

OLD CHICHÉN ITZÁ

TEMPLE OF THE TWO LINTELS
TEMPLE OF THE FOUR LINTELS
TEMPLE OF THE ATLANTIC COLUMNS
TEMPLE OF THE INITIAL INSCRIPTION

(map)

TEMPLE OF THE TWO LINTELS

OLD CHICHÉN ITZÁ

The city of Chichén Itzá covered an area of approximately two square miles which has been divided into the three designated areas of Old, Middle, and North Chichén Itzá. The four major temples of Old Chichén Itzá which have been made available to the visitor, lie two or more miles south of the Temple of Kukulcán, the focal point today of the entire region.

The most beautiful building in Old Chichén Itzá, in fact one of the most beautiful to be found anywhere, is the Temple of the Two Lintels, so named as only two of the original lintels were found in the pile of tumbled stone from which the temple was rebuilt. Only one small segment of the rear wall was still standing, but it was sufficient to give archaeologist Dr. Paul S. Martin, of the Natural History Museum of Chicago, the key to the design. With this for a guide he found in many instances that stones bearing the marks of the original mortar fit perfectly into place. The exquisite lattice ornamentation is unique in all architectural design. It is composed of individual X shaped stones pieced together into a mosaic; the great masks of Itzamna which form the corners of the cornice are fine examples of the stylized decoration.

These latticed panels, mosaics of X shaped stones, alternate with groups of four engaged columns. The great masks of Itzamna* which form the corners are fine examples of the stylized decoration used by the Maya in both Old and New Empire times.

* See LAHman

~~used by the Maya in both Old and New Empire times.~~

The Temples of the Four Lintels and of the Atlantean Columns have been only partially restored or excavated, but are none the less interesting for what has been revealed. The most important temple in Old Chichén Itzá is the Temple of the Initial ^{Latin} Inscription which bears the only certain date yet discovered in the Chichén Itzá area; A. D. 879 according to the chronology most generally accepted. Today, only this one lintel stands. It has been partially rebuilt from the remaining elements which had fallen to the platform. There are other known buildings in Old Chichén Itzá still buried in the jungle-bush, and it is hoped that someday these, too, will be rebuilt to add to this group of temples ^{erected} built during the close of the Old Empire period.

EAST CORNER: TEMPLE OF THE TWO LINTELS

TEMPLE OF THE TWO LINTELS

Condensation

WEST CORNER: TEMPLE OF THE TWO LINTELS

HAS CONTENT

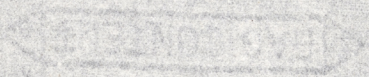
Dyppwell Bond

MASK OF ITZAMNA, THE SKY GOD

ALL CONTENT

Hyperwell Bond

TEMPLE OF THE FOUR LINTELS



Chippendale Bond

TEMPLE OF THE INTERIOR ATLANTIC COLUMNS

ATLANTIC COLUMN IN PORTAL AT OLD CHICHÉN ITZÁ

REPRODUCED FROM
THE ORIGINAL

Superior Bond

TEMPLE OF THE INITIAL INSCRIPTION



Emmanuel G. G. G.

THE MAYA CALENDAR

The Maya Calendar and time count show an amazing knowledge of mathematics as well as of astronomy. Space does not permit a detailed description here, and for those who wish completely to understand this system, Dr. Sylvanus G. Morley's 'Introduction to the Study of Maya Hieroglyphs' gives a most authentic and complete analysis.

write out

The Maya had two calendars which fitted together like two cog wheels, one larger than the other. The smaller wheel, the Maya Tzolkin, was a sacred year consisting of 260 days and was used for divinatory purposes. Instead of having seven named days as we have, the Maya had twenty. To each of the twenty day names they prefixed a number from one to thirteen inclusive, in endless and continuous succession. Every time each day name came around it had a different prefixed number. Each combination of day name and number could not repeat itself until after a lapse of 260 days. This named-and-numbered-day count wheel rotated simultaneously with the astronomical tropical year wheel, which consisted of eighteen months of twenty days each, *and* *the maya totals* As the Maya knew that there are 365 days in the astronomical year, *as* they added a short month of five un-named days. To complete all the possible combinations of the two counts - the day names and numbers, and the month names and numbers - took 52 years, or 18,980 days - 52 revolutions of the wheels. This fifty-two year period is called the Calendar Round, or the Maya Short Count.

write out

But they were not satisfied with this more simple calendar and in addition counted time on a much grander scale! The Maya Long Count - the Initial Series - had named periods of twenty years, and again twenty times twenty years; and finally twenty times that cycle, a period of 2,880,000 days.

The Maya commenced their time count from a fixed date in the remote past, which was in all probability an important mythological day. All but two of their many hundreds of dated monuments begin from this starting point which fell more than 3300 years before Christ. The Maya designation for this day is 4 Ahau 8 Cumhu.^{*} A complete Maya date is the combination of the proper long count number and the proper short count pairs of numbers - day name and number, and month name and number.

A complete date has rarely been found in Yucatan as almost all the dates consist of the short count only. This makes the Temple of the Initial Inscription of particular importance.

^{*} See following chart.

THE MAYA CALENDAR

THE DAY COUNT

THE TWENTY DAY NAMES

Dmix	Chuen
Ik	Eb
Akbal	Ben
Kan	Ix
Chicchan	Men
Cimi	Cib
Manik	Caban
Lamat	Eznab
Muluc	Cauac
Uc	Ahau

Each day name was represented by a symbol or hieroglyph.

These day names were repeated without ceasing. To each day name was affixed a number, 1 to 13 inclusive which were also repeated without ceasing. As there are twenty day names and only thirteen numbers, no combination can be repeated until the completion of the two hundred and sixty day cycle.

THE YEAR COUNT

THE MONTHS

Pop	Zac
Uo	Ceh
Zip	Mac
Zotz	Kankin
Tzec	Huan
Xul	Pax
Yaxkin	Kayab
Mol	Cumhu
Chem	
Yax	Uayeb (The short month of five un-named days.)

Each month consisted of the twenty day names and each month had a glyph symbol. The nineteenth month had five un-named days to complete the three hundred and sixty-five days in the astronomical year.

Pop was the first month of the Maya year (as our January) though the first day of Pop corresponds with our July 26th. In counting the days of the month, the Maya counted as we count time on the clock, that is, the first of the month is not counted until that first day has elapsed, thereby using zero to indicate the first day of each month. 0 Pop, 1 Pop, 2 Pop, etc., with the last or twentieth day being 19 Pop.

THE MAYA TIME PERIODS

	1 kin	1 day
20 kins	1 uinal	20 days
18 uinals	1 tun	360 days
20 tuns	1 katun	7200 days
20 katuns	1 baktun	144,000 days
20 baktuns	1 pictun	2,880,000 days

THE NUMERICAL COUNT

THE DAY COUNT

20 day names plus
13 numerals, i. e.
 20×13 260

260 days to complete
circle

THE YEAR COUNT

18 month names of
20 elapsed days plus
5 day short month

365 days to complete
revolution of this
larger wheel

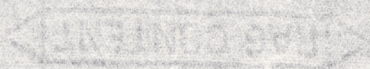
THE CALENDAR ROUND

52 years, or 18,980
days to complete all
possible combinations
of the two wheels which
makes one Calendar Round

INITIAL SERIES LINTEL BEARING DATE A. D. 879

INITIAL 879

Supewell Road



Lyonsville Bond

COPY OF THE DATE ON THE TEMPLE OF THE INITIAL INSCRIPTION
Courtesy of Dr. Sylvanus G. Morley