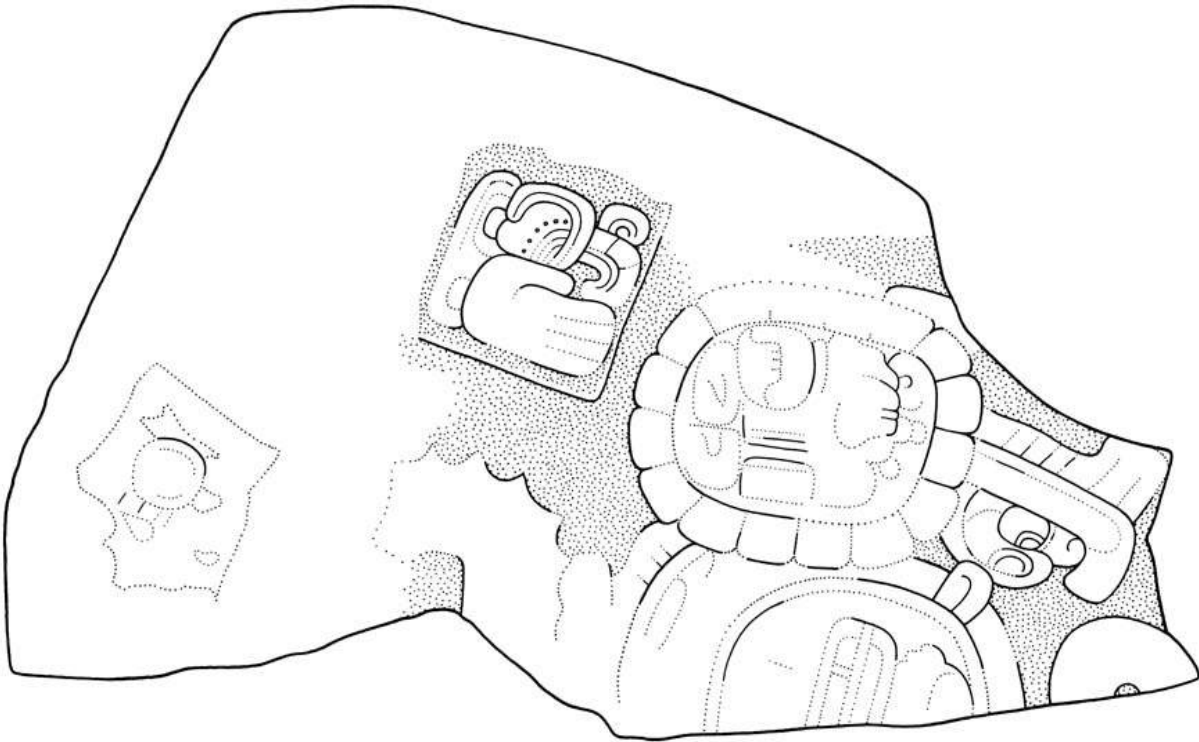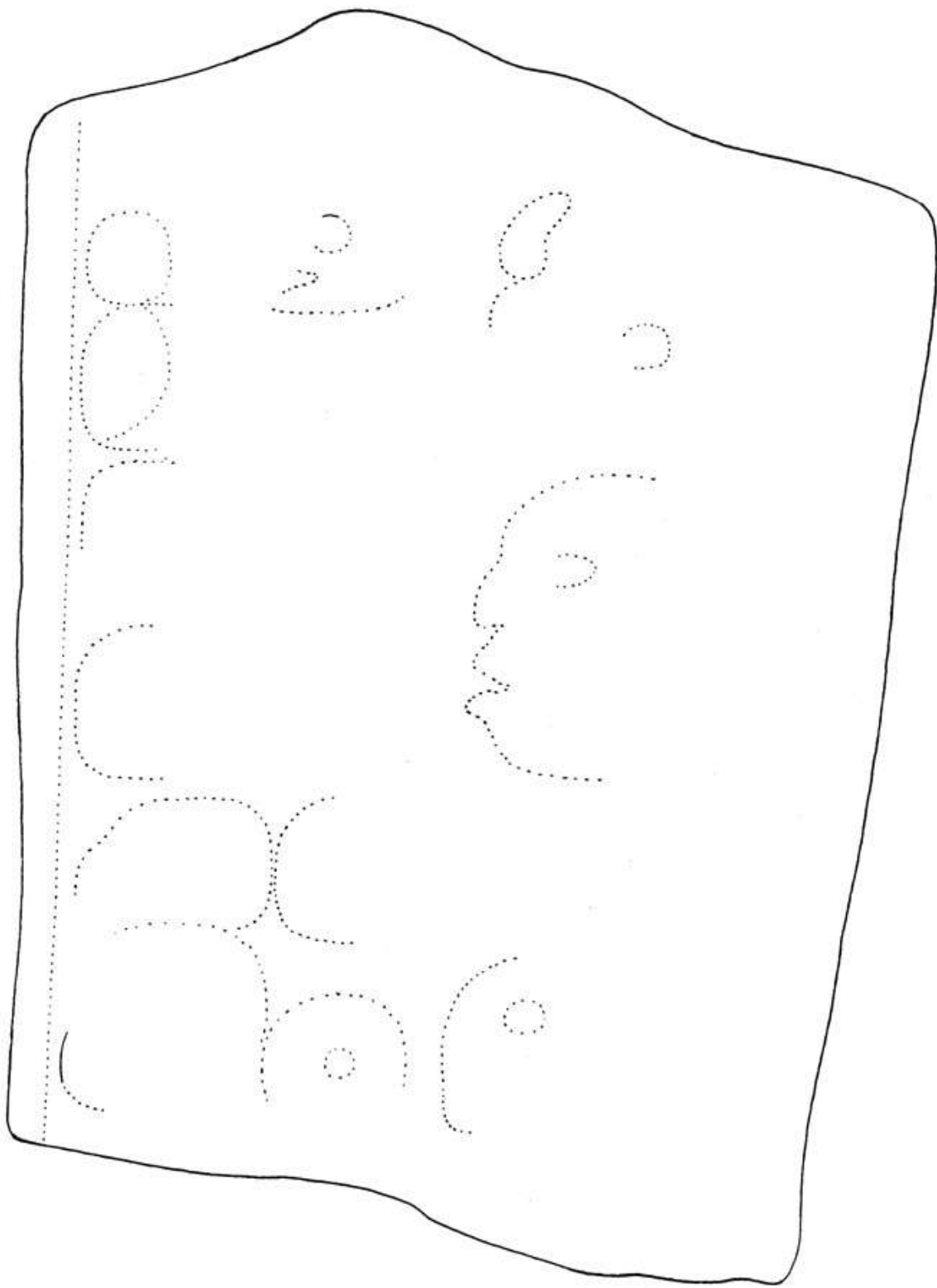**Figure 101. Uxbenka, Miscellaneous Text 2, Front. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Figure 102. Uxbenka, Miscellaneous Text 2, Side. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Uxbenka, Miscellaneous Text 2**

**Location:** Miscellaneous Text 2 was originally found by the Southern Belize Archaeological Project in 1984. Its original location is unknown, but today it lies directly east of Structure 2 near a group of broken monument fragments scattered around Stela 11.

**Condition:** Broken and severely eroded.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Rectangular?  This fragment represents a left-hand section of a text based on the text border visible along its edge.

**Dimensions:**
    HT:    .46 m
    MW:   .40 m
    HSA:  .46 m
    WSA:  .40 m
    WBC:  .36 m
    WTC:  .40 m
    MTH:  .16 m
    RELG:   3 mm

**Carved Areas:** Front and Side. The front of Miscellaneous Text 2 contains 6 partially eroded glyph blocks and the side contains 5 partially eroded glyph blocks.

**Dedicatory Date:** Unknown

**Line Drawings:**
    John Hlucky (In Wanyerka 1991: Figure 66)
    John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 101 and Figure 102)

**Photographic References:**
    Richard Leventhal (Unpublished)
    Jack Sulak (Unpublished)
    Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)
    Phil Wanyerka (1991: Figure 65)

**Other References:**
    Wanyerka (1991: 84)
    Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** While its now clear that a hieroglyphic text was carved on two sides of this fragment, virtually none of the carving on the front can be read, except for a possible *Ajaw* title at pB2. The side of this fragment was identified as being carved in 2001 based on side lighting. The text contains a numerical coefficient (10) followed by a probable *tuun* sign. In addition, the text also contains the partially eroded outlines of another number (3) followed by the outlines of the T756 "bat-head" sign that can either read *xu/XUK/SOTZ'*. Unfortunately, not enough of the textual detail survives to ascertain the intended meaning.

Text:
Front Text
pA1: T?:?.?:?        **?:?.?:?**
pB1: T?              **??**
pA2: T?:?.?          **?:?.?**
pB2: T1000?        **AJAW?**
pA3: T?:?.?:?        **?:?.?:?**
pB3: T?:?           **?:?**

Side Text
pC1: T?.?:?         **?.?:?**
pC2: TX:528?      **LAJUN:TUUN?**
pC3: TIII.?:?.756:200?  **OX.?:?.XU/XUK/PÍ**
pC4: T?:?.?:?        **?:?.?:?**
pC5: T?:?.?          **?:?.?**

# Miscellaneous Sculpture



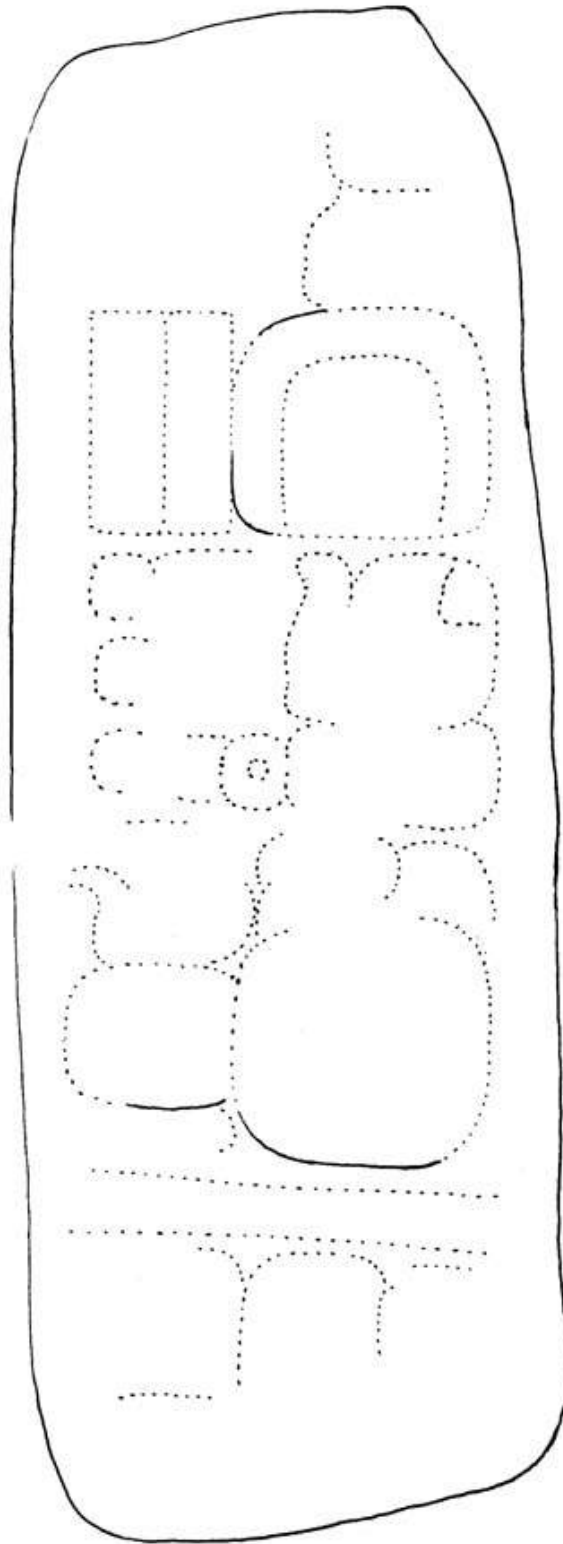**Figure 103. Uxbenka, Miscellaneous Sculpture 1. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Uxbenka, Miscellaneous Sculpture 1**

**Location:** Miscellaneous Sculpture 1 was originally found in the area east of Structure 2. It was first reported by the Southern Belize Archaeological Project in 1984. The monument is still located at the site today and is located near a group of broken monument fragments near the northeastern corner of Structure 2.

**Condition:** Broken and severely eroded.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Irregular.

**Dimensions:**
>HT: .27 m
>MW: .57 m
>MTH: .20 m
>RELS: 5.6 mm

**Carved Areas:** Front only.

**Dedicatory Date:** *Early Classic Period (?). The style of the imagery featured on this fragment is highly reminiscent of the imagery found on Stela 11, 18, and 21.

**Line Drawings:**
>John Hlucky (In Wanyerka 1991: Figure 60)
>John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 103)

**Photographic References:**
>Richard Leventhal (Unpublished)
>Jack Sulak (Unpublished)
>Phil Wanyerka (1991: Figure 59)

**Other References:**
>Wanyerka (1991:81)
>Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** The image featured on Miscellaneous Text 1 includes at least two tubular beads and several scrolls. This fragment probably belongs to one of the 3 Early Classic stela at Uxbenka, in particular it closely resembles the iconographic program of Stela 21.

**Figure 104. Uxbenka, Miscellaneous Sculpture 2. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**<u>Uxbenka, Miscellaneous Sculpture 2</u>**
**Location:** Miscellaneous Sculpture 2 was originally found in the area east of Structure 2 in the vicinity of Stela 11. It was first reported by the Southern Belize Archaeological Project in 1984. The monument is still located at the site today and is located near a group of broken monument fragments near the northeastern corner of Structure 2.

**Condition:** Broken and severely eroded.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Irregular.

**Dimensions:**
>HT:     .58 m
>MW:   .88 m
>MTH: .20 m
>RELS:   6 mm

**Carved Areas:** Front only.

**Dedicatory Date:** Unknown.

**Line Drawings:**
>John Montgomery (SBEP, <u>Figure 104</u>)
>Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Photographic References:**
>Richard Leventhal (Unpublished)
>Jack Sulak (Unpublished)
>Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
>Wanyerka (2001: 8)
>Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** The image carved on Miscellaneous Sculpture 2 appears to part of an elaborate iconographic motif, possibly part of a headdress.
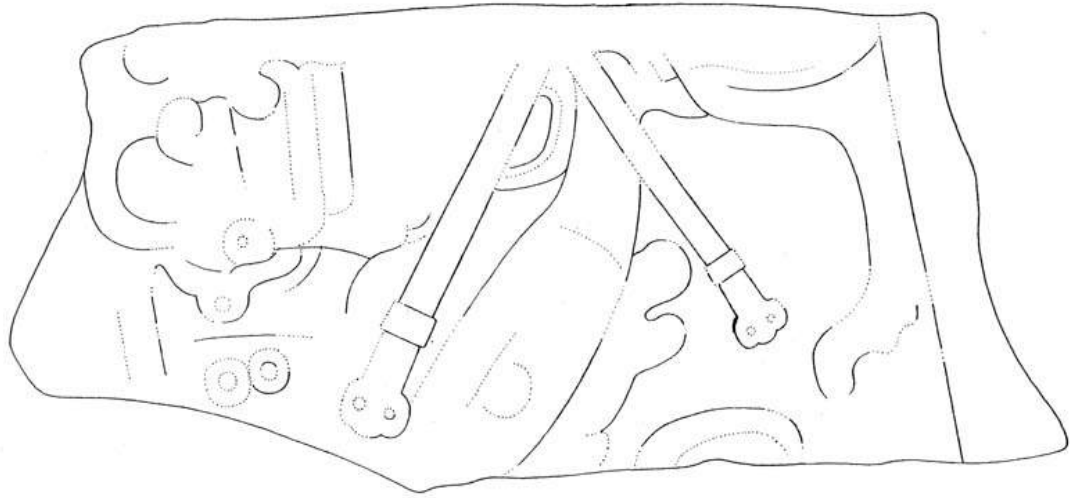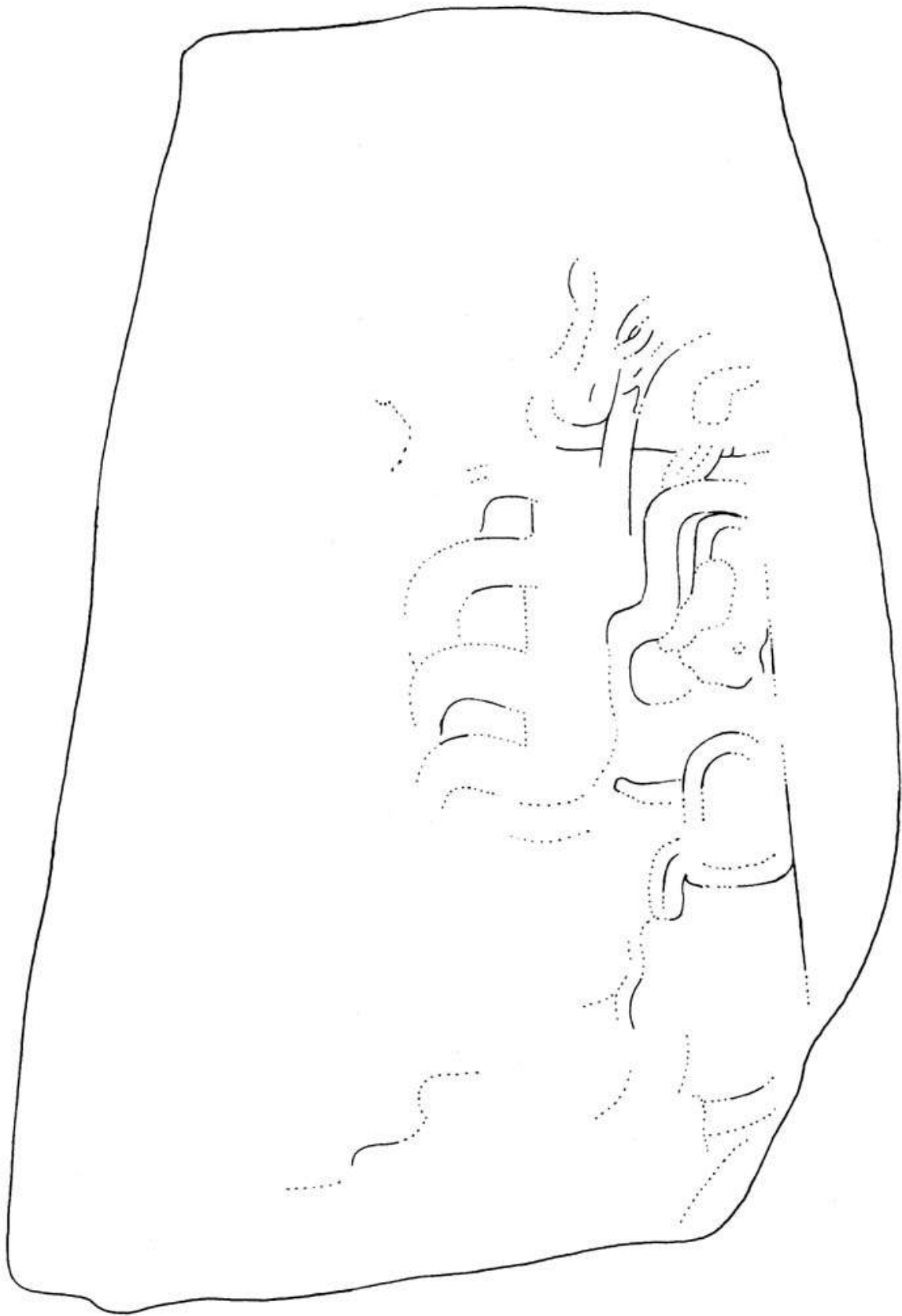
**Figure 105. Uxbenka, Miscellaneous Sculpture 3. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**<u>Uxbenka, Miscellaneous Sculpture 3</u>**

**Location:** Miscellaneous Sculpture 3 was originally found in the area east of Structure 2. It was first reported by the Southern Belize Archaeological Project in 1984. The monument is still located at the site today and is still located near a group of broken monument fragments near the northeastern corner of Structure 2.

**Condition:** Broken in three pieces and severely eroded.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Irregular.

**Dimensions:**
     HT:    .20 m
     MW:  .59 m
     MTH: .09 m
     RELS:  6 mm

**Carved Areas:** Front only.

**Dedicatory Date:** \*Early Classic Period (?). The style of the imagery featured on this fragment is reminiscent of the imagery found on Stela 11, 18, and 21.

**Line Drawings:**
     John Montgomery (SBEP, <u>Figure 105</u>)
     Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Photographic References:**
     Richard Leventhal (Unpublished)
     Jack Sulak (Unpublsihed)
     Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
     Wanyerka (2001:8)
     Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** The image featured on this fragment includes an open-mouthed serpent. It would appear that this fragment could either be a part of the missing left-hand serpent emerging from the Double-Headed Serpent Bar on either Stela 11 or Stela 18.
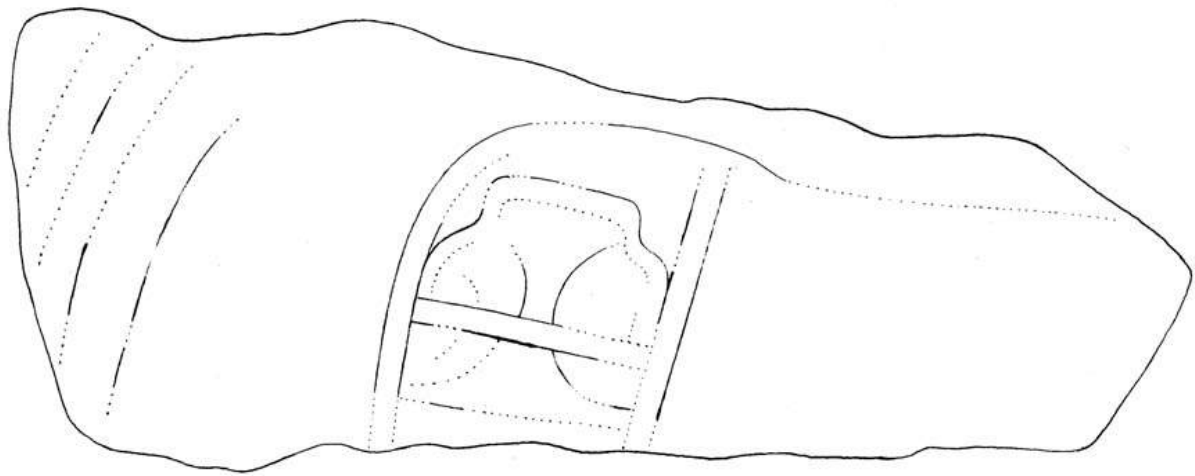
**Figure 106. Uxbenka, Miscellaneous Sculpture 4. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Uxbenka, Miscellaneous Sculpture 4**

**Location:** Unknown. Miscellaneous Sculpture 4 was first reported by the Southern Belize Archaeological Project in 1988. This fragment could not be relocated.

**Condition:** Broken, flaked, and eroded.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Irregular.

**Dimensions:**
- HT: .11 m
- MW: .42 m
- MTH: Unknown
- RELS: Unknown

**Carved Areas:** Front only.

**Dedicatory Date:** Unknown.

**Line Drawings:**
- John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 106)
- Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Photographic References:**
- Richard Leventhal (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
- Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** Featured on this fragment is the faint outlines of either a glyphic element or some iconographic motif. The possible appearance of feathers along the left edge of this fragment suggests that it was probably a part of a royal headdress.
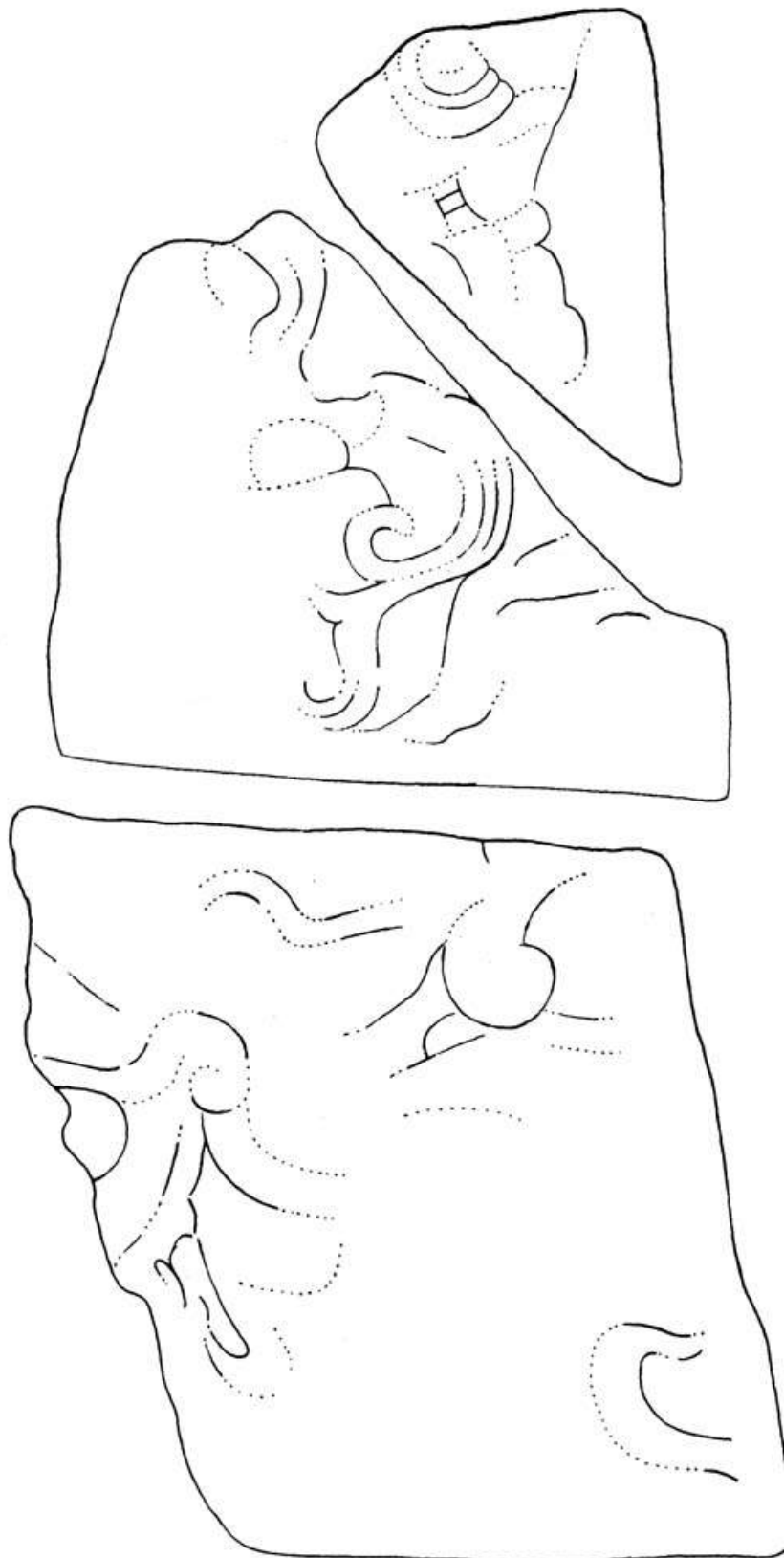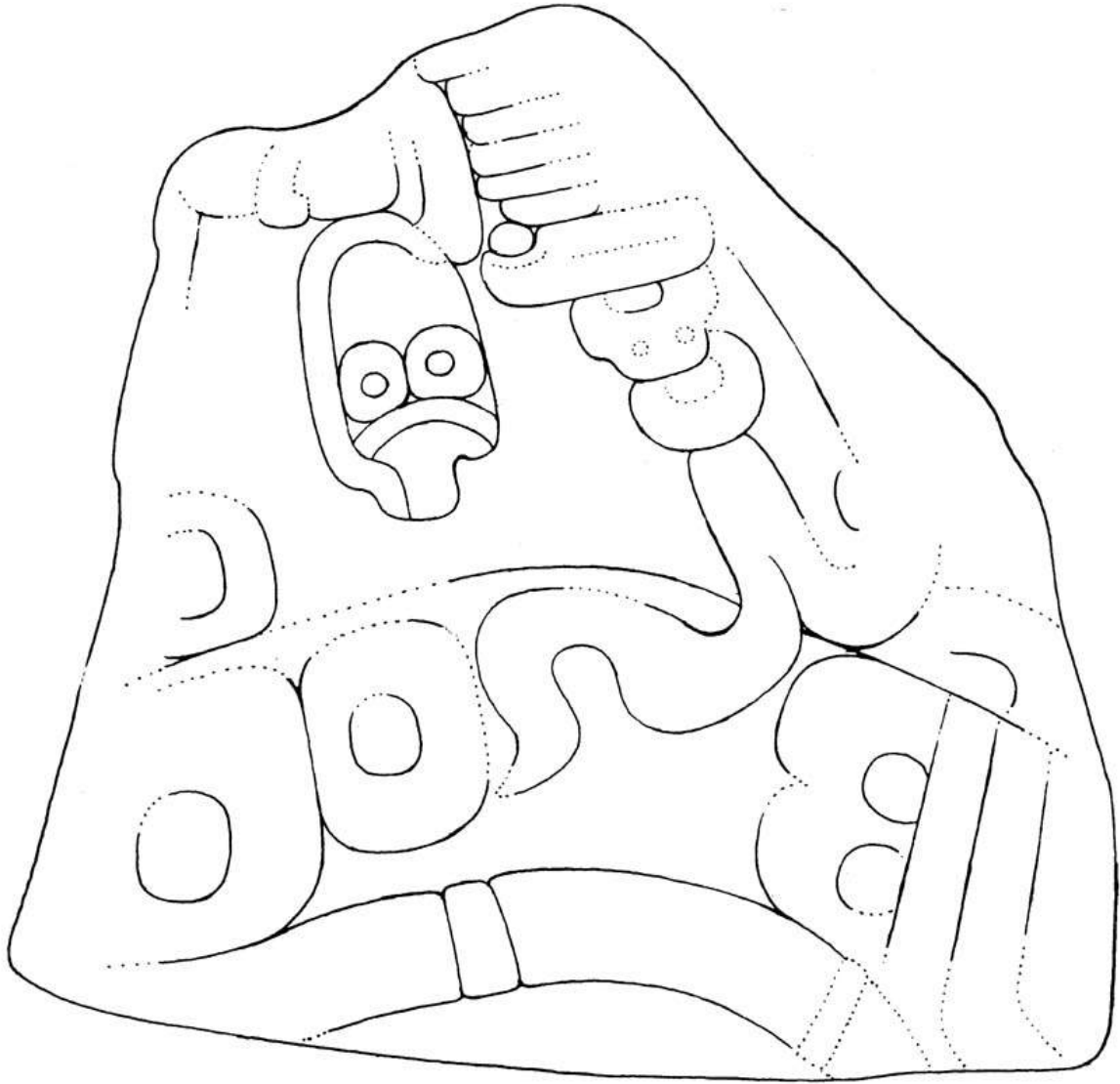
**Figure 107. Uxbenka, Miscellaneous Sculpture 5. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Uxbenka, Miscellaneous Sculpture 5**

**Location:** Unknown. Miscellaneous Sculpture 5 was first reported by the Southern Belize Archaeological Project in 1988. This fragment could not be relocated.

**Condition:** Broken and slightly chipped along its edges.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Irregular.

**Dimensions:**  Unknown.

**Carved Areas:** Front only.

**Dedicatory Date:** *Early Classic Period (?). This fragment appears to be a part of the upper portion of a now missing headdress, probably from either Stela 11, 18, or 21.

**Line Drawings:**
      John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 107)
      Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Photographic References:**
      Richard Leventhal (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
      Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** The image featured on Miscellaneous Sculpture 5 appears to be the upper portion of a royal headdress. Unfortunately it cannot be matched at this time to any of the three Early Classic monuments.

**Figure 108. Uxbenka, Miscellaneous Sculpture 6. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Uxbenka, Miscellaneous Sculpture 6**

**Location:** Unknown. Miscellaneous Sculpture 6 was first reported by the Southern Belize Archaeological Project in 1988. This fragment could not be relocated.

**Condition:** Broken and much of the surface has flaked off.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Irregular.

**Dimensions:**
    HT:    .45 m
    MW:  .40 m
    MTH:  Unknown
    RELS: Unknown

**Carved Areas:** Front only.

**Dedicatory Date:** *Early Classic Period (?). The style of imagery featured on this fragment is reminiscent of the imagery found on Stela 11, 18, and 21.

**Line Drawings:**
    John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 108)
    Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Photographic References:**
    Richard Leventhal (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
    Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** The image featured on this fragment includes a small profile head of a bird-like creature and the vestiges of some other iconographic motif, none of which can be interpreted.
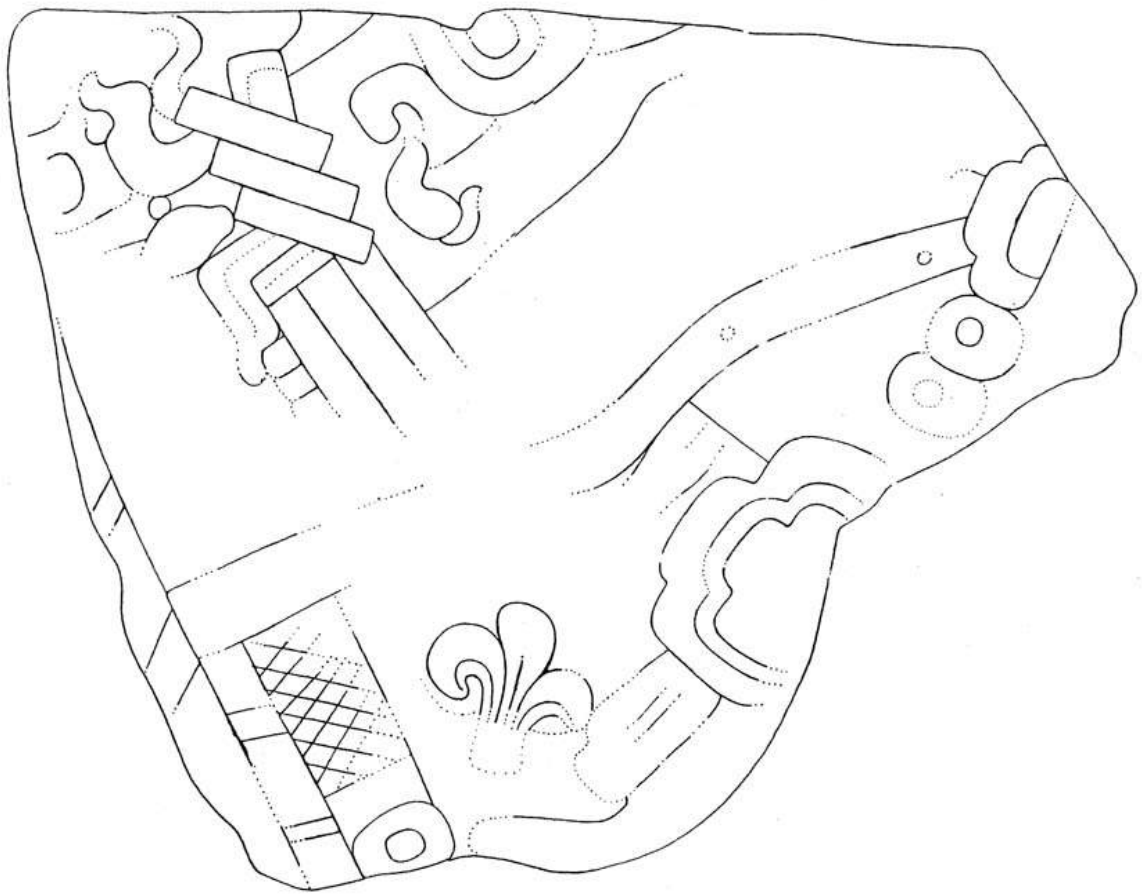
**Figure 109. Uxbenka, Miscellaneous Sculpture 7. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Uxbenka, Miscellaneous Sculpture 7**

**Location:** Miscellaneous Sculpture 7 was found by the Southern Belize Epigraphic Project in 2001. It was located near a looter's pit behind Stela 14, off the northeast corner of Structure 3.

**Condition:** Broken in two pieces and the fragment is shipped and eroded along the breakage.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Irregular.

**Dimensions:**
      HT:    .51 m
      MW:   .51 m
      MTH: .18 m
      RELS:   6 mm

**Carved Areas:** Front only.

**Dedicatory Date:** *Early Classic Period (?). The style of the imagery featured on this fragment is reminiscent of the imagery found on Stela 11, 18, and 21.

**Line Drawings:**
      John Montgomery (SBEP, <u>Figure 109</u>)
      Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Photographic References:**
      Jack Sulak (Unpublished)
      Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
      Wanyerka (2001:8)
      Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** The image featured on this fragment appears to be a part of the Double-Headed Serpent Bar featured on Stela 18. The "mat" sign, located in the upper left-hand corner of the fragment appears to match the "mat" sign located below the individual's chinstrap.
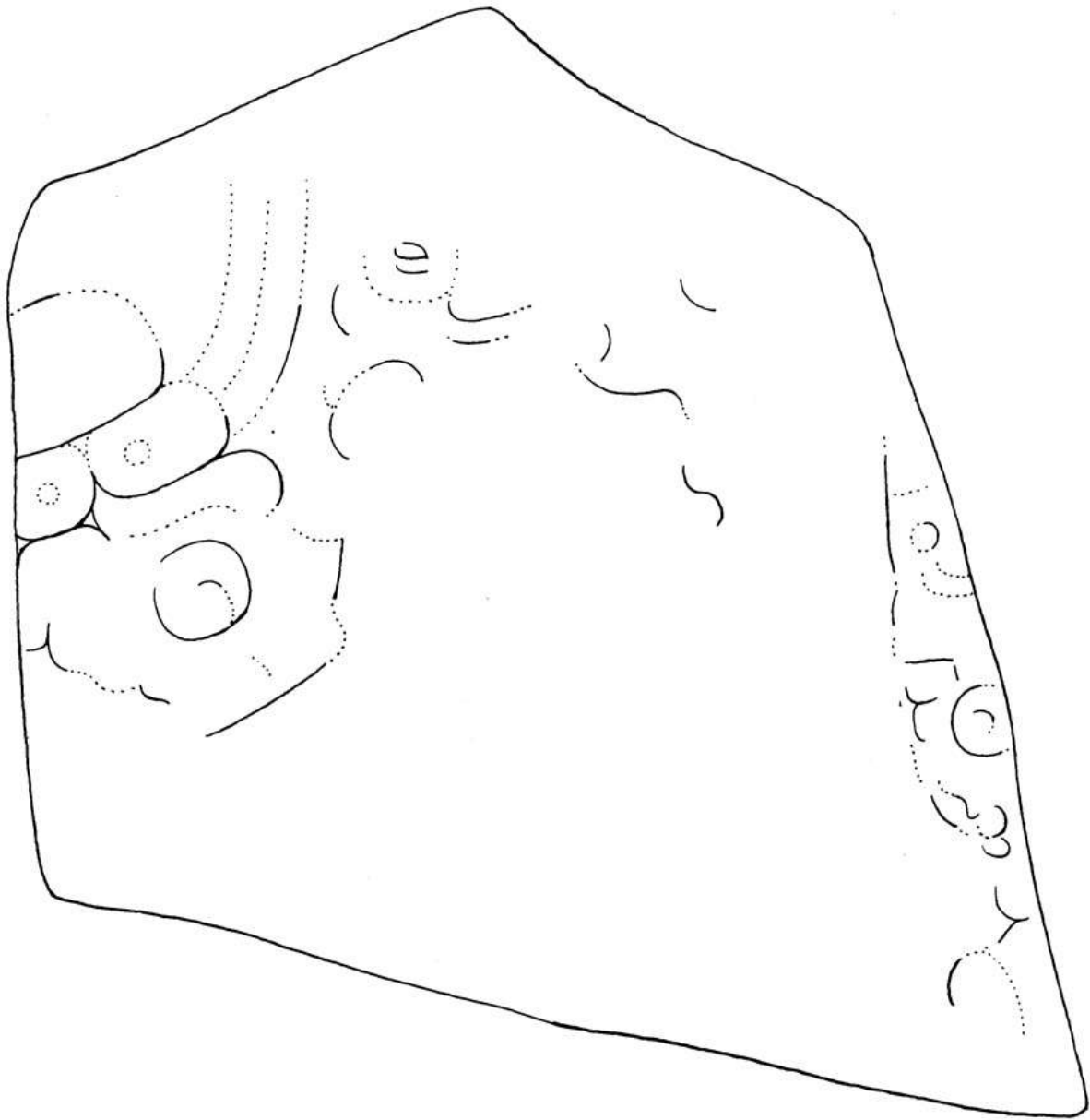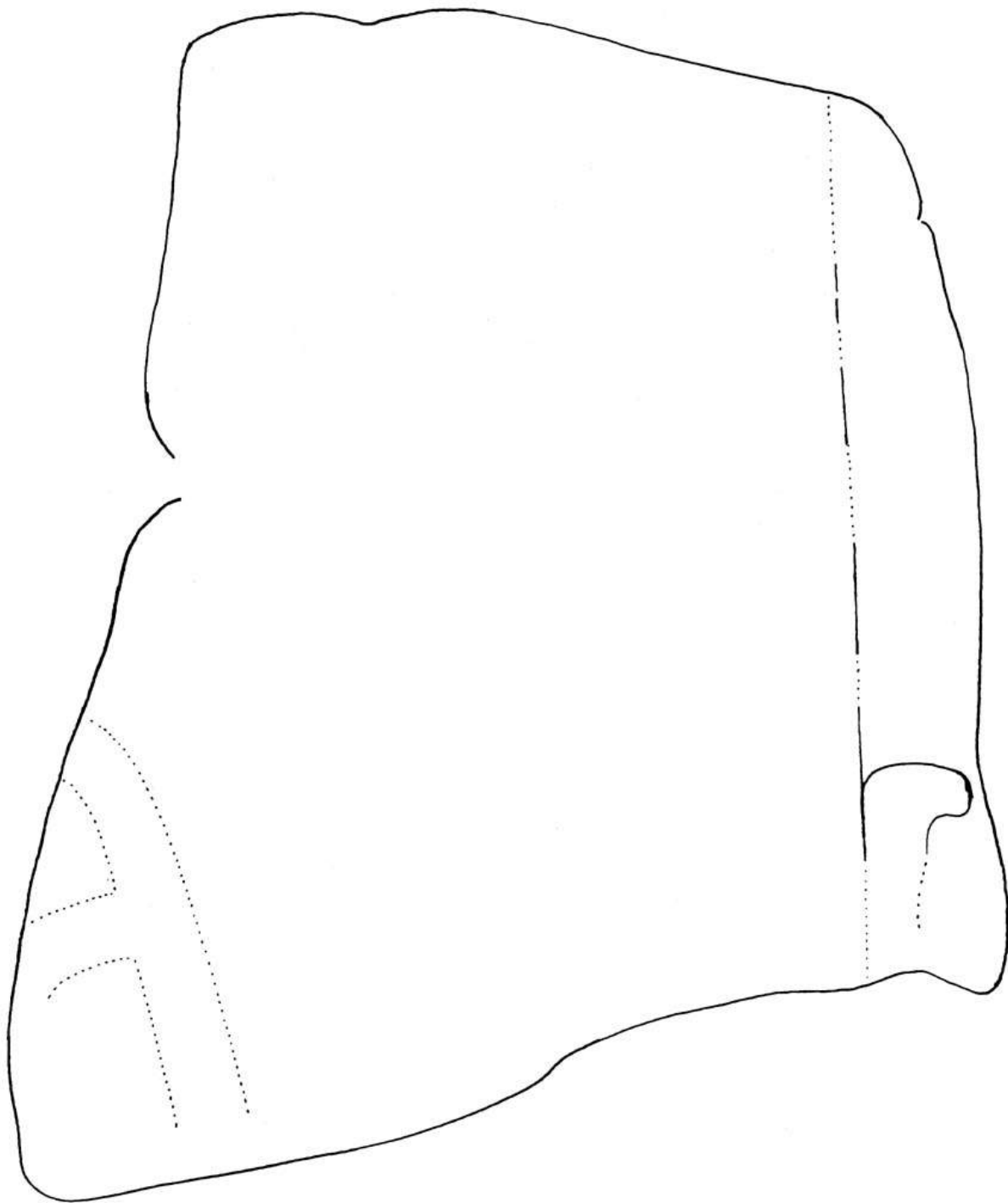
**Figure 110. Uxbenka, Miscellaneous Sculpture 8. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**<u>Uxbenka, Miscellaneous Sculpture 8</u>**

**Location:** Miscellaneous Sculpture 8 was found by the Southern Belize Epigraphic Project in 2001. It was located near a looter's pit behind Stela 14, off the northeast corner of Structure 2.

**Condition:** Broken and severely eroded.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape**: Irregular.

**Dimensions:**
      HT:    .31 m
      MW:  .17 m
      MTH: .36 m
      RELS:   6 mm

**Carved Areas:** Front only.

**Dedicatory Date:** Unknown.

**Line Drawings:**
      John Montgomery (SBEP, <u>Figure 110</u>)
      John Montgomery (In Wanyerka 2001: Figure 33)
      Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Photographic References:**
      Jack Sulak (Unpublished)
      Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
      Wanyerka (2001:8)
      Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** The severely eroded image featured on this fragment appears to be an unknown iconographic motif.
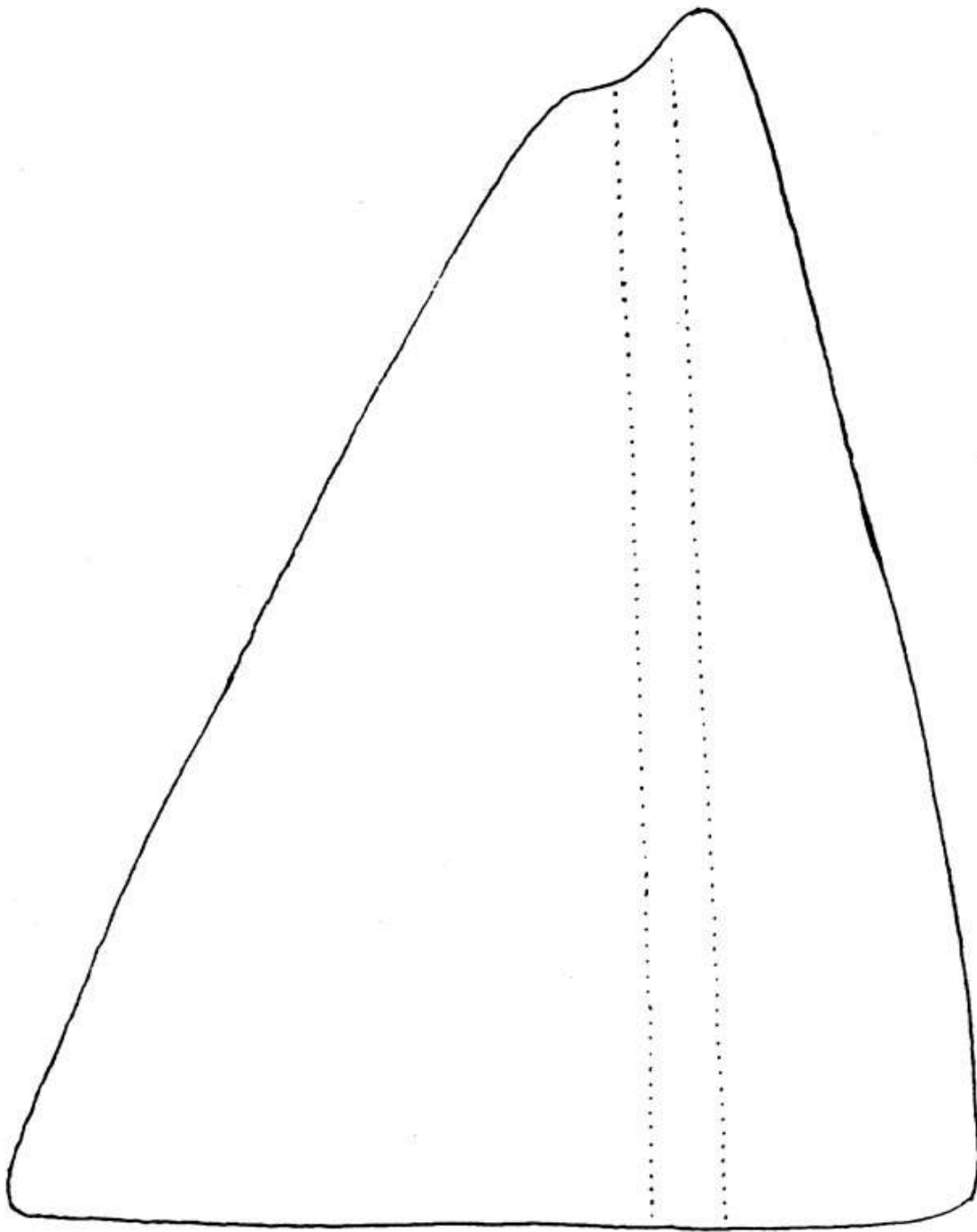
**Figure 111. Uxbenka, Miscellaneous Sculpture 9. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**<u>Uxbenka, Miscellaneous Sculpture 9</u>**

**Location:** Miscellaneous Sculpture 9 was first reported by the Southern Belize Epigraphic Project in 2001. It was found in a monument scatter around Stela 11, off the northeast corner of Structure 2.

**Condition:** Broken and severely eroded.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcaerous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Irregular. The fragment probably represents a scene or text border.

**Dimensions:**
>     HT:     .20 m
>     MW:   .15 m
>     MTH:  .10 m
>     RELS:    6 mm

**Carved Areas:** Front only.

**Dedicatory Date:** Unknown.

**Line Drawings:**
>     John Montgomery (SBEP, <u>Figure</u> 111)
>     Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Photographic References:**
>     Jack Sulak (Unpublished)
>     Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
>     Wanyerka (2001:8)

**Commentary:** The image featured on this fragment is a text border.
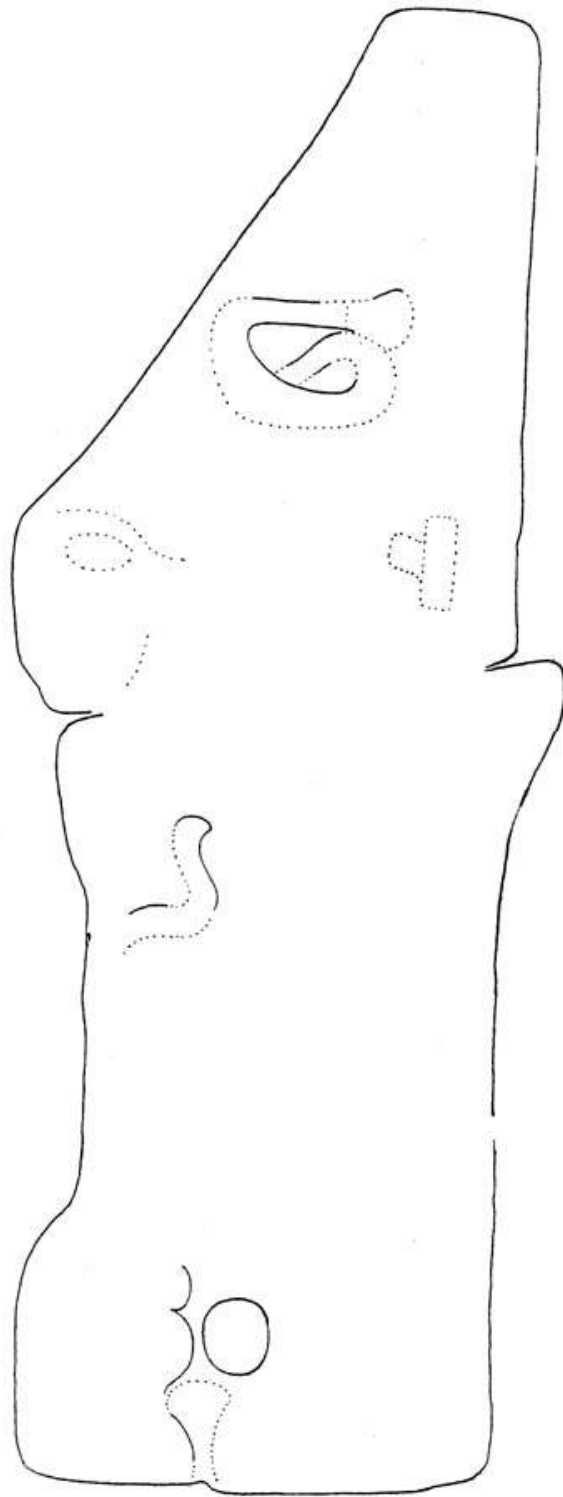
**Figure 112. Uxbenka, Miscellaneous Sculpture 10. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**<u>Uxbenka, Miscellaneous Sculpture 10</u>**

**Location:** Miscellaneous Sculpture 10 was first reported by the Southern Belize Epigraphic Project in 2001. It was located in a monument scatter near Stela 11, off the northeast corner of Structure 2.

**Condition:** Broken and severely eroded.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Irregular.

**Dimensions:**
      HT:    .56 m
      MW:  .20 m
      MTH: .09 m
      RELS:  6 mm

**Carved Areas:** Front only.

**Dedicatory Date:** Unknown.

**Line Drawings:**
      John Montgomery (SBEP, <u>Figure 112</u>)
      Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Photographic References:**
      Jack Sulak (Unpublished)
      Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
      Wanyerka (2001:8)

**Commentary:** The image featured on this fragment depicts an iconographic motif, probably part of a headdress.

# Other Miscellaneous Monuments
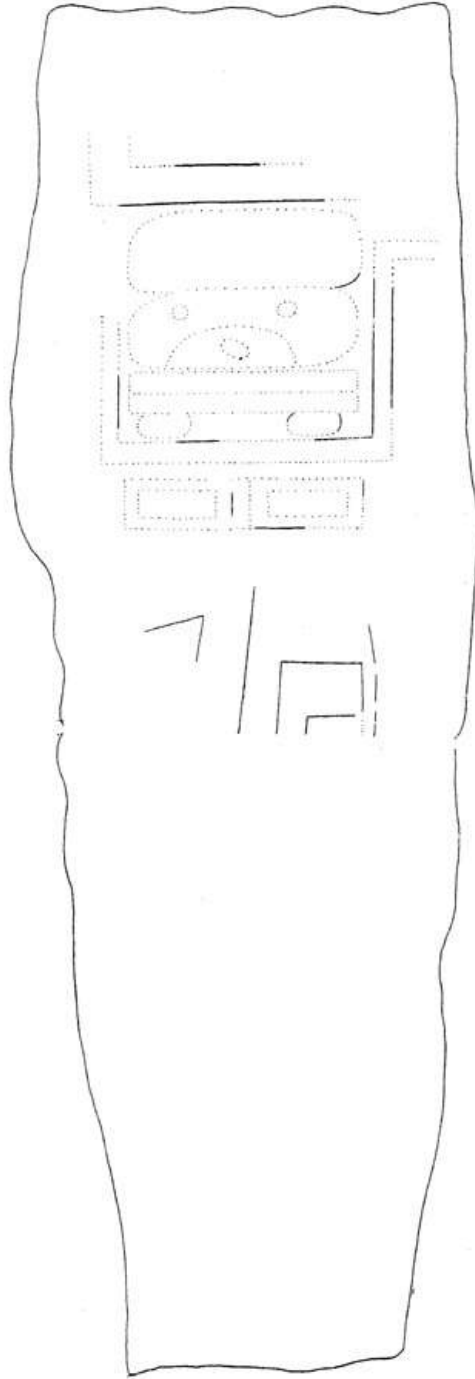


**Figure 113. Tzimín Ché, Stela 1. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**
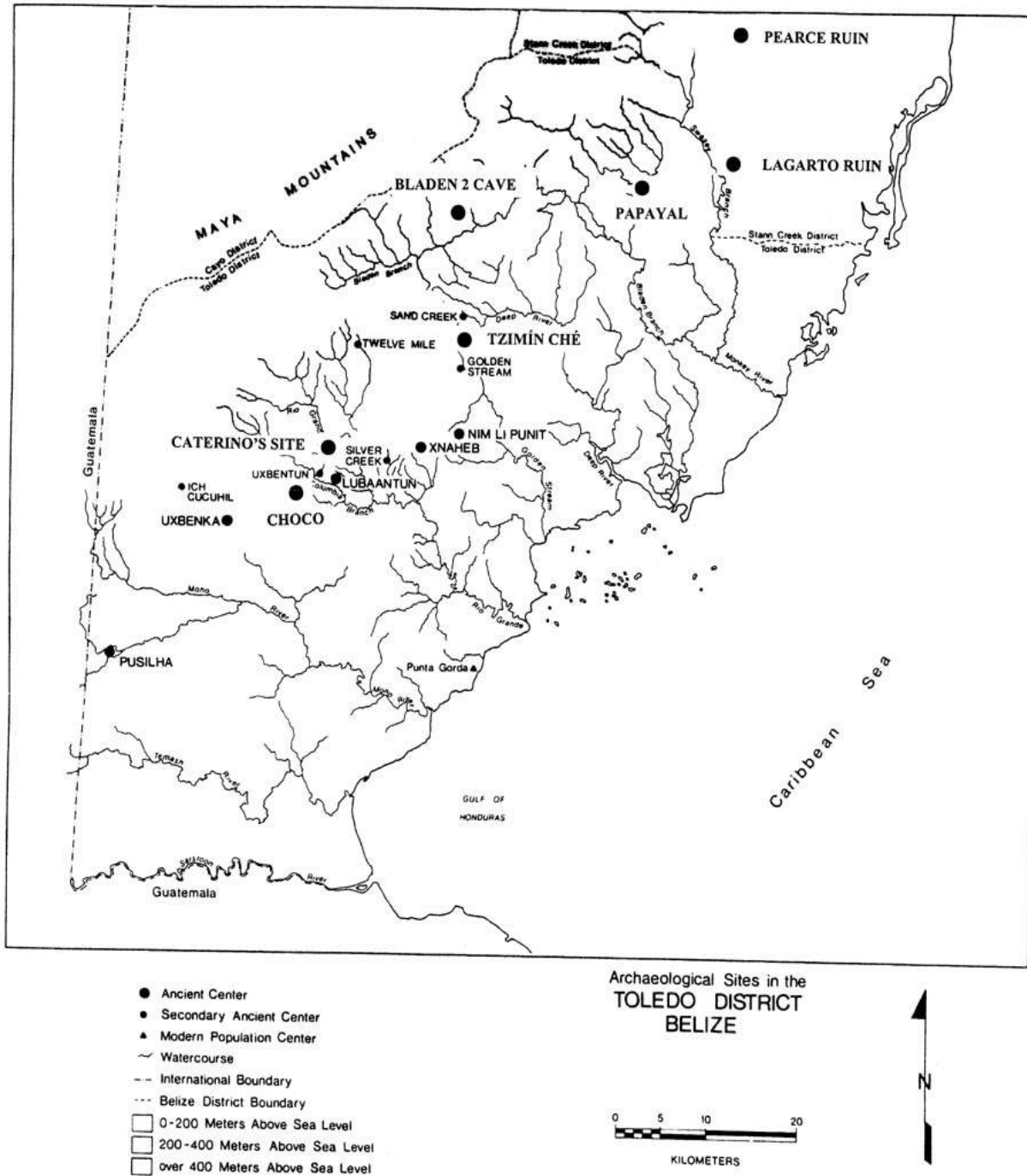
**Figure 114. Map of Southern Belize Showing the Approximate Location of Tzimín Ché (Drawing by Richard Leventhal, [Leventhal 1990: Map 8.1], modified by Wanyerka 2004)**
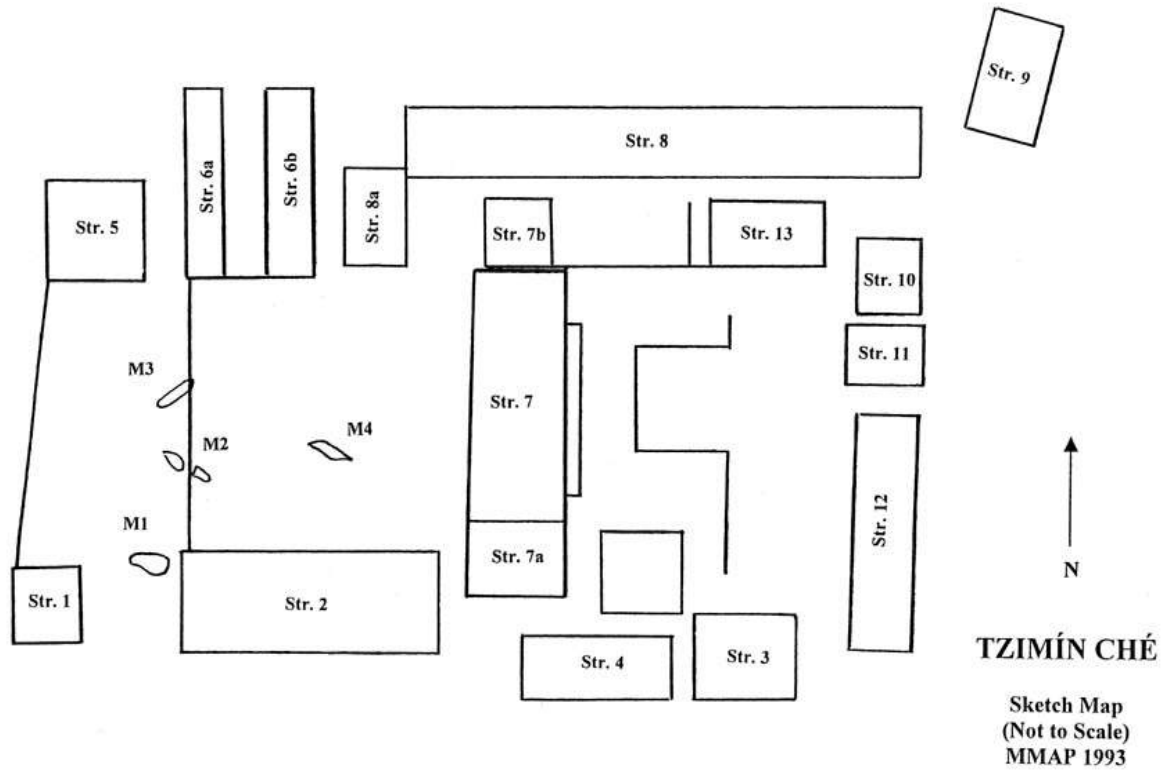
**Figure 115. Plan Map of Tzimín Ché. (Drawn by and courtesy of Peter Dunham [Dunham *et al.* 1993: Figure 9, modified by Wanyerka 2004)**

**<u>Tzimín Ché, Stela 1</u>**

**Location:** Stela 1 was first reported by Peter Dunham in 1993 as part of his Maya Mountains Archaeological Project. It was located in the southwest corner of the West Plaza Group, approximately 1 meter west from the northwest corner of Structure 2. The stela was found face-up next to a deep looter's trench.

**Condition:** Intact and slightly eroded.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Rectangular with sides that narrow and curve inwards near the bottom of the monument.

**Dimensions:**
     HT:     3.0 m
     MW:    .86 m
     HSA:   .82 m
     WSA:   .48 m
     WBC:   .32 m
     WTC:   .86 m
     MTH:   .18 m
     RELG: 6.1 mm

**Carved Areas:** Front only. Contains a single glyph block in the form of a giant 12 *Ajaw* day name. It appears that later visitors to the site may have carved additional features below the text box.

**Dedicatory Date:** Terminal Classic Period. 10.4.0.0.0  12 *Ajaw* 3 *Wó* (15, January 909)

**Line Drawings:**
     Sue Darus (In Dunham *et al*. 1993: Figure 10)
     John Montgomery (SBEP, <u>Figure 113</u>)
     John Montgomery (In Wanyerka 2001: Figure 36)
     Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Photographic References:**
     Peter Dunham (Unpublished)
     Jack Sulak (Unpublished)
     Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
     Dunham (1995:14-15)
     Dunham *et al.* (1993: 13-15)
     Wanyerka (2000:14)
     Wanyerka (2001: 9)
     (Wanyerka 2004)

**Commentary:** Stela 1 is clearly the latest dated monument in southern Belize and perhaps one of the latest dated monuments in the entire Maya region. The stela appears to commemorate the

10.4.0.0.0 Period Ending. To date, two *Ajaw* Stelae have been found in the Maya Mountains region of southern Belize; Nim Li Punit Stela 3 and Tzimín Ché Stela 1. Satterthwaite (1951)was among the first to suggest that the *Ajaw* date written on these monuments could be interpreted as *k'atun* names. The *ajaw* glyph did not necessarily have to specify the dedicatory date of the monument, but rather it indicated the day name upon which the current *k'atun* began. Its appearance within a square cartouche is typical of Terminal Classic calendrical conventions.

Text:

A: T?:533:XII          **?:AJAW:LAJKÁ**
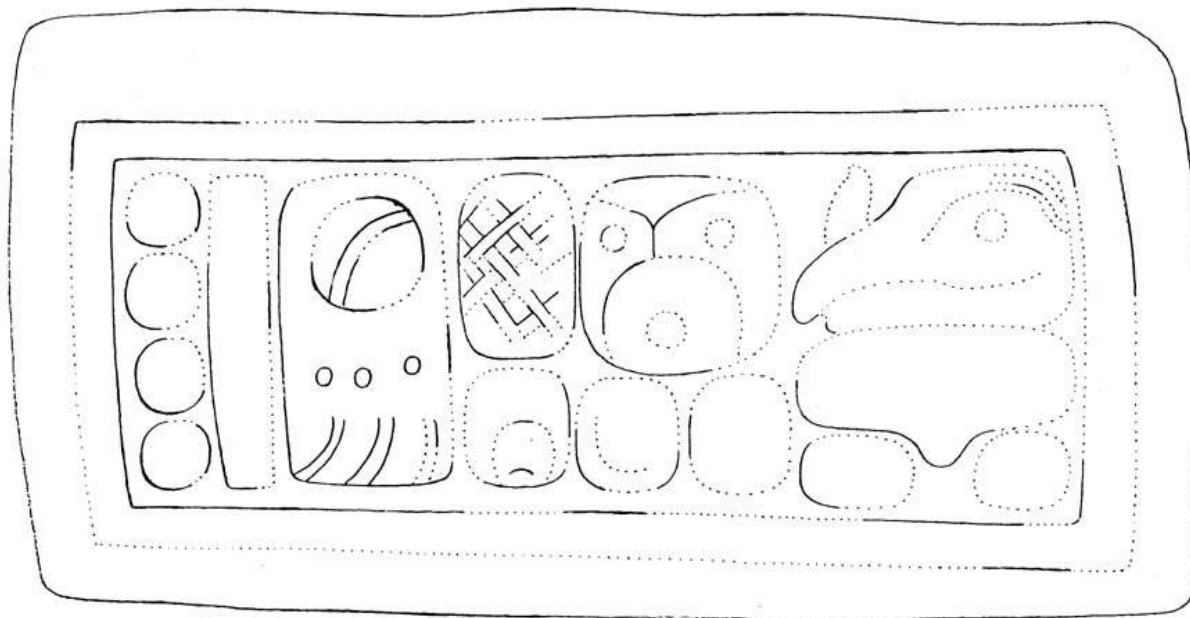
**Figure 116. Caterino's Site, Monument 1. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Caterino's Site, Monument 1**

**Location:** Monument 1 was reported by both Dunham *et al.* (nd: 15) at part of the Southern Belize Archaeological Project and by Norman Hammond in a personal communication to Richard Leventhal in 1986. The site is located approximately 3 km north-northeast of Lubaantun and the carved monument was located on an exposed face of a block in the southern talus.

**Condition:** Intact, but highly eroded.

**Material:** Unknown, but photographs seems to show that the monument was carved from of the usual Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone).

**Shape:** Rectangular.

**Dimensions:** Unknown.

**Carved Areas:** Front only.

**Dedicatory Date:** *Late Classic Period.

**Line Drawings:**
John Montgomery (SBEP, <u>Figure 116</u>)
Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Photographic References:**
Norman Hammond (Unpublished)
Richard Leventhal (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
Dunham *et al.* (nd.:15)
Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** The text is unusual in that both the style and syntax of this text seems to mirror the idiosyncratic nature of the texts recorded on the figural plaques of Lubaantún. Following a reference to 9 *Imix* the text continues with an unusual variant of the T656 *TZ'AK* or *TZ'AM* glyph. This is then followed by the T533 *AJAW* head and a glyph that looks very much like a variant of the T748 *MUWAAN* or T764 *KA'AN* head. Unfortunately, the exact meaning of this text is unknown. It may either name a particular object, perhaps a reference to the name of some unknown building or structure or it may refer to the "ordering" or "succession" of a "9 Water Lord."

Text:
A1: TIX.501                    **B'OLON.NAAB'/IMIX/b'a**
B1: T656?:542?.533:178?        **TZ'AK/TZ'AM?:NÁ?.AJAW:la?**
C1: T748?/764?:?:?             **MUWAAN/KA'AN?:?:?**
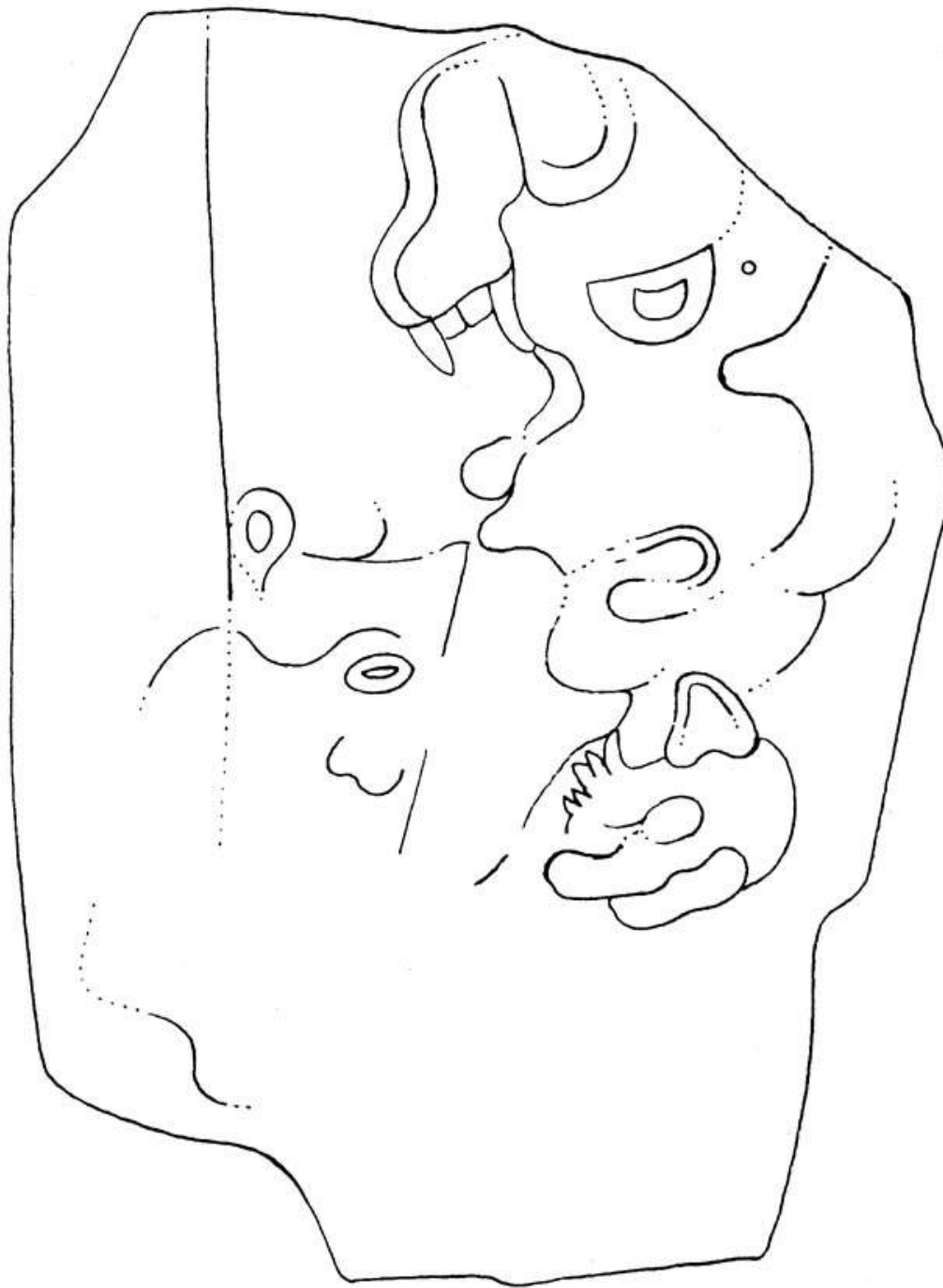
**Figure 117. Choco 1: Monument 1. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

## Choco 1: Monument 1

**Location:** Monument 1 was first reported by a local villager who took members of the Southern Belize Archaeological Project to a small site approximately 2.75 km west-southwest of Lubaantún in 1987 (Dunham *et al*. nd:14). Known today as Choco I, the site is situated atop an east-west saddle between a series of hilltops in the vicinity of Lubaantún. According to Dunham *et al.* (nd:14), two pieces of a broken stela were found lying on the ground just east of a still-standing monument base. No plan maps of the site have ever been drawn of Choco I and it is uncertain whether the monument fragment is still located at the site today.

**Condition:** Broken in at least three pieces with a still-standing base in situ at the site. The carved fragment is clearly eroded, but the monument itself appears to be highly burnished for it retains a high luster as seen in the photographs provided by Dunham and Leventhal.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone) (?)

**Shape:** Irregular.

**Dimensions:** Unknown.

**Dedicatory Date:** *Late Classic Period (?).

**Line Drawings:**
   John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 117)
   Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Photographic References:**
   Peter Dunham (Unpublished)
   Richard Leventhal (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
   Dunham *et al.* (nd.: 14)
   Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** Carved on Monument 1 is an unusual figural scene that includes at least three individual portrait heads, one of which appears to be skeletal by nature and another appears to be the head of some small mammal, perhaps a gopher.
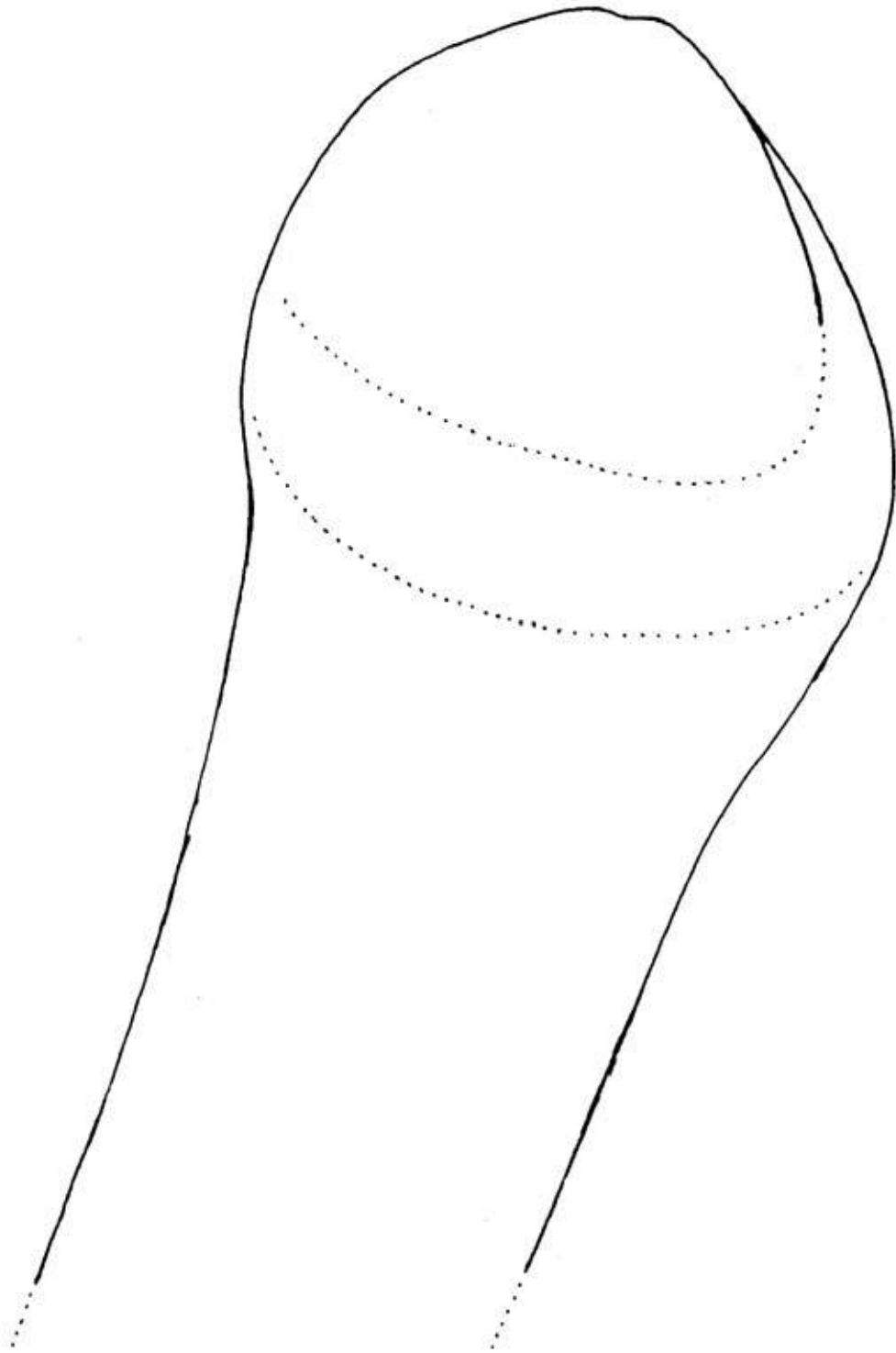
**Figure 118. Pearce Ruin, Phallic Monument. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**
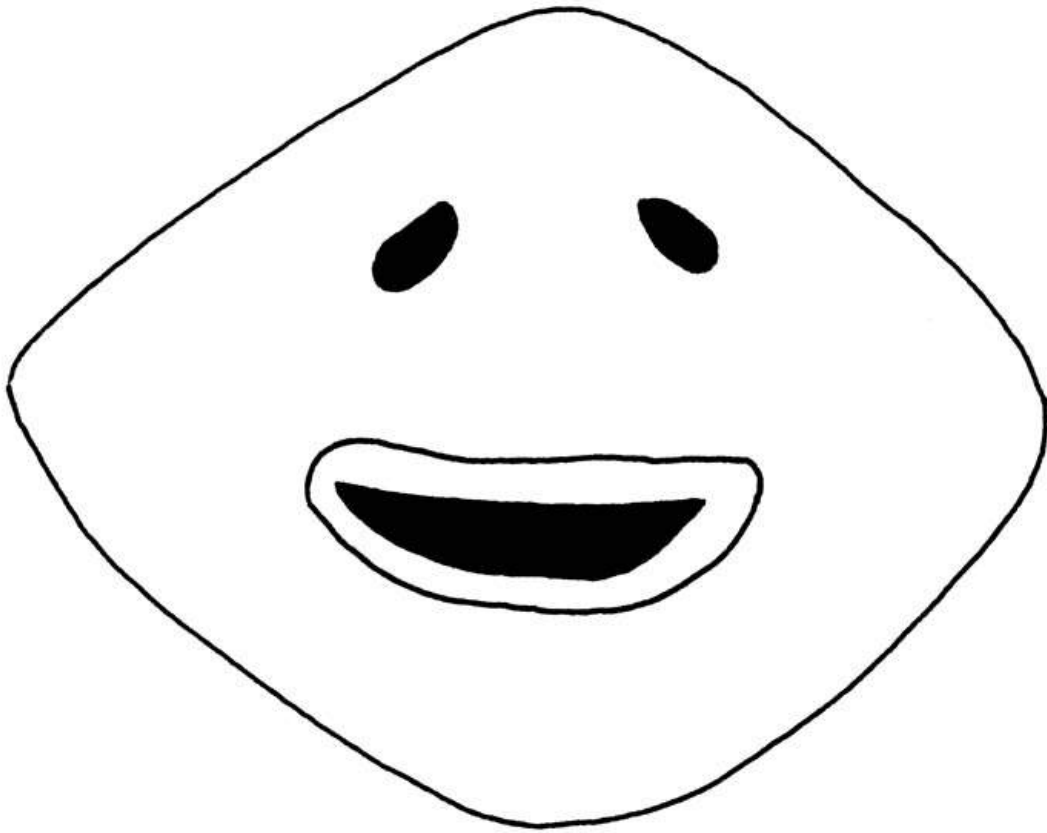
**Figure 119. Pearce Ruin, Monument 1, Detail. (Drawing by Phil Wanyerka)**

**Pearce Ruin, Phallic Monument**

**Location:** This unusual phallic-shaped monument was located in the middle of a monument scatter somewhere near the center of an unnamed architectural group. Located in the Cockscomb Basin near the Sittee Branch of the South Stann Creek, the Pearce Ruins were initially explored by T.A. Joyce in 1931 as part of the British Museum Expedition to British Honduras. Unfortunately, the site could not be relocated by Elizabeth Graham (1983:330) due to Joyce's poor description of the site's location. However, in 1995 the Maya Mountains Archaeological Project rediscovered the Pearce Ruins and reported finding this unusual phallic-shaped monument (see Dunham *et al*. 1995: 1-2). Their reports states that the Pearce Ruin is approximately the same size of Lubaantún and contains a ballcourt and at least four major courtyards (*ibid*).

**Condition:** The monument appears to be intact and is still standing according to members of the Maya Mountains Archaeological Project.

**Material:** Triassic Cockscomb Granite (Dunham *et al.* 1995:4)

**Shape:** "Phallic or Snake-Like" and the end of the monument features a crude portrait of a face.

**Dimensions:** (All dimensions come from the fieldnotes of the 1995 Maya Mountains Archaeological Project).
    HT:    1.62 m
    MW:    .62 m

**Carved Areas:** A crude face was carved or pecked on the exposed end of the monument.

**Dedicatory Date:** *Late Classic/Terminal Classic Period (?)

**Line Drawings:**
    John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 118)
    Phil Wanyerka (SBEP, Figure 119)

**Photographic References:**
    Peter Dunham (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
    Dunham *et al*. (1995:1-2, 4)
    Graham (1983:328-331)
    Joyce (1931)
    Thompson (1939:281)

**Commentary:** Monument 1 is an unusual phallic-shaped monument that includes a rather crude-looking face that has been pecked onto the end of the monument. While many phallic-shaped monuments have been reported at numerous sites throughout the Maya area, this one is unusual for it contains this strange image.

# The Pecked Monuments of Southern Belize
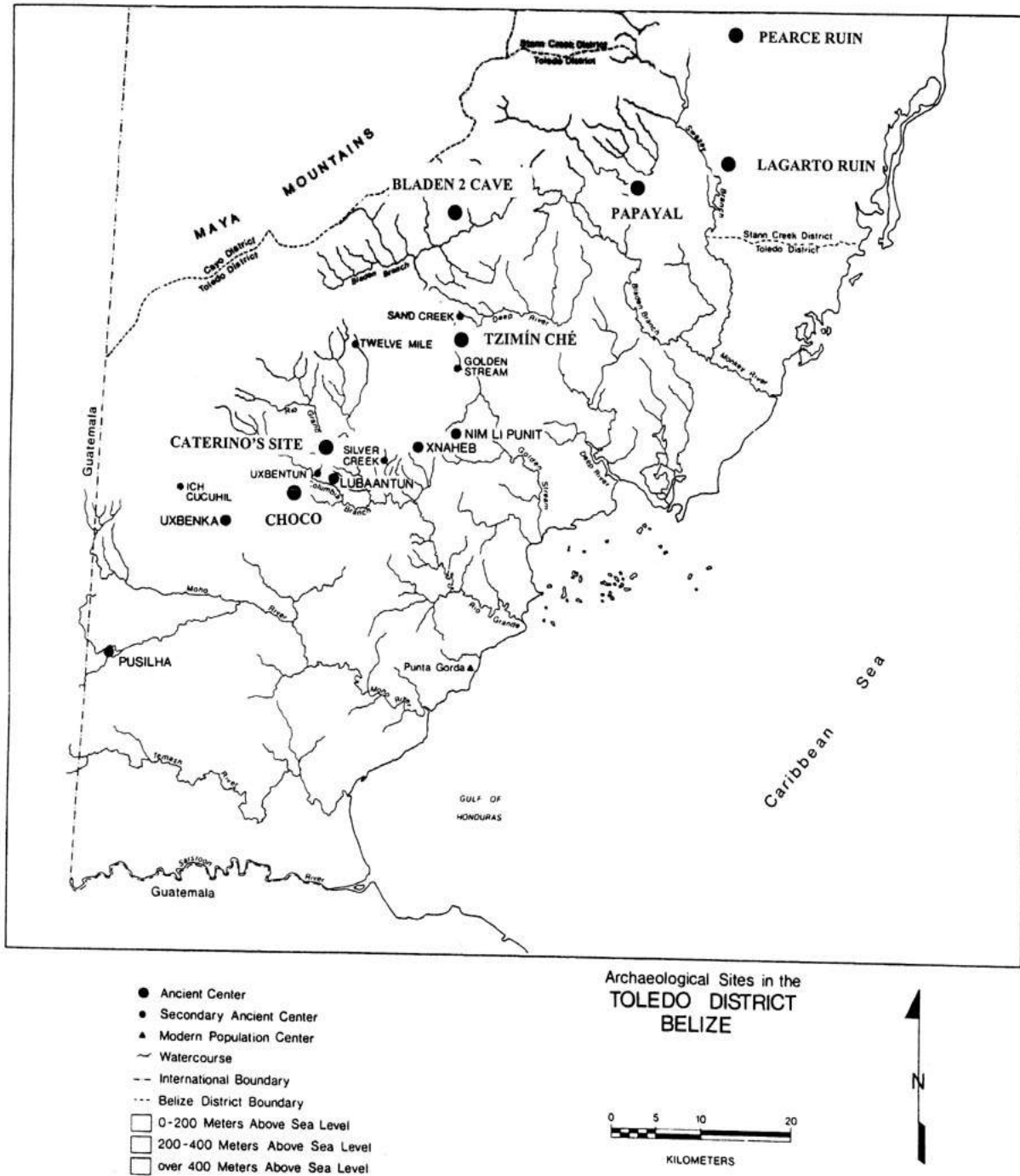


**Figure 120. Map of Southern Belize showing the approximate location of both the Lagarto Ruins and Papayal (Drawing by Richard Leventhal, [Leventhal 1990: Map 8.1], modified by Phil Wanyerka 2004)**

# The Lagarto Ruins
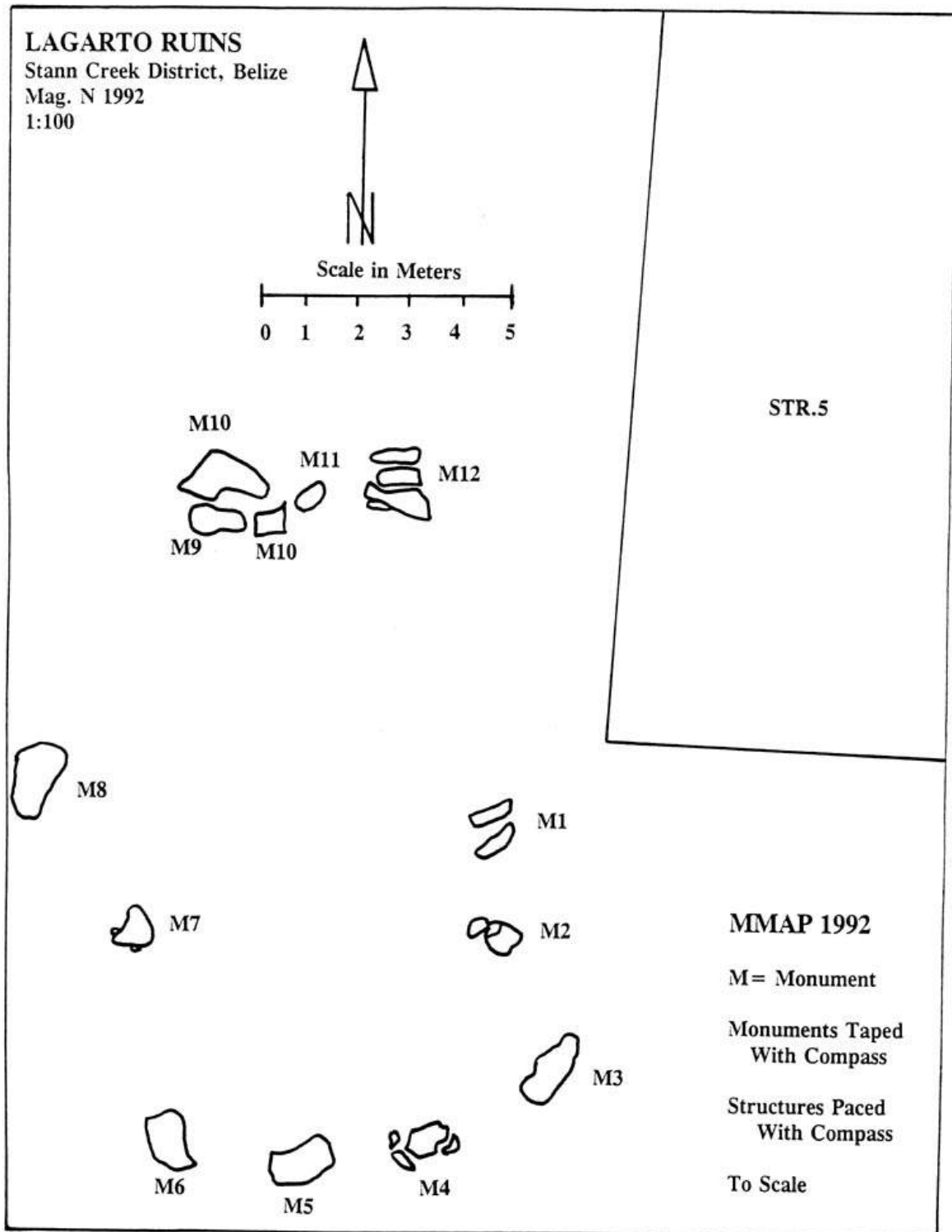


**Figure 121. Plan Map of the Monument Plaza at the Lagarto Ruins (Drawn by and courtesy of Peter Dunham [Dunham *et al*. 1992: Figure 6]) modified by Phil Wanyerka)**
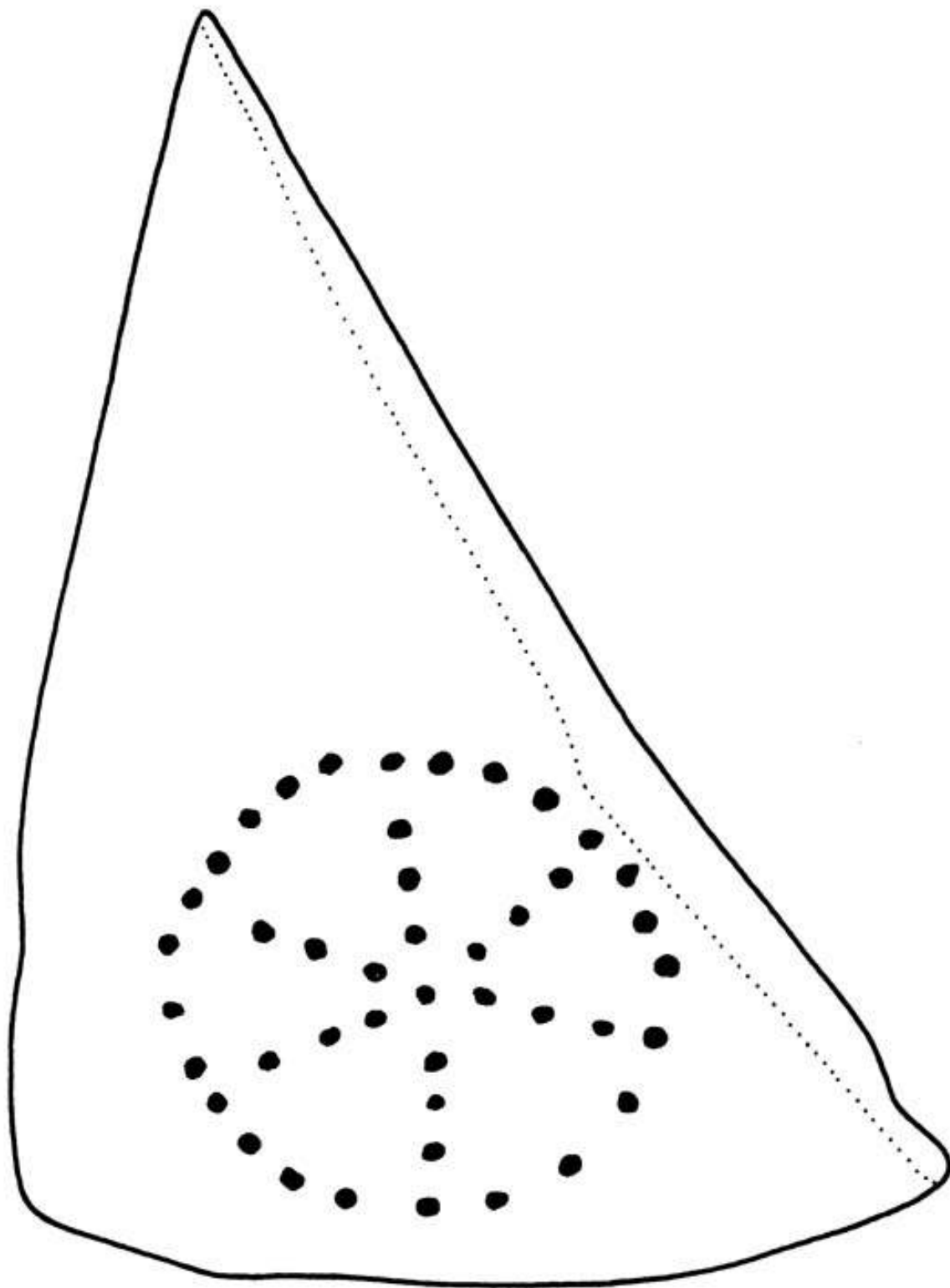
**Figure 122. Lagarto Ruin, Monument 1. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Lagarto Ruin, Monument 1**

**Location:** The site was first reported in 1989 by the late Jeff MacKinnon, director of the Point Placencia Archaeological Project (1989:469-470). Subsequent fieldwork by the Maya Mountains Archaeological Project in 1992 revealed two additional structures at the site, raising the total number of structures to 7 in addition to finding 13 monuments, 4 of which were carved (see Dunham *et al.* 1992: 8-9). Monument 1 was found standing upright, approximately 2 meters out from the southwest corner of Structure 5 in the main Monument Plaza (see Figure 121).

**Condition:** Broken in two pieces. Though the monument was found upright, the enormous roots of a huge ceiba tree that stands nearby may have raised it. The top right corner of the monument has broken off leaving behind a triangular-shaped monument.

**Material:** Course-Grained Porphyritic (Swasey) Granite.

**Shape:** Rectangular.

**Dimensions:**

| Overall Dimensions | | Image Dimensions | |
|---|---|---|---|
| HT: | 1.02 m | N/S: | .38 m |
| MW: | .88 m | E/W: | .40 m |
| MTH: | .23 m | | |

**Carved Areas:** Front only. Contains an image of a tri-axial pecked cross consisting of 44 "cup-like" depressions.

**Dedicatory Date:** *Late Classic/Terminal Classic Period (?).

**Line Drawings:**
John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 122)
John Montgomery (In Wanyerka 1999: Figure 2)
Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Photographic References:**
Peter Dunham (1992: Figure 7)
Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
Dunham (1995:13-14)
Dunham (1996:330-331)
Dunham *et al.* (1992: 8-9
MacKinnon (1989: 469-470)
Walters (1988: Figure 13)
Wanyerka (1999:109-110)
Wanyerka (2000:13-14)
Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** The pecked cross petroglyph carved on Monument 1 is unique in all of Mesoamerica for it contains three axes instead of the normal two. Carved into the front face of

the monument are some 44 "cup-like" depressions of uniform size and depth that form a slightly oblong circle. Located within this circle are three axes: a north/south axis, a northeast/southwest axis, and northwest/southeast axis. The circular enclosure is composed of 26 evenly-spaced depressions and each axis consists of 6 depressions, three on either side of a center depression, for a total of 19 depressions. The only other example of tri-axial cross petroglyph is the one found by Walters (1988:Figure 13) painted on the inner wall of Roberto's Cave at Laguna. Anthony Aveni has clearly demonstrate that many of the intercardinal axes commonly found on other pecked crosses correspond to the extremes of the sun's path across the horizon at various points throughout the year (Aveni *et al*. 1978:202). Thus, pecked crosses may have served as calendrical devices to signal the arrival of the approaching seasons.  For example, the northeast axis may mark sunrise at the winter solstice, the southeast axis may mark sunset on the winter solstice, the northwest axis may mark sunrise on the summer solstice, and finally, the southwest axis may mark sunset on the summer solstice (*ibid*). Unfortunately, it is not clear whether this particular monument was used as a solar calendar since we cannot be sure if the monument were originally placed upright or laid flat during the site's occupation.

For more information on the Mesoamerican pecked cross please refer to following articles:
> Aveni (1978)
> Aveni (1980)
> Aveni (1988)
> Aveni (1989)
> Aveni (1995)
> Aveni and Hartung (1982)
> Aveni *et al.* (1978)
> Broda (1992)
> Coggins (1980)
> Folan (1980)
> Zimbrón Romero (1992)

**Figure 123. Lagarto Ruin, Monument 5. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Lagarto Ruin, Monument 5**

**Location:** Monument 5 was first reported by the Maya Mountains Archaeological Project in 1992. The monument was the first of three patolli-board monuments found at the Lagarto Ruins (see Monument 10 and 12). It was located at the south end of the monument plaza equidistant between Monuments 4 and 6 (see Figure 121).

**Condition:** Intact; however, the image was carved in low relief and is nearly complete except for an eroded section along the bottom of the outer square enclosure.

**Material:** Course-Grained Porphyritic (Swasey) Granite.

**Shape:** Rectangular with non-parallel sides that curve inwards at both ends of the monument.

**Dimensions:**

| Overall Dimensions | | Image Dimensions | |
|---|---|---|---|
| HT: | 1.17 m | N/S: | .48 m |
| MW: | .59 m | E/W: | .50 m |
| MTH: | Unknown | | |

**Carved Areas:** Front only. Contains a carved image of a patolli board.

**Dedicatory Date:** *Late Classic/Terminal Classic Period (?).

**Line Drawings:**
John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 123)
John Montgomery (In Wanyerka 1999:Figure 3)
Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Photographic References:**
Peter Dunham (1992: Figure 8)
Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
Dunham (1995:13-14)
Dunham (1996:330-331)
Dunham *et al.* (1992:8-9)
Wanyerka (1999:110)
Wanyerka (2000: 13-14)
Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** Monument 5 is typical of most patolli images. This image contains 42 asymmetric squares that vary in size and shape. It probably contained 52 squares originally. The patolli monuments of the Lagarto Ruins differ slightly from the norm in regard to the usual "X" or "cross" design that is commonly featured in the end square of each axis. Replacing the "X" design on all three monuments are small depressions, similar in size to those found on Monument 1. These depressions always appear in the center square. On two of the monuments (Monuments 5 and 12), depressions can also be found in the second square to either side of where the axes meet the outer square enclosure. Although Monument 5 features only two of

these depressions, it is clear from Monument 12 that this was the original pattern. This aspect seems to be a unique feature restricted to the patolli boards of this site. None of the monuments in the Lagarto Ruin Monument Plaza appear to have been erected upright, except for perhaps Monument 1. Thus, their overall placement in recumbent positions appears to have been intentional and calculated.

For more information on patolli boards please refer to the following articles:
    Caso (1924)
    Gallegos Gómora (1994)
    Kendall (1980)
    Mateos Higuera (1930)
    Smith (1977)
    Swezey (1970)
    Swezey and Bittman (1983)
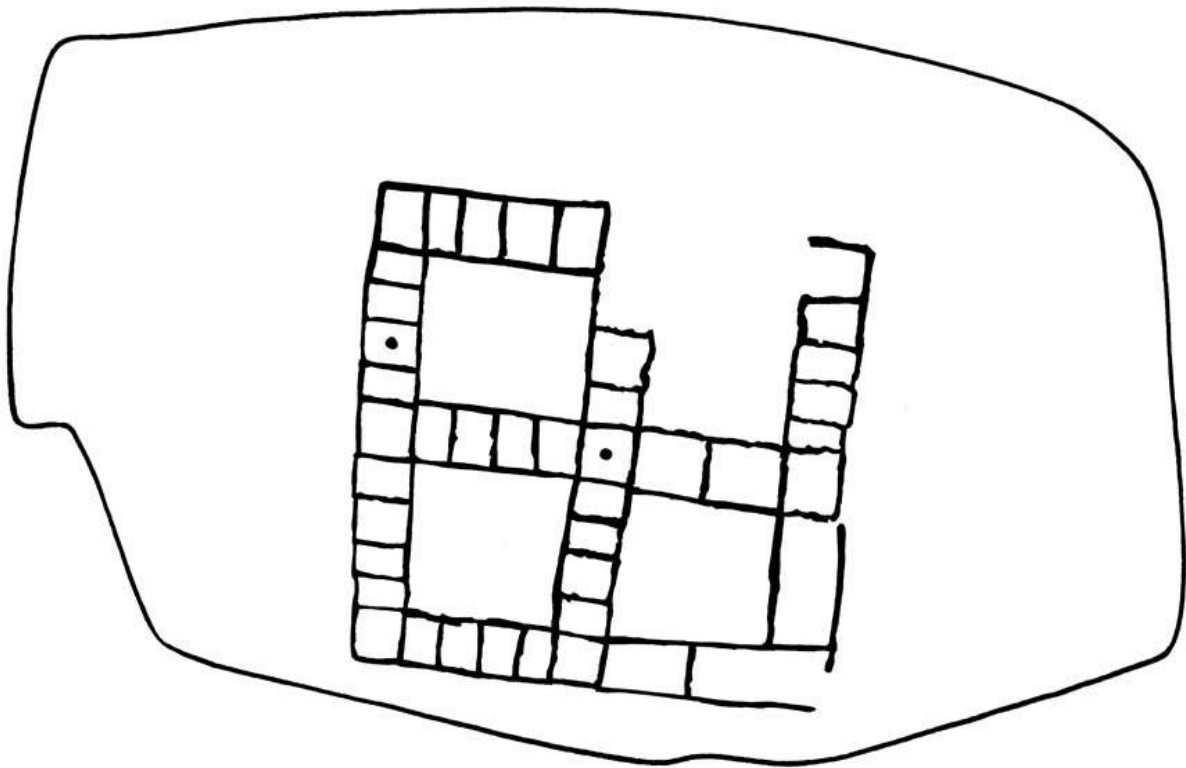    Tylor (1879)

**Figure 124. Lagarto Ruin, Monument 10. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Lagarto Ruin, Monument 10**

**Location:** Monument 10 was first reported by the Maya Mountains Archaeological Project in 1992. The monument was found at the north end of the Monument Plaza, approximately 8 meters out from the southwestern corner of Structure 5 (see Figure 121).

**Condition:** Broken in two pieces, but the image is nearly complete.

**Material:** Course-Grained Porphyritic (Swasey) Granite.

**Shape:** Irregular.

**Dimensions:**

Overall Dimensions          Image Dimensions
    HT:    1.75 m          N/S:   .65 m
    MW:   .92 m          E/W:   .68 m
    MTH:  Unknown

**Carved Areas:** Front only. Contains a carved image of a patolli board.

**Dedicatory Date:** *Late Classic/Terminal Classic Period (?).

**Line Drawings:**
    John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 124)
    John Montgomery (In Wanyerka 1999: Figure 4)
    Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Photographic References:**
    Peter Dunham (1992: Figure 9)
    Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
    Dunham (1995: 13-14)
    Dunham (1996: 330-331)
    Dunham *et al.* (1992: 8-9)
    Wanyerka (1999: 110-111)
    Wanyerka (2000: 13-14)
    Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** Monument 10, consisting of 67 asymmetric squares, is the largest of the three patolli monuments at the Lagarto Ruins. Resembling a Maltese Cross, the patolli image on Monument 10 is unique in that two additional squares were placed on either side of where the axes meet the outer square enclosure. This is the only known example where the cruciform cross contains extra squares. Perhaps the extra squares functioned as the "X" design, commonly featured on other patolli boards representing the four primary directions.
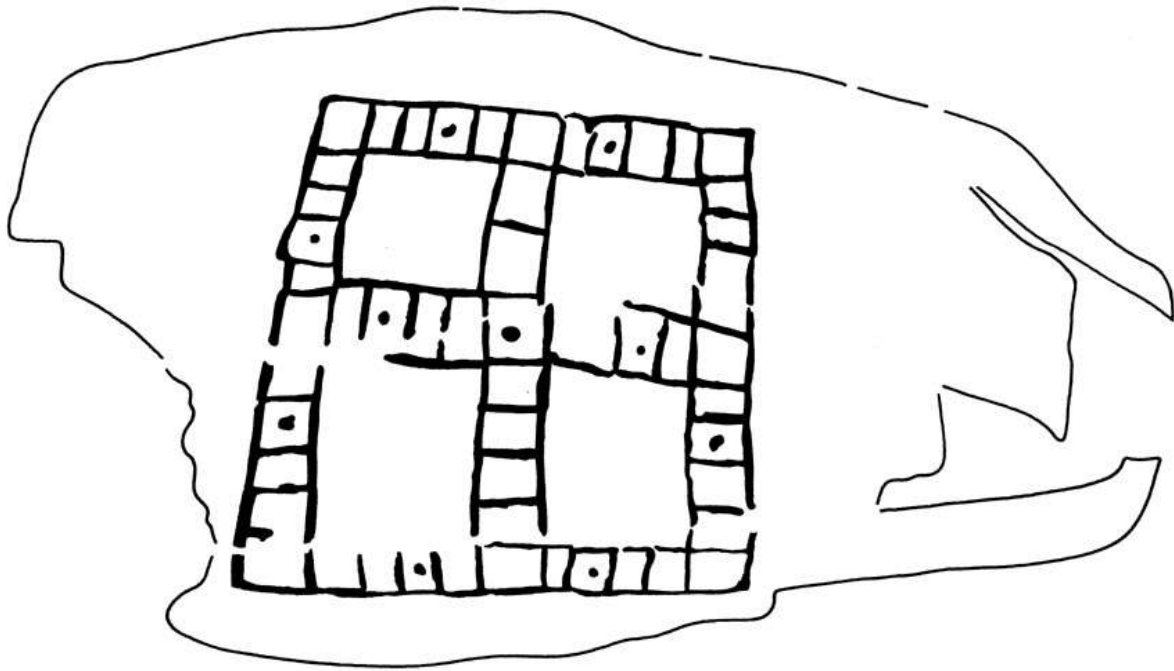
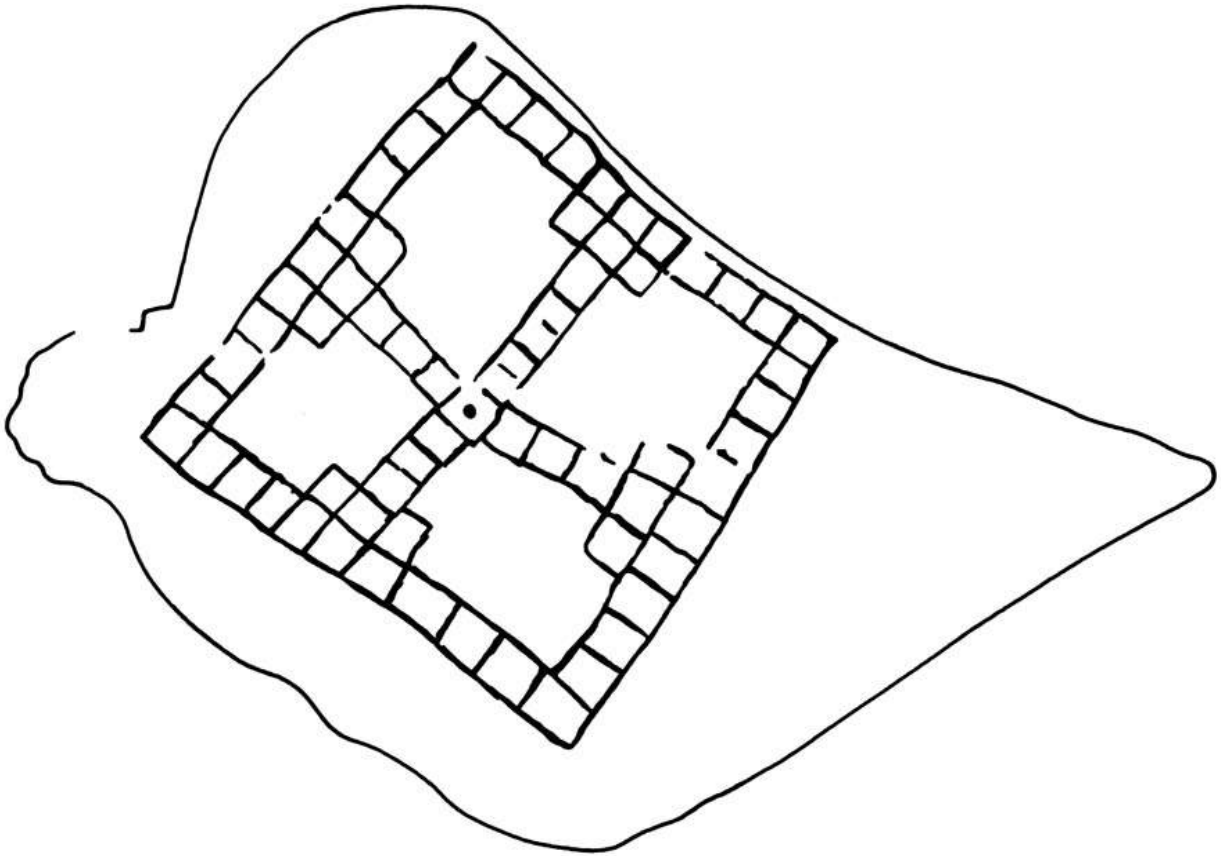**Figure 125. Lagarto Ruin, Monument 12. (Drawing by John Montgomery)**

**Lagarto Ruin, Monument 12**

**Location:** Monument 12 was first reported by the Maya Mountains Archaeological Project in 1992. The monument is located along the north end of the Monument Plaza, approximately 2 meters east of Monument 10 and 3.5 meters west of Structure 5.

**Condition:** Broken into four pieces. The image was carved in low relief and is nearly complete except for some areas along the break lines of the monument. Both ends are jagged and sections appear to be missing from the overall monument.

**Material:** Course-Grained Porphyritic (Swasey) Granite.

**Shape:** Roughly rectangular with non-parallel sides that curve inwards.

**Dimensions:**

| Overall Dimensions | | Image Dimensions | |
|---|---|---|---|
| HT: | 1.43 m | N/S: | .68 m |
| MW: | .97 m | E/W: | .70 m |
| MTH: | .17 m | | |

**Carved Areas:** Front only. Contains a carved image of a patolli board.

**Dedicatory Date:** *Late Classic/Terminal Classic, Period (?).

**Line Drawings:**
John Montgomery (SBEP, Figure 125)
John Montgomery (In Wanyerka 1999:Figure 5)
Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Photographic References:**
Peter Dunham (1992: Figure 10)
Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
Dunham (1995: 13-14)
Dunham (1996: 330-331)
Dunham *et al.* (1992: 8-9)
Wanyerka (1999: 111)
Wanyerka (2000: 13-14)
Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** Monument 12, consisting of 52 asymmetric squares, is the second largest patolli monument at the Lagarto Ruins. It is clear from this example that depressions were originally found in the second square to either side of where the axes meet the outer square enclosure and to either side of the center square along the north/south and east/west axes.

# Papayal
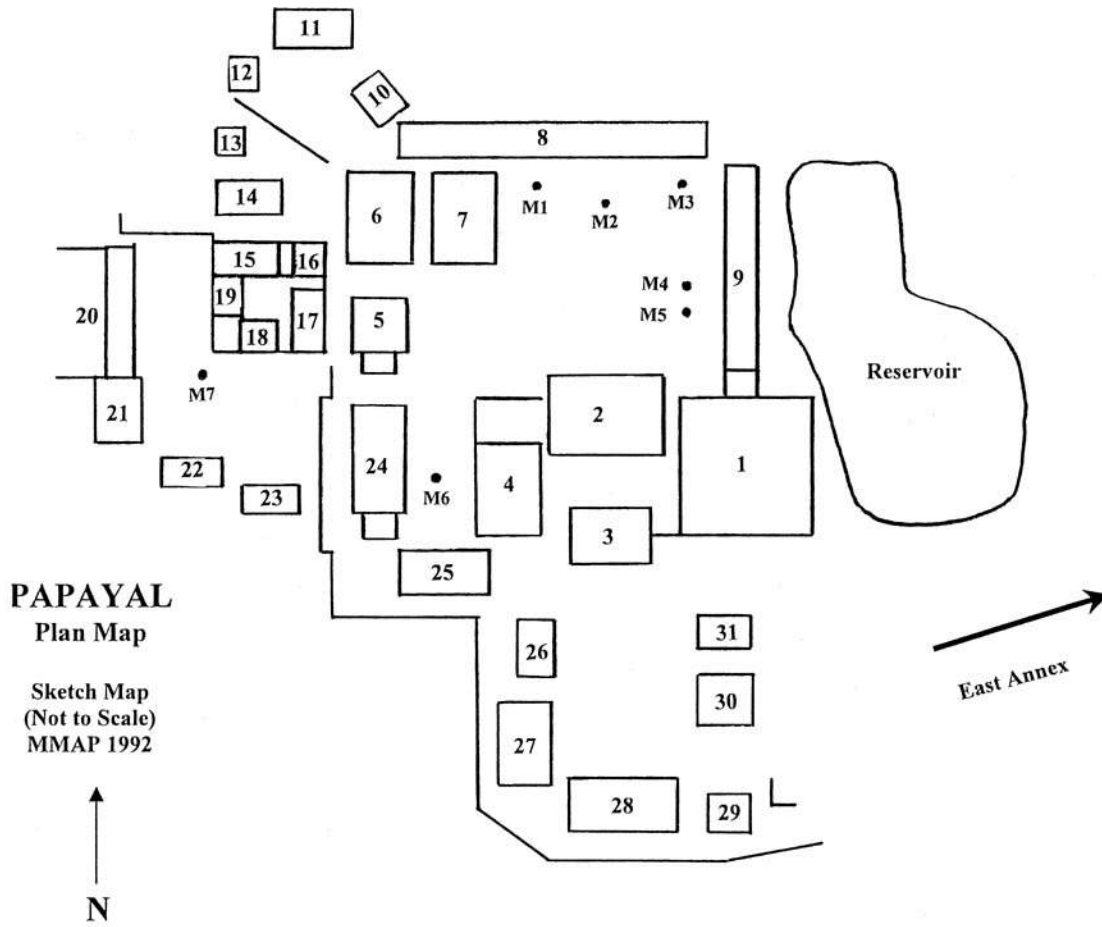


**Figure 126. Plan Map of Papayal. (Drawn by and courtesy of Peter Dunham {Dunham *et al.* 1992: Figure 13], modified by Wanyerka 2004)**
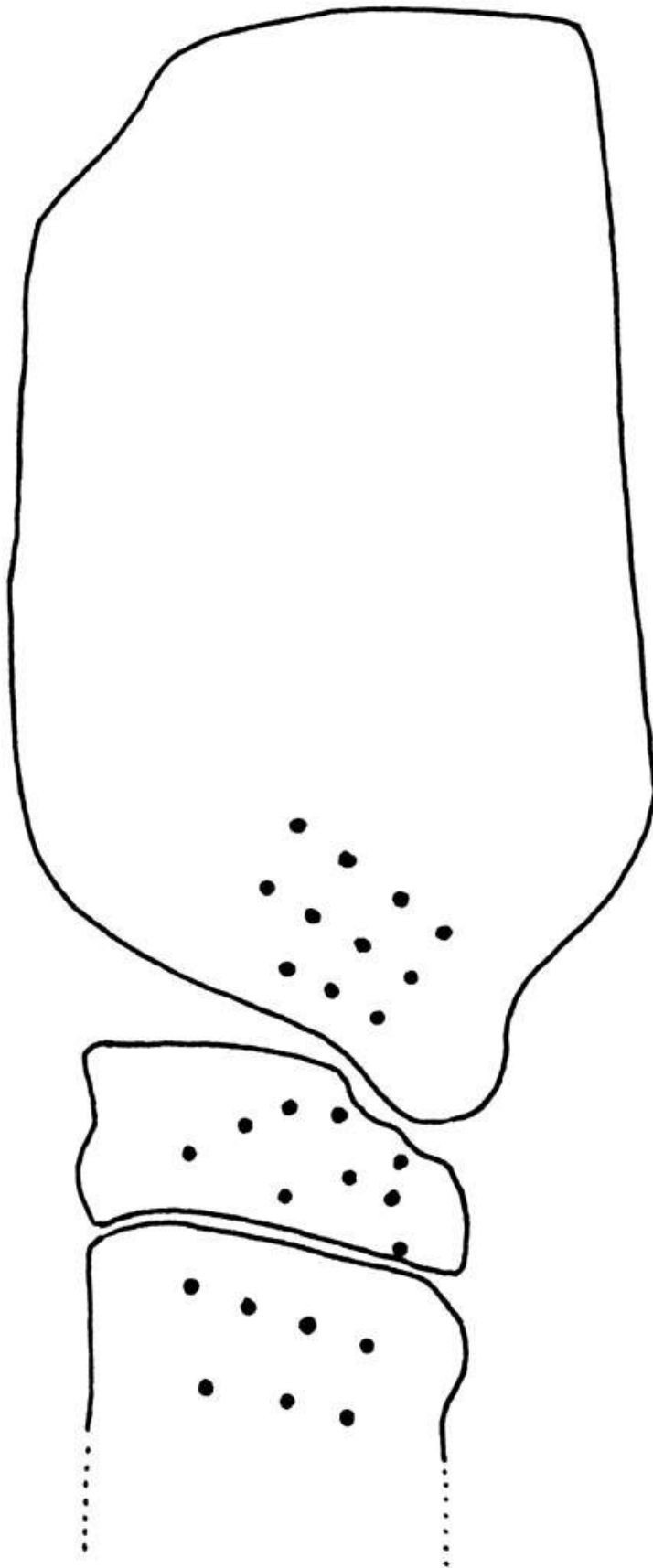
**Figure 127. Papayal, Monument 4. (Drawing by Phil Wanyerka)**

**Papayal, Monument 4**

**Location:** Papayal was first reported in 1991 by the Maya Mountains Archaeological Project. The site was systematically surveyed in 1992 and the project identified the broken remains of at least 7 monuments. One of these monuments, now known as Monument 4, contains an unusual series of depressions or "cupules" reminiscent of similar monuments found in the northern Guatemalan Highlands at sites like Pueblo Viejo-Chicaj (see Ichon 1993) and sites throughout the Salama Valley (see Sharer and Sedat 1987). Monument 4 was located along the eastern end of the Main Plaza, approximately 3 to 4 meters west of the center of Structure 9.

**Condition:** Broken into at least 12 pieces. The base of the monument is still standing and most of the broken remains of Monument 4 were found in a very large looter's pit in and around the base of Monument 4.

**Material:** Fine-Grained Calcareous Sandstone (Mudstone)

**Shape:** Rectangular.

**Dimensions:**
    HT:    3.08 m
    MW:   1.40 m
    MTH:   .18 m

**Carved Areas:** Front only. Contains a series of 26 pecked "cupules" or depressions.

**Dedicatory Date:** "Late Classic Period (?). Based on associated ceramic types and assemblages noted at the site.

**Line Drawings:**
    Phil Wanyerka (SBEP, Figure 127)

**Photographic References:**
    Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
    Dunham *et al.* (1992: 10-12)
    Dunham (1996: 332)
    Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** Monument 4 is unusual in that carved on the front face of the monument are a series of 26 pecked "cupules" or depressions. The "cupules" appear in a series of at least 7 slightly eschewed, horizontal lines, perhaps representing a crude attempt of forming some type of pecked cross or patolli image. Unfortunately, little else can be said about the image carved on Monument 4.

# The Cave Paintings
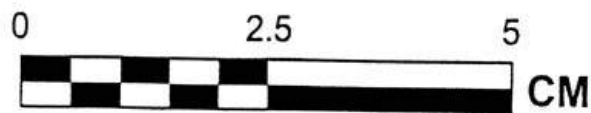


**Figure 128. Bladen Cave 2, Cave Painting 1. (Drawn by and courtesy of Christophe Helmke)**

**Bladen Cave 2, Cave Painting 1**

**Location:** Located in the easternmost cave, in a series of caves, situated along the Bladen branch of the Monkey River. Keith Prufer first reported the cave in 1993 as part of a cave survey for the Maya Mountains Archaeological Project. The cave itself extends almost 30 meters through a deposit of brecciated limestone. A total of five images were painted at eye-level above a natural arch within the cave (see Dunham *et al.*1993: 17-21 and Stone 1995:94-96). Each image was painted on a smooth clast or inclusion within the brecciated wall of the cave.

**Condition:** Intact. Unfortunately, some time after its initial discovery, some unknown perpetrator smudged this painted image.

**Material:** Black pigment.

**Dimensions:**
> HT:    15 cm
> MW:     9 cm

**Dedicatory Date:** *Late Classic Period (?)

**Line Drawings:**
> Andrea Stone (1995: Figure 4-109)
> Christophe Helmke (Unpublished, <u>Figure 128</u>)
> Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Photographic References:**
> Peter Dunham (1993: Figure 13)
> Keith Prufer (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
> Dunham (1995: 15)
> Dunham *et al*. (1993:17-21)
> Dunham and Prufer (1997: 168)
> Stone (1995: 94-96)
> Wanyerka (2000:5)
> Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** The identify of this figure may be that of the aged God N. This individual is depicted with a sunken mouth, a pointed chin, a large Roman-eye with inward curl, and an unusual headdress that may contain an image of some type of bird.

**Figure 129. Bladen Cave 2, Cave Painting 2. (Drawn by and courtesy of Christophe Helmke)**

**Bladen Cave 2, Cave Painting 2**

**Location:** Located in the easternmost cave, in a series of caves situated along the Bladen branch of the Monkey River. Keith Prufer first reported the cave in 1993 as part of a cave survey for the Maya Mountains Archaeological Project. The cave itself extends almost 30 meters through a deposit of brecciated limestone. A total of five images were painted at eye-level above a natural arch within the cave (see Dunham *et al.*1993: 17-21 and Stone 1995:94-96). Each image was painted on a smooth clast or inclusion within the brecciated wall of the cave.

**Condition:** Intact.

**Material:** Black pigment.

**Dimensions:**
        HT:     8 cm
        MW:  14 cm

**Dedicatory Date:** *Late Classic Period (?).

**Line Drawings:**
        Christophe Helmke (Unpublished, <u>Figure 129</u>)
        Andrea Stone (Unpublished)
        Phil Wanyerka

**Photographic References:**
        Peter Dunham (1993: Figure 15)
        Keith Prufer (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
        Boot (1999:1-12)
        Dunham (1995: 15)
        Dunham *et al*. (1993:17-21)
        Dunham and Prufer (1997: 168)
        Stone (1995: 94-96)
        Wanyerka (2000:5)
        Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** Cave Painting 2 appears to be a zoomorphic image of a "*chapat*" or "centipede." According to Boot (1999:2-3) this particular centipede is generally referred to as a "War Serpent" or the "Bearded Dragon." The creature is generally depicted having "snaggle teeth" and "hook-shaped legs" that may represent the legs of the centipede. The identification of this being comes from a Classic Maya ceramic vessel that was excavated at Copan that features a short text that includes a reference to a being described as the *Wuk Chapat Chan* or the "Seven Centipede Serpent" (Boot 1999:2). In this case the *chan* emphasizes the fact that centipedes were classified as "serpent-like creatures" which is exactly what is depicted in Cave Painting 2.

**Figure 130. Bladen Cave 2, Cave Painting 3. (Drawn by and courtesy of Christophe Helmke)**

**Bladen Cave 2, Cave Painting 3**

**Location:** Located in the easternmost cave, in a series of caves situated along the Bladen branch of the Monkey River. Keith Prufer first reported the cave in 1993 as part of a cave survey for the Maya Mountains Archaeological Project. The cave itself extends almost 30 meters through a deposit of brecciated limestone. A total of five images were painted at eye-level above a natural arch within the cave (see Dunham *et al.*1993: 17-21 and Stone 1995:94-96). Each image was painted on a smooth clast or inclusion within the brecciated wall of the cave.

**Condition:** Partially eroded.

**Material:** Black pigment.

**Dimensions:**
> HT: 18 cm
> MW: 10 cm

**Dedicatory Date:** *Late Classic Period (?).

**Line Drawings:**
> Andrea Stone (Unpublished)
> Christophe Helmke (Unpublished, Figure 130)
> Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Photographic References:**
> Peter Dunham (1993: Figure 16)
> Keith Prufer (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
> Dunham (1995: 15)
> Dunham *et al*. (1993:17-21)
> Dunham and Prufer (1997: 168)
> Stone (1995: 94-96)
> Wanyerka (2000:5)
> Wanyerka (2004)

**Commentary:** Cave Painting 3 appears to depict in profile, a Classic Maya building or structure of some type. For all practical purposes, the painting appears to be a cross-section view of an inverted "L-shaped" structure reminiscent of those temples or shrines featured throughout the Maya codices that housed various gods.
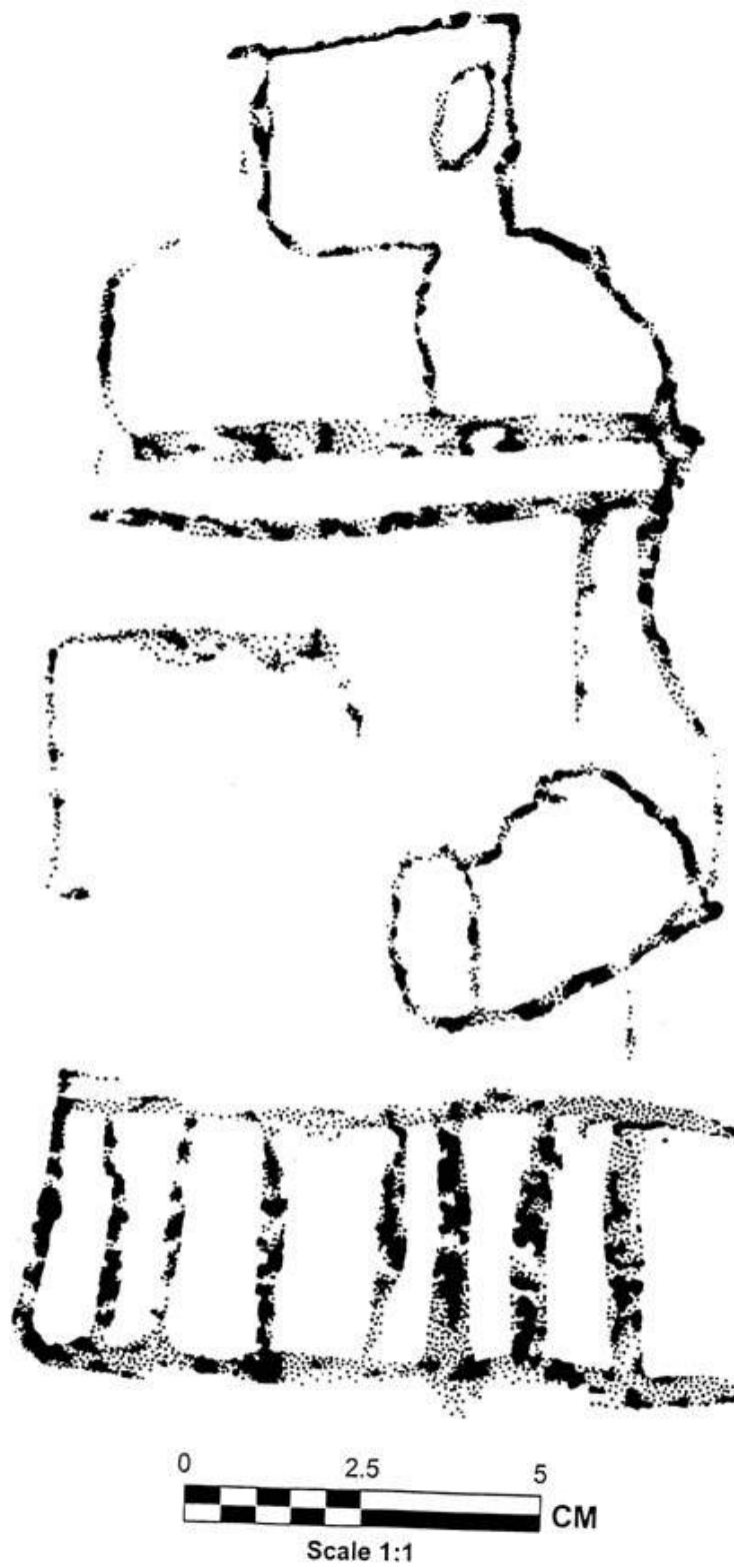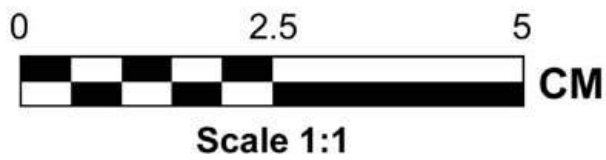
**Figure 131. Bladen Cave 2, Cave Painting 4. (Drawn by and courtesy of Christophe Helmke)**

**Bladen Cave 2, Cave Painting 4**
**Location: Location:** Located in the easternmost cave, in a series of caves situated along the Bladen branch of the Monkey River. Keith Prufer first reported the cave in 1993 as part of a cave survey for the Maya Mountains Archaeological Project. The cave itself extends almost 30 meters through a deposit of brecciated limestone. A total of five images were painted at eye-level above a natural arch within the cave (see Dunham *et al.*1993: 17-21 and Stone 1995:94-96). Each image was painted on a smooth clast or inclusion within the brecciated wall of the cave.

**Condition:** Partially eroded.

**Material:** Black pigment.

**Dimensions:**
　　　HT:　6.5 cm
　　　MW:　5.5 cm

**Dedicatory Date:** *Late Classic Period (?).

**Line Drawings:**
　　　Andrea Stone (Unpublished)
　　　Christophe Helmke (Unpublished, Figure 131)
　　　Phil Wanyerka (Unpublished)

**Photographic References:**
　　　Peter Dunham (1993: Figure 14)
　　　Keith Prufer (Unpublished)

**Other References:**
　　　Dunham (1995: 15)
　　　Dunham *et al*. (1993:17-21)
　　　Dunham and Prufer (1997: 168)
　　　Stone (1995: 94-96)
　　　Wanyerka (2000:5)
　　　Wanyerka (2004)

Commentary: Cave Painting 4 depicts a profile head of some supposed supernatural deity. The deity appears to wear some type of feathered headdress; however, not enough of the detail survives today to identify this figure. The style of the image is highly reminiscent of deity portraits in all four surviving codices.

# The Hieroglyphic Inscriptions of Southern Belize

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