

## **Comentarios al informe de los trabajos de investigación arqueológica llevados a cabo en el estado de Chiapas por la “New World Archaeological Foundation”, de noviembre de 1955 a octubre de 1956**

**Alejandro J. Uriarte Torres**  
Dirección de Estudios Arqueológicos, INAH

Es indudable que el trabajo desarrollado por la *New World Archaeological Foundation* (NWAf), fundada hacia 1952, ha sido de suma importancia para la investigación arqueológica en el sureste de Mesoamérica en general y particularmente en el estado de Chiapas. Precisamente, el documento presentado da cuenta de los resultados iniciales del *Chiapas Project*, el cual se desarrolló entre 1955 y 1958 bajo los auspicios de la NWAf (Lowe, 1959a, 1959b). Dicho proyecto, que tuvo como directores en un primer momento a un destacado investigador como Heinrich Berlin, recordado por su identificación de los glifos emblemas en los monumentos mayas (Berlin, 1958) pero que también fue pionero en la Arqueología del centro de Chiapas (Berlin, 1946), y, posteriormente, a otro notable y prolífico arqueólogo como Gareth W. Lowe, quien por su trayectoria y producción es un referente obligado de la arqueología chiapaneca (Clark *et al.*, 2007), tuvo un objetivo principal y a la vez tan ambicioso como meritorio, el cual consistió en el estudio de los orígenes de la civilización en el sureste mesoamericano. Para ello, una de las primeras tareas de este proyecto fue realizar un amplio estudio de reconocimiento arqueológico sobre la cuenca del alto Río Grijalva que, aunque con la intención principal de documentar la ocupación preclásica del área, registró una secuencia cultural de tres milenios en la Depresión Central de Chiapas, siendo uno de los

primeros trabajos en cuanto al estudio de los patrones de asentamiento en una región que se extendía desde las inmediaciones de Chiapa de Corzo hasta la frontera con Guatemala.<sup>1</sup> Los resultados de esta investigación fueron presentados por Lowe en dos publicaciones de 1959, en las cuales da cuenta de cerca de 85 asentamientos prehispánicos localizados en las cercanías del río Grijalva, así como una primera sistematización de los materiales provenientes tanto del trabajo de reconocimiento de superficie como de algunas excavaciones de sondeo, que permitieron elaborar la primera aproximación de carácter regional a la historia cultural de la zona (Lowe, 1959a, 1959b).

Es en este contexto en que se inserta el documento del cual damos cuenta, el cual consiste en un informe localizado actualmente en el Archivo Técnico de la Coordinación Nacional de Arqueología y que presenta un resumen del avance de las investigaciones del *Chiapas Project* entre los años de 1955 y 1956, es decir, expone algunos de los primeros resultados del trabajo de campo de este proyecto. El texto original, que fue inicialmente remitido por Ignacio Bernal, entonces Director de Monumentos Prehispánicos del INAH al Archivo Técnico de esta área, se encuentra dividido

<sup>1</sup> Este trabajo tiene como antecedentes directos los trabajos de prospección publicados por Sorenson (1956) y Shook (1956), también financiados por la NWAf.

en siete secciones. En la primera de ellas, se hace una introducción presentando los objetivos generales del proyecto, la presentación de los miembros del equipo coordinado sucesivamente por Berlin y Lowe y sus responsabilidades en la investigación, una descripción inicial de los alcances de la temporada reportada, así como los agradecimientos correspondientes a las distintas autoridades y personas que apoyaron el desarrollo del trabajo de campo. La segunda sección, presenta una descripción general de los 40 sitios arqueológicos registrados durante la temporada, indicando su ubicación aproximada, características del asentamiento y una cronología tentativa de acuerdo con los materiales recuperados ya fuera en superficie o en excavación. En la tercera sección se muestran los resultados iniciales de las excavaciones de sondeo efectuadas en algunos de los sitios documentados, entre los que destacan las primeras intervenciones arqueológicas en Chiapa de Corzo. En la cuarta sección, se presentan una serie de ilustraciones y fotografías de los asentamientos registrados, los materiales recuperados y las excavaciones efectuadas. En la quinta y sexta secciones, se presentan los croquis realizados en algunos de los sitios, así como el plano general del área de prospección con la ubicación aproximada de los asentamientos descritos en el texto. Finalmente, la séptima sección corresponde a la presentación del presupuesto detallado de la primera temporada de campo del proyecto.

Si bien es cierto que parte del contenido de este informe se corresponde y en muchas ocasiones se expone más ampliamente en lo publicado posteriormente por Lowe, no por ello deja de ser en sí mismo una importante fuente documental primaria para el estudio de la investigación arqueológica en la Depresión Central de Chiapas. Por mencionar tan sólo un ejemplo de su importancia, este texto constituye uno de los primeros reportes de las intervenciones en uno de los sitios que ha sido primordial para el entendimiento de las secuencias de ocupación preclásicas en la región, como lo es Chiapa de Corzo; de hecho, las actividades del *Chiapas Project* en este asentamiento fueron el punto de partida de investigaciones de mayor alcance por parte de la Nwaf en años posteriores (Agrinier, 1964, 1975; Dixon, 1959; Lowe, 1955, 1962a, 1962b; Lowe y Agrinier, 1960; Mason, 1960a, 1960b; Hicks y Rozaire, 1960; y Lee 1969).<sup>2</sup>

De igual forma, este documento aporta información que ayuda a comprender cómo se fue desarrollando el proceso de investigación, presentando las primeras impresiones sobre las características for-

males o la datación de algunos de los sitios, las cuales se presentaron con mayor detalle y precisión en las publicaciones subsiguientes, pero, al mismo tiempo, se encuentran algunos datos que complementan y ayudan a entender mejor los objetivos y las descripciones de las excavaciones en los sitios intervenidos. Otro aspecto de gran interés lo constituye el conjunto de planos de los sitios arqueológicos, tal y como fueron elaborados originalmente por Eduardo Martínez, topógrafo de la Nwaf y quien posteriormente realizaría los primeros levantamientos de importantes asentamientos como Izapa (Lowe *et al.*, 1982); algunos de estos croquis, presentan diferencias con aquellos que fueron publicados en 1959, incluyendo algunas notas sobre los caminos que conducían a los sitios, señalamientos del estado de conservación de los edificios – como la ubicación de los saqueos o destrucciones – o en la ilustración de las características arquitectónicas de algunos asentamientos, como en el caso del correspondiente al sitio de Ruíz, que se presenta con mucho mayor detalle en el informe que en la publicación posterior.

Más aún, el valor de este documento se acrecienta si se considera que muchos de los asentamientos descritos desaparecieron en la década de 1970 durante la construcción de la presa La Angostura: Chapatengo, Paso de la Vega, Chachí, San Francisco, Laguna Francesa, Niños Héroe, La Poblazón, Santa Cruz, San Salvador, Buenavista, Santa María y Santa Rosa, son algunos de ellos; las intervenciones de salvamento arqueológico efectuadas en estos sitios ampliaron, pero también en muchos casos confirmaron, algunas de las observaciones iniciales sobre la datación de la ocupación y las características de los arreglos arquitectónicos hechas por parte del *Chiapas Project* (Gusinyer, 1974, 1975).

En resumen, el documento presentado, constituye un testimonio excepcional de los trabajos pioneros en la arqueología de la Depresión Central de Chiapas, que complementa en algunos aspectos los datos presentados en las publicaciones de la Nwaf. Al mismo tiempo, nos recuerda la riqueza de la documentación existente en el Archivo Técnico de la Coordinación Nacional de Arqueología. En efecto, en muchas ocasiones la única información que tenemos de numerosos sitios arqueológicos se encuentra en el acervo conservado en dicho repositorio, el cual debe ser conservado, protegido y divulgado con el fin de evitar que, más allá de las coyunturas políticas, se pierda el memorial del patrimonio arqueológico mexicano bajo resguardo del INAH.

<sup>2</sup> Éstos con sólo algunos ejemplos que pueden consultarse respecto de los resultados de las intervenciones de la Nwaf.

## Bibliografía

### Agrinier, Pierre

- 1964 *The Archaeological Burials at Chiapa de Corzo and Their Furniture*. Provo, Utah, Brigham Young University (Papers of the New World Archaeological Foundation, 16).
- 1975 *Mond 1A, Chiapa de Corzo, Chiapas, Mexico. A Late Preclassic Architectural Complex*. Provo, Utah, Brigham Young University (Papers of the New World Archaeological Foundation, 37).

### Berlin, Heinrich

- 1946 Archaeological Excavations in Chiapas. *American Antiquity*, 12 (1): 19-28.
- 1958 El glifo "emblema" en las inscripciones mayas. *Journal de la Société des américanistes*, 47: 111-119.

### Clark, John E., Pye, Mary E., y Nelson, Fred W.

- 2007 Mesoamerica's Formative Scholar: Gareth W. Lowe, 1922-2004. En L. S. Lowe y Mary E. Pye (eds.), *Archaeology, Art, and Ethnogenesis in Mesoamerican Prehistory: Papers in Honor of Gareth W. Lowe*. Provo, Utah, Brigham Young University (Papers of the New World Archaeological Foundation, 68).

### Dixon, Keith A.

- 1959 *Ceramics from Two Preclassic Period at Chiapa de Corzo, Chiapas, Mexico*. Orinda, California, NNAF (Papers of the New World Archaeological Foundation, 4).

### Gussinyer, Jordi

- 1974 Notas sobre la arquitectura arqueológica del centro de Chiapas. *Anales del INAH*, IV (años 1972-1973): 145-160.
- 1975 Tercera temporada de salvamento arqueológico en la presa de La Angostura, Chiapas. *Anales del INAH*, V (años 1974-1975): 63-84.

### Hicks, Frederick, y Rozaire, Charles E.

- 1960 *Mound 13, Chiapa de Corzo, Chiapas, Mexico*. Provo, Utah, Brigham Young University (Papers of the New World Archaeological Foundation, 10).

### Lee, Thomas A.

- 1969 *The Artifacts of Chiapa de Corzo, Chiapas, Mexico*. Provo, Utah, Brigham Young University (Papers of the New World Archaeological Foundation, 26).

### Lowe, Gareth W.

- 1955 Summary of New World Archaeological Foundation Investigations at Chiapa de Corzo, Chiapas. En *New World Archaeological Foundation Publication, 1* (pp. 20-42). Orinda California, NNAF.
- 1959a *The Chiapas Project, 1955-1958. Report of the Field Director*. Orinda, California, NNAF (Papers of the New World Archaeological Foundation, 1).
- 1959b *Archaeological Exploration of the Upper Grijalva River, Chiapas, México*. Orinda, California, NNAF (Papers of the New World Archaeological Foundation, 2).
- 1962a *Mound 5 and Minor Excavations at Chiapa de Corzo, Chiapas, Mexico*. Provo, Utah, Brigham Young University (Papers of the New World Archaeological Foundation, 12).
- 1962b Algunos resultados de la temporada 1961 en Chiapa de Corzo, Chiapas. *Estudios de Cultura Maya, II*: 185-196.

### Lowe, Gareth W., y Agrinier, Pierre

- 1960 *Mound 1, Chiapa de Corzo, Chiapas, Mexico*. Provo, Utah, Brigham Young University (Papers of the New World Archaeological Foundation, 8).

### Lowe, Gareth W., Lee Jr., Thomas A., y Martínez Espinoza, Eduardo

- 1982 *Izapa: An Introduction to the Ruins and Monuments*. Provo, Utah. Brigham Young University (Papers of the New World Archaeological Foundation, 31).

### Mason, J. Alden

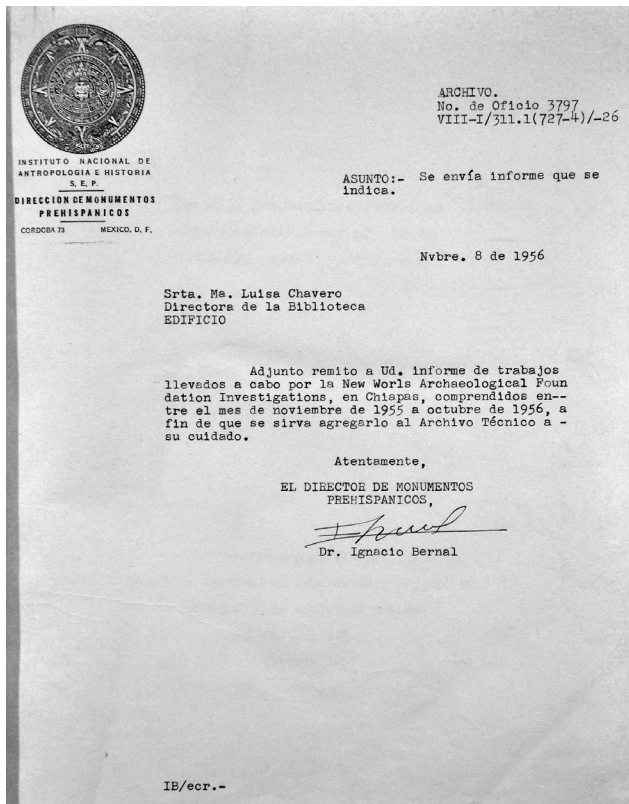
- 1960a *Mound 12, Chiapa de Corzo, Chiapas, Mexico*. Provo, Utah, Brigham Young University (Papers of the New World Archaeological Foundation, 9).
- 1960b *The Terrace to North of Mound 13, Chiapa de Corzo, Chiapas, Mexico*. Provo, Utah, Brigham Young University (Papers of the New World Archaeological Foundation, 11).

### Shook, Edwin M.

- 1956 An Archaeological Reconnaissance in Chiapas, Mexico. *New World Archaeological Foundation Publication No. 1* (pp. 20-37). Orinda, California, NNAF.

### Sorenson, John L.

- 1956 An Archaeological Reconnaissance of West-Central Chiapas, Mexico. *New World Archaeological Foundation Publication, 1* (pp. 7-19). Orinda, California, NNAF.



**Informe de los trabajos de investigación arqueológica llevados a cabo en el estado de Chiapas por la “New World Archaeological Foundation”, comprendidos de noviembre de 1955 a octubre de 1956**

**New World Archaeological Foundation Investigation in Chiapas Mexico, November 1955 to October 1956**

**Annual Report to the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia. Secretaría de Educación Pública. México, D.F. October 1956**

**Contents**

Introduction

Reconnaissance Notes

Excavations

*Chiapa de Corzo*

*Cupía*

*Acala*

*Laguna Dolores*

*Santa Rosa*

*Chiapa de Corzo, Md. 1*

**Illustrations**

*Chiapa de Corzo, Nd. 1*

*Reconnaissance Photos*

*Figurines and Artifacts*

*Chiapa do Corzo, Md. 7*

*Acala*

*Santa Rosa*

*Chiapa de Corzo, Md. 1*

**Site Plans**

*Chiapa de Corzo Zone*

*Stone Monument*

*Acala*

*Reconnaissance Sitos*

*Santa Rosa*

*Laguna Dolores*

*Puerto Mexico (Ruiz Site)*

Reconnaissance Map

Financial Statement

**Introduction**

During the year November 1, 1955, to October 30, 1956, the New World Archaeological Foundation, with headquarters at 1 Irving Lane, Orinda, California, has conducted explorations and excavations in the Central depression of Chiapas. The Foundation has been working under a contract issued by the Secretaría de Educación Pública which authorized exploration of the Río Grijalva and its affluents. This contract was signed on November 26, 1952, and became effective January 1, 1953, for a five year period, providing for annual renewal at the beginning of each new season. The objective of the Foundation is study of the origins of the high Mesoamerican civilizations.

A summary of work done by this Foundation in the Central Depression of Chiapas has been published this year as *New World Archaeological Foundation Publication N° 1*. Copies of this publication have been presented to the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia. It is planned that other publications will be issued in the coming year.

Direction of the Foundation's work in Chiapas from November, 1955, to April, 1956, was under Dr. Heinrich Berlin. From May to October of the present year the work has been directed by Gareth W. Lowe, formerly assistant director to Dr. Berlin.

The Foundation has its present field headquarters at la. Norte y Ila. Oriente, Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas, México. The ceramic materials encountered to date are presently stored at this address and in the Museo Regional, Tuxtla. These materials are being studied at the N.W.A.F. headquarters building. Present staff includes the field director, Gareth W. Lowe; Dr. Keith A. Dixon, recently of the University of California, Los An-

geles; Eduardo Martínez E., topographer from México, D.F.; Pierre Agrinier, graduate student of the University of California, Berkeley; and Bruce W. Warren, student archaeologist. An Instituto representative was to have worked with the Foundation for the remainder of the season; however, Arq. Marquina apparently did not have available a suitable representative. Such a colleague will be welcome in the coming season.

In the past year there has been a preliminary archaeological exploration of most of the upper Grijalva River, extending from Chiapa de Corzo southeast to the frontier with the Republic of Guatemala. In addition, test excavations were made at the sites of Chiapa de Corzo, Cupía, Acala, Santa Rosa, and Laguna Dolores. A more intensive investigation of a ceremonial mound was begun at Chiapa de Corzo.

In the coming season the Foundation plans to conclude its reconnaissance of the areas remaining unexplored on the upper Grijalva, and to carry out systematic excavations at Chiapa de Corzo and one or more of the other large pre-Classic sites on the upper Grijalva. Ceramic studies and publication of results to date will be an equally important objective of the approaching season.

Throughout its work in the state of Chiapas, the New World Archaeological Foundation has had the whole-hearted cooperation of Armando Duvalier, director of the Museo Regional in Tuxtla. Sr. Duvalier has been most helpful with respect to our investigations of Mound 1 in Chiapa de Corzo. The partial excavation of this complex cut-stone temple platform located a few blocks from the Pan-American Highway has attracted thousands of visitors from Chiapas and many non-Mexican tourists as well.

### **New World Archaeological Foundation Reconnaissances, State of Chiapas January to July, 1956**

Between January and July, 1956, personnel of the New World Archaeological Foundation made a series of reconnaissance trips the purpose of which was to locate as many as possible of the archaeological sites existing close to the upper Grijalva or Rio de Chiapa and to determine the periods of occupation represented. While this task has only been partly completed to date, the major portion of the upper river has been covered, and more than 40 archaeological sites located. These sites are in addition to those reported by John L. Sorenson and Edwin M. Shook in N.W.A.F. Publication No. 1. The accompanying map indicates routes travelled and sites located. Access to almost all areas was possible in the Foundation Wyllis station wagon during the dry season, as owners of cat-

tle fincas have opened very rough but passable roads down to the river in many places. An aerial flight was made up the river, and a canoe trip was made from Finca Laguna Dolores to Paso de la Vega.

Whenever possible, surface sherd collections were made at each site visited, and these have been catalogued under a "C" series of consecutive numbers. This "C" number appears on the map for, each site where a ceramic sample is available. The sherd samples are in separate bags, presently stored in the Tuxtla headquarters of the N.W.A.F., and will be left stored on shelves in the Museo Regional following completion of our work with them. In addition, whenever size of a sample will permit it, a representative selection of sherds will be filed with the Museo Nacional in Mexico City, at the request of Sra. Espejo, Institute ceramicist.

The sherd lots obtained by Sorenson in 1953 and by Shook in 1955 have been catalogued under the "C" series, and file cards are being typed for all sites located by the N.W.A.F. It is planned that one copy of these cards will be placed on file in the following places: N.W.A.F. headquarters; the Museo Regional, Tuxtla Gutierrez; the Museo Nacional, Mexico, D.F.; and in Frans Blom's Biblioteca Fray Bartolome de las Casas, San Cristóbal las casas, Chiapas. Any future sites located by the N.W.A.F. and additional information obtained will be included in this file.

A more detailed report of the N.W.A.F. 1956 reconnaissances will be prepared for publication in the coming year. At present it is possible to make the following summary of sites found, based on brief observation and limited sherd samples. Site plans are the work of staff topographer Eduardo Martinez E.; sites are listed in order working east or upriver from Chiapa de Corzo.

Statements referring to period of occupation must be considered tentative only. Sherd recovery was frequently difficult due to vegetation, and the ceramics of the central depression of Chiapas are as yet poorly understood. More precise definitions must await forthcoming ceramic studies.

#### *Cupía:*

See discussion of excavations, page 95.

#### *Vergel:*

On road paralleling southwest bank of Río Santo Domingo, 3 km south of Cupía. See plan, page 50. No mounds located.

Sherd deposit on edge of hill cut by road.

Abundant ceramics of earliest pre-Classic period known for Chiapas. Some later wares. Sherd collections marked C-76.

*Monte Rico:*

On south bank of Río Grijalva, about 2 km upstream from mouth of Río Santo Domingo, opposite Chiapa de Corzo. See plan, page 50.

Few small mounds in vicinity, and stone house foundations noted in area.

Shallow sherd deposits noted on hillsides, and small ceramic offering found indicates late occupation. No sherd collection.

*Ribera de Amatal:*

On east bank of Río Santo Domingo opposite Cupía, on graded road to Julian Grajales. See plan, page 50.

Several groups of mounds, partly destroyed by present occupation. No stone masonry noted.

Ceramics indicate extensive occupation during late Pre-Classic and Late Classic. Sherds found throughout length of hiberá. No. C-3.

*Julian Grajales Road:*

About 5 km before reaching Julian Grajales.

Few small earthen mounds in area, but sherd collection made from deep road cut. Pre-Classic and later. No. C-9.

(This may be same site discussed briefly by Sorenson, 1956, p. 13, and by Shook, 1956, p. 32.)

*San Joaquín:*

Northeast half of old Hacienda Alfaro. West of Colonia Veinte de Noviembre near finca houses of Alfaro a road runs several km to Finca San Joaquín.

Numerous low mound complexes are constructed on the summits of a series of high hills, with abundant stone house foundations. Mounds formally arranged about plazas. This is site noted by Shook, 1956, p. 25.

Sherds very scarce and badly eroded.

Large mano and metate fragments abundant on surface. Probably Post-Classic.

*Acala:*

See discussion of excavations, page 25.

*Finquita San Antonio:*

About 8 km upstream from Acala on south side of Río Grijalva. No mounds noted.

Ceramics indicate late Pre-Classic and later. No. C-4.

*Finca Santa Cruz:*

Occupies base of second large goeseneck in Río Grijalva upstream from Acala. Group of large

mounds, including an acropolis structure. Mounds also located on top of 3 low hills which project finger-like into site.

Ceramics indicate late Pre-Classic and late Classic occupation. No. C-5.

*San Juan:*

Several small groups of mounds located on finca lands between Río Grijalva and road passing from Acala (Puerto México) to river ferry point of El Chalán. About 12 km upstream from Acala.

Remains of stone walls visible in mounds, and chunks of petrified wood found on surface.

Sherds rare and badly eroded, but indicate late Classic occupation. No collection.

*Finca San Luis:*

This site is situated at the third goeseneck in the Río Grijalva above Acala.

Large site, with numerous mounds, some of which have walls of roughly shaped limestone still visible. Open-end ball court.

Late Classic. Mold-made pseudo-glyp decoration suggests Tepeu 3 of the Petén Maya. No. C-6.

Stone sculpture of crude figure with crossed arms.

*Finca Amatal:*

Just upstream from El Chalán, ferry point on Río Grijalva, south side of river.

There is a group of mounds on bluff overlooking river at area of finca houses which appears to be Late or Post-Classic.

Farther upriver in road cut and in broad flat milpa lands are found abundant sherds, late Pre-Classic and late Classic or Post-Classic. No. C-7.

*Angostura:*

Finca on south side of river, below beginning of Canyon Angostura.

Few formally arranged mounds, ball-court structure, and stone house foundations indicate late Classic, but some of the badly eroded ceramics are of late Pre-Classic. No collection.

*Cerro Banquillo:*

On north side of Río Grijalva opposite Finca Angostura is tall limestone peak, on summit of which is huge mass of large shards, mostly storage jars or comales. Hard fired Late Classic wares. No. C-8.

*Cueva Guaiil Blanco:*

Upstream 2 or 3 km from Finca Angostura houses, through sheer cliffs of Canyon Angostura.

Twenty meters above river is large overhang, not visible from River. Here, in deep soil of cays floor, are found numerous human bones and large pottery fragments discarded by treasure hunters who have dug several deep pits in cave. Pottery Late Classic.

*Chachi:*

Isolated farming colonia reached by cart road from Venustiano Carranza or by truck from La Concordia.

Village is built over innumerable stone foundation lines, with Late Classic pottery abundant on surface. C-11.

On hillside behind town, away from river is large site of stone mounds called Tres Cerros. Over 100 mounds reported here. Late Classic. No. C-10.

*Finca San Francisco:*

Across Rio Grialva from Chachí are found several huge stone-filled plataform structures. No ceramics found. Probably Late is or Post-Classic.

*Paso de la Vega:*

(Formerly Paso de la Canoa.) Impoverished village on north side of river, reached from Venustiana Carranza by cart road. Like Chachí, this village built over archaeological site of considerable importance.

Sherds abundant on east side of village appear Late Pre-Classic but most of ceramics from town Late Pre-Classic. No. C-13.

On hillside away from river is extensive area of stone terraces, platforms, and mounds. Late Classic. No. C-13A. Also colonial ruins here, and reported Iglesia Vieja nearby.

*Las Maravillas:*

Finca on west of Río La Concordia, reached by horseback from La Concordia. Formally arranged group of about 90 mounds.

Sherds rare and eroded, but indicate Late or Post-Classic occupation. No collection.

*Chapatengo:*

There are two large groups of Stone-filled mounds on this finca, both lying near the Río Grijalva, north side. Sherds rare and no collection saved. Appears to be Late Classic.

This site visited by Sr. Duvalier of the Museo Regional in Tuxtla within the last two years. Also, the geologist Mulleried visited this and many of the following sites on a trip made during the

last decade as a part of the Oncocercosa survey made under the direction of Dr. Gamio.

A revisit to Chapatengo and many of the following sites is planned in order to make site maps and adequate sherd collections.

*Santa María:*

Area between finca lands of Chapatengo and Los Horcones, north of Río Grijalva. Sherd deposits scattered over terraced hill-sides. Sherds and mold-made Maya-like figurine head indicate Late Classic. No. C-15.

Isolated stone mounds in vicinity but without sherds.

*Colonia Niños Héroes:*

On south side of Rio Grijalva opposite Chapaengo. Now farming colonia.

Sherd deposits on slopces near river, and large site with many mounds having almost pure rough limestone fill. Late Classic. No. C-14.

*Guanacoste:*

Upstream from Colonia Niños Héroes to Río Aguacate.

Heavy deposit of sherds exposed for .5 km of high river bank. Late Pre-Classic in lower levels and Late Classic in upper zone. No. C-16.

Small group of mounds away from river, sherds rare, but appear late.

*Horcones:*

Finca on north side of Río Grijalva, opposite mouth of Río Aguacate.

Remains of stone foundations and low platforms under present finca buildings. Sherds indicate some Late Pre-Classic, but mostly later wares. No. C-27.

Carved stone monument said to have been removed from here and sent to Tuxtla Museum.

*San Francisco:*

Part of Horcones finca lands.

Formally arranged plaza. Ball court. See plan. Limestone walls visible.

Appears to be Late Classic. No. C-28.

*Santa Rosa:*

See description of excavations, page 29. See plan, page 56. Collection of sherds from river bank, majority Pre-Classic. No. C-17. Collection of badly eroded sherds from top of long, low hill toward finca houses away from river. These are comparable to earliest pottery types known

from Chiapas. Early Pre-Classic. No. C-18. Includes one hollow cylinder stamp fragment.

*Poblazón:*

Large site on edge of Río Grijalva. See plan, page 59. Appears Late Classic. No. C-29. Collection of sherds from nearby river bank. No. C-1P.

*Laguna Francesa:*

This is perhaps the largest archaeological site located to date on the upper Grijalva. See plan and photographs.

Principal period of construction almost surely Late Classic, but Late Pre-Classic sherds also noted in fill of several large mounds. No. C-36.

Acropolis-like mound has steep-sided pyramidal structure in which roughly shaped hard limestone blocks are still visible. Ball court structure noted, as well as pyramidal mounds.

*San Jacinto:*

Finca located opposite lands of Laguna Francesa. Several small groups of earthen mounds are scattered along old river terrace Summit. Sherd collections, Nos. C-21, C-22, and C-23 are almost pure Pre-Classic samples, both early and late. These sherds found in large quantities in apparent refuse deposits on barranca slopes near the river. Obviously heavily occupied in Pre-Classic times. This area was incompletely studied during two days, but further investigation is planned.

A ceramic sample of Late Classic date, No. C-20, was obtained from one small mound group.

*Santa Cruz:*

Small group of mounds cut by road running along north side of Río Grijalva. Collection of fine late Pre-Classic sherds obtained from mound cut, but sherds lost.

*Laguna Dolores:*

For description of excavations here and plan of site, see page 59.

Sherd collections Nos. C-24, C-25, and C-26 are all from lands of this finca, and are predominantly Pre-Classic.

A colonial church ruin is located on this property, but only portion standing is one balustrade.

*Chejel:*

Group of some 20 earthen mounds constructed on edge of old river terrace.

Sherds predominantly late Pre-Classic. No. 35.

*Buenavista:*

This finca name applied to several km of hillsides on the north side of the Río Grijalva downstream from the confluence of the Río San Miguel and Río Gregorio.

The natural slopes of this region have been extensively modified through construction of, stone-walled terraces and platforms, sometimes of great size. Also a number of small steep-sided stone-filled pyramids are located between the hills and the river.

No sherds found, but constructions almost surely of Late Classic period.

*San Felipe:*

Well-order group of mounds on hill overlooking junction of Río San Miguel and Río San Gregorio. See plan, page 59.

Ceramics and construction indicate Late Classic. No. C-32.

*San Salvador:*

Extended group of small mounds located west of the Río San Gregorio, a few km upstream from its confluence with the Río San Miguel. See plan, page 60. Sherds are Late Pre-Classic and Late Classic. No. C-33.

*Santa Emilia:*

Group of low mounds on northwest of Río San Gregorio, east of Aquespala and just west of the Guatemala frontier.

Sherds and type of construction indicate Post-Classic occupation. No. C-74.

*La Libertad:*

Very extensive group of large earthen mounds located just west of the Guatemala frontier, and north of the Río Dolores. See photograph, page 35.

Sherds indicate heavy occupation in Late Pre-Classic times, possibly running into Early Classic. No. C-75.

A small group of mounds to the west of this site appears to be entirely of Late Classic date.

This appears to be the largest and most impressive Pre-Classic ceremonial site found to date on the upper Grijalva, and the N.W.A.F. is making plans to continue investigations in this area in 1957.

*Tijú:*

West of Chicomuselo. Few mounds on surface of broad hill. Ceramics appear to be late. No. C-88.



*Mango:*

On north side of Río San Miguel or Cuilco, 1 km downstream from Amatenango de la Frontera. Large olla had been found in river bank and destroyed. Contained human bones. Shard collection from area indicates Post-Classic occupation. No. C-87.

*Valle Obregón:*

Several very low platform mounds along east side of Río Amatenango. No sherds found. Probably of Post-Classic date.

*Tierra Blanca:*

Single mound complex on hill overlooking valley of Amatanango River. Probably Post-Classic. See plan. No. C-86.

*Mojón de Mazapa:*

Similar to Tierra Blanca. See plan. No. C-34. Probably Post-Classic.

*Motozintla:*

Group of mounds 1 km across valley from town of Motozintla. See plan. Probably Post-Classic. No. C-85.

*Cerro La Campana:*

Group of earthen mounds and stone retaining walls built on summit of tall, steep hill behind Motozintla. A broad stone causeway approaches the mounds from the east. See plan.

Ceramics late, probably Post-Classic. No. C-83.

**New World Archaeological Foundation  
Excavations in Chiapas, México  
November, 1955 to October, 1956**

Test pitting and exploratory trenching were conducted at the following sites:

*Chiapa de Corzo:*

A summary of work done here in 1955 and information obtained has been published ("Summary of New World Archaeological Foundation Investigations at Chiapa de Corzo, Chiapas, 1955," by Gareth W. Lowe, *New World Archaeological Foundation Publication No. 1*, 1956). Photographs of the site and representative vessels from the burials may be seen on the following pages. For plan of the site, see page 50 of the reconnaissance report. For description of the investigation of Mound 1, see page 30. As further study is planned at Chiapa de Corzo, a detailed report will be published at the conclusion of investigations.

*Cupía:*

Only two test pits were dug in the vicinity of Cupía, which lies just southwest across the Río Grijalva from Chiapa de Corzo. See plan, page 50. A test pit dug in the area of the brickyard noted by Shook (1956, p. 25) produced Late Classic wares from top to bottom. The sherd zone is apparently a filled-in wash, with occupation areas having been located in the hills behind, away from the river. Sherds unstudied. Filed under series "B" numbers.

A second test pit was begun south of Cupía in an area called El Paredón, on the edge of the tall bank of the Río Santo Domingo. This pit was discontinued before reaching sterile soil; due to alarm of citizens who feared the collapse of the river bank. Sherds unstudied. Filed under series "B" numbers.

*Acala:*

See Shook, 1956, pp. 26-30, and Sorenson, 1956, p. 13, for description of this site. In January and February of 1956, the N.W.A.F. made a series of test excavations in the vicinity of the town of Acala and on the opposite side of the river in the area Puerto México in accordance with the suggestions made by E. M. Shook on the basis of his 1955 visit.

Test pits were dug to sterile soil on the upstream and downstream sides of Acala, and another was sunk in the yard of the Foundation quarters in about the center of town. These pits produced almost entirely Pre-Classic pottery, and each encountered sterile deposits at about the 2.5 m. level. In addition, some pottery and jade offerings from Pre-Classic burials were reported from other town yards. Nevertheless, Dr. Berlin thought it unwise to pursue excavations in the town proper, and concentrated efforts on a late site on the south or Puerto México side of the river which was located on abandoned milpa land away from any populated area. Investigations of the Puerto México site indicate it was constructed in Late or Post-Classic times, although little distinctive ceramics were recovered. The accompanying site plan indicates structural forms determined by excavation. Mound construction was primarily of packed earth or adobe walls and mound fill, with thin surface caps of lime stucco. Stucco surfaces were in some cases painted red, and one example of a floor design painted in red was found. See photograph. Stone retaining walls were also utilized.

The site had successive reconstructions, with a final occupation utilizing much small stone fill, the remains of which are seen on the surface of the site.

All excavation pits or trenches made in the Acala region were backfilled and the areas left in their original state. Sherd lots from the Acala excavations bear

“D” series numbers. A detailed report of the work at Acala will be prepared in the coming year.

#### *Laguna Dolores:*

The N.W.A.F. spent about one week test pitting a small Pre-Classic mound site located in the Potrero de los Tres Cerritos of the Finca Laguna Dolores. This area is reached from Comitán over a difficult 4 hour truck road which leaves the Pan-American highway at Santa Inez.

The site is located on the edge of an old terrace bank, about 1 km from the Río Grijalva. See site plan, page 58.

It was planned that a camp at this site should serve as a base for completing a survey of the adjacent area, a region which appeared to be of great importance for Pre-Classic studies.

Acting under the specific instructions of Director Berlin, the Assistant Director had established a good field camp on the river near this site, and had moved in supplies and men and had work under way on the site. Dr. Berlin, upon arrival, chose to find field conditions and the continuation of the already extended field season unacceptable to himself, and within three days closed down the excavations. Test pits were filled in, prior to completion in several cases, and the season closed.

Cursory examination of the ceramics from the Tres Cerritos site indicate the large mounds to be Pre-Classic structures. Although no pits were made in the mounds themselves, pits in the vicinity produced no ceramics of any period surely later than the Pre-Classic. A detailed comparative study of the Laguna Dolores ceramics will be made in the coming year. Sherd lots bear “E” series numbers.

#### *Santa Rosa:*

Having secured permission from Arq. Marquina for the continuation of its field investigations under the direction of Gareth W. Lowe, the N.W.A.F. conducted in May a brief two weeks of test pitting at a large Pre-Classic site on the Finca Santa Rosa. See plan of zone for location and nature of site.

In a specific attempt to determine their period of construction, test pits were sunk on the summits of four of the largest mounds on the site. The early arrival of the seasonal rains prevented completion of these pits to mound base. A fortunate discovery of a cache of Pre-Classic period vessels just below the surface of one of the largest mounds, an earthen structure over 12 m. high, confirms that large structures were being erected on the upper Grijalva in Pre-Classic times, probably

on a level equal to the general Miraflores horizon in central Guatemala. See photos of cache vessels.

Architectural details recovered show that the occupants of Santa Rosa built stepped platform structures of adobe, faced with smoothed mud surfaces, apparently much the same technique as was used in central Guatemala in Pre-Classic times.

Ceramics from at least one test pit show a succession of pottery types which conform, to the sequence established at Chiapa de Corzo. Sherd lots bear series “F” numbers. A detailed report of the Santa Rosa investigations, with ceramic studies, will be prepared in the coming year.

Assisting in the test pitting of Santa Rosa were archaeology students Bruce W. Warren, Richard Madison, Lorenzo Allen, and James Gillings, under direction of Gareth Lowe.

#### *Mound Chiapa de Corzo:*

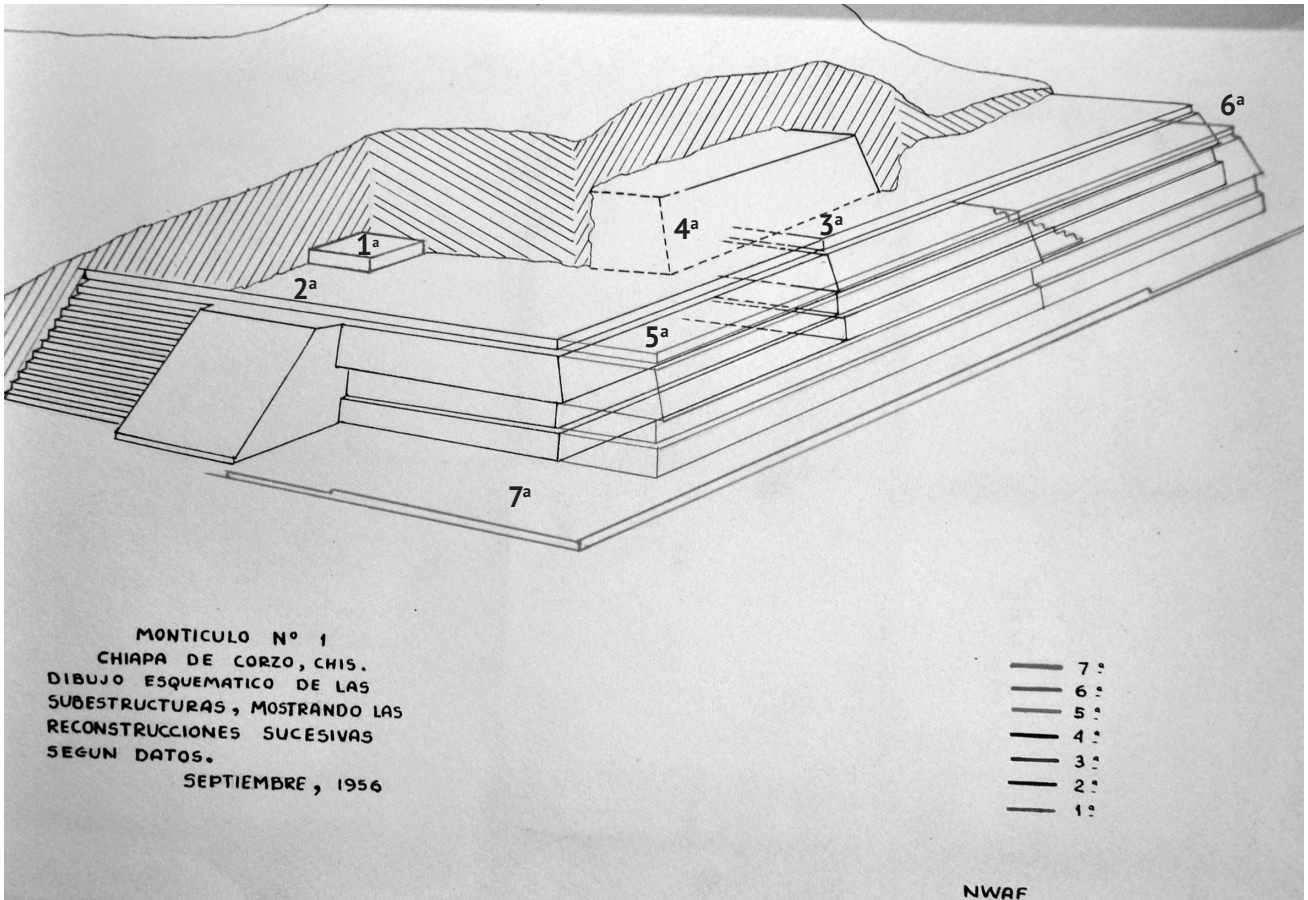
Taking advantage of an extremely dry canicula, the N.W.A.F. re-commenced its investigation of Mound 1 at Chiapa de Corzo, working, through August and September of 1956. Excavations made in this mound in December, 1955, had shown it to have undergone at least four rebuildings, each utilizing cut stone walls. Pottery from the fill of the structure appeared to be almost entirely Pre-Classic, but a few types found in surface lots suggested an early Classic occupation. Further excavation of the structure was made to determine its period of construction, function, and architectural history.

Only the western of the mound was excavated since it was not under cultivation. The 1956 work was successful, however, in locating the stairway and balustrade of the principal platform, thus establishing the form of that structure. Additional architectural details discovered are generalized in the accompanying diagram. No investigations have yet been made within the central pyramidal structure, and it is possible that other constructions are contained within it.

Intrusive caches of pottery in the surface levels of the mound appear to be of Classic date. See photos. Further study of the mound and its ceramic contents is expected to result in a published article in the coming year.

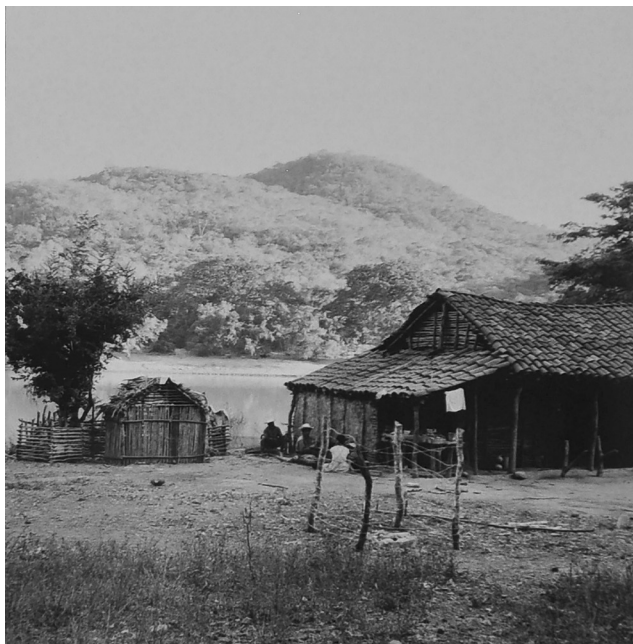
It is planned that exposed structures in Mound I will be consolidated and left open to public view.

Participating in the Mound 1 excavations were students Lorenzo Allen and Bruce W. Warren, and topographer Eduardo Martínez E., with Gareth W. Lowe as director. Thirty-five workmen from the local area were employed during the period of work.

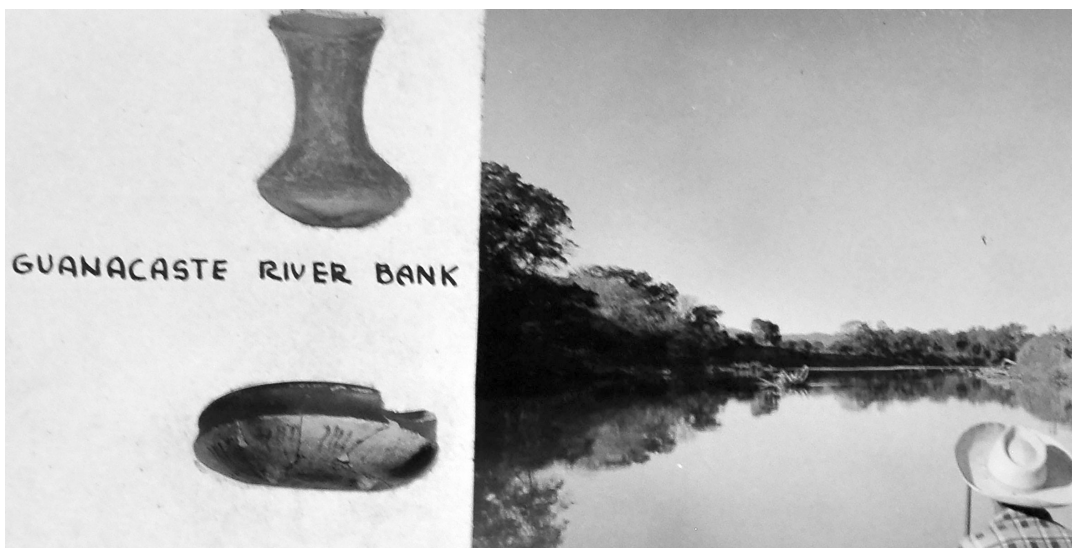


\*Nota del editor: Los números sobre el dibujo fueron agregados en esta edición para ayudar al lector a identificar las etapas.





Angostura Cerro Boquillo.



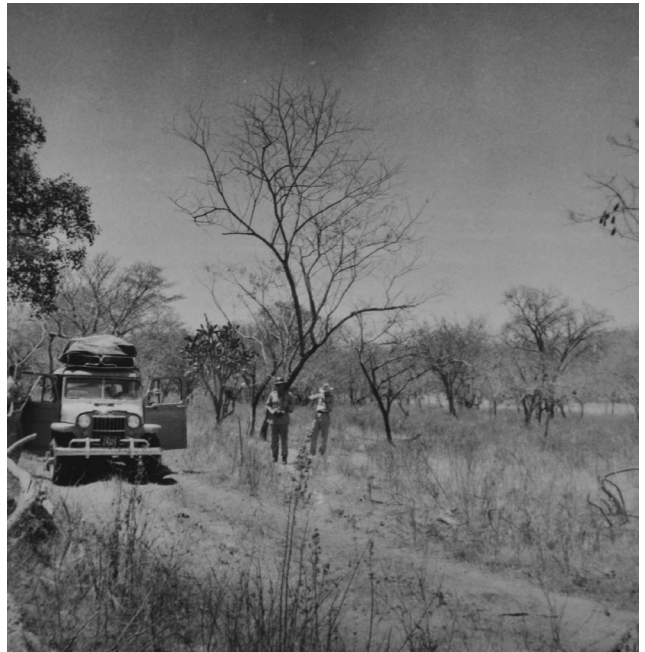
Laguna Francesa.



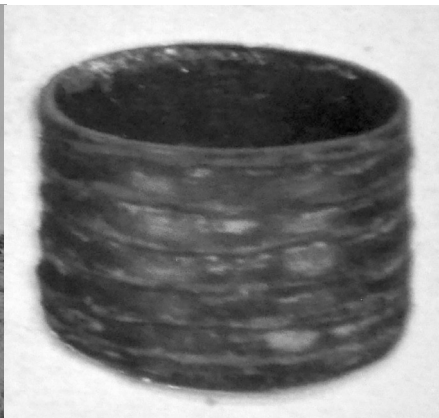
Santa Rosa Mounds, Looking West.



Guatemala Frontier End of Pan-American.



North of River Grijalva.



La Libertad.



Late Classic Figurines, Upper Grijalva.



Upper Grijalva.



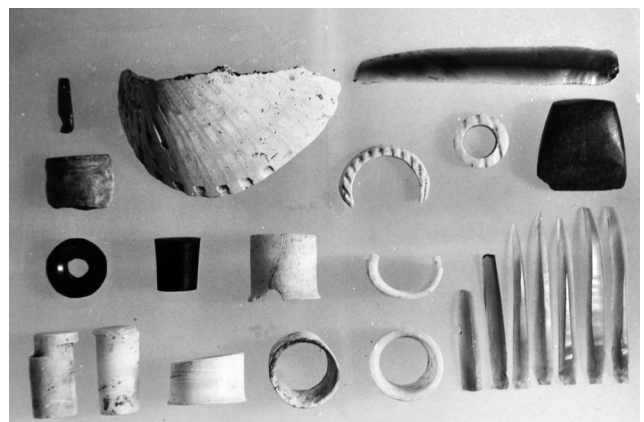
Mound 1, Chiapa de Corzo.



Pre-Classic Figurines, Chiapa de Corzo.



Satmps Chiapa de Corzo and Santa Rosa.



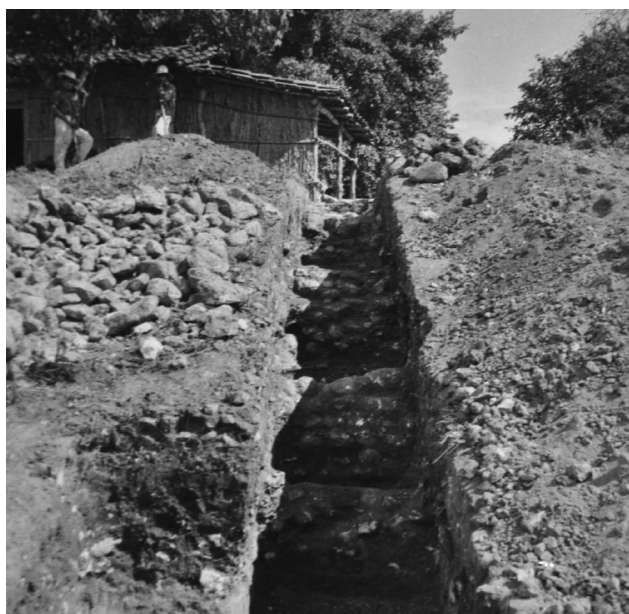
Bone and Sell Implements, Chiapa de Corzo and Acala.



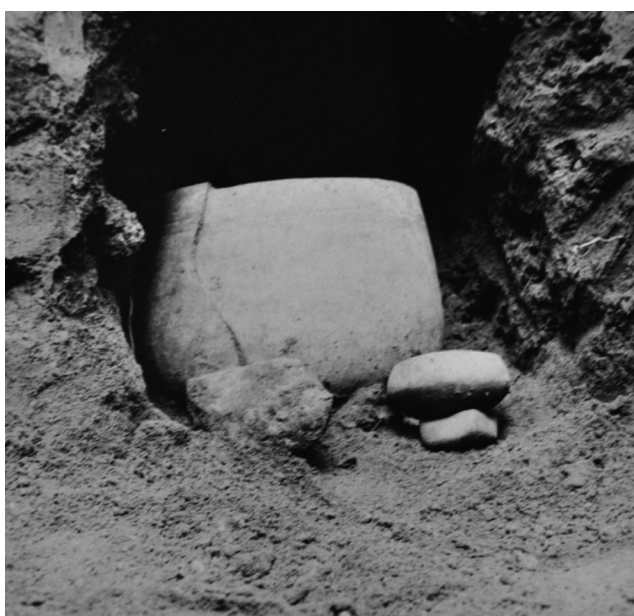
Chorotegan Ware (?), Chiapa de Corzo.



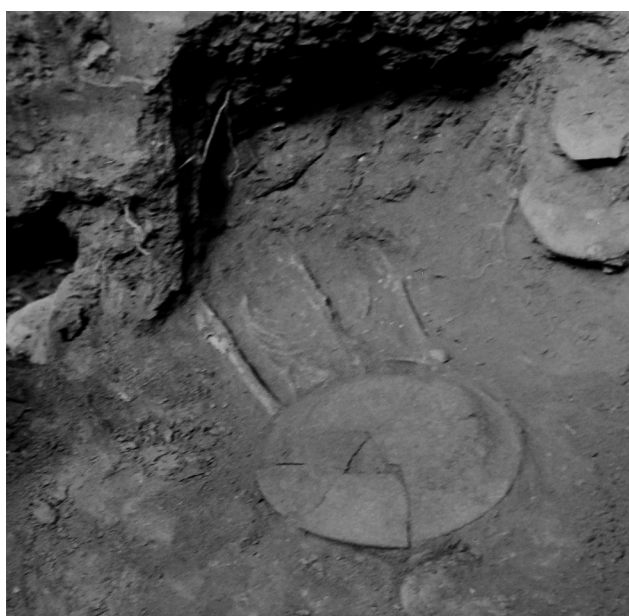
View before Excavation.



Excavate Trench.

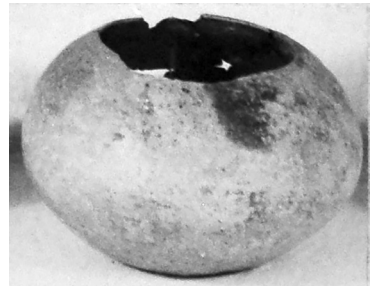
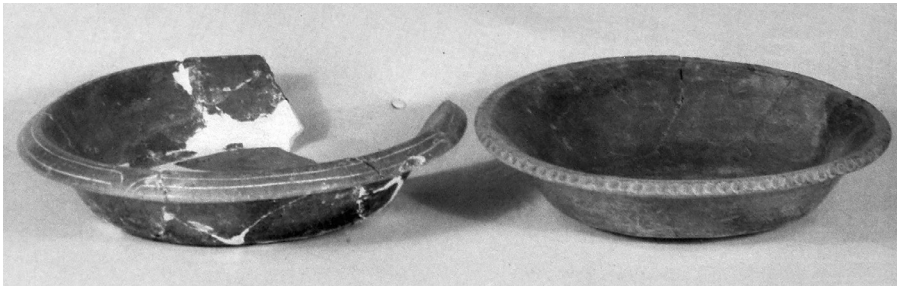


Burial 5 Offerings.



Burial 3.





Chiapa de Corzo, Burial Wars.



Offering.



Burial.



Earliest Wares.



Offering.





Fireplace, Filled with Ashes, Puerto México, Structure K-Sub, (Ruiz Site).



Floor Painting.



Mound A (Background), Mound B (Foreground).



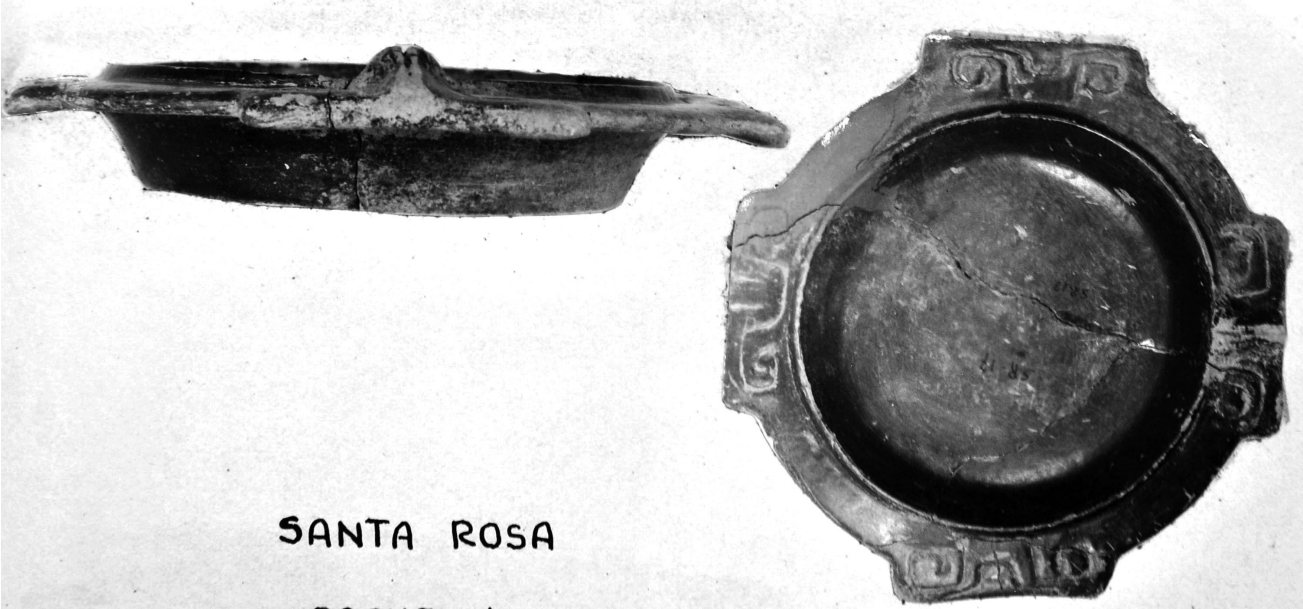
View From Mound 5, Looking Southwest.



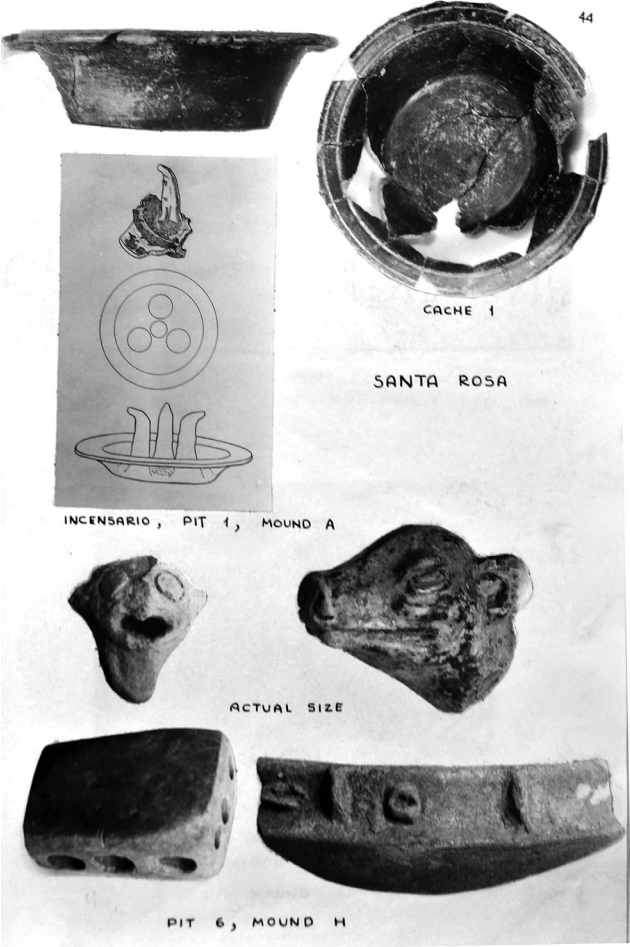
Pit 4, Mound B poor Plaster Floor.



Pit 1, Mound A, Face Of Earthen, Platform. Santa Rosa.



Santa Rosa, Cache 1, Mound 5.





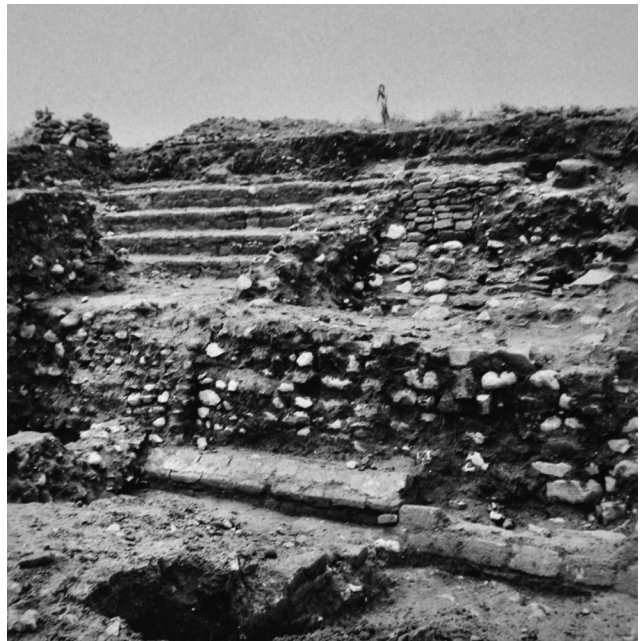
Before Excavation, Looking Southwest, Nov, 1965.



Trench 3, Wall C, Dec. 1955.



Northwest Corner, Dec., 1965, Chiapa de Corzo, Mound 1.



Central Stairway, Showing Base of Balustrade, Superimposed Retaining Walls.



West Side. Wall A, Right Wall B, Left. Looking South.



West End, Beginning of Excavations, Looking North.



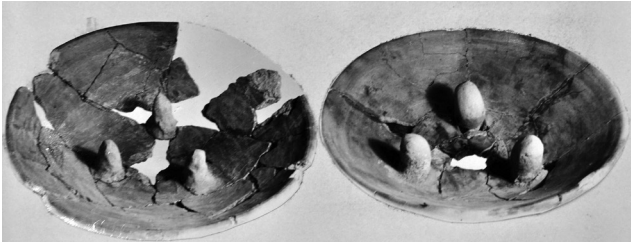
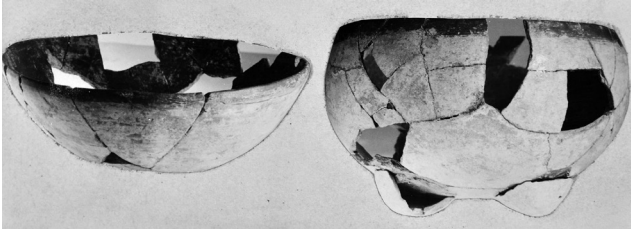
Structure D Showing Cache in Foreground, Looking South.  
Chiapa de Corzo, Mound 1, Sep. 1956.



Mound 1, Surface Caches, Chiapa de Corzo.



Mound 1, Outside Outer Structure.



Mound 1, Surface Caches, Chiapa de Corzo.



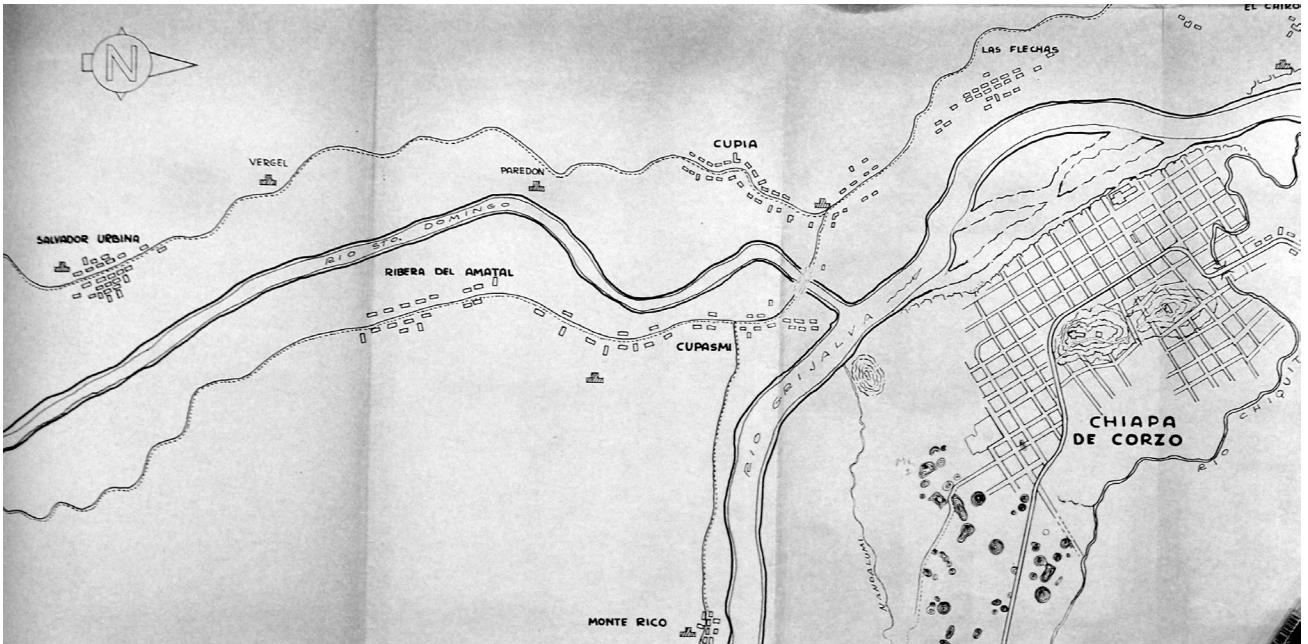
Northwest Corner.



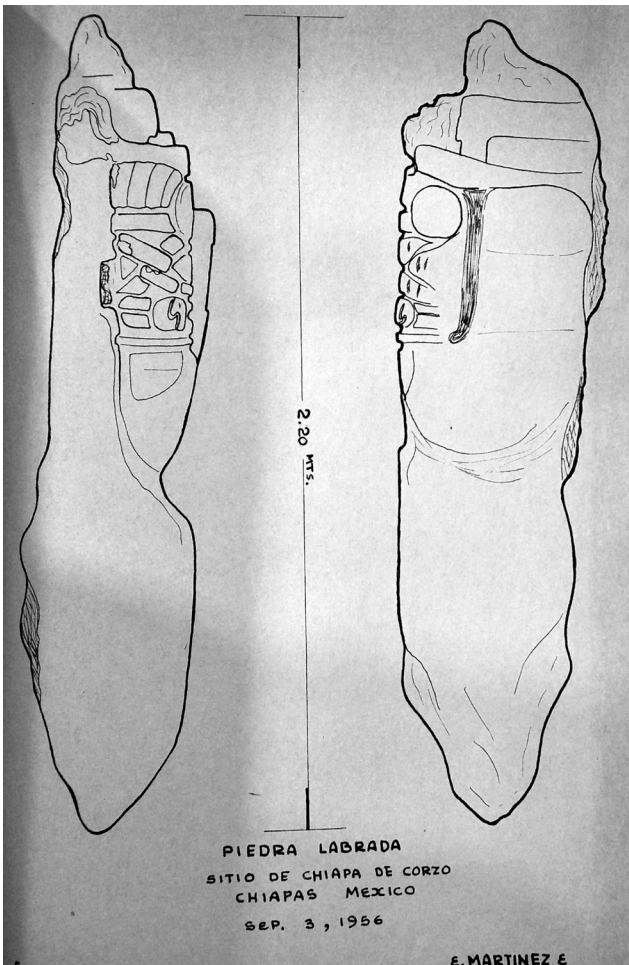
West Side Structure C, Stairway B.



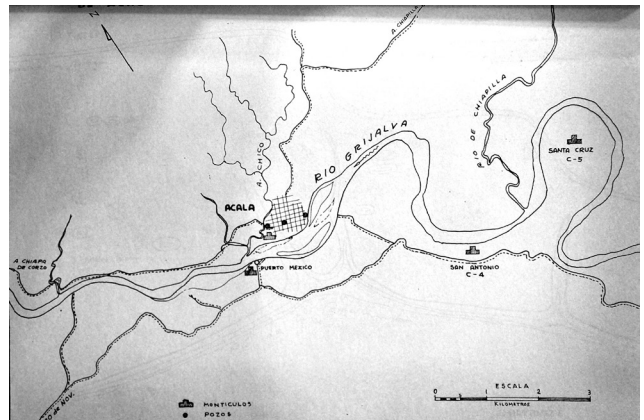
Southwest Corner Structure C, Chiapa de Corzo, Mound 1, Sep., 1956.



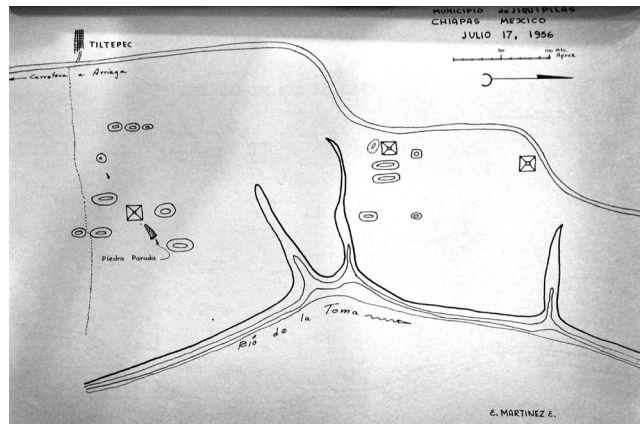
Zona Arqueologica de Chiapa de Corzo.



Piedra Labrada, sitio de Chiapa de Corzo, Chiapas, México, sep. 3, 1986.

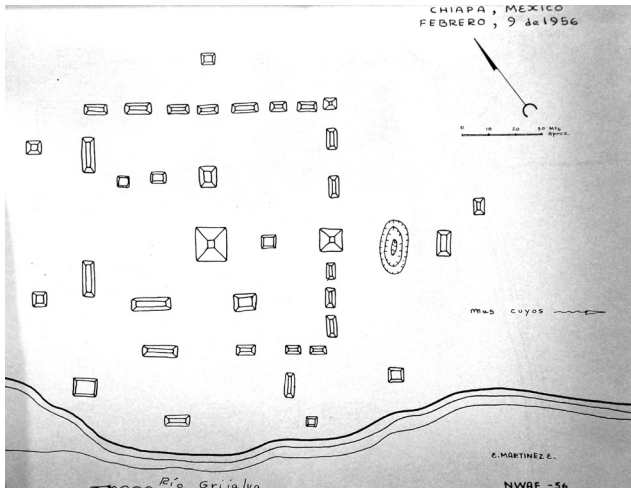


Zona Arqueológica de Acala.

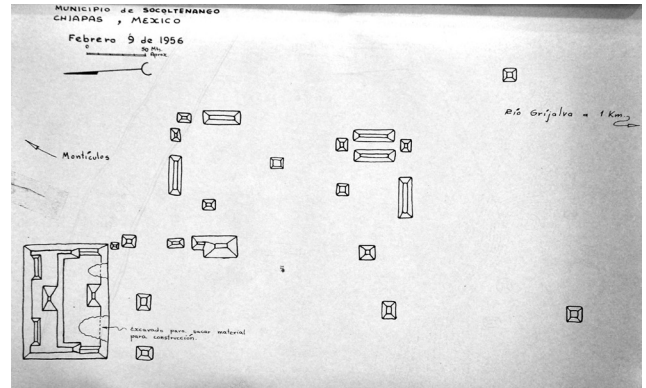


Municipio de Jiquipilas, Chiapas, México, julio 17, 1986.

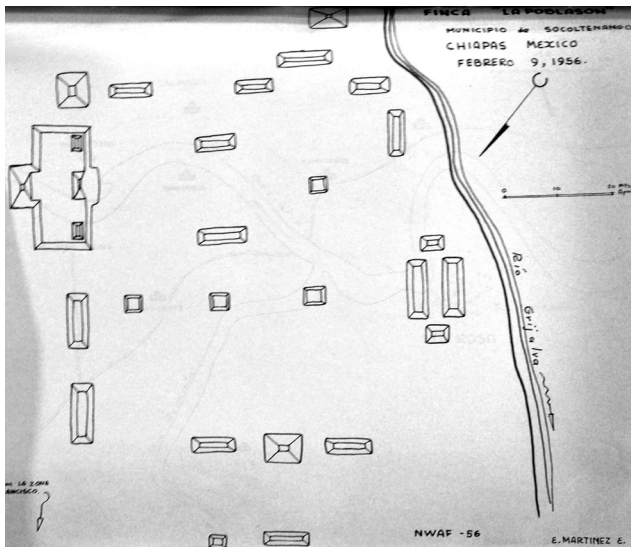




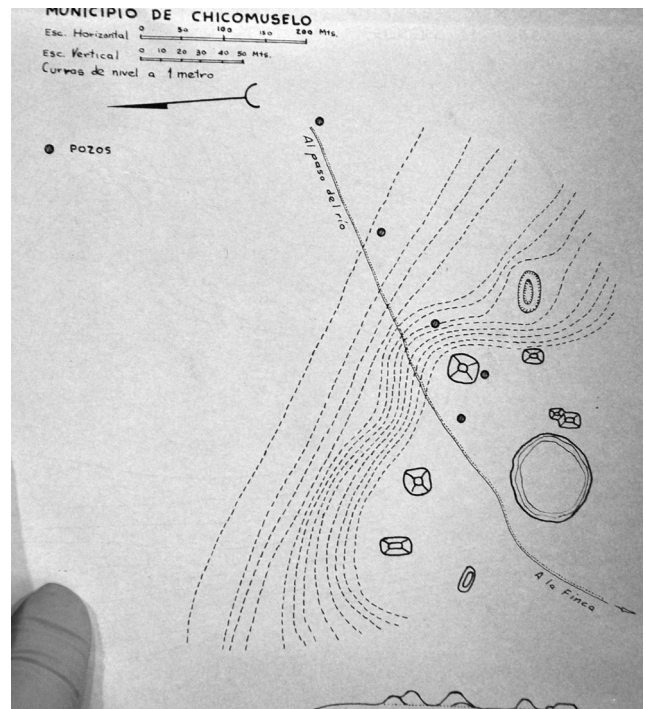
Finca San Francisco, municipio de Socoltenango, Chiapas, México, febrero 9 de 1956.



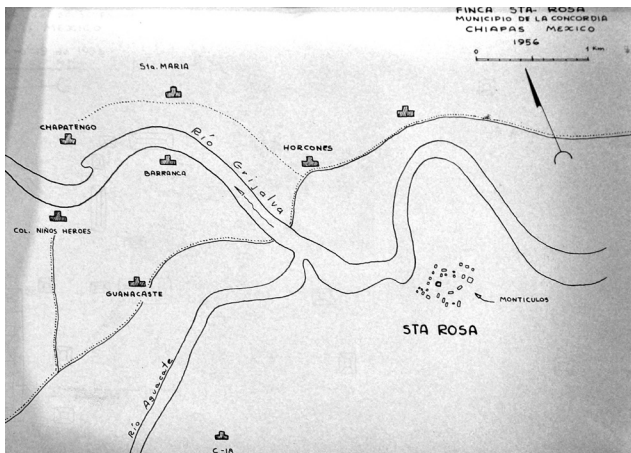
Finca Laguna Francesa, municipio de Socoltenango, Chiapas, México, febrero 9 de 1956.



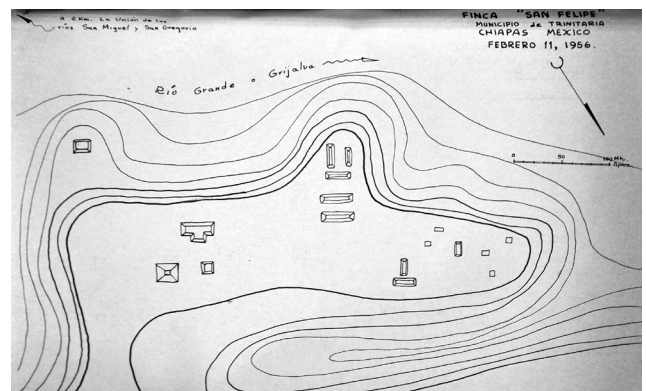
Finca La Población, municipio de Socoltenango, Chiapas, México, febrero 9, 1956.



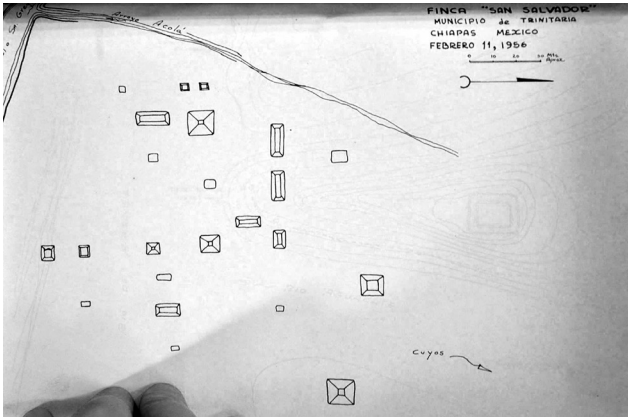
Zona Potrero Tres Cerritos, finca Laguna Dolores, municipio de Chicomuselo.



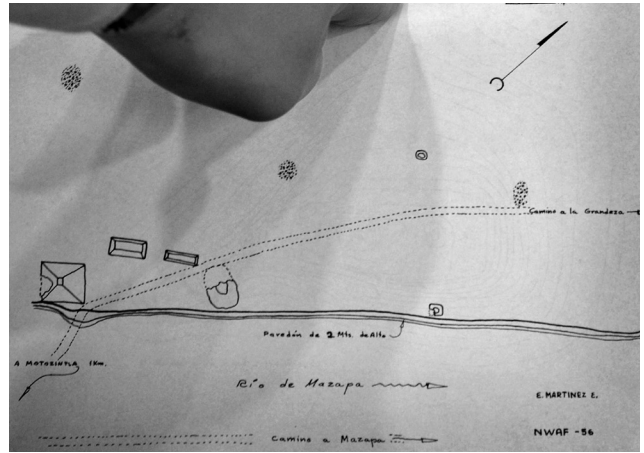
Localizacion finca Santa Rosa, municipio La Concordia, Chiapas, México, 1956.



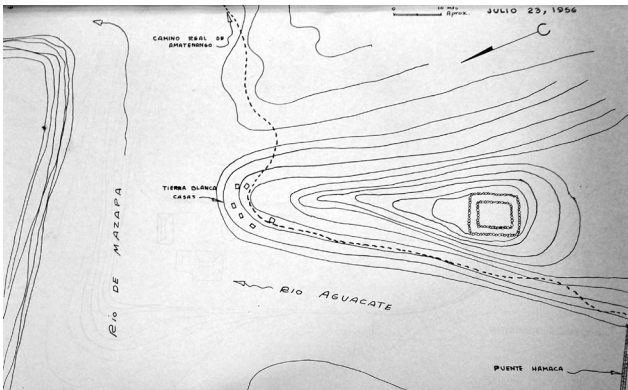
Finca San Felipe, municipio de La Trinitaria, Chiapas, México, febrero 11, 1956.



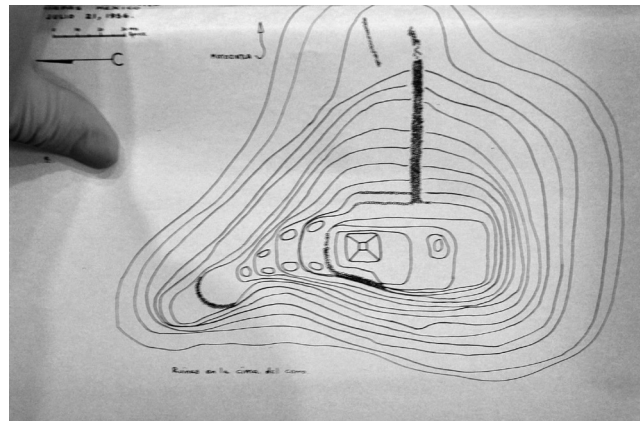
Finca San Salvador, municipio de La Trinitaria, Chiapas, México, febrero 11, 1986.



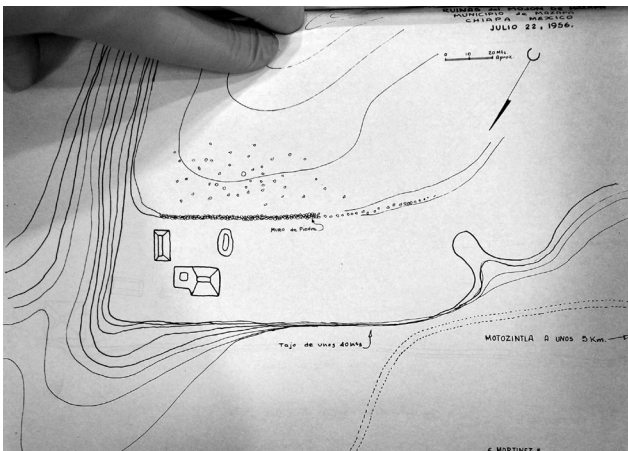
Ruinas de Motozintla, municipio de Motozintla Chiapas, México, julio 22, 1956



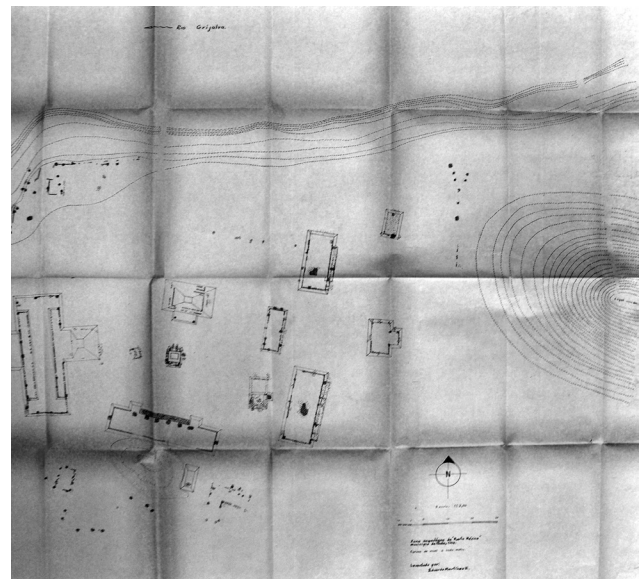
Ruinas de Tierra Blanca, municipio de Mazapa, Chiapas, México, julio 23, 1956.



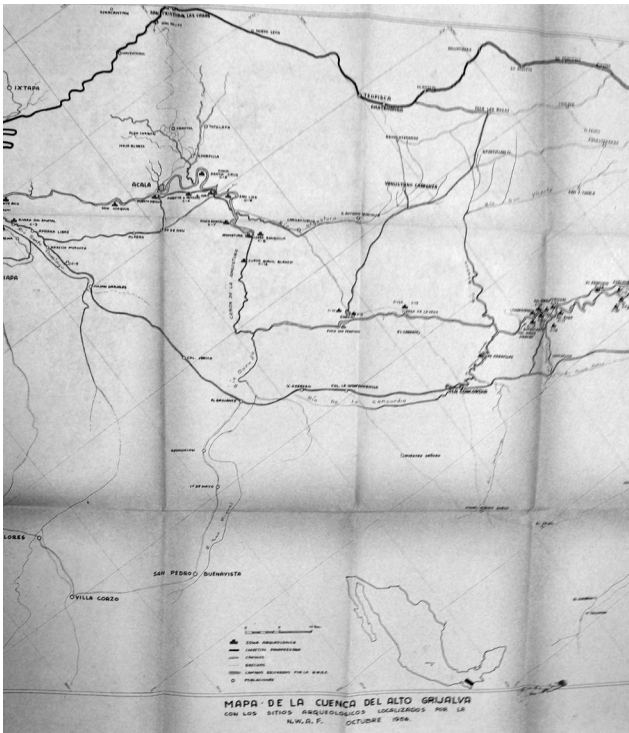
Cerro de la Campana, municipio de Motozintla, Chiapas, México, julio 21, 1956.



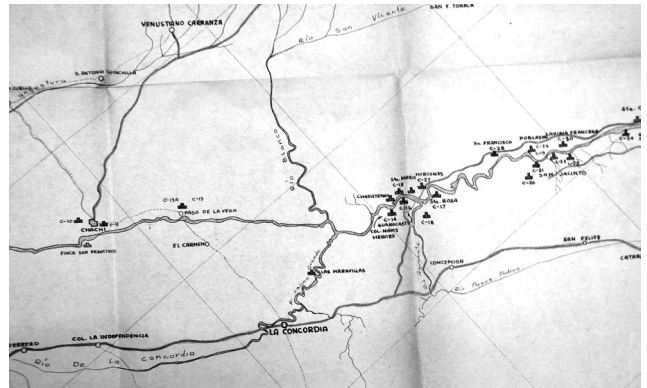
Ruinas del Mojón de Mazapa, municipio de Mazapa, Chiapas, México, julio 22, 1956.



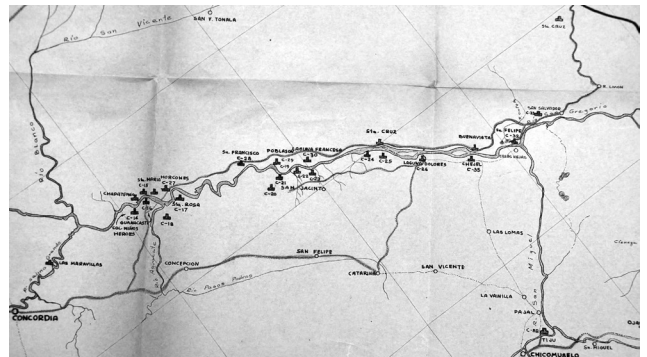
Zona arqueológica de "Puerto México", municipio de Acala, Chiapas.



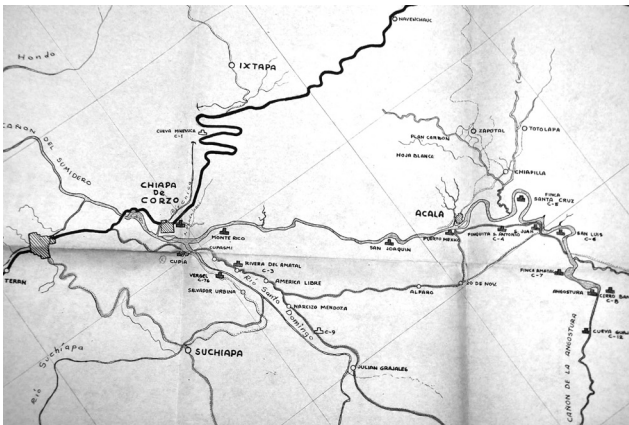
Mapa de la Cuenca del Alto Grijalva.



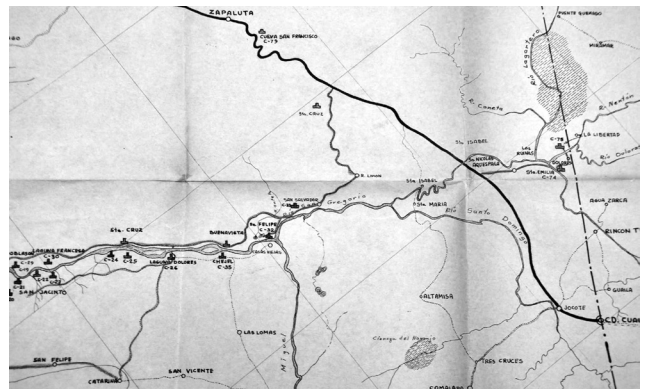
Detalle del mapa de la cuenca del Alto Grijalva.



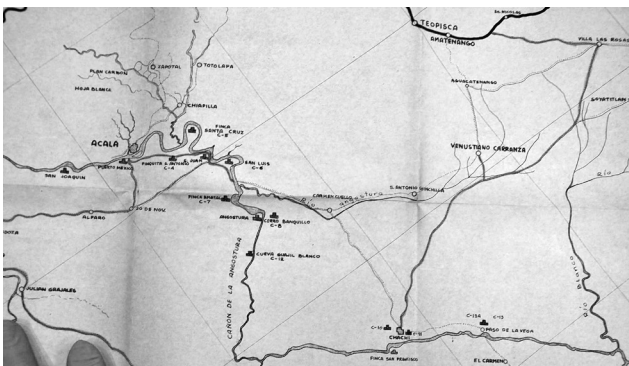
Detalle del mapa de la cuenca del Alto Grijalva.



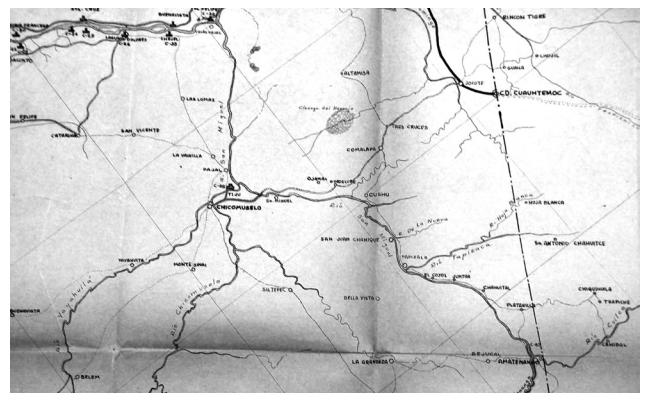
Detalle del mapa de la cuenca del Alto Grijalva.



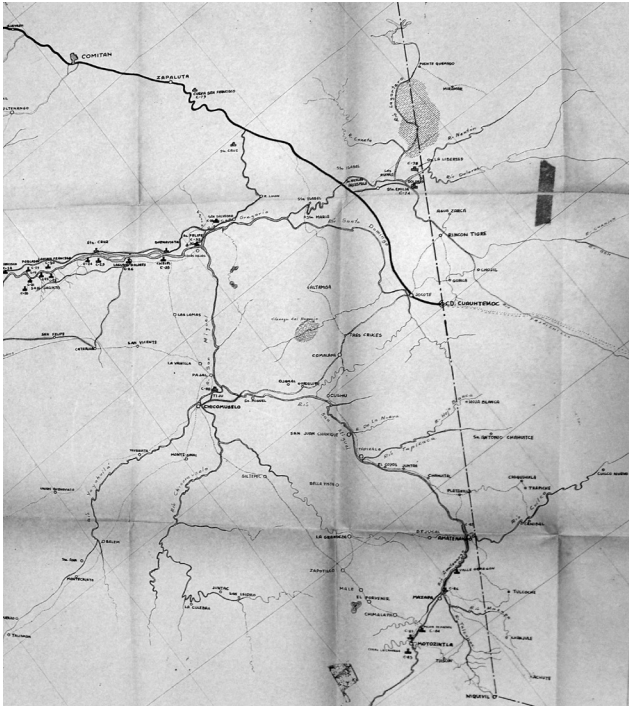
Detalle del mapa de la cuenca del Alto Grijalva.



Detalle del mapa de la cuenca del Alto Grijalva.



Detalle de la cuenca del Alto Grijalva.



Detalle del mapa de la cuenca del Alto Grijalva.

**NEW WORLD ARCHAEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION**  
NO. 1 IRVING LANE, ORINDA, CALIFORNIA

STATEMENTS OF SALES RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 1, 1955, TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1955

	4/1/55 TO 9/30/55	10/1/55 TO 9/25/56	TOTAL
<b>AMOUNT ON HAND - BEGINNING OF THE PERIOD</b> .....	\$ 149.83	\$ 4,155.38	\$ 4,305.21
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>			
Contributions from various sources.....	300.00	200.00	500.00
Special contributions - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.....	18,000.00	18,000.00	36,000.00
Grants to finance cost of field work.....	1,450.00	1,450.00	2,900.00
Points advanced to field staff on bank of institution of credit.....	3,100.00	3,100.00	6,200.00
<b>TOTAL SALES AVAILABLE FOR DISBURSEMENTS</b> .....	\$18,849.83	\$23,905.00	\$42,754.83
<b>DISBURSEMENTS:</b>			
Salaries incurred in connection with field operations in Mexico.....	\$ 300.00	\$11,949.75	\$12,249.75
Less Schedule I allowance.....	14.00	2,875.00	2,989.00
Travel, including paper, mileage, tips, meals, telephone, repairs, utility, etc.....	984.35	3,200.00	4,184.35
Tools and expendable materials.....	42.90	597.90	640.80
Supplies.....	98.00	900.18	998.18
Postage and telegrams.....	8.51	14.20	22.71
Printing.....	87.32	1,450.00	1,537.32
Books purchased for field work.....	4.00	2.00	6.00
Repairs and maintenance.....	16.70	11.00	27.70
Transportation.....	20.00	80.00	100.00
Cost of printing and mailing Publications #1.....	1,079.05	12,133.55	13,212.60
Equipment (see Schedule I allowance).....	1,000.00	2,000.00	3,000.00
Travel in connection with administration.....	17.00	200.00	217.00
Telephone, books, and office supplies.....	8.48	400.00	408.48
Supplies.....	31.00	200.00	231.00
Postage.....	5.00	11.20	16.20
Printing.....	20.00	200.00	220.00
Transportation.....	10.00	100.00	110.00
Repairs and maintenance.....	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
Management of loans.....	3,100.00	3,100.00	6,200.00
Points advanced to field staff members to defray expenses incurred in Mexico (amount reported elsewhere herefor as of the close of the period).....	3,100.00	3,100.00	6,200.00
Gareth W. Lowe.....	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	\$18,849.83	\$23,905.00	\$42,754.83
<b>AMOUNT ON HAND - END OF THE PERIOD</b> .....	\$ 149.83	\$ 4,155.38	\$ 4,305.21

Checks in the field as of August 31, 1956, to cover September expenses and provide minimum field working fund.

**NEW WORLD ARCHAEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION**  
NO. 1 IRVING LANE, ORINDA, CALIFORNIA

**SALARIES OF ARCHAEOLOGISTS AND ASSISTANTS**

	4/1/55 TO 9/30/55	10/1/55 TO 9/25/56	TOTAL
Heinrich Berlin.....		\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Gareth W. Lowe.....	\$ 300.00	4,266.67	4,566.67
Pierre Agrinier.....		20.00	20.00
Lorenzo Allen.....		1,003.33	1,003.33
Keith A. Dixon.....		400.00	400.00
Jim Gillings.....		290.00	290.00
Dick Madison.....		353.33	353.33
Edward Martinez.....		641.42	641.42
Bruce Warren.....		1,975.00	1,975.00
<b>Total</b> .....	\$ 300.00	\$10,949.75	\$11,249.75
Less Federal income tax withheld payable to the Internal Revenue Service.....		200.00	200.00
<b>BALANCE</b> .....	\$ 300.00	\$10,749.75	\$11,049.75