

uncovered by Eduardo Matos in the famous Templo Mayor Excavations of 1978-82. You will no doubt recall his well known discovery of the ^{two} life size Ceramic Eagle Knights which were certainly ^{probably the} most spectacular of Matos's finds. He also discovered the ^{known} ^{remains of} Ceramic remains of what appeared to be ^{the} skeletal figures. These four Ceramic figures once flanked the opening of two door ways of Ceremonial Chambers.

^{until this time} The ^{INBA} Museum had not been displaying its two figures acquired in 1500 because there were no other Aztec Conks known to resemble them. Even the authenticity of those figures had been questioned. But suddenly with the discovery of the Eagle Knights archaeologists ~~had~~ had a new appreciation of the earlier figures. By this time, however, one of the figures had disappeared from the Museum (the figure whose head was iron). The other figure was freshly restored and now occupies a honored place in the Mexico Hall of the Museum of Anthropology and History.

The fact that our piece once was part of two identical figures makes it very persuasive that these also flanked door ways and perhaps in the same complex ^{initially} penetrated by Pafrio Diaz in 1500 ~~and later~~ ^{and later} excavated and investigated by Eduardo Matos. The identity of the earlier figures is also persuasive for they represent a ^{military} order not popularly known today. They are Huastec Knights who provided the image of Cihuacoatl, Toci, Tetzimin, Chicomecatl (The Great Earth goddess in her many forms). They played two Huastec Knights played an important ritual function in the Ceremonies of Ochpanishtli (See Sahagun). These Ceremonies originated in the north part of the sacred enclosure, ~~the Coatlman~~ ^{the Coatlman} of the Templo Mayor. The Coatlman enclosure of the Thelon or Temple of Cihuacoatl. Incidentally, the skeletal figure remains uncovered by Matos may not represent a death gods ~~but~~ as is commonly thought. They could be

the proof of that

two warriors wearing skeletal costumes. Simulantly dressed warriors are shown in the Order Mendoza and are in fact ~~the~~ Tlacohtlcalcutls or supreme Aztec Military Commanders.

All of this is of course fairly circumstantial. The clays of all the figures might be tested for ~~see if they share~~ ^{see if they share} common qualities. ~~for this~~ ^{for this} ~~which is~~

In spite of the circumstantial nature of the evidence, ~~and~~ it is obvious that stylistic affinities of the Huastec figures and those Aztec knights, uncovered by Moter in 1902 are very closely related. So dramatic are their similarities that the museum resurrected their one remaining Huastec figure and gave it such a prominent display in the Mexico Hall at INAH.

I still do not know how this had slipped by scholars and collectors at that Gutthulps Sale. My brother and I spotted it immediately in the Catalogue. We literally held our breath, not mentioning it to anybody until after the sale. I could not believe as I ^{successfully} bid over the phone that I was able to purchase the piece for only 3000!

^{anthropomorphic} The fact is we ~~do~~ now have an extremely important Aztec work of art, one of only four life size ceramic heads known to exist. ^{very well may have} Not only that, but also a piece that ~~obviously~~ ^{very well may have} certainly came from the Coatlán Enclosure (the Holy of Holies) of the Templo Mayor of Tenochtitlan. (There is a tradition ^{at the museum} of INAH that the two ^{sculpture} ~~figures~~ ^{may have} came from Huexotzinc in the State of Puebla. It is my belief that since these ~~two~~ ^{two} ~~costly~~ ^{costly} Huastec figures were unlike anything else seen up to that time the workers who may have ^{deliberately} ~~expected~~ ^{expected} them in Mexico City in 1900 were unable to sell them. They were finally given to the museum with Huexotzinc provenance to exculpate the diggers who stole them from

the Temple Mayor in Mexico City. After

There is a ^{smaller} but similar Aztec
woman that was sold at a sale in Paris at
this ^{last} group IV ^{last} 24 between 1974. There are two or
three large ceramic figures uncovered in
recent years including a striking large
skeletal figure under the stairway not far
from the 1900 dig of Diaz. But there are
essentially dieters and are wonderfully grotesque.

Xepus +
D. & G. 20

Our head, I repeat is only one of four Aztec
lifes size "portrait" ~~class~~ sculptures in the world. It
must have substantial value. The Kinross
Art Museum is very much interested in the
piece. I am a cordial acquaintance of Eduardo
Mator and I have given ^{serious} thought to eventually
returning the head to Mexico. ^{we have no intention}
of selling the work, ^{at the moment I have no intention} but I would like to have a
working sense of the head's value so that it
can be protected properly.

^{for the last 20 years} My brother and I have acquired a modest
but interesting collection of Aztec and Mexican
art (about 50 pieces) of ~~and~~ mostly middle
range ~~quality~~ works though all are of museum quality.
They are a very important part of an exhibit
that my brother Scott and I ~~have~~ ^{are} assembling
that will include our own paintings and
models of Tlaximallan that will travel to venues
here in the US. and in Mexico.

Condition