

OLDEST YUCATAN RUINS DISCOVERED BY AMERICANS

The antiquity of the ancient Maya civilization of Yucatan has been pushed backwards by at least a century through discoveries that have just been made by archaeologists of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

Hitherto unknown archaeological ruins, called Macanxoc, meaning "You cannot read it", were found by E. S. Thompson and J. Charlott, members of the Carnegie Institution staff, on May 24, according to information reported to Washington by Dr. Sylvanus G. Morley, in charge of the extensive diggings centered at Chichen Itza.

Macanxoc is said to be the religious and ceremonial center of Coba, a large provincial Old Maya Empire City, located fifty miles east of Chichen Itza. The archaeologists have been able to cipher sculptured inscriptions on stelae found at Macanxoc that date from 364 to 413 A. D. From the style, sculpture and dates of the hieroglyphics on the remains, the experts have concluded that Macanxoc is the oldest center of Maya civilization thus far known to Yucatan.

The most brilliant Maya paintings so far known and the best preserved painted serpent heads yet found were unearthed recently in the Temple of the Warriors at Chichen Itza by E. H. Morris. Remains of a serpent column temple decorated with these works of art were revealed when a corner pyramid was excavated.

SKIN TEST FOR INFANTILE PARALYSIS SUSCEPTIBILITY FOUND

A test that will indicate whether or not children are susceptible to infantile paralysis has probably been found by Dr. Edward C. Rosenow of the division of experimental bacteriology of the Mayo Foundation.

Redness of the skin at the end of eighteen to twenty-four hours at the point where suspensions of the streptococcus from infantile paralysis are injected is thought to indicate susceptibility. Complete lack of redness is considered to show that the person is immune. A serum prepared from the blood of horses immunized with the streptococcus prevents this toxic reaction.

Dr. Rosenow cites as supporting evidence for his contention: "the absence of marked reactions in persons fully recovered from poliomyelitis, the strongly positive reactions during the acute state of the disease, and the negative reaction during convalescence."

Skin tests that indicate susceptibility to scarlet fever and diphtheria are already in widespread use in medical practice. Children whose skins show positive reactions are then immunized to prevent their succumbing to the disease in question. At the present time no antitoxin for infantile paralysis has been developed and there are numerous points regarding the skin reaction described that have not yet been worked out, according to Dr. Rosenow.
