

New Aztec Idols

Archæology

Tenayuca, the Aztec ruin which has already yielded so many interesting objects of a past civilization that it is undoubtedly the most important Aztec site in Mexico today, recently gave up three more idols of stone.

Two are sitting on their haunches and have their hands on their knees while their heads bear ornate head-dresses. A third idol is just a face broken off a body that has not yet been found. All three represent priests or gods, who may be identified later when their adornments are studied. The style of carving is Aztec.

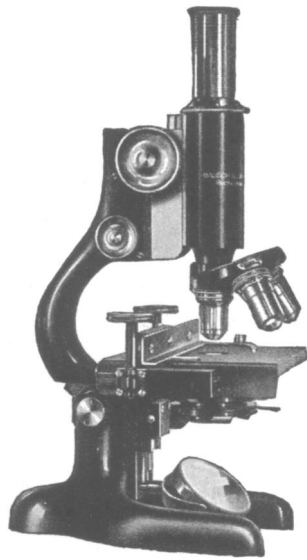
The site of Tenayuca has yielded an enormous quantity of pottery, whole and in fragments, which has been classified and is being studied by Eduardo Noguera of the Direction of Archaeology of the Mexican Ministry of Education. Some stratigraphic explorations have been made to determine the succession of cultures that have existed in that region. Pottery fragments belonging to the Archaic, Toltec and Aztec periods have been found, and objects from the oldest of these periods, the so-called Archaic, have been found to an unusual depth, indicating that Tenayuca has been occupied continuously for very long periods of time.

A combined study of the architecture of the pyramid, the story the pottery fragments tell, and the numerous hieroglyphs carved on the pyramid stairway and at other places, is now being made by Mexican government archaeologists.

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