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former years, and excavations had been made in certain parts of the site, but a thorough surface examination of its two hundred or more mounds had not previously been undertaken. It revealed much of interest regarding the grouping of the mounds. In particular, there were noted at least eight long, narrow constructions whose parallel sides suggested that they might be ball courts, but which lacked the open or expanded ends characteristic of all such courts which had hitherto been noted. To ascertain their nature, Mr. A. L. Smith ran a series of test trenches in one of them, finding a pair of tenoned stone parrot heads on opposite sides at the middle and evidence that there were sloping benches on either side of a playing alley. The latter indications, together with the fact that tenoned serpent or parrot heads have been found in similar positions in ball courts at Copan, San Agustín Acasaguastlan, and San Pedro Pinula, renders it certain that most, if not all, of the Kaminaljuyu structures served that purpose. One or more of them will be more fully examined in the near future.

SALVADOR

JOHN M. DIMICK

During the past field season, Mr. Dimick, assisted by Mr. Stanley H. Boggs, continued the intensive study of the great archaeological site of Campana San Andrés. The ruins are situated 32 km. northwest of San Salvador in the fertile, bowl-shaped, and mountain-fringed valley of the Rio Sucio. Although thorough exploration has not been undertaken, mounds are known to be scattered more or less thickly over the valley floor, an area approximately 48 square miles. The most imposing group, perhaps the religious and administrative center of the entire aboriginal settlement, lies near the middle of the

valley on the west bank of the Sucio. Here excavations have been carried out with the generous permission of Don Francisco Dueñas, the proprietor, who did everything possible to facilitate the work.

The principal group consists of a great plaza roughly 200 m. north to south and 140 m. east to west, surrounded on three sides by mounds of various dimensions and on the south by an elevated court (over 6 m. above the plaza) which in turn is partially enclosed by ruined structures. The largest of the latter, Structure 1, almost closes the south side of the elevated court, and Structures 2, 3, and 4 are in alignment along its eastern edge. Small excavations were made for pottery and architectural details throughout the group, but the greater part of the expedition's time was spent in careful exploration of Structures 1, 2, 3, and 4, and one mound (Structure 8) located on the valley floor just south of the southeast corner of the elevated court.

The excavations have disclosed evidence of aboriginal human occupation over a long, but as yet undetermined, period of time. The earliest remains, in the form of pottery and artifacts, were found in the upper 50 cm. of a layer of soil forming an early valley floor. This occupational level was covered by a 25-cm. layer of sterile volcanic ash. Subsequently, the development of the principal group took place. The earlier stages of the growth of the elevated court are indicated at present only by plastered floors encountered above the ash layer and by a stairway in Structure 1. The floors were exposed by a deep test pit in the center of the court; the stairway by a trench into the lower part of Structure 1. Well above the early court floors another floor was found, upon which were built the imposing pyramidal Structures 1, 2, 3, and 4. That the pyramids were crowned by temples may be postulated,

although positive evidence is still lacking. One of the outstanding architectural features of Campana San Andres is the fact that, with a few exceptions to be mentioned later, the pyramids and court foundations are entirely of mold-made adobe blocks averaging in size 62 by 24 by 17 cm. Laid carefully in courses, these formed a very solid construction of uniform strength. All exposed surfaces were finished with a smooth coating of excellent lime plaster, which, despite its hardness and good quality, was frequently renewed on court floors and pyramids.

Structure 1 is a nearly equilateral pyramid, which rose in narrow vertical-walled terraces, probably eleven in number, to a height of 15 m. There was a broad projecting stairway on the north side. The pyramid corners and the edges of the terraces and steps are slightly rounded, and the pyramid as a unit is a splendid example of aboriginal architecture. Structures 2, 3, and 4, arranged in an orderly manner along the east side of the court, are very similar to Structure 1 but smaller.

Another building phase followed the erection of Structures 1, 2, 3, and 4. This mainly consisted of raising the whole elevated court level by 4 m. to its present height, thus burying the lower terraces and steps of the existing structures. The labor involved in this task may be appreciated more clearly when one considers that at least 600,000 adobe blocks were made by hand and transported by man power to the building site to fill the elevated court, conservatively estimated at 15,000 cu. m. volume.

Subsequent substructural renovations took place, some merely frontal additions, others burying more of Structures 1, 2, 3, and 4. New forms of decoration were brought into use—balustrades on stairways, terrace moldings modeled in stucco, and possibly sculptured stone heads ten-

oned in conspicuous places. A number of serpent heads with tenons, and other miscellaneous stone sculptures were found.

A late occupation of the site is suggested by the finding of a stone yoke and fragments of plumbate pottery in the sloping surface debris of Structure 1.

Structure 8 differs from all others investigated in the main group. It appears to be a rubble-filled platform of two terraces facing west. The terrace walls are faced with well cut, dressed, and fitted blocks of volcanic tufa resembling that used in Copan. The platform underwent at least two building periods. The latest additions in the elevated court—a small rectangular altar attached to the front of Structure 1, and a step added between Structures 1 and 2—are constructed of these cut tufa blocks. Evidence is not sufficient at present to determine whether Structure 3 antedates the use of adobe construction and the late additions represent stone-robbing from Structure 8, or whether the use of cut stone is a late architectural feature postdating the adobe period.

The excavations have yielded rich sherd material from each architectural accretion, thus integrating more closely the domestic and civic arts of these people. Mr. Boggs remained in Salvador during the off season to devote his time to the study of the ceramic collection.

In pursuance of Mr. Dimick's program of archaeological studies in Salvador, half the force of laborers were employed in work of conservation. Terraces, walls, and floors were coated with cement to prevent erosion by the torrential summer rains. In some instances reconstruction was required to prevent badly cracked walls from falling. Shelters and drains were built where necessary.

Architecturally, Campana San Andres seems to share more general characteristics with Copan than with other well known

sites. Both are located on level valley floors, their main groups centrally placed near a permanent stream. The orientation and assemblage of the principal ruins are similar, each having a great plaza surrounded on three sides by structures and on the south by a raised, acropolis-like unit supporting massive, pyramidal temple structures. Certain terrace forms, balustraded stairways, well cut block masonry in Structure 8, tenoned stone heads, and sculptured stone incensarios are a few details these sites have in common. It would seem that Campana San Andres flourished during the Great, or Acropolis, Period in Copan. Also some connection with Kaminaljuyu may be implied by the finding of mold-made adobes in a tomb at that site. Mr. Boggs' pottery studies and future excavations in Campana San Andres undoubtedly will show a more widespread connection and a closer association with the sites mentioned.

NICARAGUA

F. B. RICHARDSON

As was stated in the introduction to this report, Mr. Richardson, who went to Nicaragua to study relatively recent stone sculpture, was diverted from that end by the necessity of investigating a series of ancient human footprints found in deeply buried volcanic deposits near Managua.

A similar discovery had been made in the seventies by Earl Flint, who was working for the Peabody Museum of Harvard University. Flint's attribution of great age to the footprints was received with considerable skepticism, no attempt was made to follow up the discovery, and the whole occurrence was soon practically forgotten. Mr. Richardson, however, who had read Flint's reports and his correspondence filed at the Peabody Museum, felt that the matter should be investigated further. On

arrival at Managua, he accordingly made inquiries and learned that footprints were still from time to time encountered in quarrying operations at El Cauce, a short distance west of the city. He at once visited the site, where by great good fortune the workmen were just bringing some of the tracks to light.

Extensive excavations, carried out with the cordial support of President Somoza, revealed most interesting conditions, best summarized by quoting the preliminary report of Dr. Howel Williams, of the University of California, who, on being appealed to by the Division, generously sacrificed his Easter vacation to fly to Nicaragua and examine the deposits.

Before the footprints were made, there had probably been millions of years of volcanic activity, as they are underlain by hundreds of feet of ash. It may be, however, that about the time the prints were formed the craters a short distance south of Managua burst into unusually violent eruption. I hope that microscopic study of the deposits will throw light on this point.

Just before the prints were produced, volcanic "mud flows" (technically known as lahars) swept across the plains around Managua and emptied into the lake. It may be that these were formed by temporary damming of the rivers that drain from the highlands to the south, at a time when the cones and craters of Asososca, Nejapa, Tiscapa, etc. were particularly active. Whatever the cause of the lahars—and other possible causes are easy to imagine—they inundated a wide area. Soon after they came to rest, the prints were impressed. I say "soon" because the deposits left by lahars tend to harden rapidly. Somewhat similar deposits were laid down on the slopes of Lassen Peak in California in 1915 and within a few hours it was difficult to stamp an impression on them with the feet. Lahars which sweep down from the volcanoes of Java are known to behave in the same way. Incidentally, the laharic deposits of