



Hieroglyphs For Your Eyes Only

Samuel K. Lothrop and His Use of Ancient Egyptian as Cipher

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In their captivating research published under the title *The Archaeologist Was a Spy: Sylvanus G. Morley and the Office of Naval Intelligence* (Harris and Sadler 2003), Charles H. Harris and Louis R. Sadler present several archive documents, among which two pages of a notebook belonging to Harvard archaeologist Samuel K. Lothrop. Surprisingly, these two pages and a few other passages in the notebook display basic Egyptian hieroglyphs, which Lothrop obviously used as cipher. The purpose of the present paper is to discuss Lothrop's use of hieroglyphs and to offer transcriptions of these coded texts.*

Historical context

On the 6th of April 1917, the United States Congress granted President Wilson's request to declare war on Germany, and the country formally entered World War I. One week later, on April 13, as 24-year-old archaeologist Samuel Kirkland Lothrop (1892–1965) was excavating in Honduras¹ for the Peabody Museum, he received a laconic but unequivocal telegram from his old Harvard professor Alfred Marston Tozzer (1877–1954): “Meet Morley Guatemala City May 3rd without fail” (Harris and Sadler 2003:60).²



Samuel K. Lothrop³

* I am grateful to Profs. Louis R. Sadler and Charles H. Harris for their interest in the present research and their kind help and information. My heartfelt thanks also go to Patricia Kervick, Archivist at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, for her very generous help and patience with all my queries concerning the Lothrop archives, and for providing me with copies of the coded notes.

¹ After a period of work in Puerto Rico; see Guzmán 2011. I am grateful to Amanda Guzmán for allowing me to read her paper before publication.

² As we shall see, this book provides an invaluable help in understanding the importance of the coded texts, hence our very extensive use of it throughout this paper.

³ From a Panama visa form dated 11th January, 1917; the blue ink stamp reads “Consulado de la Republica de Panama, Puerto Limon, C. R.” Courtesy of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, number 996-20-30/11822.7.8.1 detail (digital file# 99040076). I am grateful to Patricia Kervick and Jessica Desany, Imaging Services Coordinator at the Peabody Museum, for allowing me to use this image.

Once in Guatemala, Lothrop was recruited by his older colleague and close friend Sylvanus Griswold Morley⁴ a.k.a “Vay” (1883–1948) to work for the US Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI), where he became designated as Agent No. 173.⁵ In Central America, ONI agents were to survey the coasts, looking for evidence of German submarine bases, a rumored threat which was taken very seriously.⁶ They also had to report and combat any hostile activities. The academic background of scholars like Morley and Lothrop was of great help to the ONI in the region, as these men could easily gather intelligence under cover of archaeological work.

While Morley was mainly based in Trujillo, Honduras, Lothrop was first posted in Bluefields, Nicaragua. From April 1918, he was based in San José, Costa Rica.⁷ Along with his wife Rachel,⁸ he would provide ONI with useful reports on the political situation in these countries : “The Lothrop’s case officer in the Canal Zone, John Steele, considered their work to be excellent. He mentioned that they were providing the best information on Costa Rica, and that ONI was sharing that information with others” (Harris and Sadler 2003:192). During his time of duty for the ONI,⁹ Lothrop would write his notes in a notebook titled O. N. I. NOTES, mostly in plain text, partly also with his own hieroglyphic code.¹⁰

An interest in Egypt

But why would a Mesoamerican scholar and archaeologist use a code inspired by Egyptian hieroglyphs ? As stated by Willey,

The beginnings of Sam (as he was to be known to his colleagues) Lothrop’s interest in archaeology are obscure; however, his brother Francis, six years his junior, remembers that he had a great friend and Groton classmate, William Crocker, whose father was a collector of antiquities of all kinds, and suggests that this may have provided a stimulus. In any event, he was an archaeology and anthropology undergraduate concentrator at Harvard, and very early he came under the influence of that remarkable teacher of Mexican and Central American archaeology and ethnology, Alfred Marston Tozzer. (Willey 1976:253–254)

This friend’s father may have owned some inscribed Egyptian artifacts, thus providing a “first contact” with hieroglyphs. In any case, when Lothrop was studying at Harvard, the professor of Egyptology there was George A. Reisner,¹¹ who had notably studied under professor Kurt Sethe in Berlin, and later made very important archaeological discoveries both in Egypt and

⁴ Morley himself had volunteered to join the ONI in March 1917; see Harris and Sadler 2003:46.

⁵ In spite of Morley’s strong recommendation, Lothrop was not commissioned and remained a civilian agent; see Harris and Sadler 2003:60–61.

⁶ Most countries in the region were either neutral or anti-American at the time; see Harris and Sadler 2003:313.

⁷ For details on Lothrop’s work for the ONI, see Harris and Sadler 2003:188–194.

⁸ Samuel Lothrop got married three times; see Willey 1976:253–272.

⁹ In the aftermath of a quarrel between ONI and the State Department following his reports about the American chargé d’affaires in Costa Rica, who was apparently involved with revolutionists, Lothrop resigned from the ONI in September-October 1918. Shortly afterwards, he became a Second Lieutenant assigned to Military Intelligence; see Harris and Sadler 2003:192–194. During World War II, Lothrop gathered intelligence for the Special Intelligence Service (a counterintelligence branch of the FBI) in Peru; see Price 2000:24–25; Harris and Sadler 2003:312.

¹⁰ It seems unlikely that he shared his system with anyone else. In fact, ONI provided its agents with a classic numerical substitution system, and Lothrop also received an exemplar of it – which he kept in his notebook as well. As noted by Harris and Sadler (2003:217), “It would not have taken even the most junior cryptanalyst long to break codes using these methods.”

¹¹ George Andrew Reisner (1867–1942), who was of German descent, was Assistant Professor of Semitic Archaeology from 1905 to 1910, then Assistant Professor at the Department of Egyptology in Harvard. In 1914, he became Professor of Egyptology. Due to the outbreak of the Great War while he was excavating, Reisner had to stay in Egypt and Sudan until 1921; see Reisner 1930:241–244.

Sudan. Reisner had been at Harvard for a while before becoming a professor: as he himself states,







The first course on the Egyptian language and hieroglyphics was given by myself in 1896–97, when an Instructor in Semitic Languages. (Reisner 1930:241)

Since Lothrop entered Harvard College in 1911 and graduated in 1915, he clearly had the opportunity to attend courses given by Reisner. Moreover, one should also mention the fact that, even before his high school days, his friend Sylvanus Morley

had been deeply interested in archaeology, particularly that of Egypt, and it was with the intention of entering that field that he went next to Harvard. There, F. W. Putnam, then director of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, deflected his interest to the Maya, pointing out the far greater opportunities in that then near-virgin field. (Morley 1975:v)¹²

Although Ancient Egypt certainly attracted both Morley and Lothrop, their interest in Mesoamerican studies was greater, and they kept studying in this domain – with the success we know.

A secret alphabet

In fact, Lothrop's code is a simple hieroglyphic alphabet, where almost all letters are replaced by the nearest corresponding Egyptian hieroglyphs (see our charts below). Most of the hieroglyphs he used were notably inspired by Jean-François Champollion's *Tableau des Signes Phonétiques* included in his famous *Lettre à M. Dacier*, published in Paris in 1822,¹³ explaining the Egyptian writing system: the signs  and , for instance, used by Lothrop to represent our letters o and l, were used as uniliteral signs (*w* and *l* respectively) in the Hellenistic – or Ptolemaic – period of Egyptian history only.¹⁴ They notably appear in the name  *Ptowlmys* 'Ptolemy',¹⁵ mentioned in the famous trilingual text of the Rosetta Stone (196 B.C.), which enabled Champollion to first crack the code of Egyptian hieroglyphs. As Parkinson explains,

The pictorial nature of the hieroglyphic script tends to stand in the way of realizing that the script writes a language, just as it obscured the way to decipherment until Champollion himself. Even after 1824 early scholars were initially uncertain whether a 'hieroglyphic dictionary' should be ordered by sign or by phonetic value, whereas it is now obvious that two different reference works are needed, a list of signs that allows one to read and transliterate the words written by the signs, and then a dictionary of the language. (Parkinson 1999:47)¹⁶

The pictorial nature of the hieroglyphic script also enabled their use in cryptography, and the literate Egyptian themselves did not hesitate to take advantage of this possibility: although other, more cursive writings were also developed (hieratic, and later demotic), hieroglyphs “always remained associated with the highest levels of the Egyptian universe. They were regarded as objects of learning in themselves, not merely an elaborate means of recording information that could be written more quickly in cursive scripts” (Parkinson 1999:71). By a subtle combination of the elements represented by hieroglyphs and their own phonetic values, signifier and signified could merge into cryptographic iconic scenes.¹⁷ Parkinson even underlines: “Among the world's scripts, Mayan hieroglyphs are perhaps the closest to

¹² Reference courtesy of Prof. Louis Sadler; see also Harris and Sadler 2003:39.

¹³ See Parkinson 1999:37 (Plate IV of the original document).


¹⁴ Prior to that, they already existed but were used to represent the biliteral sounds *w3* and *rw* respectively.

¹⁵ The king “Ptolemy” mentioned in the Rosetta Stone is Ptolemy V Epiphanes (205–180 B.C.)

¹⁶ This also applies to Maya glyphs; see Parkinson 1999:186.

¹⁷ Examples can be found in Parkinson 1999:80–87. During the Roman period, secret alphabets also appeared in Egypt; see Dieleman 2005:39, 87–96.

Egyptian hieroglyphs in their usage as a means of elite display and their integration with pictorial representation” (Parkinson 1999:188).

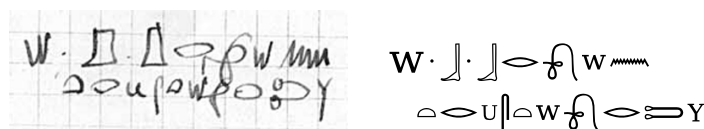
As we shall see, Lothrop also used “cartouches” in his notes, notably to stress the importance of a code name. A cartouche is a protective ring of rope usually represented as a line and surrounding Egyptian royal names. The name Ptolemy mentioned in the Rosetta Stone, for instance, appears there as follows :  , meaning “Ptolemy, given life eternally, beloved of Ptah.” It is interesting to note that Lothrop coded his numbers with symbols inspired by the Maya system, not the Egyptian one: he was certainly more familiar with the former, but one must also consider the fact that, even for small numbers, the Egyptian system would take more space, and would not be sufficiently hard to decipher, as numbers 1 to 9 simply consist in the same number of small vertical lines. As to the Maya system, numbers from 1 to 4 are represented by round dots arranged vertically, and a unit of 5 is represented by a vertical bar. Numbers from 6 to 19 are simply represented by the corresponding number of bars and dots.¹⁸ Lothrop would only draw the numerals composing a number: to represent 53, for example, he would draw a ‘five’ bar, followed by three vertical dots. To represent the number ten, however, he would draw two ‘five’ bars close to each other.

Coded texts in Lothrop’s O. N. I. NOTES

As we shall see, Lothrop would use his secret code for specific words and information, following this instruction :

Use plain language only when code messages are not permitted and then only when information is urgent and no knowledge of importance can be obtained by an outsider by reading the plain (language) message.¹⁹

His notebook is organized alphabetically : the first coded text appears in the letter B.



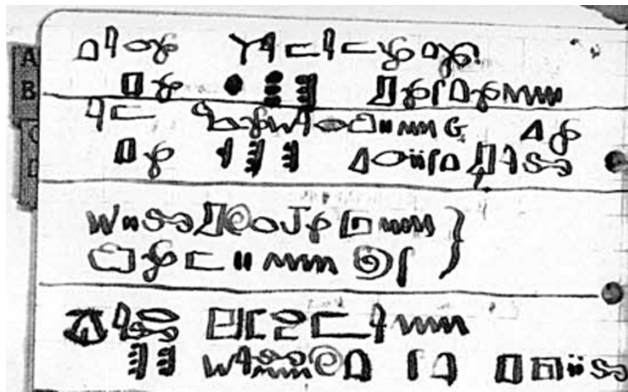
W. B. Brown
trustworthy

Who was this trustworthy gentleman? It is most certainly the W. P. Brown (*p* and *b* can easily get confused when roughly drawn, and Lothrop would sometimes make slight mistakes and omit letters when writing in code,²⁰ as we shall see) mentioned as ONI Agent No. 233 in the chart proposed by Harris and Sadler (2003:371). We do not know how important this agent was to Lothrop, but he apparently made a good impression: perhaps Lothrop even recruited him. The next coded passage, which is by far the longest, consists of the two pages reproduced by Harris and Sadler (2003:212–213). Let us start with the top of the left page :

¹⁸ For this vigesimal system, see notably Coe and Van Stone 2001:38–40; Sharer and Traxler 2006:100–102. Our number glyphs are all inspired by Montgomery 2002, except for the ‘zero’ sign, inspired by Coe and Van Stone 2001:40.

¹⁹ ONI’s *General Instructions* for Agents; see Harris and Sadler 2003:381.

²⁰ Due to a childhood accident, Lothrop only had 25 percent vision in one eye. In spite of this handicap, he was a fine observer of artifacts; see Willey 1976:261–262.



0108 74110808
 08 • 23 11080808
 74 1108080808 08
 08 11 11 11080808
 W1108080808 }
 1108080808 }
 0808 11080808
 11 11080808 11 11080808

Taro Yamamoto
PO 139 Boston
Am forwarding Co
PO 698 Cristbal

Wilburjohn
Dominus

Karl Hermman
98 Walnut st Phil

As mentioned by Harris and Sadler, the Japanese name “Taro Yamamoto” was conventionally used by Charles A. Sheldon, ONI Agent No. 246, who was Samuel Lothrop’s case officer²¹ : the postal box in Boston associated with that name was used by agents in the field to send him their written reports (Harris and Sadler 2003:46). The following abbreviation stands for “American Fo[r]warding Company”, PO Box 698, Crist[ó]bal, in the Panama Canal Zone: this address was used by ONI agents to send mail to the Commandant of the 15th Naval District, Commander L. R. Sargent (ONI Agent No. 176), who was in charge of handling intelligence matters in the whole region. The following name, “Wilburjohn,” also in Cristóbal, was used to send cables. “Dominus, Panama” was the previous name used to send cables before it became compromised (Harris and Sadler 2003:175–176). The last name, associated with an address in downtown Philadelphia, was certainly used by the ONI to receive written reports, like that in Boston. The page then goes on as follows :

²¹ Sheldon would manage a total of sixteen agents in Latin America, including Morley and Lothrop; see Harris and Sadler 2003:294, 414 n. 41.

The following agent seems less famous; his first name and keyword was certainly Robert, and he was apparently based in La Guaira, Venezuela. The next one is Joseph Henry Watts, keyword “Watts,” a chief electrician who specialized in radio communications and was based in Guatemala City, where he developed close ties to the country’s ruling dictator Manuel Estrada Cabrera (1857–1924) (Harris and Sadler 2003:134–135). The next one, A. S. Northrup (note the misspelling), keyword “Alfr[e]d”, was first based in Cartagena, Colombia, but he later abandoned his post because he was homesick, to his commander’s dismay (Harris and Sadler 2003:181).

[illegible][illegible]

Belt = 6 ↘ 4 – Blue
4 134 – Belt and Stormmt

7

Cyrus F. Wicker, had been a State Department diplomat in Central America; he was first in charge of the Costa Rica section of the ONI, but left his post without permission, and was later fired from the Office. Lothrop had to deal with him, as he was to replace him in Costa Rica (Harris and Sadler 2003:181, 190–192). Here the German word *Waghft*, meaning ‘bold, reckless’,²³ written in a cartouche, was apparently his code name. The last agent is Lothrop himself: he only wrote the initials of his name, followed by his code name “Lopposo,”²⁴ written in a cartouche, and his keyword “Kirk.”

The following line, which is far less clear, mentions “Belt,” certainly John W. Belt, who was managing the American legation in Tegucigalpa, Honduras (Harris and Sadler 2003:87); the word “Blue” probably refers to “Bluefields.” The other name, “Storm[o]nt,” must refer to Percy H. Stormont, British vice-consul at Amapala, Honduras, who also was an agent of British naval intelligence (Harris and Sadler 2003:81).



"Marblehead" via Swann to

Guatemala City (w4c0P4C)

OX92

La Libertad

Ernest Gerlan

McMillin 1 \ 2 red

S.G. Baker - Bluefields

Rakeb

Bruefiel (befragen)

Baldo = passwoerd

H.C. Mogan

**"Marblehead" via Swann to
Guatemala City (wachsam)|
OX92**

**Ernest Gerlan
La Libertad**

**McMillin 1 \ 2 red
S.G. Baker - Bluefields
Rakeb
Bruefiel (befragen)**

Baldo = passwoerd

H.C. Mogan

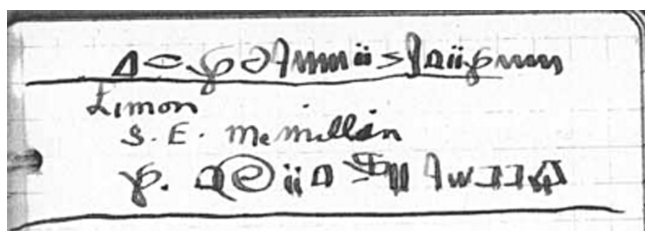
²³ From the verb *wagen*: 'to dare'.

²⁴ In Italian, the adjective *lopposo* is used to describe wheat with a very thick seed coat. Note, however, that Harris and Sadler (2003:188) mention the spelling "Laposso" for this code name.

The “Marblehead” was a US cruiser engaged in escort and patrol missions in the Caribbean during WW I.²⁵ She was notably sent near El Salvador in mid-December 1918, as that country was on the brink of civil war (Harris and Sadler 2003:278). The word “Swann” certainly refers to Swan Island, way to the north of Honduras, where the United Fruit Company operated a radio station (Harris and Sadler 2003:108)²⁶ : in all likelihood, this passage means that the cruiser’s communications for Guatemala City were relayed by the wireless station in Swan Island (Harris and Sadler 2003:162–163). The coded information here consists in the German word *wachsam* ‘watchful’ in a cartouche: surely another code name.

The next line is devoted to one Ernest Gerlan, or perhaps German, as the name appears later on (see below). He probably was a subagent, as another note mentions that he is “working for us.” “La Libertad” is the name of several places around Central America, but here it certainly refers to the municipality on the coast of El Salvador. The meaning of the following one is rather unclear, it apparently concerns Stewart E. McMillin, who had notably been a US Consul in Puerto Limón, eastern Costa Rica, from 1917 to 1920.²⁷

The name S. G. Baker does not appear in the list of ONI agents given by Harris and Sadler. Perhaps he was a subagent in Bluefields. The German word *befragen*, also written in a cartouche, could either mean ‘to investigate, to consult,’ or perhaps ‘consulted’; this might as well be a code name. The next line gives us a password, “Baldo.” The last name is that of Harry C. Mo[r]gan, the American vice-consul in Puerto Limón, who was also ONI Agent No. 186 (Harris and Sadler 2003:189). The next coded passage, which appears on the following right page, is much shorter :



△◊ f\o\—iiΣ\◊ii-f\—

Limon

S. E. McMillin

f\· ◊eii◊ \$|| \w[]▣

C R organization

Limon

S. E. McMillin

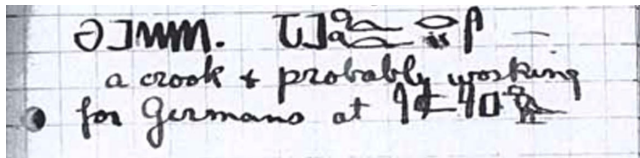
O. Tuit \$ 10 a week

This passage was concerned with the “o[r]ganization” of matters in Costa Rica (C R). Stewart E. McMillin and his location were already mentioned in the previous passage. The last line apparently concerns a subagent, one O. Tuit, who was to receive a salary of \$10 per week for his intelligence work. The next passage pertains to the IJ section of the notebook:

²⁵ See notably <<http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/sh-usn/usnsh-m/c111.htm>> (last consulted 9th May 2014).

²⁶ Lines of communications were always a big issue for ONI agents in the field, so the help offered by the United Fruit Co. was much appreciated, see Harris and Sadler 2003:183–184.

²⁷ <<http://politicalgraveyard.com/bio/mcmillen-mcmullin.html#0Y50MTSSQ>> (last consulted 9th May 2014).



a crook & probably working

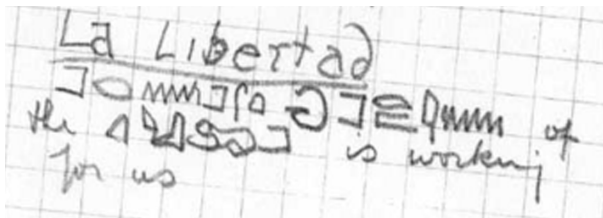
 for Germans at

Gen. Jeffris

a crook & probably working

for Germans at Amap.

This short description gives us an idea of a certain General Jeffri[e]s who, according to this note, was apparently working for the Germans at Amapala. It is not quite clear what the bird represents here²⁸: it only appears once in the whole notebook. There are many birds in the hieroglyphic system, but here it is hard to ascertain which one is meant. The next coded passage appears in the KL section of the notebook :



La Libertad

 of

 the is working

 for us

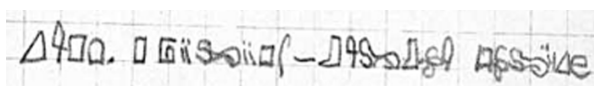
La Libertad

Ernest German of

the cable is working

for us

Ernest German has already been mentioned above; he was apparently working in a telegraphic station, so he would be an asset for the ONI, as he could intercept and report suspicious messages. The next coded passages appear in the OP section:



Capt. Philips – Balboa Police

Apparently Lothrop had made a contact with a certain Captain Philips, police officer in Balboa, on the southern (Pacific) side of the Panama Canal Zone.²⁹ By doing so, he was surely following this ONI recommendation:

When practicable to do so without disclosing or affecting your mission endeavor to meet influential persons in the district to which you are assigned, especially those who are in authority and who might be of assistance in obtaining information. (Harris and Sadler 2003:381)

²⁸ Possibly the missing letter q (see our charts below), but in that case what would it stand for?

²⁹ By the end of World War I, this place had become the headquarters of ONI; see Harris and Sadler 2003:290.

Another coded text appears below on the same page :

Price William
 worked for Saxe.
 L.K. Purdow : a crook
 & probably working for the Germans.

Price William
 worked for Saxe.
 L.K. Purdow : a crook
 & probably working for the Germans.

Max(imo) Cohn

**Price William
 worked for Saxe.
 L.K. Purdow : a crook
 & probably working for the Germans.**

The first name is probably to be read Coh[e]n. Of all these persons, the only one referred to by Harris and Sadler is Saxe: John Saxe was an American vice-consul recruited by Lothrop as his agent in Puntarenas, on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica; he would receive \$75 a month (Harris and Sadler 2003:189).

The next passage appears in the ST section of the notebook :

N.B. Staggs probably connected
 with revolution in
 Ecuador

N.B. Staggs probably connected
 with revolution in
 Ecuador

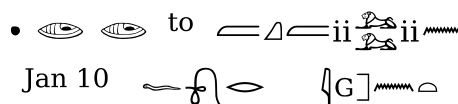
**N.B. Staggs probably connected
 with revolution in
 Ecuador**


The man named Staggs seems to be otherwise unknown. The “revol[ution] in Ecuador” mentioned here might refer to a period of political unrest which gave rise to a series of rural guerrilla uprisings from 1912 to 1916, especially in the country’s northern province of Esmeraldas (Alexander Rodríguez 1994:44). Below on the same page, a few coded numbers appear:

2 10 (4) – 15 (3) – 255 (2) –
 14 – 5 (2)

2 10 (4) – 15 (3) – 255 (2) –
 14 – 5 (2)

Finally, the last coded passage appears in the YZ section :



Apparently, McMillin was to receive \$100 for a subagent, probably the one named Tuit mentioned above, who was to receive \$10 per week. The flat eye-shaped sign, used only in this passage, represents the glyph , a Postclassic Maya symbol for zero (Sharer and Traxler 2006:101).

³⁰ In April 1918, Commander Sargent divided Central America into five sections; see Harris and Sadler 2003:179–180.

Epilogue

In 1921, Lothrop submitted his Ph.D. thesis on the *Pottery of Costa Rica and Nicaragua*, which was published in 1926. That same year, he also published a short editorial in *The Independent*, titled “America disowns Tutankhamen,” in which he would warn his readers against the “sensational theories of pseudoscientists” claiming the existence of a “link between the Egyptian and early Guatemaltecan civilizations” or “the invasion of this hemisphere by Phoenicians, or lost tribes of Israel.” He could have used plenty of other images referring to Egypt in his title, but at the time, the discovery of the intact tomb of the young pharaoh in the Valley of the Kings, in November 1922,³¹ was still very much alive in the mind of the public.³² In this short editorial, he also gives his idea of the archaeologists’ role :

The archaeologist, like the alchemist, deals in mystery; his task is to transmute the dross of prehistoric relics into the gold of history. Dealing with such an unstable subject as mankind, his results cannot be predicted with the infallibility of a chemical experiment. Yet even in this field much can be reduced to mathematical formulas, and to do this with remains of long dead races is the archaeologists’ job. (Lothrop 1926:195)

During his long years of research and fieldwork in Central and South America, the results of which appeared in many seminal books and articles,³³ Lothrop also had his share of “gold of history.” In 1952, he notably published a beautiful volume on the metal artifacts dredged from the cenote³⁴ of sacrifice at Chichen Itza, presenting numerous pieces of the precious metal, such as decorated disks and cast gold figures. These treasures had always been of significant importance to him:

Over thirty-five years ago, when I first saw the material from the Cenote of Sacrifice at Chichen Itza in the Peabody Museum, I was fascinated by it and by its romantic story but had no intuition that I would ever have a hand in its publication. (Lothrop 1952:v)

Although Ancient Egypt and Mesoamerican civilizations are not related, they do share some striking features: impressive pyramids, strange deities, a very specific way of representing the world, and, last but not least, the use of pictorial writing systems. Bearing that in mind, it is not surprising that a scholar in one of these fields should have an interest in the other: for investigators of the past, there is always a mystery to decipher.































³¹ With his jade mosaic mask and carved limestone sarcophagus, the Maya king K’inich Janaab Pakal I (born 603, ruled 615–683 A.D.), whose tomb was discovered deep in the heart of a pyramid at Palenque (Chiapas) in 1952, can be referred to as “a veritable Tutankhamun of the New World”; see Martin and Grube 2000:167. For the texts of his funerary structure, see notably Guenter 2007.

³² Sam’s second wife Eleanor had an aunt whose sister-in-law had married an assistant to Lord Carnarvon. Although remote, this connection made her feel that she “had a personal link with Tutankhamen’s tomb and the royal curse” (E. Lothrop 1948:5).



³³ For his bibliography, see notably Easby 1965:258–261 and Willey 1976:264–272.

³⁴ From the Yukatek Mayan *dz’onot*, designating a large natural karstic well formed where the surface limestone has collapsed and exposed the subterranean water table; see Sharer and Traxler 2006:52. For the history of the dredging, see Coggins 1992:9–31. In this publication, the chapter on textiles was written by Lothrop’s third wife, Joy.



Hieroglyphic alphabet used by Samuel K. Lothrop

Hieroglyph	Form	Egyptian values	Used for
		<i>i</i>	A
		<i>b</i>	B
		<i>q</i>	C
		<i>d</i>	D
		<i>f</i>	F
		<i>h</i>	H
		<i>g</i>	K
		<i>rw, r, l</i>	L
		<i>m</i>	M
		<i>n</i>	N
		<i>w3, w</i>	O
		<i>p</i>	P
		<i>r</i>	R
		<i>s</i>	S
		<i>t</i>	T










Hieroglyph used for a group of two letters :


Hieroglyph	Form	Egyptian values	Used for
		\underline{t}	TH, PH

The sign for U is certainly of Egyptian inspiration :

Hieroglyph	Form	Egyptian values	Used for
		w	U

A few signs are just slightly modified versions of roman letters :

Forms	Used for
	E
	G
	I
	J
	V
	W
	X
	Y
	Z

NB: nowhere does the letter Q appear; we do not know how he would represent it. Perhaps this letter was represented by the bird , but this is by no means certain.

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