

Dear Ron -

I need your help to determine a reasonably vague ~~by~~ an Aztec Ceramic Sculpture that Scott and I purchased last ~~year~~ February at Sotheby's - a relatively modest sale of art of Africa, Oceania and the Americas.

item 118 The object is a large Ceramic head (height 12½ inches) listed in the Catalogue as a Taltic head. It ~~was~~ once belonged to the Jay C. Jeff Collection and ~~had been~~ ^{had} been exhibited at the Brooklyn Museum 1966. And ~~the~~ ^{it} ~~Huntington Galleries~~ see the enclosed photos.

This is not a Taltic piece. It is Aztec. It once belonged to the Museum of Anthropology and History but obviously entered the United States before 1966.

Here is what I know about this piece. ~~The~~ ^{It} Head comes from a larger ^{Stoneware} figure about 40 inches ^{149 cm} high that was found with another figure exactly like it. The two figures entered the collection of INAH around the year 1900.

There is virtually nothing else known about where the figures were found. Some sources say that they may have come from Hueyotzingo in the State of Puebla. No one knows. But Scott and I have a theory.

The great Mexican archaeologists Leopoldo Batres was Superintendent of ~~Archaeological~~ ^{Antiquities} Archaeological monuments at the time these two life size figures came to light. ~~At the~~ In 1900 The son of President Porfirio Diaz was undertaking a large City Drainage and Sanitation project at the corner of Argentina and Justo Sierra Streets. ~~Many~~ ^{Many} Excavations under the project of Archaeological interest were uncovered. Batres was called in to stop looting (there are two Batres letters complaining of this) and ignorant destruction of remains. ~~Then~~ ^{But} ~~even~~ ^{even} The ~~Sanitary~~ ^{Sanitary} works was only two hundred feet or less from the famous platform of the Eagle ^{from} ~~from~~ stairs.