

California (Tarasca Project) and that it especially encourage cooperative Inter-American projects of this character.

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FIRST SEASON'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK AT  
CAMPANA SAN ANDRÉS, EL SALVADOR

The first season of archaeological work at a site known as Campana San Andrés, in the Republic of El Salvador, has been completed by the Middle American Research Institute of Tulane University, concluding in May 1940 with the coming of the rains.

The Dimick Archaeological Expedition of this Institute met with gratifying success in this initial season of what is expected to be perhaps five seasons of work at that site. The expedition was financed and directed by Mr. and Mrs. John M. Dimick, and supervised by the writer with the writer's wife as expedition photographer.

Kind permission to conduct archaeological work in his country was granted by Sr Dr Don Miguel Angel Araujo, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores of the Republic of El Salvador.

Campana San Andrés is close beside the International Highway at its juncture with the Río Sucio, 32 kilometers west of San Salvador. It is in a small valley, on Finca San Andrés, property of Don Francisco Dueñas. The archaeological site is about three miles in length by approximately two miles in width, and contains at least 60 distinct mounds. The largest, more than 60 feet in height, is known locally as the Campana. It is bell-shaped, resting on a large square terrace. This dominant mound gives its name to the site.

Mounds A, B, C, and D enclose most of two sides of an elevated (or filled) plaza some 200 feet square, at a distance of about 700 feet from the southwest corner of the Campana mound. This group obviously is second in size and importance to the Campana mound. Thus work was begun in this enclosure—called Dueñas Plaza in the records of this dig.

Mound A and Mound C were the scene of most intensive operations, but additional work was done in five other mounds, while a pit approximately 8 feet square was sunk to a depth of 11 feet at the intersection of lines bisecting the centers of Mound A and Mound C. This was somewhat southeast of the center of the plaza. Digging of the test-pit was the first act of actual excavation. Three adobe floors at a depth of about 10 feet were encountered, while quantities of scattered small polychrome and undecorated sherds of typical Salvadorean wares were found at all depths from the surface downward. These sherds are common over the whole site.

The centers of Mound A and Mound C, fronting the plaza, were excavated to a width of more than 40 feet each, and to a depth of about 20 feet in Mound A and 10 feet in Mound C. Identical types of construction were encountered in each mound: plaster ("mortero") walls and steps, supported by adobe blocks with pot-



*Photo by John Dimick*

Mound C, Campana San Andrés, El Salvador. Mound C partially excavated, with remains of crumbling adobe steps in center and portions of vertical mortar walls to right and left.



*Photo by Muriel Ries*

Mound C at a later stage of excavation. At the base of the central adobe block stairway appears a set of three rounded mortar steps without balusters. An additional set of mortar steps, with balusters, rises from the same floor and once covered the inner mortar steps. The vertical mortar walls proved to be remains of pyramidal terraces.

sherds mixed in them, all very plain. There is an outer layer of adobe and sometimes even natural talpetate blocks, with several indications of an outer plaster. Below this most recent level is a plaster-over-adobe level of considerable sophistication. In Mound C it includes a set of steps with two identical balusters, the whole about 16 feet in width, and with the balusters meeting the walls of the mound at a distance of some 15 feet along a buttress decorated with a moulding or offset of plaster. Vertical *mortero* walls also were uncovered. The *mortero* has the quality and hardness of cement, and ranges in thickness from .2 inches to .4 inches.

In Mound A, this second level is evidenced by two matching, sloping *mortero* walls built over adobe blocks, the walls beginning in a rounded step and ending as a pyramidal terrace, about 12 feet higher than the step.

Behind the wall in Mound A, as behind the steps in Mound C, a third or earlier culture-level was encountered and to some degree exposed. In Mound A this took the form of a set of the usual rounded steps, resting on a floor. They were exposed only by a narrow trench. At the bottom of this trench, on the floor just mentioned, lay two stone serpents' heads, back to back, each about two feet long. Beneath them in a two-foot-square hole in the *mortero* floor, was a cache of five carved jadeite objects, one small quartz-crystal bead, and the badly-damaged remains of a mirror of iron pyrites.

Dr Alfonso Caso, Director del Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Mexico, examining photographs of the jadeite, expressed the belief that they are Guatemala Highland Maya in type. This find marked the highlight of the first season's work.

Behind the balustered steps in Mound C lay another set of steps, identical in size but without balusters, terminating laterally in rounded ends.

A tomb in a mound southeast of Dueñas Plaza was opened, and remains of another mirror were encountered. A small mound behind (east of) Mound C revealed the usual *mortero* steps in the opening made by a three-foot-wide trench. Quantities of adobe blocks were found by trenching a small mound between Dueñas Plaza and the Campana mound. The southern corner of the Campana mound terrace was opened and the neat corner of an adobe-block wall was exposed. A narrow trench sent into the plaza face of Mound B revealed a *mortero* wall.

Numerous small clay artifacts (figurines, whistles, a clay stamp) were found during the first season, as well as much chipped obsidian. Small sherds were common. The types, too, were common to all levels so far encountered.

About one-third of the site was surveyed and mapped by Mr Dimick and an assistant, Federico Naltinius, a senior engineering student at the National University in San Salvador. Numerous photographs were made and the negatives have been catalogued and filed in the Middle American Research Institute, in New Orleans.

The Campana San Andrés site exhibits a striking similarity in texture of its *mortero* structure and in the form of its steps, and even in its size and the size of its mounds, with Kaminal Juyú, just outside Guatemala City, where the Carnegie Institution of Washington has been having such spectacular success.

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