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# Sky Bands



## on Late Classic Maya Plates

FLAAR Reports

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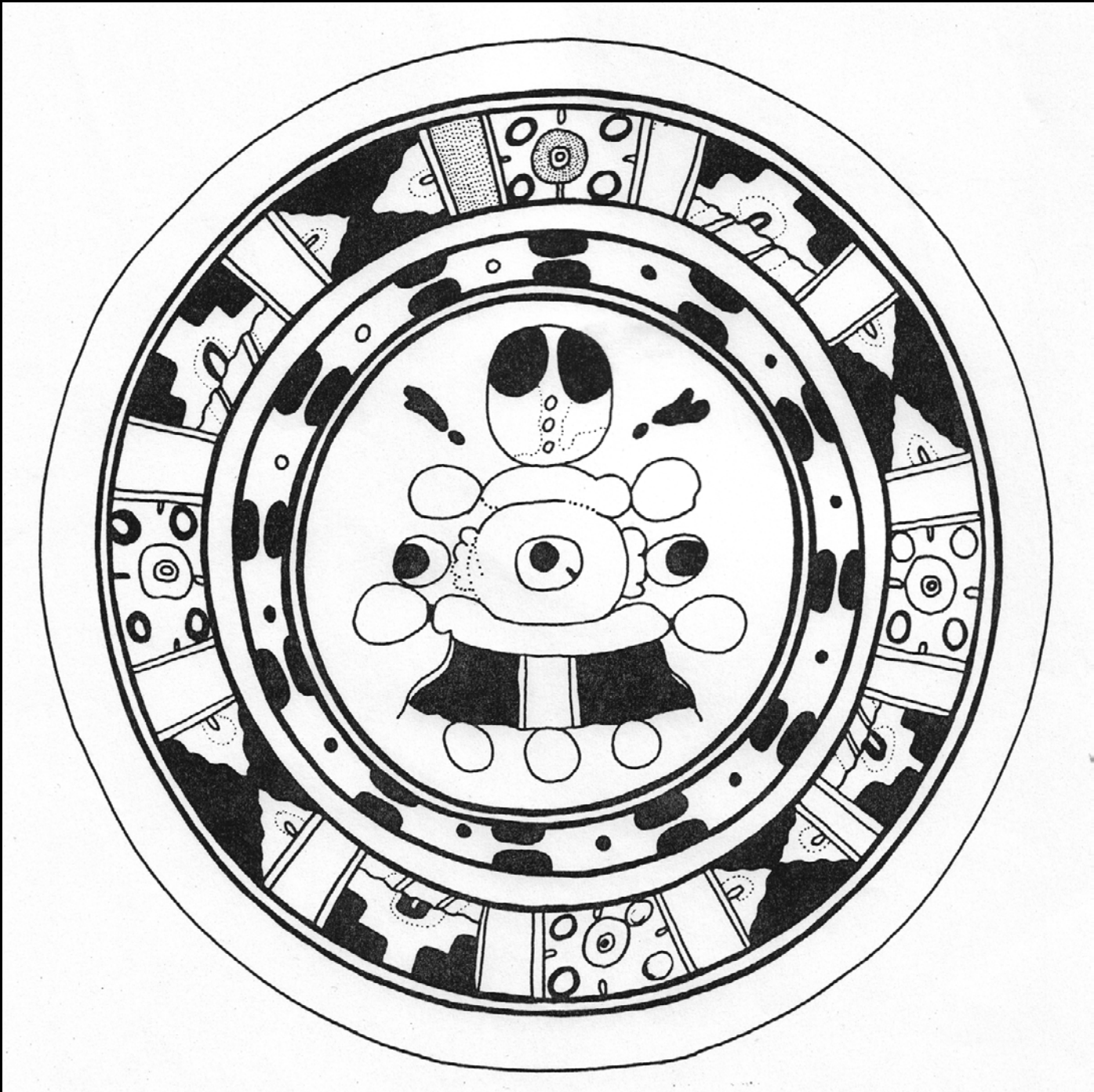
# Introduction

Sky Bands are a series of celestial motifs. You get the celestial motifs of Sky Bands for centuries but mostly on Late Classic Maya stelae, vases and plates plus in the Post Classic codices. Each motif is in a rectangular frame and separated by space from the adjacent motif.

Eleven of the celestial motifs are named by Chris Layser in his MA thesis (2018). Twenty are named by Carlson and Landis (1985). But there are still many motifs that have not been studied by any archaeo-astronomer or iconographer, so not every motif has a name. Plus some motifs are arranged and decorated atypically so not sure what motif was intended. The present report is the first edition. For the second edition the individual motifs will be shown and named when possible. If you would like to author the second edition, please contact us at [nhellmuth@FLAAR.org](mailto:nhellmuth@FLAAR.org).



Three celestial motifs in the Sky Band. Kan Cross in the other band.



Same three celestial motifs as the previously pictured plate. Also same Kan Cross band.

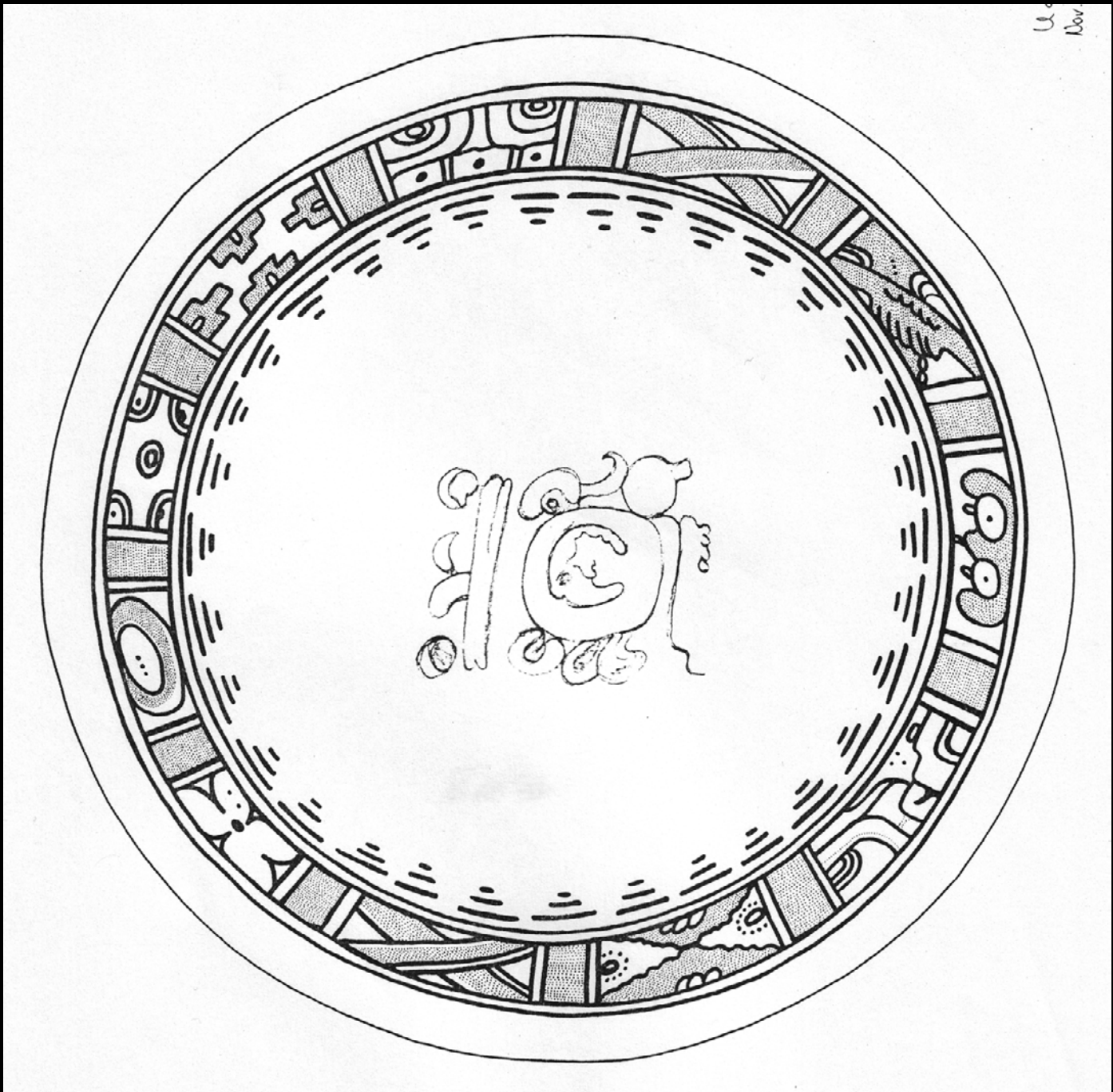


Two celestial motifs, repeated multiple times.



Four celestial motifs.

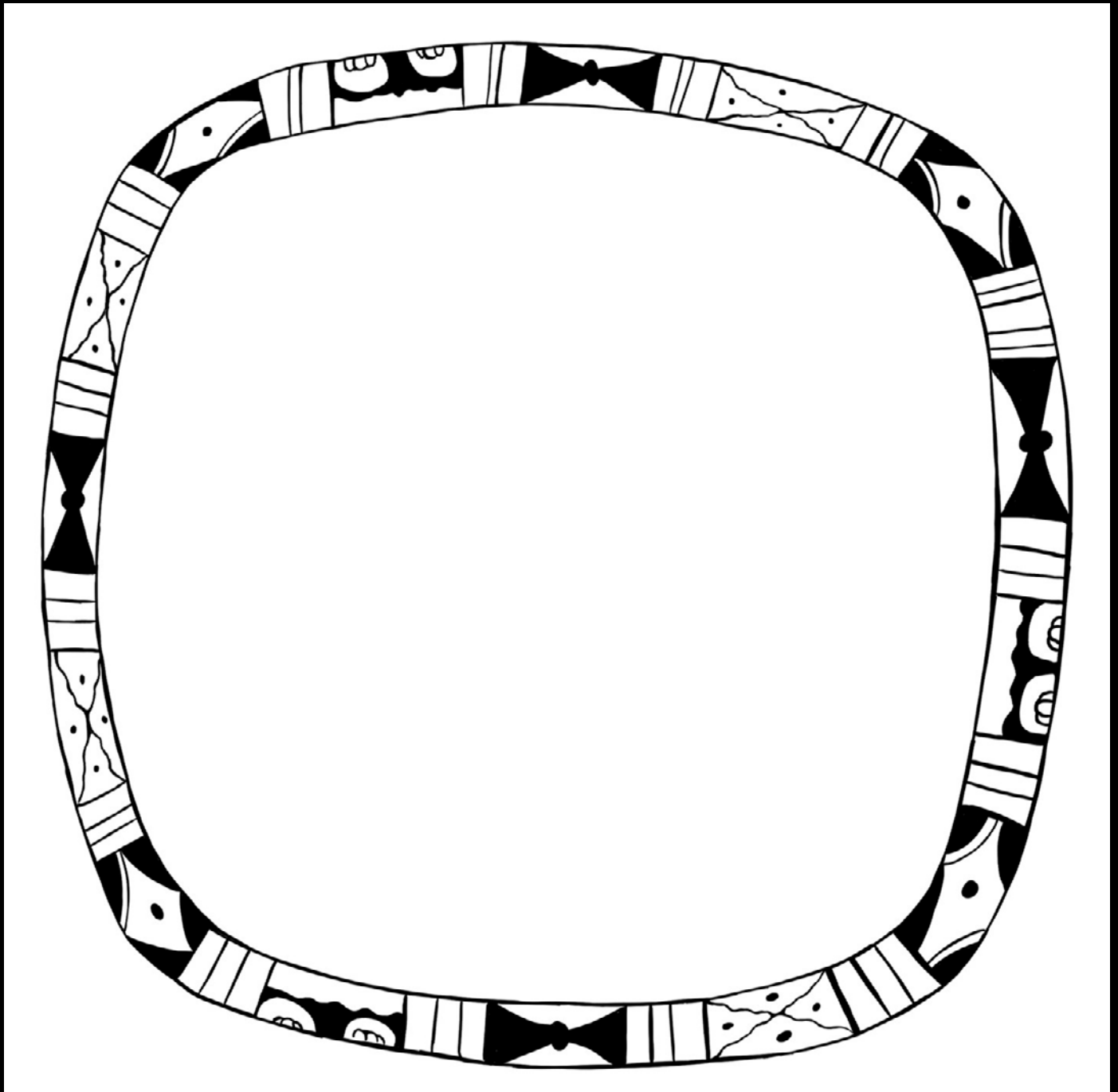
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Ten different celestial motifs. Only the crossed bands is repeated.



Potentially five celestial motifs.



Sky Band around inside of a plate from Dos Pilas. On exhibit at MUNAE (national museum of Guatemala City). Published in many reports. Drawing by Luis Molina, FLAAR Photo Archive.





Base of a bowl, so not a plate. Seven celestial motifs in the circle plus Kan-like cross in the middle.  
MET Museum. Drawing by Luis Molina, FLAAR Photo Archive.



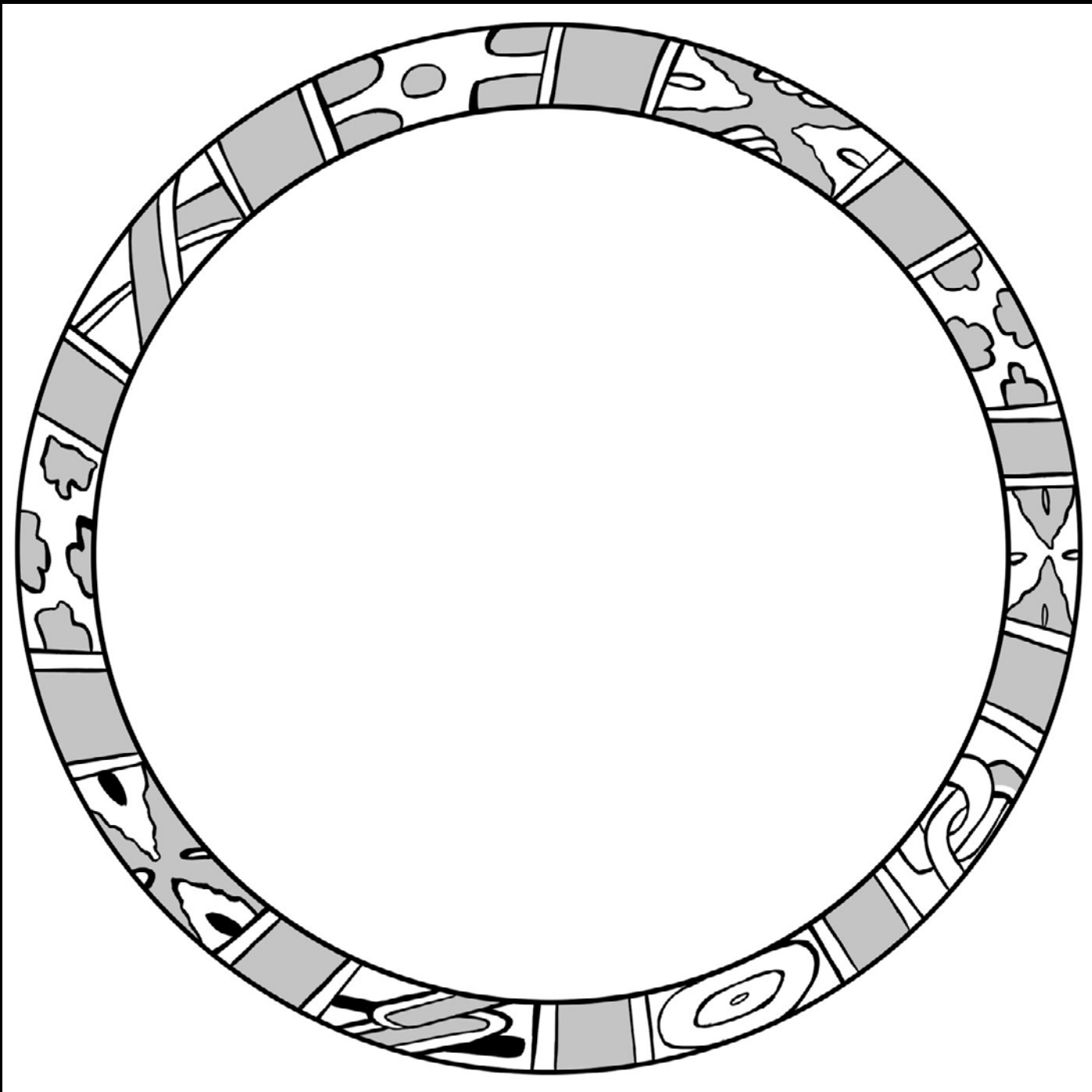
At least ten different celestial motifs. Codex Style, Kerr K7185.



Five different celestial motifs; only one repeats. Kerr K5824.



Eight celestial motifs; only two repeat. Kerr K8802.





Five celestial motifs. One does not repeat.



Five celestial motifs. Codex Style plate.



Has seven different celestial motifs. Codex Style plate.

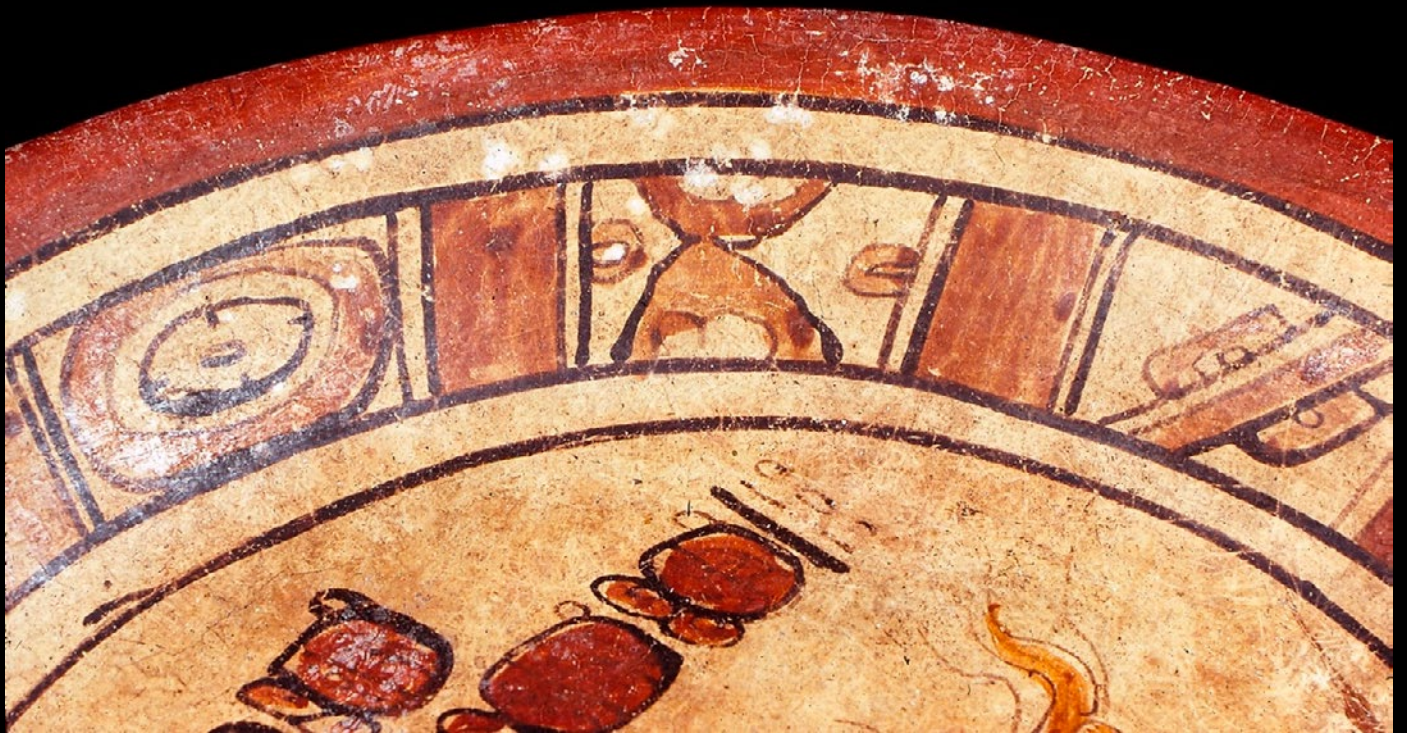




Three celestial motifs that repeat themselves four times.



Seven different celestial motifs. A few repeat themselves more than others.



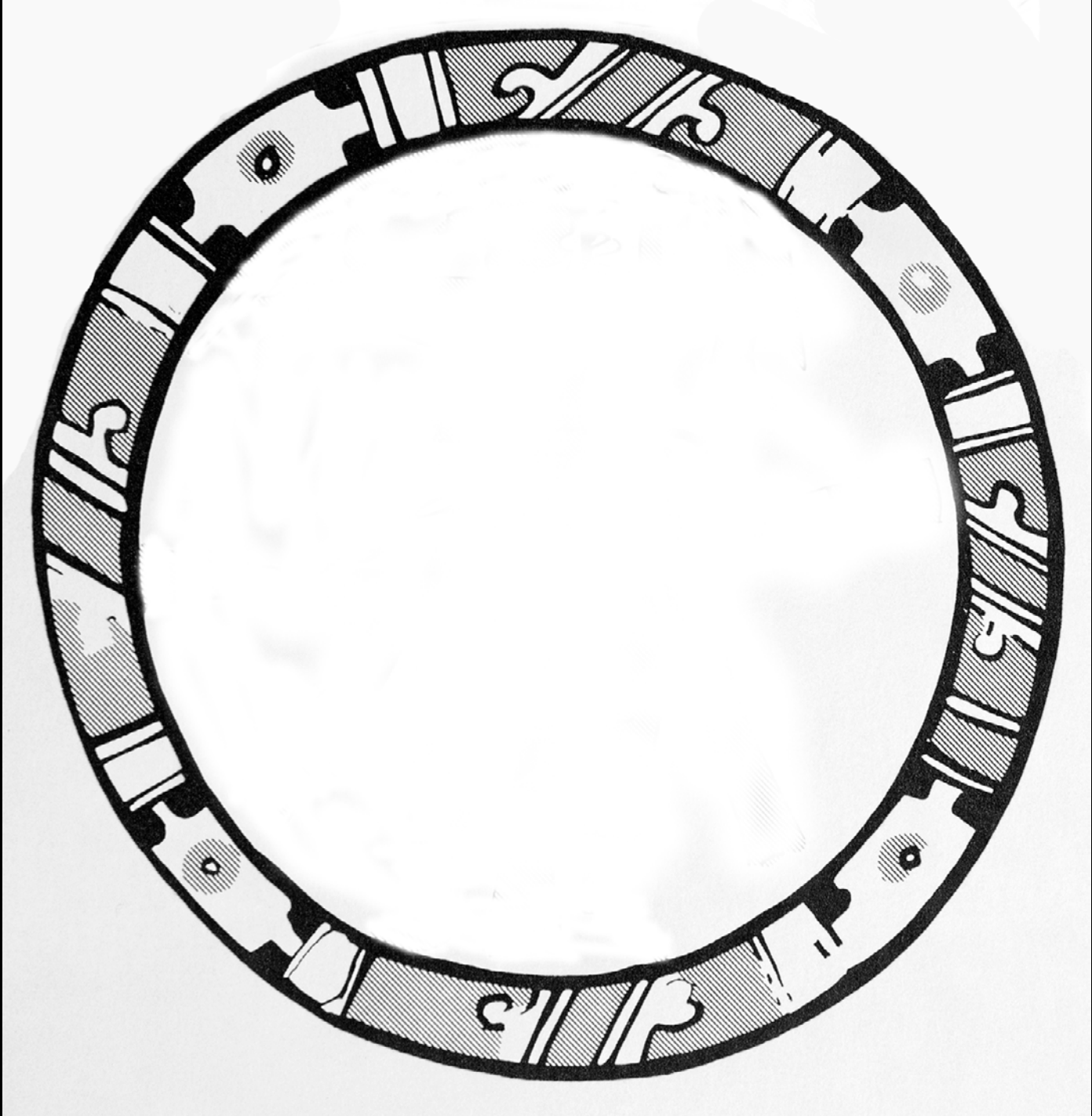








Potential Sky Band, Tikal Bu. 147 (Culbert 1993: Fig. 78a).



Potential Sky Band, Tikal Bu. 147 (Culbert 1993: Fig. 78a).



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