

THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE EMBLEM GLYPH OF YAXHA, EL PETEN

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This note reports the identification of the emblem glyph of Yaxha, a Classic Maya site in the eastern Peten. The variable element is T743: the "water group" prefix, at the site and elsewhere, is normally T16. There are eight certain examples of the glyph at Yaxha itself, listed in Table 1 and illustrated in the same order in Figure 1, a-h. The emblem occurs at Yaxha on every stela having a glyphic text, while no other glyph with emblem prefixes occurs on any.

Figure 1, i-t, illustrates occurrences of T743 with at least one emblem prefix at other sites and in the same order as the listing in Table 2.

The creature which is represented by T743 has been identified by Spinden as a macaw and by Thompson and most others as a turtle (Thompson 1950: 116; 1962: 325). In the inscriptions it is surely a bird of some sort. The only two certain full-figure representations I have noted are illustrated in Figure 1, u-v. The first shows a wing; the second has an anthropomorphised body, with feathers attached at its back. A possible third full-figure example at Copan, not illustrated here, also portrays a bird (Maudslay 1889-1902, I: Plate 96).

TABLE 1

| Stela No. | Glyph Block | Configuration | Figure 1 |
|-----------|-------------|---------------------------|----------|
| 1 | A2 | 16.743 ^a | a |
| 2 | C1 | 16.743 ^a | b |
| 6 | B12 | 16.(168:743) ^b | c |
| | D6 | 16.(168:743) | d |
| | D11 | 168(16.743) ^c | e |
| 7 | A10 | 16.(168:743) | f |
| 13 | A7 | 16.(168:743) | g |
| 31 | G7 | ?.(168:743) | h |

Notes:

a. Absence of T168 is noted fairly often for other emblem glyphs in Thompson's Catalog.

b. This follows Palenque emblem 793a, without affixes, at B11.

c. This may be a scribal error; but see Figure 1, i.

TABLE 2

| Text | Glyph Block | Configuration | Figure 1 | Drawn After |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|----------|---|
| Palenque: House C, base | G3 | 168:(?.743) | i | Maudslay 1889-1902, Vol. 4: Plate 22 |
| Pomona: Tablet X | C4 | (101:528af).(168:743) | j | Lizardi 1963: Plate 6 |
| Yaxchilan: Lintel 10 | E3 | 16:168:743:130 | k | Maler 1903: Plate 54 |
| Kuna-Lacanha: Lintel 1 | D4 | 168:(743.130?) | l | Coe and Benson 1966: Figure 9 |
| Tikal: Lintel 3 | B4 | 16.743 | m | Thompson 1950: Figure 52, 1 |
| Naranjo: Stela 23 | E11 | 16.(168:743) | n | Maler 1908: Plate 37 |
| Stela 12 | F20 | 16.(168:743) | o | Maler 1908: Plate 38 |
| | A10 | 16.743 | p | Maler 1908: Plate 31 |
| | B11 | 16.743 | q | |
| | D8 | 16.743 | r | |
| Grolier exhibit: Vase 47 | F' | 16.(168:743) | s | Coe 1973: 103 |
| Vase 52 | F | 168:743 | t | Coe 1973: 112 |

Thompson (1962: 324) also lists occurrences without affix at Uxactun (three times), Copan, Mountain Cow, and possibly Piedras Negras; Coe lists one on Vase 47. Except for the Tzakol 3 Vase 52, all the above occurrences are Late Classic. In contrast, at Yaxha itself, the occurrences are on both Early Classic and Late Classic monuments.

TABLE 3

| Source of Full-Figure Glyph | Figure 1 | Drawn After |
|-------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| Machaquila: Structure 4, Stone F | u | Graham 1967: Figures 38, 39 |
| Tikal: Burial 116, incised bone | v | Triak 1963: Figure 3a |

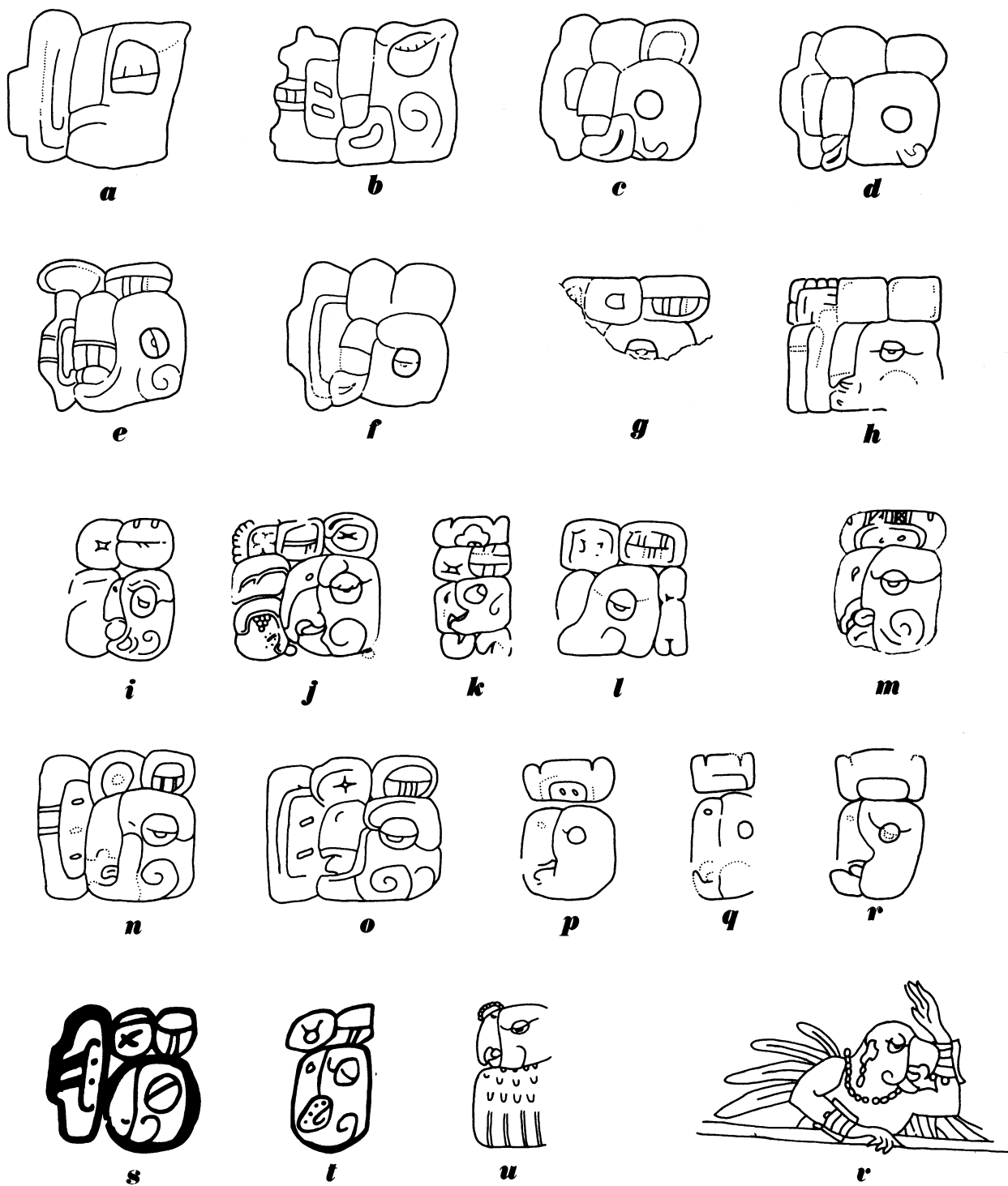


FIGURE 1: a-h, Yaxha; i, Palenque; j, Pomona; k, Yaxchilan; l, Kuna-Lacanha; m, Tikal; n-r, Naranjo; s-t, vases of uncertain source; u, Machaquila; v, Tikal. Cf. Tables 1-3.

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