The Tunnel Underneath the Pyramid of the Sun at Teotihuacán

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Antecedents

After a hard rainfall 1971 a depression in formed directly in front of the Pyramid of the Sun at Teotihuacán The archaeologist in charge of the site knew that this was an indication of some type of cavity below the surface so he began to excavate the area. At around fifteen



meters he discovered that an ancient tunnel had been dug underneath the Pyramid of the Sun from the west side eastward. At this point there are many conflicting reports of what happened.

Suddenly the excavation was shrouded in a of mysterious cloak silence. No official or unofficial reports were given until Doris Heyden gave a brief report about five years later.¹ Heyden's report far from was satisfying in that it was basically an overview with very few details. Moreover, in addition to the lack of excavation notes. the



description of the tunnel and its related artifacts was poor as well. Now, forty years later, I face the same dilemma that Heyden faced; how to describe something that was basically indescribable. At the time of the tunnel discovery I was a student of Mesoamerican

¹ Heyden, Doris; "An Interpretation of the Cave underneath the Pyramid of the Sun in Teotihuacán, Mexico", American Antiquity, Vol. 40, No. 2 (April, 1975), pp. 131-147.

archaeology, and by the time Heyden's report was made public I was busy attempting to make a living for my new bride, Coty. But, at the time that Heyden's report was published I had promised my mentor and professor, Dr. Alexander vonWuthenau² that one day I would find the truth concerning the tunnel and would make it public.



During the 1980s I worked for the Mexican government and in that decade Dr. vonWuthenau passed away. This was also the decade I met the late Dr. Mario Perez Campa³ who worked for the Nation Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) in Mexico. During the 19902

Mario helped me obtain entry into the tunnel and I finally understood why Heyden had such a problem describing it. Through Dr. Alejandro Sarabia, present Director of the site of Teotihuacán, I have since obtained several permits to explore and document the tunnel and finally, I have the opportunity to keep a very old promise that I made when I was a student many years ago.

The First Expeditions

My first expeditions occurred in the early 1990s. It only consisted of a cursory tour of the tunnel for about 30 to 45 minutes. I recall that I was surprised by several aspects and was disappointed



² vonWuthenau, Alexander, Professor Emeritus at the University of the Americas, Cholula, Puebla, Mexico.

³ Perez Campa, Mario; Professor Emeritus UNAM, Mexico City, Now deceased.

by others. I was surprised by how small the tunnel was and how happy I was to be wearing a hard hat as I was constantly banging my head on the rocks projecting downward from the ceiling.

Because of this, I kept head low mv and literally watched my step as the floor of the tunnel was very uneven and strewn with debris. Among the debris were sections of channels and large perforated stone squares. The right and left alcoves were



observed and then I made the trek to the end of the tunnel.

The tunnel ended in four small rooms in which the second one on the left had several stacks of stone slabs stacked at the rear. These stacks intrigued me, as well as the length of the tunnel itself. I had been taught in college that the "poor natives" did not know how to calculate very well. It was claimed that this was evident since the tunnel was about forty feet (thirteen meters) short of being underneath the apex of the pyramid. I had also been taught that the presence of the drainage channels and the perforated stones demonstrated that the ancients had covered the floor with a stone channel which was then "tiled" with the perforated stones. However, I did notice that the floor was extremely uneven making it nearly impossible for any channeling of water (or blood as claimed by some).

I had never heard of stacks of stone slabs being in the tunnel. I asked if perchance they were blocking an entryway, but was informed that they were not. "Were the slabs inscribed?" No, I was told that they were paving slabs.⁴ However, I had my doubts as I had noted that most of the exposed edges of the slabs were

⁴ Paving slabs of stone are very common in Teotihuacán.

beveled. But, I said nothing because of being intimidated by the experts who had worked on the problem solving the tunnel for years.

Toward the end of the 1990s I had seen episodes of CSI and had learned how much scientific investigation had advanced. Of particular interest was the FBI invention of Luminol. As most people now know, Luminol causes human secretions of blood, sweat, tears, urine, etc., to become florescent in the dark. I inquired at my home town police department and learned from the lab that it did not matter how old the blood was, it would still become florescent when exposed to the Luminol. At that time Luminol was a highly controlled chemical that could only be obtained by police authorities. Yet, for more than one reason I thought this might be an interesting experiment to perform in the tunnel.

I was still curious about the stacks of stone slabs at the back of the tunnel. I could not believe that the ancient people of Teotihuacán had carved a 100 meter tunnel through basalt lava rock just to use it as a warehouse for paving stones. And, even it they did, why store such stones at the very back of the tunnel? I still had suspicions that those stones might be blocking something, but what?

Since my police department knows me well, I requested that they help me purchase a half-gallon of Luminol. They complied. I then traveled to Mexico with a half-gallon of strange chemicals in my suitcase. After some detailed inquiries from the Mexican customs officials, I arrived at Mario's doorstep. I told him that I would like to attempt a Luminol experiment in the tunnel to see if there was any latent blood remains to be found. He requested permission from Alejandro who gladly gave it to his old professor (Mario).

Though no C-14 dates had been performed on any materials from the tunnel, it was generally thought that its construction had been around 2,000 years before. If so, that would put this new chemical to the test, but whether or not the Luminol revealed anything was not my concern. My real interest was the stack of stones at the end of the tunnel. My ulterior plan was to stick a wire through the stack of stones while the lights in the tunnel were turned off and all present were engaged in the Luminol experiment. In this way, I hoped to find out if the stack of stones were hiding an entrance. I enlisted my good friend, Ale Bretton.⁵ Being a chemist, Ale could distract the observers much as a magician's assistant.⁶ The plan was that I would carry a coat hanger up my sleeve and pull it out at the right moment. Finally, all was set. And we entered the tunnel about 8 PM.

Mario had explained to Alejandro that a Luminol test was to be performed and Alejandro, not yet being the director at Teotihuacán, had informed his boss of this news who had then spread the word to all the archaeologists working on the site. So, when Mario, Ale and I arrived that night, there were about twenty archaeologists on hand to see the Luminol test. We were all introduced (Doctor, Doctor, Doctor, etc.). I was the only one without a title. After the formality of introductions we then entered the tunnel and proceeded to the rear. I positioned myself next to the stacked stone slabs with my back to them. Ale was in front of me preparing the Luminol.⁷ Once ready, we called for the lights to be turned off. Ale sprayed and in the dark I slipped out my hidden coat hanger and inserted it into the stack of stones... $\#\%@(\dots$ curses, there was a wall behind the stack! But, then I began to hear the oohs and aahhs. The Luminol spray on the floor actually began to become florescent. It seemed as though there were latent human secretions on the floor. Immediately, I was now refocused. I then had Ale spray the wall. One could clearly see where something had splashed on the wall and ran down to the floor. Of course, I realized that it was possible that it might not be ancient and it might not be blood. We might have evidence of an archaeologist having relieved himself within the last forty years. For that reason

⁵ For the sake of those who know me and for the sake of my gray-haired old mother, I wish to point out that my first wife had died and my second wife had divorced me by this time.

⁶ Who says there is nothing sexual about archaeology?

⁷ Back in those days Luminol did not come premixed.

(though I didn't voice it) I had Ale spray the ceiling. Amazingly one could see the cast-off droplets crisscrossing the ceiling as though from a knife.

At this point in the tunnel the ceiling is a little over two meters high. Now there may be some women who might believe that a man could hit such a high spot with his urine, but all men know that we cannot. The excitement grew within the crowd. As we began to return to the entrance, we had to go single file. But,

then Alejandro asked us to stop and test one of the stone channels. tested positive It inside the channel. but negative on the outside. Testing one of the perforated stones revealed a positive test on one side and negative on the other, and the walls of the hole in



that stone tested positive also. This seemed to support the concept of the drain covered with tile theory.

On the way out I noticed that there was a wall constructed of "river rocks."⁸ They were dry-walled⁹ and chinked¹⁰ into place. I paused and touched the wall. All the stones were firmly packed into their positions. Then I asked, "What is behind this wall?" I was informed that nothing was behind the wall. That it was a wall of debris which had been made by the Aztecs when they had moved the original partitions and had looted the tunnel. Then, the

⁸ River rocks are rocks which are rounded in shape as though they had been washed and rounded by water action.

⁹ No mortar applied.

¹⁰ Wedged. Actually chinked is a term used when the stones are placed without mortar and are not rounded, but rough in nature.

group exited. Now everyone was excited and it was suggested that we all go to the Astronomical Cave to try the "magic liquid" there.

The Astronomical Cave is a cave that was found behind the Pyramid of the Sun and outside of Teotihuacán's perimeter road. Basically, it is a large pit with a standing stela located on the floor. The solar rays of light cascade into the cave through the narrow

opening in the ceiling causing a shadow from the stela that appear to mark a 260 day calendar. This cave does not have public access for a variety of reasons. The single largest reason is that the only entrance requires a twelve foot ladder to be lowered into the access



hole in the ceiling thus prohibiting large groups. Never-the-less, we now had an archaeologist pajama party in full swing! So the twenty of us entered.

The stela and surrounding area tested negative. But, there is a

alcove with small a shaped roughly altar stone. The altar stone tested positive. After this we all drove over to the Ventanilla which is another of area Teotihuacán that is not accessible to the public and is also outside of the Teotihuacán perimeter road on the opposite side

ancient

city.

of the



Positive results to the tests were found here as well. At this point

we all retreated to the Villa Hotel (Club Med) for drinks and discussion.

At the restaurant many calling cards were exchanged, but the most delightful and eventually the most important one I received was the calling card of the hippie-looking Sergio Gomez. Sergio wrote down his information on a napkin—his calling card was identical to mine!

There were other expeditions during the latter part of the 1990s and into the early 2000s. While many were focused on projects other than the tunnel at Teotihuacán, most of those expeditions included Teotihuacán as a stopping point to learn of any new findings. Two big pieces of information were received around 2005. The Teotihuacán Project was about to grow exponentially, and that growth would lead to completely new concepts and ideas concerning the tunnel. Develops would reveal that we (the public) had apparently been fed a series of lies.

Collected Knowledge

Up to this point it is generally believed by most archaeologists that the tunnel was dug from between 100 - 250 AD. It is also believed that it was created using antler, bone and wooden tools. The concept is that the tunnel was created to resemble a symbolic gesture to the ancient's gods, though the significance of that gesture has been lost due to the sacking of the tunnel by Aztecs some 1,500 years after its construction. It is commonly believed that no one will ever be able to unravel the tunnel's significance.

Unfortunately, I must admit that I fell for this "official story" and was convinced of the truthfulness of the statements made above. But, I would later learn information that drastically changed my mind concerning many of these concepts. However, there were some basic concepts I continue to accept. Many of those concepts were derived from the Heyden article. I will give several examples:

1) The tunnel had been compartmentalized in ancient times. Heyden claimed that up to thirty-three

compartments existed, and depending upon how one counted them, I agree. Heyden had suggested that each compartment had been sealed off from the others. I had my doubts concerning this. The tunnel begins with the formation of three distinct rooms that are separated by narrow corridors. Just beyond these three rooms are two alcoves (or rooms), one on the left and the other on the right. I can find no evidence of a doorway being blocked or sealed at any of these junctions.





t and left alcoves appears to be seventeen doorways of which it is theorized that the Aztecs tore down in relatively ancient times when looting the tunnel. I also disagree with this analysis on two counts. First, there is no evidence that I can see of any of the seventeen doorways being sealed. In general the walls at each doorway are mortared. However, they are usually only mortared from four to five feet high (1.25 to 1.75 meters), whereas the mean height of the tunnel is approximately six feet three inches (two meters). Never is such a wall built to the ceiling. And there is no evidence on the ceilings of any mortar being affixed to it. Second, there are many drywall-chinked walls closely associated with the doors. That is to say, that these walls have the general appearance of a bunch of roundish river stones haphazardly thrown into a pile where they lay. However, closer examination reveals that each stone is firmly in place and there is nothing haphazard about it. Yet it is commonly held that these drywalls are the result of the Aztecs having removed the sealed doorways and throwing the rubble to the side. This argument does not sit well with me for several reasons. Even if the river stones were used to seal off each doorway, the amount of stones needed to accomplish that would not be half of the stones available. That is to say, if the doorways were covered with the river rocks up to the ceiling, less than half of the river stones visible would have been needed to seal off any given doorway. So, why all the extra river stones? It is presently my contention that those loose stone walls are original. That is to say that they were built purposefully at the same time that all of the rest of the tunnel was built. More clues were to show up soon.





HERE IS AN EXAMPLE OF WHERE A "RIVER ROCK" WALL RUNS INTO AND CHANGES TO A MORTARED WALL. ABRUPT CHANGES IN WALL CONSTRUCTION LIKE THESE ARE COMMON IN TUNNEL A. ALSO, THERE ARE FREQUENT CHANGES IN THE ROCK SIZES USED IN EITHER DRYWALLS OR MORTARED WALLS. AS OF YET IT IS NOT KNOWN WHY THESE CHANGES OCCUR. THE MORTAR IS COLORED BROWN BECAUSE THE ANCIENTS MIXED IT WITH DIRT.

Advancements

By 2006 several advancements had been made in relation to what was to evolve into our Tunnel Project. Each of these advancements will be discussed along with their significance individually. The years given may not be exact, but are correct within a year or two.

2003

Sergio Gomez notes that a sink-hole has appeared directly in front of the Pyramid of Quetzalcoatl which is basically located at the south end of Teotihuacán. The sinkhole is about two and a half feet (exactly eighty-two centimeters) in diameter and is cut through a basalt lava flow. The sides of the shaft are polished. Sergio lowers himself into the sinkhole and finds that it leads him about forty-five feet (fifteen meters) down to a silt mud floor. Upon the floor, Sergio discovers the cover to the hole through which he just descended; after some 2,000 years it finally failed and collapsed into the sinkhole. The cover is decorated with a rattlesnake motif.



A little exploration reveals that the tunnel into which the sinkhole leads is probably about twelve feet high (four meters), eight feet wide (two and a half meters) and extends from under the Pyramid of Quetzalcoatl to the altar found in the center of the courtyard of the Citadel of Quetzalcoatl.



2009

Sergio finally obtained the financing to begin excavation close to the altar and finds a previous discovered stairway which leading to the entrance of the tunnel. By 2011 Sergio has excavated the stairway and the entrance to this new tunnel. There are now two tunnels that do have commonalities.

Tunnel Commonalities

For the sake of description the first tunnel found underneath the Pyramid of the Sun in 1971 will from this point on be labeled Tunnel A while the second tunnel found in 2003 in the Citadel of Quetzalcoatl will be labeled Tunnel B.

Both Tunnel A and Tunnel B are carved at about the same depth into the Teotihuacán bedrock at approximately forty-five feet or fifteen meters, and both are approximately the same length at three hundred feet or one hundred meters. Both run from west to east and both end under the ideal center of the structures. Since Tunnel B has had only six to eight feet (two meters) of excavation at this writing, other commonalities are difficult to discern, though it is generally thought that both were dug between 250 - 400 AD (at this time a new theory, placing them a couple of centuries earlier is in play).¹¹ To date there are no C-14 dates available on either tunnel. There are evidences that within a short period of time this lack of dateable material will change. Part of the problem in this aspect is that both tunnels have been flooded in relatively recent times and even possibly in ancient times.

Tunnel Differences

The two tunnels also have many differences. Tunnel A is carved in a very rustic fashion while Tunnel B is not only much larger, but very well finished. Both tunnels are thought to have been carved out of the bedrock lava flows with antler, bone and wooden chisels. Eventually, this will be demonstrated to be erroneous, and that particular aspect will be dealt with shortly.

Flooding

¹¹ This theory has been presented by the author elsewhere, but up until this writing, only verbally.

Both tunnels have evidence of flooding in recent times and possibly in ancient times. The evidence in each tunnel is markedly different.

Tunnel A: At present it is unknown whether Tunnel A had only flooded with the 1971 heavy rainfall, or if, in fact, it had flooded before that event. There are watermarks at a height of about eighteen inches (half meter) on the walls toward the rear of Tunnel A. At this time it is unclear if those water marks are from the 1971 flood which revealed the tunnel's existence or if they are from previous flooding. The present supposition is that the marks are from the 1971 flood because no depression such as the one that betrayed the tunnel's existence had been previously reported. Of course, the danger is that more modern elements might have washed in during the 1971 flooding and might affect any C-14 dates. Moreover, any dehydrated materials might rehydrate and form molds or mildews which might also affect C-14 dates. At the time of this writing another similar and related problem is occurring in Tunnel A, but this problem will be explained in a future segment of this article entitled : Muon Neutrino Machine.

Tunnel B: At present it is theorized that Tunnel B has only begun flooding since around the 1930s. This supposition is based upon a collapse of the ceiling which can, at present, be seen in Tunnel B. Tunnel B is almost totally silted in, whereas Tunnel A has no evidence of a great amount of silt. The silt deposit within Tunnel B is somewhat higher just below the ceiling failure than anywhere



else within that tunnel. The ceiling failure seems to be just below the foot of the front staircase of the Temple of Quetzalcoatl, and just behind the apron stairway of the structure which covers it. The valley created in the 1930s when the Pyramid of Quetzalcoatl was first excavated has now been channeling water into Tunnel B's ceiling at this location for more than seventy years now. Slowly the length of the whole tunnel has silted in until the present space from the ceiling is only about twelve to fourteen inches (about thirty centimeters) from the roof of the tunnel. The effect of this collapse can presently be seen in the front façade of the Pyramid of Quetzalcoatl. The central stairway and adjacent façade of that pyramid has sunk by four to eight inches (ten to twenty centimeters) along a length of about forty to sixty feet (fifteen to twenty meters). At this point there are huge pieces of ceiling that have collapsed onto the floor. Just beyond this collapse the tunnel ends with a downturn in the ceiling. That downturn suggests the existence of a stairway going downward to a deeper room. However, only the downturn of the ceiling suggests this. One cannot be certain because of all the silt. On the other hand, the presence of this fine silt will not only protect any artifacts from oxidation, but at the moment, is also helping to hold up the façade of the Quetzalcoatl Pyramid, as well as the pyramid body. This will impede excavation, though for the moment time is on our side.

The Tomas Villas Find

Around 2004 (possibly earlier) a graduate student by the name of Tomas Villas made an extremely interesting find. He and his boss had been commissioned to clean out a storage area left by



an archaeologist who had passed away. That archaeologist was the same one that first excavated Tunnel A back in 1971. Among the boxes of uncatalogued artifacts was found a box containing the remains of what appeared to be about fourteen stone disks. The disks were highly unusual and were unlabeled. Finally, all of the artifacts could be catalogued except for this last box, and their style gave no clue as to their origin. This was because of several reasons.

All of the disks were about one-half to three-quarters of an inch thick (one to three centimeters). Their diameters ranged from three inches (ten centimeters) to about thirty inches (seventy centimeters). All of the disks (the largest was an oval) had holes drilled on their upper edges. They were bi-relief carved on one side with the single exception of one which was blank and covered with pyrite (Fool's Gold) on the other. Some of this art was familiar.

Though the humidity of the 1971 flood had oxidized the pyrite, it seemed obvious that these artifacts had at one time served as hanging mirrors. Such mirrors had previously been found in Mesoamerica.¹² Assuming that the pyrite side of the mirrors is the obverse sides of the disks, then the carved reverse sides were by far the most perplexing. The reverse side of each mirror displayed an intricate carving, but each was from a different subculture of Mesoamerica. While all seemed to date from the same Early Classic Period, each had a unique art style. Most of the art styles were easily recognizable. The largest (oval shape) one was Teotihuacán. Among the others were Huastec, Toltec, Lowland Maya, Highland Maya, Yucatan Maya, Oaxacan and so on. And each displayed some aspect of the same god; Quetzalcoatl.

Tomas visited several officials who were well-versed in many art styles. Most threw up their hands in frustration. Finally, while later going through some paperwork Tomas found a single photograph revealing the disks origin story. It clearly demonstrated that the disks had all originated from Tunnel A. Tomas continued

¹² Villas, Tomas; "Los Tezcacuitlapilli de a pirámide del sol" An Archaeological License Thesis. Mexico, 2009.

his research and in 2009 published his thesis on this find. He found several things that are of great interest to those of us involved with Tunnel A. The single most important surprise was a cotton fiber. You see, one of the disks had a hole drilled into the carved reverse side, and that hole had been plugged. Why would an artisan do that to his own art? Upon opening the hole it was found that a single cotton fiber was curled up inside. Even more interesting was that particular fiber was not a fiber from short-fibered cotton or a fiber from long-fibered cotton, but a hybrid-fiber from both types of cotton. The importance of this fact was apparently lost on Tomas since he makes no mention as to the dating of this fiber.



The Significance of Hybridized Cotton Fiber

Though few Mesoamerican archaeologists are aware of the findings of Dr. George Carter (Texas A&M University) concerning

the hybridization of cotton in the Americas,¹³ even fewer are aware of its role in demonstrating pre-Columbian transoceanic contact.¹⁴ Those studies suggest that both the short-fibered and long-fibered cotton arrived in Mesoamerica in very ancient times, but they also demonstrate that the hybridized version of these two types of cotton was exported from Mesoamerica back to the Old World. However, it is not believed that the existence of this hybridized style of cotton had existed quite so early.¹⁵ This changes much of what most archaeologists believe concerning Mesoamerican history.

The Significance of the Disks Found in Tunnel A

Tomas Villas also avoids an in-depth discussion of three other factors concerning the disks from Tunnel A. These factors include their original locations in the tunnel, their total absence from the Heyden Report and the meaning of their contextual grouping. All three of these factors are extremely important to comprehend in order to completely understand their significance.

The Location of the Disks in Tunnel A

Since there were no excavation notes concerning anything about the 1971 opening of Tunnel A, obvious questions concerning the original location of these items begins to arise. While I suppose that the group was found together, I also suppose that they were found somewhere in the four alcoves that form the "Quetzal Flower" at the end of the tunnel. I needed to confirm that supposition. All of the team leads on that 1971 team were now dead. It has been forty years since that original project. Yet, there might be someone still alive who witnessed this project in action. What about the laborers? Could it be possible to find any? It was not only possible, but it was relatively easy to find them.

¹³ Carter, George; George F. Carter Memorial Issue, Pre-Columbiana, Vol. 3, No. 1-3, December 2003/June & December 2004.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ George Carter, Opinion cited.

However, before this story is revealed I want to make it clear that these men prefer their anonymity, and I have promised to maintain it for them. I will not betray that trust. Once the story is revealed, it will become clear as to why this is being done. Moreover, it should also be made clear that each of the men found believe that they are the only ones to have been interviewed by me. That is to say, with only one exception I did not reveal to any of them that I had or would be interviewing anyone else. There are several reasons that I took this tact. I did not want competing stories. I wanted the information to be as clear as possible without exaggerations. Also, I did not want anyone to feel uncomfortable while communicating with me. They all had to be sure that I would not betray them. Most of all, if there was to be any specific accusation towards anyone in particular I wanted them to know that it would not be repeated by me.

Upon finding one of the laborers involved in the 1971 excavation, I was led to three more. Once I was personally introduced to a hesitant worker I believe that my first contact has never revealed that he had given me the names of the others. It is feasible that since that series of interviews these men have spoken to one another, but I have doubts about this. None of these workers are employed with INAH or have any connection with Teotihuacán. All (except one) are retired from government work relating to archaeology. As far as I know, they have no relations with anyone at Teotihuacán presently. Therefore, if I don't reveal their identities they are safe. That means that I am going to personally take the brunt of any attack that might later surface to attempt to show that the following information is not true. I'll confidently take the heat. First and foremost, all four interviews claim the disks were found in the same location; the first left alcove from the entrance. All of those interviewed claim that many disks were found, but none could give a count as to exactly how many there were. One interviewee claimed that there were "more than



fifty." However, I find that claim somewhat doubtful. Even making the assumption supported by the present evidence of the Tomas Villas study, that there was a disk present to represent each subculture of the Early Classical Mesoamerican Period, I believe that the most disks present would have been thirty to thirty-five. Of greater interest is how the interviews portrayed the removal of those disks.

All of them openly stated that no photographs of the disks were taken *in situ*¹⁶ and that no measurements of any kind were recorded. No excavation was performed because all of the disks were found on the floor in the open. They were simply picked up and transferred to the tunnel entrance. It is also claimed that all of the disks were whole when removed from the left alcove of the tunnel. Upon reaching the surface they were simply thrown into a pile where several of them were broken. Horrifyingly, this sounds like a "sacking" as opposed to an archaeological excavation. Therefore, I pressed the interviews for more information. All four agreed that the tunnel had been actually looted by the people in charge.

Now, it is not that I wish to involve myself in the quagmire of such an accusation. This type of accusation is the worst type

¹⁶ Latin term referring to an item as found "in place" or in its original state.

made of any archaeologist, but the meager evidence with which we are left seems to support the accusation being made. If the accusers are to remain nameless as I have promised, then nothing can be accomplished by making a list of the accused. Moreover, all of the accused are dead. Therefore, I make no accusations in this report, but rather simply report what was stated to me by these nameless contacts.¹⁷

All of the four contacts agreed on all of the following points:

- 1. Many large stone and ceramic figurines were found in all of the alcoves, both the two toward the front of the tunnel and the four at the rear of the tunnel.
- 2. Many stone slabs were removed. Those slabs were not thought to have writing on them, though they claimed that many were carved with artwork.
- 3. Several stone boxes were removed. No one ever saw what was in the boxes. Apparently none of the boxes were extremely large. The largest remembered could be carried by two men.
- 4. There were some conch shells which had also been carved.
- 5. All four witnesses claim adamantly that no gold was found, though, this appeared to be the main focus of the search. The workers claimed that they were "frisked" each day after work.
- 6. Much material such as the stone slabs was simply dumped and broken. It is claimed by three of the witnesses that all of the broken material was buried in the Teotihuacán trash site claimed to be north of the main city complex.

¹⁷ As it turns out, it seems more than obvious that the accuser's stories are true. The archaeological evidence later found could only be interpreted as verifying the accuser's stories. And, since their stories have been found to be supported by the evidences found in Tunnel A, it is reasonable to understand not only why they have chosen to make the accusations so late (for fear of reprisals), but to make them at all. After all, they received no part of the "booty."

7. All witnesses state that the looting took only four to five days with much of it occurring over a weekend as they recall.

Only one witness remembers any jewelry. Two witnesses recall collection of small sealed flasks or jars. Only one witness claims that some metal was found, but that he did not know what kind it was except that it was not gold. Two witnesses claim that shields were found, but they cannot describe them or what they looked like.

All claim that once the looting was finished, they were told with the other workers to not ever tell anyone about what had occurred. Now, at the time of these interviews I had more than grave doubts concerning their validity. Of course I was bothered by the consistency of all the testimonies and I had attempted to speak to each individual privately in order to ensure that the testimonies were not a collection of collaborative tales. I had made the attempt to isolate each witness from the others so that only one would know all of their names. Moreover, and this must be made clear, I spent months not only making the contacts and gaining the trust of these people, but I also paid for their testimonies. Therefore, all of testimonies must be taken carefully considered. The corroborating evidence found within Tunnel A will be reported on in subsequent reports.

The Absence of Disks in the Heyden Report

Since it has been demonstrated by Tomas Villas that the disks in his study originated from Tunnel A, it must be asked, "Why are the disks not mentioned in the Heyden Report?"¹⁸ The archaeologist who had been guarding the disks was alive, well and aware of Heyden writing the report, yet Heyden makes no mention of them as to the disk origin, or even of their existence. There are several plausible answers as to why this was the case.

18 Opinion cited.

- 1. It is plausible that the archaeologist involved wanted to keep obscure the existence of the disks so that he could create a later report. He surely realized the significance of those disks as evidenced by his having kept them. The problem with this theory is that no witness can be found that knew of the existence of the disks, nor did the archaeologist ever create an outline for such a report in the more than twenty-five years following the Heyden Report. This last is attested to by his paper trail as Tomas Villas combed through the volumes of his papers he left behind.
- 2. A seemingly more probable scenario is that the archaeologist that had the disks did not want to reveal them because of the very questions that their very existence would raise such as, "Why were the disks never reported?"
- 3. It is feasible that the archaeologist had simply forgotten about the disks. While on the face of it this scenario would seem ludicrous, it is feasible. Personally, I am aware of many archaeologists who have "squirreled away" enigmatic artifacts for later study and have eventually forgotten about them. Archaeologist's offices are filled with such stuff. In fact, a scenario is feasible that includes a combination of the last two scenarios.
- 4. It is feasible that upon Heyden's study being effectuated that the archaeologist remembered the disks, but could not remember where he had put them. Being embarrassed by this state of affairs, he may have opted to say nothing. If one chooses to ignore the laborer's testimonies of looting, then I would opt for this scenario. But, if one accepts the laborer's testimony of looting, then I would opt for scenario #2. This choice of which scenario is closer to reality will become more obvious in future reports.

For the moment, until further clarification is received, one must accept scenarios 1, 3 or 4 as wished. I am accepting #4 for the present. I may be a fool.

The Contextual Significance of the Disks

As stated earlier, the Tomas Villas disks seemingly portray a distinct variety of cultures during the Early Classic Period. Interestingly, all disks were made to hang and all were mirrors. The symbolism involved here seems to be that the carving found on the reverse side of each mirror is made to be a reflection of the subculture represented. Moreover, all of the carvings are related in one way or another to a single god; Quetzalcoatl. Is one supposed to read this collection of disks as a unification of these Mesoamerican cultures to a single religion? Possibly so. This possibility will be further addressed in future articles.

The Stone Slab Study of 2008

By 2007 the stacks of stone slabs that had been located at the rear of Tunnel A had been removed. The stones had been carried and momentarily stored on the patio next to one of the Teotihuacán warehouses on site. This transportation resulted in two problems concerning their significance.

1. The stone slabs had not been maintained in the order in which they had been in Tunnel A. This was a loss of valuable information. It is not that I blame Alejandro for this incident, though he was in charge. Until the stone slabs were actually examined individually, their true significance could not be understood. However, it is to be supposed that many photographs of the stacks of stone slabs had been taken. I would like to examine those photos if they could ever be made available. Perhaps from such photos one could reestablish the order of the stacks. Now, I am not attempting to overly criticize Alejandro in this respect either. After all, I took photos of those stacks and placed them on a floppy disk which not

only have I since lost, but even if found, I now do not have a means of reading such a disk. So I am just as guilty in this instance as Alejandro. However, we can both learn from our mistakes. I have warned Alejandro concerning Tunnel A and Sergio concerning Tunnel B of

incident the recounted above. If by any chance such a stack of similar stone slabs should again be found, their order should be recorded. Reasons for that cautioning will become



evident in the following summary of the Stone Slab Report.¹⁹

2. The second error by the Tunnel A stone slabs transportation team was the most grievous. As the truck transporting the stone slabs was unloaded, the slabs were carried to a concrete patio close to one of the artifact warehouses on the Teotihuacán site. While common courtesy should dictate that any artifact is dealt with carefully, such was not the case here. Once each laborer arrived to the patio with a slab in hand, instead of squatting to place the slab on the surface, a careless drop of twelve to eighteen inches (one-third to one-half meter) was given. This careless action had the result of all but three of the slabs being broken. Again, valuable information was lost in this action.

The common belief at that time was that the slabs were only paving stones of which millions can be found all over Teotihuacán.

¹⁹ Steede, Neil; <u>The Catalogue of the Stone Slabs from the Tunnel Underneath the Pyramid of the Sun at</u> <u>Teotihuacán</u>. Independence, MO, 2010.



Because it was believed that these slabs were of little archaeological importance, little care was taken when accommodating the slabs on the patio. As fate would have it, those slabs were still on the patio when my team arrived to examine them one year later.

The Stone Slab Study of 2009

In the 2009 expedition our team was allowed to view the stone slabs that had been extracted from Tunnel A.²⁰ In short, there were found to be close to 200 stone slabs present. Most were in rubble state. As we arrived at the warehouse with Sergio, Alejandro (now site director) arrived. It seemed apparent that this was the first time that Alejandro had actually observed the patio storage. I overhead him inquire one of the employees as to what happened, the employee answered as to how the laborers had dropped all of the stones which had in turn resulted in their

breakage. Sergio Gomez had done the paperwork for Alejandro's permission to examine the stone slab remains, so we began our over all examination of at least the larger pieces of the slabs available. That examination resulted in the following observations.

The most important observation was that the stone slabs were not paving stones. The single largest reason for this conclusion was that all of their edges were beveled.²¹ This aspect was new to us, but we were prepared for the second observation because Sergio had related it to us on our previous visit. Some of the slabs had holes in their edges so that they could be hung.

Obviously, paving stones are not beveled on the edges or perforated. Paving stones are simply square or rectangular stone slabs which are squared on the edges and have no perforations. And usually, particularly in the case of Teotihuacán, paving slabs are made of basalt²² and usually thicker than these slabs. The average Teotihuacán paving stone might be up to two inches or even three inches (five to eight centimeters) thick. Meanwhile these stone slabs from Tunnel A were from one-quarter to one inch (one to three centimeters) thick. Their thinness would preclude being used as paving stones. So, what are they? To answer that question one should consider our general observations.

Stone Slab 2009 General Observations

The stone slabs from Tunnel A can be separated into several categories. The first category observed was that of material makeup. The two categories of slabs are those made from basalt and those made from shale. The first is an igneous rock while the second is a sedimentary rock. Both types of rock have similar sizes and thickness. However, this is where the similarities end. We found that only the shale slabs were perforated while the basalt slabs were not. However, we did note that all of the basalt slabs (whether square or rectangular) had what appeared to be a

²¹ A beveled edge refers to an edge of a structure that is not perpendicular to the faces of the piece.

²² Basalt is a common extrusive volcanic rock. It is usually grey to black and fine-grained due to rapid cooling of lava at the surface of the planet.

deliberately carved "waist." This waist was barely detectable on many of the basalt slabs. Moreover, the waist was never exactly



centered. Our conclusion was that it would seem as though the slabs had possibly been intended to hang from a chocker rope or a slipknot rope. This brought up the question as to why.

While some 90% of all the stones had what seemed to be the remnants of pyrite covering (Fool's Gold) as the Tomas Villas disks had, to consider them to be mirrors did not seem to be completely reasonable. If, in fact, the basalt slabs with the waists were mirror then the slipknot rope would have had part of it running across the mirror. And while one could hang such a mirror squarely, it would require some juggling to make any slab do so. This problem then gave rise to the question, "Could they possibly be stone chimes?" We had brought the right team member to test this hypothesis. His name was Gary Woods.

The Chime Hypothesis

To test the chime hypothesis we only had three slabs to work with. All of the shale slabs were too severely broken while two of the basalt slabs offered us a chance to test our theory. In addition, Sergio had a large basalt slab from his excavation on the stairway leading to Tunnel B which was totally unbroken and could be tested.

The problem with slabs that had less than 90% of their mass in tact was that those particular stone could never be made to "sound" again at their original notes. This concept was apparently lost on Sergio since he had us tape together one of the larger shale stones and try to "sound" it.

For purposes of this study we decided to rely on a scale of whole notes while searching for natural a pitch known as "clear tones" or sharps or flats of clear tones. It is more than probable that the test would have yielded more precisely identifiable notes if we had recorded the sounds to particular Megahertz rather than simply acceptable and recognizable notes.²³ But, for our immediate purposes the study was performed well enough.

²³ Hindsight is a wonderful thing!

On our arrival home we found that if we replicated these stones out of Indiana Black Granite that we were able to reproduce the note of a basalt slab exactly two octaves higher on the scale. This implies that no matter how badly a stone is broken, we can now find the "note" of that stone by creating a replica.

To test this theory we measured the standing stela found in the Astronomical Cave. We then returned home and created a replica of it in Indiana Black Granite. The replica told us that the Astronomical Cave stela resonates at an "A." When we returned in 2010 and tested the hypothesis, we found that the original did, in fact, sound at an "A."

Another related but unproven hypothesis was that at least



four octaves of notes were able to be sounded on the Tunnel A stone slabs. This theory will remain a hypothesis until there are actually funds to create all of the replicas needed.²⁴

²⁴ The few replicas created cost \$800 for the stone and another \$200 for each slab for its preparation.

Another question that occurred was, "Since so many slabs seemed to have had pyrite glued to the obverse sides, would that affect the notes produced by the slabs in question?" Sliced pyrite is not readily available and since we knew that the pieces of pyrite that had been affixed to the stone must be ultra thin, we searched for a material easier to deal with and less costly. We chose layered, heavy duty aluminum foil. Three to five thicknesses of this material was roughly equivalent to the thickness that the pyrite was believed to have had. In the Tomas Villas study no conclusion could be reached on what glue had been used by the ancients. We had several options. One might be sap-pitch while the other might be a type of tar. The first would dry hard while the second would dry flexible. So, what we were interested in was a stiff glue and a "rubbery" glue. We supposed that either glue would cause the stone upon which it was applied to resonate differently.

We created three identical stone slabs and glued two with five layers of heavy duty aluminum foil to each. Both stones not only had glue applied between its surface and the aluminum foil, but also between the layers of aluminum foil. Once dried, all three stones were tested to discover at what note they resonated. Amazingly, we found all three stones resonated identically. We were surprised. Another experiment was conducted by making a stela box²⁵ into which one of the stones would be set. This experiment was initiated because of the Astronomical Cave stela being set in such a box. Again, the replica stone was found to resonate at the same note whether inside of or outside of the stela box. Another surprise.



During this time it was noted that most of the basalt stones had beveled edges while none of the shale stones did. Experiments showed that the beveling did not seem to affect resonation either.

Many of the beveled stones did have a flatter edge which seems to imply that they were not hung, but rather stood as stela similar to the Astronomical Cave stela. Hundreds of such small stela have been found all over Teotihuacán. It appears as though their stela boxes are mostly associated with stairways and altars.

²⁵ A stela box is a socket, usually formed out of stone that allows a stela to stand erect. Some of the stela boxes are hewn from solid rock while others are fashioned with multiple pieces of stone shaped to hold the stela in place.



The Mirror Aspect of Tunnel A Stone Slabs

As stated earlier many of the basalt stone slabs had evidence of pyrite being glued to them on one side. We found no such evidence with the shale slabs. Curiously, it was also found that the faces of the stone slabs that had the pyrite glued to them came in three formats. Those formats were flat, convex and concave. This translates to having had hanging mirrors which were of these formats. Why? Also many of these mirrors had a blunt square cut edge that implied that they were to be used as standing stela as opposed to hanging mirrors. Though not extremely clear, due to the breakage, it seems as though there were no waist-cut stones with a blunt edge and that there were no stones with a blunt edge that had waist cuts. Therefore, it seemed as though there was a mix of stone slabs. Both hanging and standing stones seemed to be present and seemingly the stone slabs served the dual purpose of mirrors and chimes. This seemingly unusual combination gave rise to several theories. However, there was one more clue to examine.

The Painted Markings on the Tunnel A Stone Slabs

Though none of the shale stone slabs have evidences of glued pyrite or paint, almost all of the basalt stone slabs exhibit some type of paint markings on their reverse sides. The true spectrum of those markings became apparent on the expedition the following year when we created the Stone Slab Catalogue. But, it was eventually realized that the reverse sides of the basalt stone slabs had individualistic markings on them. As far as we know there seemed to be five basic shapes and six basic colors, though there were possibly more colors.



The shapes painted onto the stones included squares, rectangles, triangles, circles, and lines. While the first four shapes were almost always about one inch or less (three centimeters), the lines were longer and many were about three-quarters the length of the stone. No clue could be found as to their significance, though a theory is building.

The Holes of the Tunnel A Stone Slabs

Apparently only the shale stones had holes. This might have been due to the fact that the shale was much easier to drill than the basalt. The holes all seemed uniform in diameter at just under an inch (one-half to one centimeter). The most interesting aspects of the holes were the manner in which they had been cut.

First, there was no tapering of the hole diameter. That is to say, the side of each hole seemed to be parallel one with another for the length of the shaft. It should also be stated in the same breath that no shaft studied was longer than one-half of an inch (one centimeter). Even more striking than the bores was the fact that the holes never went straight through the stone slab. Rather, these holes were drilled one from the face of the slab and one from the edge of the slab. The two holes joined one another at a right



angle inside of the slab. As another comparative note, the Tomas Villas disks were made from basalt, and the holes drilled into the disks went straight through the slab. We have no idea as to why this difference occurred.

Finally, it should be mentioned that with Alejandro's permission we were allowed to make molds of two of the stone slabs. We finished the molds after the site had closed. Therefore, Tim Brown and I had to look for a way to leave the archaeological zone and get to our hotel. Finding all of the gates locked and carrying several large trash bags with the molds and our equipment, we knew that we made a suspicious pair who looked as though we were stealing something. Finally, we found a place to slip under the perimeter fence. We had avoided the perimeter patrols and made it to our hotel.

The Stone Slab Catalogue and the 2010 Spring Expedition

In April 2010 our group received permission to develop a catalogue of the stone slabs from Tunnel A. This permission was provided to us by Sergio Gomez. For this photography we set up a numbering system as well as a graph backdrop for the stone slabs. That catalogue is shown in part here.



The 2010 December Expedition and 2011 October Expedition

Both of these expeditions were set up and approved by Alejandro. In both cases the expeditions themselves were totally spent within Tunnel A. Much information was obtained during these expeditions resulting in an explosion of new understandings and new theories. By this time we could finally read the façade of the Pyramid of Quetzalcoatl. With this enlightenment and with the comprehension of the symbolism of Tunnel A we could now begin to understand the ancients who had built these tunnels. The story is far more than fascinating.

The extended versions of the reports given in this article along with the reports of the two follow-up expeditions will be available in the January 2012 publication of the Pre-Columbiana.²⁶

Also, if Christine can stand it, further synopsis reports will be available on this website.

Thanks for your interest, Neil Steede (Neil can be contacted via Christine)



²⁶ Pre-Columbiana