

Solo, on the trail between the Nahua speaking village of Molocan and Rivera del Carmen, is an igneous outcrop, and another geologist of the same company, Mr. S. W. Lesniak, reports an idol at that place.

Here again we stand before one of the amazing riddles of ancient engineering. How did the Indians transport these large blocks of stone over a distance of more than 100 kilometers, across swampy ground or along the rivers?

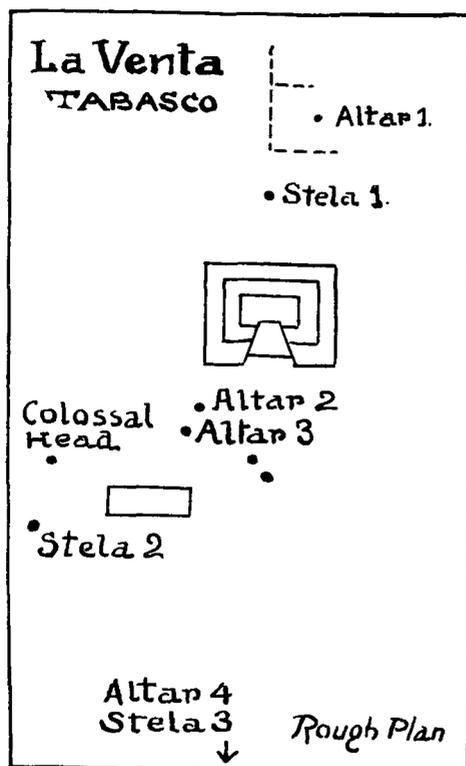


FIG. 68—La Venta, Tab. Rough Plan of the Ruins.

After this we came to the most amazing monument of them all—a huge bell-shaped boulder. At first it puzzled us very much, but

We had bad luck at La Venta—one whole pack of film, the one containing our photographs of the most interesting monument, Stela 2, turned out totally blank, so we can only present some of our drawings of this monument.

After having worked Stela 2, monuments appeared in rapid succession. Altar 2 is located at the foot of the pyramid, to the south. It lies with face up, and on it is carved a crude figure sitting in a niche with legs cross Turkish fashion (fig. 73).

Altar 3 is a square block standing close by, carved so that it gives the appearance of having a cushion on its top. On its north side, i. e., facing the pyramid, is a deeply carved niche in which a figure is sitting bent forward with legs crossed. To the left of the niche is a

panel on which a standing figure in low relief is engraved (fig. 74). A similar panel was probably also on the right side, but this side of the altar has been damaged. The southern side of the altar is plain, but on the western side two sitting figures are seen engraved (fig. 75). They face each other and appear to be in some kind of dispute. We had to dig a little in front of this altar in order to get a photograph.