

support. Then we visited an old German school teacher, Don Federico Sandrock, a pleasant old gentleman who knew much about the surrounding country. He showed us some huge fossil bones found by an Indian at Xanasca near the town. His Mexican wife told us of imprints of the feet of a man, a child, and a dog on a lava block near San Juan los Reyes. These imprints, may well be of recent origin as the last eruption of the San Martín volcano began with underground thundering on March 2, 1793, and a serious eruption occurred on May 22nd. Previous eruptions had occurred in 1664 and fumaroles were reported as late as 1829.\*

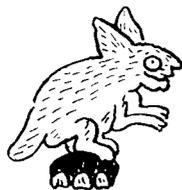


FIG. 17.—The Aztec Hieroglyph for Tuxtla.

All the volcanoes in the Tuxtla region are now extinct, and covered with vegetation.

Close to San Andrés is a small crater lake called Laguna Encantada — the Enchanted Lagoon — and the popular belief is that the waters of this lagoon rise during the dry season and fall during the wet season.

The Santiago Volcano is considered sacred by the Indians and, as already mentioned, ruins are reported on the southern side. We heard of groups of mounds at Tatocapan and Tula. Mr. and Mrs. Seler saw a colossal stone head between Los Lirios and Tres Zapotes.†

At Montepio, on the Gulf Coast, some mounds are reported, and it is also said that here is a cave formerly used by the famous pirate, Lorenzillo.

The distance between San Andrés Tuxtla and Catemaco is about 15 kilometers over a fairly bad motor road. We loaded all our equipment on a truck and with a Mexican driver set out for Catemaco, the last point that could be reached with mechanical transportation. About midway we passed through the tobacco plantations of Signápan and Natacápan, both belonging to a German company. At the first place were some small mounds, and at the latter, a group of very large mounds, some of which have been dug into by the owners of the plantation. The road was quite rough, and after many ups and downs we reached the rim of a hill range and came in sight of the Catemaco Lake. All around the lake tower volcanic mountains and odd-shaped volcanic hills are thrown, thrust, and flung into the landscape. Down below us lay the picturesque grass-roofed village on the shores of the lake and beyond the lake

\*Moziño, 1913—Robelo, Jardín de Raíces. Aztequismos, Page 386—Friedlaender, 1923.

†Seler, C., 1925, Plate V-1—Melgar, 1871, Page 104—Lehmann, 1922, Plate 38.