

Copán Note 15

Moon-Jaguar, the 10th Successor of the Lineage of Yax-K'uk'-Mo' of Copán¹

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The tenth ruler in the successor list of Altar Q (East 1) sits atop the head of a Water-lily Jaguar (Fig. 1). Since the accession date of the eleventh successor is now known to have been 9.7.5.0.8 8 Lamat 6 Mac (see Copán Note 14), we can expect that his predecessor reigned sometime prior to this accession date. Step 9 of the Hieroglyphic Stairs of Structure 26 records the accession and death of a ruler who held office immediately before Butz'-Chaan, the eleventh successor. This step begins with the Initial Series date 9.5.19.3.0 5 Ahau 3 Zotz' (Fig. 2), followed by "was seated as lord" (*chumwan ti ahau-le*), and a badly eroded name phrase which may include a jaguar glyph at 12. The protagonist is again named following a DN (14-15) leading from his accession (16) to his

1. The Copán Notes are a running series of commentaries and small reports deriving from the multidisciplinary research project designed to record and analyze the monolithic and architectural sculpture of Copán. The Copán Mosaics Project has received support from the Center for Field Research (Earthwatch; 1985 and 1986), Northern Illinois University (1985 and 1986), The National Science Foundation (1986 and 1987), The National Endowment for the Humanities (1986 and 1987), the National Geographic Society (1986), The H. John Heinz III Charitable Foundation (1986), and the Instituto Hondureño de Antropología e Historia (I.H.A.H.; 1985 and 1986), and is conducted under the authority and jurisdiction of the I.H.A.H. through a five-year agreement between the I.H.A.H. and Northern Illinois University. According to the terms of that agreement, any publication using materials (either written or in the form of line drawings or photos) derived from the Copán Mosaics Project must receive prior written consent from the Project director (William Fash) and the Director of the Instituto Hondureño de Antropología e Historia (Ricardo Agurcia).

death (17b). The step continues with a DN (19a) leading from the death of this king to the Initial Series date on Step 8, 9.7.5.0.8, the accession of the eleventh ruler.

Although the calendric elements on Step 9 are badly eroded, the chronology can be reconstructed with some confidence as follows:

9. 5.19. 3. 0	5 Ahau	3 Zotz'	accession as ahau
1. 5.14. 4			
9. 7. 4.17. 4	10 Kan	2 Ceh	death
1. 4			
9. 7. 5. 0. 8	8 Lamat	6 Mac	accession as ahau of Butz'-Chan

Although the name of the protagonist in the first clause cannot be associated with the Altar Q name of the tenth successor, the name in the second phrase can. In the restatement of his name following the second record of his seating, this ruler is named with a jaguar head suffixed by T74 *ma* as a phonetic complement for the word *balam*. The name of the tenth successor on Altar Q is a jaguar head with a waterlily plant on its forehead. The chronology of Step 9 leaves little doubt that this jaguar character is the tenth successor, for only twenty-four days elapsed between his death and the accession of the eleventh ruler.

One stela can be assigned to the reign of the tenth successor with security and another tentatively. Stela 9 was broken up for use as building material in 1910, but Maudslay drew it. Gordon reported that it came from a cemetery one kilometer southwest of the modern village where it had been reused as a base for the now destroyed Stela 8 of Yax-Pac's reign. Morley, (1920: 93) believed it to have had text on all four sides while Spinden suggested the front was carved with the ruler's portrait. Since the text published by Maudslay seems complete and Stela 18 is known to have had a figure on its front, we believe Stela 9 to have been a portrait monument within the tradition of Stelae E, 7, and P.

The rear opens with the Initial Series date 9.6.10.0.0 8 Ahau 13 Pax complete with lunar age and Lord of the Night given (Fig. 3). The remainder of the text records its erection (or dedication), names it as the "*Yax-k'in*-shield stone, and names the protagonist with the deity name Chac-Xib-Chac and the shell-fist title. Since Stela I names its protagonist with a GI glyph and shows the ruler dressed in the guise of GI, we think it possible that the portrait side of Stela 9 similarly depicted the tenth ruler in the guise of a god, in this case Chac-Xib-Chac.

The personal name of tenth successor appears in columns E and F to the right of the Initial Series. F3 is a personified blood glyph wrapped in a bundle cloth. The king's name follows with the head variant of *Mah K'inah*, a moon sign with a double scroll emerging from the top, and final a Waterlily Jaguar with the Early Classic variant of T74 *ma* suffixed as a phonetic complement. This glyph combines the name forms from Step 9 and Altar Q; the the double-scroll moon sign appears to be an additional component of the name phrase as are the glyphs at F5-E6, "ninth _____" and a T712 lancet with a shell infix. The Copán Emblem Glyph is the last part of his personal name. We also note that the use of the *Mah K'inah* title with his name is unusual; in all other examples at Copán, this title occurs only with the name of the lineage founder Yax-K'uk'-Mo'.

The father's name begins with the *u ahau* "child of father" glyph at E9 and completes the text. The name includes a downward looking human face over an earth sign, an unrecognized glyph, a katun shell-fist, title, Water-lily Jaguar, and unknown glyph, the Copán EG, and two eroded glyphs. The identification of his father is problematic because Altar Q list a jaguar name only for the seventh successor, and not for the eighth and ninth. We can think of three possible explanations for this pattern:

(1) One of the unknown glyphs in the father's name is a variant for the name of the eighth or ninth successor on Altar Q.

(2) The father did not reign and was not technically a "successor of Yax K'uk'-Mo', and therefore, was not included on Altar Q.

(3) Moon-Jaguar was the child of the seventh successor, who also bore the jaguar name.

The third possibility offers additional problems. Stela 9 records the father as a one katun lord, but the tenth successor is definitely associated with 9.3.10.0.0 and 9.4.10.0.0 on Stela 15. He may well also be the protagonist of Stela E and in power at 9.5.0.0.0 and 9.5.10.0.0. The latter date given him a reign of at least one katun. If the Stela 9 title refers to "katuns of reign," then there may be not discrepancy; however, if it refer to "katuns of life," the father cannot be the tenth successor.

Morley (1920:96-102) argued that Stela 18 was dated to 9.7.0.0.0 7 Ahau 3 Kankin, placing it in Moon-Jaguar's reign. Quoting Spinden, he describes the source of Stela 18 as the house of Antonio Guerra, who lived on the south side of the street leading west from the south west corner of the central plaza of the village. Spinden describes thea jaguar helmet on the front, leaving no doubt that it was carved with the portrait of the king. The headdress zoomorph had discernible spots of a jaguar's fur, lidded eyes with Venus-like symbols on the eyeballs. Above the jaguar head was a heart shaped object that in verbal description appears to resemble the personified ahau that surmounts the jaguar headdress on Stela 7.

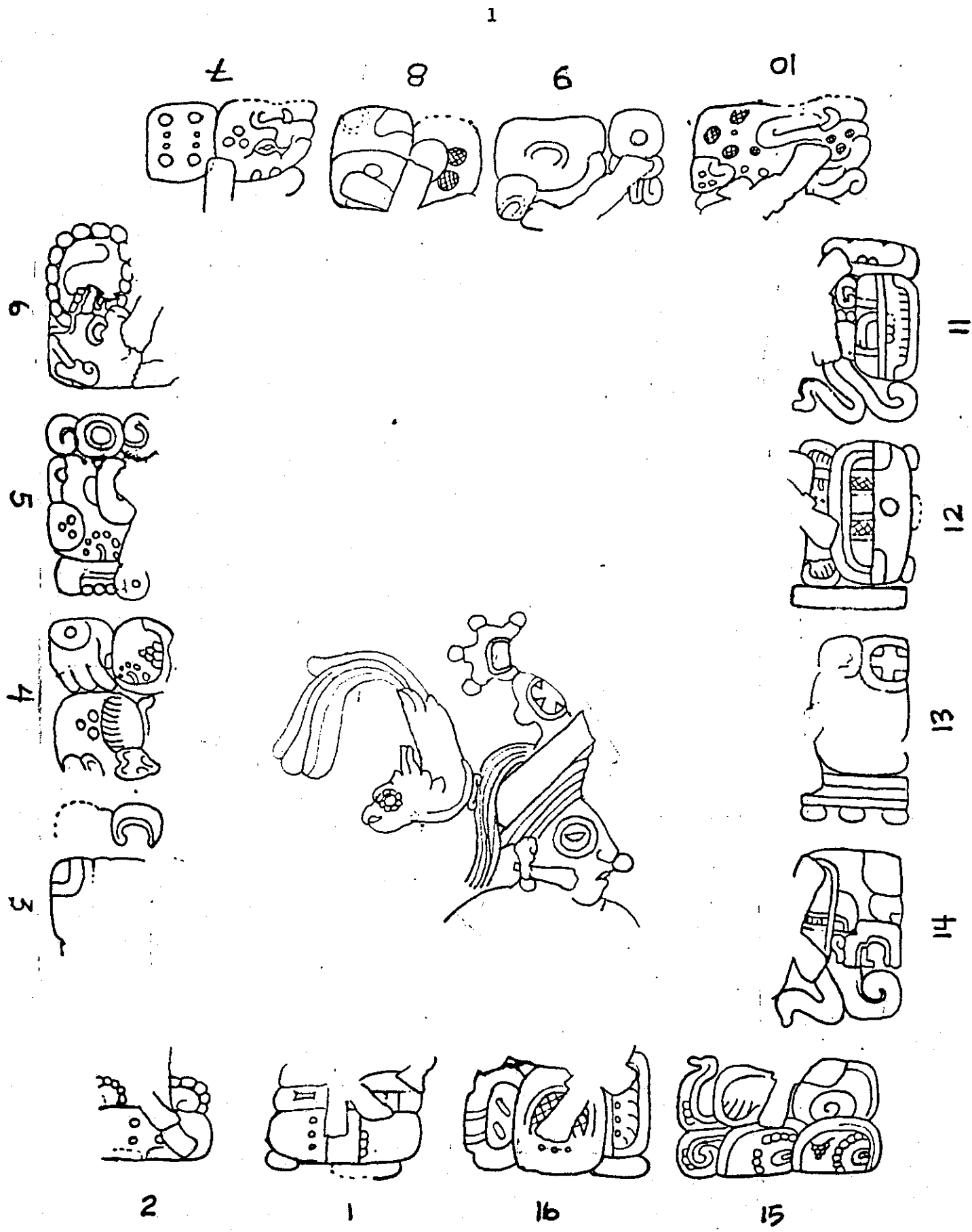
Both Stela 9 and 18 were found in or near the village of Copán. Thusfar, no Moon-Jaguar monuments have yet been identified in the acropolis area, suggesting that the area of particular political importance to this ruler was the site under the modern village.

References

Morley, Sylvanus Griswold

1920 The Inscriptions at Copan. *The Carnegie Institution of Washington*, Pub. 219.

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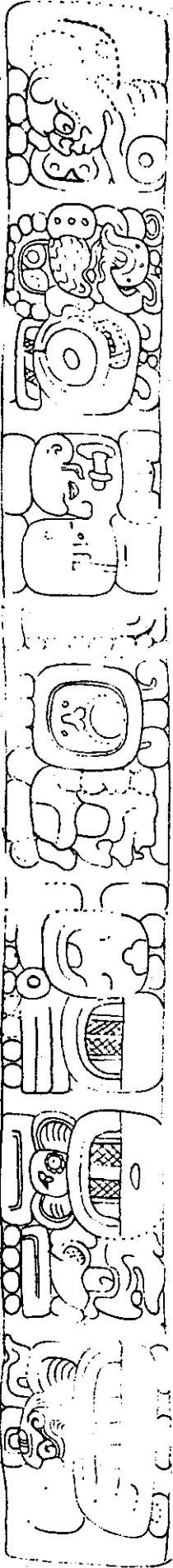


Note 15: Fig 1.

Copan Altar Q

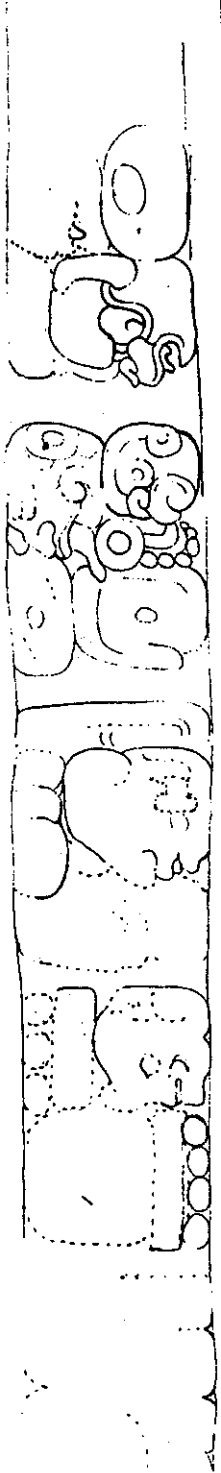
Grada 9. of ala 1'10
 Escalera de Jeroglificas
 Buzon 6/26/85

1 2 3 4 5 6 7



first half
 field ✓ Buz ✓ Escalera 6-26-86

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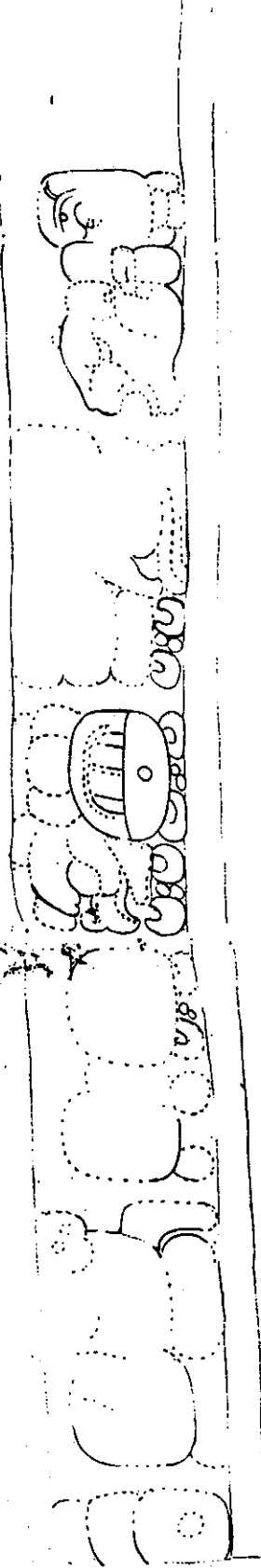
17

11

15

14

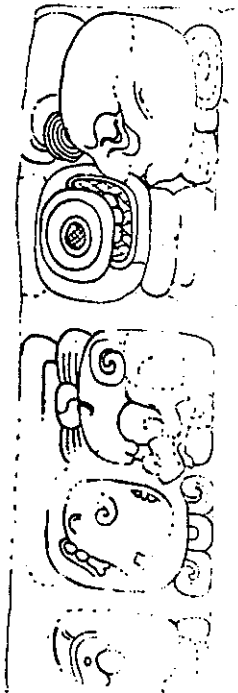
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✓ E. No Aug '86

18

19



✓ F. No Aug '86

Note 15:
 Fig 2.

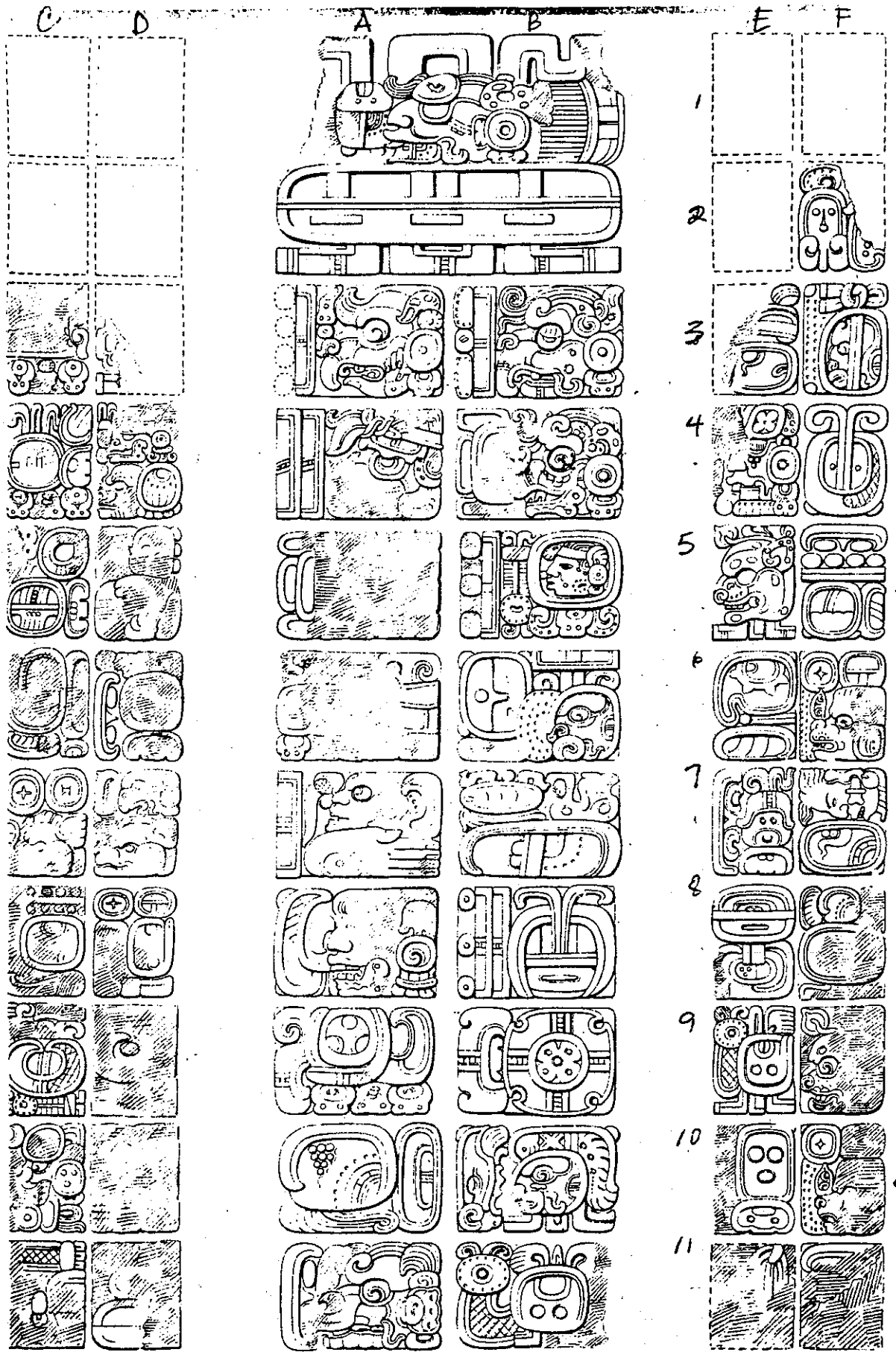
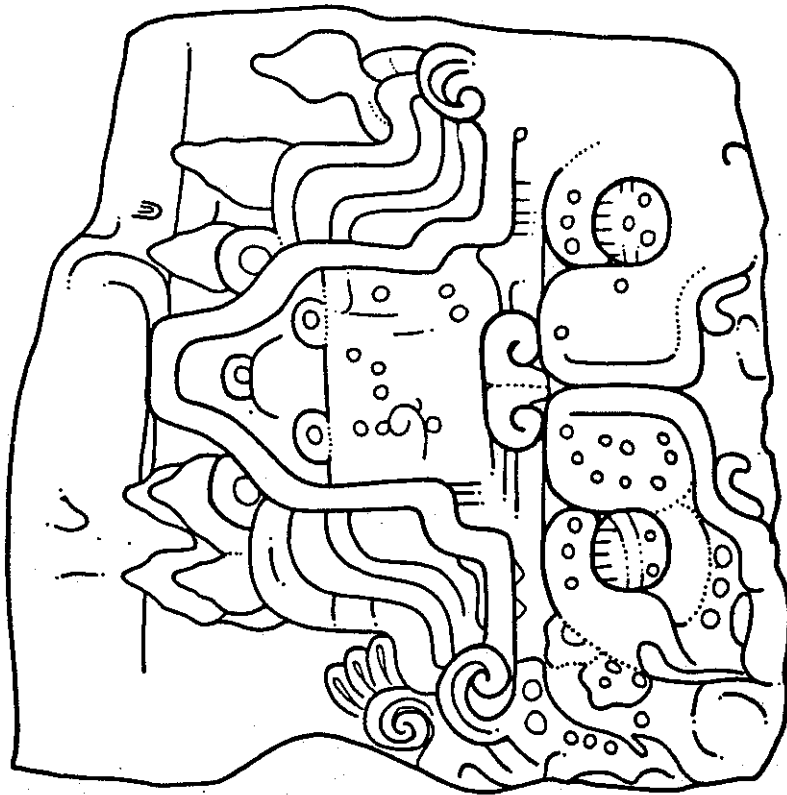
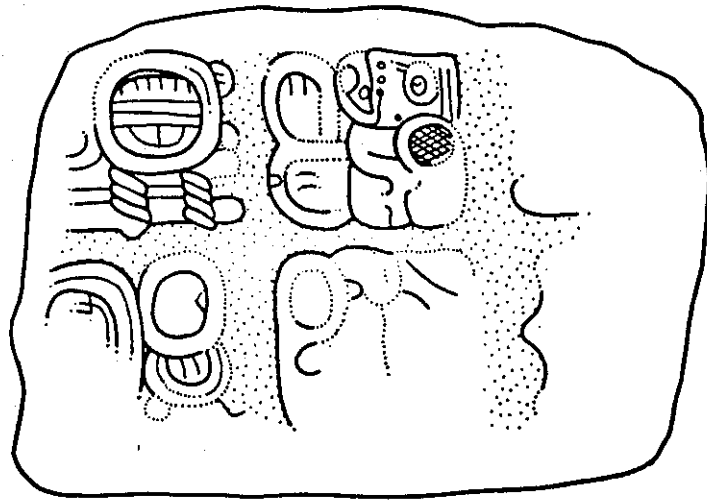


Fig 3: Stela 9



ST.18