

**CONTRIBUTIONS
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH FACILITY**

Number 16

October, 1972

**STUDIES IN THE ARCHAEOLOGY
OF MEXICO AND GUATEMALA**

Edited by John A. Graham

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA**

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Department of Anthropology

Berkeley

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PREFACE

With the present volume, a total of 16 numbers of the Contributions of the University of California Archaeological Research Facility have appeared during the eight years since the series was inaugurated in 1965. The first volume was Sources of Stone Used in Prehistoric Mesoamerican Sites, but subsequent volumes have alternated somewhat irregularly between Mexican and Central American archaeology on the one hand, California and Great Basin archaeology on the other, an aim set forth in the editorial announcement of the series's founding. Originally, Contributions were distributed upon a gratis basis. But severe budgetary reductions imposed upon the Facility required that a modest charge be made for subsequent numbers, and it has been the proceeds from these sales that have been a major factor enabling the Facility to maintain publication in these difficult times. Most past numbers of the Contributions have become out-of-print shortly after appearance, perhaps an indication of their success.

The first volume of the Contributions contained two papers exploring the feasibility and potentials of x-ray fluorescence analysis in the identification of obsidian types and their sources, one line of investigation that has continued to be pursued and refined through subsequent numbers of the series into the present volume. Two symposia have seen the light of publication in the Contributions: "The Emergence of Civilization in Mesoamerica," organized by R. F. Heizer and J. A. Graham and held at Burg Wartenstein, Austria, in July of 1970 under sponsorship of the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research (Contribution 11), and "The Application of the Physical Sciences to Archaeology" (Contribution 12), a symposium held on June 23, 1970 under the auspices of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the California Section of the American Chemical Society, and the San Francisco Society of the Archaeological Institute of America. Although most of the papers appearing in the Contributions series have been authored by associates and students working in the Archaeological Research Facility, it has been possible at times to include important papers prepared by colleagues at other institutions, as in the case of the present volume.

With the exception of the two papers on trace-element analyses of obsidian samples from Cholula and Veracruz, the present volume of studies is devoted entirely to Maya archaeology. The collection represents a geographical range extending from the Huastec Maya zone in San Luis Potosi to the Guatemalan highlands and Honduras and embraces a temporal range from earliest levels to the ethnohistoric period as well as including a review of methods of recording Maya sculpture in the modern epoch of study and research.

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