

Archaeological
Researches at
Teotihuacan,
Mexico

Sigvald Linné

FOREWORD BY
Staffan Brunius

INTRODUCTION BY
George L. Cowgill

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCHES AT
TEOTIHUACAN, MEXICO



A



B



C

A. Tripod vessel with lid, found in Grave 2. (2/5) 3988. Cf. p. 62.

B. Clay vessel found in Grave 2. (2/5) 3985. Cf. p. 61.

C. Clay vessel found in Grave 4. (2/5) 4274. Cf. p. 68.

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P R E F A C E

Of the journey of archaeological study and research, the more important results of which are dealt with in the following, the initiative was taken by Sweden's envoy to Mexico, Minister C. G. G. Anderberg. By the Royal Swedish Academy of Science I was granted, for the purpose of carrying out this expedition, leave of absence for eight months, as from January 15th, 1932. Minister Anderberg also succeeded in interesting the two most important Swedish industrial concerns in Mexico, The Mexican Match Company Ltd. (Compania Mexicana de Cerillos y Fosforos, S. A.) and the L. M. Ericsson Telephone Company Ltd. (Empresa de Teléfonos Ericsson, S. A.), who generously placed funds at my disposal. The then directors of these firms, Mr. Holger Graffman and Mr. C. E. Lindeberg, subsequently lent their valuable support to the work in many ways. The original working plan did not include any independent excavation operations on an extensive scale. Before long, however, it became apparent that the most important result of the expedition would accrue from the carrying out of a comparatively costly excavation project. This was made possible by a grant from the J. A. Wahlberg Foundation, awarded me by The Swedish Society for Anthropology and Geography. By donations from Dr. Sven Hedin and Dr. Gösta Montell a first-class photographic equipment was secured. This included, as a present from Dr. Hedin, a standard guage film camera with the requisite film material. Thanks to the kind courtesy of Mr. Ch. Strand, of Oslo, Director of the Wilhelmsen Mexico Line, we obtained a substantial rebate on the ocean fares in the ships in which we travelled both out and back.

To all those who made my expedition possible and lent me their support I herewith wish to express my hearty and respectful thanks.

While waiting to receive my excavation licence, I began by making excursions to interesting ruin sites in the Valley of Mexico. Then, as well as later, great kindness was shown me by Dr. Manuel Gamio. Thereupon I went to Yucatan, by way of the air-line from Tejeria to Mérida. From Mérida I made trips of study to Chichén Itzá, where I had the pleasure and privilege of enjoying the generous hospitality of the research station of the Carnegie Institution. To its director, Dr. S. G. Morley, to Mr. Gustav Stromsvik, as well as to the other members of the Institution, I owe a heavy debt of gratitude.

I was also given an opportunity of visiting the ruin cities of Labná, Kabáh and Zayí, having been invited by Sr. Eduardo Martínez Canton, Inspector of the Ancient Monuments of Yucatan, and Sr. Emilio Cuevas, architect to the Dirección de Monumentos Prehispánicos, to accompany them on a tour of inspection. Lastly I had the privilege of studying the vast deserted city of Uxmal in the company of Dr. Frans Blom, head of the Department of Middle American Research at the Tulane University of Louisiana, New Orleans.

On my return to the capital I received, through the kind offices of Sr. José Reygadas Vértiz, director of Dirección de Monumentos Prehispánicos, permission to engage in archaeological excavation at Teotihuacan. Under supervision by him, as well as by Sr. Ignacio Marquina and Sr. Eduardo Noguera, the excavation work was in course of time carried out. In the middle of April my wife and I — she having at her own expense travelled out from Sweden, and arrived a few days earlier — began our work at Teotihuacan. In this connection it is with great pleasure I feel it laid upon me to give expression to my gratitude to Dr. George C. Vaillant, of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, for all the advice and guidance he unstintingly gave me. It may not be saying too much that it is largely due to him that my field work turned out so successful. He not only turned my attention to Teotihuacan, but our initial digging operations were in direct continuation of his own work.

By July we had finished our digging at Teotihuacan, and on August 2 the clearing-up-work — packing up the collections, etc. — was completed. By way of much-needed intermission in the excavation work we had made minor excursions to ruin sites in the Valley of Mexico. We also visited other archaeologically important places, such as Xochicalco and Teopanzolco in the State of Morelos, Calixtlahuaca in Toluca, and Tula in Hidalgo. As however our vessel for Sweden was belated and only sailed on August 26, we made use of the extended time for visiting Oaxaca. En route to that place we studied the excavations that had been carried out in the great temple pyramid at Cholula, and in Oaxaca we visited the ancient cities of Mitla and Monte Alban.

For our stay at Teotihuacan the Dirección de Monumentos Prehispánicos most kindly placed at our disposal quarters in the administration building. The local superintendent, Sr. José Perez, afforded us every facility for carrying on our work.

Lastly, I also wish to give my thanks to my assistants in the practical work of excavation at Teotihuacan: Porfirio and Viviano Reyes, Joaquin Oliva and Tomas Mendoza. Through their diligence, methodicalness and active interest it was possible to carry the extensive work to completion within the short time allotted to us, and with the limited financial means at our disposal.

Both the people of the country and the Swedes in Mexico always showed us the greatest kindness, so that thanking them all individually would be equivalent to thanking everyone with whom we came into contact.

Mr. Gustav Algård, Mexican Consul at Stockholm, has defrayed the cost of translation etc. The printing cost has mainly been met by a subsidy granted by the Humanistic

Foundation (Humanistiska Fonden), Stockholm, but as this cost, owing to the swelling out of the manuscript, proved in excess of the estimate, the balance was met by Mr. Edvin Paulson, of New York, for many years a friend and patron of the Museum.

Dr. Gunnar Beskow of the Geological Survey of Sweden with whom on earlier occasions I have had the advantage of collaborating — when he broke new trails for the examination of prehistoric ceramics — has also this time assisted me in the solving of highly important problems. The microscopic sections were, by kind permission of Prof. E. Stensiö of the Paleozoological Department of the Museum of Natural History, Stockholm, prepared by Mr. G. Rettig.

To Prof. J. P. Holmquist I remain greatly indebted for analyses of wall samples; Dr. Nils Odhner has also on the present occasion zoologically determined the mollusk material collected in the excavations, and Dr. Nils Zenzén has determined the stone objects from a mineralogical point of view. Miss Astrid Laquist has assisted me with advice on technical questions as regards textiles, and Mr. Stig Rydén with data from the Ethnographical Department of the Gothenburg Museum.

The drawings and water colours of the objects have been executed by Mr. Axel Hjelm, of Gothenburg, who with photographic exactitude — but with a keener eye for essentials than the camera — has reproduced his models. The fair-copying of my sketches and plans has been done by Mr. Torsten Sjöbohm, of Stockholm.

The translation of my manuscript into English has been carried out by my friend Magnus Leijer, of Gothenburg.

INTRODUCTORY NOTES

To South American ethnography and archaeology interest has in the last decades been devoted by not a few Swedish explorers, the foremost of whom was Professor Baron Erland Nordenskiöld. By him was at the Gothenburg Museum created its ethnographical department, which, in regard to South America, is counted among the most important in the world. Through the work of Nordenskiöld, and that of his pupils and other Swedes, Sweden has come to occupy a prominent place in Americanistic research. The Swedish sphere of interest, however, only extended so far as to include the Isthmus of Panama and the West Indies.

In the early 1880's Carl Bovallius carried out ethnographical and archaeological researches in Costa Rica and Nicaragua, and about the turn of the century C. V. Hartman did very important excavations in the firstmentioned republic, and pursued ethnographical studies in Salvador. In 1881 Gustaf Nordenskiöld, a brother of Erland Nordenskiöld, did some archaeological pioneering work of generally acknowledged value in Colorado in the American Southwest.

The ancient cultures of Mexico, as grandly imposing as they are fascinating, have practically only by our expedition been made subjects of scientific research carried out from Sweden. The present work, in which account is given of our archaeological researches at the famous ruin city of Teotihuacan, not far from the capital of the country, is, by reason of its being the first treatise published in Sweden on Mexican antiquity based on field work, of a somewhat heterogeneous character. It is divided in three main sections, viz. a brief synopsis of the pre-Spanish history of Mexico, and description of Teotihuacan with an account of the excavations at that place and their results, and, lastly an appendix of somewhat detached contents.

The introductory chapters, which deal with material well known to the specialist, are primarily intended for such readers as, although not Americanists, nevertheless may be interested in Mexican antiquity. The principal part of this work, i. e. where the results of the excavations are dealt with, is, on the other hand, written more for specialists. In the last section the geographical distribution of certain culture elements is, *inter alia*, dealt with. They have been brought together in one place so as to avoid weighting down and interrupting more than is necessary the account of the finds by passages of explanation and discussion. Without pretending to completeness, this

concluding section has purposely been made fairly full, particularly with account taken of Swedish students of cultural history who may be interested in ascertaining the distribution of certain culture elements, etc., as seen from an American point of view. The Humanistic Foundation (Humanistiska Fonden), Stockholm, whence the greater part of the printing costs has been defrayed, has a right to expect that the present work be not exclusively addressed to oversea specialists and a small number of Swedish Americanists.

*

In the text below the figures the fractional number within brackets denotes the scale. »M» means that the object has been surrendered to Mexico. The numerals refer to the Museum catalogue, with omission made of its numbers for year and collection, 32.8. because — with only two exceptions — no objects from any extraneous collections are here depicted. All numbers below 3460 denote that the object was *recovered* at Las Palmas, while higher numbers indicate that Xolalpan was the locality of the find. »R. M.» stands for the Royal Ethnographical Museum of Stockholm, and »G. M.» for the Gothenburg Museum.