

tonac character. Some pieces are painted with Chapopote, as the Indians call asphalt (fig. 12). Mr. Ibarola, Mexican Government Inspector of Oil, has in his possession a very fine Totonac figurine found here. It is one of the few specimens where one of the well-

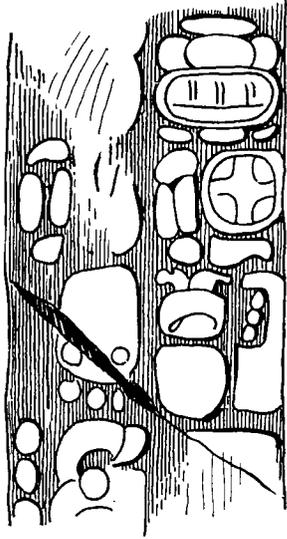


FIG. 11—Mexico, D. F. Inscription from Maya Stela in the yard of the National Museum. (1:10).

known "laughing faces" of Totonac origin is seen on a complete figure (fig. 13). The figurine has a band around its breast and a small apron on which are designs* (fig. 14).

It was a long and dreary journey, with the train rattling and jumping on a wretched track and us wondering how long it was going to keep on going. The country is covered with dense bush, now and then changing into extensive savannas. In the vicinity of Tierra Blanca the Oaxaca Mountains come in sight. Whereafter the train runs parallel to them, crossing innumerable rivers. In several places we passed single mounds, or whole groups of mounds. The land is low and humid, and covered with dense tropical second growth, here and there broken by banana plantations. To pass the time we reviewed our knowledge of the route lying ahead of us.

The country we were traveling through was one of the first to be settled by the Spanish Conquerors. These rich alluvial plains had good crops, and Cortez granted himself lands here. In the rivers around Tuxtepec in the mountains, which we could see to our right, the Indians washed gold, and paid it as tribute to the rulers of Mexico, who in turn were forced to deliver it to the Spaniards.

We were headed for the volcanic mountains around San Andrés Tuxtla. Sometime around the year 1900 a small nephrite statuette was found in the Canton of the Tuxtlas. This object eventually drifted into the National Museum at Washington, D. C., and there it was discovered that the figure was covered with hieroglyphs—Maya hieroglyphs at that—which opened with the date 8-6-2-4-17 8 Kaban 0 Kankin in Maya figures, later correlated with our calendar to be the year 98 B. C. The so-



FIG. 12—Cocuite, Ver. Spindly Whorl Painted with Asphalt. (Full Size).

*Professor Byron Cummings of the University of Arizona has recently made excavations at "El Cocuite," and states that he found burials in the sides of mud volcanoes.