

INAH-PARI Proyecto Grupo de las Cruces

Field Report: *Spring 2000*

JULIA C. MILLER

The INAH-PARI Proyecto Grupo de las Cruces has had another successful field season this spring. We completed the excavation of the interior of Temple XIX and made progress in the architectural restoration of the building. During the excavation, we found additional pieces of the stone panel that we found last year as well as more broken ceramics and pieces of modeled stucco. Our restoration team has been concentrating on conserving and restoring the stone panel and several nearly complete ceramic vessels. Our final task in Temple XIX has been to prepare the building to be opened to visitors to the site by constructing a roof and walkway, and by placing replicas of the stucco panel, the base of the stone panel, and the throne in the building.



Temple XIX after excavation, but before the roof went on.



Stucco replica (and new roof).

While both stone pavement and stucco floors are common at Palenque, this sort of composite floor is unusual.

One of the hopes as we began excavations was that more of the stone panel found last year in front of the throne would be recovered this year. We were very fortunate to find several large fragments which included the figure to the right of K'inich Ahkal Mo' Nahb' III and most of the backrack on the ruler's left. Unfortunately, we did not find many of the missing glyphs, with only the beginning

Temple XIX continued to surprise us as we finished the excavation of the interior of the building. The first surprise was the discovery of a small staircase on the western side of the building, which led up to a doorway opening into the back room of Temple XIX. The second surprise was a small bench located just to the west of the main doorway. Unlike the throne discovered last year, this bench was undecorated. The final surprise was that the stone paving of the floor of the building did not continue over the entire interior — the western third of the building had a stucco floor. While both

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Last year we found a deposit of artifacts and organic remains in front of the throne. This year, we found a second concentration of artifacts, at the western end of the building, containing ceramics, obsidian, and fragments from the stucco panel on the central pier. One interesting thing about this deposit is that fragments of the same ceramic vessels found last year were recovered from the other end of the building this year. This suggests that after the people finished breaking up the stone panel and the ceramics, they carried part of the debris from one end of the building to the other, leaving it near the western door.

Rudy Larios returned this spring to continue the architectural restoration of Temple XIX. He and his team of masons completed the restoration of the staircase and terraces on the north (front) side of the building as well as the terraces on the western side of the building. He will return this summer to finish the restoration of the walls of the building.

Our restoration team of Marcia Valle and Constantino Armendariz concentrated on conserving and restoring the stone panel. This panel will be placed in the museum of Palenque along with the stucco panel and the throne later this year. They also restored several ceramic vessels from the deposits in Temple XIX and an incensario from the excavations on the Temple of the Cross several years ago.

As we wrap up the excavation and restoration of Temple XIX, we are preparing the building for visitors. Since the originals of the throne and stucco panel will be displayed in the site museum, we are placing replicas in the building. The replica of the stucco panel, which was carved out



Initial series date.

of a mixture of marble sand and white cement, is already in place and the replica of the base of the stone panel, found on the same pier as the stucco panel, is nearly ready. The replica of the west side of the throne, carved from limestone is nearly ready as well. The south side of the throne will be completed this summer. In order to protect both the building and the replicas, we have built a roof and a wooden walkway that will help to protect the floor from damage.

As in previous years, the project would not have been possible without the support of the Geo-Ontological Development Society, Lee Langan and the members of PARI. We would also like to thank Joel Skidmore, Donald Hart, Joseph Miller, Marc Bernstein, Maureen Carpenter, Yvonne Harralson, Jorge Perez de Lara, Merle Greene Robertson and several anonymous donors for their generosity. Our able team of archaeologists - Maureen Carpenter, Yvonne Harralson, Christopher Powell, Adrienne Tremblay, Annie Pieler, and Kirk Straight - led by Alfonso Morales, Principal Investigator of the Project, displayed their usual dedication to accomplishing the task at hand. Our restoration teams, Marcia Valle and Constantino Armendariz (artifacts) and Rudy Larios (architecture), have made whole what was broken. Joel Skidmore has continued to keep the world informed of our progress through our web site (www.mesoweb.com/palenque). Without our team of excavators, masons, and restoration assistants from Palenque and Naranjo, we would not have been able to complete our work. Finally, we would like to thank our collaborator Arnoldo Gonzalez and the INAH authorities for the privilege of working at the site of Palenque.