

in the construction of temples on the top of mounds. He also pictures a stucco relief. Finally, Seler visited the ruins and published some photographs of mounds.

The Tulane Expedition did not go to Centla, but as we later explored the ruins at Comalcalco and found them to be constructed of burnt brick and to have stucco reliefs on their walls, it is well to make note here of the similarity of the mounds at Bellota and those of Comalcalco.

In Frontera we paid a visit to the Forestry Inspector, the engineer, Mr. Fraire, who has made a detailed study of the vegetation of the Tabasco coast. He has travelled much in the region, and as he is a man of many interests he has also made a small collection of antiquities. Among the objects he was kind enough to show us were two copper bells, all that were left of eight found near Sotavento Chico, by Carmen, in the vicinity of the Bellota ruins. This checks well with the reports of the Conquerors that there were many copper implements among the Tabasco Indians. This copper must have come into the region through trade with Toltec or Nahua traders, as no copper is found in the alluvial plains of Tabasco. Accordingly these objects must be of late date, since we know as a fact that the Old Empire Maya did not possess this metal.

A feature of importance mentioned by Berendt is that the mounds are covered by a layer of stucco, making the earth works appear to be of stone.*

Cortes' party brought with it several interpreters, among whom Geronimo de Aguilar† was remost. He was able to speak to the Indians of Tabasco in the language he had learnt during his stay as a prisoner amongst the Mayas of Yucatan. There is, therefore, no doubt that we here have true Maya Indians, and that at Frontera we had reached the Old Maya territory.

It was also here Cortes received the Indian girl, Malinche, later Doña Marina, as a gift from the chief of the country, one Tlacoteob (or Tabasco) from whom the whole province later was

In the Fraire collection were some specially fine specimens of clay figurines from the banks of the Usumacinta river (fig. 81). From Tenosique, where this river comes out of the Chiapas limestone mountains and winds its ways through alluvial plains to Frontera, the high water of the rainy season each year washes a multitude of clay objects out of its banks. These objects are gathered by

*Diaz. Bernal. Edition 1632. Page 8—Charnay, 1880. English Translation, 1888. Page 187. ff—Berendt, 1869. Published by Brinton, 1890—Seler, E., 1904. Vol. V., Page 149.

†Regarding Geronimo de Aguilar, see S. K. Lothrop, "The Ruins of Tulum." Carnegie Inst., 1924.