

system of construction, giving very little room space in comparison to the solid masonry, and did not permit of very broad rooms. The width of the rooms can often be taken as a criterion for the age of the building. In the oldest buildings the walls are thick and the rooms very narrow. As the architect becomes more skilled he broadens the rooms. In Northern Yucatan where the Maya went through his renaissance, we find quite broad rooms with very sloping ceilings.

All our work had been finished. We had drawn ground plans and sections of the temples, made a general map of the ruins, taken notes on art and construction. It was late in the afternoon and we were ready to leave Comalcalco the next day. Only a small ruined room remained to be placed on the general map. This room lay hidden by thick undergrowth, on the western slope of the Palace mound quite near Temple 2. It was a small room, probably an old burial place. Most of it had fallen in, and what was exposed did not appear to be of great interest. "Brick clad with stucco. Ceiling of room and some of east wall exposed. 1.75 meters long and 1 meter broad. Nothing much to note." That is how the notebook runs. The sun was standing low, and its rays fell on the east wall of the room. "What was that on the walls—some stucco ornaments?" Eagerly we scraped away a great mass of fallen leaves and dirt. The feather ornaments of a helmet appeared, then a face, all modeled in stucco low relief. More feathers, and part of another face. After all we

had not finished our work at the ruins. Here before us was a burial chamber with delicately modeled figures on its walls. We must clean this out before leaving. Thrilled with what lay in store for us we rode back to the town through the short tropical dusk.

Early the next morning we were ready to clean out the burial chamber. Only five Indians were employed, as there was not much room in the narrow chamber. Our excitement seemed to communi-

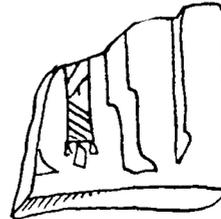
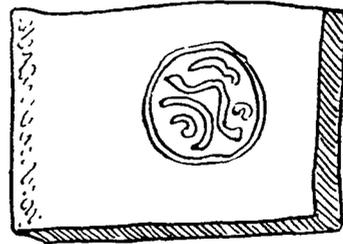
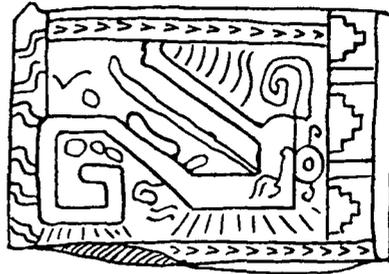


FIG. 96—Comalcalco, Tab. Burnt bricks with incised drawing.