



SCRAMBLED LEGS

—showing how a country painter made an anatomical error in Egypt 4,000 years ago

ARCHAEOLOGY

## Many Sculptured Monuments In Ruins of Huge Mayan City

Calakmul, in Southern Yucatan, Ranked as One of Most Important Discoveries Ever Made in Mayan Archaeology

**D**ISCOVERY of a new ruined city of enormous area, containing more sculptured monuments than any city of the Mayan Empire ever explored by adventurous white men, is announced by the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

The ruins, difficult of access, stand in southern Yucatan, in the southeast corner of Campeche. Over this region Col. and Mrs. Charles A. Lindbergh and Dr. A. V. Kidder of the Carnegie Institution flew on their air survey in 1929.

### Report Heard

A report that a great unknown Mayan city stood in this region came to Dr. John C. Merriam, president of the Carnegie Institution, as he was sailing back to the United States following a recent trip to Yucatan. From a representative of the American Chicle Development Company he learned that one of their men, C. L. Lundell, a young botanist, had come upon ruins which he named Calakmul, meaning in Mayan, "The Two Adjacent Hills." Lundell spent four days examining the ruins and reported finding many sculptured monuments.

So remarkable did the discovery sound, Dr. Sylvanus Morley of the Carnegie Institution arranged with Mexi-

can government officials to visit the site and study it in detail. With a party of five, Dr. Morley journeyed to the place where the ruins were said to be and spent two weeks mapping the sculptured monuments and buildings and deciphering some of the dates on the stones.

In confirming Mr. Lundell's report of discovery, Dr. Morley said: "Calakmul exceeds our expectations. It contains the tremendous total of one hundred three stelae with sculptured figures and hieroglyphs, many more sculptured monuments than any Mayan city hitherto known. Some of the stelae are of high aesthetic merit while fifty-one are dated, of which the expedition deciphered about half."

That the discovery of the new Mayan city ranks as one of the most important ever made in the Mayan field is the view of Dr. Kidder, who is chairman of the Institution's Division of Historical Research. Calakmul was obviously a very great religious center in its day, and therefore, a place of outstanding importance in the Old Mayan Empire. The many recorded dates, sculptured in hieroglyphics on stone markers, or stelae, will give science many new clues to the early empire history of the Mayan Indians.

Science News Letter, May 7, 1932

ARCHAEOLOGY

## Fitting 8 Legs to 2 Cows Baffled Egyptian Artist

**A** PAINTING of two cows by an Egyptian artist who became completely baffled by the hard problem of attaching eight legs to two bodies has been found in a tomb 4,000 years old.

The amusing picture of the cows with ill-assorted legs is one of the series of amateurish paintings found in a tomb at Thebes by the Egyptian Expedition of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The tomb belonged to an Egyptian named Djar, who held the post of Custodian of the King's Harim. Considering that Djar must have been a man of wealth, and that he built a large tomb, archaeologists are surprised that he engaged a local country painter to decorate the walls.

"The attempt to paint two cows yoked to the plough got the artist completely befuddled," reports H. E. Winlock, Director of the Museum. "He wanted to paint one of them red and one of them black and white, but he got their eight legs mixed up in ridiculous confusion."

In the crude pictures of this tomb, Mr. Winlock says, "we have discovered a very curious document for the history of Egyptian art."

Science News Letter, May 7, 1932

MEDICINE

## Cancer Cells Declared Abnormal From Beginning

**C**ANCER cannot come from normal cells, in the opinion of Dr. Stanley P. Reimann of Lankenau Hospital Research Institute, Philadelphia, who reported the results of his studies to the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology.

Dr. Reimann does not agree with cancer students who think that cancer cells start out as normal cells and become madly-multiplying cancer cells later in their lives. He says the cancer cell is different to start with, and based his opinion on investigations of the effect of sulfhydryl on normal and cancerous cells. Sulfhydryl is the chemical group consisting of one atom of hydrogen and one of sulfur. This group stimulates normal cells to increase their number and at the same time to become more complex and specialized. This means normal cells do the opposite from cancer cells, and hence cancer cannot come from normal cells.

Science News Letter, May 7, 1932