

MAYA LIFE TODAY

EXHIBIT 3011

Thompson, George

Note to Editor.
Small reproduction of
picture on next page
to go on this page.

MAYA LIFE TODAY

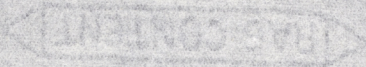
Throughout Yucatan there are countless villages which are still very similar to those of centuries ago. The houses are built of saplings or stones with thatched roofs of palm leaves. The streets are bordered by stone walls with slight insets for each house, and the villages away from the contacts of railroad or highway follow a well defined pattern. Each family has a plot of ground near its house for stock pasture and the growing of vegetables. Pigs and poultry are raised but cattle are scarce indeed owing to the lack of adequate pasture. The top soil of Yucatan is very thin and very stony which makes any form of agriculture difficult indeed. Indian corn is still grown just as it was prior to the conquest, and this is still the one important food crop of the country. The forests yield much to the native Maya in the way of edible natural foods and every family has its stock of orange, banana, sapote, and papaya trees. The forests, too, still have a supply of deer and wild turkey, and the small stingless bees of Yucatan yield stores of honey.

grove

Water is always a problem and often a village has but a single well for the community.

The Indian of ancient times established the use of many natural foods, and we are prone to forget how many of our own food products have come to us through the Indian. There are the four varieties of corn, flint, dent, flour, and pop corn. The

botanical ancestor of corn is not known and scientists are searching to find it. It is believed that corn was developed in the highlands of the American tropics. This is the Indians' great agricultural achievement. Then there are all the varieties of beans, except ^Kchic-peas and broad beans; all squashes and pumpkins; tomatoes; potatoes; all peppers except black pepper; ^ococ^oee; pineapple; tapioca; vanilla; tobacco; rubber; chewing-gum. The Indians had also a cotton of a different variety from ours of today. The wild turkey was domesticated by the Aztecs. In medicine they discovered and used cascara, and quinine. These are all products of the Western Hemisphere, used by the Indians before the coming of the Spanish, and were, in some instances, developed to a high degree.



A STREET IN DZITAS



A STREET IN THE VILLAGE OF PISTÉ

INCL. 10 973

Chapman Bond

CHINESE PAPERS
A SAPLING HOUSE WITH THATCHED ROOF

A LAUNDRY IN PISTÉ



Typewell Bond

GRINDING CORN WITH METATE AND MANO STONES

Chippewell, Ohio

A YOUNG MAYA WOMAN MAKING TORTILLAS

THE END

Gypswell Bond

A NATIVE HOUSE

The interior of the native house is simplicity itself. One end is used for a kitchen where cooking is done over an open fire. The other end contains the hammocks made of native sisal twine, beautifully woven, which are the beds used in this hot climate. The hammocks are very wide and one can stretch out full length crosswise in great comfort. The Maya, like all Indians, are skillful with their hands and make most of their necessities. Pottery is still made, of course, though our machine made utensils are admired and used whenever they can be obtained. A ^{supply} stock of corn is always kept suspended from the roof and is ground into meal as it is needed.

The native dress ^{is} ^{knaps} made of cotton, a simple tunic with a square neck and short sleeves. The women make very beautiful cross stitch embroidery with which they decorate their dresses, but for the most part they now use machine made strips of blue or red floral designs.

The Maya are a short, stocky race with superb carriage, and their exceptional grace is accredited to the fact that they carry such heavy loads on their heads. By nature they are a happy people and their courteous manners are characteristic of Spanish influence. Being ^b bilingual in their speech, their voices utter equally well the harsh, guttural tones of the Indian language and the soft cadences of the Spanish tongue.

A VILLAGE BAKER



Clippings Band

ALONG A VILLAGE STREET

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Tippenell Bond

A GROUP OF MAYA WOMEN



MAYA WOMAN IN CHARACTERISTIC NATIVE DRESS

Typewell Bond



THE HENEQUEN PLANT (SISAL)

Dyrenell Bond

IRAG CONTENT

On a Henequen Plantation

Throughout northern Yucatan great quantities of Henequen, or Sisal, is grown. This is the chief economic resource of the state. It is a form of century plant growing to a height of eight to ten feet. Every three months three or four rows of leaves are cut. These are carried to the processing plant on the plantation on small flat cars. Here they are put through a shredding machine which separates the fibers, and extracts pulp and juice which are utilized as by-products. The green fibers are then placed on drying racks in the hot tropical sun where they cure in the course of about three hours. They are then baled and sent to market.

Many useful things are made from the Henequen fibers. While binder twine and rope are the chief uses, there are many others, such as hammocks, mats, bags, sandals, and countless other articles.

WHERE THE CUT LEAVES ARE CARRIED TO THE CRUSHER

Chipewell Pond

THE FIBERS ARE SPREAD ON THE DRYING RACKS

Jupewell Bond



A CHILD BRINGS HOME DRIED SISAL STUMPS FOR FUEL

Typewell Bond

RECEIVED

ALL CONTENT

While automobiles are rapidly increasing in numbers in Yucatan, one still sees these picturesque native carts in the country. The wheel base is very wide, and they drive three mules abreast carrying loads of many kinds.

Typewell Bond

ALL CONTENT

THE CHURCH OF SAN YSIDRO AT CHICHÉN ITZÁ

With the completion of the Spanish Conquest and the years of gradual conversion to the Catholic Faith which followed, and with the transplanting of European thought and customs to the New World, new architectural forms arose throughout Yucatan of which this beautiful little church of San Ysidro de Labrador is an example. It was built in the eighteenth century very near the ruined temples of Chichén Itzá and is at present used by those who live in the immediate vicinity.

With the ever growing store of knowledge and understanding of this unique civilization of the past, we of the present are made aware of a great heritage which belongs to the Americas. That a stone age people rose to such heights of artistic expression, produced anything so remarkable as the Maya Calendar, and left behind such noble ruins of architecture, is an achievement which ranks high in the civilizations of the world.

Chichén Itzá, existing for a span of nearly a thousand years, is but one of the many cities which for centuries have lain buried in the jungle, and it will ever remain a mile stone in the history of the Maya.