



Monuments of Yaxchilan: Lintel 12¹

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Context: Found by Teobert Maler in 1900 in the context of Structure 20 and taken in 1964 to the Museo Nacional de Antropología, Mexico City (Graham and von Euw 1977:33). This structure is associated with the reign of Yaxuun Bahlam IV who commissioned Stelae 3, 4, 5, 6, and 33. His son and successor, Cheleew Chan K'inich Itzamnaaj(?)/Kokaaj(?) Bahlam IV, subsequently continued the construction program with different sculptures such as Hieroglyphic Stairway 5 and Stela 7, as well as Lintels 13 and 14. Due to severe erosion, the calculation of the Calendar Round of Lintel 12 is problematic and may either date to the reign of Yaxuun Bahlam IV or, less likely but still within the range of possibilities, to the reign of his son.

Dimensions: MW 0.98 m, HSc 0.79 m, WSc 0.87 m, MTh 0.33 m, Rel 0.8 cm (Graham and von Euw 1977:33).

Lintel 12 shows the lord in the middle of the scene being surrounded by four kneeling captives and a subordinate official, evidently the important *sajal* Chak Joloom. Both the king and his subordinate are holding a spear in the right hand, and the first is impersonating the Jaguar God of the Underworld. The glyphs are severely eroded; however, one possibility is that **3-AJAW** is recorded in B1 and **3-MUWAAN-ni** in C1, resulting in the tentative date 9.16.6.11.0 (14 November AD 757), which corresponds to the reign of Yaxuun Bahlam IV. An alternative scenario is that C1 records **3-UN-wa**, resulting in the date 9.17.6.15.0 (20 October 777), which would fall in the reign of Cheleew Chan K'inich. The corresponding event is recorded in B2 as **chu-ka-ja** chu[h]kaj "got captured." Unfortunately the rest of the text is almost completely lost. Due to the four captives depicted in the scene, parts of the text likely included their names and titles. Worth noting is the presence of severely eroded glyphs on the arm of the captives designating the name of each.

¹ Also see www.peabody.harvard.edu/cmhi/detail.php?num=12&site=Yaxchilan&type=Lintel

References

Graham, Ian, and Eric von Euw

1977 *Corpus of Maya Hieroglyphic Inscriptions, Volume 3, Part 1: Yaxchilan*. Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.



Yaxchilan Lintel 12. Photograph by Jorge Pérez de Lara. High-resolution version available:
www.mesoweb.com/monuments/Yaxchilan