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TEMPLE HIDDEN IN PYRAMID IS FOUND IN ANCIENT MAYA RUINS

A temple to the Plumed Rattlesnake God of the ancient Maya, buried beneath the pyramids raised to honor the same deity by a more recent culture of the same race, is the find reported to the Carnegie Institution of Washington by its investigator in the Yucatan jungles, Dr. Sylvanus G. Morley.

During his excavations in the ruined city of Chichen Itza this summer, Dr. Morley came upon fragments of stone work buried under the earthen embankments of the great pyramid which he had already largely explored. These gave the hint that the pyramid, the bulk of which consists of earth filling, unlike the pyramids of Egypt which were built of solid stone, might conceal a building even more ancient than itself. This proved to be the case.

The exploring party first discovered the columns of the old temple, which were in the form of the conventionalized plumed serpent which forms the motif of much Maya architecture, their capitals and bases being formed by the heads and tails of the great stone snakes. They were brilliantly painted in red, yellow, green and black, and the colors, due to the protection the earth had given them through the centuries, were still fresh and vivid. Further excavations brought to light a side wall of the temple, likewise bright with ancient decoration. Due to the near approach of the rainy season a complete unearthing of the building was not thought of, but instead the parts that had already been exposed were again banked in with earth to protect them against the weather until the rains shall have passed.

The principal efforts of the Carnegie Institution's workers during the season have been directed to the further uncovering and reassembling of the tremendous figured frieze in the many-columned Temple of the Warriors. Parts of these mural paintings depicted the ordinary daily life of the citizens of the Maya state just as the old Egyptian wall pictures told of the occupations of the people along the Nile. Another painting showed a rather horrifying ceremony of human sacrifice, resembling the rites which the Spaniards found in existence among the Aztecs of Mexico at the time of the conquest.
