

A New Child-Father Relationship Glyph

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IN this report I wish to identify a glyph which, to my knowledge, has previously gone unrecognized as one expressing a relationship between child and father. Although a specific reading cannot be made, the glyph would seem to function much like the the “capped ahau” glyph identified as expressing a child-father relationship by Schele, Mathews, and Lounsbury (1977), following an earlier suggestion by Jones (1977:41-42). The glyph in question consists of two signs which are T61/62/65 and an unnumbered element representing the tail of a jaguar (Fig. 1a).

In the text on the right side of Tikal Stela 31, the jaguar-tail glyph stands between the names of “Curl Nose” and another personage whom Jones and Satterthwaite (1982:73) call “Cauac Shield” (Fig. 1b). On the left side of the monument a similar structure occurs in which the “capped ahau” glyph stands between these same two names (Fig. 1c). According to Schele (n. d.) that phrase apparently identifies Curl Nose as the child of Cauac Shield. I suggest that the jaguar-tail glyph on the right side of Stela 31 is used to express a similar, if not identical, relationship between the two.

Such an interpretation might help in identifying the child-father relationship glyph on the lower rim text of the painted vase illustrated by Coe (1973:103). Here appears a parentage statement (Fig. 2) naming both the mother and father of an individual. The mother, named first after the occurrence of the name of the child, is introduced with a phonetic rendering of *yal* (T126:534, or

- a: TIK Stela 31, Right Side, A3
b: TIK Stela 31, Right Side, B2-B3
c: TIK Stela 31, Left Side, A3, B3, C4, D4
(After Jones & Satterthwaite 1982)

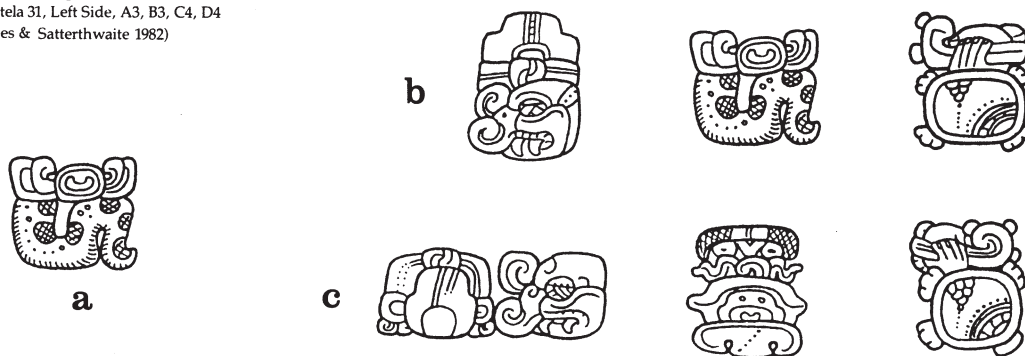
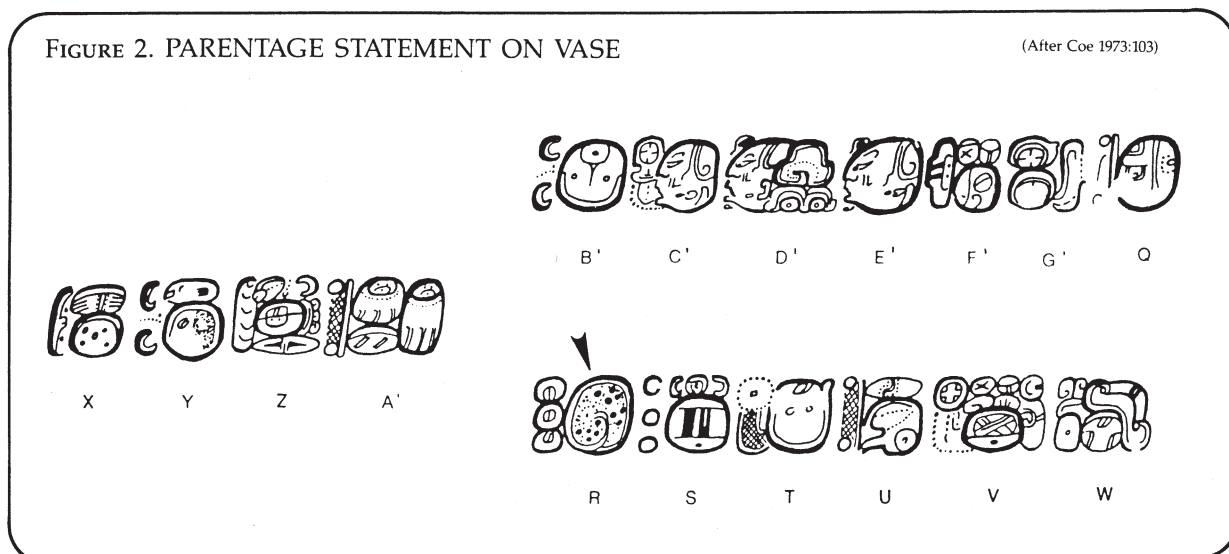


FIGURE 1. THE “JAGUAR-TAIL” GLYPH

FIGURE 2. PARENTAGE STATEMENT ON VASE

(After Coe 1973:103)



ya-l(a)), "child of (the woman)," at B.' The mother's name extends no farther than glyph Q (Stuart 1985), and the name of the father is apparently positioned at glyphs S-W. Immediately before the father's name, at R, where some relationship glyph would be expected, is a glyph consisting of T61/62/65 and a second, curl-shaped, sign having what seem to be jaguar spots. I believe that this spotted element corresponds to the jaguar tail of Tikal Stela 31. Some naturalism has been lost in the representation of the tail, but given the apparent relationship function of the glyph, the T61/62/65 prefix, and the jaguar characteristics of the second sign, it appears likely that this glyph is a later stylistic variation on the above.

I will not venture any phonetic reading for this compound, although this relationship function might offer some evidence in support of the notion that T61/62/65 can, on occasion, function as a possessive pronominal, perhaps *u* (Justeson 1984:320), this customarily being the initial sign in relationship glyphs.

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