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Jade and **Greenstone** Craftsmanship of Copan, Honduras

Finished Jade Ornaments
and Documentation of Jade
Working on Raw Stone

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FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 15,

Artifacts of Jade, Obsidian, Flint (Chert)
and other Materials of Copan, Honduras,
Publication Number 1

What is “jade” and what is not “jadeite”?

Jade is a generic term for greenstone (here of Mesoamerica) that is assumed to be jadeite. But most is other jadeite-like mineral or some simply other stone that is bright green when polished. You can do research for weeks and unless you are a jade-ologist or geologist of Mesoamerica you will remain wondering why not much of this is explained in Maya reports of the 1960's-2010 on jade artifacts? Because only recently has the geology advanced. Plus archaeologists simply accept it all as jade and jump to flint (which usually is actually chert). Some archaeologists had a geological focus but 90% of us do not. But we all know that obsidian is volcanic glass through not many know all the colors that you can find at El Chayal. I have driving through the highway cut here since the 1960's and have probably stopped over 100 times so I have a bit of experience in the unexpected range of colors that you find in the highway cut. What's up at top (where the Maya mined it), I have not visited. But I have visited the Pachuca obsidian areas of Mexico.

When I am curious about something I do what it takes to teach myself more. But still need to visit all the other obsidian sources in Guatemala. Jade sources are so widely scattered on private property north of Highway CA9, from Estancia de La Virgen and Teculután to place of first discovery in the 1950's around El Manzanal that I have not visited them. Jadeite was discovered there in 1950's (Barbour 1957, William Foshag and many other authors).

For geology of jade I include a brief introductory bibliography at the end of this FLAAR Reports. Needed is a lot more geology other than just the traditional “jade is jadeite and nephrite”. That is from the previous century and on 99% of web sites still today.





For an updated 2nd edition

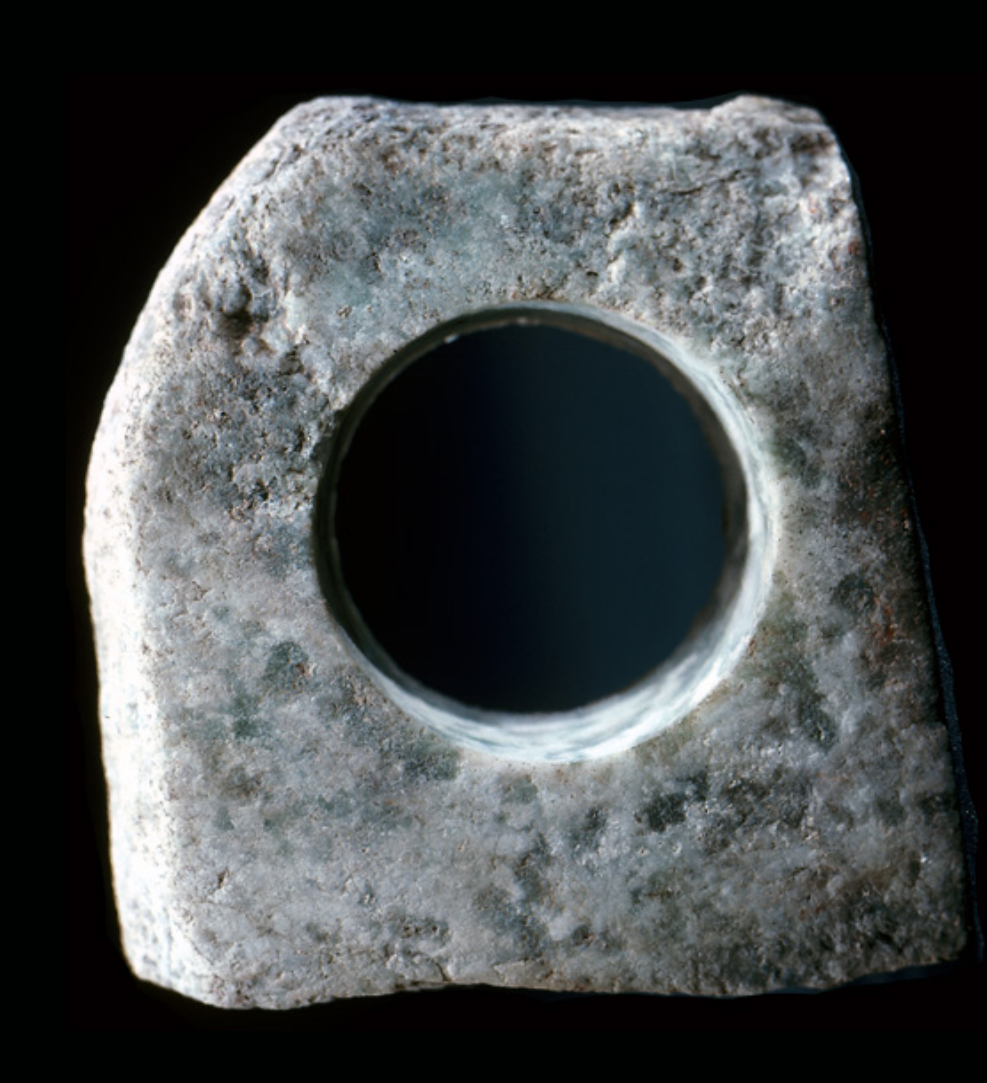
Would help to have the artifact number plus general info on which are on exhibit, in which museum; and which are in which IHAH storage facility. Plus measurements. But at least here in the first edition, here are close-up photos of details probably never seen in any university archaeology monograph on stone artifacts.

Photograph by Nicholas Hellmuth with medium-format Hasselblad camera, Zeiss lens, with Kodak EPY 6018 film (120 or 220).



Photograph by Nicholas Hellmuth with medium-format Hasselblad camera, Zeiss lens, with Kodak EPY 6018 film (120 or 220).











Need to double check whether this is jade of one of dozens of different rocks and minerals utilized for thousands of years by the Maya of Copan, Honduras.



**Drilled, incised,
chipped, smoothed?
How many tools?**

To accomplish a thesis on how this was carved, you would need macro-photos at different lighting angles.

Photograph by Nicholas Hellmuth with medium-format Hasselblad camera, Zeiss lens, with Kodak EPY 6018 film (120 or 220).



But at least these photos of the FLAAR Photo Archive can give you inspiration to do a BA thesis or MA thesis on carving of jades of Copan. Copan is a nice place to live and work for your research. In the storage of IHAH there are probably hundreds if not thousands of fragments of jade



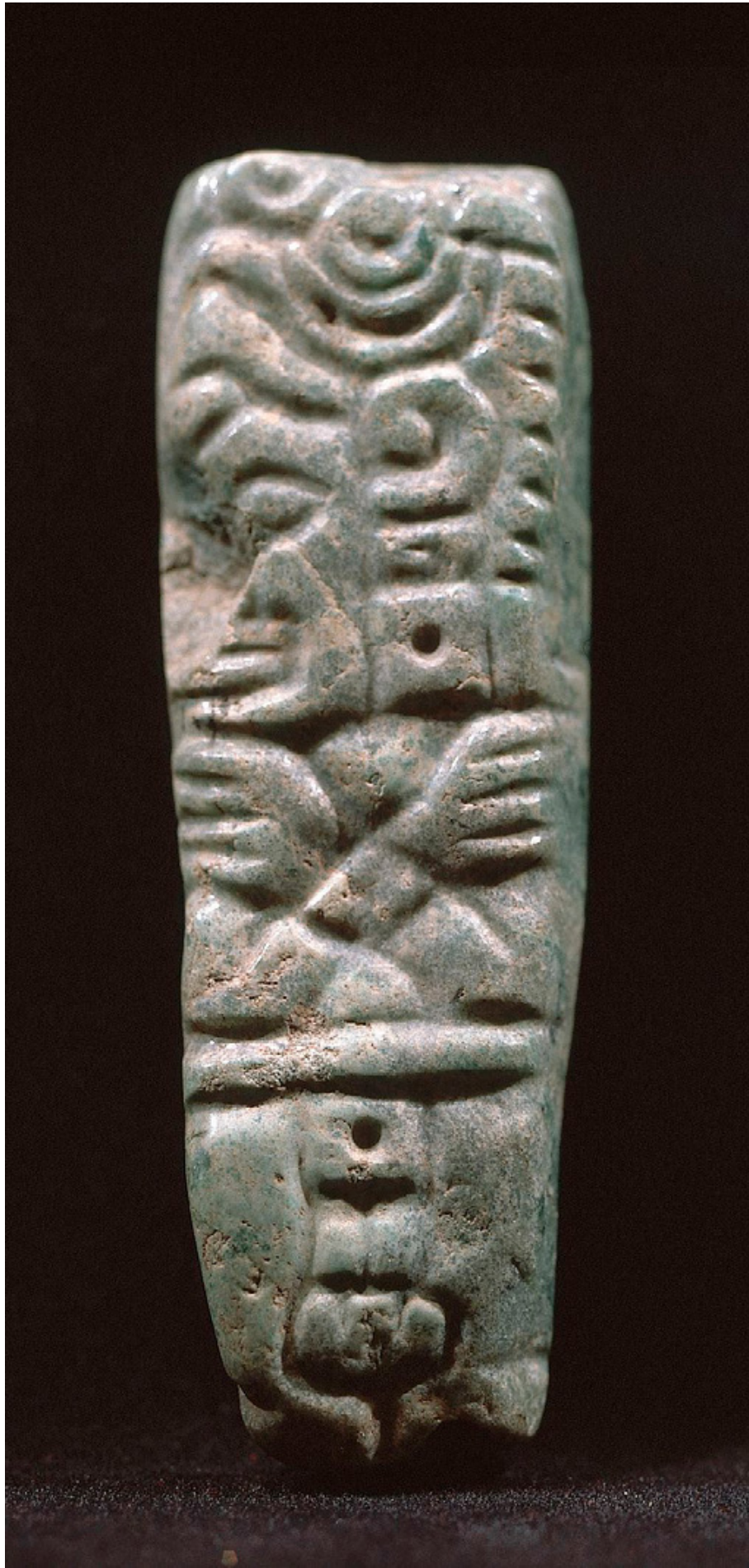
Photograph by Nicholas Hellmuth with medium-format Hasselblad camera, Zeiss lens, with Kodak EPY 6018 film (120 or 220).

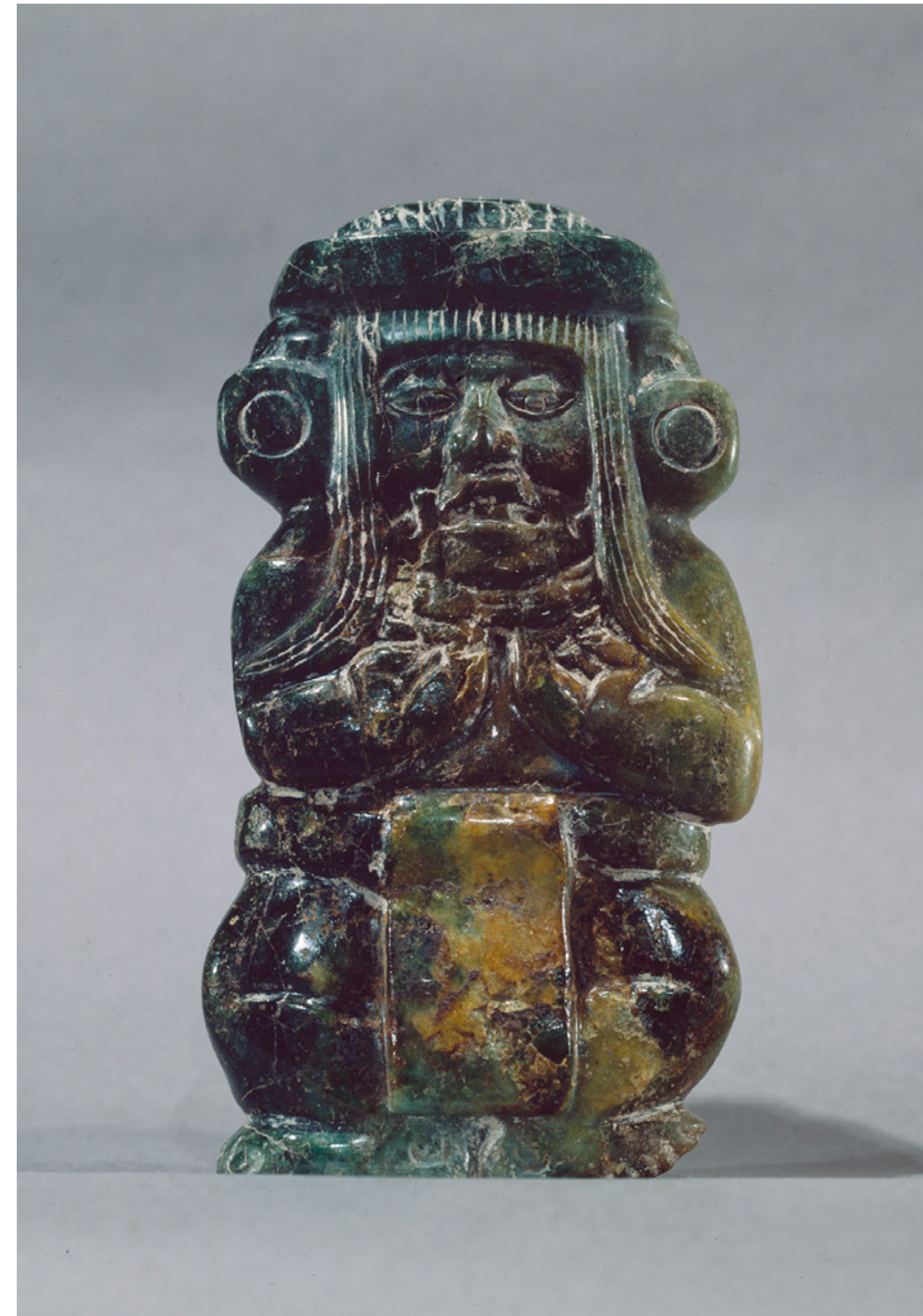
Viable mouth and other aspects,
but this view is actually upside
down. Variant of a Recurved
Snout Monster. Both photographs
by Nicholas Hellmuth with
medium-format Hasselblad
camera, Zeiss lens, with Kodak
EPY 6018 film (120 or 220).



Here the shark's tooth is visible; the oval/rectangular eye has a crested supraorbital plate; so we know this is the correct orientation. The mouth is munching on an upside-down Ahau glyph but that is for other reasons. What I estimate is a highly stylized water lily pad sticks out from the shark's tooth (yes, bull sharks do swim into water lily areas of Rio Dulce and El Golfete, Municipio de Livingston, Departamento Izabal, Guatemala, Central America).









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Web sites on jade (of Guatemala) that are not copy-and-paste click bait:

<https://www.amnh.org/explore/ology/earth/all-about-jade/>

A dozen pages of good albeit traditional discussion of jadeite and nephrite. American Museum of Natural History

<https://www.rockngem.com/guatemalan-jade/>

Bibliography on Jade Sources in Costa Rica

All civilizations of Mesoamerican also obtained jade by trade from Costa Rica.

Bibliography on Jade Artifacts of Copan, Honduras

Other FLAAR Reports in progress

Cauac Monster, Cosmic Monster with Quadripartite Badge Headdress, Crocodile, Deer and God N, Copan CPN 25, Altar of Stela M

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 1,
Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 1

Scorpion, Venus, Moon Goddess with Rabbit Companion, Celestial Deities on Sky Band Motifs on Copan Structure 8N-66C Bench Front

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 2,
Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 2

Copan Ceramic Incensario Lids, Local adaptation of Teotihuacan Style

Volume I, Photos in full-page Height, Vertical Format
FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 3,
Maya Ceramics of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 1A

Copan Ceramic Incensario Lids, Local adaptation of Teotihuacan Style

Volume II, Vertical Format
FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 4,
Maya Ceramics of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 1B

Full-Figure Personified Maya Hieroglyphs on front of Bench in Copan Str. 9N-82, House of the Bacabs, Sepulturas Group

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 5,
Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 3

Beards on Kings of Copan

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 6,
Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 4

Paddler God Faces and Hieroglyphs at Copan

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 7,
Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 5

Cauac Monsters at Copan, especially in Stacks on Corners of Palaces and Mythical Structures
FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 8,
Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 6

*Copan Maya Ballgame Players, Maya Outfits: Chest Protector & Deflector and Thigh Protector,
Mexican Ballgame Outfits: Yoke, Hacha and Ballgame Handstone*
FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 9,
Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 7

Copan Maya Ballcourt Architecture & Scarlet Macaw Logo Goal Stones, Stepped Areas were as important as Playing Field down the Center
FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 10,
Maya Architecture of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 1

Maya Ballcourt Architecture, 3-Dimensional Architectural Reconstruction Drawings by David Morgan
FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 11,
FLAAR Drawings Archive Segment, Publication Number 1.

Toads and/or Frogs in Art and Iconography of Copan, Honduras
FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 12,
Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 8

Bats in Sculpture and Hieroglyphic Inscriptions of Copan, Honduras
FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 13,
Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 9

Samples of Classic Maya Ceramics of Copan, Honduras
FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 14,
Maya Ceramics of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 2

Jade and Greenstone Craftsmanship of Copan, Honduras, Finished Jade Ornaments plus Documentation of Jade Working on Raw Stone
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Artifacts of Jade, Obsidian, Flint (Chert) and other Materials of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 1.

Full-Figure Personified Maya Hieroglyphs and Pauhtuns: Bench Front of the "Harvard Bench" inside Copan Structure 9M-146 of Group 9M-18
FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 16
Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 10

Samples of Classic Maya Ceramics of Copan, Honduras
FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 14,
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Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 10

Iconography of Incense Scattering and Maya Hieroglyphs, Face-Variant Long-Count Glyphs on Nim Li Punit Stela 15, Belize
FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 17
Maya Sculptures of Belize, Publication Number 1

The Story of the Blom Plate: a Masterpiece of Maya Iconography and Primary Standard Sequence, PSS, Hieroglyphs, Chetumal, Quintana Roo, Mexico
FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 18
Iconography of Maya Ceramics of Mexico, Publication Number 1
Primary Standard Sequence, PSS, Maya Hieroglyphs in the FLAAR Photo Archive, Publication Number 1

Tlaloc, Yearsign, and other Teotihuacan Motifs in Classic Maya Art at Copan, Honduras
FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 19
Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 11