



Monuments of Yaxchilan: Lintel 15¹

Ángel A. Sánchez Gamboa

Coordinación Nacional de Conservación del Patrimonio Cultural - INAH

Guido Krempel

University of Bonn / Coordinación Nacional de Conservación del Patrimonio Cultural - INAH

Context: Lintel 15 was the leftmost of the three lintels (Lintels 15, 16, and 17) that spanned the central doorway leading to the central room of Structure 21. It was removed by Alfred P. Maudslay in 1882 to the British Museum (Graham and von Euw 1977:39; Tate 1992:197). Also associated with this structure is Stela 35. The four monuments are related, as they all fall within the initial period of the reign of Yaxuun Bahlam IV.

Dimensions: MW 0.83 m, HSc 0.80 m, WSc 0.67 m, MTh 0.08 m (sawn), Rel 1.0 cm.

On the date 4 Kawak 12 Sip (9.16.3.16.19, 29 March AD 755) Ix Wak Tuun, lady of Ik' (Motul de San José) and wife of the lord Yaxuun Bahlam IV, conjured the Yax Chiit(?) Naah Kaan. The latter deity is identified as the *wahy* of K'awiil. In a second sentence the text refers to the subsequent conjuring of another deity named Yax ...w Akan? ... Kab ...j. The scene likely shows Yaxuun Bahlam IV in the act of emerging from the maws of the evoked serpent deity. This corresponds to one of the most important iconographic themes of Yaxchilan's sculptural art and directly emulates Lintel 25, which was commissioned by his father, Itzamnaaj(?)/Kokaaj(?) Bahlam III.

A1 – G3: (A1) 4-“KAWAK”? (B1) 12-CHAK-AT (A2) TZAK-ja (B2) YAX-T1071 (E1) NAAH-KAAN (F1) u-WAY-ya (G1) K'AWIIL-la (F1) i-TZAK (G2) YAX-[?]tz'a-wa (F3) AKAN?-na (G3) ?-KAB?-ji

chan kawak lajcha' chakat tza[h]kaj yax chiit? naah kaan uwa[h]ly k'awiil i tzak yax ...w akan? ... kab ...j

“(On the day) 4 Kawak (on) the 12th of Sip, Yax ... Naah Kaan got conjured, (he is) the *wahy* of K'awiil. Then got conjured Yax ...w Akan ... Kab ...j.”

C1 – C5: (C1) u-BAAH-ji (D1) T1001-la IX-K'UH (C2) IX-6-TUUN-ni (C3) IX-IK'-AJAW (C4) IX (C5) ba-ka-ba

ubaah ...l ix[ik] k'uh ix wak tuun ix ik' ajaw ix baahkab

“(This is) the image of ...l Ixik K'uh Ix Wak Tuun, lady of Ik' (Motul de San Jose), lady head of the earth.”

¹ See also Zender 2007.

References

Graham, Ian, and Eric von Euw

1977 *Corpus of Maya Hieroglyphic Inscriptions, Volume 3, Part 1: Yaxchilan*. Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

Tate, Carolyn E.

1992 *Yaxchilan: The Design of a Ceremonial City*. University of Texas Press, Austin.

Zender, Marc

2007 Inscriptions of Yaxchilan Lintel 15. *Corpus of Maya Hieroglyphic Inscriptions*: www.peabody.harvard.edu/cmhi/detail.php?num=15&site=Yaxchilan&type=Lintel



Yaxchilan Lintel 15. Photograph by Jorge Pérez de Lara. High-resolution version available: www.mesoweb.com/monuments/Yaxchilan