Iconography of
Sky Bands, Earth Bands, Skull & Crossed-Bones Bands
in Classic Maya Art

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Bands of celestial motifs are well known but most studies have been archaeoastronomy, rather than iconography. And rarely are Sky Bands from ceramic plates, vases, and bowls studied. I have a tabulated archive of every Sky Band that is published plus over a dozen never before published.

Earth Bands are not as well known; but one Earth Band at Palenque includes one Sky Band Motif. So this PowerPoint presentation will show all Earth Bands.

Skull & Crossed-Bones Bands are rarely if ever studied; so I will introduce these.

Plus I will show other bands of special motifs that should be compared and contrasted with Sky Bands, Earth Bands, and other bands that deserve to be studied.

Sky Band from Codex Style base, cropped from Kerr rollout K7795 and drawn by Luis Molina, FLAAR Mesoamerica. This celestial band shows nine different motifs: none repeated.

Traditional Earth Band motifs (repeated i show they are shown), with frontal monster face in the middle. Base of Aguateca Stela 7, cropped by from drawing of Ian Graham (1967: Fig. 17).

Skull alternating with Crossed Bones in various styles, plus “mystery motif” that the presentation will discuss. Cropped by Norma Cho Cu from Uxmal, Monument 3.

Band of special motifs that is more than just earth; composed by Norma Cho Cu from drawing by Matthew Looper, Quirigua Altar O’ (O prime).