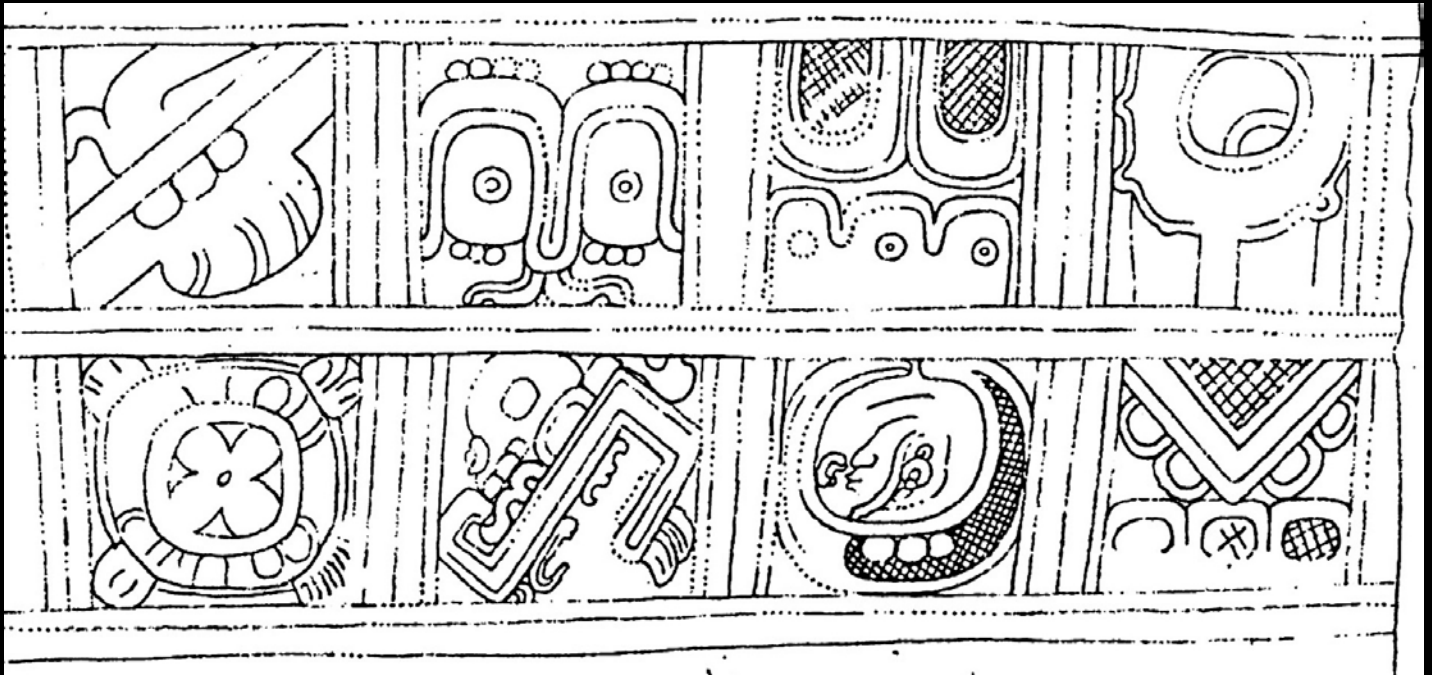


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Sky Band Iconography



Part IV Sky Bands on Stelae, Lintels, and Murals

FLAAR Reports
FLAAR (USA) and FLAAR Mesoamerica (Guatemala)

Nicholas Hellmuth
October 2024

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Introduction

Palenque has the most Sky Bands of any Maya site (so we have a separate report on Palenque, Part V). Piedras Negras is probably second. Yaxchilan has a lot but most of them are Sky Bands on women's hems, so those images are in the separate FLAAR Reports on Sky Bands on woven textile hems (Part VI).

Sky Bands on stelae, lintels, and other sculptures are listed by Carlson and Landis. But there are several dozen that I have found that are not yet in their list. The Sky Band in a Uaxactun graffito is one example (but this is a graffito, not a stone monument). There is one in the Carlson and Landis list that I do not yet have drawings of. The most overlooked Sky Bands are on stucco facades of Early Classic Maya Lowlands sites.

Sky Bands on stelae, lintels, vases, and murals that show hems with Sky Bands are a separate volume, as mentioned above.

Some of the names for the motifs are from Appendix II of Carlson and Landis 1985. Other names are my own (entwined crossed bands and other names). What they call a Sun Deity I prefer to call a profile/half-frontal Loincloth Apron Face.

Sky Bands on Stelae of Piedras Negras



Fig. 1. Sky Band of repeated Akbal motifs across waist area. Usually the Sky Band motifs there are Crossed Bands, but not here on Piedras Negras Stela 2. Drawing by Ian Graham, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University.

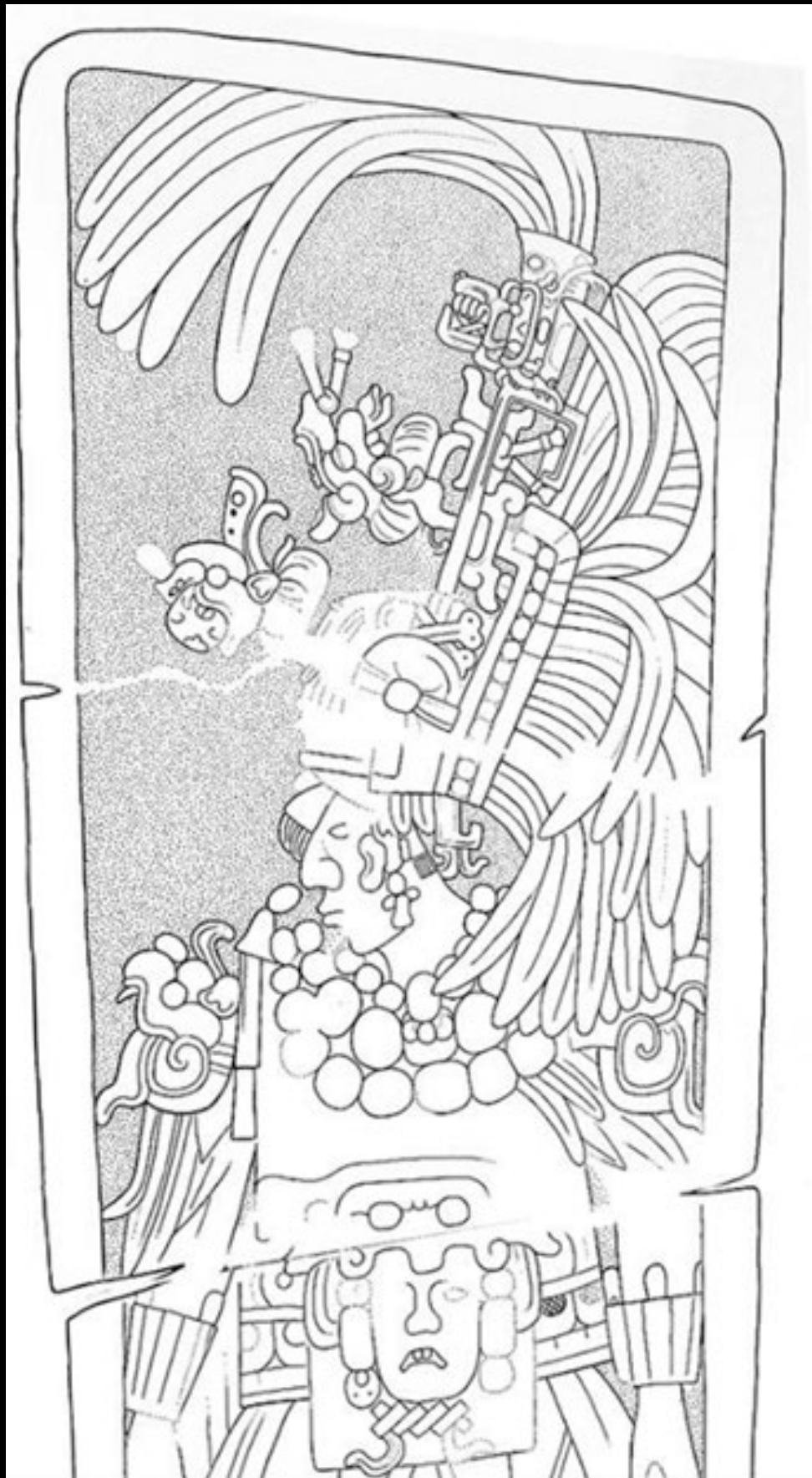


Fig. 2. Close-up of the Sky Band across the waist area with two repeated Akbal symbols.

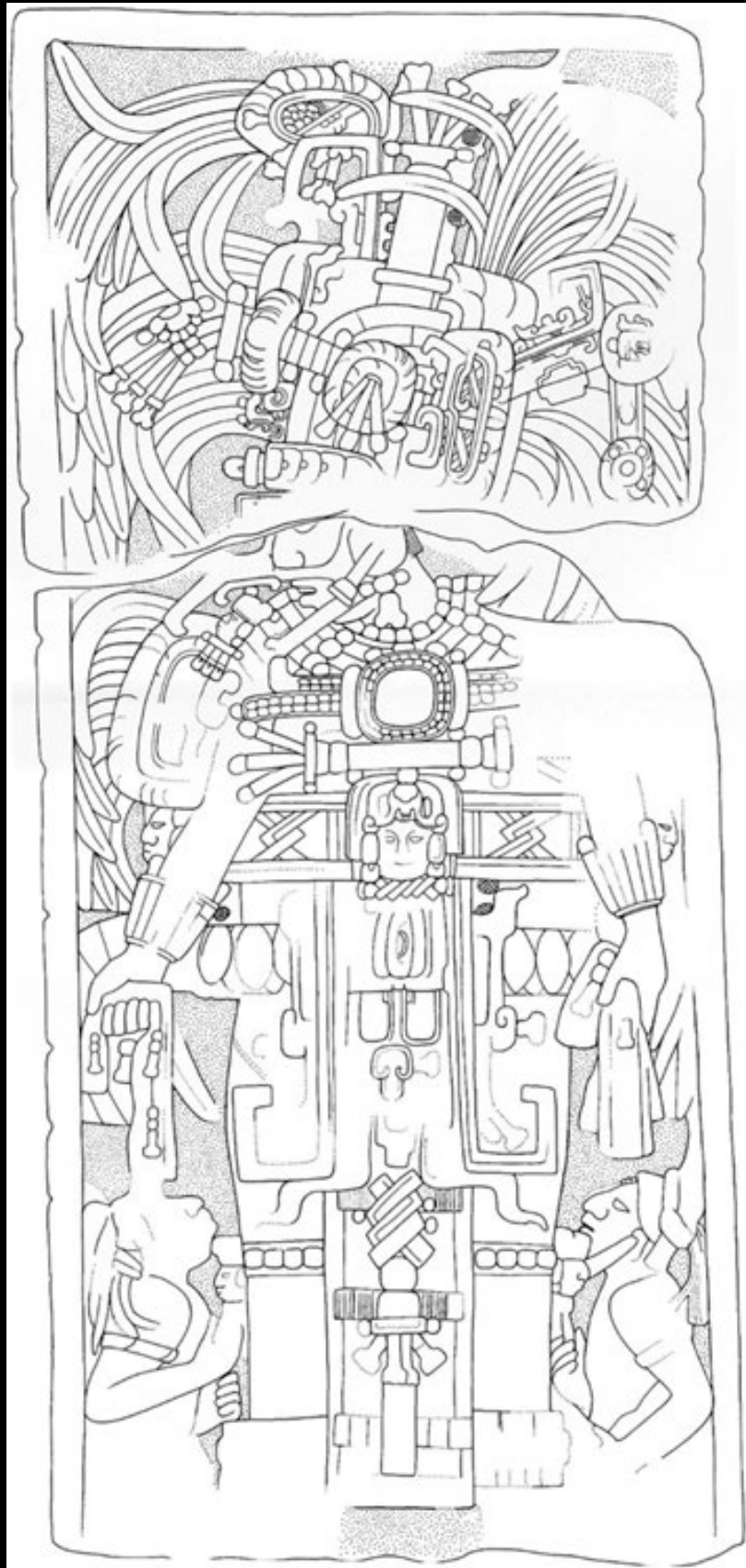


Fig. 3. Another example of repeated motifs on a Sky Band across the waist area—entwined crossed bands. Piedras Negras Stela 4, drawing by David Stuart, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University.

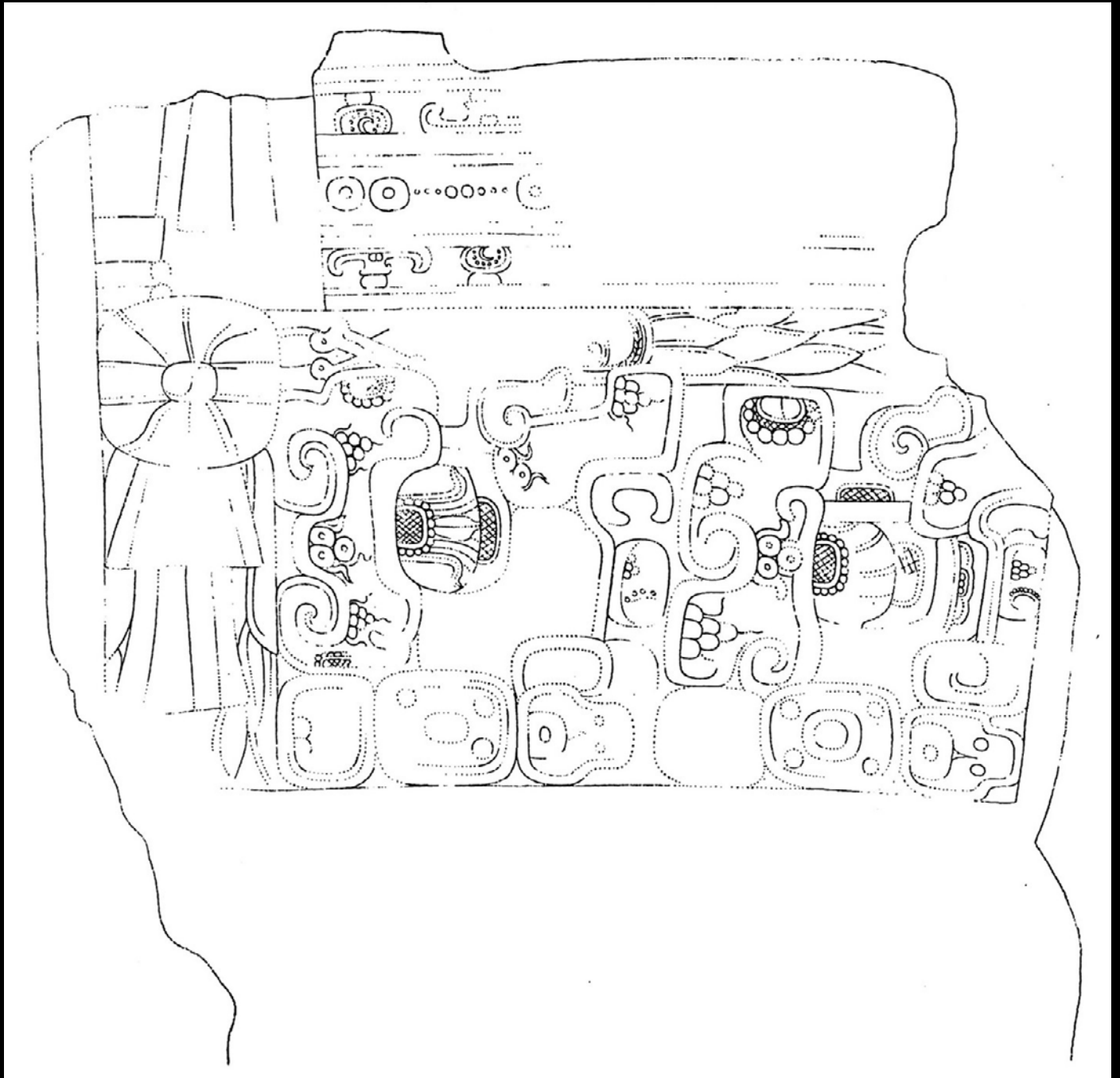


Fig. 4. With no rectangular frames with vertical divider areas, there are no Sky Bands in the three bands here. But the two large circles are found in Sky Bands. Piedras Negras Stela 5, front, drawing by John Montgomery, JMo525, FAMSI.

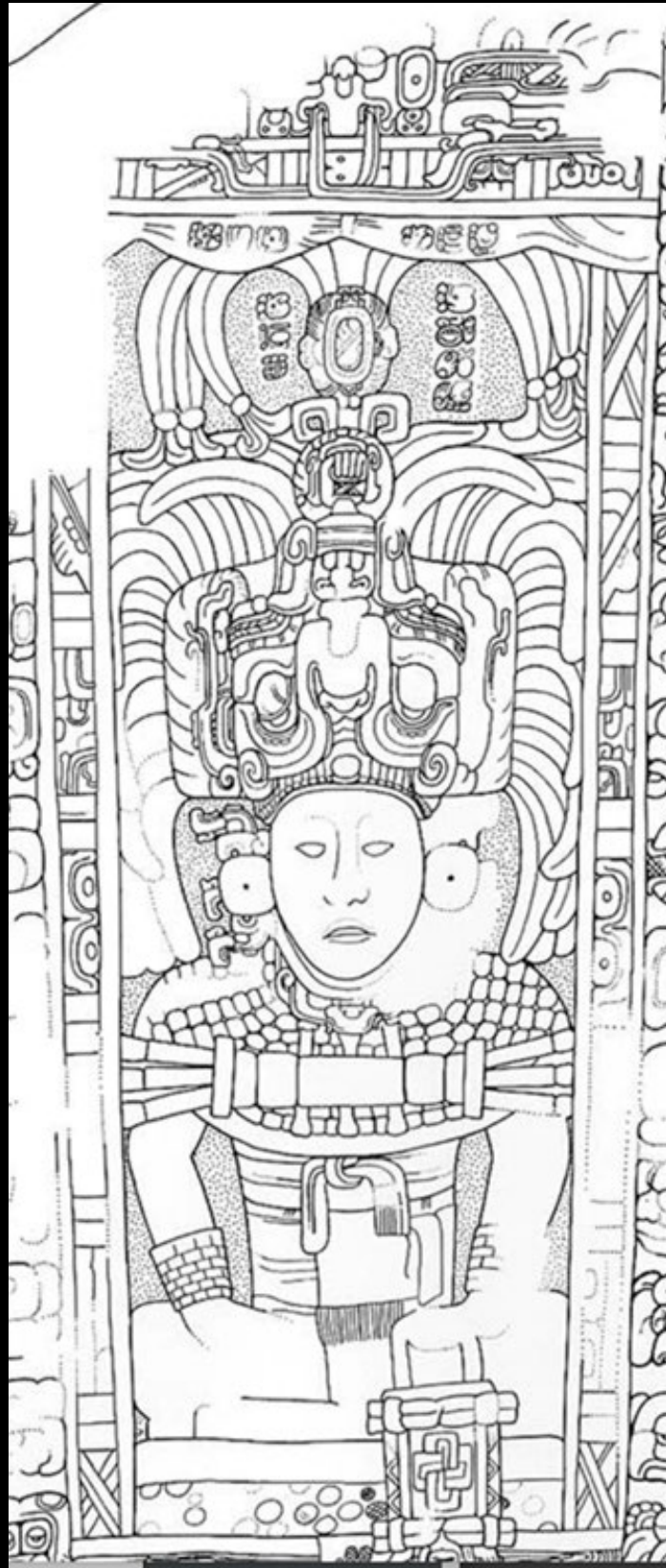


Fig. 5. A nice example of a throne room hut with vertical Sky Bands as the sides and horizontal Sky Band as a roof. As on most Sky Band huts, there is a Principal Bird Deity perched atop the roof. He has crossed-bands on his wings. The Snake Eating Hawk is the bird that was used as a model—you can see the stylized snake grabbed by the bird's beak. Piedras Negras Stela 6, drawing by David Stuart, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University.



Fig. 6. This is the complete Piedras Negras Stela 6, drawing by David Stuart, PMAE. I show the describe the Sky Bands on the stairway leading up to the throne room in caption of following illustration.

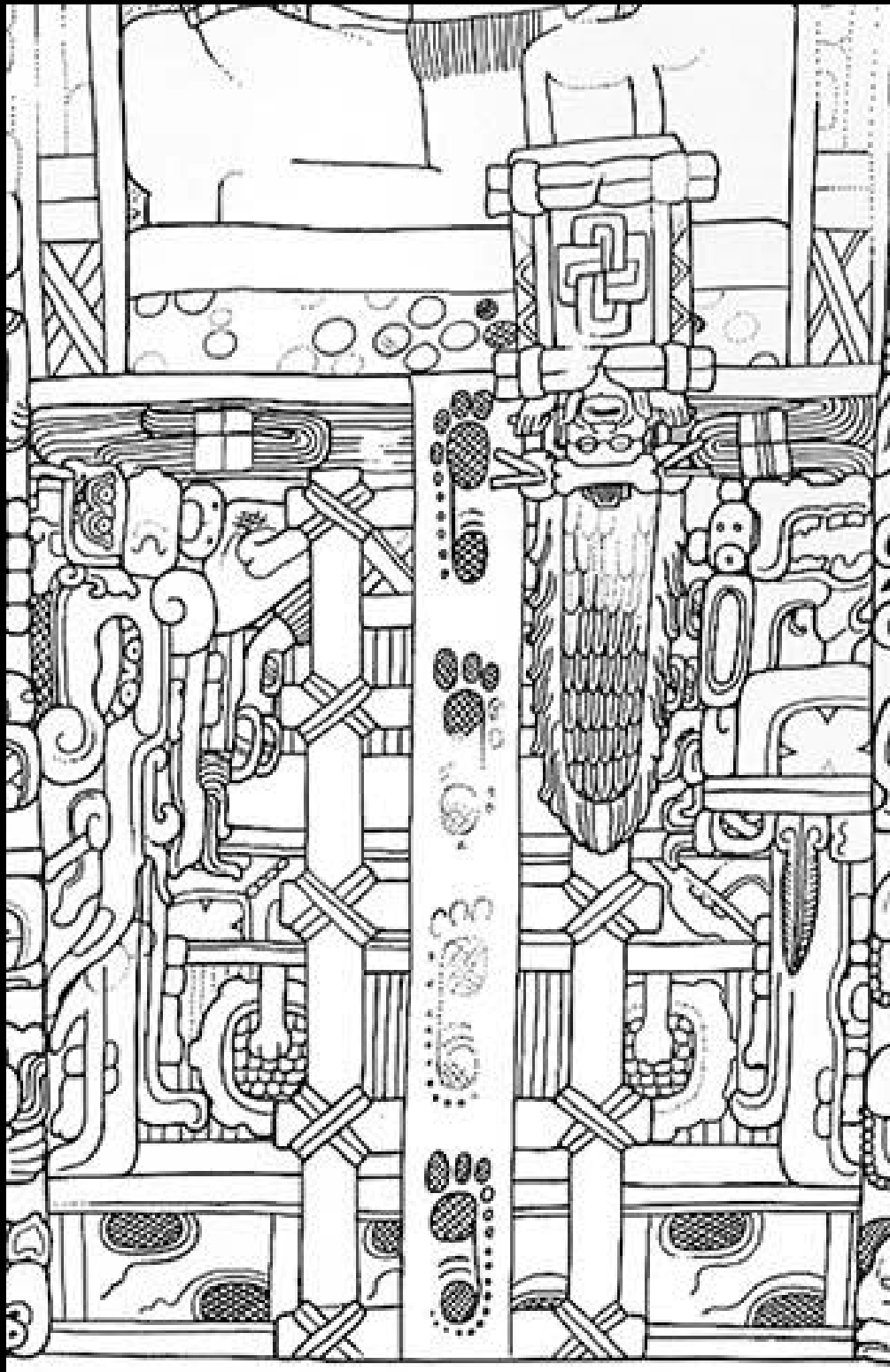


Fig. 7. As with most steps leading up to a throne room, there is a Bicephalic Cosmic Monster stretched across the top of the steps. This monster has a crocodile-starry-eyed-deer at one side (left) and an upside down Quadripartite Badge Headdress Monster at the right end.

Three of the "steps" have Sky Band motifs. The higher second step has motifs rarely found in a Sky Band and this step has no divider spaces. The bottom step has Caban motif.

The footprints mean that you walk up the ladder. We show the ladder in the following drawing.

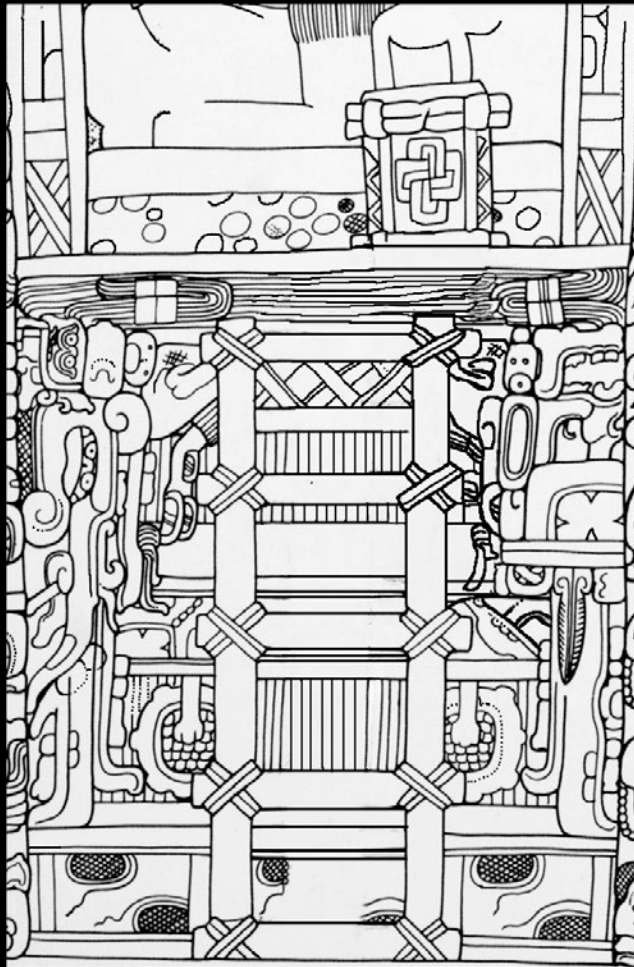


Fig. 8. Here the stairway is reconstructed by Byron Pacal, FLAAR Mesoamerica, to show the "ladder." So you climb up the ladder rather than climbing up the steps.

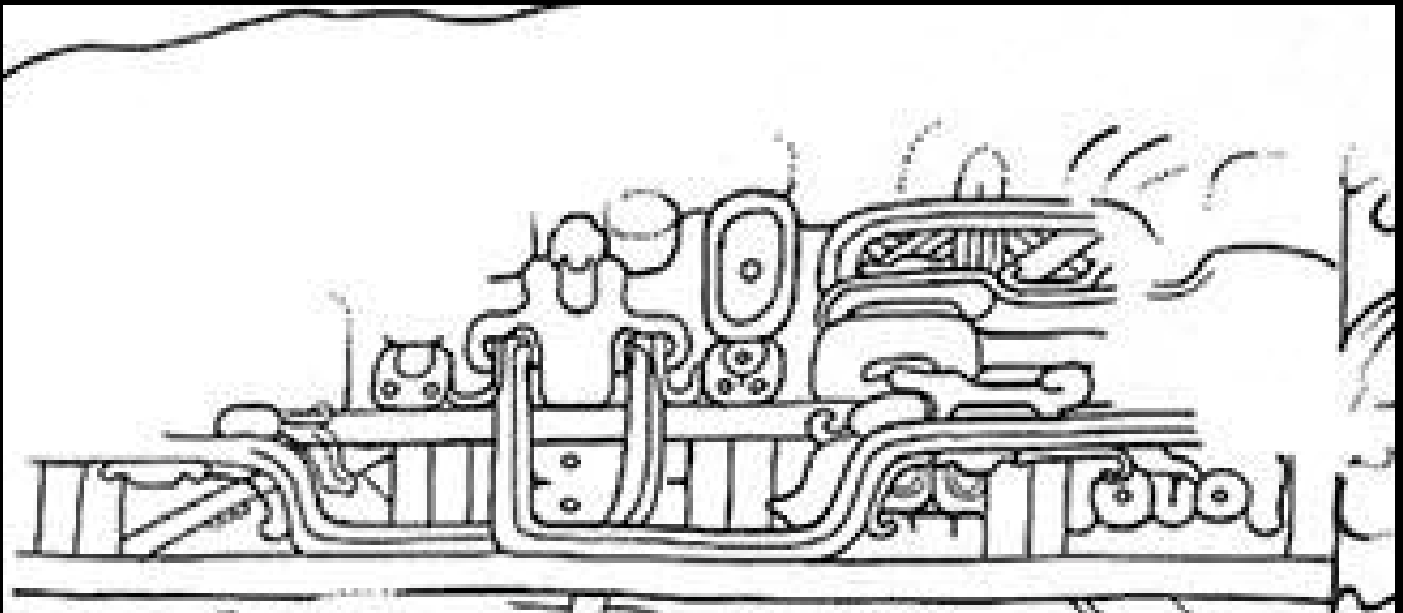


Fig. 9. Principal Bird Deity with snake in its beak. Piedras Negras Stela 6. Most Sky Band Huts (throne rooms) have this sacred bird perched on the roof.



Fig. 10. There are several Crossed Bands in the headdress but no formal horizontal Sky Band. Piedras Negras Stela 8, drawing by David Stuart, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University.

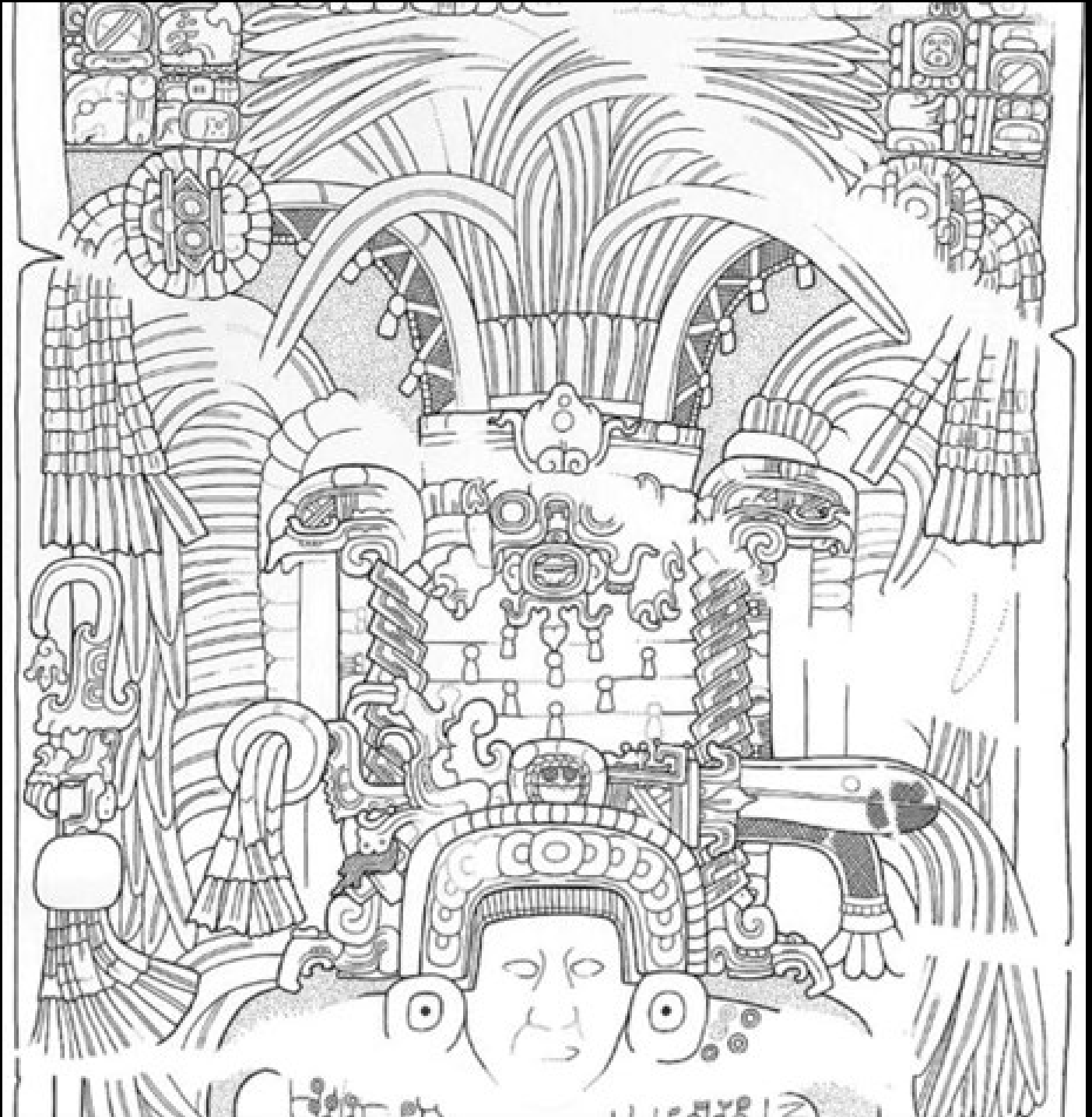


Fig. 11. Here you can see the Crossed Bands more easily, in the wings of the feline-Principal Bird Deity, and also in the lower headdress.

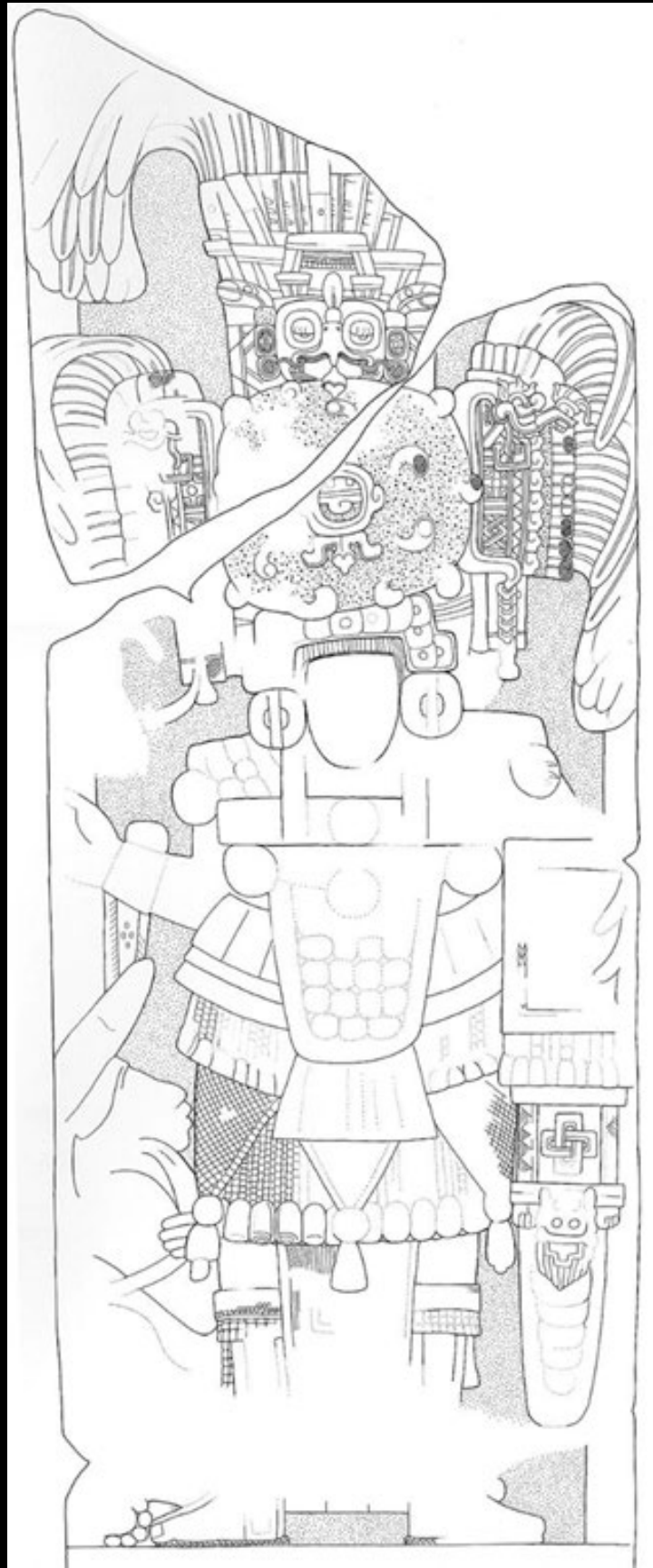


Fig. 12. Here the bird is more owl-like (with goggled eyes and a Yearsign headdress, that is no surprise). The bird's wings have a vertical Sky Band (so more than just Crossed Bands). Drawing by David Stuart, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University.

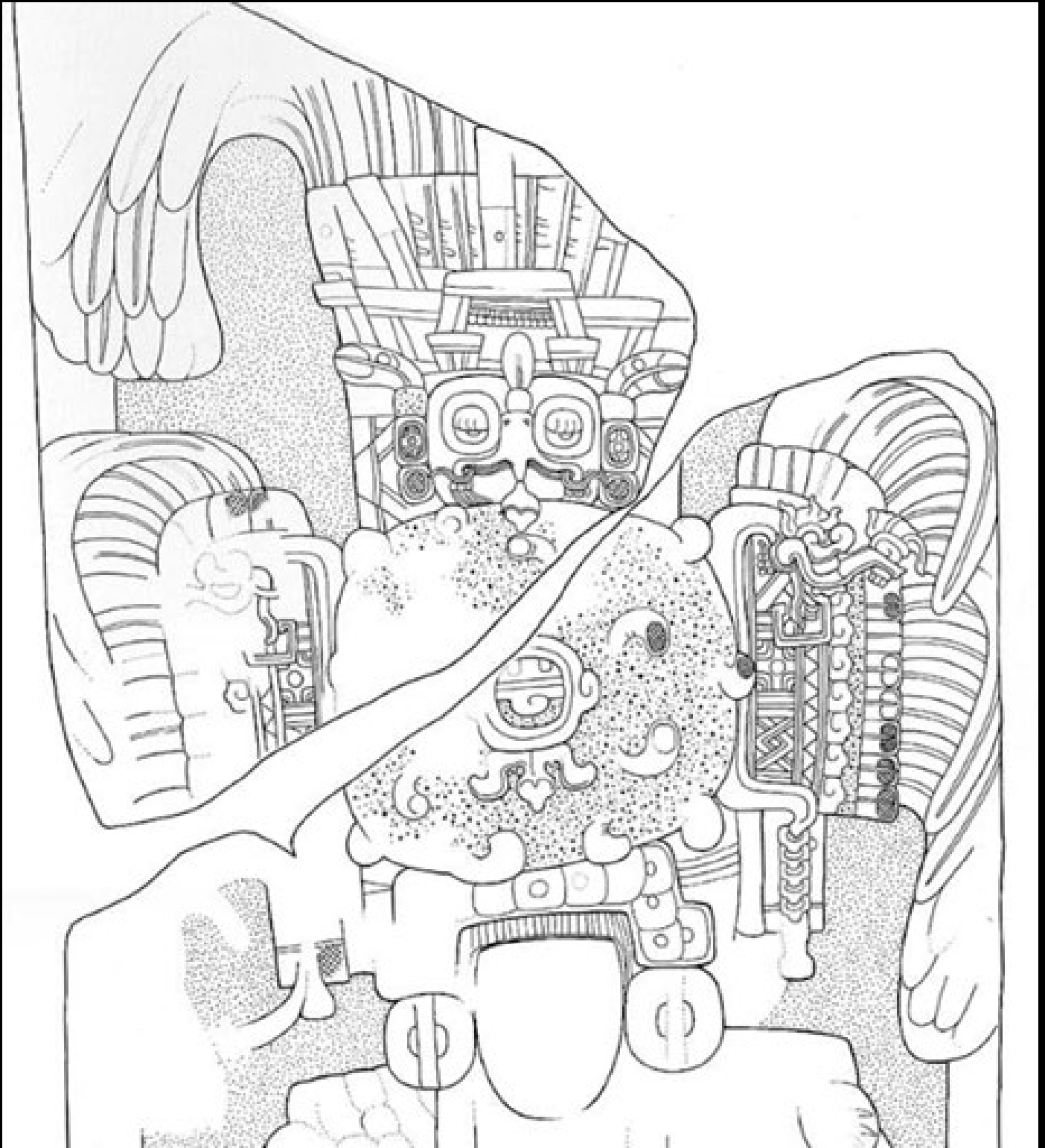


Fig. 13. Here you can see the vertical Sky Band in each wing.

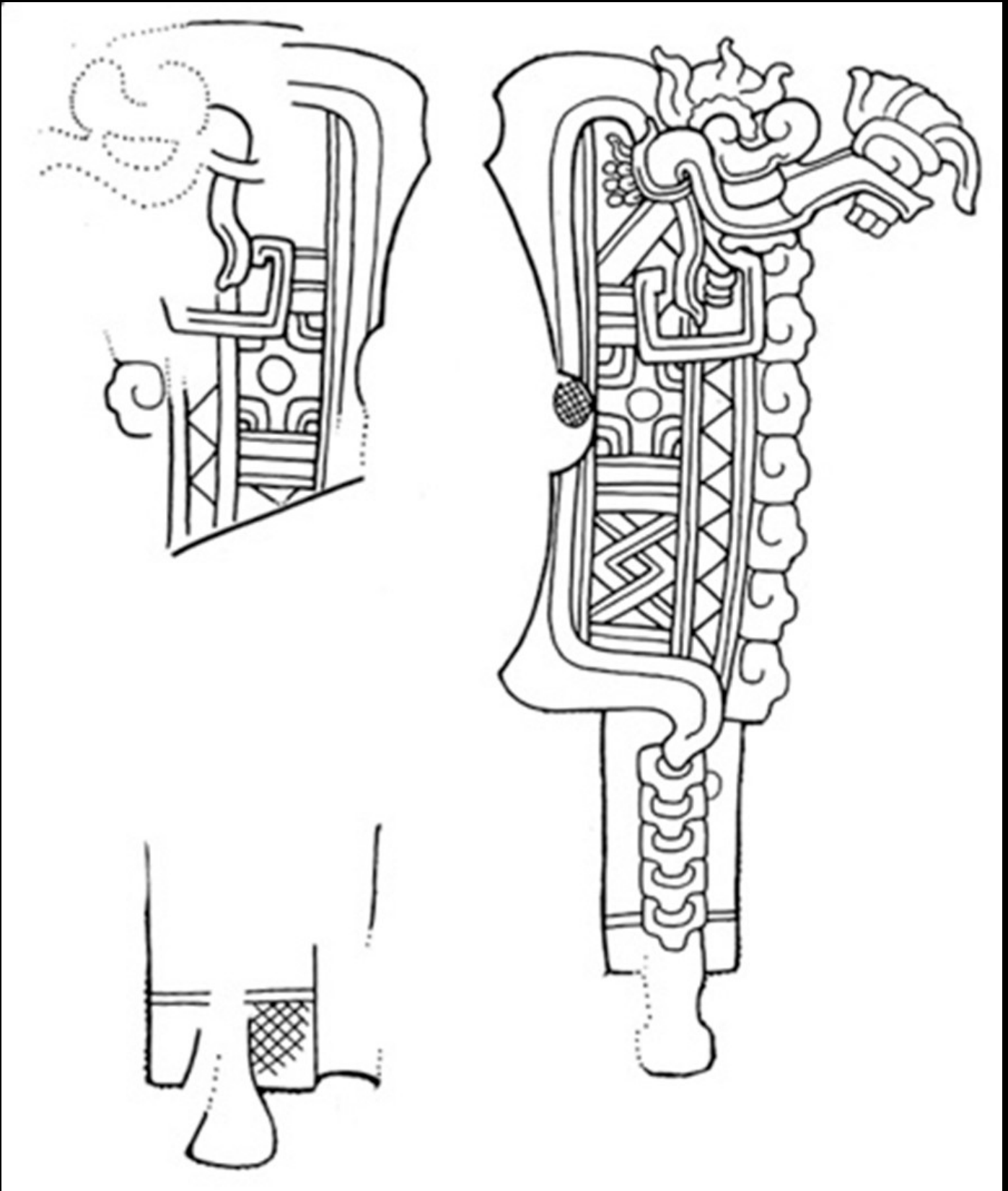


Fig. 14. Each Sky Band is surrounded by a rattlesnake.

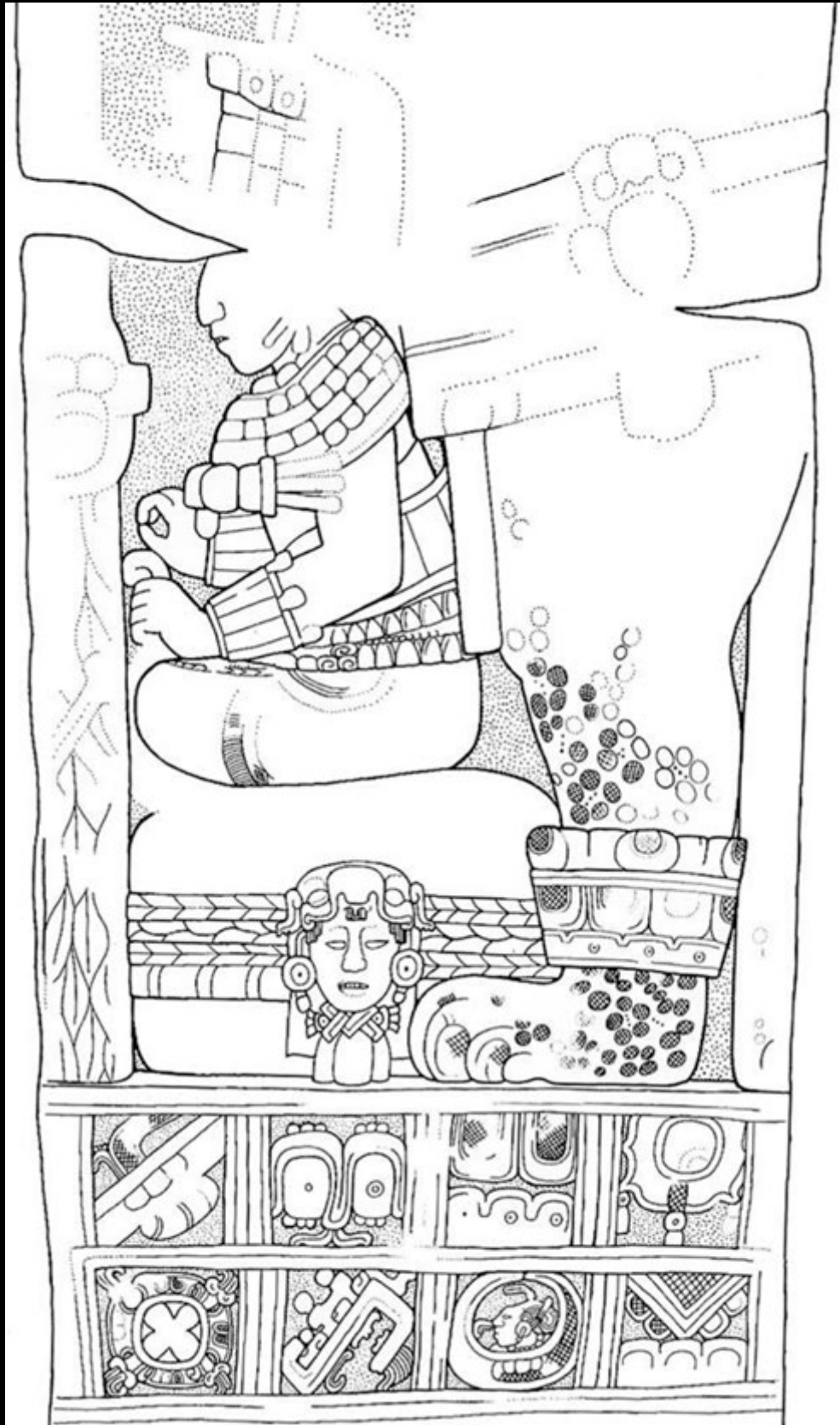


Fig. 15. These two Sky Bands are the most detailed and largest of stelae of Peten. The Zip Monster is nicely detailed. The Lunar Crescent includes the probable Moon Goddess. The top right and bottom left are not usually presented with the details as here. Piedras Negras Stela 10, drawing by David Stuart, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University.

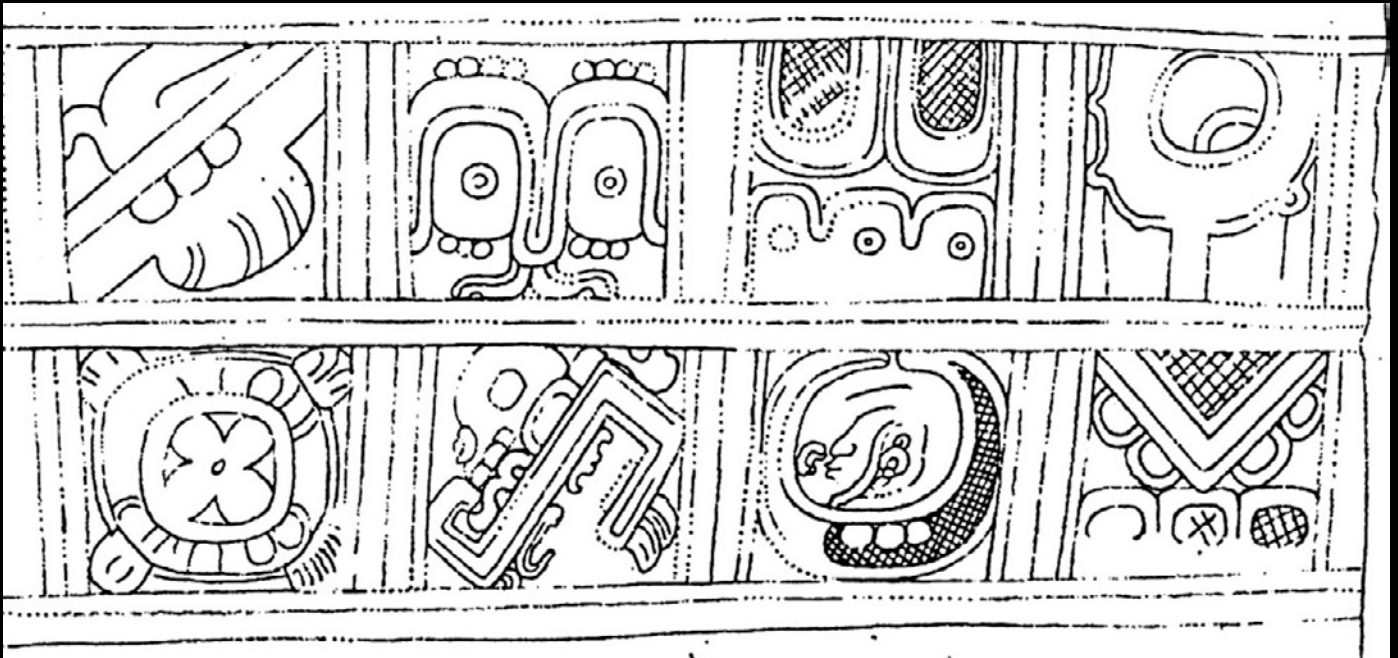


Fig. 16. Drawing by John Montgomery, JM0531. The 4-petalled flower Kin motif (bottom left) is encircled in a rare manner. Then a nice Zip Monster, lunar crescent, and snake skin motif. The motif at top right has the outline of a water lily pad. This motif is not common in Sky Bands.

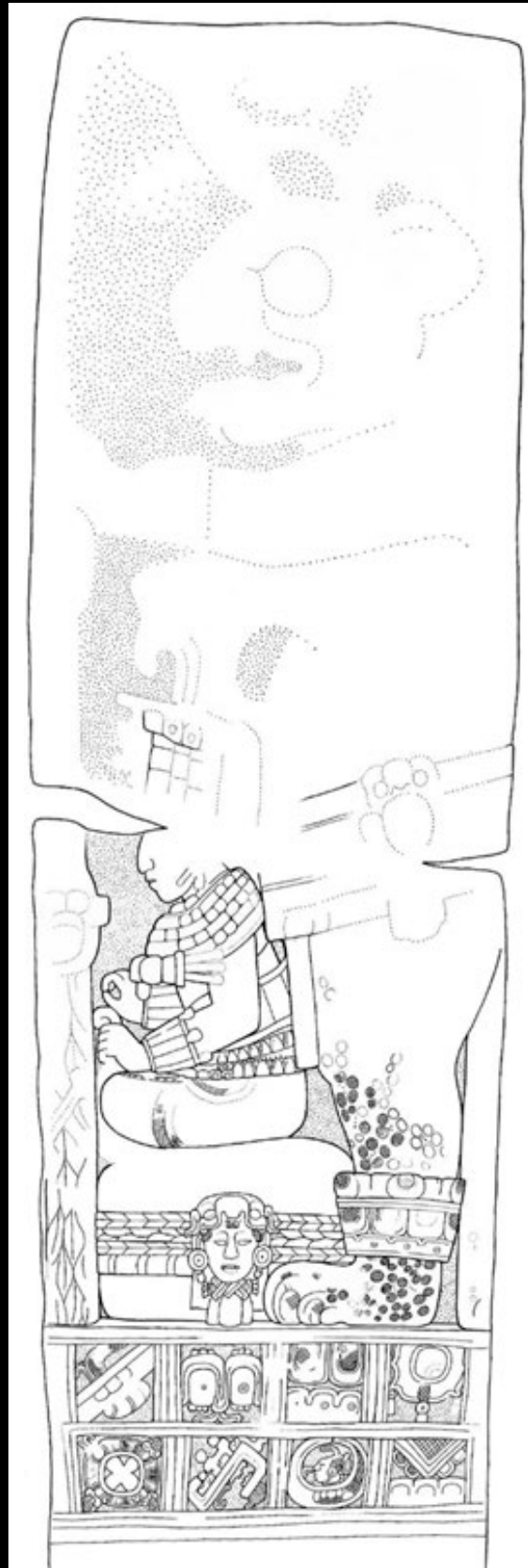


Fig. 17. This is the entire stela; the jaguar standing behind the seated ruler is like you find on Tikal lintel and La Corona Panel 6. Drawing by David Stuart, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University.

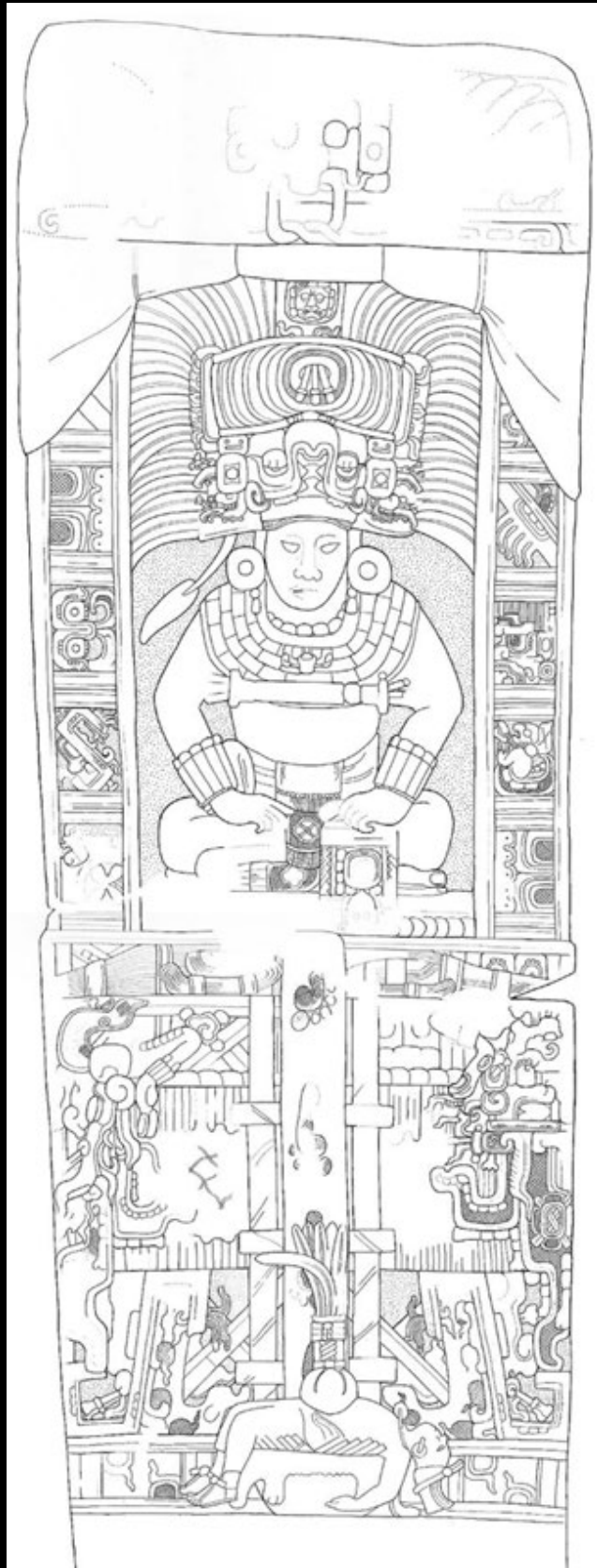


Fig. 18. Piedras Negras Stela 11 has a Sky Band stairway that is similar albeit not identical to the Sky Band stairway on Stela 6. The Sky Band motifs of the walls of this throne room are larger and more detailed than on most Sky Band Huts. drawing by David Stuart, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University.

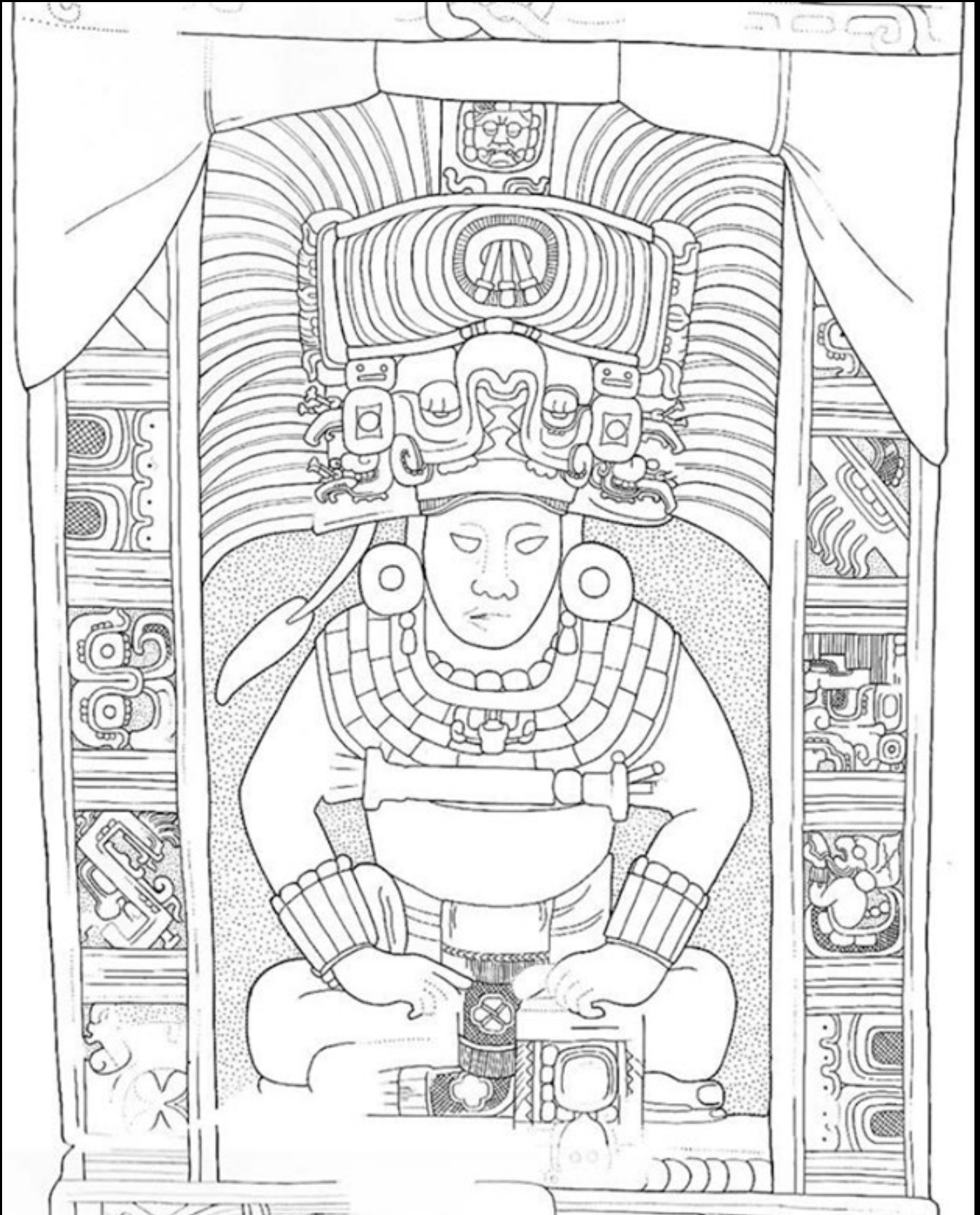


Fig. 19. The profile/half-frontal Loincloth Apron Face has more details than on other Sky Bands. The lunar crescent has the moon-associated rabbit issuing out. Piedras Negras Stela 11, PMAE.

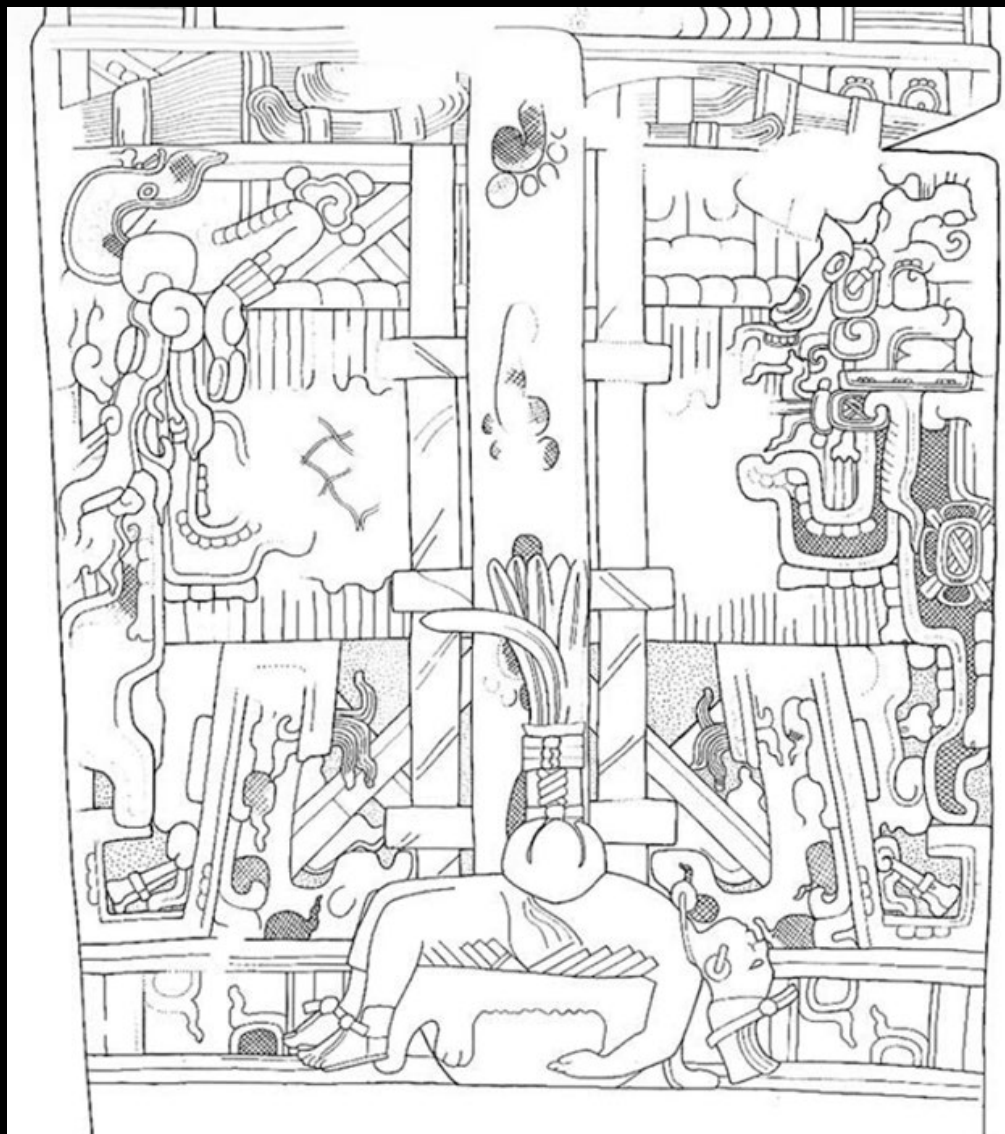


Fig. 20. A row of Caban motifs are found here on Piedras Negras Stela 11 and also at the bottom of several other steps (Moral Stela 3, Piedras Negras Stela 6) but not on Piedras Negras Stela 32.

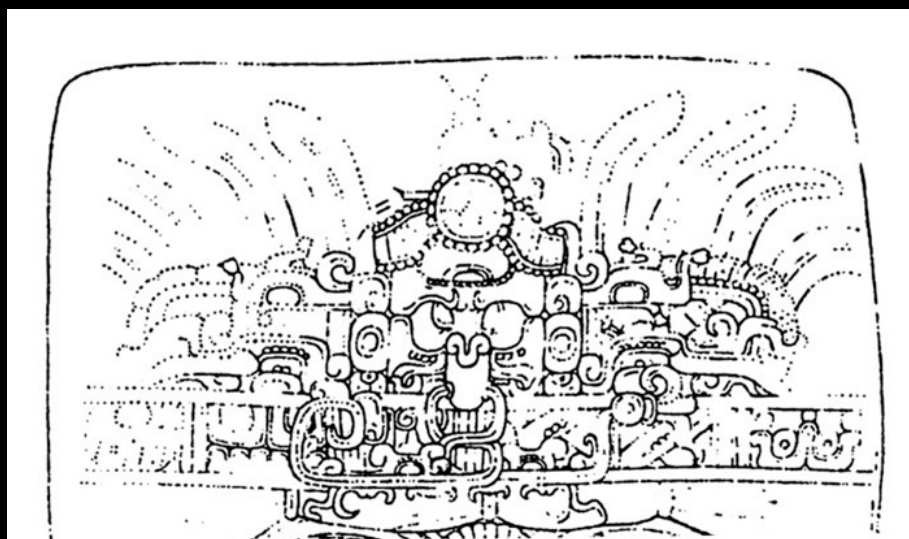


Fig. 21. The roof of a throne room hut is often a Sky Band, as here on Piedras Negras Stela 14.
Drawing by John Montgomery, JM0537.

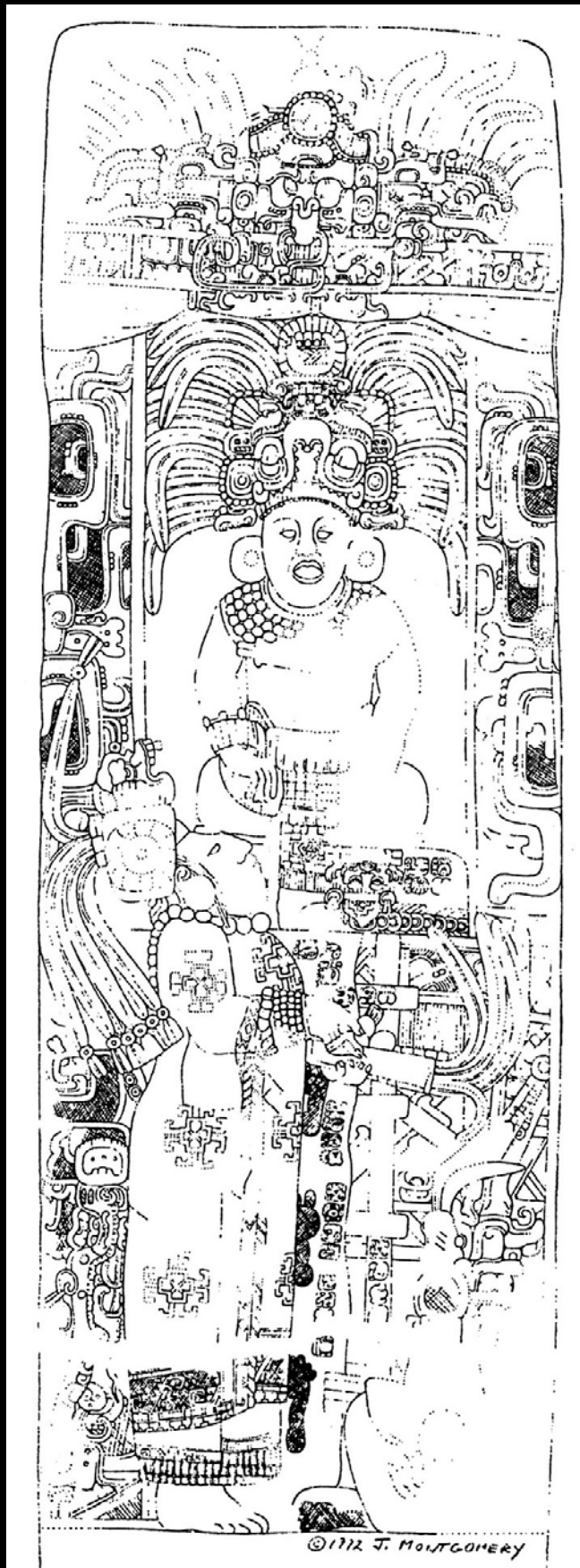


Fig. 22. Sky Band roof of hut and on steps. Peabody Museum database has only Stelae 1 through 12, so for Stela 14, only the drawing by John Montgomery is available.



Fig. 23. Instead of a vertical row of various Sky Band motifs, the walls of this throne room hut have giant profile/half-frontal Loincloth Apron Faces. Piedras Negras Stela 14.

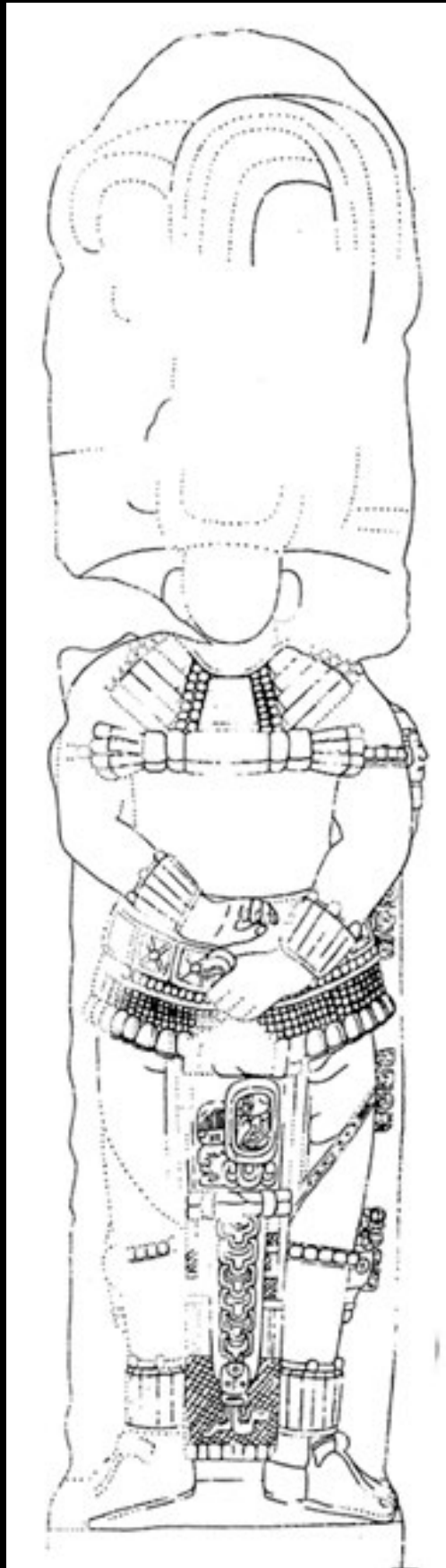


Fig. 24. Repeated symbols around the waist. The diagonal hem may once have had motifs, but not enough details remain to add this to Sky Band hems volume (FLAAR Reports). Piedras Negras Stela 15, drawing by John Montgomery, JMo5385.



Fig. 25. Here Norma Cho has made each profile face a full frontal face, based on iconography of Hellmuth. Piedras Negras Stela 25.

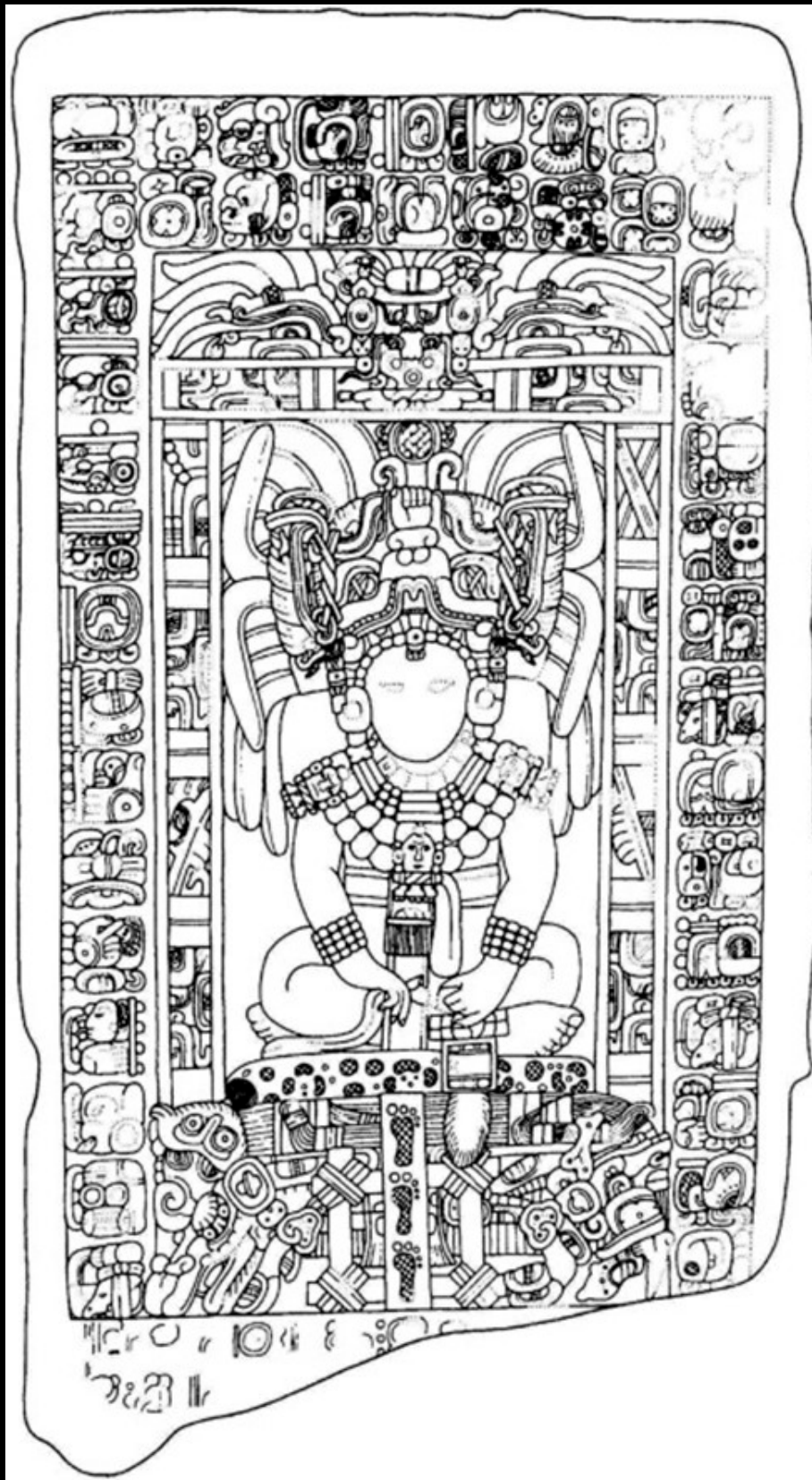


Fig. 26. This throne room is missing Sky Bands on the "steps" leading up to the throne. But the walls and roof are all Sky Bands, with the usual Principal Bird Deity perched on top. Lots of profile/half-frontal Loincloth Apron Faces (on both walls and roof). As with most steps there is a "starry-eyed deer" at left and Quadripartite Badge Headdress monster upside down at the right. A squashed animal with bound feet is also at the top of the steps, under the throne. Drawing by John Montgomery, JM05420, FAMSI.

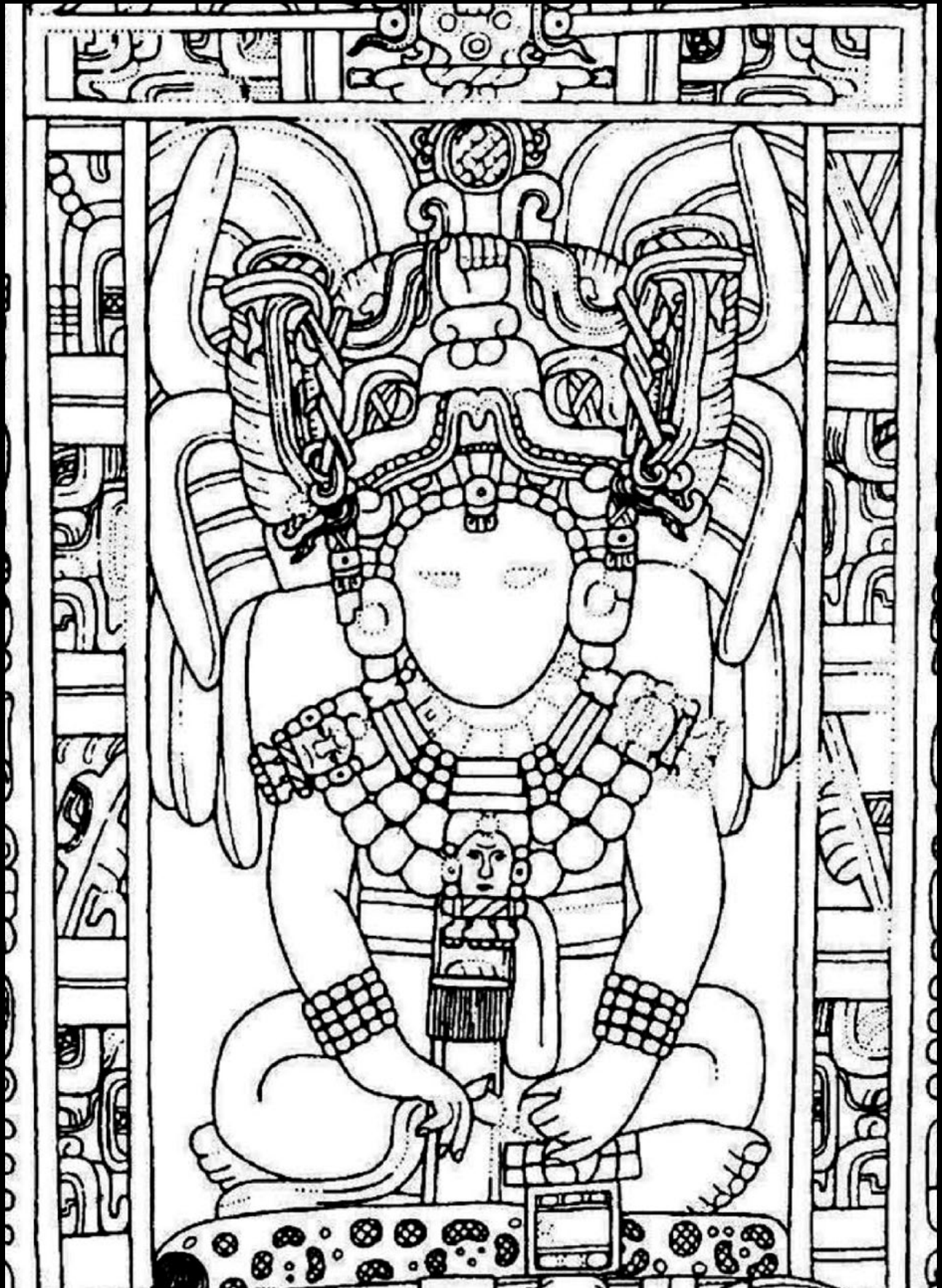


Fig. 27. Close-up of the Sky Band Hut, Piedras Negras Stela 25.

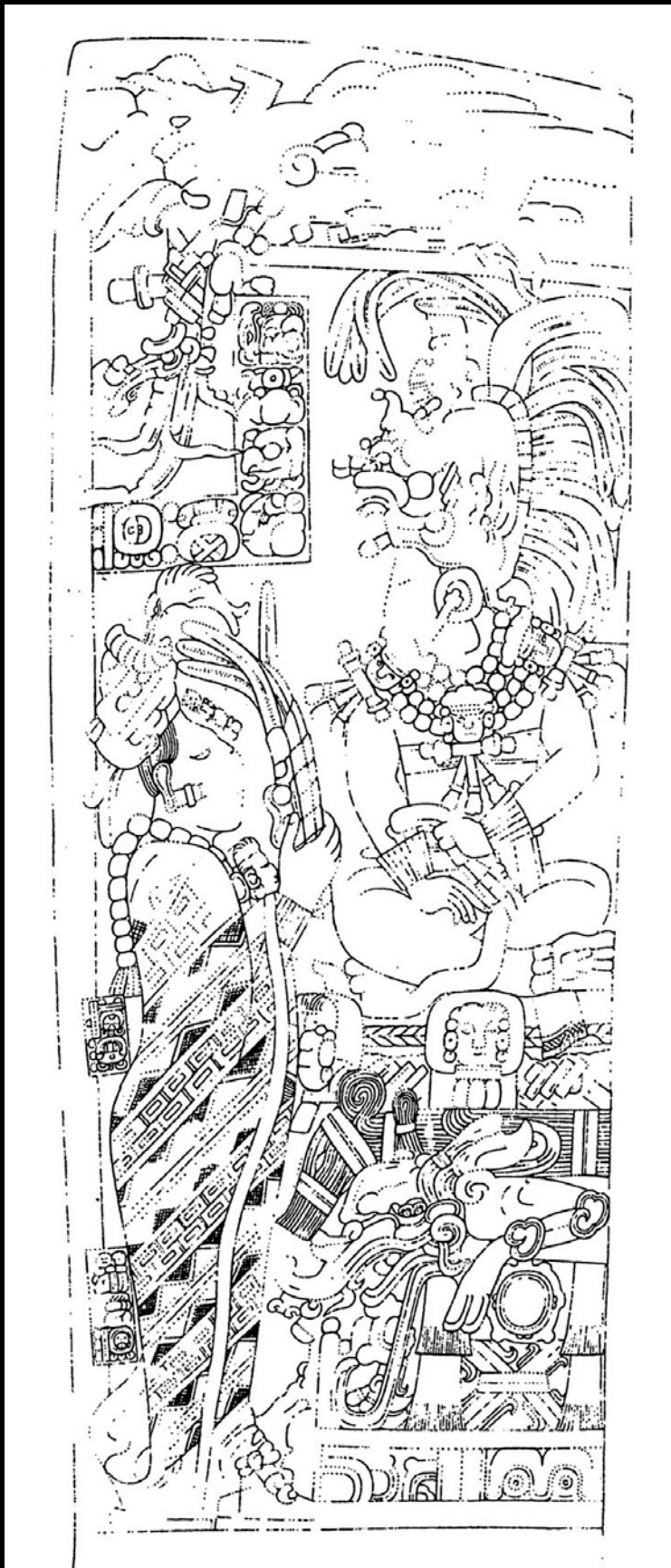


Fig. 28. Short Sky Band at the bottom of the "steps" up to the throne room (no wall shown). The round motif on the third step reminds me of other non-Sky Band motifs on other throne room steps at Piedras Negras. Piedras Negras Stela 33, drawing by John Montgomery, JMo5460.



Fig. 29. Compare the third step here with the second and fourth steps on Naranjo Stela 32. The crossed bands intrude into the space of the oval motif above. Both have a "sash" on either side (seen also on Naranjo Stela 32). Here the tied up animal is a probable peccary. Below is the Starry Eyed Deer (the left end of a Bicephalic Cosmic Monster).

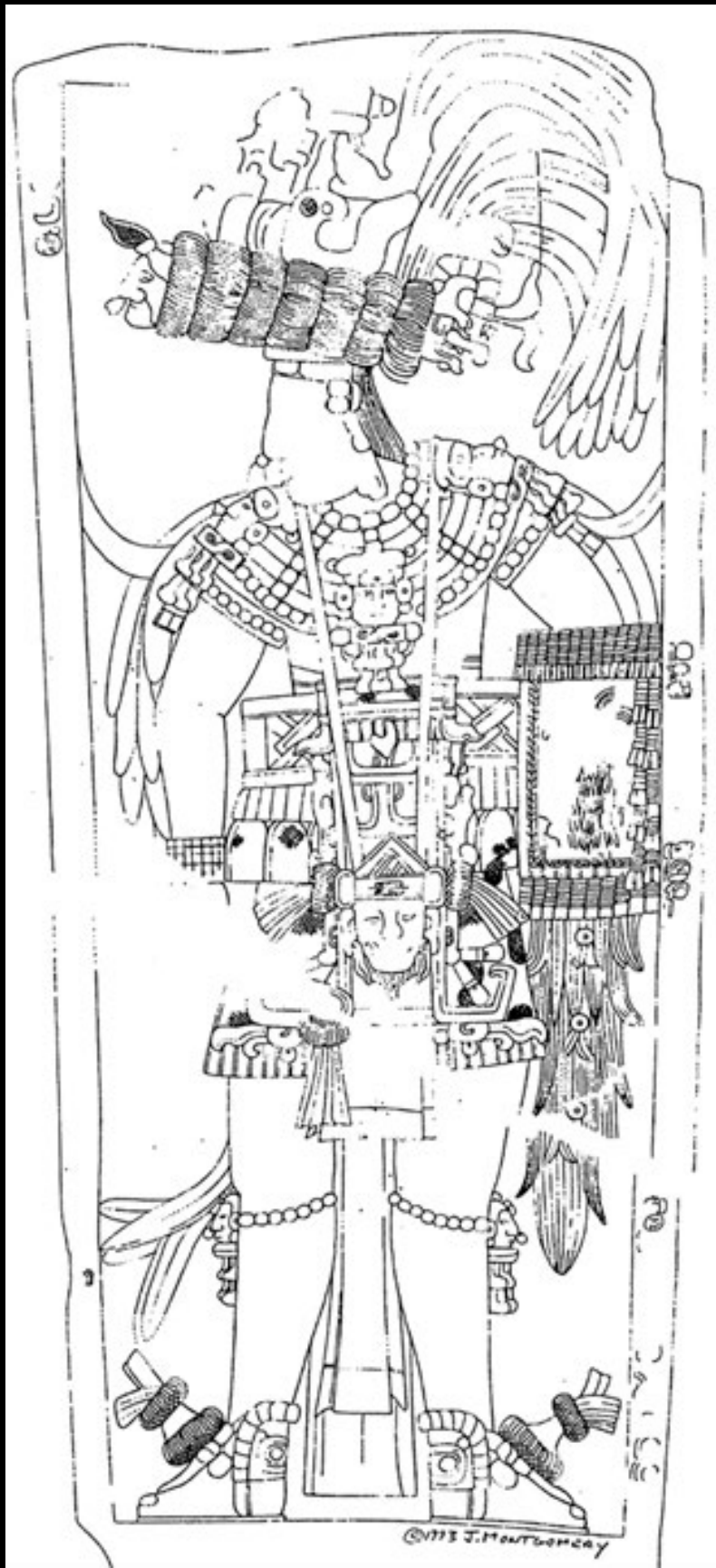


Fig. 30. Interwoven crossed-bands across waist area on Piedras Negras Stela 34.
Drawing by John Montgomery, JMo5470.

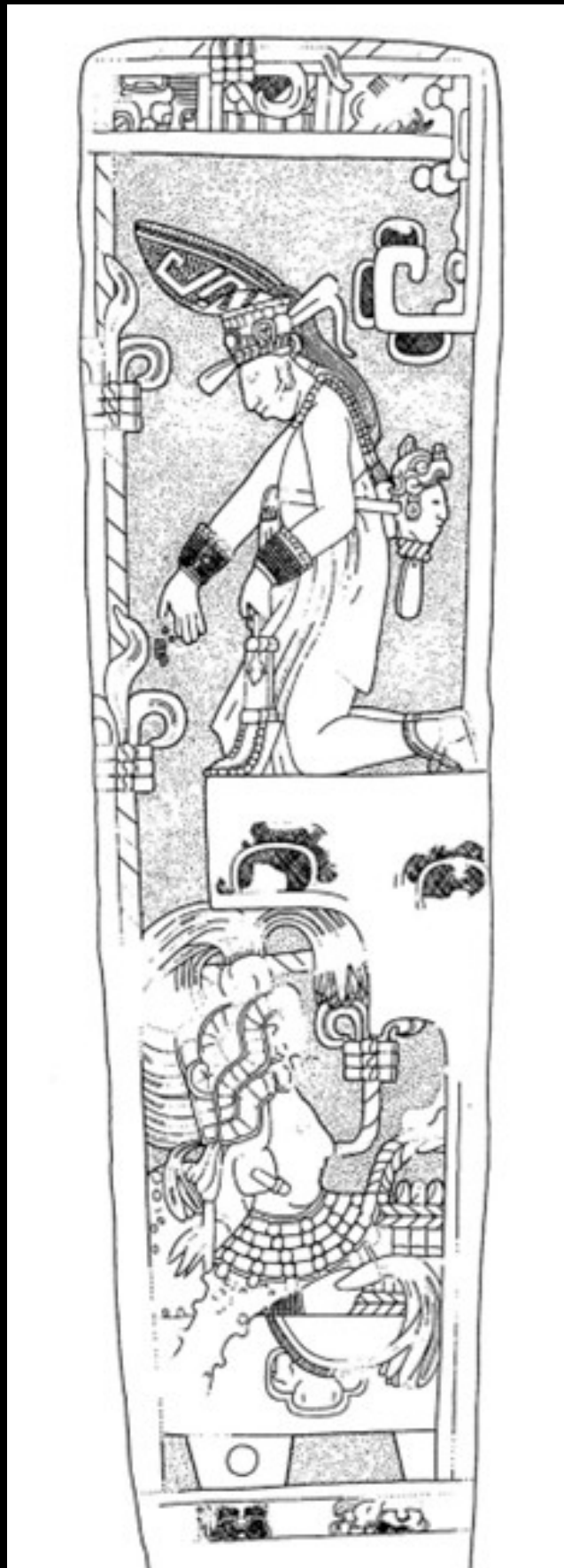


Fig. 31. Piedras Negras Stela 40, drawing by John Montgomery, JMo5530.

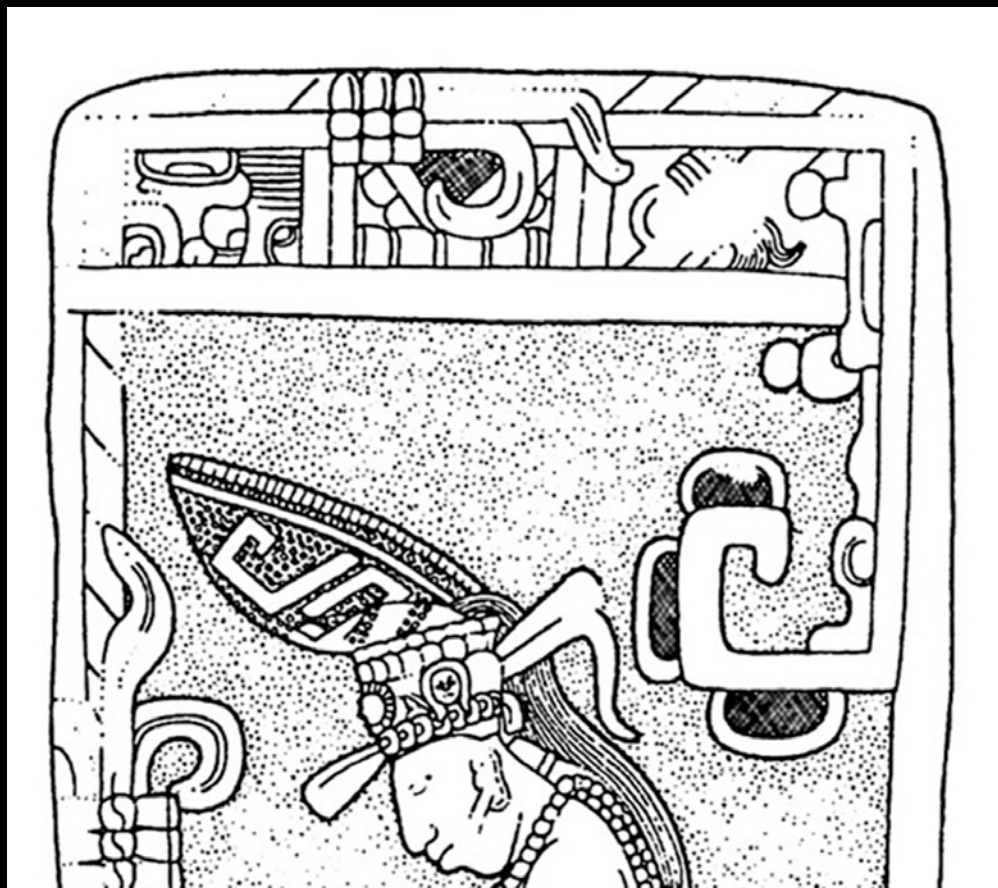


Fig. 32. Cropped to show the Sky Band across the top. Profile/half-frontal Loincloth Apron Face at left; snake skin pattern in middle; "bearded" Sky Cross at right (no crossing band).

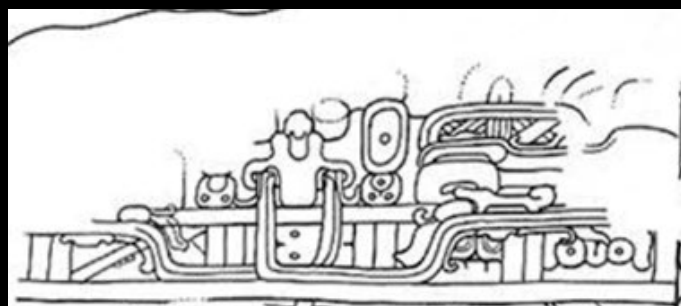


Fig. 33. Principal Bird Deity with snake in its beak. Piedras Negras Stela 6.

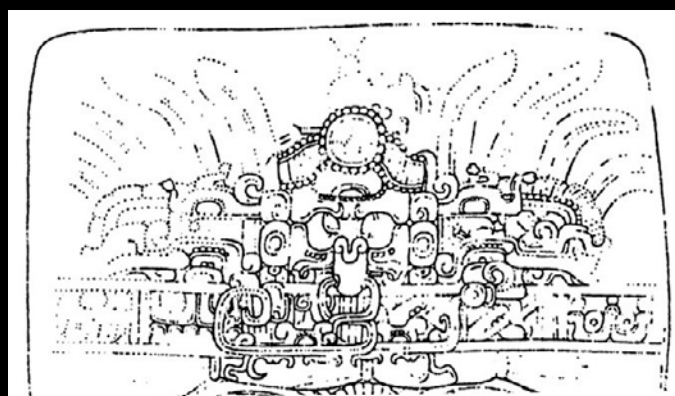


Fig. 34. Principal Bird Deity with snake in its beak. Piedras Negras Stela 14.

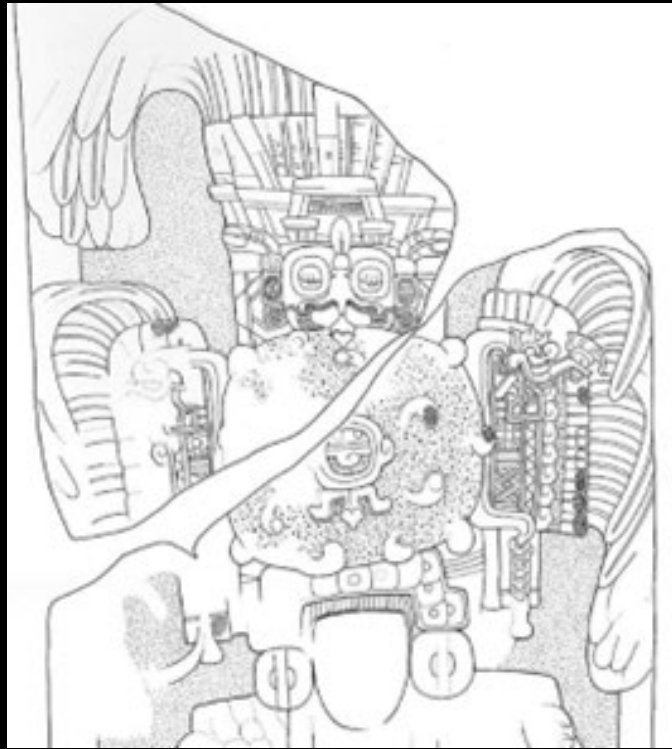


Fig. 35. "Teotihuacan-Maya" variant of Principal Bird Deity. Piedras Negras Stela 9.

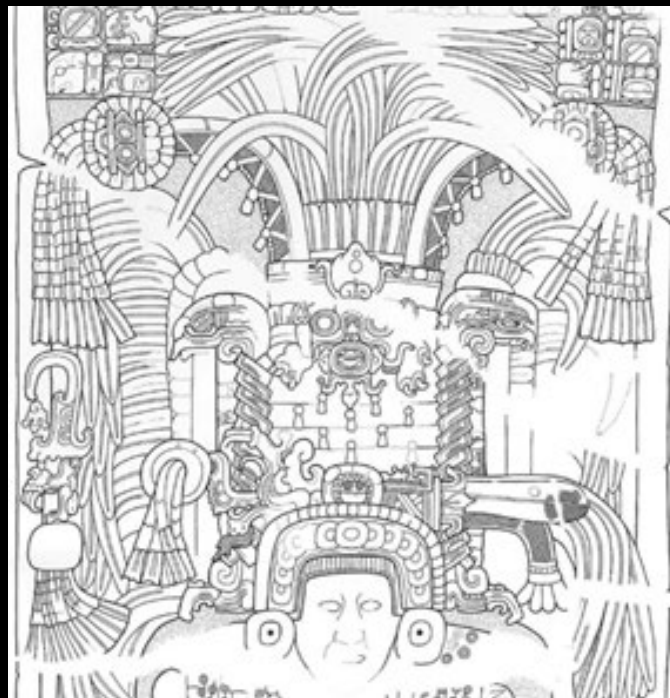


Fig. 36. "Teotihuacan-Maya" variant of Principal Bird Deity. Piedras Negras Stela 8.

Sky Bands on Stelae of Yaxchilan, Chiapas, Mexico

Most Sky Bands at Yaxchilan are on the woven hems of clothing, especially of women. These Yaxchilan lintels we show in our separate publication on Sky Band hems.

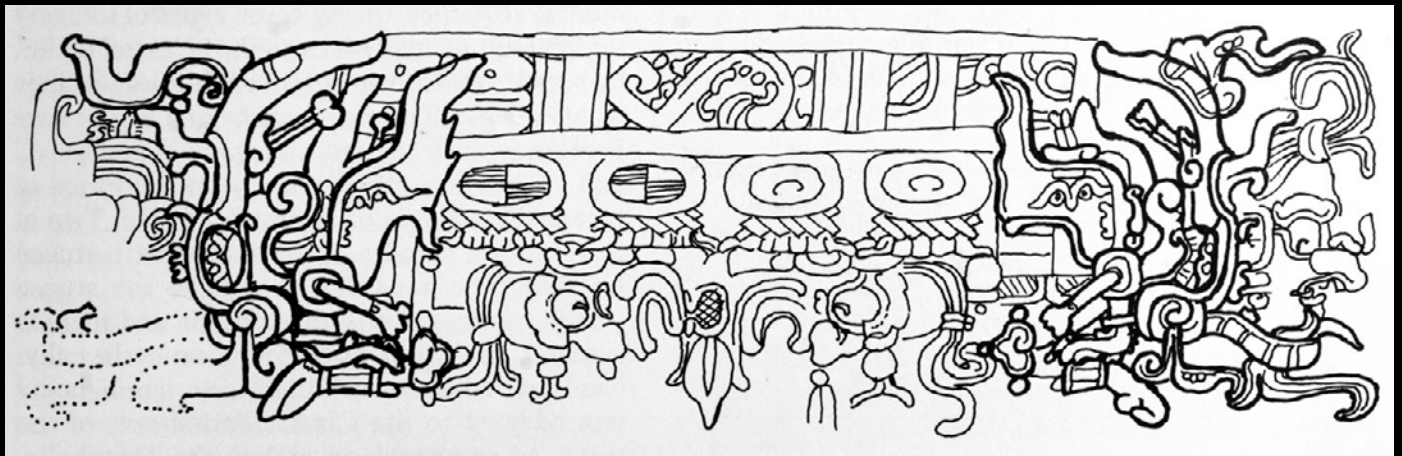


Fig. 37,a. Sky Band across Yaxchilan Stela 1. Drawing by Carolyn Tate (1992: Fig. 24,d). Zip Monster in the middle; Profile/half-frontal Loincloth Apron Face at the right.



Fig. 37,b. The complete Yaxchilan Stela 1. I estimate drawing is by Carolyn Tate.

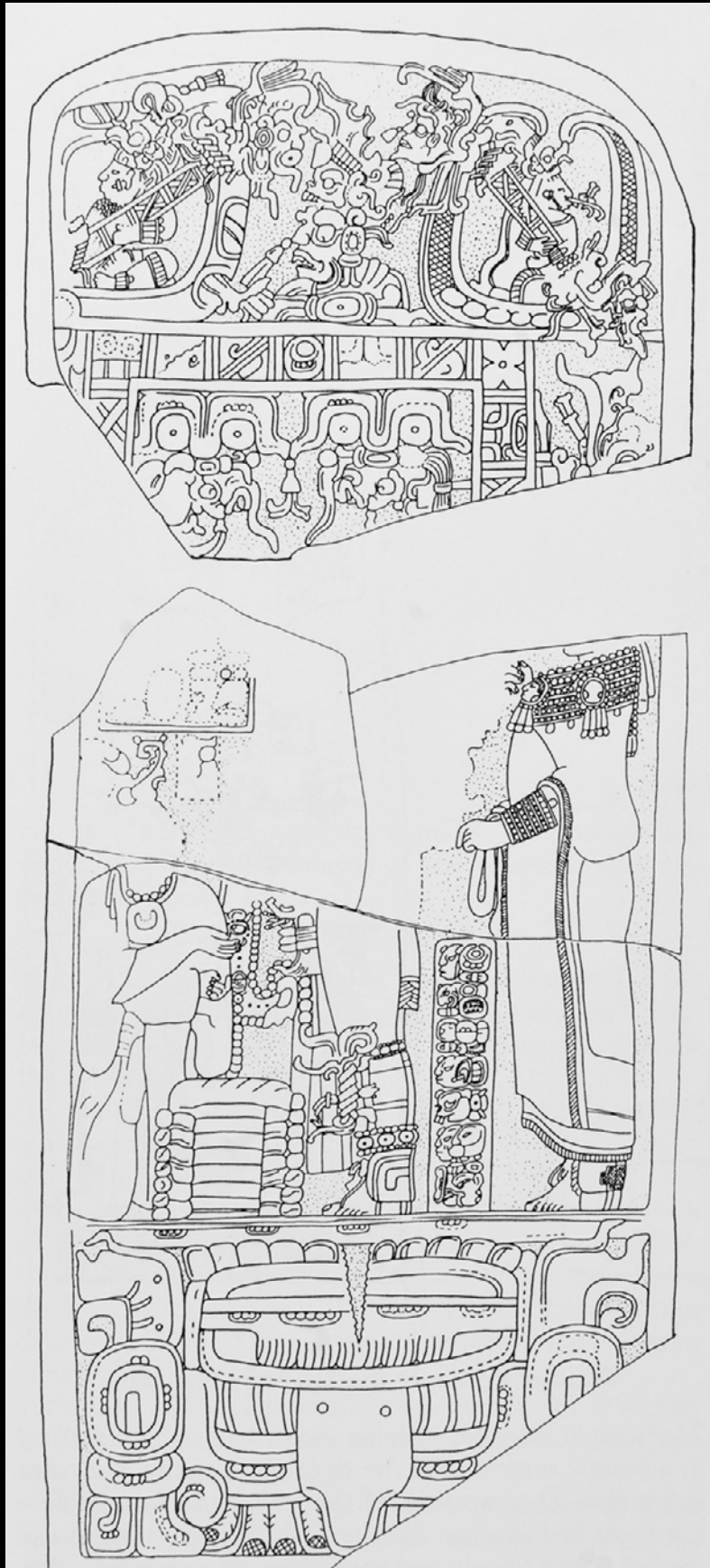


Fig. 38. Yaxchilan Stela 4, drawing by Carolyn Tate.

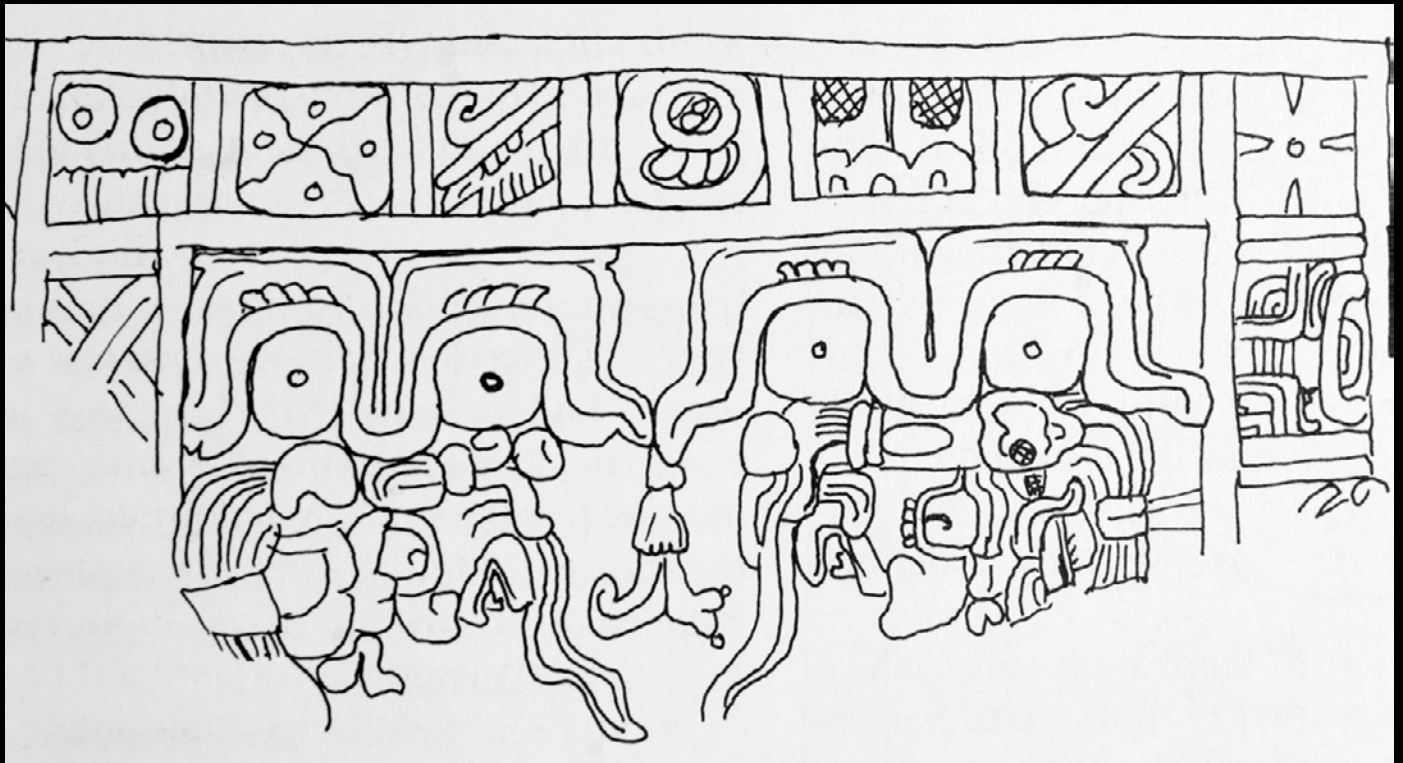


Fig. 39. Sky Band of Yaxchilan Stela 4, temple side, drawing by Carolyn Tate.
Top is similar to that of Yaxchilan Stela 1.

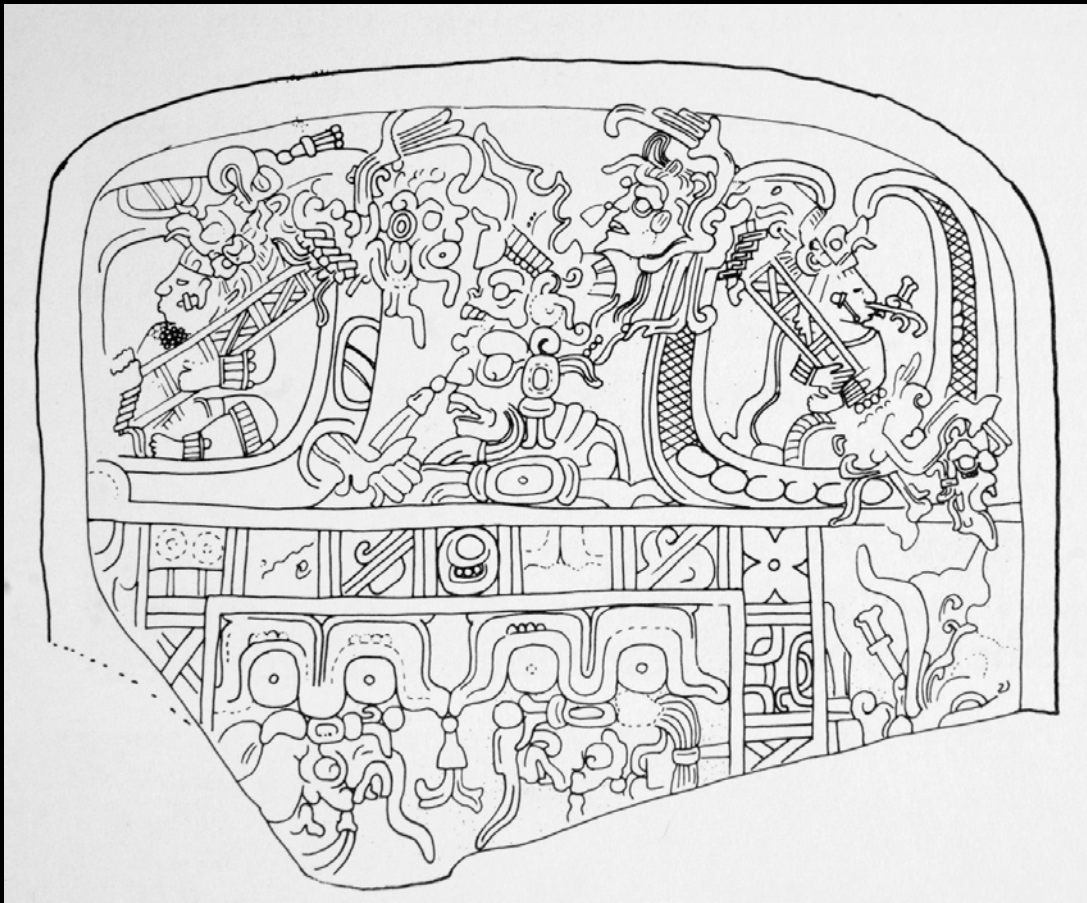


Fig. 40. Yaxchilan Stela 4, Structure 20, temple side (Tate 1991: Fig. 5). The diagonal ceremonial bars have a Sky Band. And the roof and walls of the Sky Band Hut have celestial motifs.



Fig. 41. Sky Band on Yaxchilan Stela 6, drawing by Carolyn Tate. A higher resolution original image is needed to allow you to see the Sky Band motifs.



Fig. 42. Sky Band on Yaxchilan Stela 6, drawing by Carolyn Tate. There is also a typical waist-area Sky Band of repeated crossed bands.

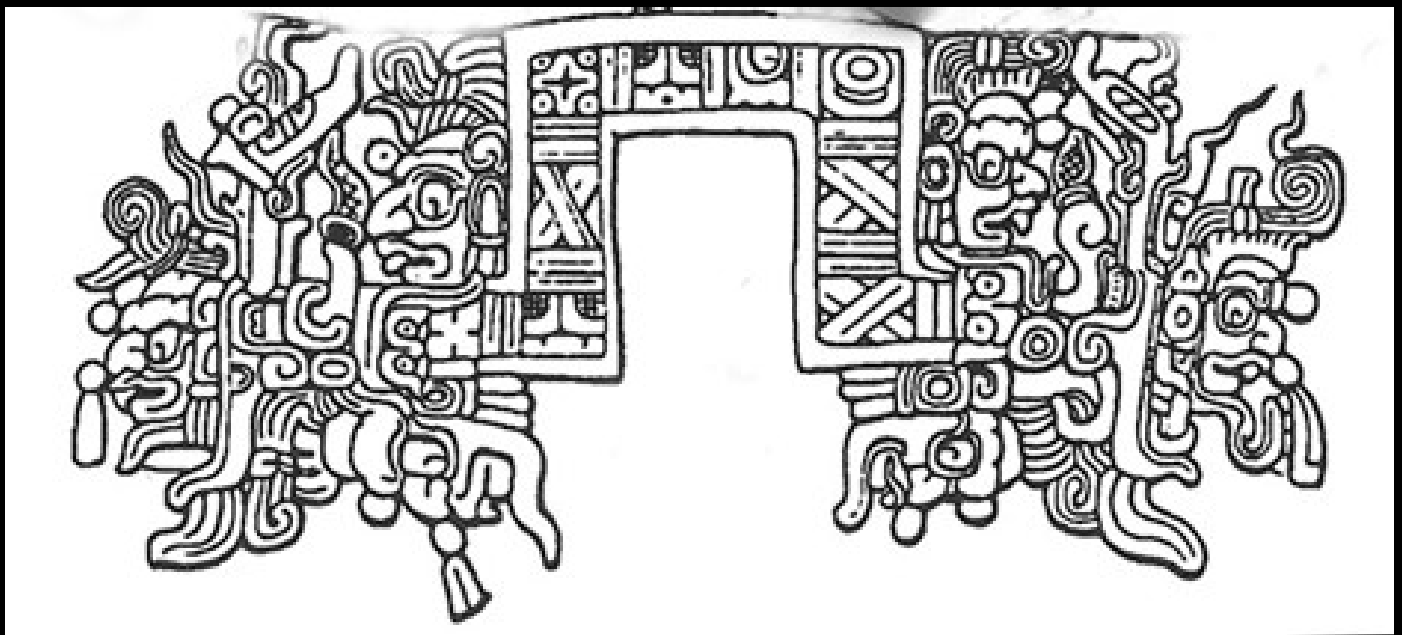


Fig. 43. Sky Band on Yaxchilan Stela 10. Not all Sky Bands are only horizontal. The motif at the upper right is rare, as is the motif to the left. Drawing by Linda Schele, © David Schele, SD-7645. Drawing courtesy Ancient Americas at LACMA (ancientamericas.org).



Fig. 44. Common waist area with simple crossed-bands motif repeated. Yaxchilan Stela 11, drawing by John Montgomery, JMo1600.



Fig. 45. "Ball game marker" associated with Yaxchilan ballcourt, Structure 14.
Drawing by Carolyn Tate. Sky Band on the ceremonial bar.

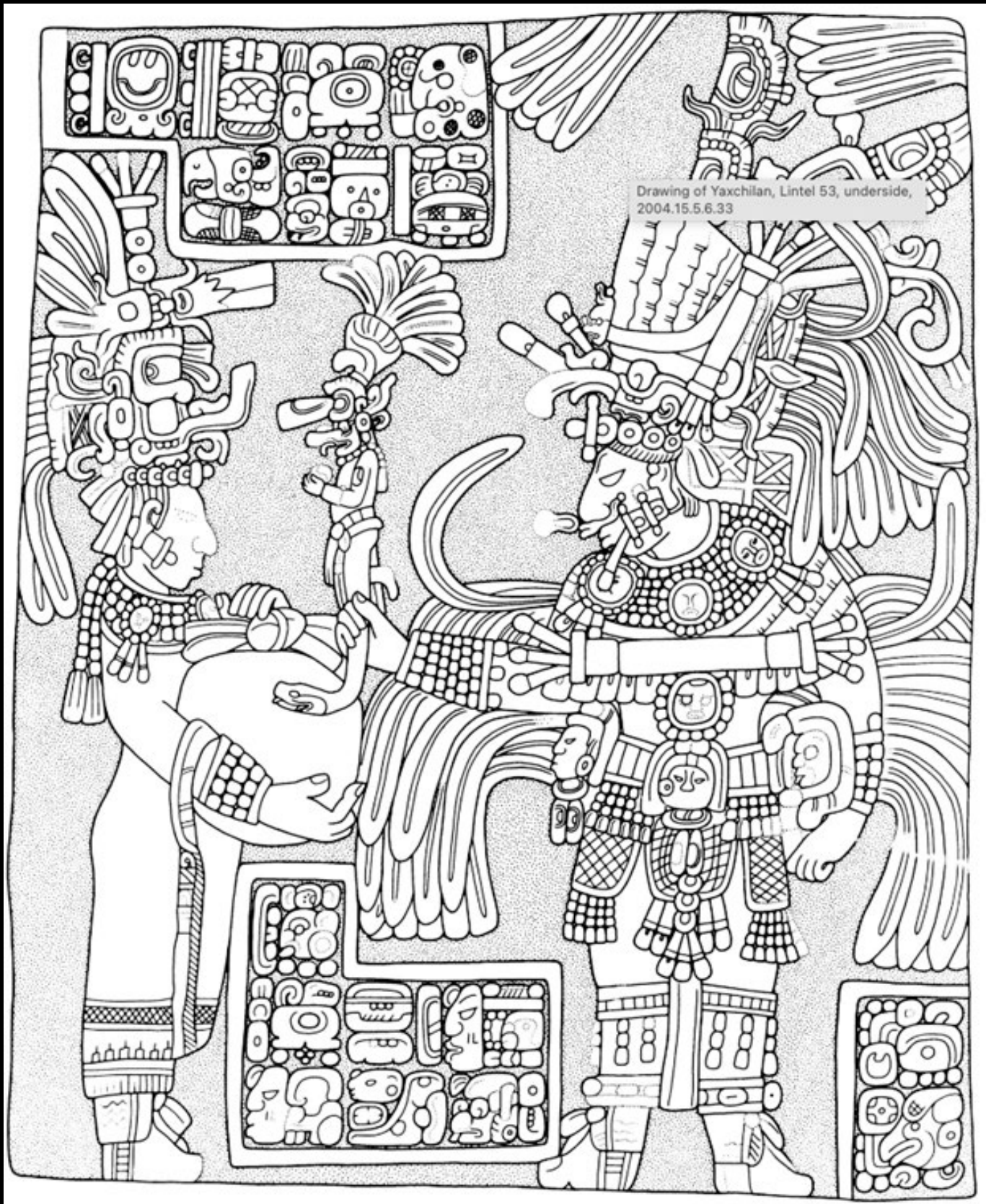


Fig. 46. Crossed Bands in two locations of headdress. The downward Sky Band behind the ruler's head is a position ("below the headdress") not often seen elsewhere. The woman's vertical hem has the remains of a probable Sky Band (and is covered in the volume on Sky Bands on hems). Yaxchilan Lintel 53, drawing by Ian Graham, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University.

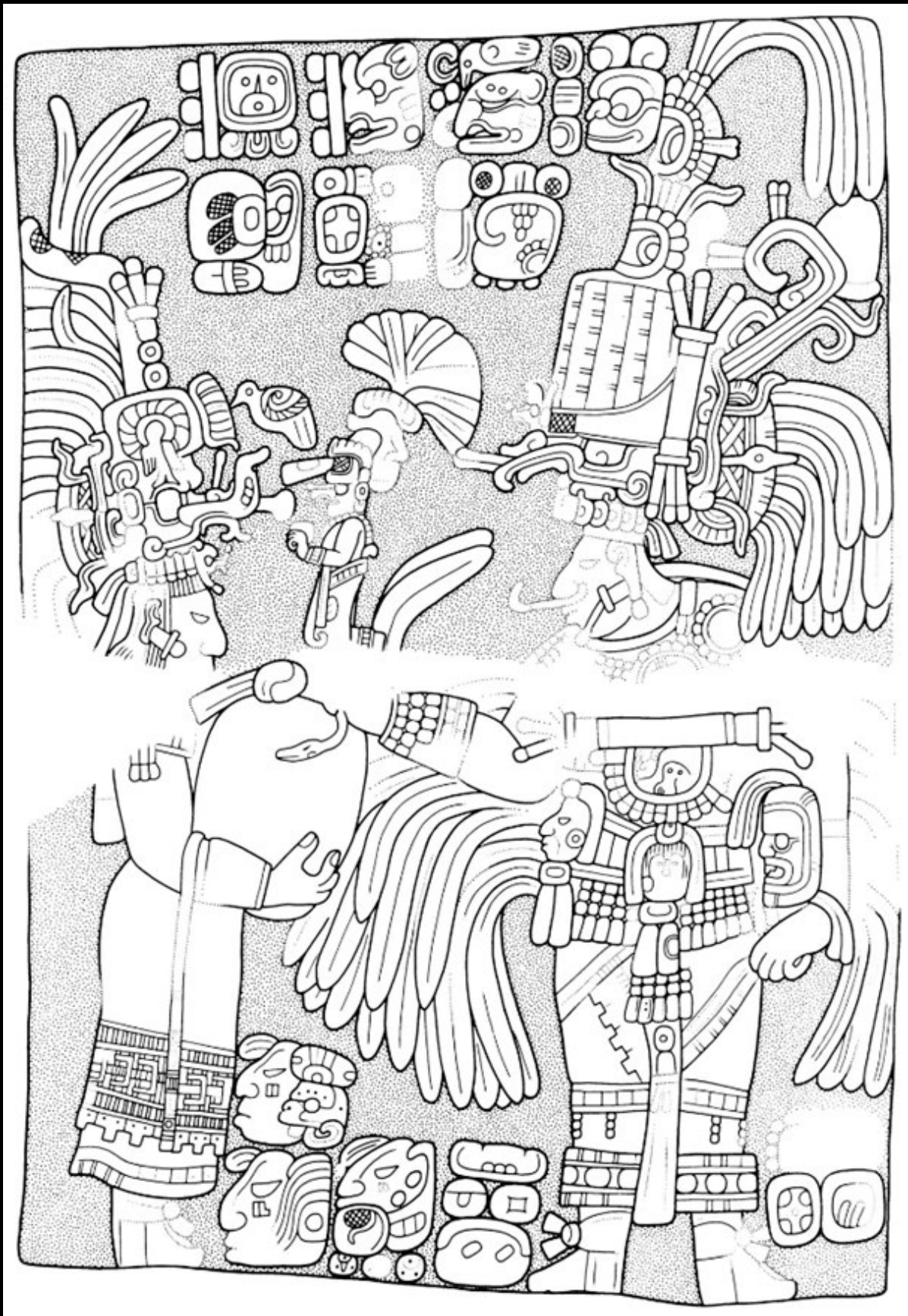


Fig. 47. Same crossed bands, this time on both the man's and the woman's headdresses. Yaxchilan Lintel 54. Drawing by Ian Graham, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University.

Sky Bands on Stelae of Seibal (Ceibal), Peten, Guatemala

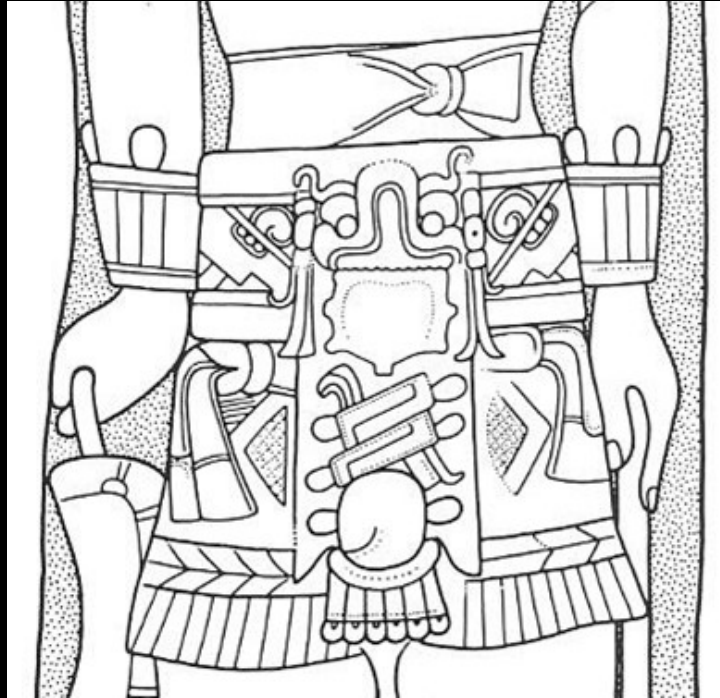


Fig. 48. Sky Band motifs on waist area, cropped from Seibal Stela 2, PMAE.

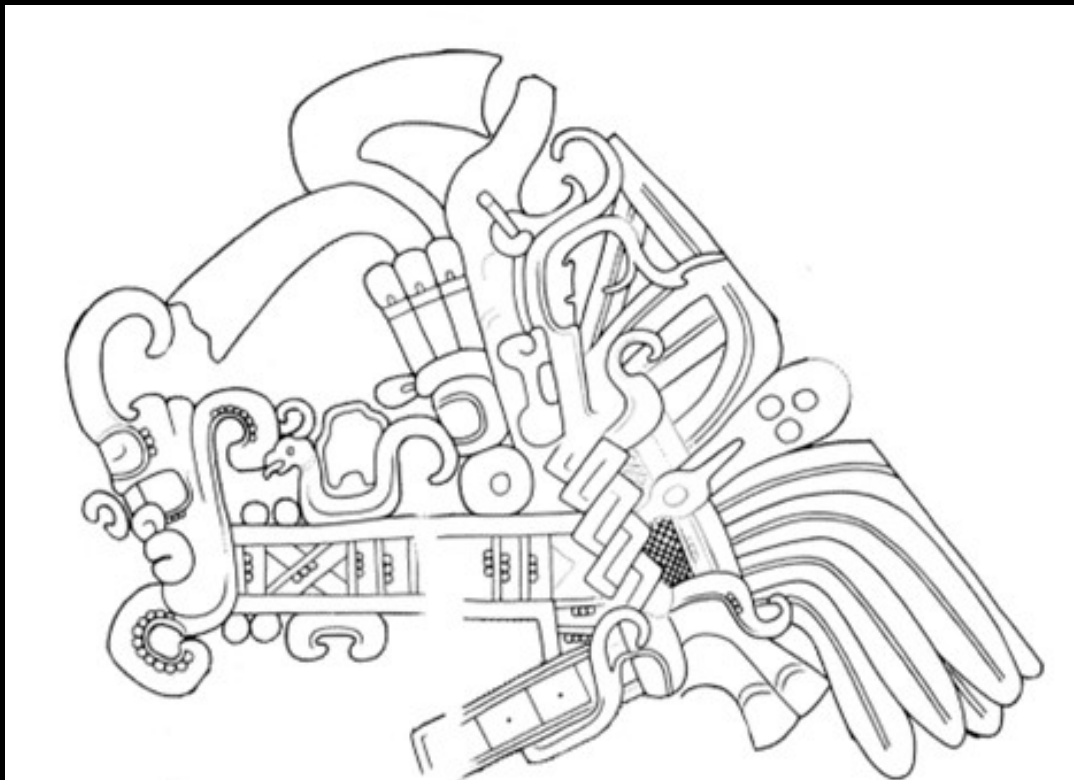


Fig. 49. Sky Band in headdress of Seibal Stela 8 with Shell Wing Dragon on the top. Cropped from drawing by Ian Graham, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University.

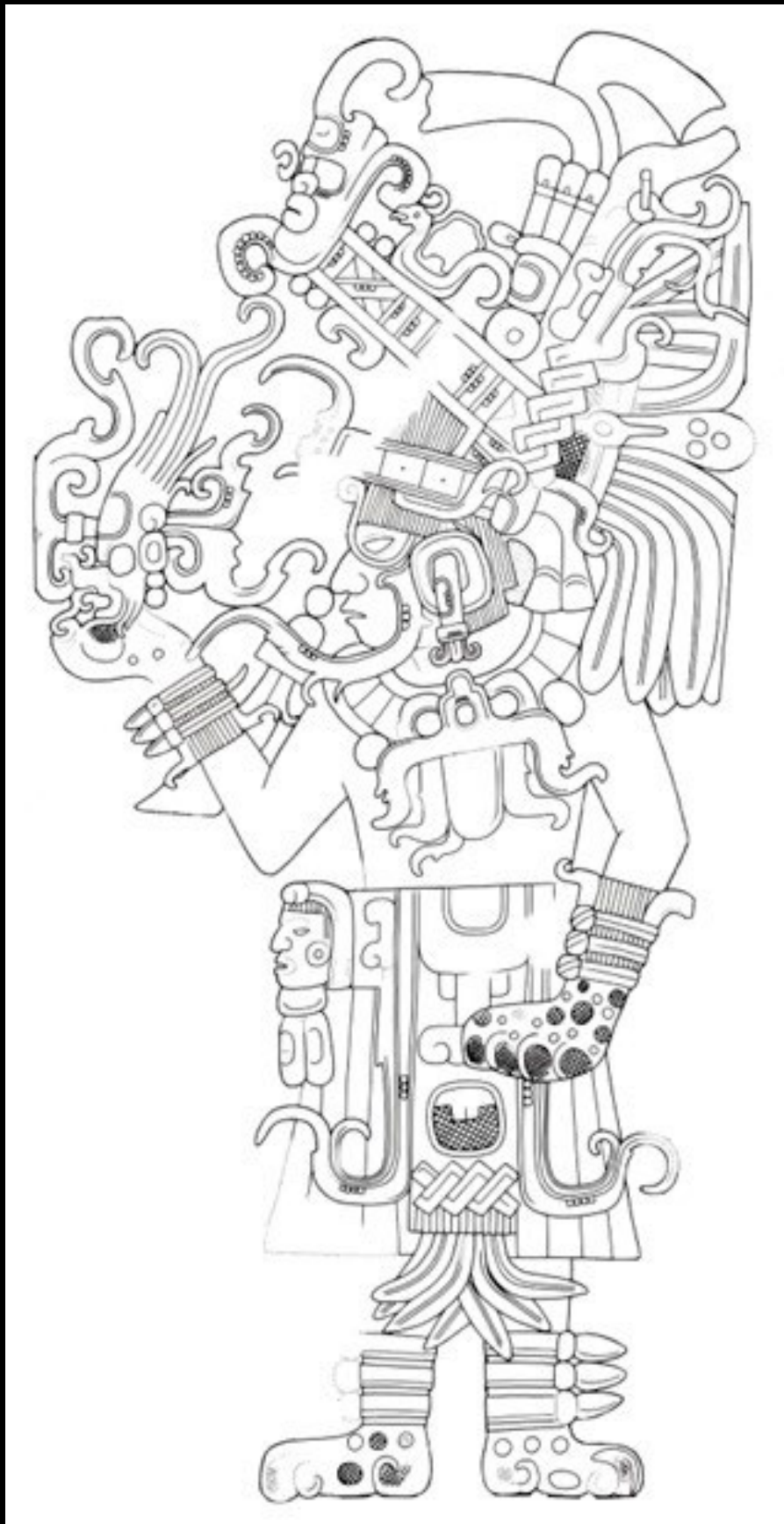


Fig. 50. Seibal Stela 8. Cropped from drawing by Ian Graham, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University.

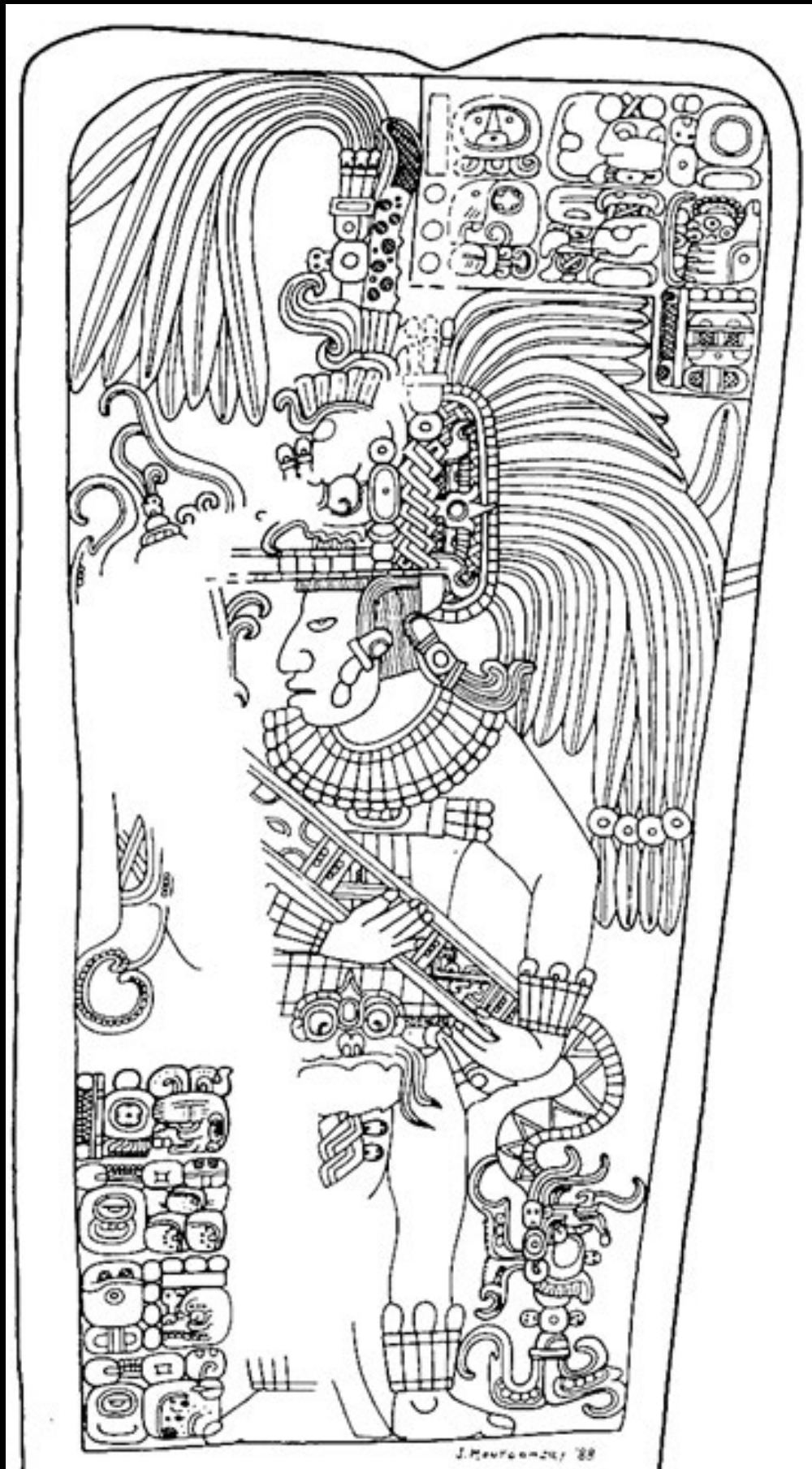


Fig. 51. Most ceremonial bars have repeated motifs. This ceremonial bar on Seibal Stela 9 has no-repeats, and includes a nice Zip Monster at the lower right. Drawing by John Montgomery, JMo1104.

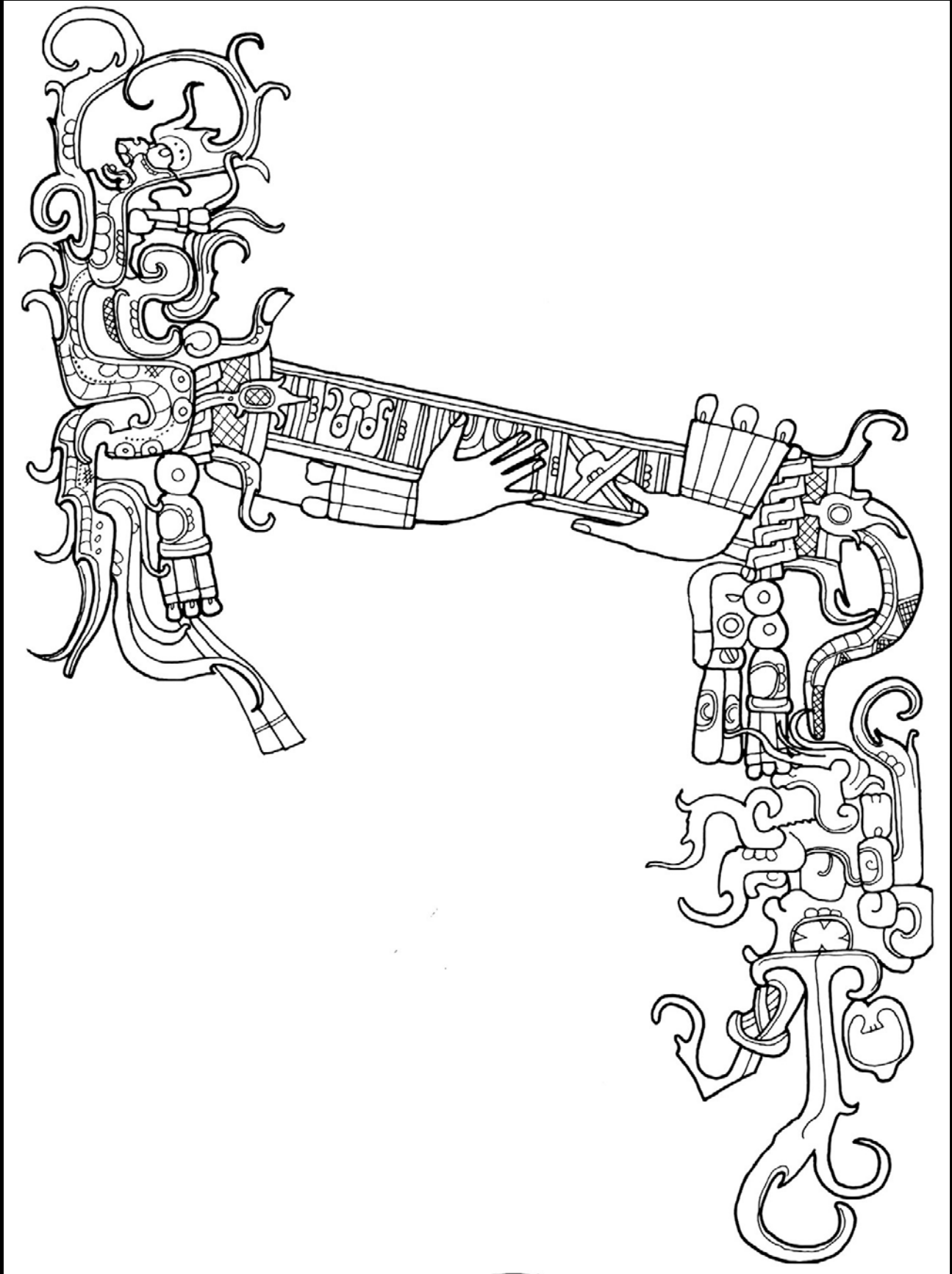


Fig. 52. This beautiful well-preserved ceremonial bar on Seibal Stela 10 has three different Sky Band motifs instead of just one repeated. Cropped from drawing by Linda Schele, SD-7646.



Fig. 53. This ceremonial bar and this waist area have beautiful Sky Band motifs. The waist area is not the more common repeated motifs as on stelae at other sites. Seibal (Ceibal) Stela 10. Drawing by Linda Schele, SD-7646, © David Schele, Drawing courtesy Ancient Americas at LACMA (ancientamericas.org).

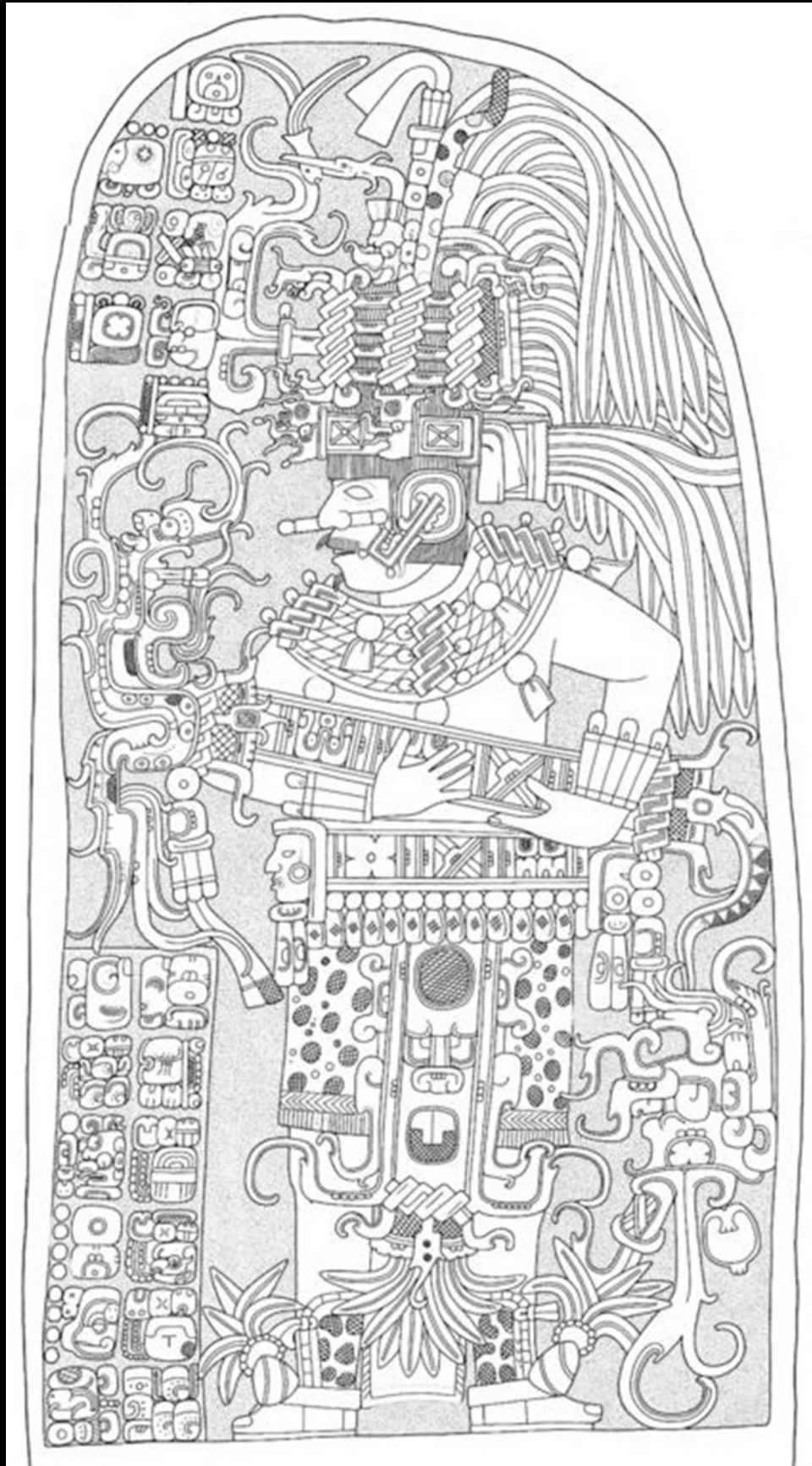


Fig. 54. Seibal (Ceibal) Stela 10. Drawing by Linda Schele, SD-7646, © David Schele. Drawing courtesy Ancient Americas at LACMA (ancientamericas.org).

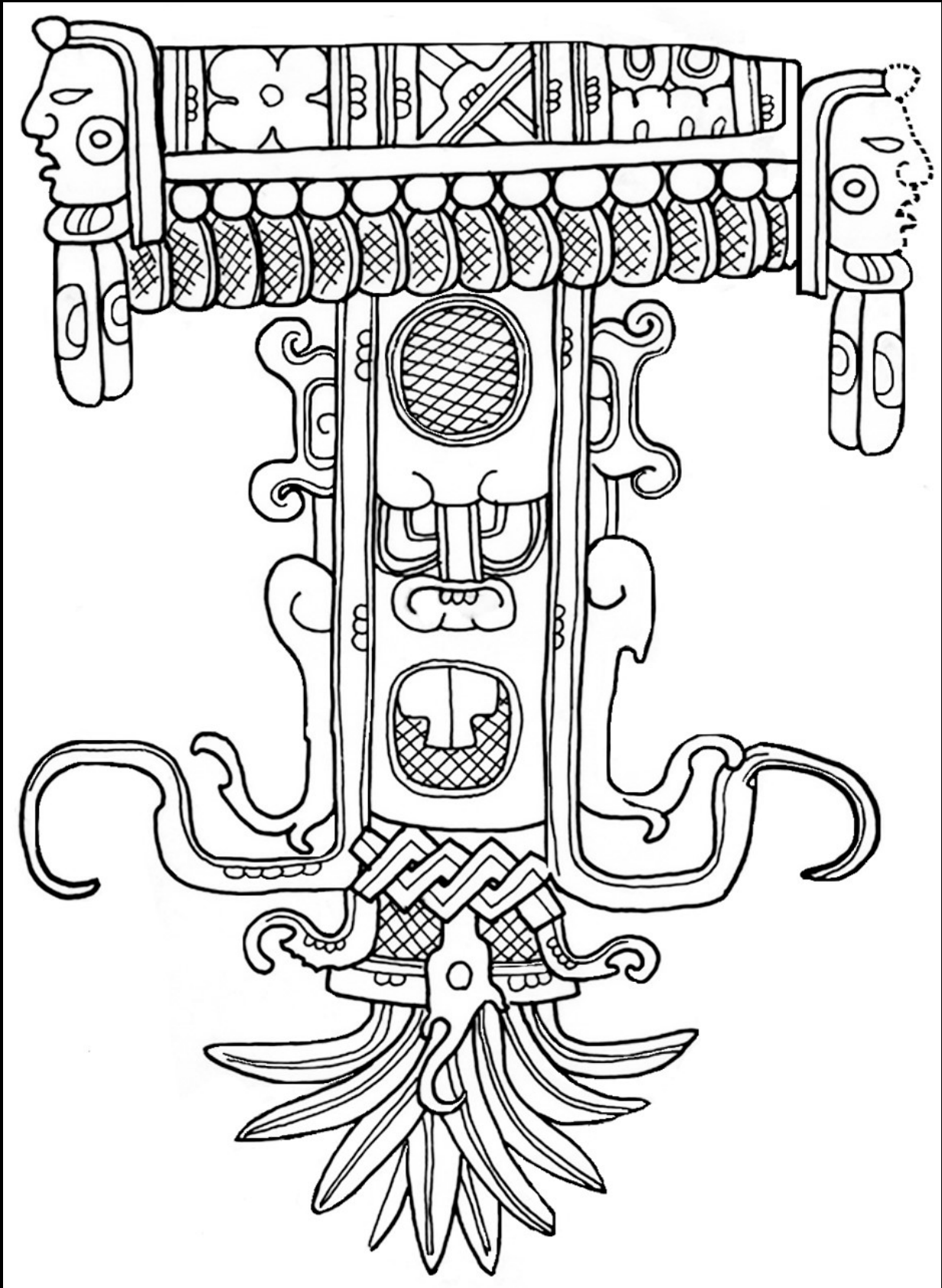


Fig. 55. Waist area Sky Band. I prefer not to call this a belt since it is more a decoration. Seibal (Ceibal) Stela 10. The full-frontal Loincloth Apron Face is very expressive. Drawing by Linda Schele, SD-7646, © David Schele. drawing courtesy Ancient Americas at LACMA (ancientamericas.org).

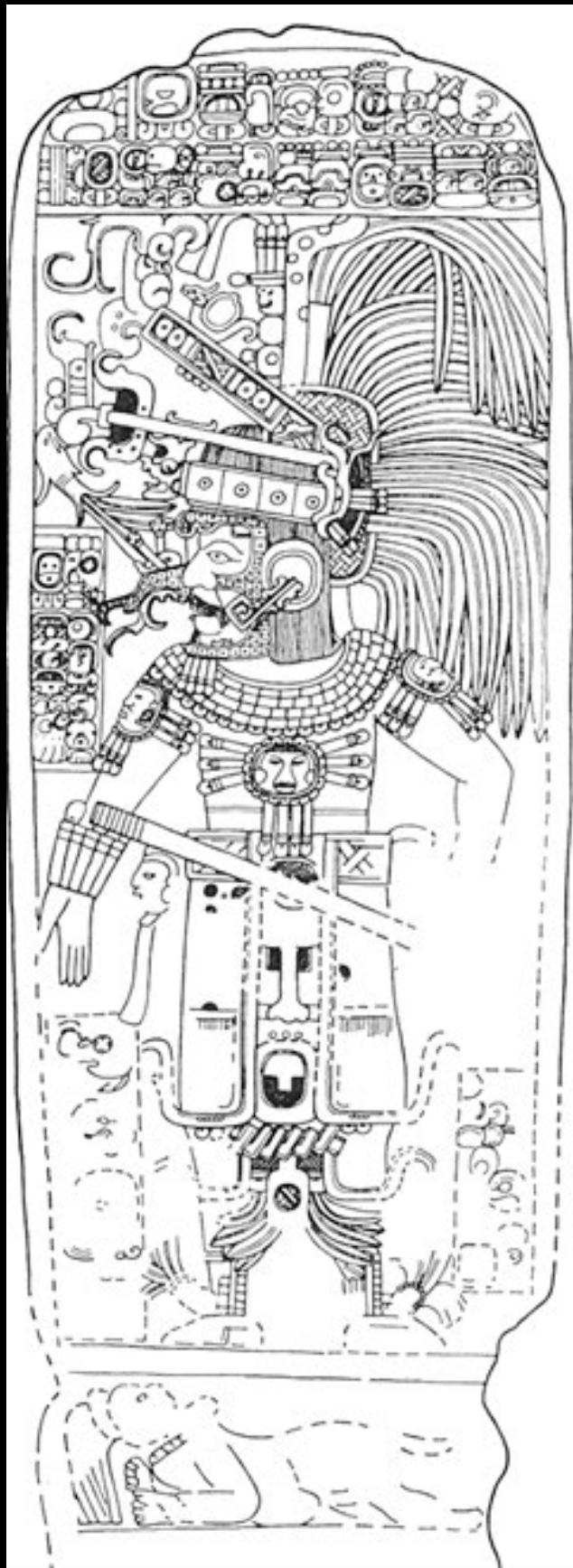


Fig. 56. Diagonal Sky Band with two motifs of two circles. This motif is found on several snakes on other stelae and Tikal lintel. Seibal Stela 11 also has basic crossed-bands on waist area.
Drawing by John Montgomery, JM01106.

Sky Bands at Tikal, Peten, Guatemala

There are Sky Bands on ceramics of Tikal, especially on two vases from Tikal Burial 196; we show one in our report on Sky Bands on hems; and we show the other in our report on Sky Bands on vases. Below we show a rare example of Sky Band motifs on Tikal wooden lintels.

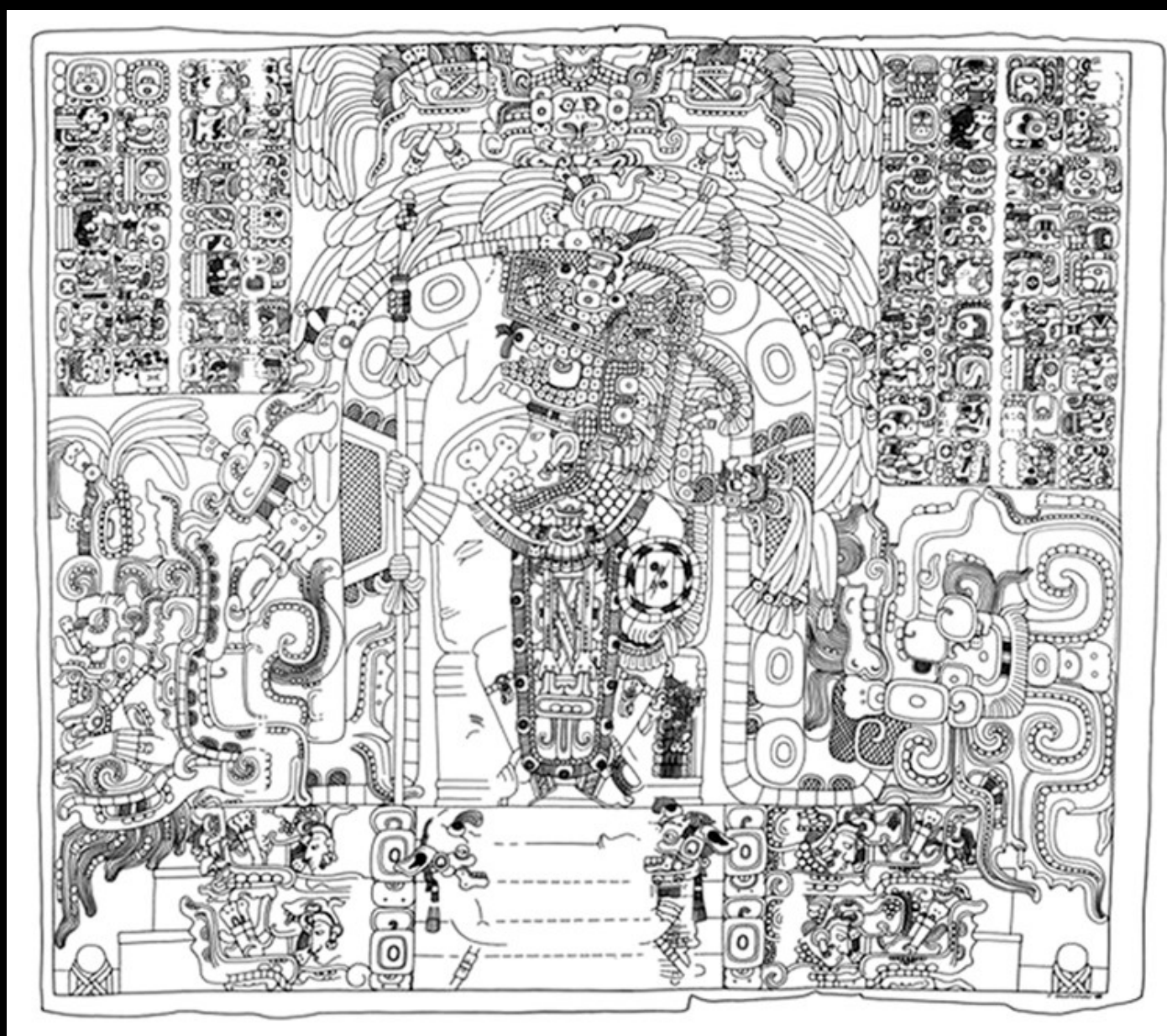


Fig. 57. The two round "ends of carrying poles"(?) suggest this entire throne room was carried. The snake that serves as "walls" and ceiling has the triangular motif and also the two round circles that are also found on Sky Bands. The triangle is well known to iconographers as a design on snake skins, but the two circles has rarely been recognized as associated with snakes. The stairway up to the throne room has no Sky Bands. The Principal Bird Deity at the top has crossed bands on its wings.

Tikal Temple IV, Lintel 3, Drawing by John Montgomery, JM0074.

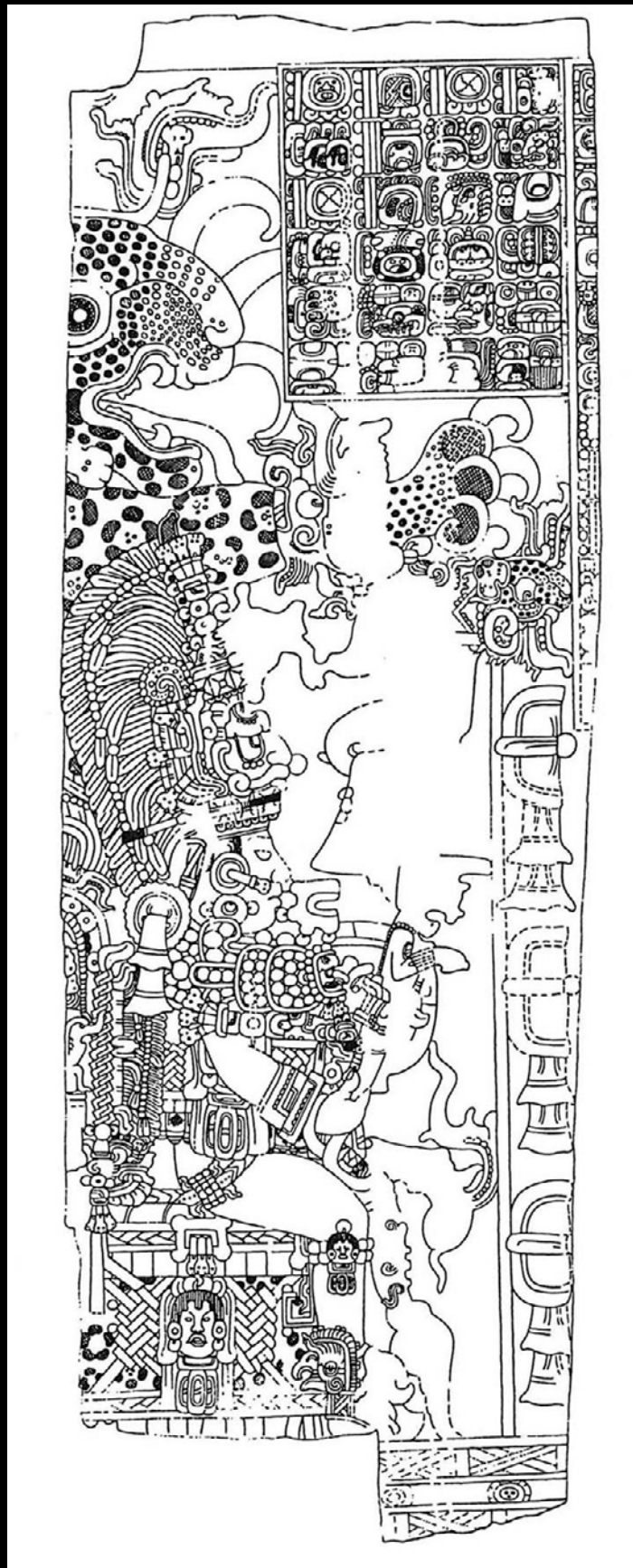


Fig. 58. The steps leading up to a throne room often have Sky Band motifs, often these bands alternate with other bands with no vertical dividers. Here on Tikal Temple I, Lintel 3, there are repeated crossed bands motifs. Drawing by John Montgomery, FAMSI, JM000725.

Sky Bands at Uaxactun, Peten, Guatemala

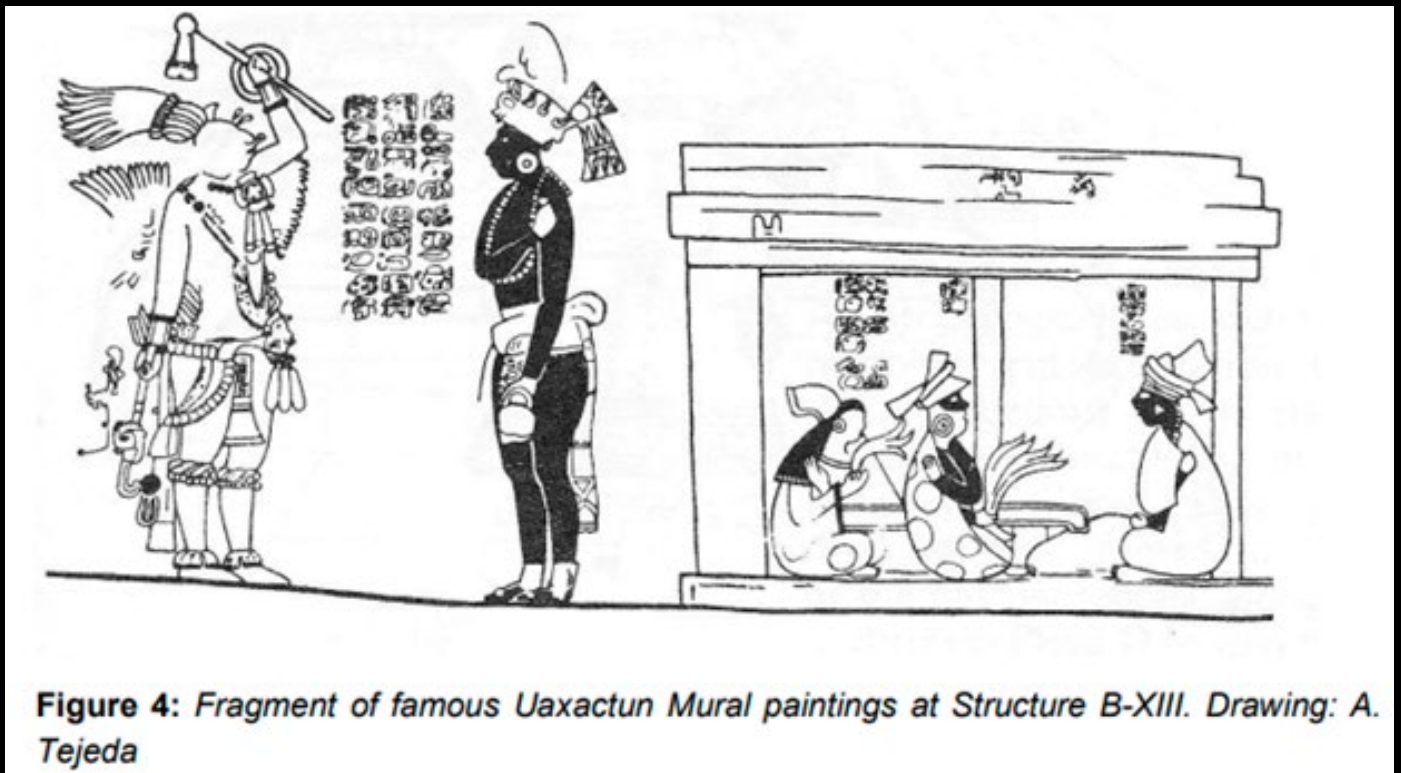


Figure 4: Fragment of famous Uaxactun Mural paintings at Structure B-XIII. Drawing: A. Tejada

Fig. 59. The cloth hanging from the back of the black-painted man may have had Sky Band motifs. The roof of the structure may also have had celestial motifs, but both are too eroded to tell for sure. Uaxactun Structure B-XIII, drawing by A. Tejada.

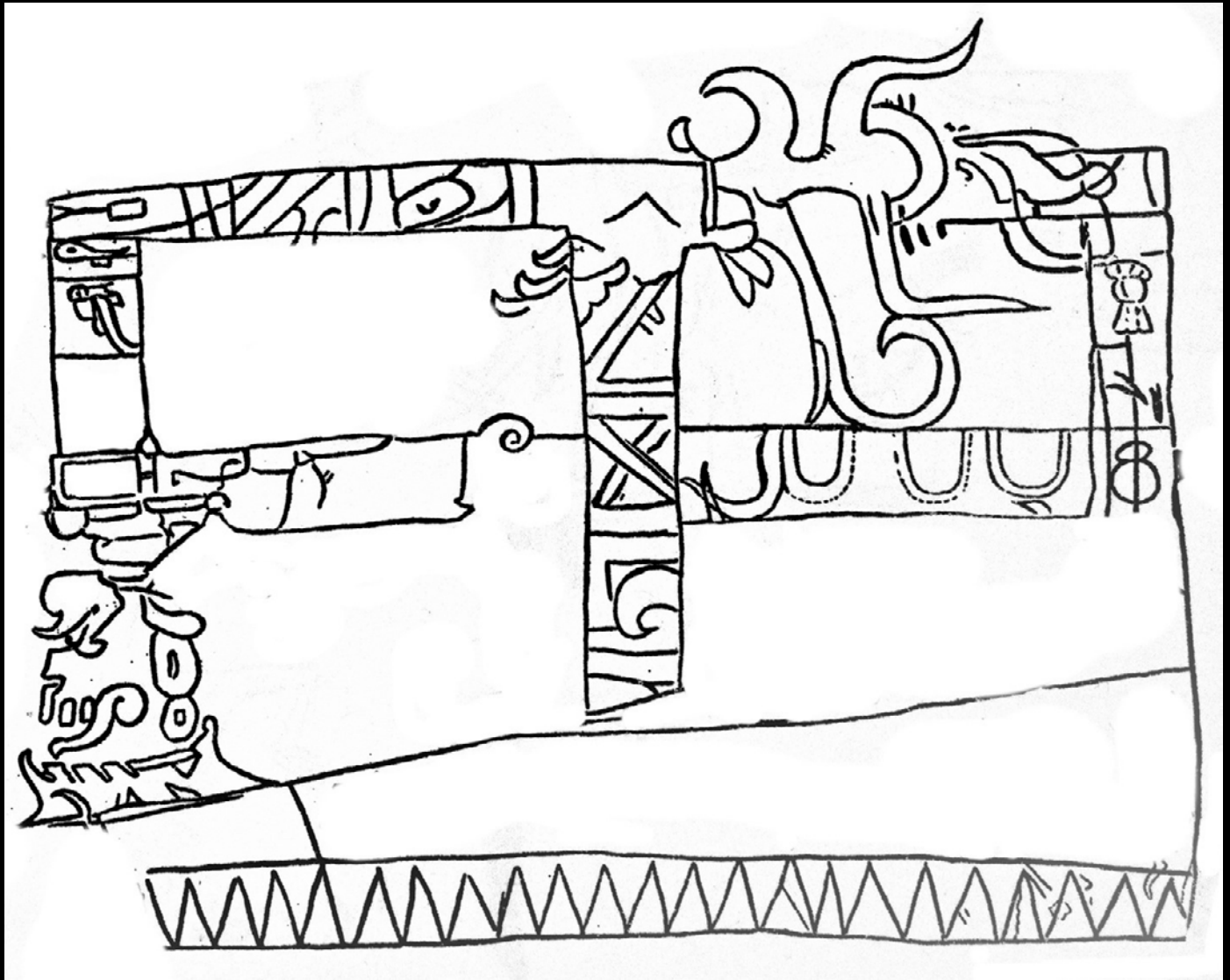


Fig. 60. I first recognized the Sky Band in this patolli game board many decades ago. The graffiti on the south wall of Room 49 of this Uaxactun building A-V were so scribbly that, to my knowledge, no one else recognized the Sky Band motifs on this patolli game board. I have removed the other scribbles so you can see the patolli game board and the Sky Band segments. Smith 1950: Fig. 110 is where you see the whole graffiti. Hellmuth 2022 describes the process of his earlier discovery of the Sky Band "buried" in the mass of graffiti.



Fig. 61. Horizontal Sky Band (probably as a roof) on Uaxactun Stela 7. The feathered snake monster above has the Two Eyes symbol. This is a known motif for a Sky Band as is the triangular Serpent Segment (Carlson and Landis). But I doubt that the Two Eyes symbol has previously been recognized as a motif from (or at least associated with) snake monsters. The Two Eyes symbol occurs on other snakes in Maya sculptures such as on Tikal Temple IV, Lintel 3.

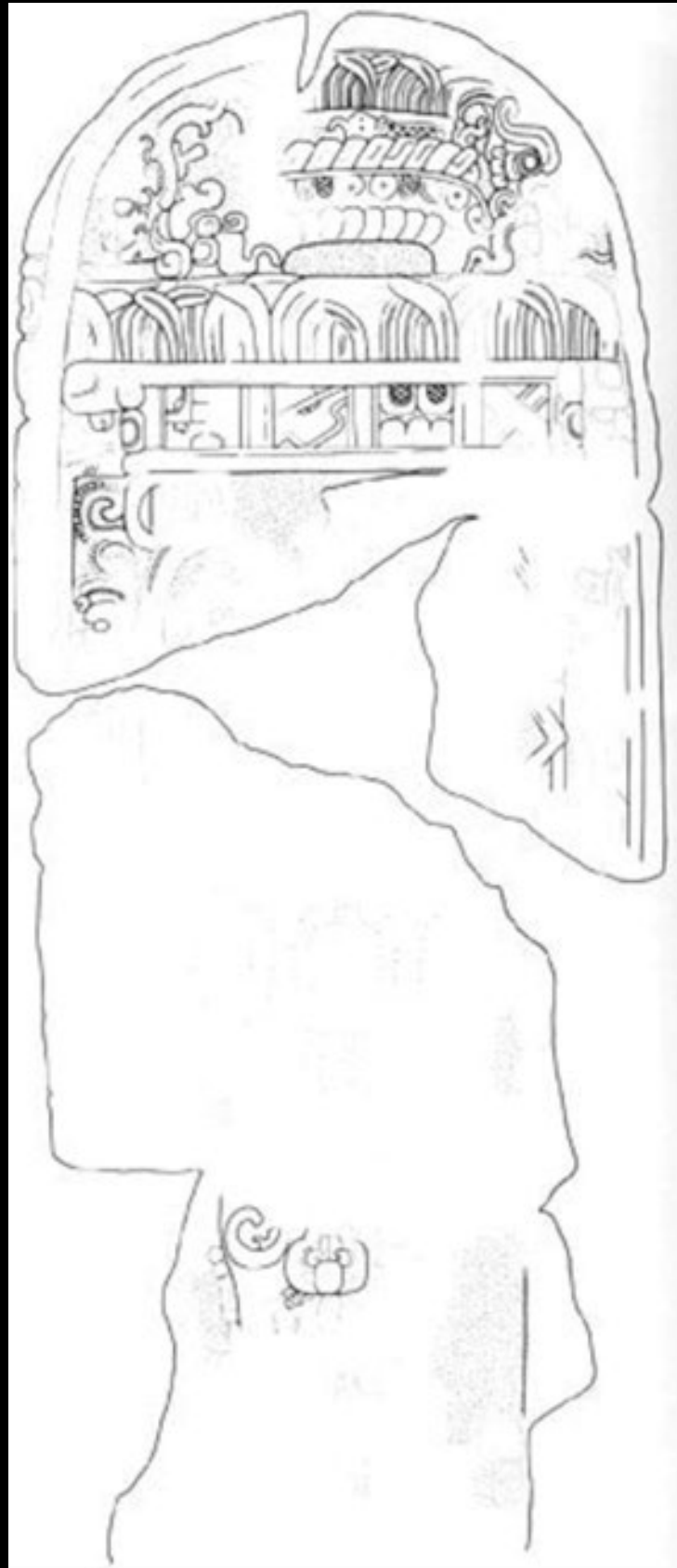


Fig. 62. Complete but very eroded Uaxactun Stela 7.
Drawing by Ian Graham, PMAE, Harvard. Better quality download is needed.

Sky Bands at Naranjo, Peten, Guatemala



Fig. 63. The motif on both wrists is same as across waist area. Wrist motifs I have not noticed often elsewhere. The headdress I show below. Naranjo Stela 8, PMAE, Harvard University.



Fig. 64. A stepped Sky Band is featured in the headdress. Stepped Sky Bands in a headdress are also visible at Palenque in stucco sculptures. Drawing by Ian Graham, PMAE, Harvard.

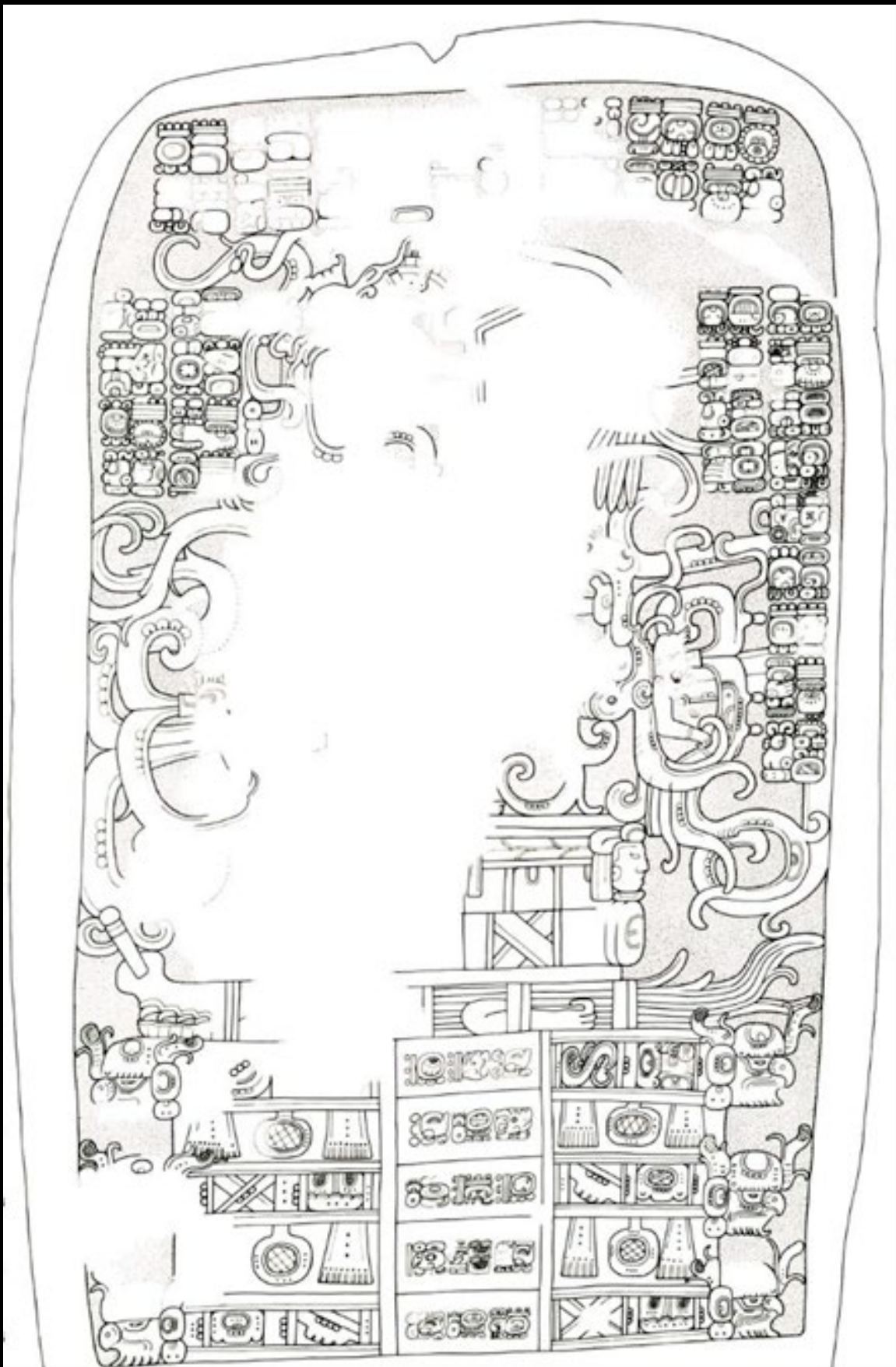


Fig. 67. Complete drawing by Ian Graham of Naranjo Stela 32, PMAE, Harvard.

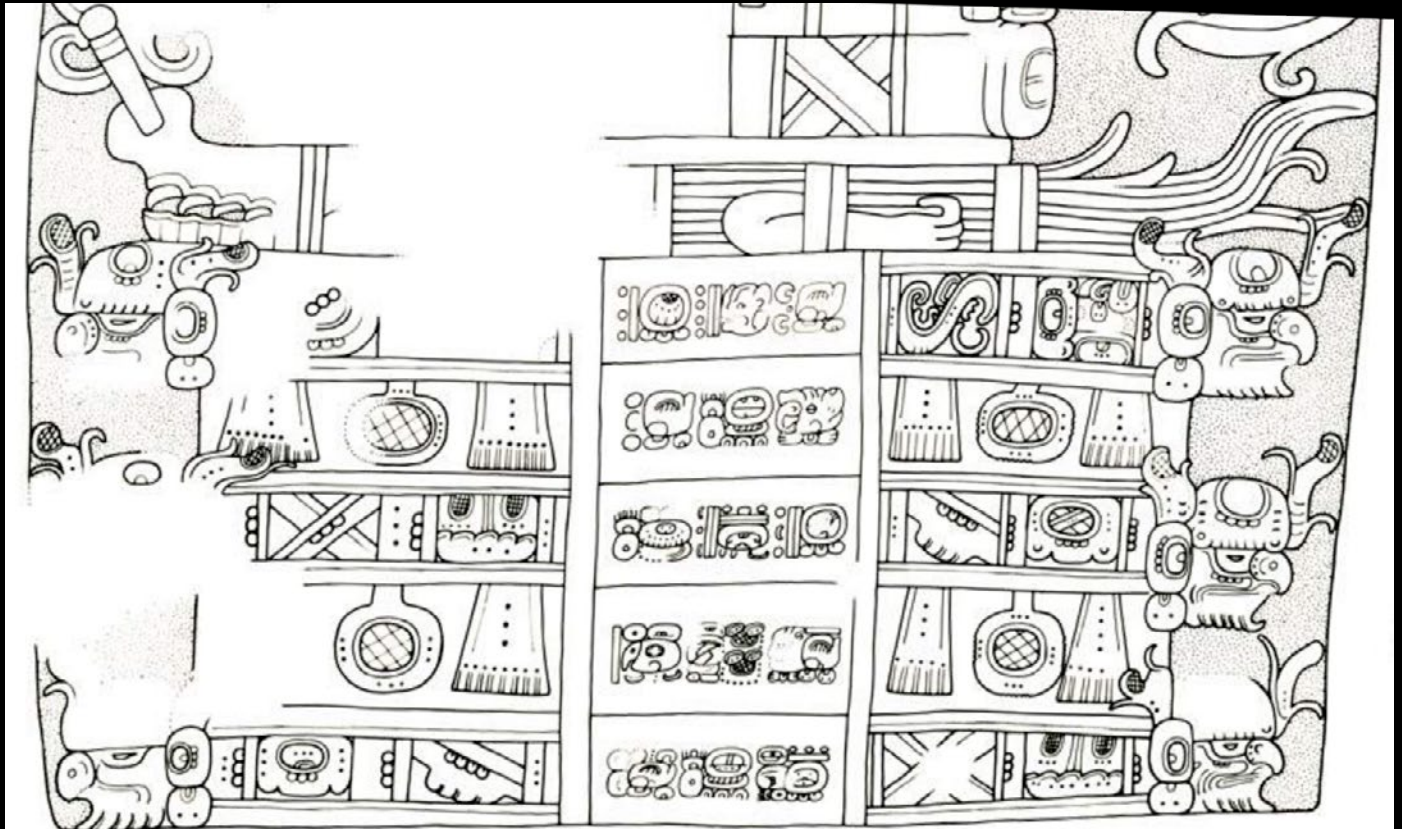


Fig. 66. Naranjo Stela 32. Three Sky Bands alternating with two repeating other bands. Piedras Negras Stela 6 also has non-Sky Band intervening between traditional Sky Bands.

Each Sky Band has bird heads at the end, as does the Sky Band of Quirigua Stela 1, Ek Balam Stela 1 and Moral-Reforma ballcourt sculptures.

At upper right, curved Zip Monster than probable profile/half-frontal Loincloth Apron Face.

The far right motif on middle step has same outline as far left motif on bottom step. These are not pictured in Carlson and Landis's helpful named catalog of Sky Band symbols.

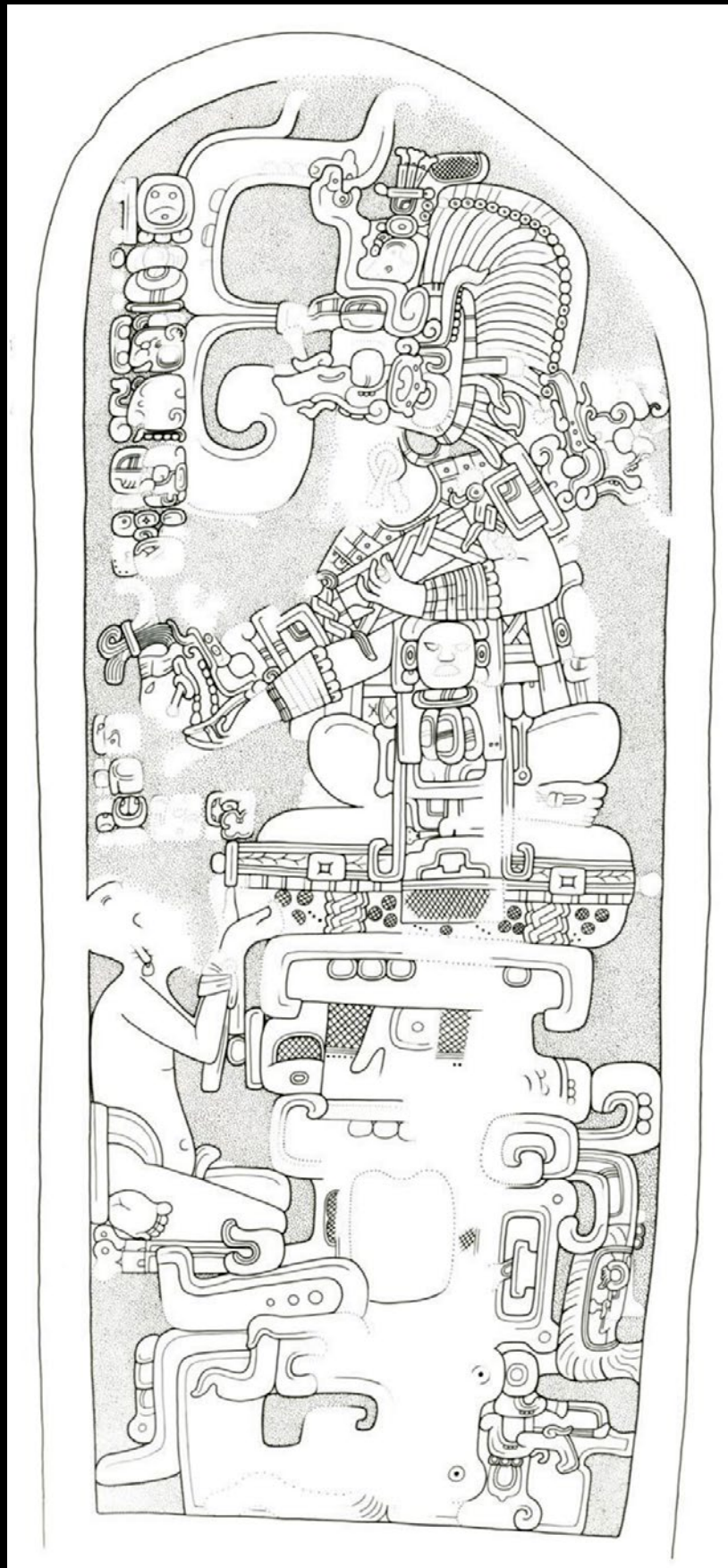


Fig. 65. Ceremonial bar with a single long variant motif that can also be found on Sky Bands. Naranjo Stela 22, drawing by Ian Graham, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University.

Sky Bands at other Maya Sites in Peten

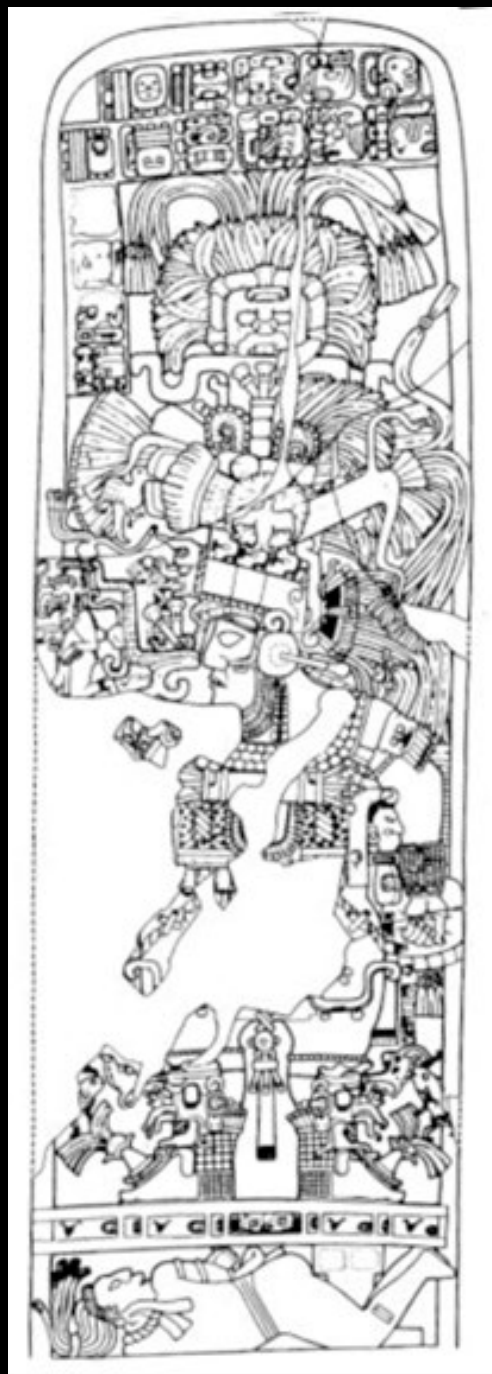


Fig. 68. A better resolution file is needed, but at least even though fuzzy, you can see the rectangular framed motifs across the bottom of Aguateca Stela 7 (Graham 1967: Fig. 17). Carlson and Landis name this a Cauac symbol (1985: Appendix II). Notable that most other stelae with a Sky Band below the feet of the standing ruler are a series of Caban signs, not Cauac. There are also thick woven motifs above the waist area.



Fig. 69. Two sets of double circles are on the Sky Band on ceremonial bar, and crossed-bands Sky Band across base of throne. Cancuen Stela 1 (Spinden 1913: Plate 25,5). Definitely needs a better photograph though I was able to improve the visibility of the details from the century old photo used by Spinden. Cancuen is in the south-western part of Peten.

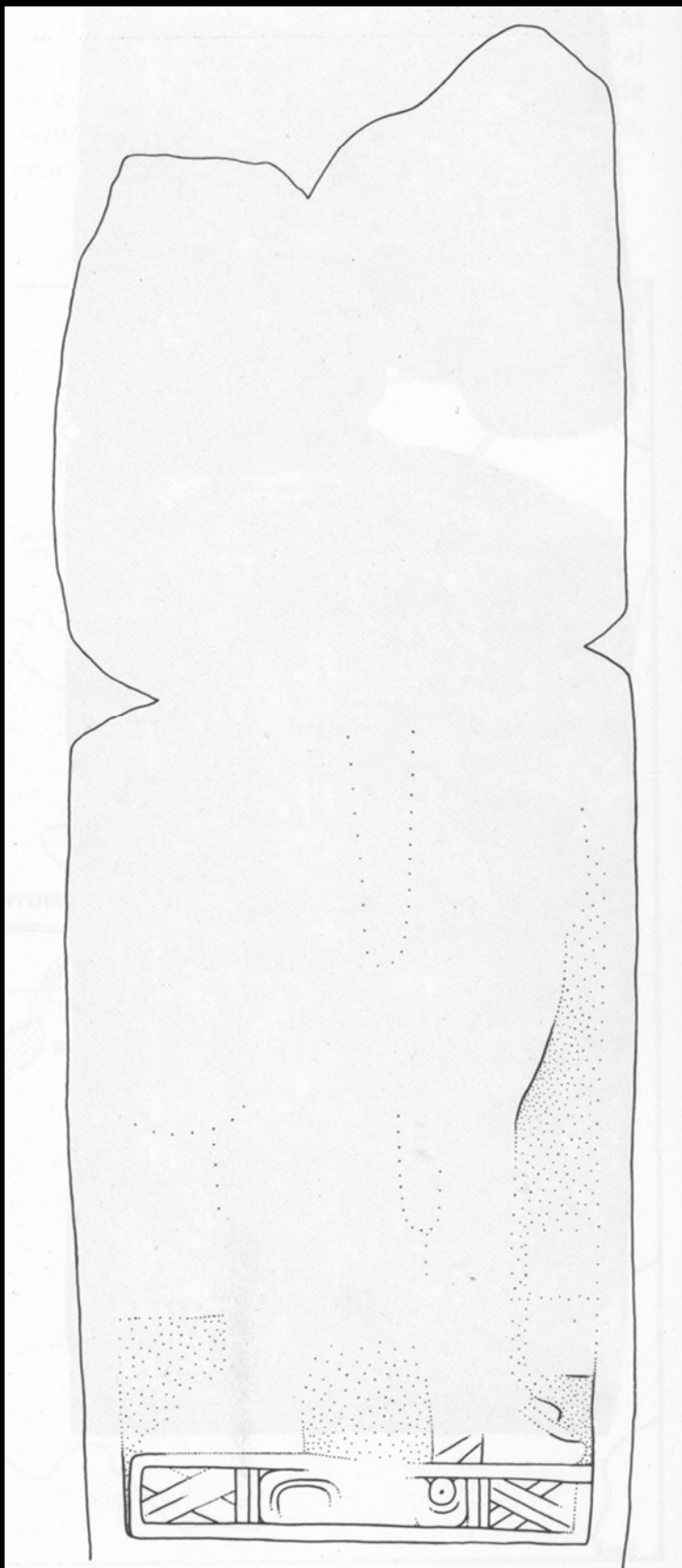


Fig. 70. Usually a Sky Band across the bottom of a stela have a repeated different motif, Caban. Here on Chunhuitz Stela 1, it is a traditional Sky Band with several different motifs. Drawing by Ian Graham, PMAE, Harvard (Graham 1978).

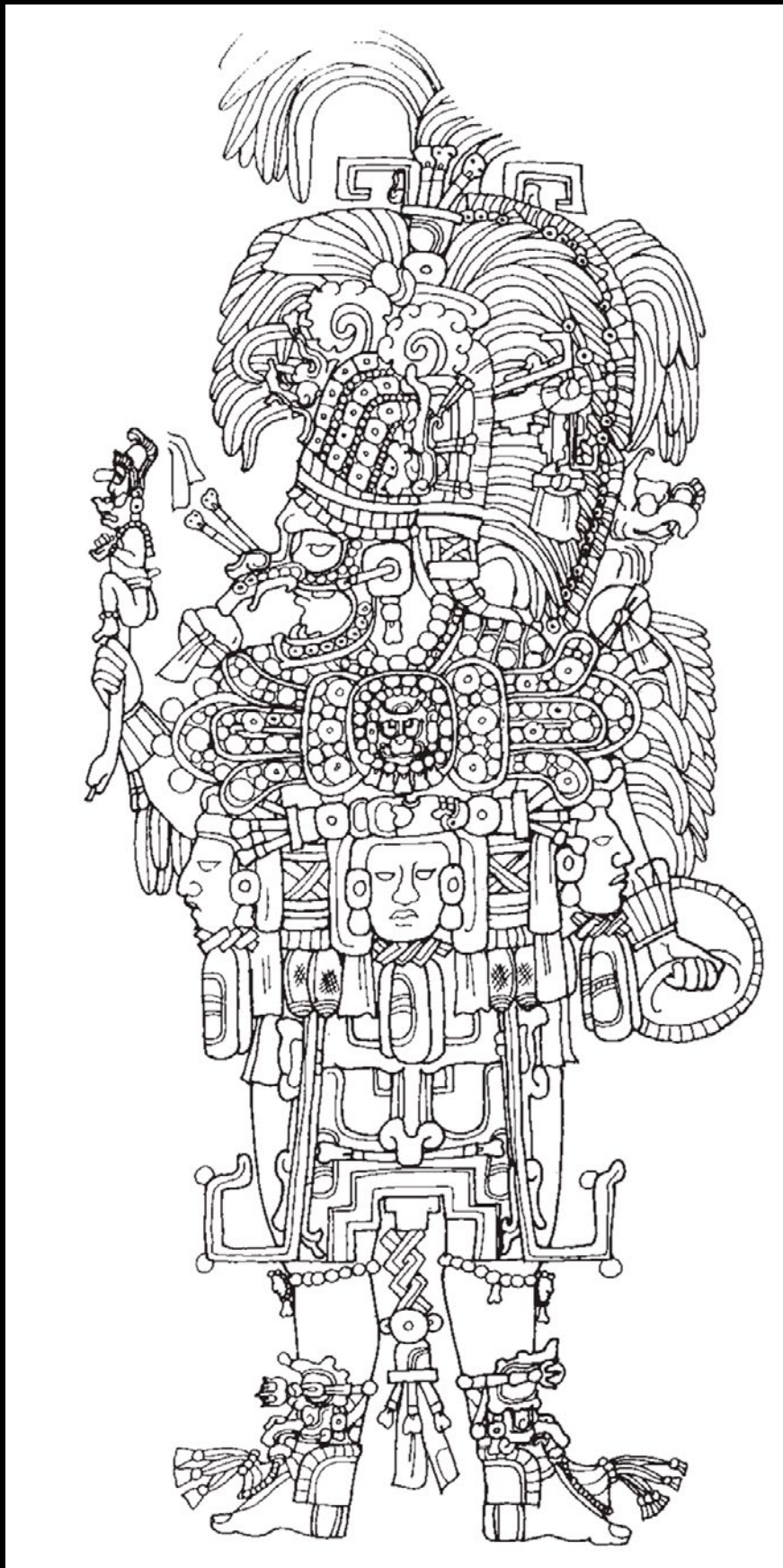


Fig. 71. Typical waist area band with the usual crossed bands. Only a few have multiple different motifs. Dos Pilas Stela 1, PARI, Schele SD-7301, Ancient Americas at LACMA, in Esparza and Perez 2009: Fig. 14.

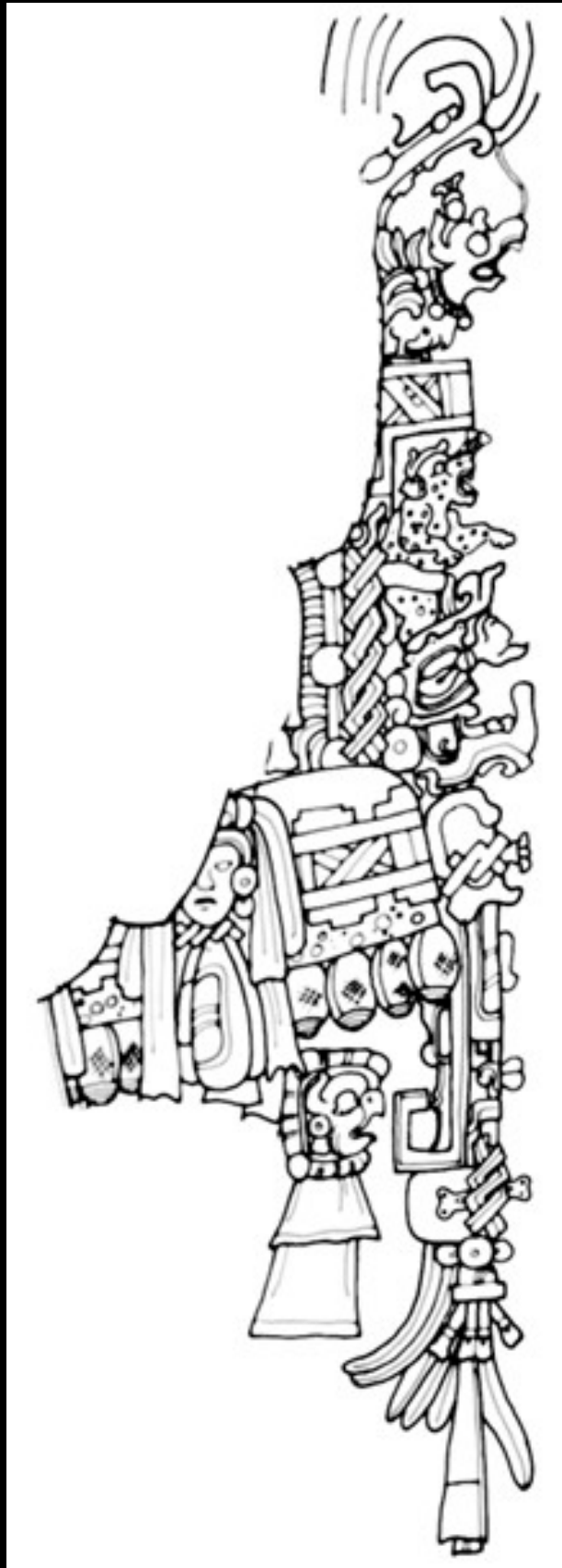


Fig. 72. Throne of backrack has crossed-bands. The roof of the Sky Band hut over the feline has different crossed-band. Dos Pilas Stela 17, cropped from drawing by Linda Schele, SD-7301, © David Schele. Most Holmul Dancer backracks have Sky Band as roof of a small ritual space.



Fig. 73. The horizontal Sky Band has an unexpected reverse turn at the left, ending with the common bird head that is often at both ends of a Sky Band on steps leading up to a throne room, on stelae and on Moral-Reforma ballcourt sculptures. This Sky Band is repeated crossed-bands. Crop from Ek Balam Stela

1.

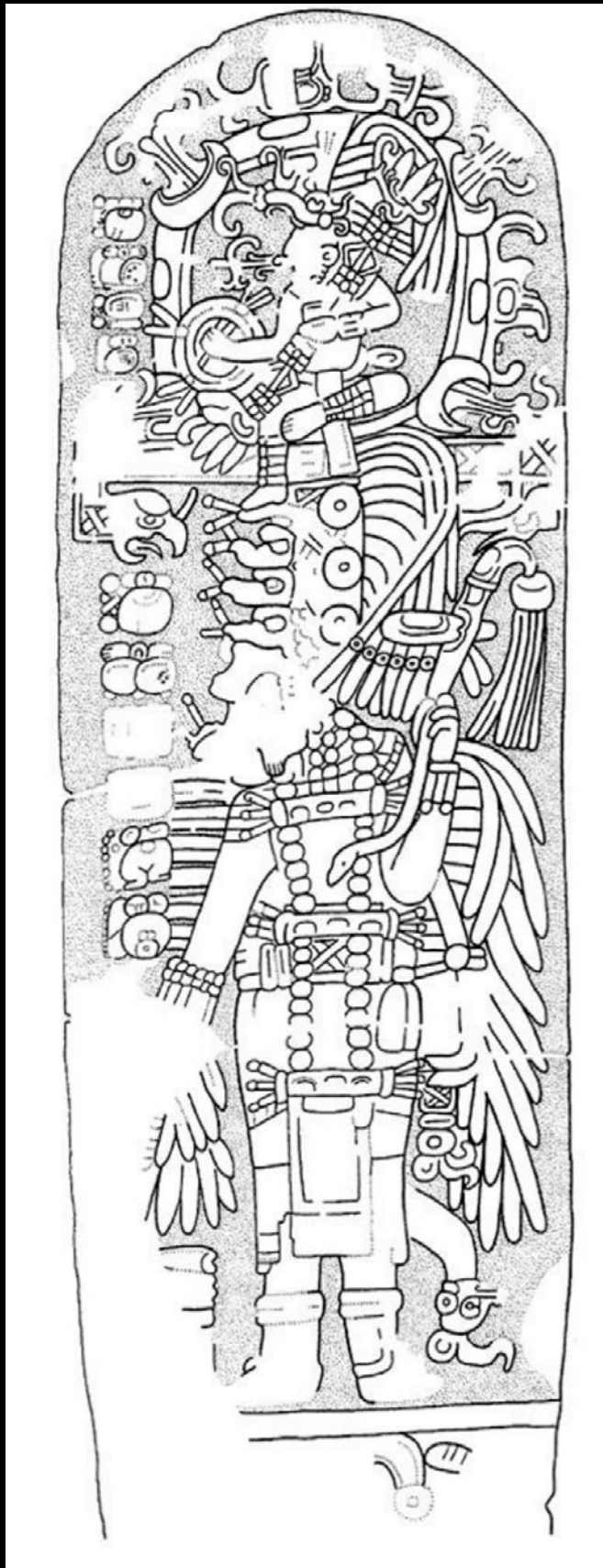


Fig. 74. The Crossed-Bands on the waist area is very common. Sky Band over headdress is discussed in next caption. Ek' Balam Stela 1, drawing by Alfonso Lacadena, 2003, Figure 2,a.

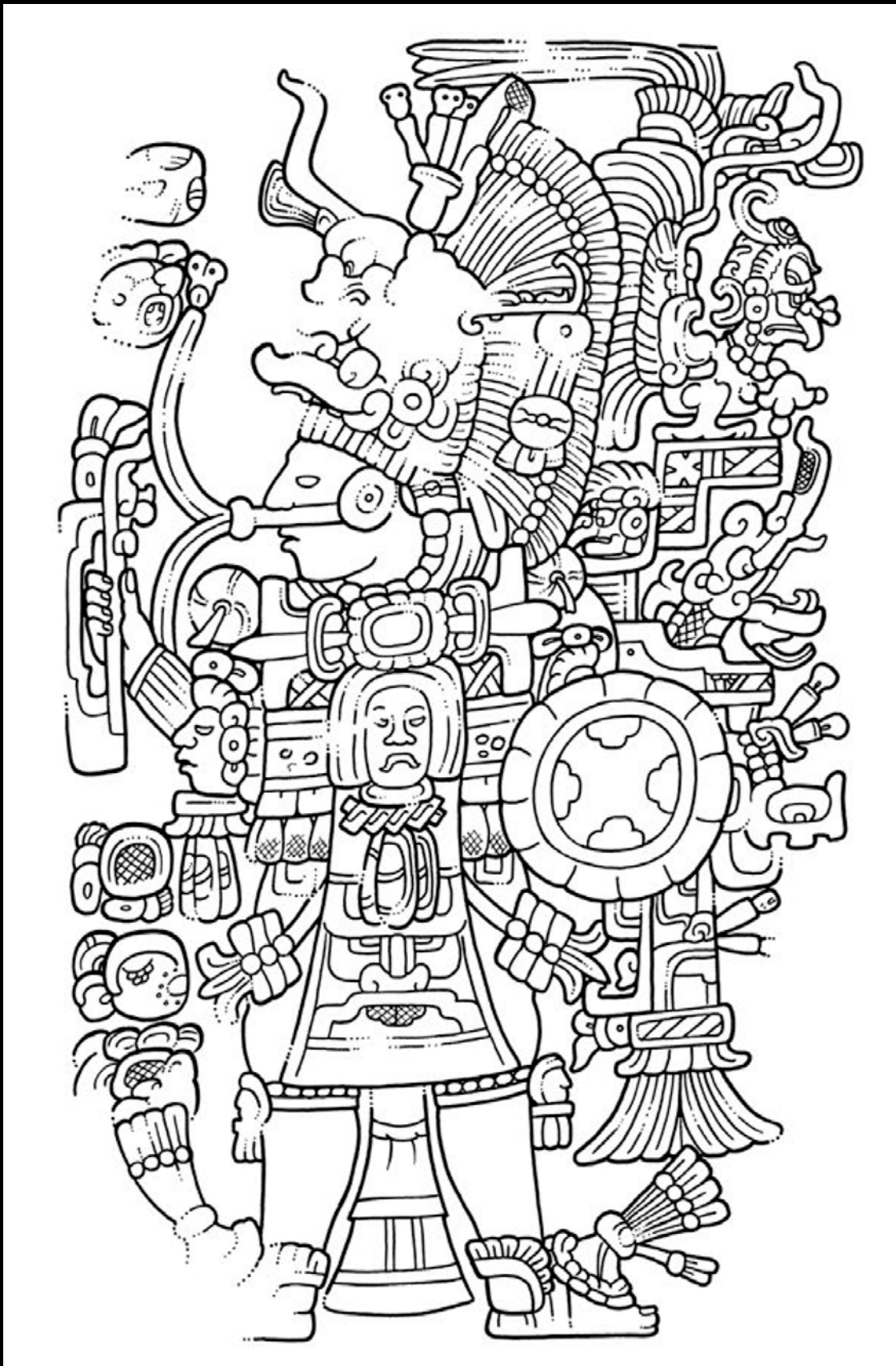


Fig. 75. The roof of the ritual hut (occupied by a snake) has Sky Band motifs, as also on many Holmul Dancer backracks on Maya vases. The Principal Bird Deity atop the Sky Band Hut has a head/headress related to God D. La Corona Panel, drawing by Helmke citing Stuart.

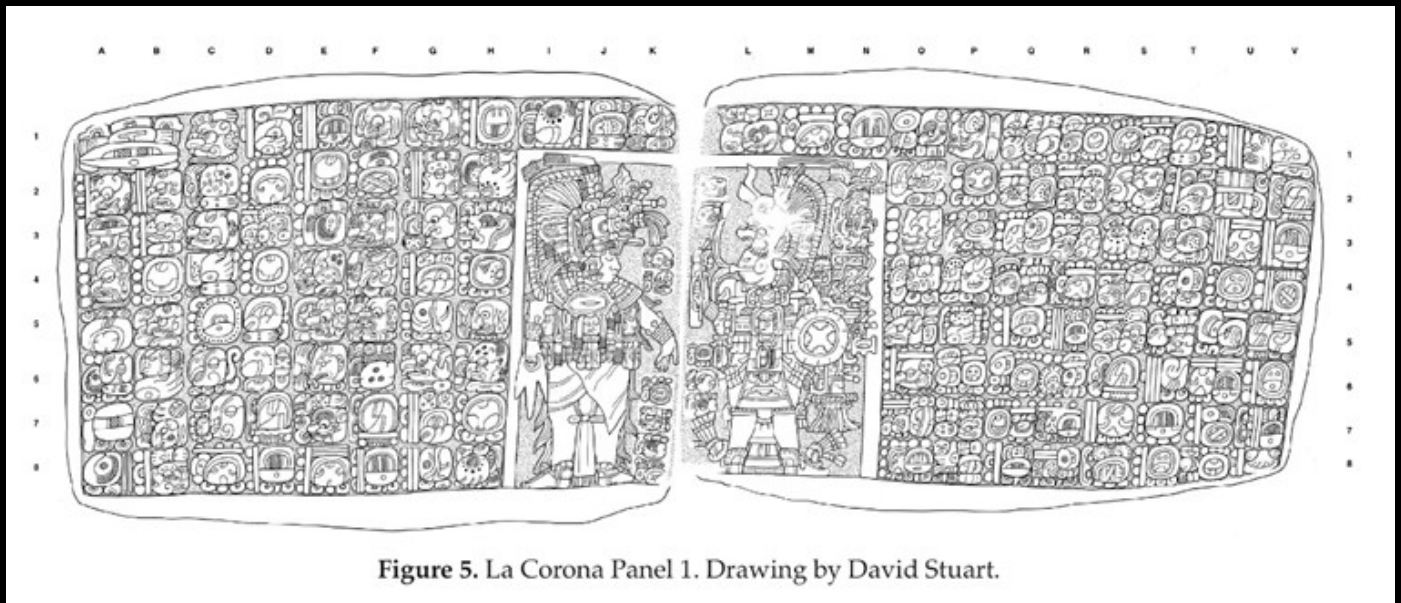


Figure 5. La Corona Panel 1. Drawing by David Stuart.

Fig. 76. This is the complete La Corona Panel 1, with the Holmul Dancer at the right.
Drawing by David Stuart.

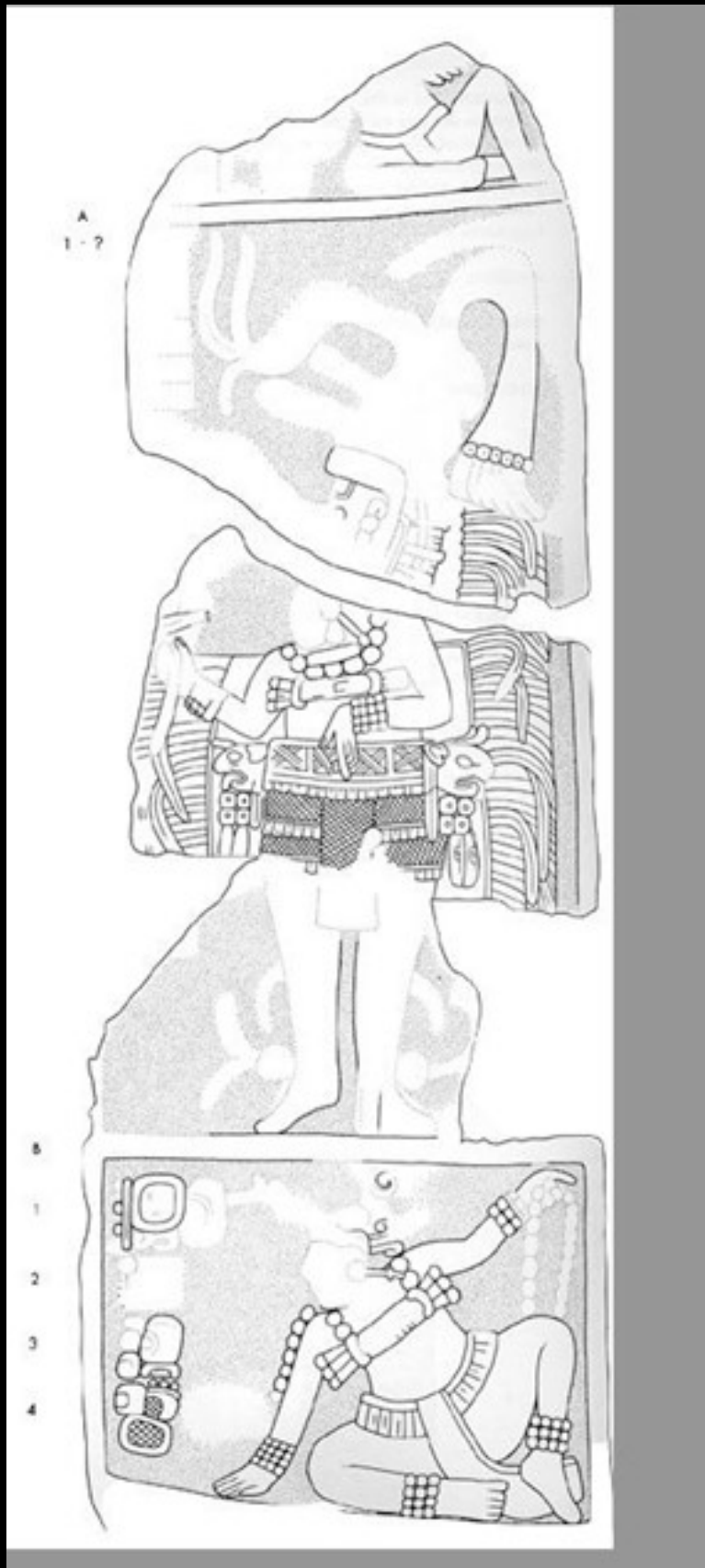


Fig. 77. Rarely can you see the entire waist area band. Here you see that all motifs are repeated Crossed-Bands. Itzimte Stela 11, drawing by Eric von Euw, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University.

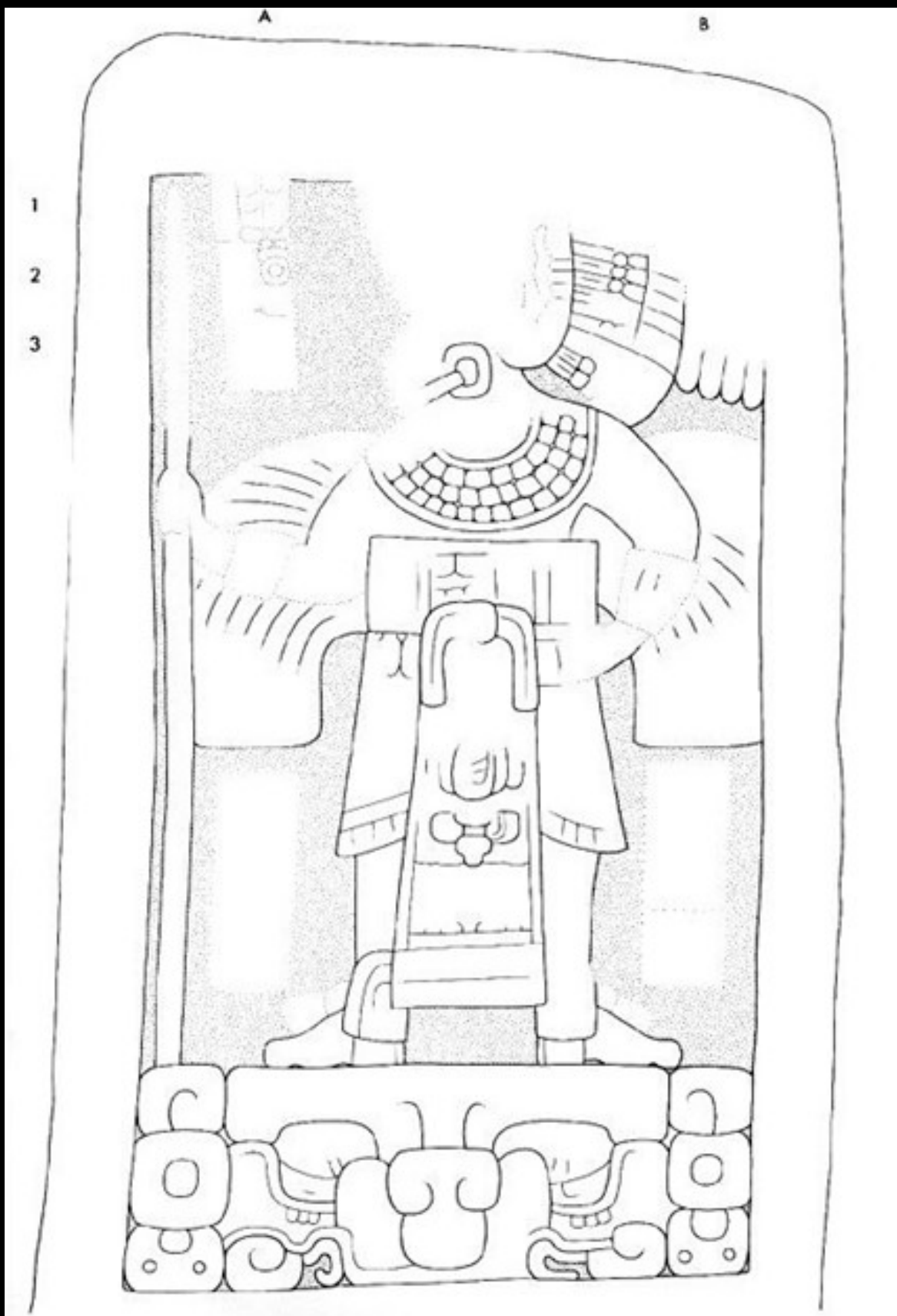


Fig. 78. Only one motif on the waist area is preserved and it is an Akbal rather than the more common Crossed-Bands. La Honradez Stela 6, drawing by Eric von Euw, PMAE, Harvard.

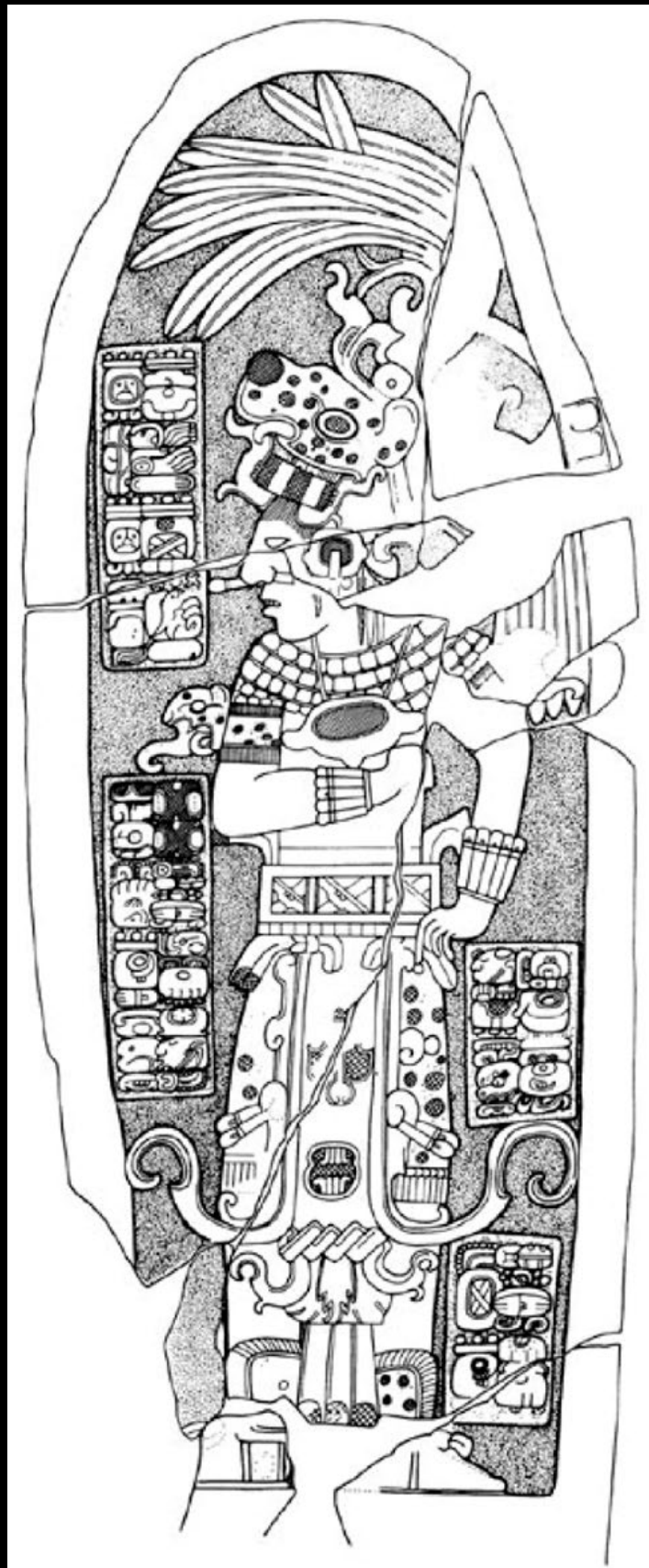


Fig. 79. Another rare example of the waist area being completely visible all the way across so you can see all motifs are repeated but one band has more detail than a simple crossed-band. Carlson and Landis call this a Bearded Crossed Bands (their Appendix II number 11).
Machaquila Stela 6, drawing by Ian Graham, MARI.

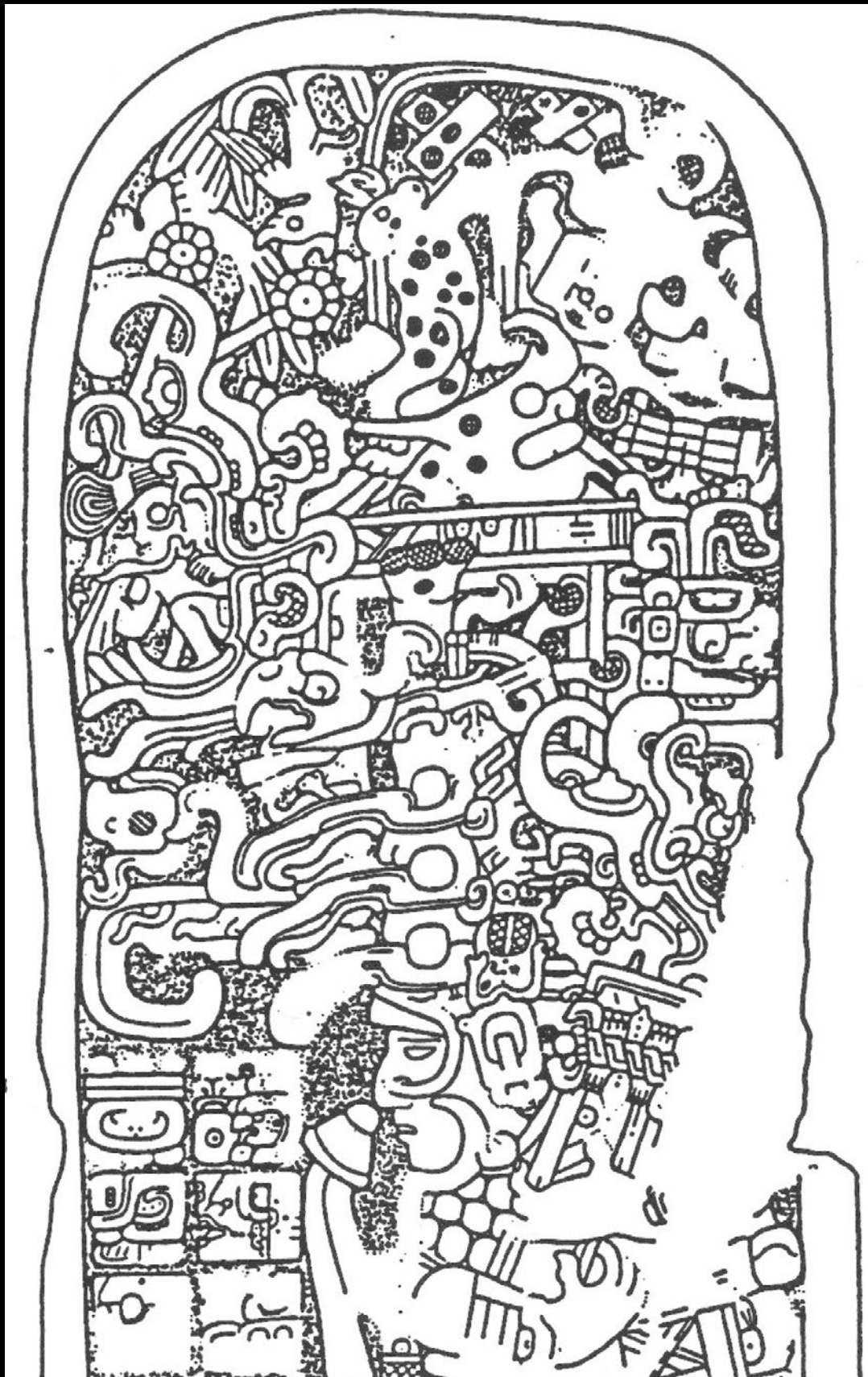


Fig. 80. Horizontal Sky Band above headdress, Yaxha Stela 31. The typical bird sticks out to the left below the band. Ian Graham came to Yaxha while FLAAR team was mapping the site. He was also there at other times. This Yaxha ruler seems desperate to show dozens of patron supernatural assistants.

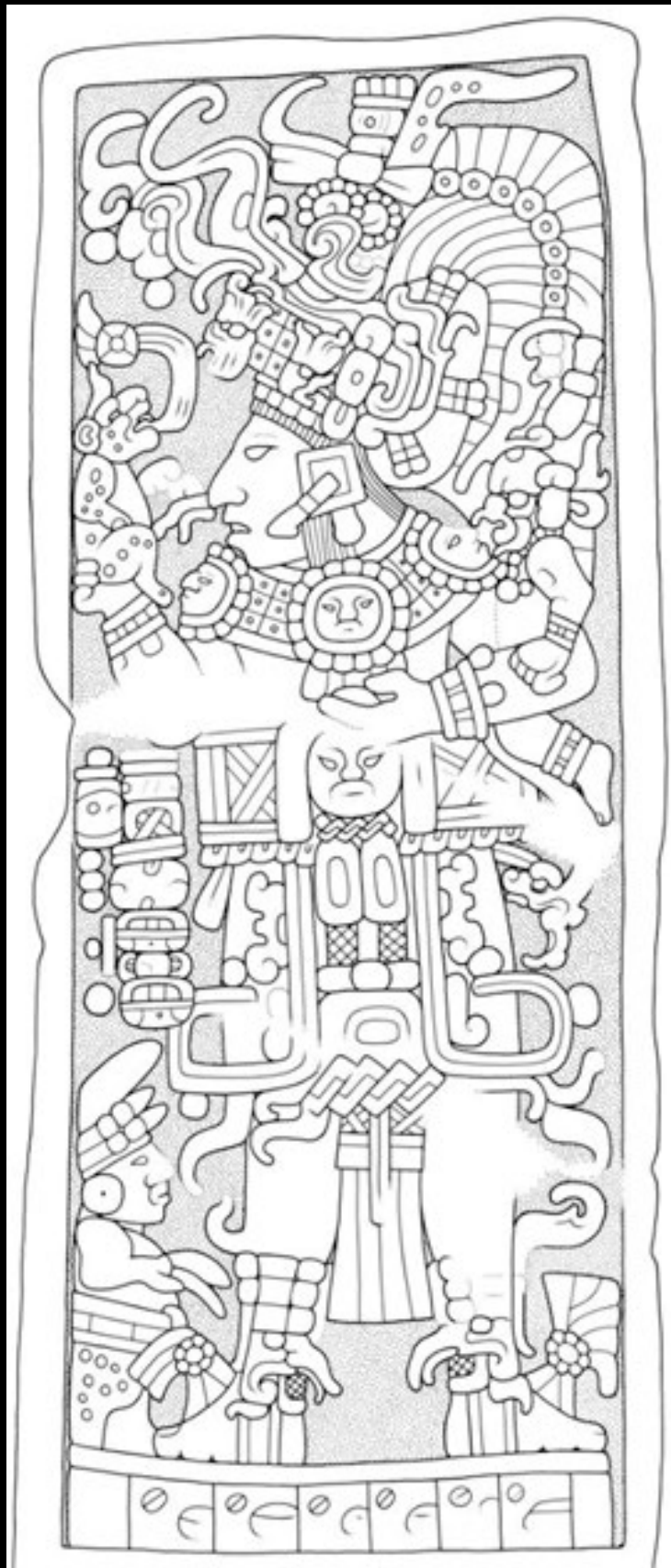


Fig. 81. Simple repeated Crossed Bands on waist clothing. The horizontal row of undocumented motifs across the bottom is not a Sky Band (since vertical lines not vertical spaces). Xultun Stela 10, drawing by Eric von Euw, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard.

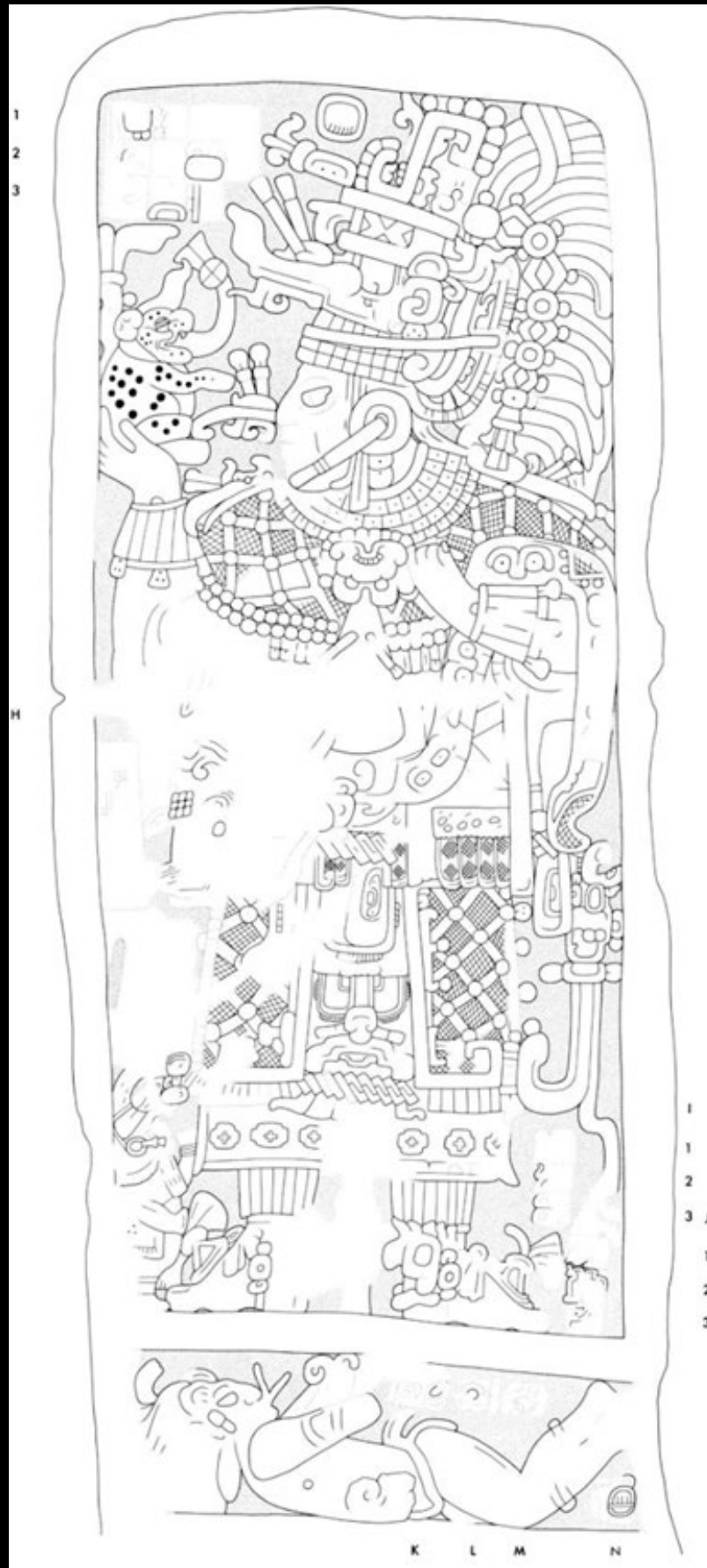


Fig. 82. Xultun Stela 24. Drawing by Eric von Euw, PMAE, Harvard. Sky Band on snake.

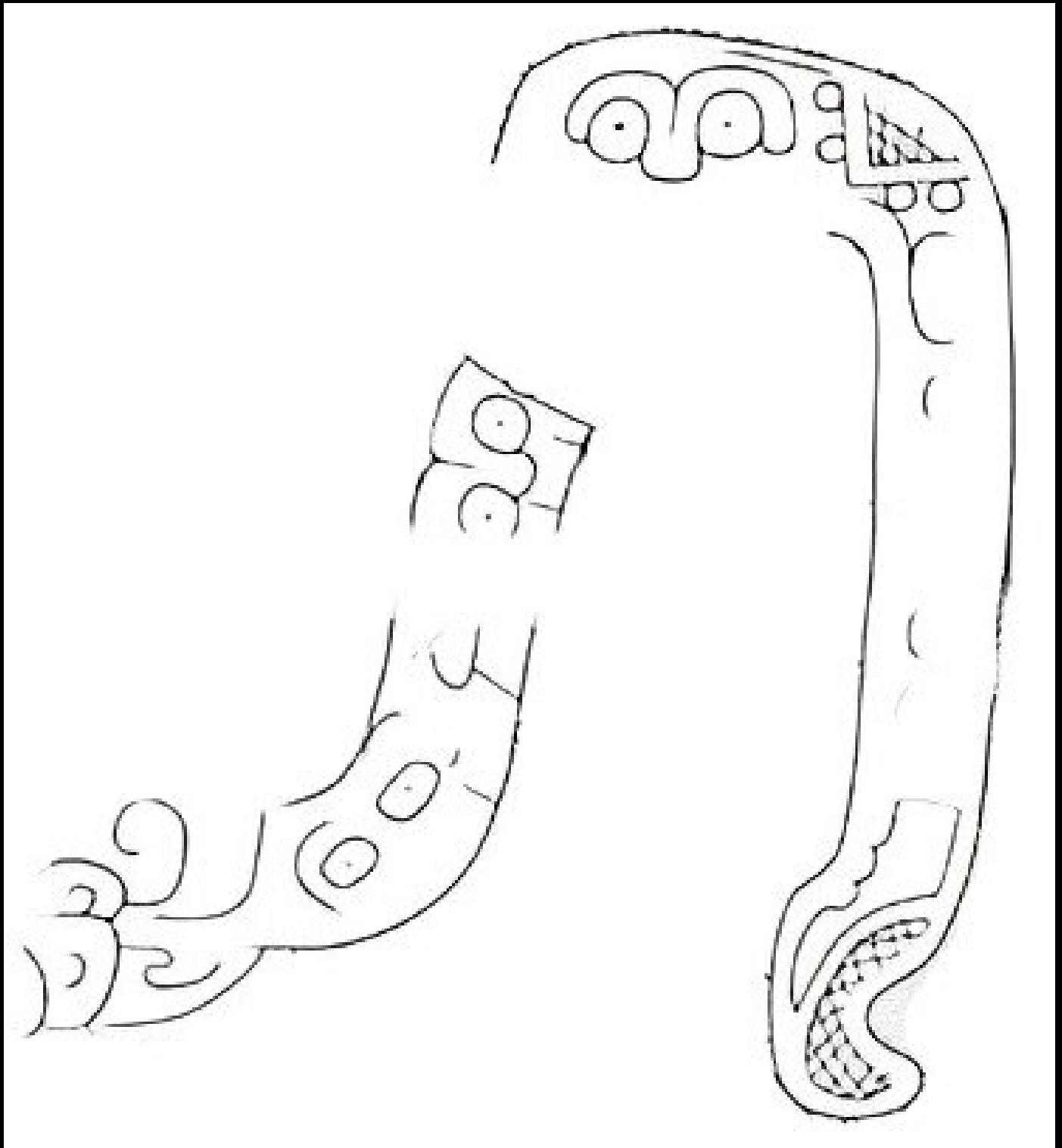


Fig. 83. The V-motif is on most snakes and in many Sky Bands. The star/Venus symbol is on lots of Sky Bands but this is the first time I have noticed this motif on a snake. For archaeo-astronomers and Sky Band iconographers this Xultun Stela 24 snake is very important. That is the purpose of FLAAR Reports, to document the iconography of Maya cosmology.

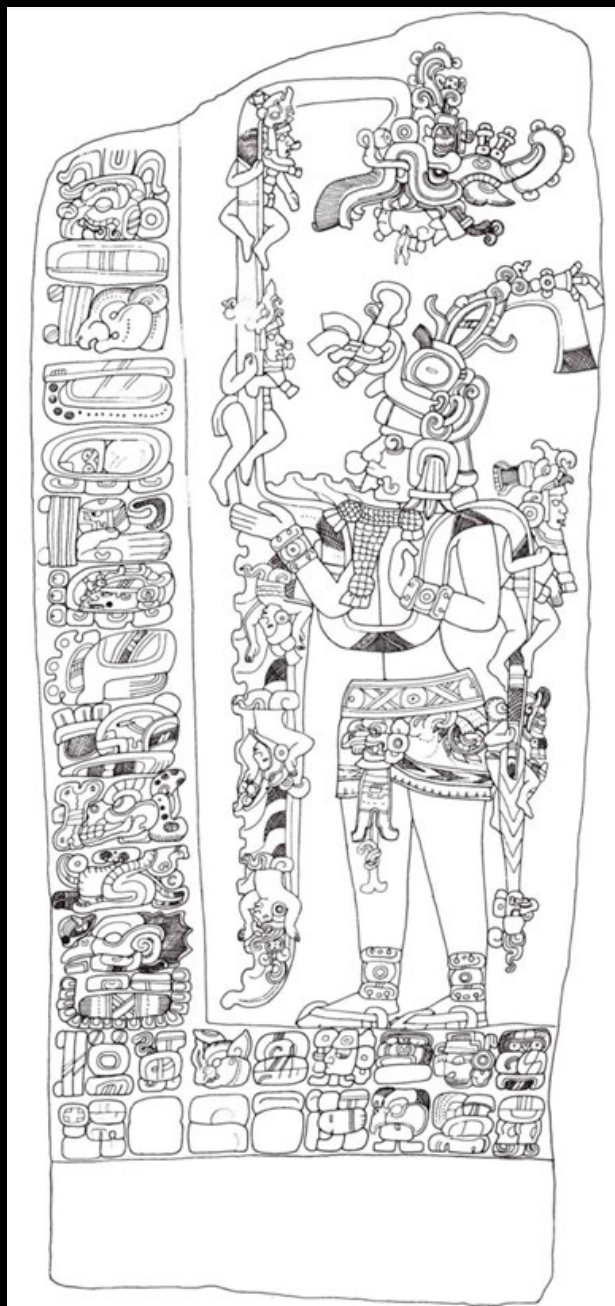


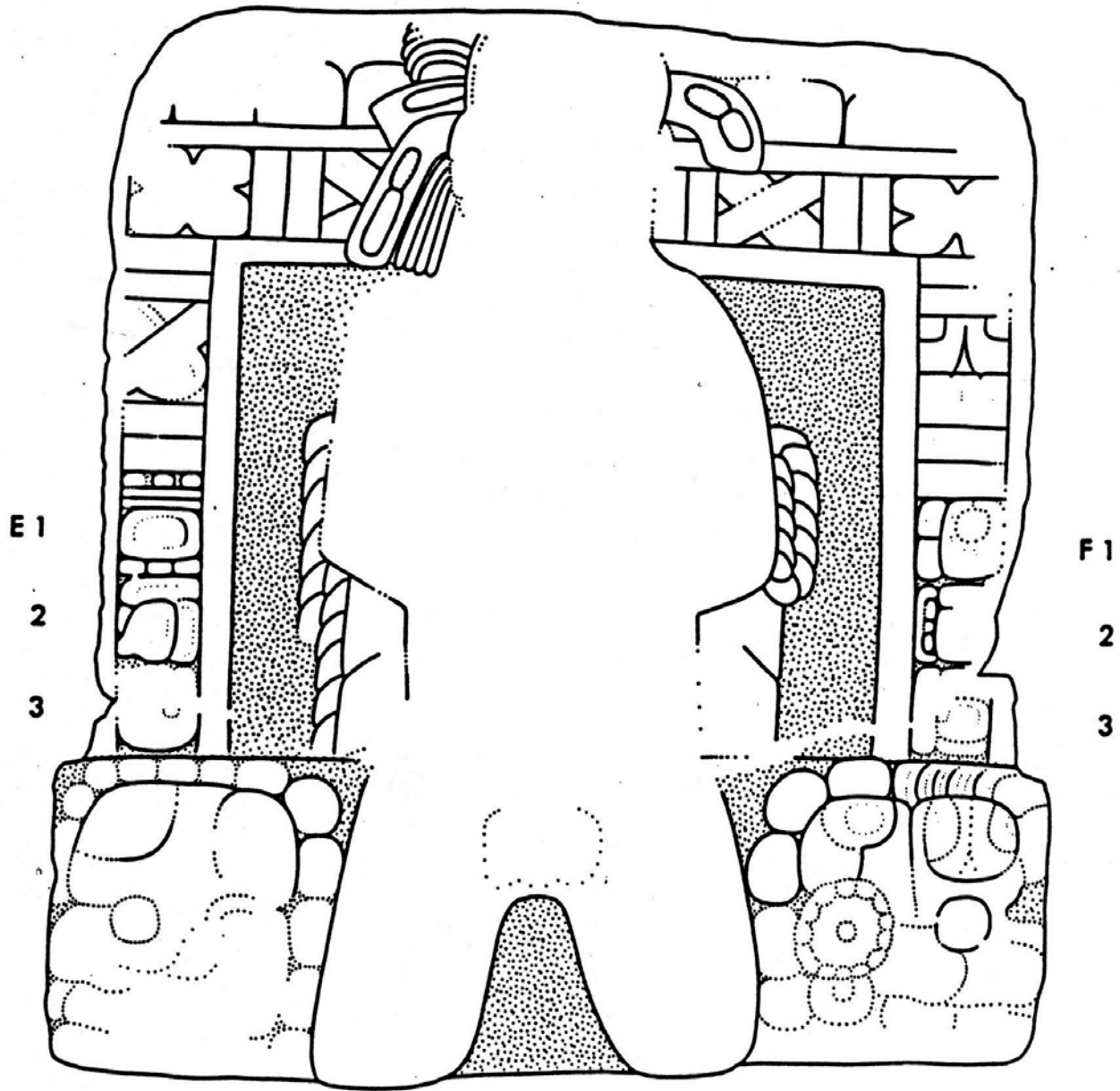
Fig. 84. This is one of the earliest examples of a waist area Sky Band, albeit with no vertical divider spaces. Crossed-Bands and single circle (not a double circle as is more common). Many reports have been written on the Hauberg Stela, I cite one here, Schele 1985. Mr Hauberg let me study the stela in his home over a quarter century ago. He was not at home at the time but left a key for me.

The stela is now exhibited in the Princeton University art museum.

The Leiden Plaque has a waist area design similar to that of the Hauberg Stela, OXO motifs. Also has crossed-bands on a vertical part of the ruler's clothing (drawing by John Montgomery).

You can find motifs from Sky Bands on many other Maya stelae from Peten. I show the ones with obvious Sky Bands. But another example would be Naranjo Stela 47. The crossed bones are common but they are not a regular part of a Sky Band. The Sky Band motif is on the upper hand of the clothing accessory around the waist-chest area.

Sky Bands at Tonina, Chiapas, Mexico



Tonina, Monument 8, side 1 (Drawing by P. Mathews)

Fig. 85. Although in Chiapas, the Sky Band motifs are traditional of the kind found frequently across Peten. Instead of a throne room hut for a ruler, this Sky Band structure is for a prisoner. Tonina Monument 8, side 1, drawing by Peter Mathews.

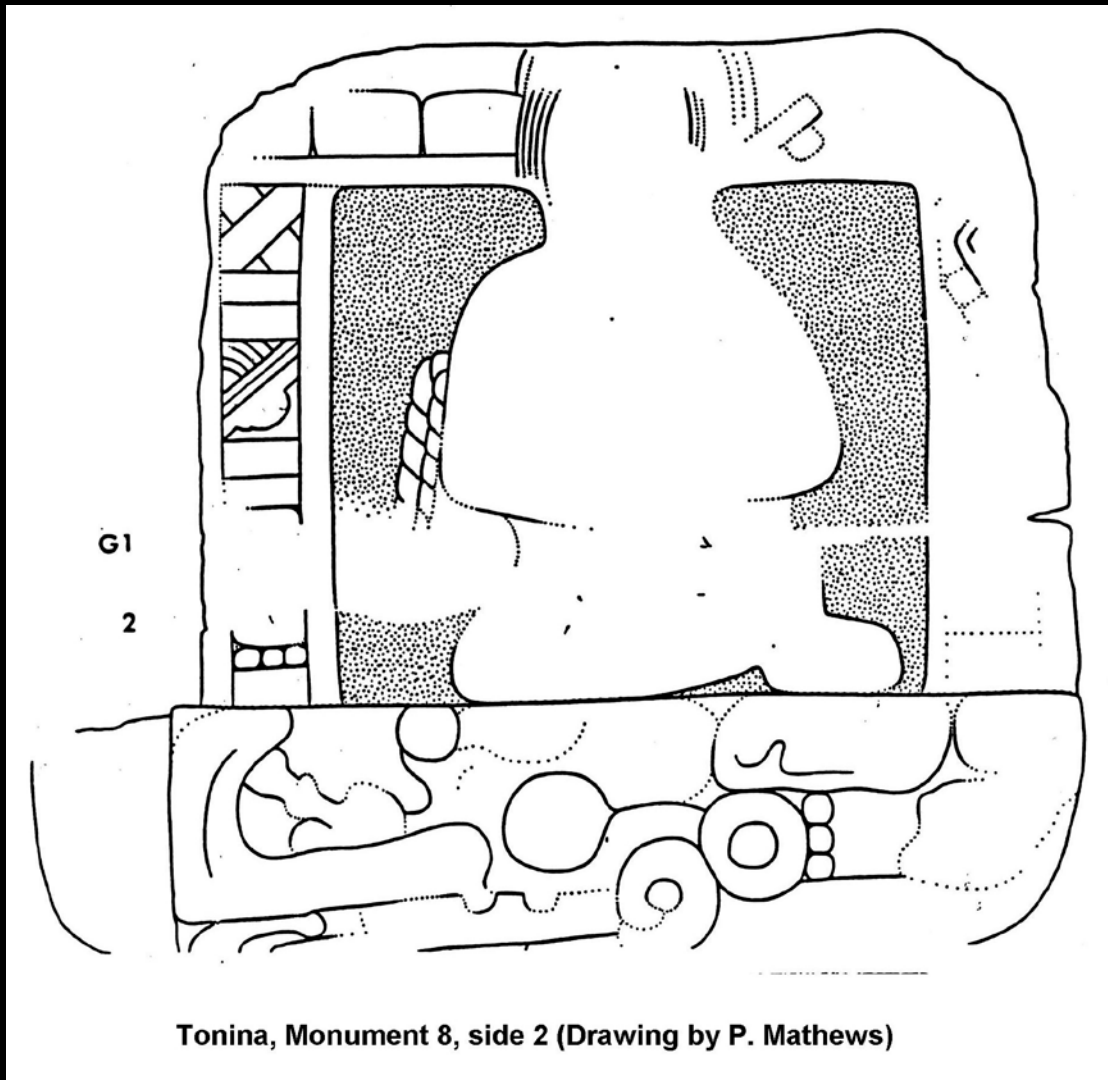


Fig. 86. Another Tonina monument with a "Sky Band hut" or at least a Sky Band enclosure. Monument 8, drawing by Peter Mathews.

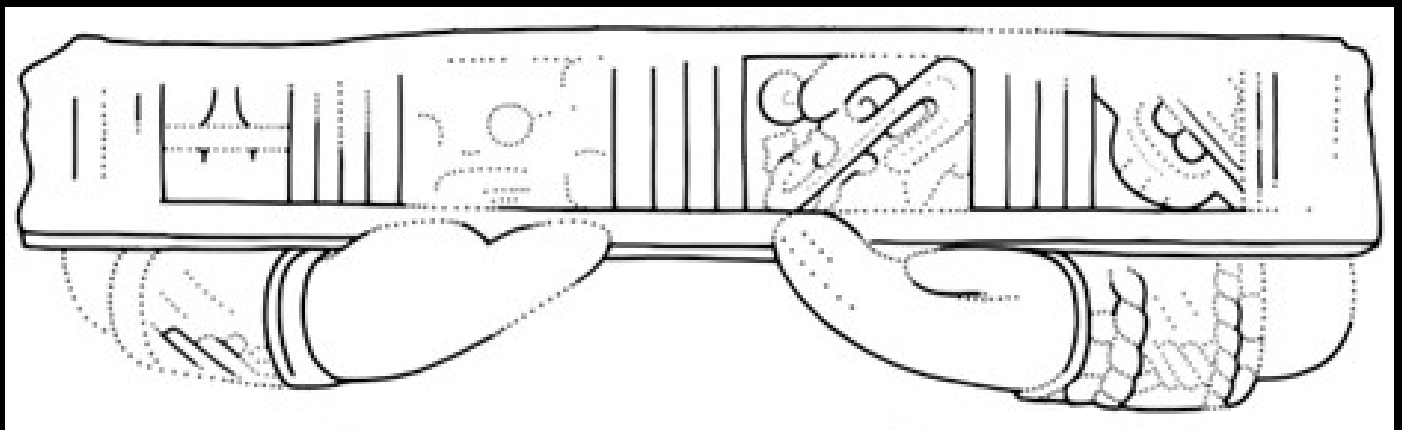


Fig. 87. Sky Band on what looks similar to a ceremonial bar. Tonina Monument 20, drawing by Peter Mathews, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University.

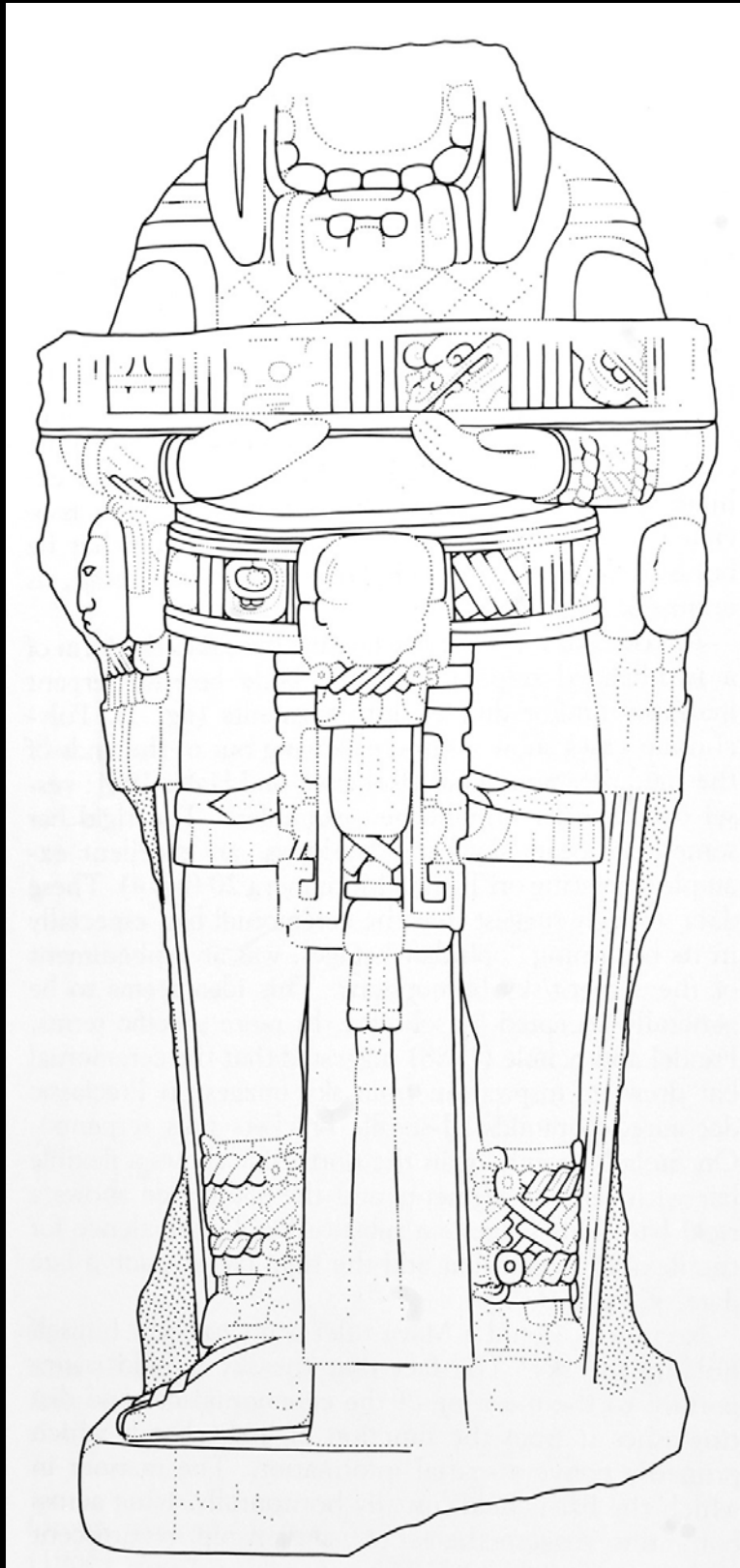


Fig. 88. Here you can see the ceremonial bar (which seems to be missing both ends). There are also Sky Band-like motifs across the waist area. Tonina Monument 20, drawing by Peter Mathews, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University.

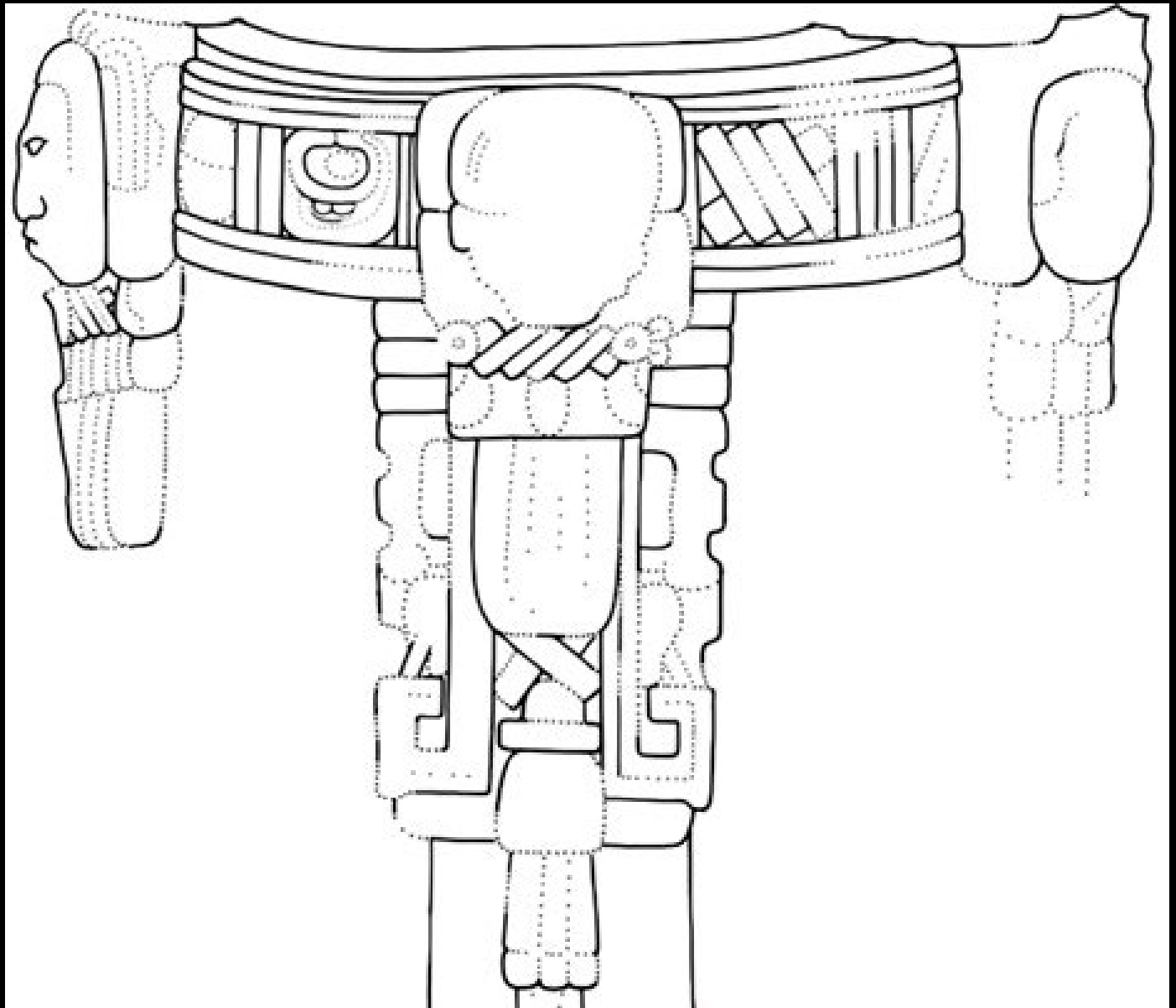


Fig. 89. Sky Band-like motifs across the waist area includes a crescent at the left and a three piece entwined crossed bands at the right. Tonina Monument 20, drawing by Peter Mathews, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University.

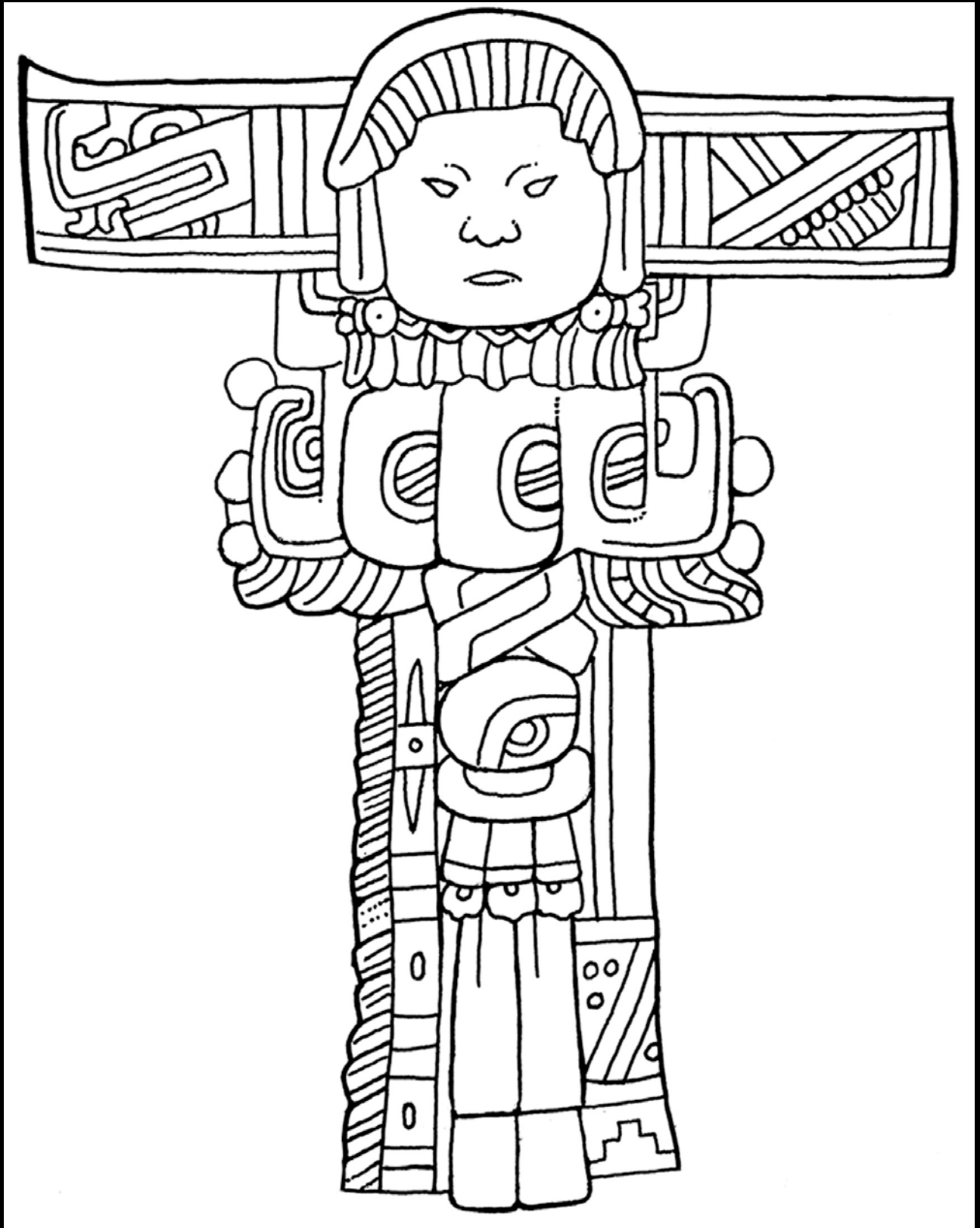


Fig. 90. Monument 146, Tonina, Chiapas, Mexico. Zip Monster at the left. Cropped to lower half of the body to show the Sky Band.

Drawing by Ian Graham, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University.

Other Sculptures with Sky Bands from Chiapas and Tabasco

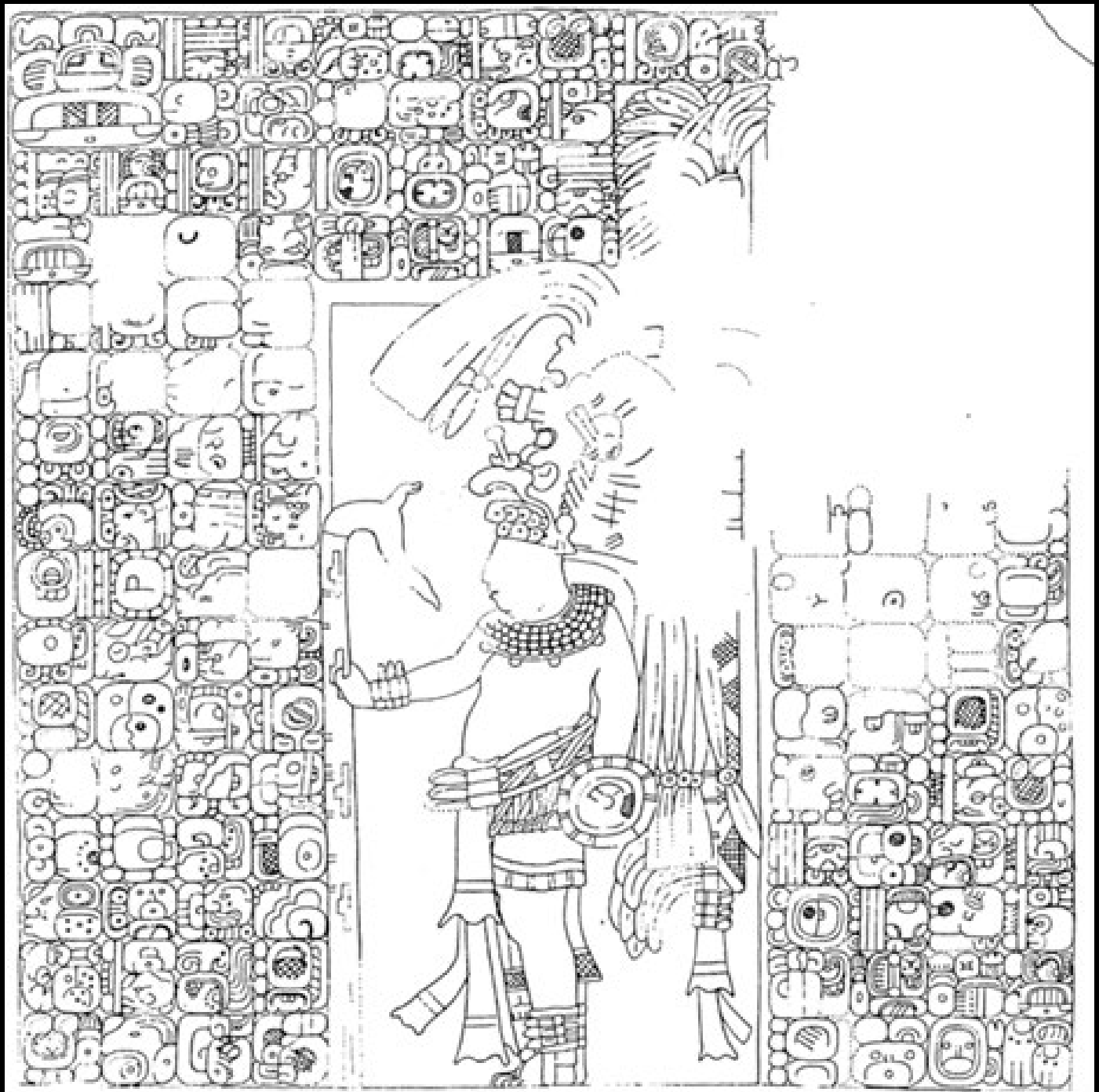


Fig. 91. Basic crossed-bands motif around waist area. El Cayo is on both sides of the Rio Usumacinta so I do not yet know whether El Cayo Lintel 1 came from Chiapas, Mexico or Peten, Guatemala. Drawing by John Montgomery, JM01150. A photograph and discussion of this lintel is in the Archivo Miguel Covarrubias web page (URL is too long to show here). Google Dintel 1-El Cayo, Piedras Negras.

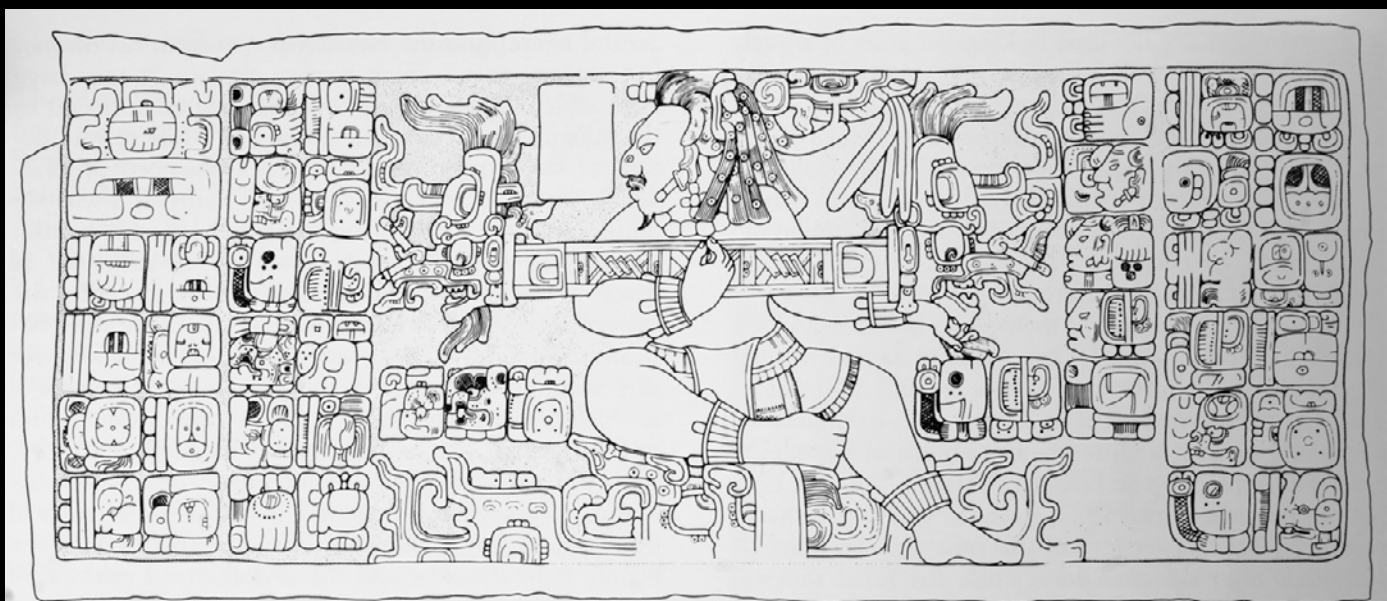


Fig. 4 Panel, Kuná-Lacanhá, 70 cm high. Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, D.C., B-145.MAS (drawing by David S. Stuart).

Fig. 92. This ceremonial bar has a God K at each end. The Sky Band motif is wider than most woven crossed bands. The motif at each end has different frame and is thus potentially part of the ceremonial bar rather than being part of the Sky Band. Merle Greene Robertson, Volume 1, Figure 4. Drawing by David Stuart. Sculpture is listed in its caption as Dumbarton Oaks. Kuna-Lacanha is in Chiapas.



Fig. 93. Good example of the Sky Band motifs that tend to be across the lower area of a stela. Potentially you could call this an Earth Band. The waist area has thick woven motifs. Also a nice full-figure personified hieroglyph at the middle-right side of the stela. Balancan-Morales Stela 4 (Lizardi 1961: 121). Tabasco.

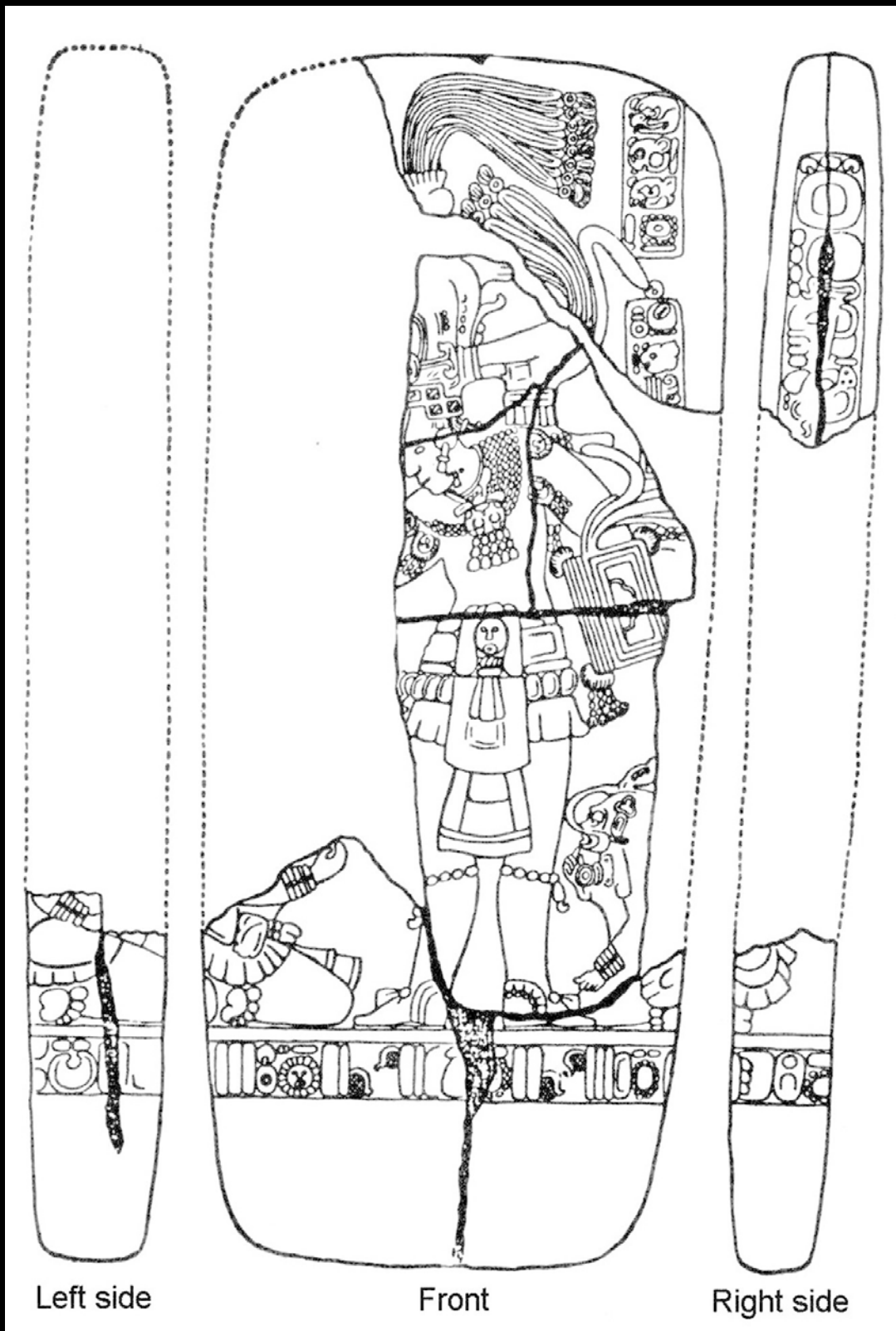


Fig. 94. The horizontal band has vertical divider spaces but the only two motifs that are similar to Sky Band motifs elsewhere are the two Caban motifs (both sides of the center crack).
Moral Stela 3, drawing by A. Pavon



Fig. 95. Vertical "woven" bands, with no vertical divider areas, across waist.
Ocosingo Stela 2, Chiapas (Spinden 1913: Plate 25,5).

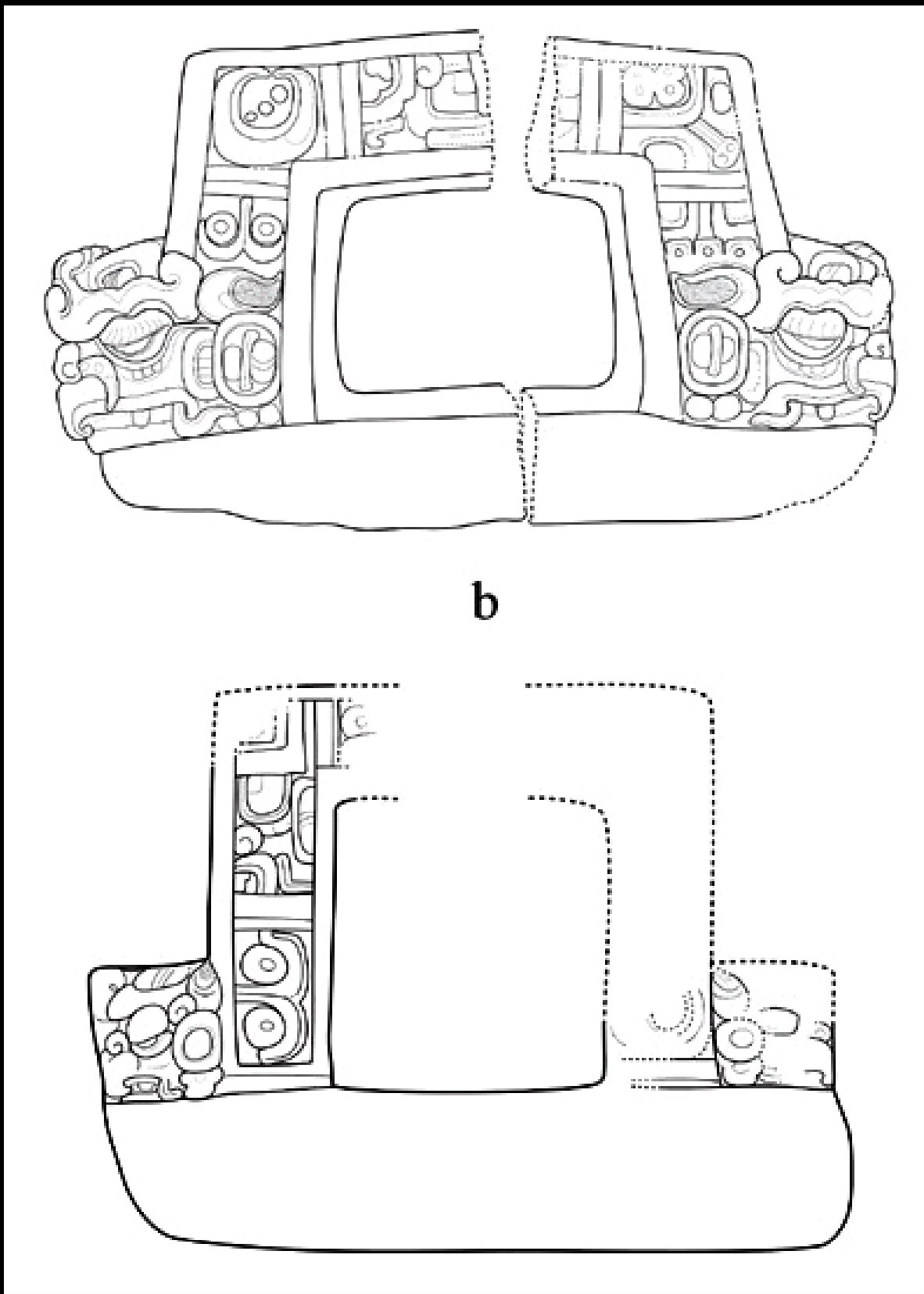


Fig. 96. Both of these sculptures have bird heads at the end of their Sky Band. You see bird heads at the end of Sky Bands on steps on Piedras Negras Stela 32 and on the Sky Band Hut at the back of Quirigua Stela I. Moral-Reforma ballcourt sculptures, Tabasco, Mexico.



Fig. 97. Close-up photograph of one of the Moral-Reforma ballcourt sculptures with a Sky Band.
Photo from Juarez 2004.

Sky Bands in the murals of Bonampak, Chiapas, Mexico



Fig. 98. Most of the Sky Bands in the murals of Bonampak are on the hems of men's clothing. We show all these in the FLAAR Reports on Sky Bands on hems.

The Sky Bands elsewhere in the murals, the two that we show here, are well known and included in all publications on the Bonampak murals, by UNAM and by Mary Miller.

Drawing by Adams and Aldrich 1980, in publication by UNAM. Room 3, Registo 1, top of the corbel vault (an appropriate place for a celestial band).



Fig. 99. These peccary have been published many times. The "star" or Venus signs on several sides shows them to be a celestial motif, albeit not in a rectangular Sky Band frame. There is a turtle on the other side of this area of Cuarto 2, north side of the Bonampak murals. Drawing by Sophia Pincemin, UNAM, Figura



Fig. 100. The Sky Band in the headdress of Bonampak Stela 2 reminds me of other "stepped" diagonal Sky Bands in headdresses of stucco at Palenque and on stelae elsewhere. Photo by Nicholas Hellmuth, FLAAR Photo Archive. As you can notice we had excellent lighting equipment.

Sky Bands elsewhere in Mexico: Campeche and Yucatan



Fig. 101. Star/Venus symbol at the bottom;
then a profile/half-frontal Loincloth Apron Face looking to the left. Edzna, altar.



Fig. 102. Horizontal Sky Band across middle of remaining fragment of Oxkintok Stela 2 (Proskouriakoff 1950: Fig. 87,c). Interesting to find such a Sky Band in Yucatan.

Sky Band on Stelae of Quirigua, Izabal, Guatemala

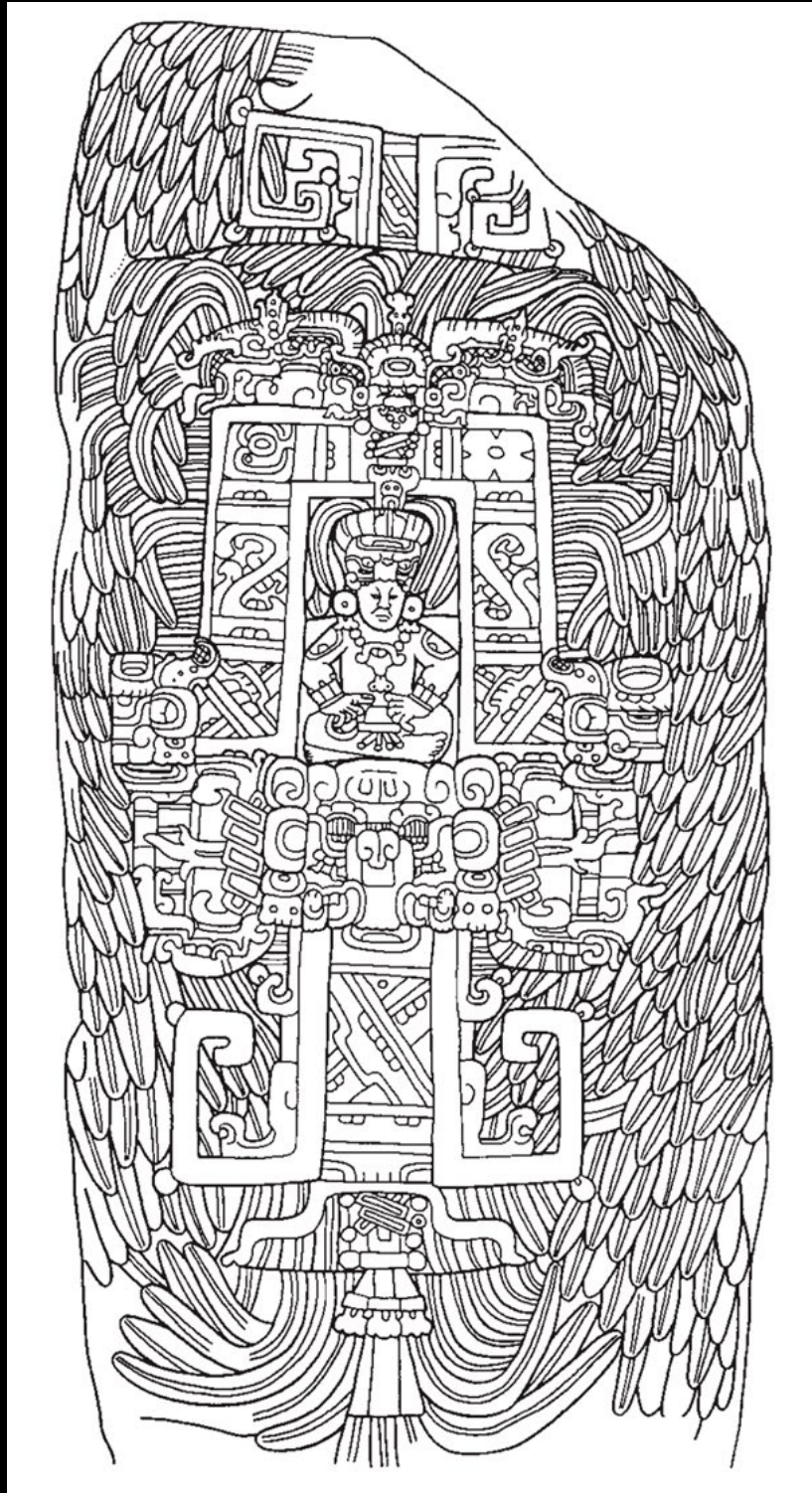


Fig. 103. Hanging down from the mouth of the frontal throne monster are two Sky Band motifs. The Principal Bird Deity on top of the Sky Band Hut reminds me of Sky Band Huts on stelae of Piedras Negras. Quirigua Stela I, back (east), drawing by Matthew Loooper.



Fig. 104. A Zip Monster is in the middle of both sides. The motif at the upper left is not well documented. The same bird heads are at the end of each Sky Band as on Sky Bands elsewhere, usually on stairways but also elsewhere such as Moral-Reforma ballcourt sculptures. Atop this "Sky Band throne room hut" is the expected Principal Bird Deity. Quirigua Stela I, back side, drawing by Matthew Loper.

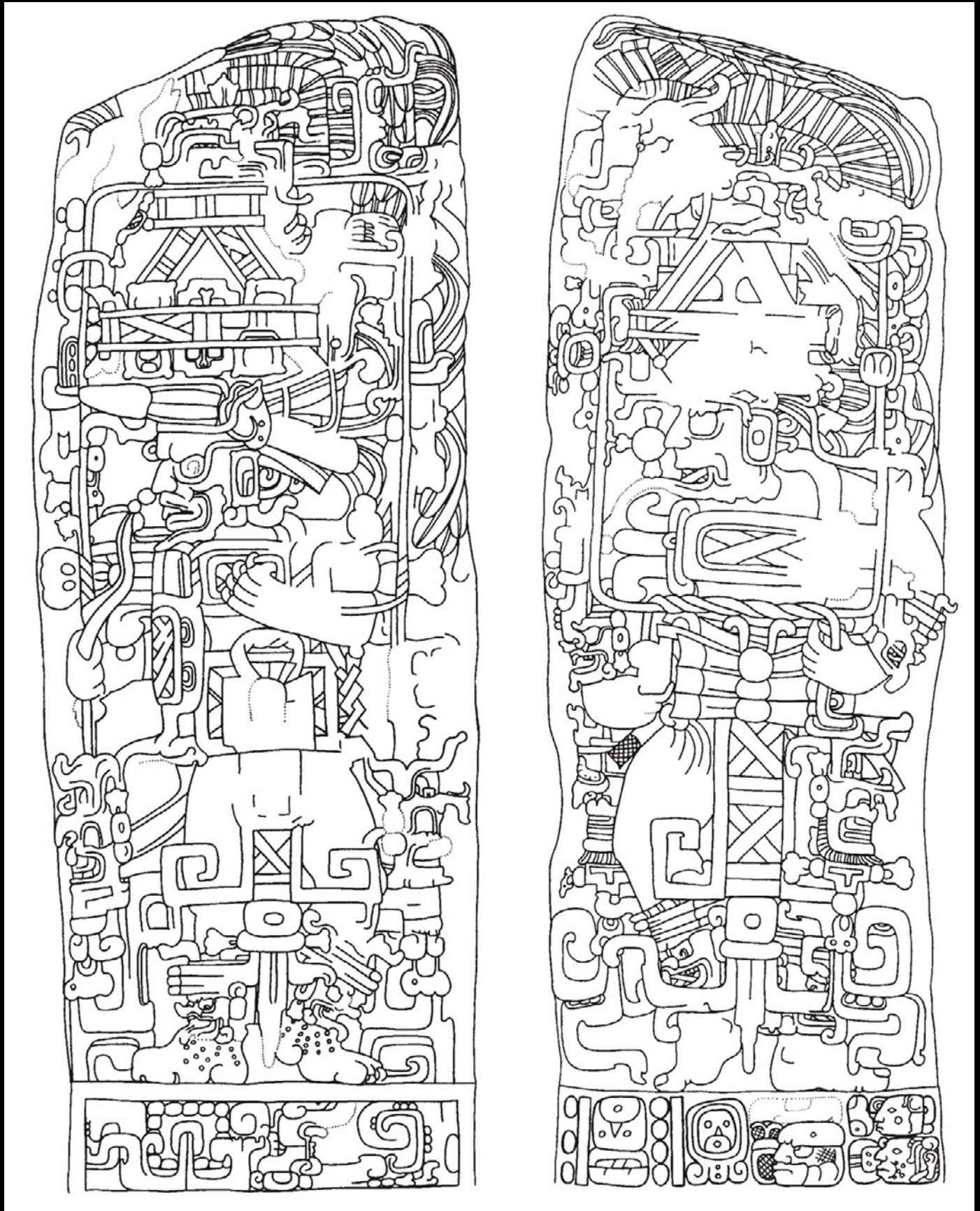


Fig. 105. Roof of a Sky Band Hut with Principal Bird Deity on top. But the ruler is standing, not seated, and the walls and steps of the hut are not visible. Quirigua Stela A, and Stela C, north faces.
Drawing by Matthew Looer, 2009, page 185.

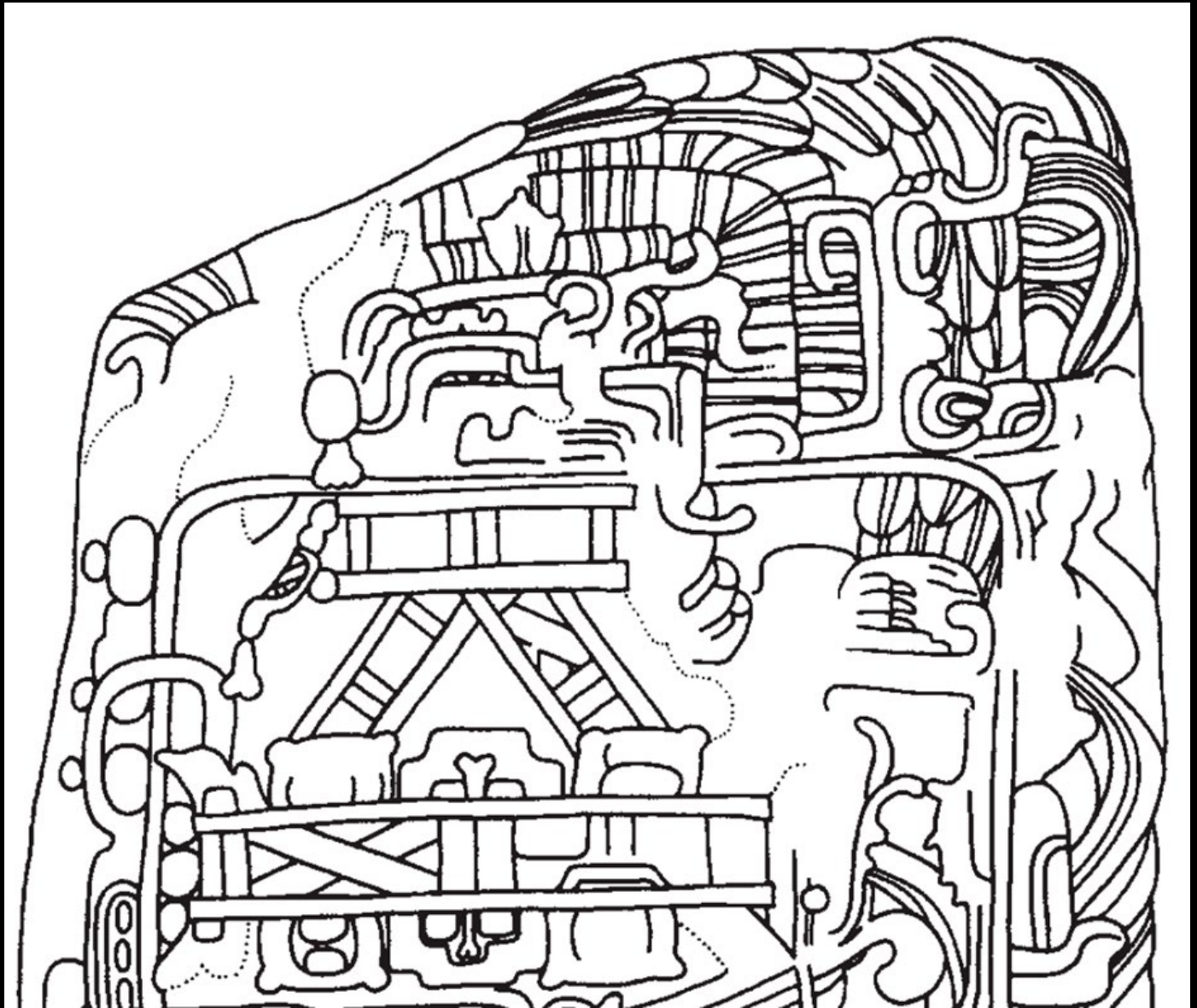


Fig. 106. This is the "Sky Band roof" of a Sky Band ritual hut; the person is standing instead of sitting on a throne. The wings of a Principal Bird Deity are visible atop the roof. There are no visible Sky Band pillars or walls. Quirigua Stela A, drawing by Matthew Loper 2009: page 185, Fig. 5.



Fig. 107. Typical repeated Crossed Bands on waist area. Quirigua Stela I, front.
Drawing by Matthew Looper 2001: Fig. 7.



Fig. 108. Crossed Band repeat (as usual on a waist area clothing item). Quirigua Stela K, east side, drawing by Matthew Loper 2001, Figure 11.



Fig. 109. Typical repeated Crossed Bands across the waist area. Quirigua Stela K, west side, drawing by Matthew Looer (2001: Fig. 12).

Sky Bands at Copan, Honduras



Fig. 110. Two Sky Bands, one over the headdress; a second around his waist. Note that the one around the waist is not repeated Crossed Bands, but has different traditional Sky Band motifs.

Copan Str. 10L-32, drawing by Barbara Fash.

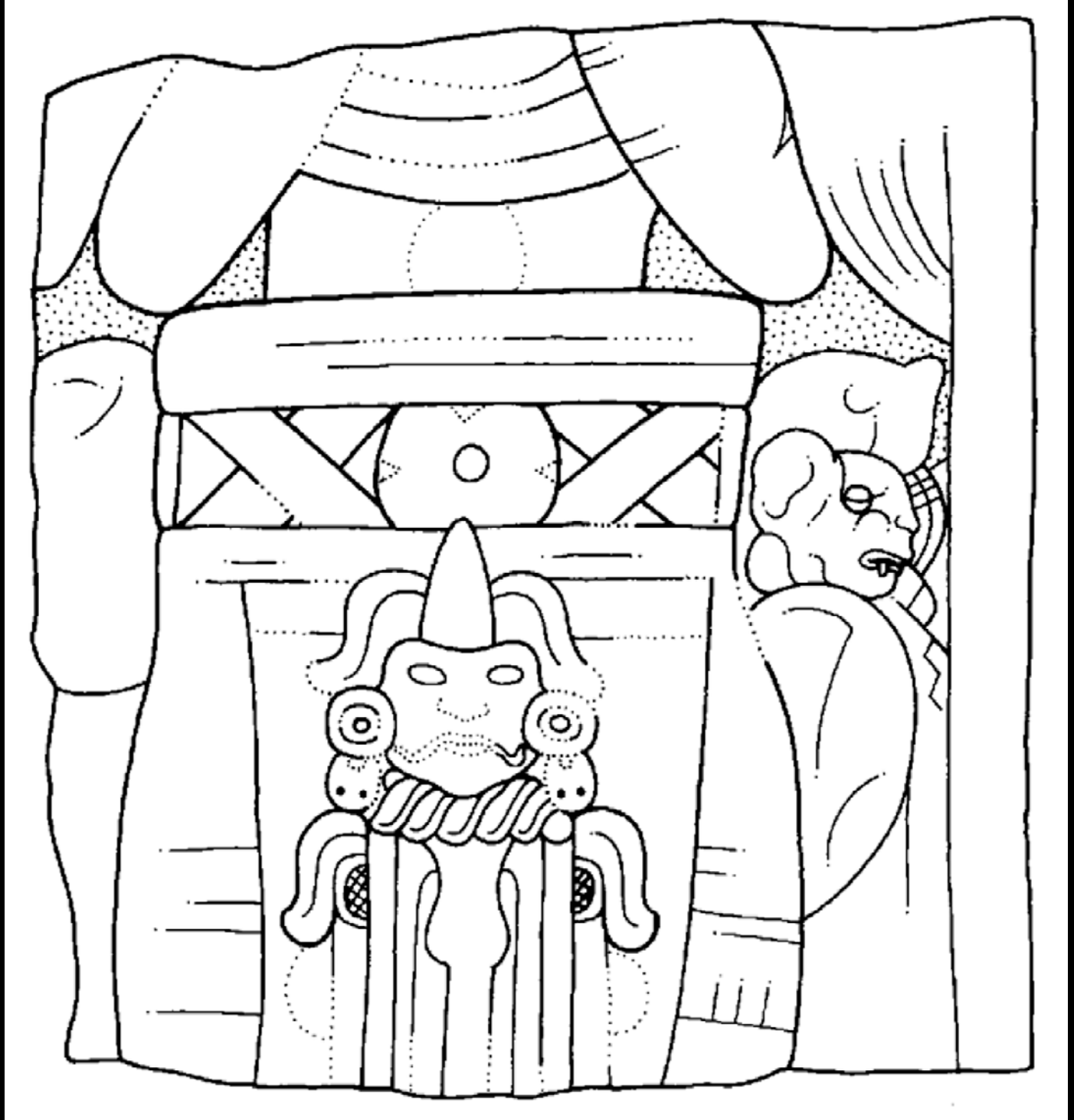


Fig. 111. Sky Band on belt of Copan sculpture.
Has repeated Crossed Bands but also a different Kin-like motif in between them.

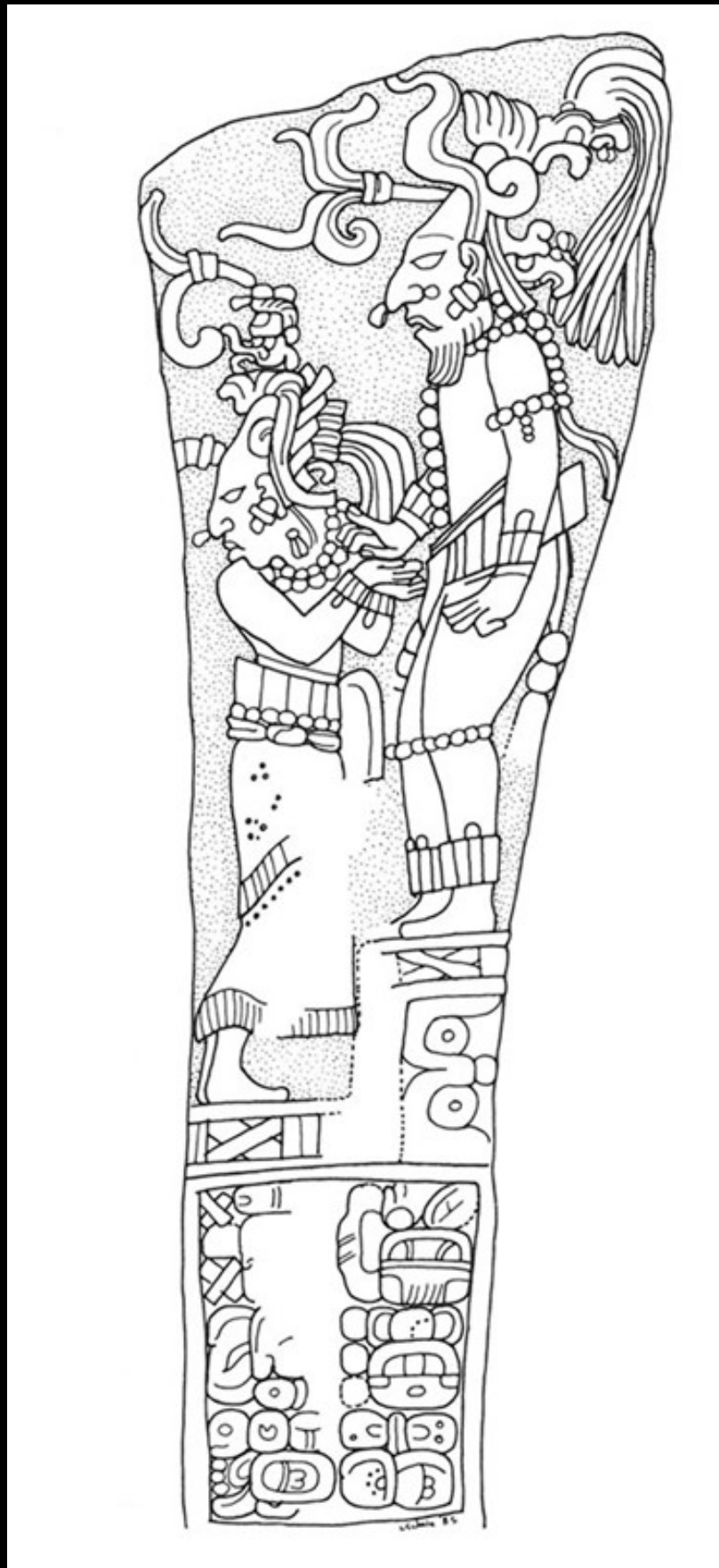


Fig. 112. Steps often have Sky Bands. What is unexpected is the large vertical star/Venus motif outside the Sky Band. Copan incised bone. Lots of beards on sculptures at Copan. Drawing by Linda Schele, SD-7620, © David Schele, Drawing courtesy Ancient Americas at LACMA (ancientamericas.org).

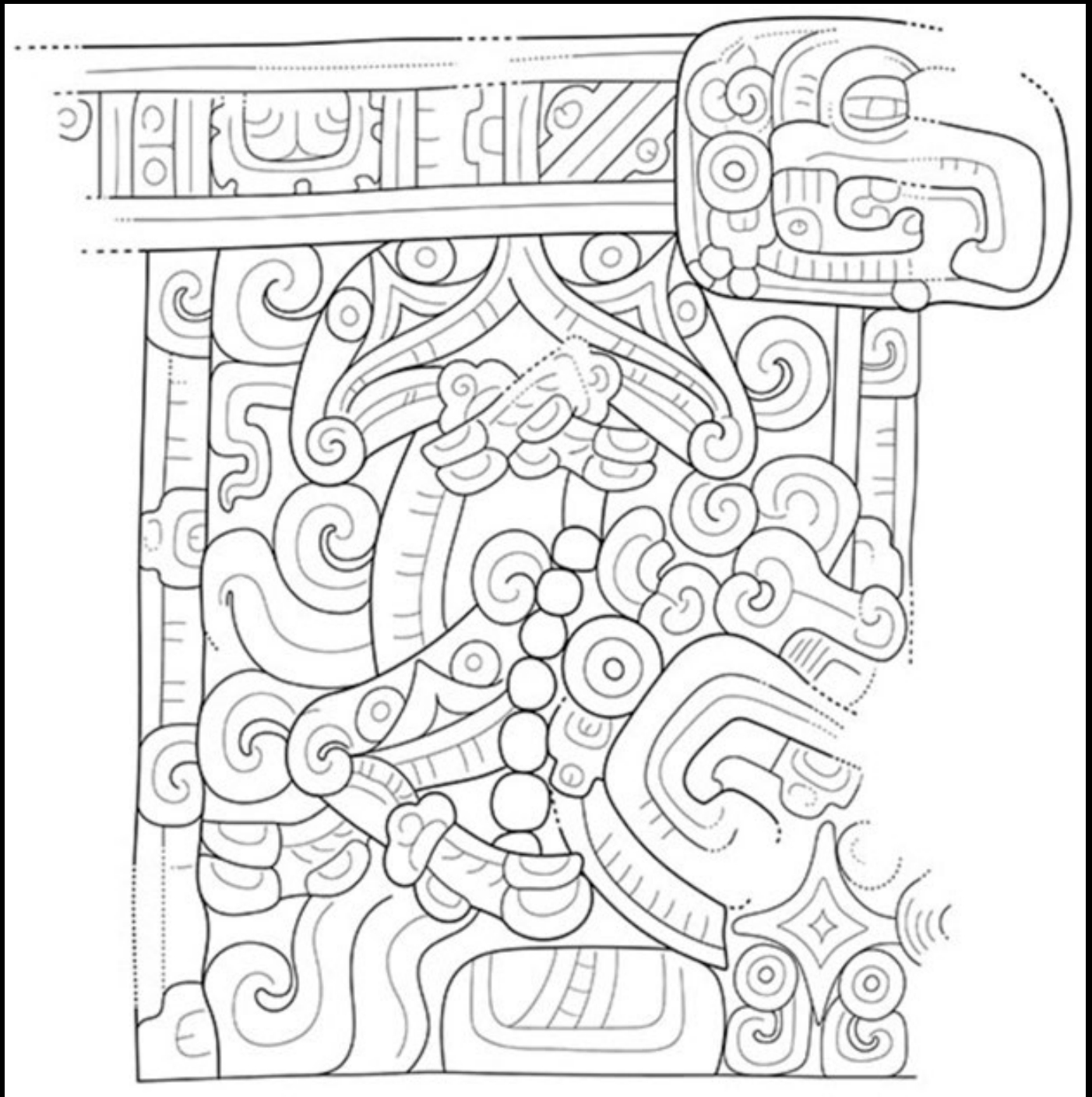


Fig. 113. During the Early Classic most Sky Bands are on stucco façade decoration. The horizontal Sky Band across the top has a bird head at its end. Need to check whether this is the same bird head as at the end of Sky Band steps on stelae from Peten. On the arm and legs of the downward facing monster are pointed variants of the star/Venus motif. Macizo, Copan Acropolis, drawing by Daniel Salazar in Valencia and Salazar 2017: Fig. 7,b.

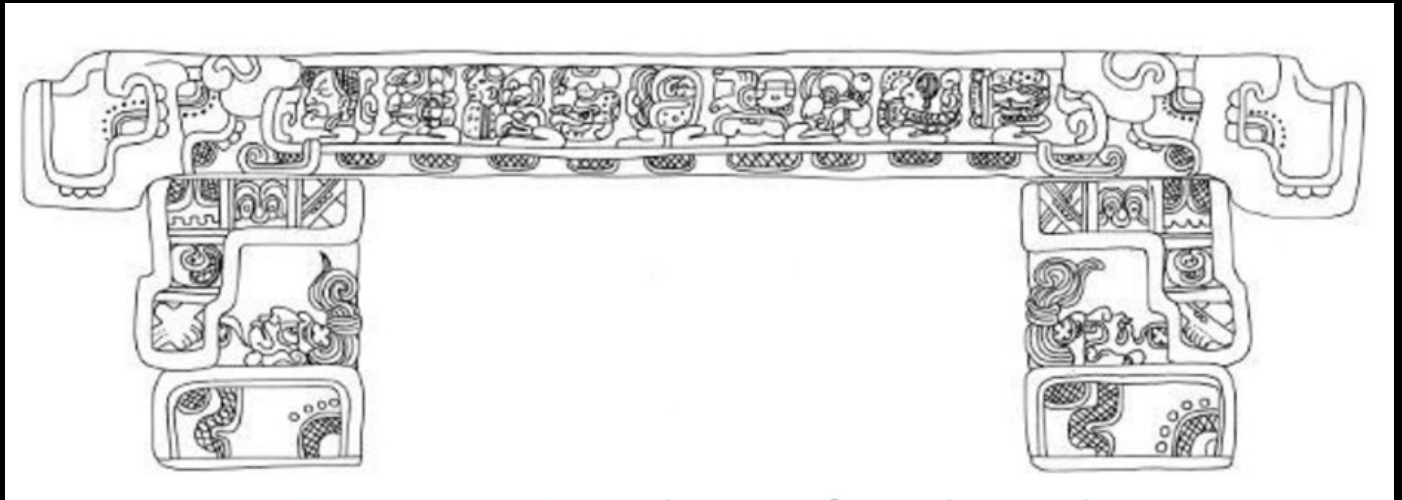


Fig. 114. Both supports of this Copan bench front have five different Sky Band motifs. At the bottom is a separate motif that is also seen at the bottom of Piedras Negras Stela 6 and Piedras Negras Stela 11. As soon as I can learn who was the illustrator of this excellent drawing, I will update this report with a citation.

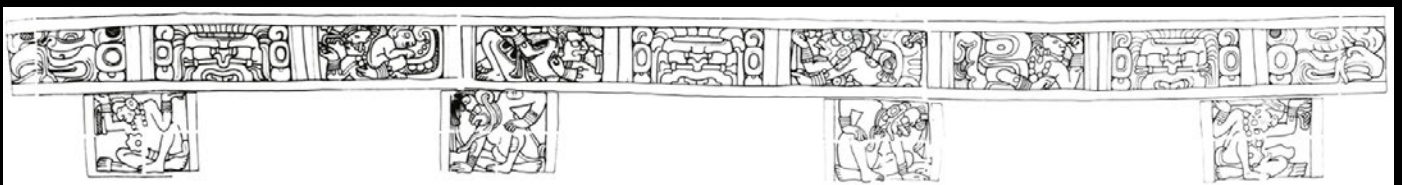


Fig. 115. Copan Str. 8N-66C. Excellent drawing by Barbara Fash in Graham 2023, page 81, Fig. 4-4.



Fig. 116. Several Sky Bands on steps leading up to "Sky Band Huts" have a bird head at each end of the Sky Band (Piedras Negras Stela 32, Quirigua Stela I, back). Need to check whether all the birds are the same species, or same family? The beak of the bird at the right was broken off centuries ago. Copan Str. 8N-11 bench front. Photos by Nicholas Hellmuth, FLAAR Photo Archive.



Fig. 117. Instead of profile/half-frontal, these Loincloth Apron Faces are full-frontal. There are three of them in this Sky Band of Copan Str. 8N-11 bench front. Photos by Nicholas Hellmuth, FLAAR Photo Archive.



Fig. 118. Usually it is a female Moon Goddess who is holding the Rabbit Companion.



Fig. 119. Part of the Copan Sky Band bench motifs.



Fig. 120. Part of the Copan Sky Band bench motifs. Centipede-like tail.



Fig. 121. Scorpion-like tail; the person has arm through the star/Venus symbol.

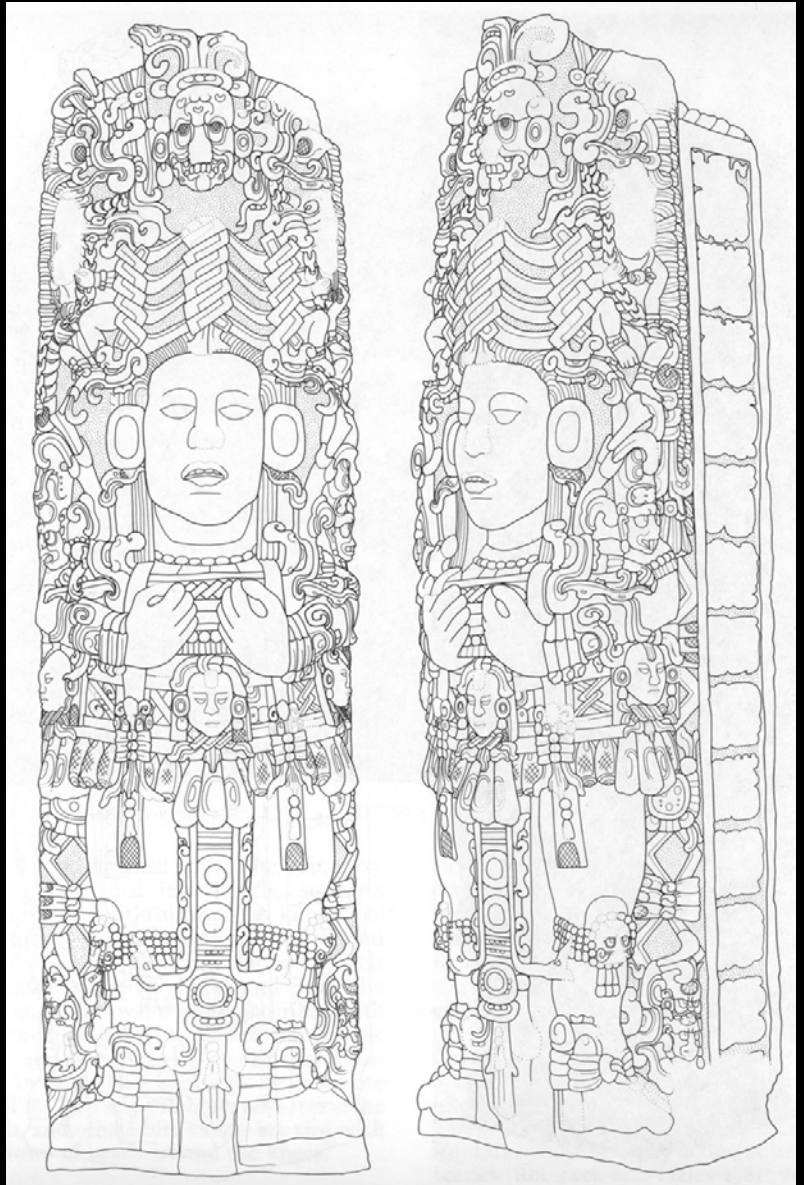
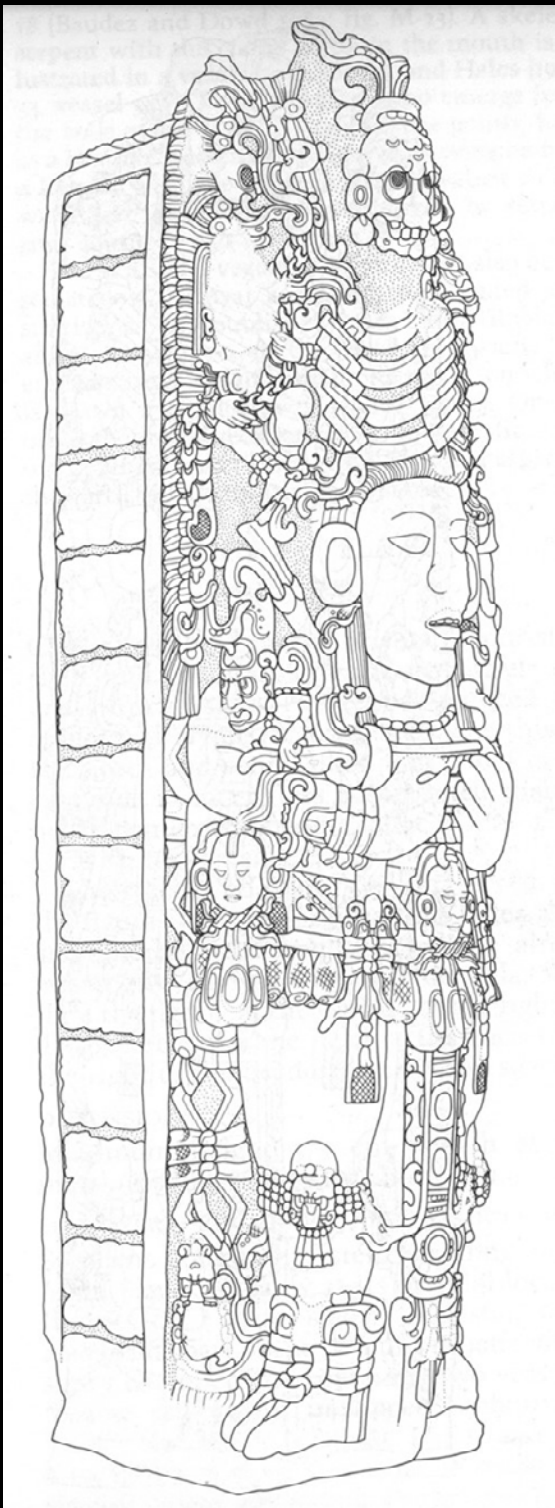


Fig. 122. Nice waist area Sky Band with four different motifs (so not just one motif repeated).
Copan Stela A, CPN 1 (Baudéz 1994: Fig. 4).

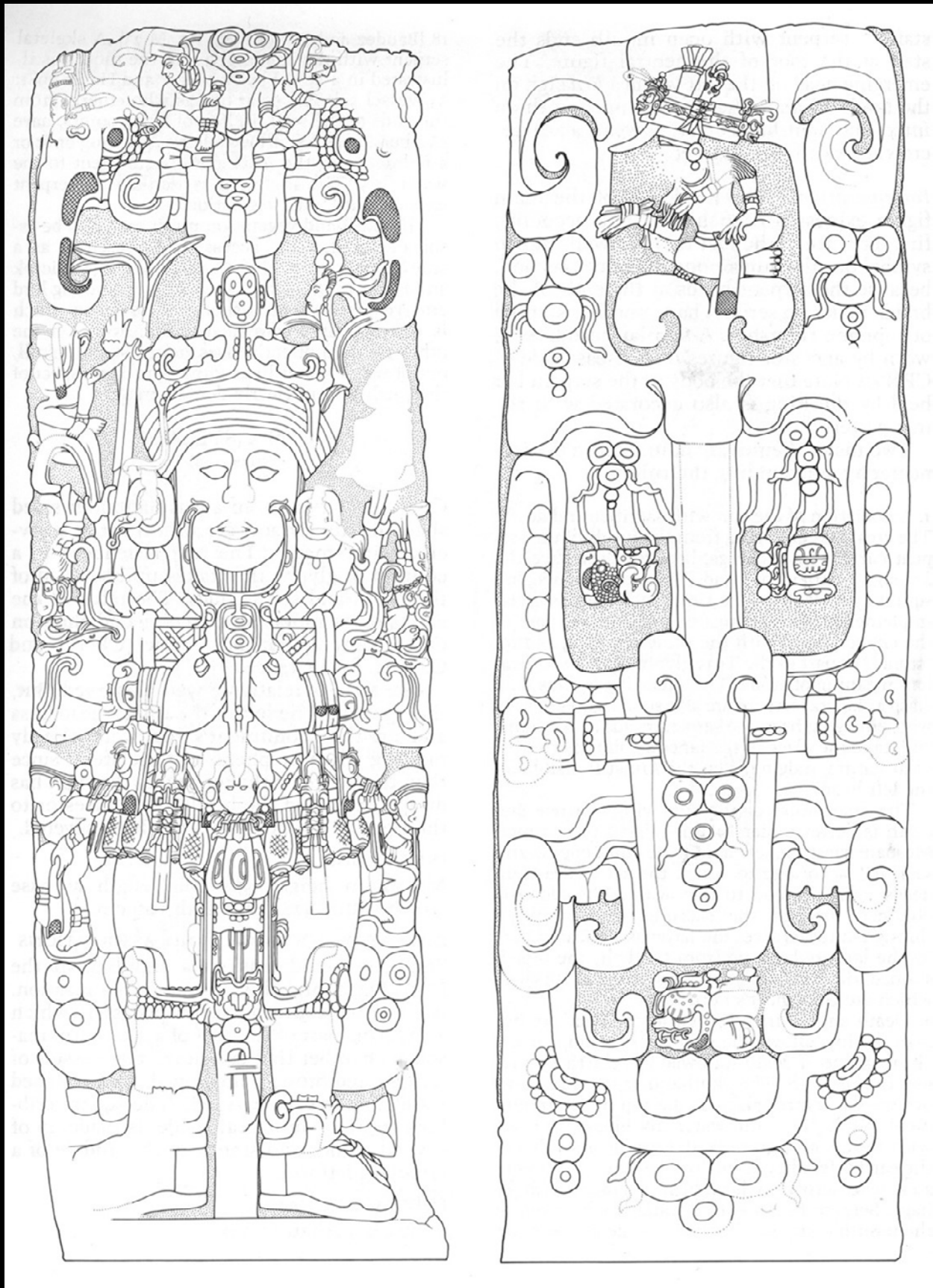


Fig. 123. Sky Band on ceremonial bar with different individual motifs. Another Sky Band around waist area that may be repeated crossed-bands, but too many accessories covering the waist area to tell for sure. Copan Stela B, CPN 3 (Baudez 1994: Fig. 5). Drawing by Anne S. Dowd.

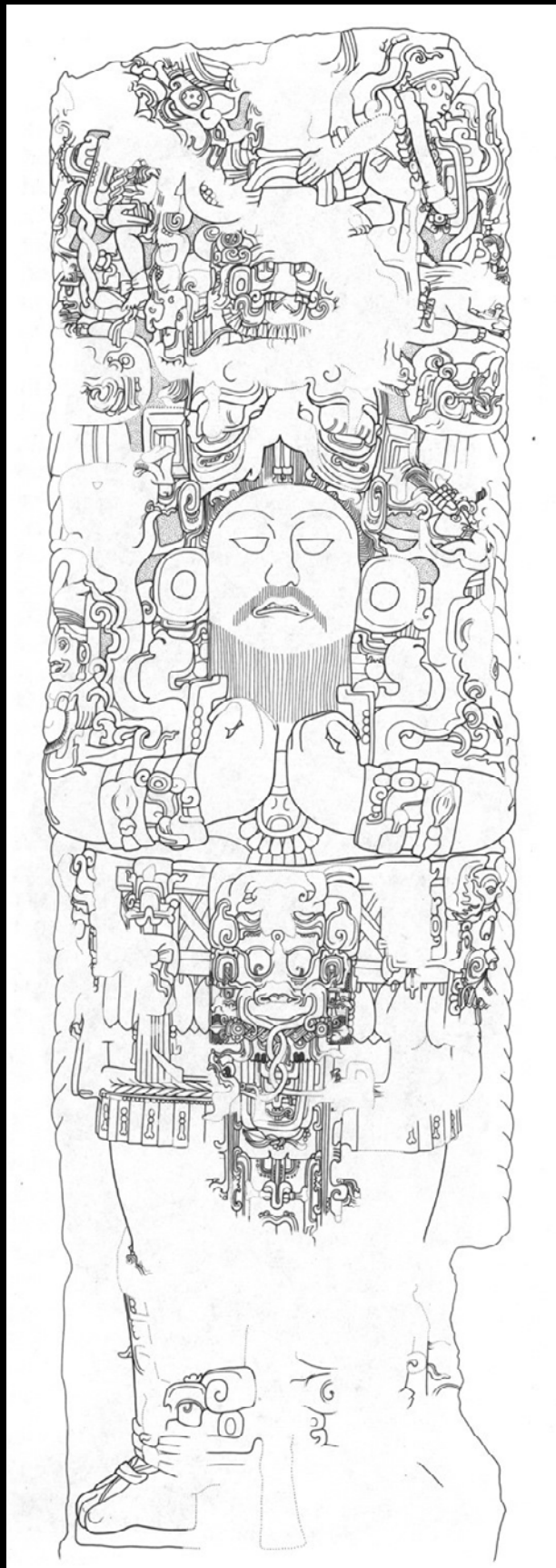


Fig. 124. Repeated crossed-bands around waist.
Copan Stela C, CPN 4 (Baudez 1994: Fig. 8). Drawing by Barbara Fash.

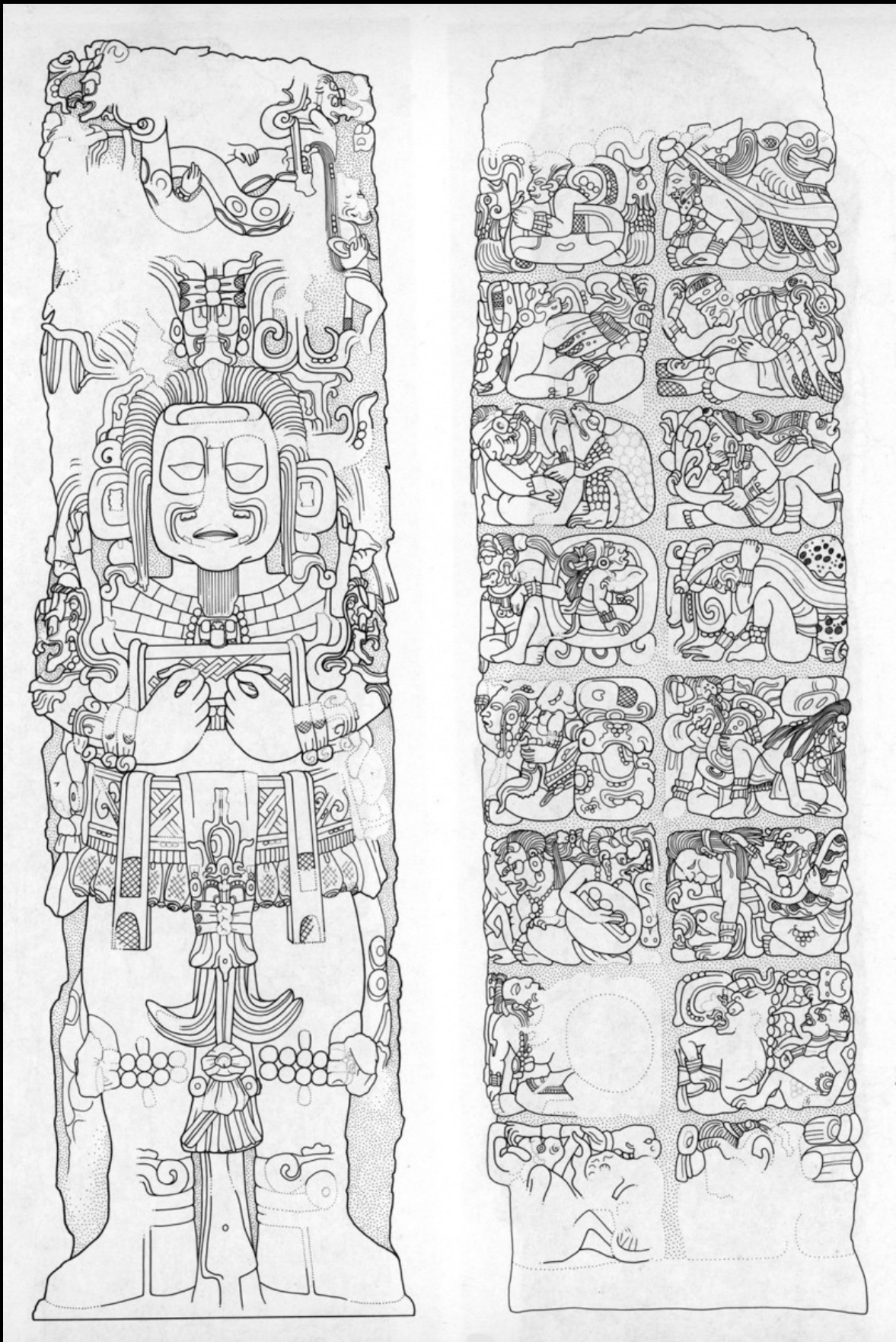


Fig. 125. Waist area has two different Sky Band motifs repeated.
 Copan Stela D, CPN 7 south and north (front and back) (Baudez 1994: Fig. 11). Drawings by Anne S. Dowd.

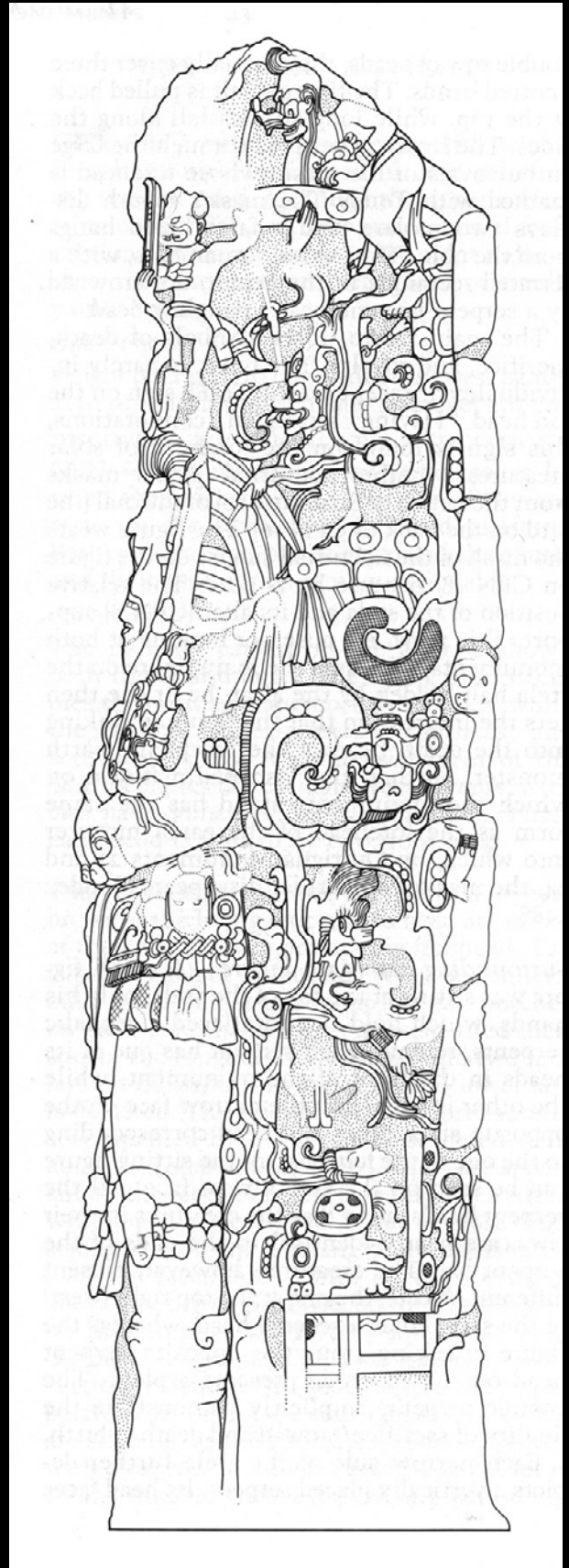
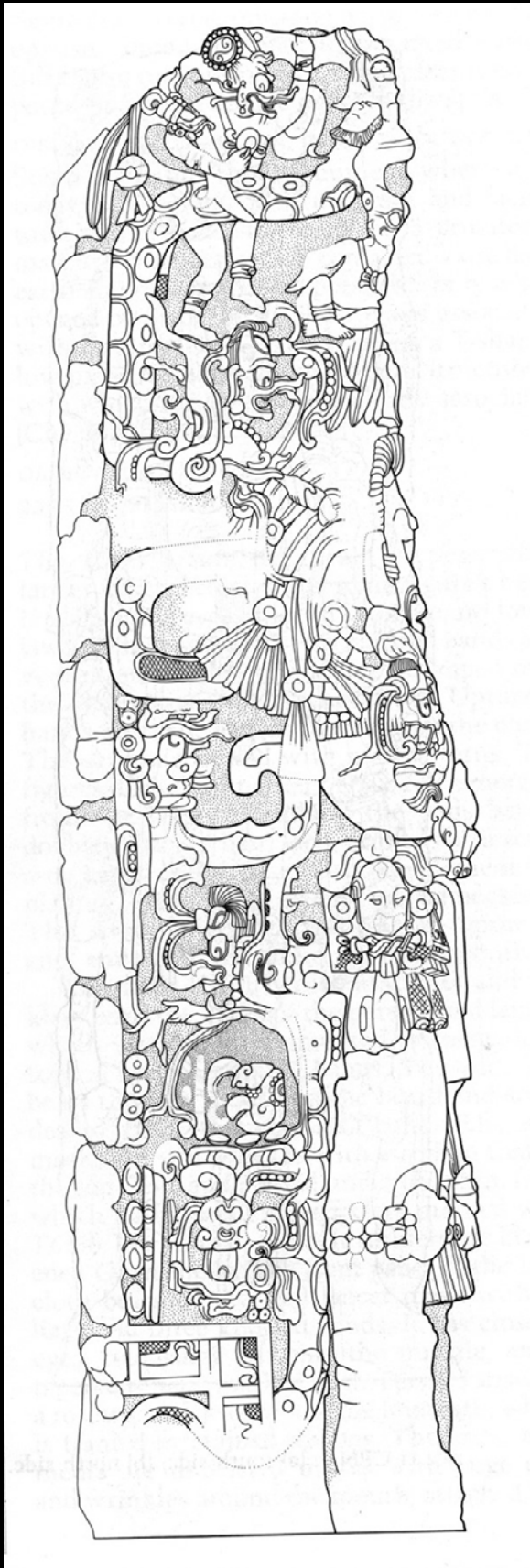


Fig. 126. When a Sky Band is near the bottom of a stela scene, the motifs tend to be a repeated Caban, as seen here. The shape of the frame here is not merely flat, but also has a vertical segment. Copan Stela D, west side and east side, drawing by Anne S. Dowd (Baudez 1994: Figs. 12 and 13).

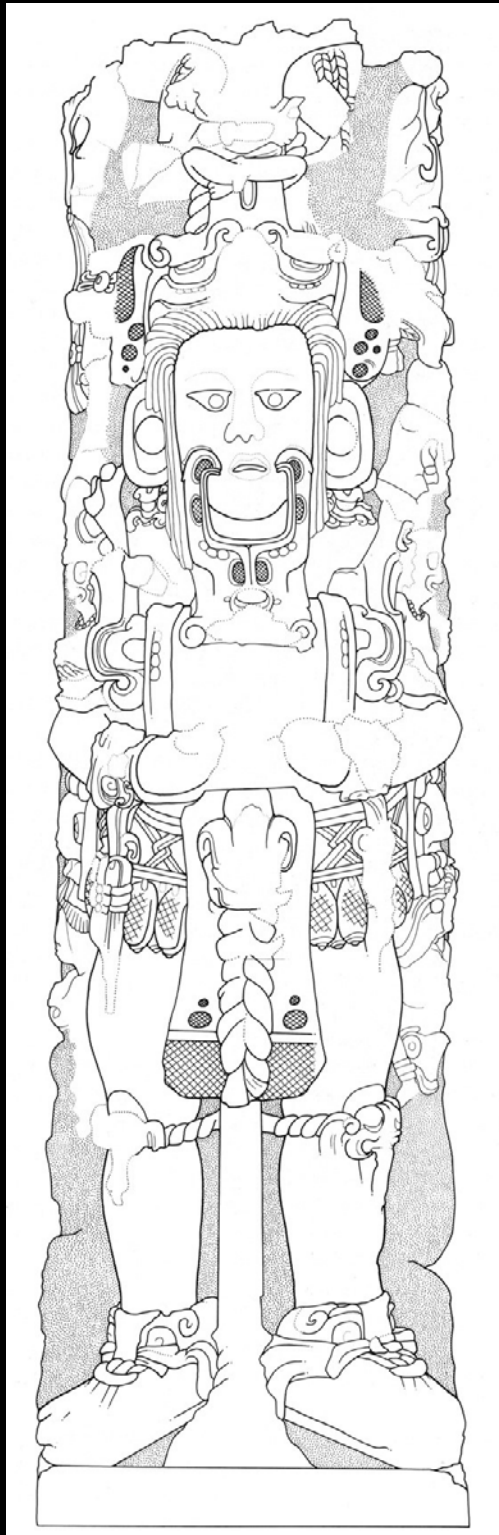


Fig. 127. Repeated entwined crossed bands around waist.
Copan Stela F, CPN 11, drawing by Anne S. Dowd (Baudez 1994: Fig. 17).

Copan Stela H is listed by Carlson and Landis but there is no drawing in the book of Baudez and the photos of Maudslay show a possible motif but do not show an inspiring Sky Band. The Schele drawing shows the ceremonial bar with only one motif and potentially a crescent.

Copan Stela E has repeated crossed-band in waist area

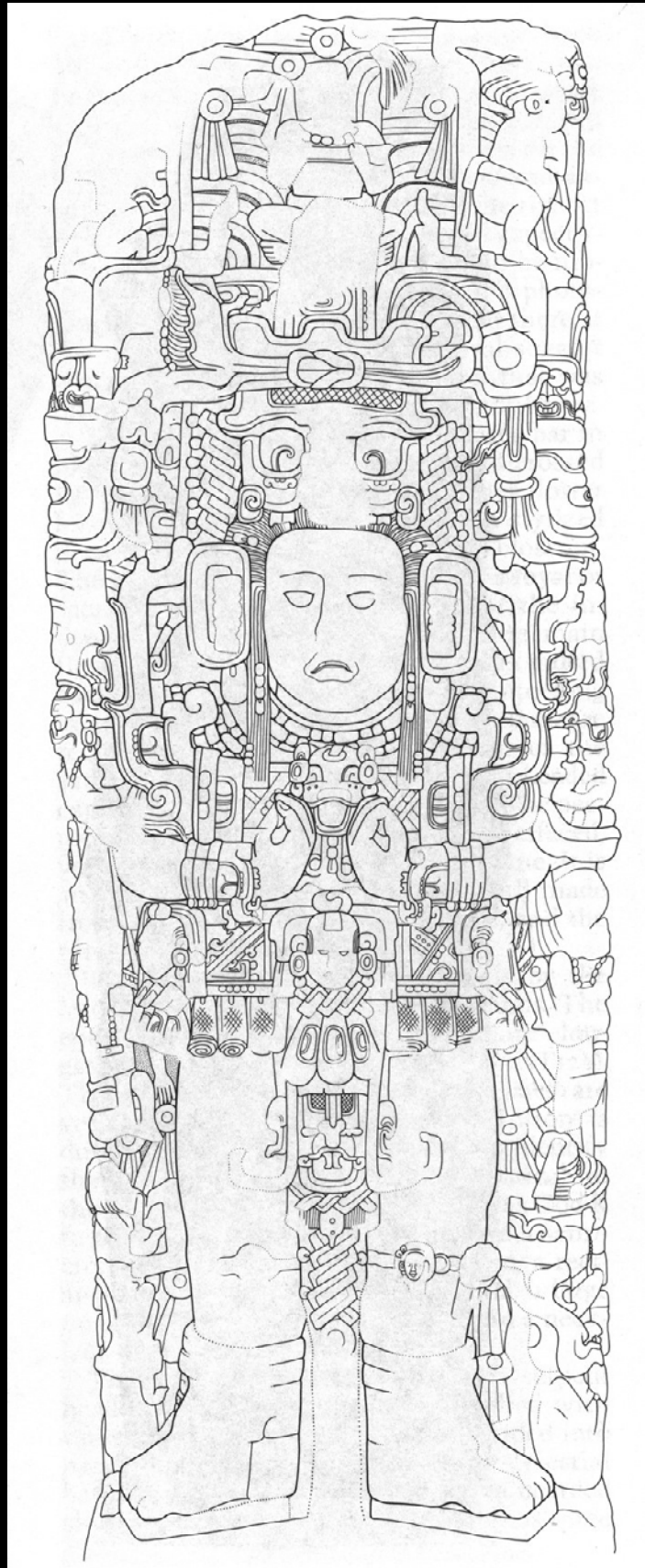


Fig. 128. Ceremonial Bar has repeated crossed bands. Waist area has Zip Monster at left and Beard and Scrolls (Carlson and Landis term) at right. Copan Stela N, CPN 26, drawing by Barbara Fash (Baudez 1994: Fig. 34).

Sky Bands on Sculpture of other Maya Sites



Fig. 129. This waist clothing accessory has an obvious Sky Band that is more than just repeated crossed bands. This is one out of thousands of images that I sort through and sadly it lacks the name of the site. Would welcome information from archaeologists or epigraphers to identify this sculpture.

Earliest Sky Bands yet documented, at Takalik Abaj, Guatemala

Surely there must be Sky Bands at the pre-/proto-Maya site of Izapa, Chiapas Mexico, but the earliest complete Sky Bands that I have found so far are at Takalik Abaj, south of Izapa, and in Guatemala.

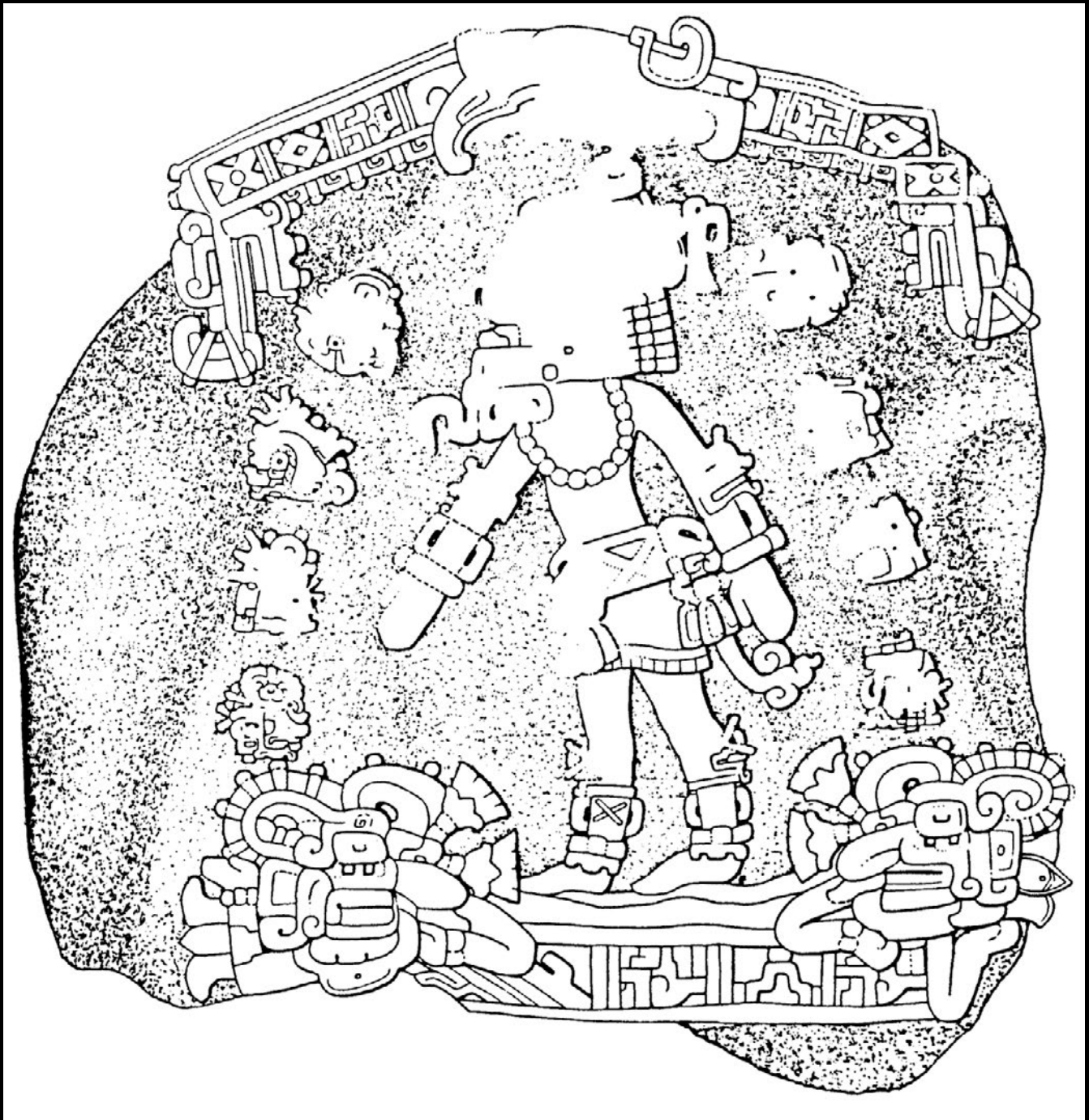


Fig. 130. This is the complete front of Altar 12, Takalik Abaj (Graham 1992: Fig. 3). These are among the earliest Sky Bands yet documented, and most of the motifs are already well developed. Individual motifs of Sky Bands can be found in Olmec art, but at Takalik Abaj the motifs are in traditional horizontal bands with multiple different motifs.

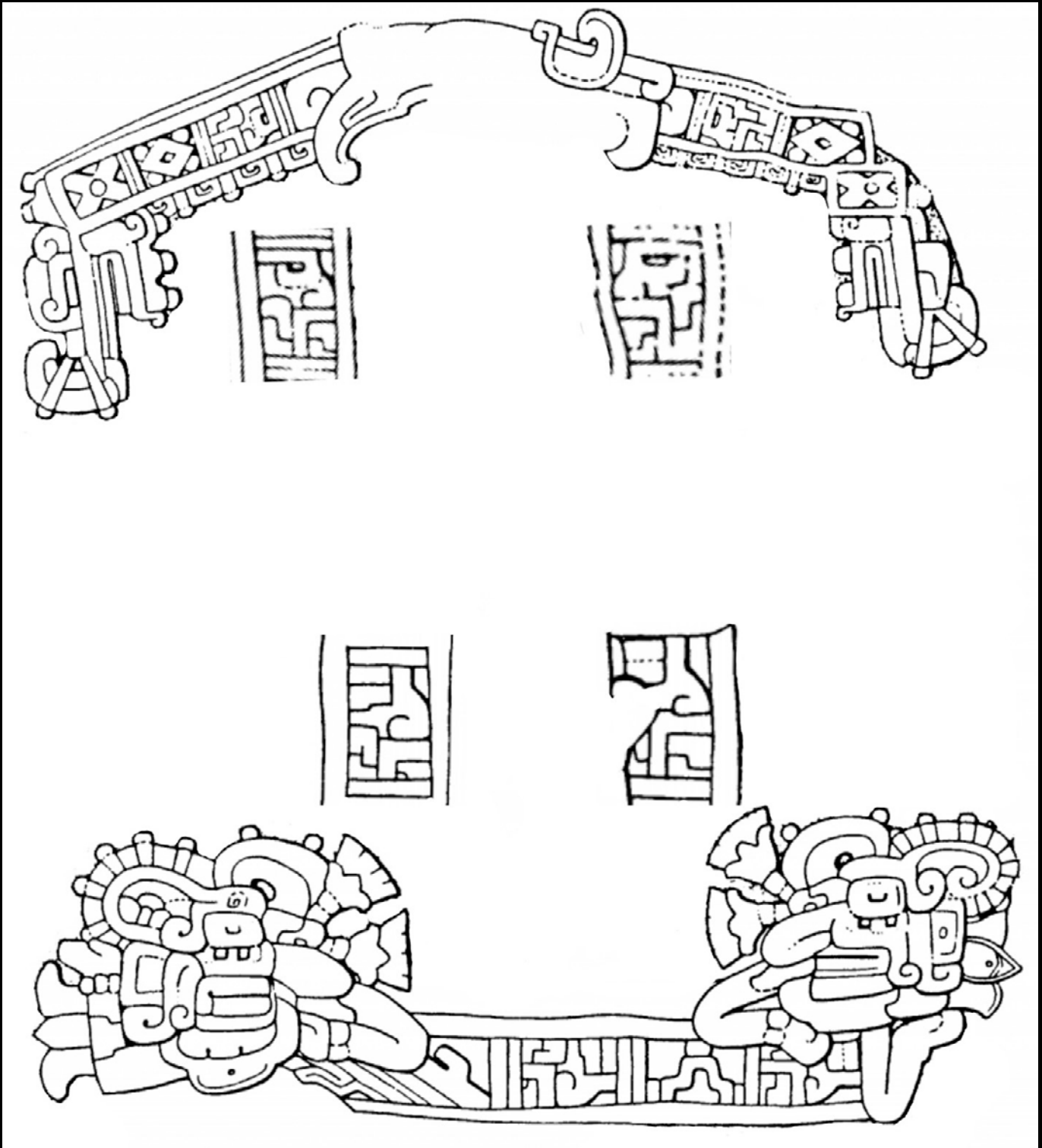


Fig. 131. Notable that these early Sky Bands each have two profile/half-frontal Loincloth Apron Faces. Takalik Abaj Altar 12, drawing by John Graham.

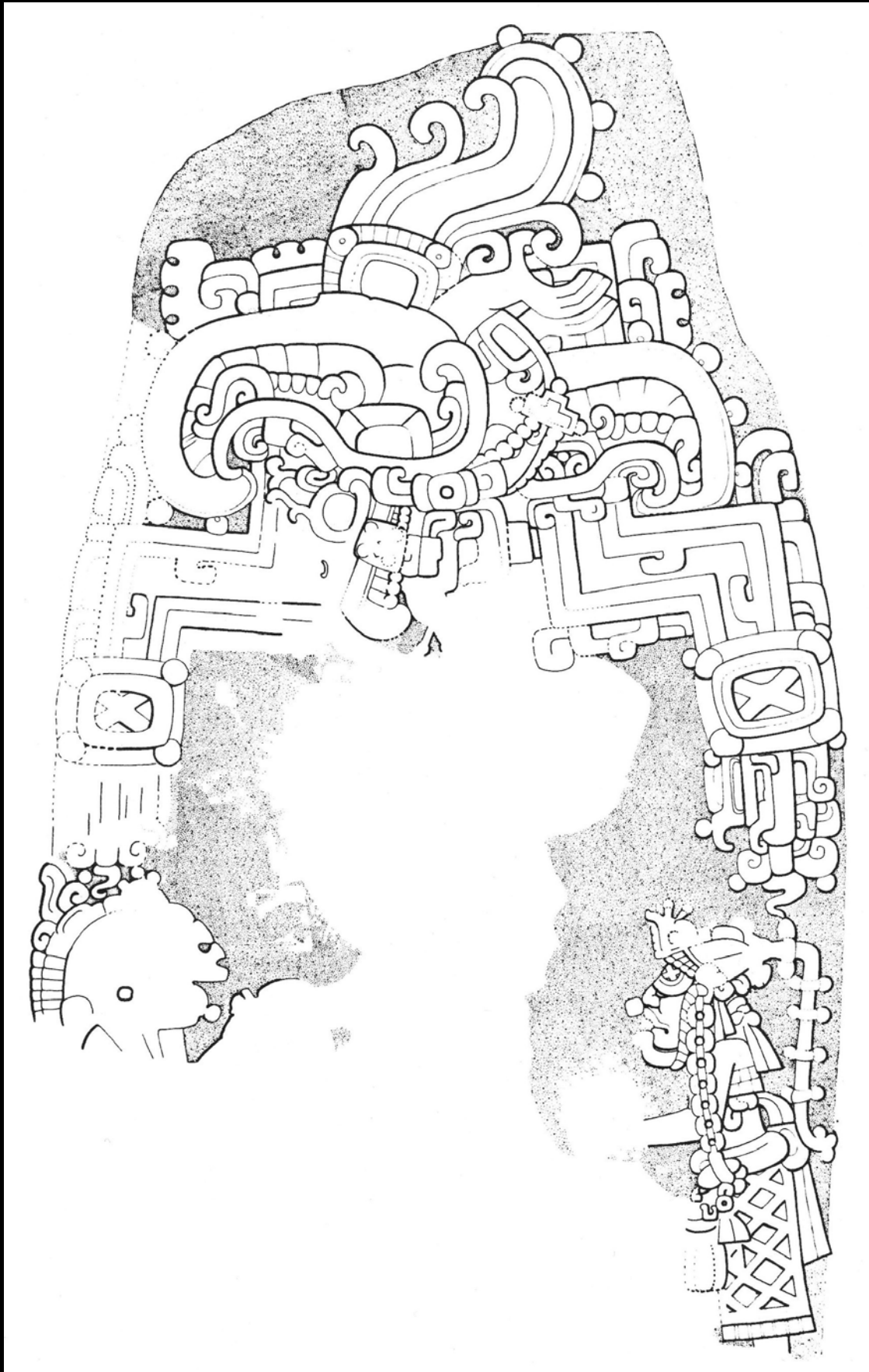


Fig. 132. Since Takalik Abaj Altar 13 is centuries before Sky Band monsters of Peten, this early prototype is not yet a traditional Sky Band.

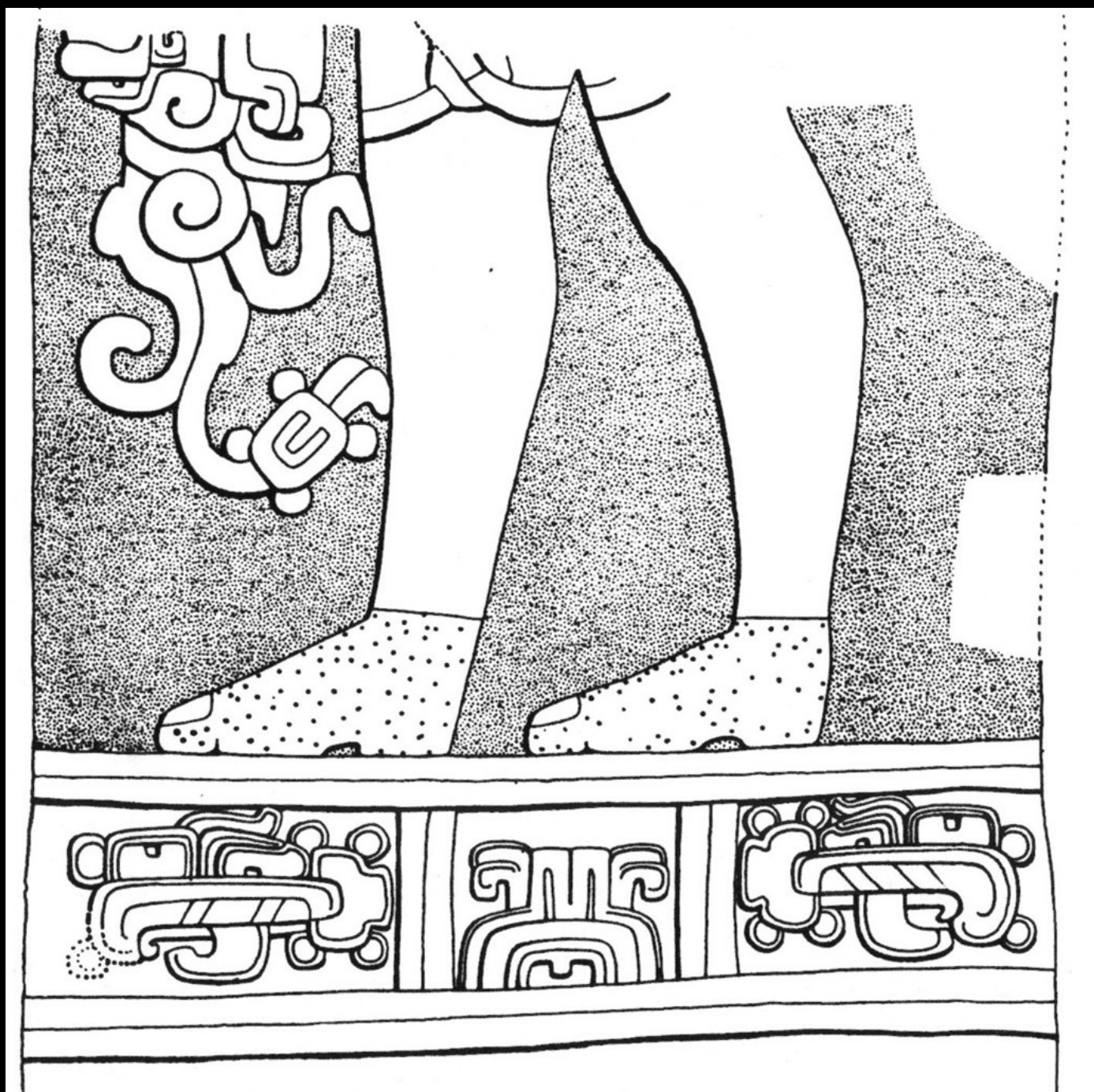


Fig. 133. The panels are rectangular with vertical divider spaces. This looks like an early prototype for later Sky Bands. Takalik Abaj.

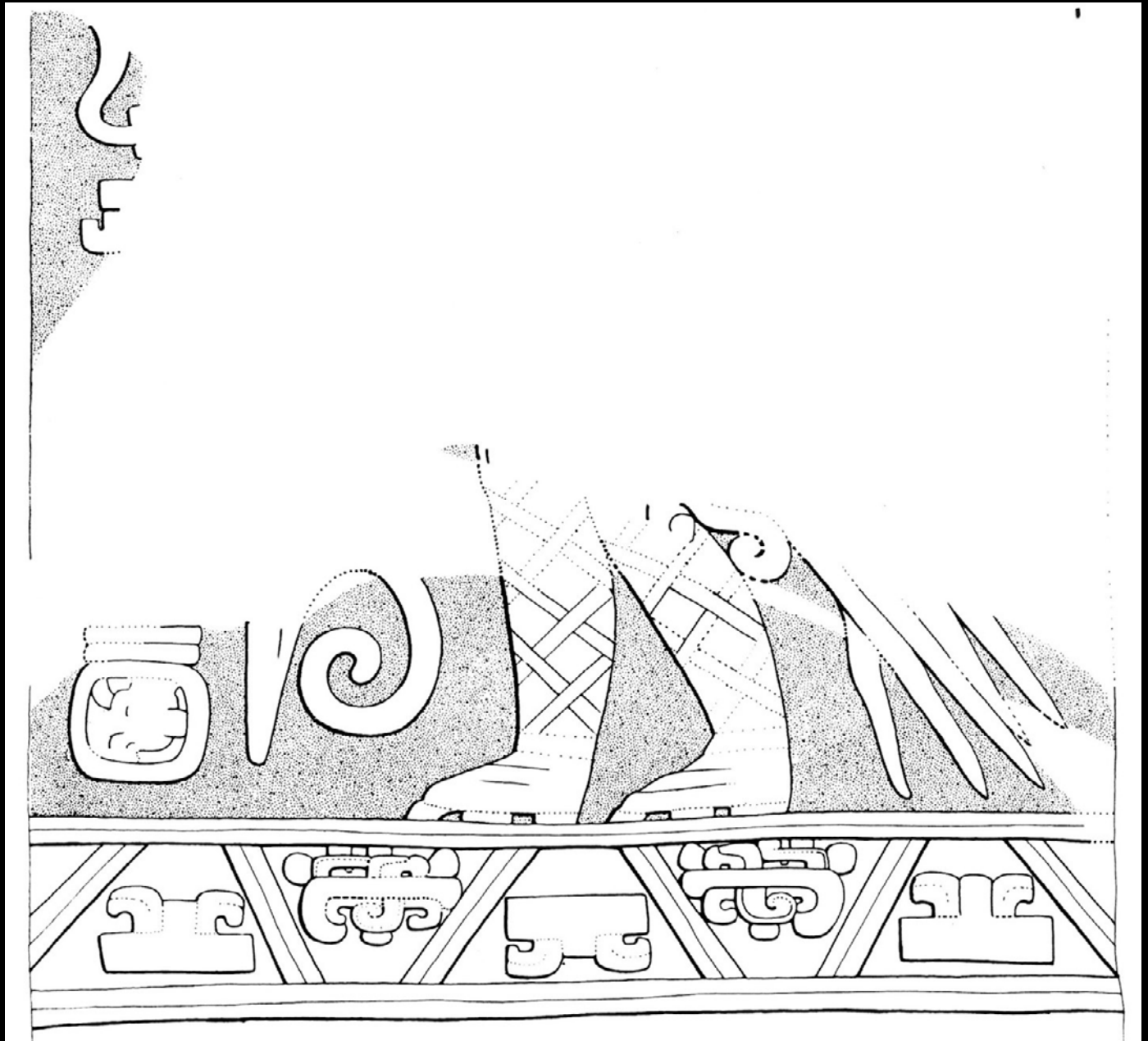


Fig. 134. Diagonal divider spaces are a variant. The motifs here are not traditional, but this could be considered a pre-Maya variant. Takalik Abaj Stela 12.

Early Maya Sky Bands can be found on Stucco Facades of Architecture



Fig. 135. Sky Band with profile/half-frontal Loincloth Apron Face looking down (in the middle of the three motifs). Margarita façade roof, Copan. I estimate this is Early Classic since most Sky Bands in that century were on stucco facades. There are drawings by Daniel Salazar Lama, David Sedat, and the present drawing by Matthew Looer (2012: Fig. 8.1) and others.

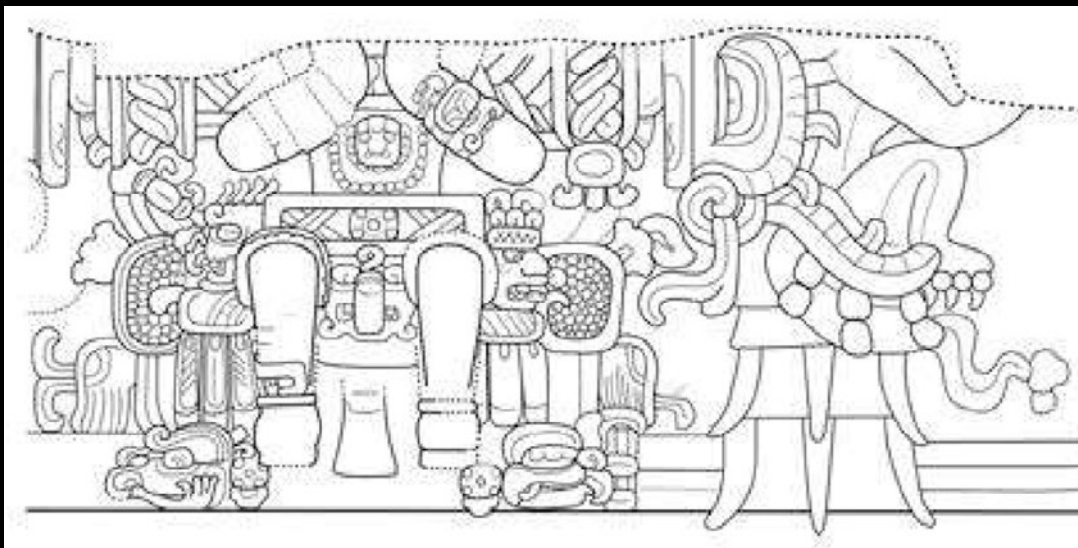


Fig. 136. Common waist area attire with Sky Band motifs, albeit no divider lines. Drawing by Daniel Salazar, frieze, Pimiento building, Xultun. Drawing by Daniel Salazar in Valencia and Salazar 2017: Fig. 15,a.

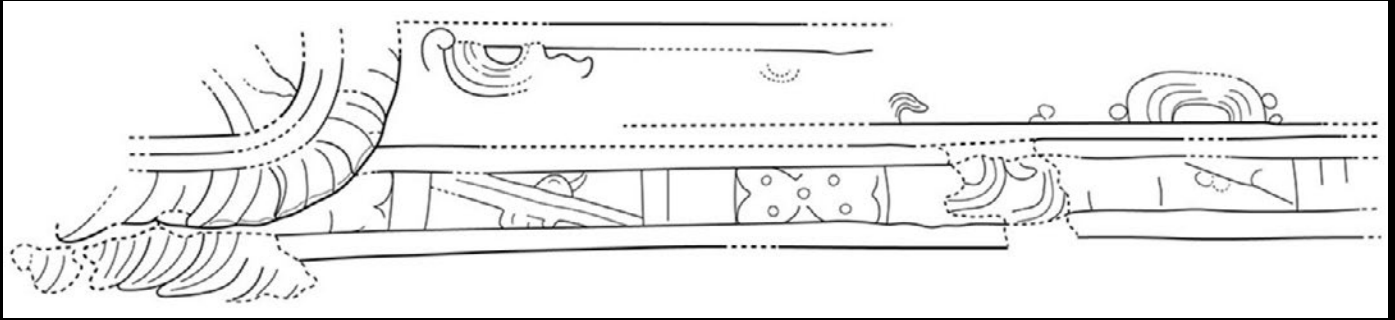


Fig. 137. Eroded Sky Band from Tonina Platform 2. Has a bird-like head at the end.
Drawing by Daniel Salazar in Valencia and Salazar 2017: Fig. 8,a.

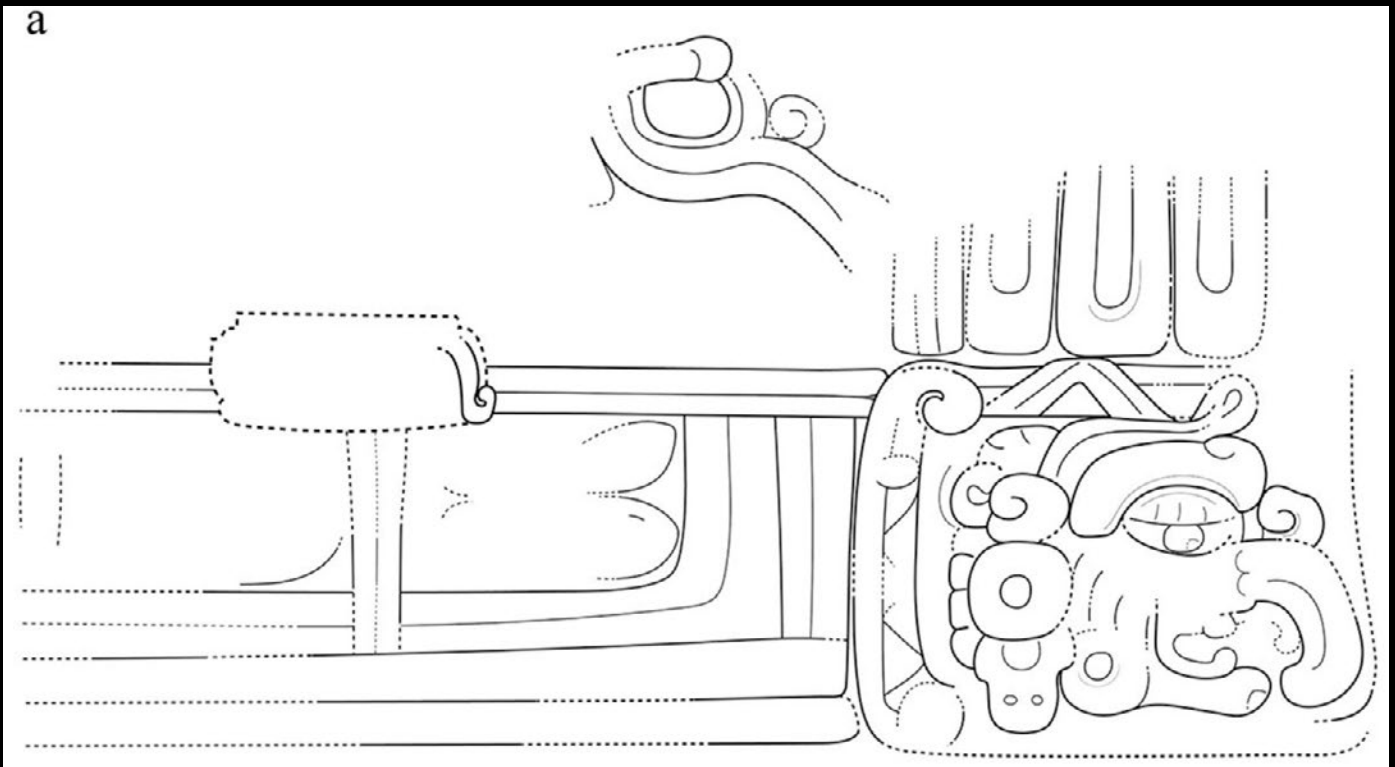


Fig. 138. Eroded Sky Band from Dzibanche Temple I. Has a bird-like head at the end.
Drawing by Daniel Salazar in Valencia and Salazar 2017: Fig. 8,b.

One of the longest early Sky Bands on stucco is at Holmul (Estrada-Belli and Tokovinine 2016).

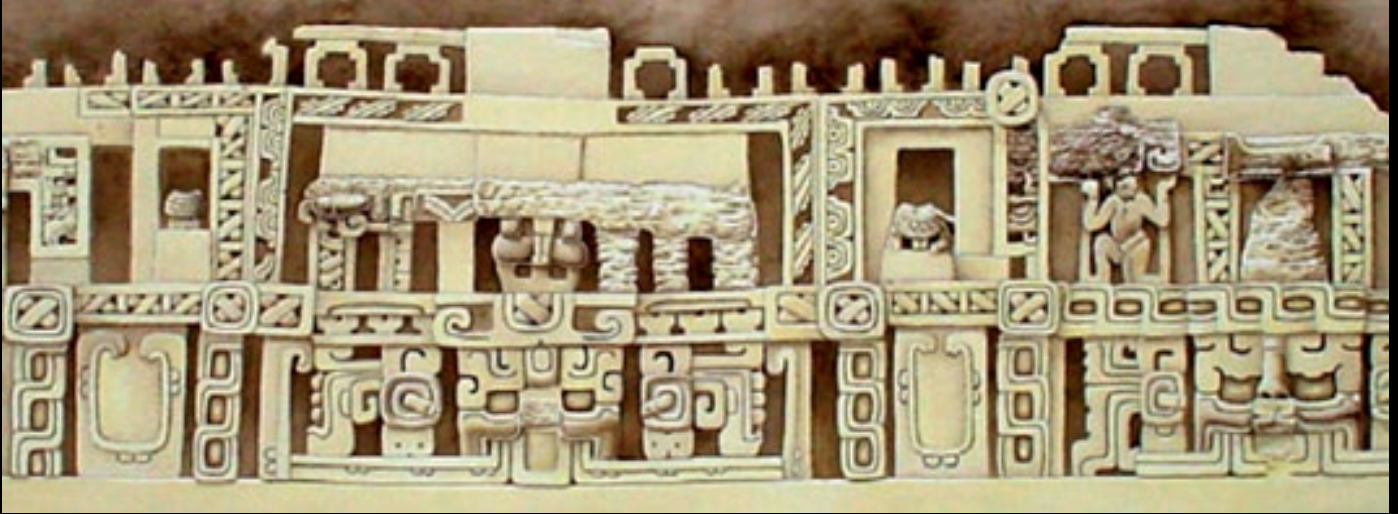


Fig. 139. Vertical and horizontal Sky Bands on Xunantunich east frieze of the Castillo, Str. A-6-2nd. Each band has repeated motifs. The bands of undulating format are not a Sky Band.

Drawing by Gustavo Valenzuela (Helmke and Awe 2012: Fig. 7). If a student does a MS thesis or PhD on "Sky Bands on Stucco Friezes and other Architectural Facades, especially of the Early Classic" they will surely find additional examples.



Fig. 140. This is the entire remaining façade. Xunantunich, Belize, east frieze of the Castillo, Str. A-6-2nd. Drawing by Gustavo Valenzuela (Helmke and Awe 2012: Fig. 7).

Stelae in Belize with Sky Bands

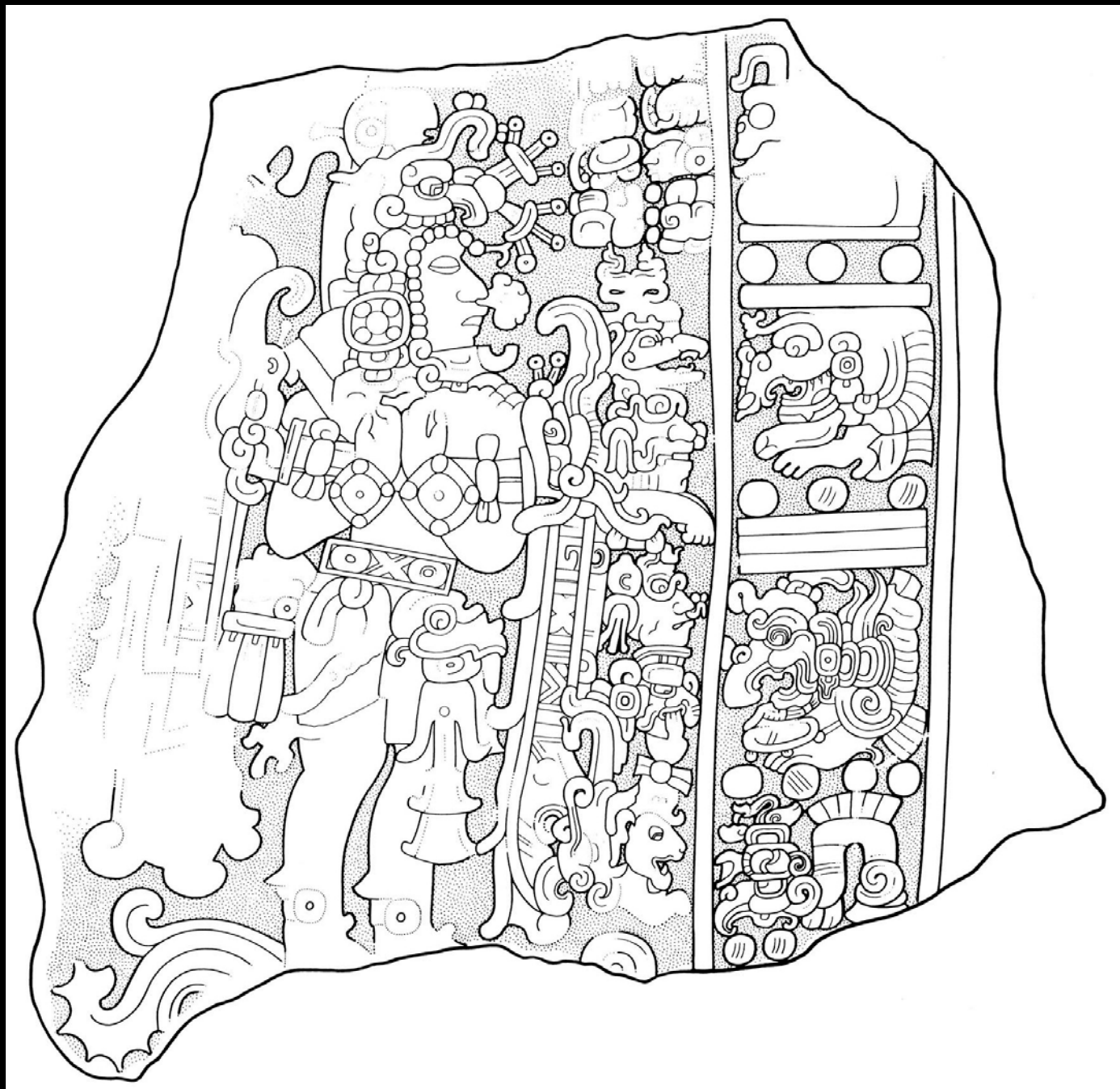


Fig. 141. Top segment of Caracol Stela 20, dated A.D. 400. The vertical Sky Band is clearly visible. The man's waist area has a simplified OXO band. Surely there must be other Early Classic Sky Bands but they are not yet well known other than on stucco façades. The vertical column of full-figure personified Maya hieroglyphs, Baktun, Katun, Tun, are in a beautiful Early Classic style. This is obviously a stone stela and not a stucco decorated façade. The excellent drawing is by Christophe Helmke (Morton, Awe and Pendergast 2019: Fig. 7).

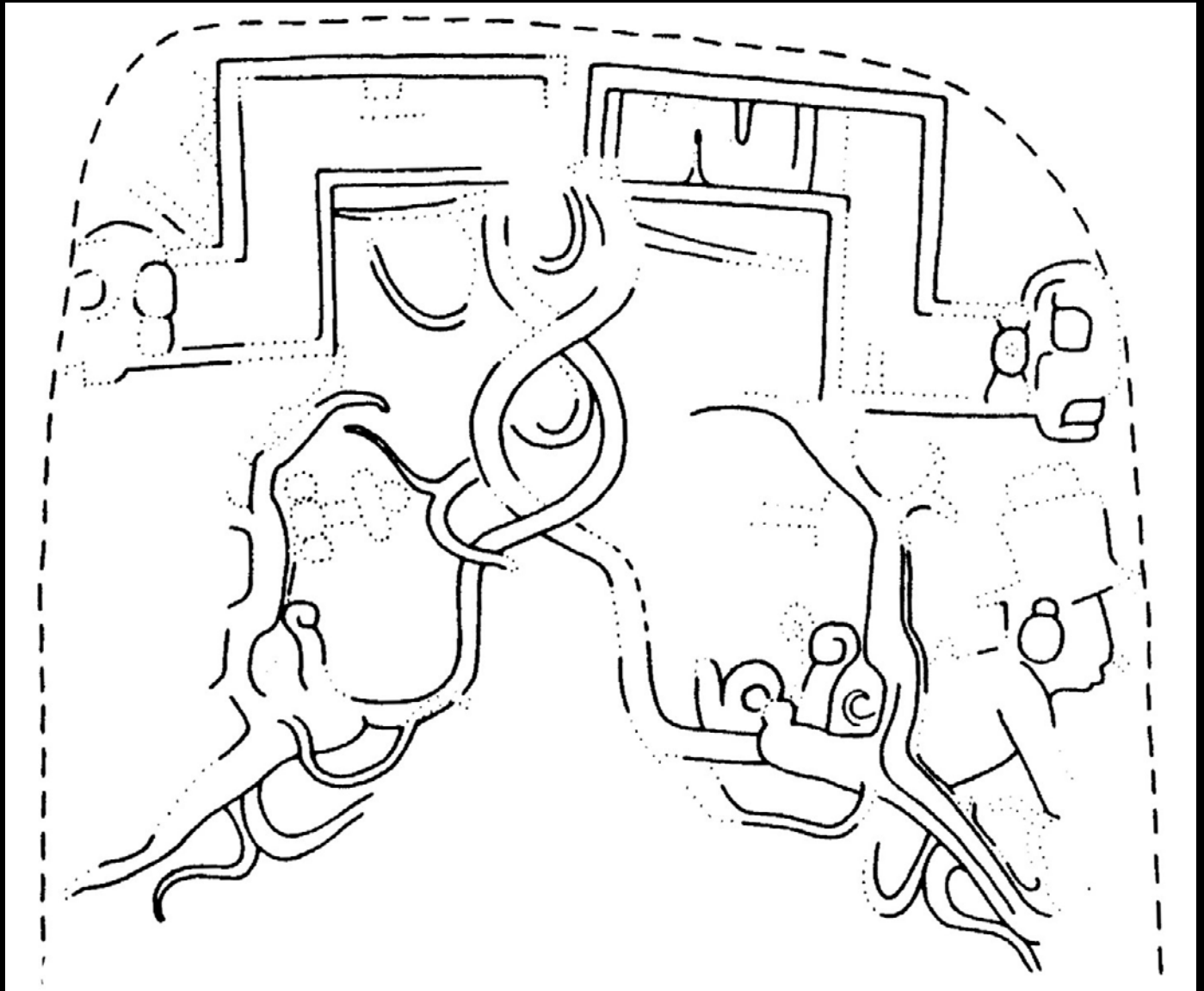


Fig. 142. This stepped Sky Band has a head at each end. Usually these heads are a bird but the eroded heads here look more anthropomorphic. Caracol Stela 3.

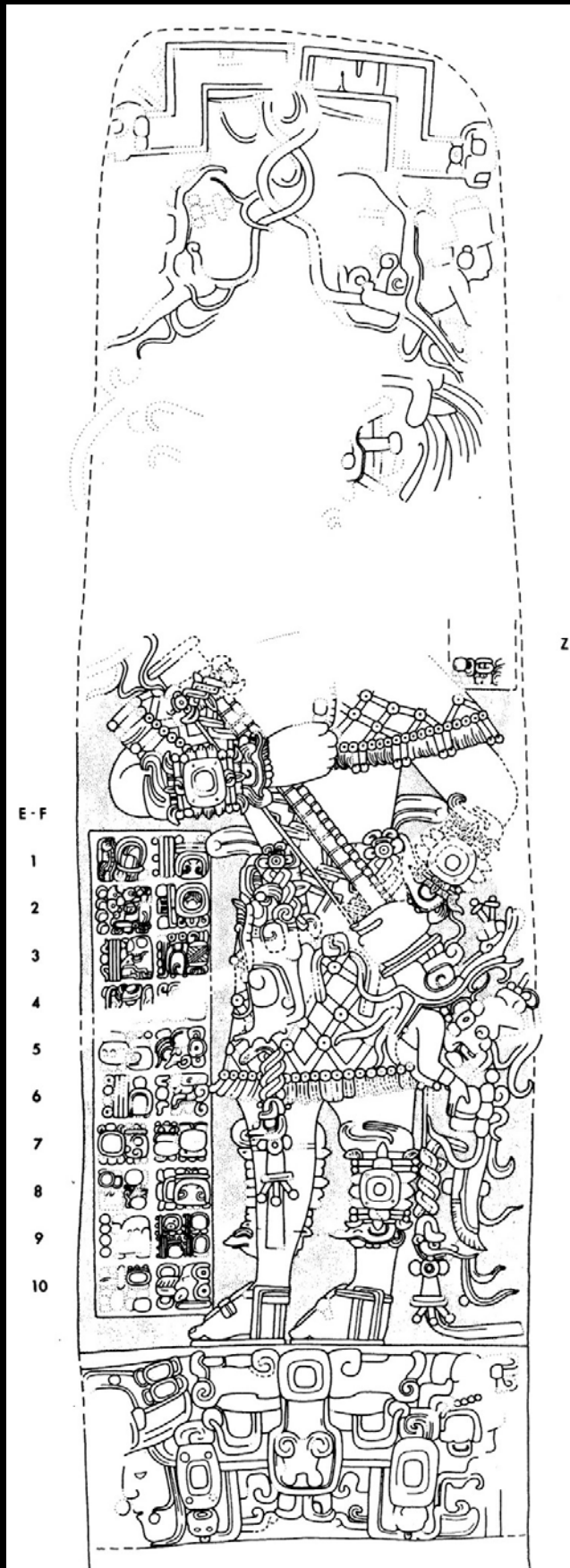


Fig. 143. There is a pseudo-Sky Band on the ceremonial bar (no vertical divider spaces). Caracol Stela 3.
 Drawing by Carl Beetz.



Fig. 144. This ceremonial bar on Pusilha Stela C has no repeats. Published by Praeger 2002: Abb. 1.

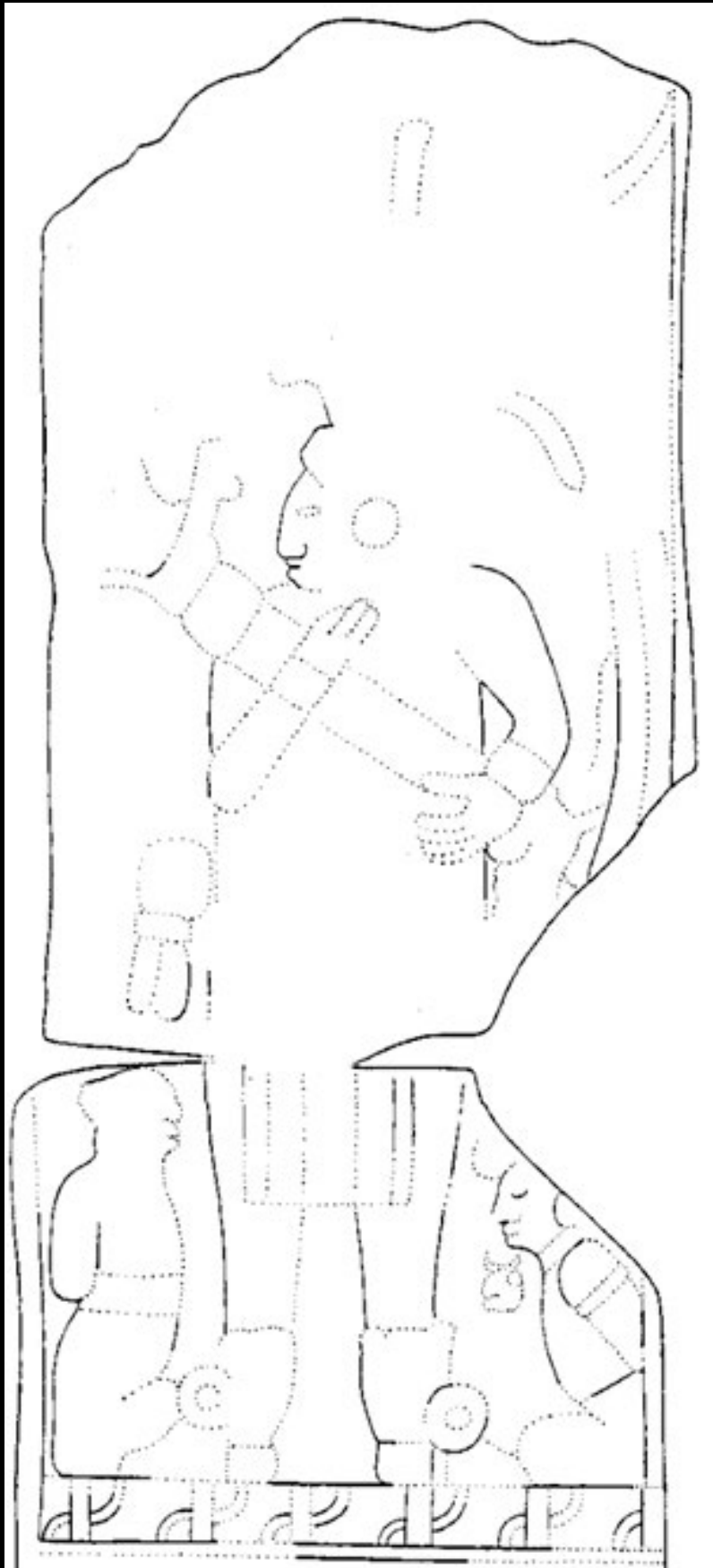


Fig. 145. Sky Band of repeated motifs that are often at the lower part of a scene on a stela. These were probably Caban signs. Pusilha Stela K, drawing by John Montgomery, JM05755.

Early Classic Sky Band Motifs in Murals of Teotihuacan

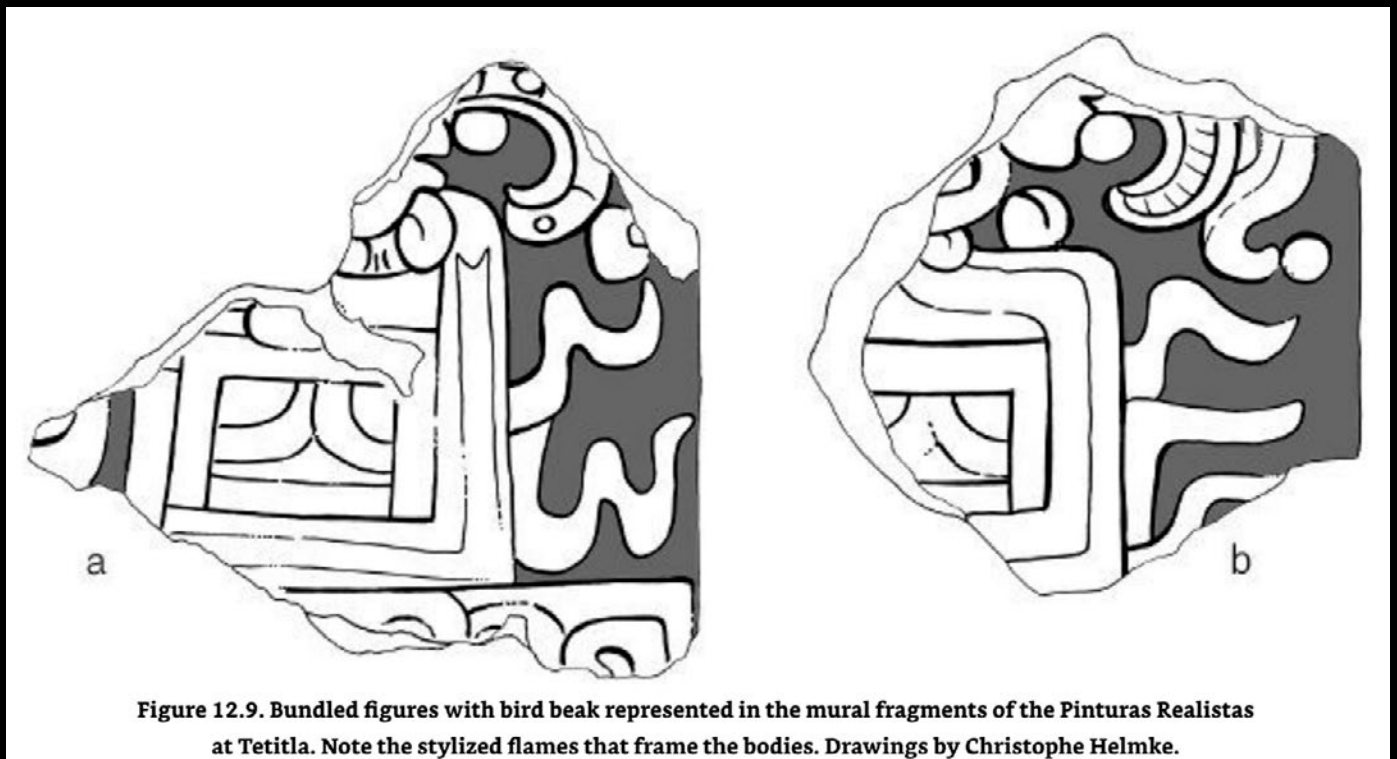


Fig. 146. There was a district, a barrio, of Teotihuacan, that was occupied by Maya-associated people. The murals and ceramics there need to be searched for Sky Band motifs. I show one illustration here with Sky Band motifs from the Teotihuacan murals at Tetitla. Drawings by Christophe Helmke in Nielsen et al., *The Mythos of the Popol Vuh in Cosmology, Art and Ritual*.

Late Classic Sky Bands at Chichen Itza, Yucatan, Mexico

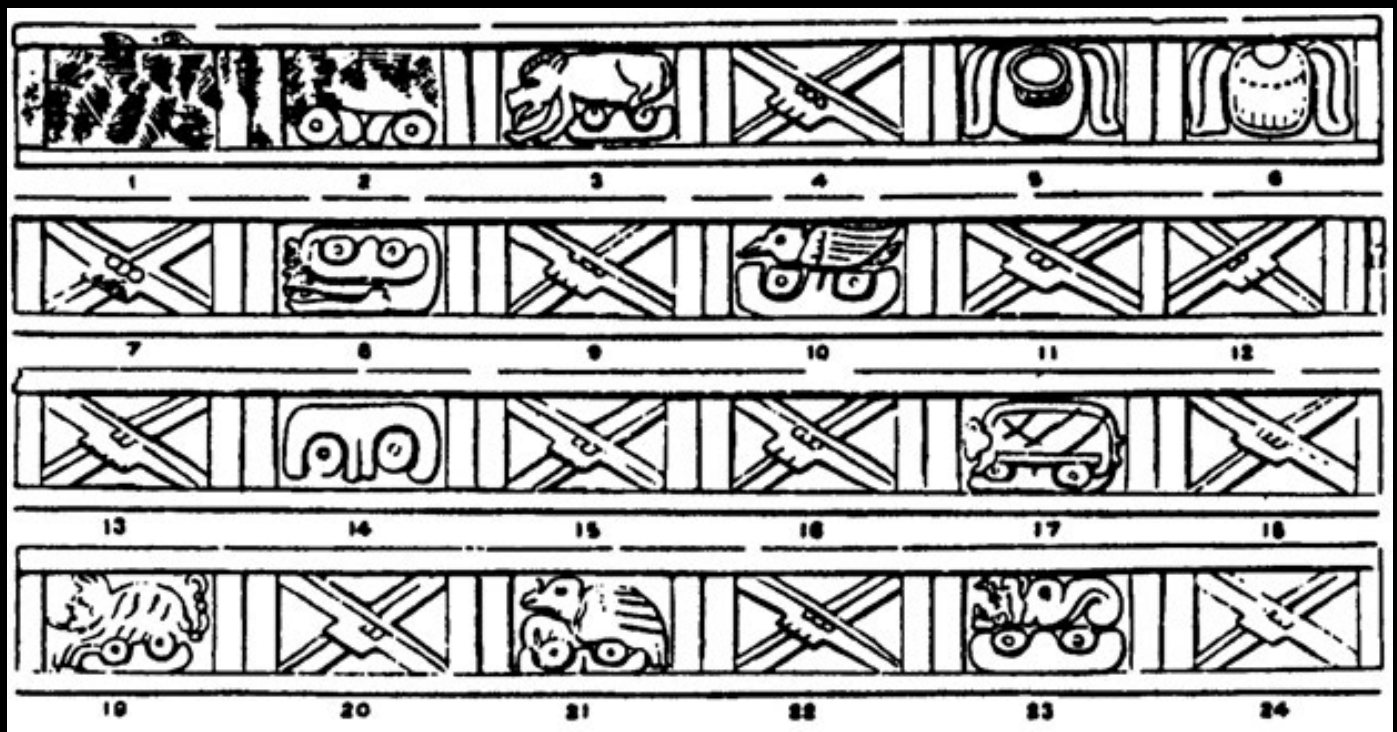


Fig. 147. This Sky Band has been published dozens of times. This was on the façade of the Nunnery Complex, Chichen Itza. At Uxmal, Sky Bands are also on the facades of Maya temples and other structures. The drawing most often published is from Maudslay, Plate 13. Since the Maya art of Yucatan is not always identical to Maya art of Peten, this Chichen Itza Sky Band has animals atop the star/Venus symbol. Bonampak has a group of peccary together with the same symbol. A peccary is the first preserved animal in the top row.

This Chichen Itza Sky Band has been discussed by many scholars including Bricker and Bricker 1992 and Bruce Love, 2015.



Fig. 148. Chichen Itza, Temple of the Owls, Initial Series Group, redrawn by Lorraine Williams Beck 2019: Fig. 5, from Valle and Hernandez 2010. The two vertical columns have late Classic Sky Band motifs that should be compared and contrasted with those of Uxmal (which were published by Eduard Seler).

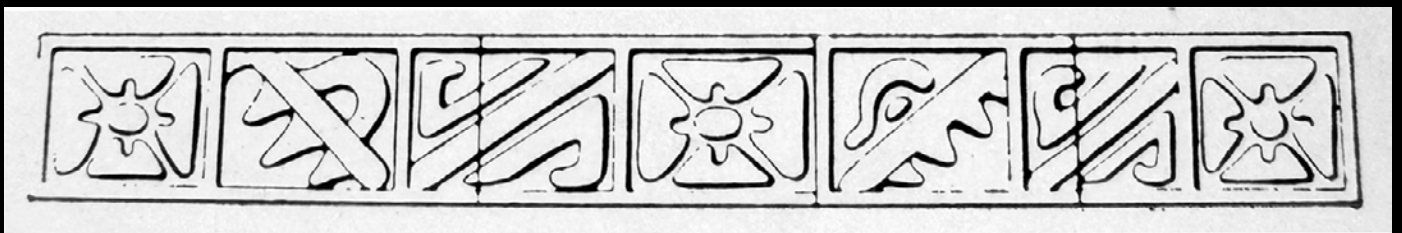


Fig. 149. This other Sky Band at Chichen Itza, on Structure 3D10, Red House ball court, was listed by Carlson and Landis. This Sky Band is from late decades of the Late Classic in Yucatan, so the individual motifs are not the same as on Peten stelae, plates and vases.

If there are Sky Bands at Chichen Itza and Uxmal surely a dedicated researcher should be able to find more Sky Bands there and at other Puuc sites.

Drawing of Sky Band at Str. 3D10, published in Tozzer 1957: Fig. 295. I have not yet found the publication by Ruppert that Tozzer cites. I did not notice that year by Ruppert in Tozzer's bibliography. All Carnegie publications need to be searched to find more Sky Bands.

Late Classic Sky Bands at Uxmal, Yucatan, Mexico

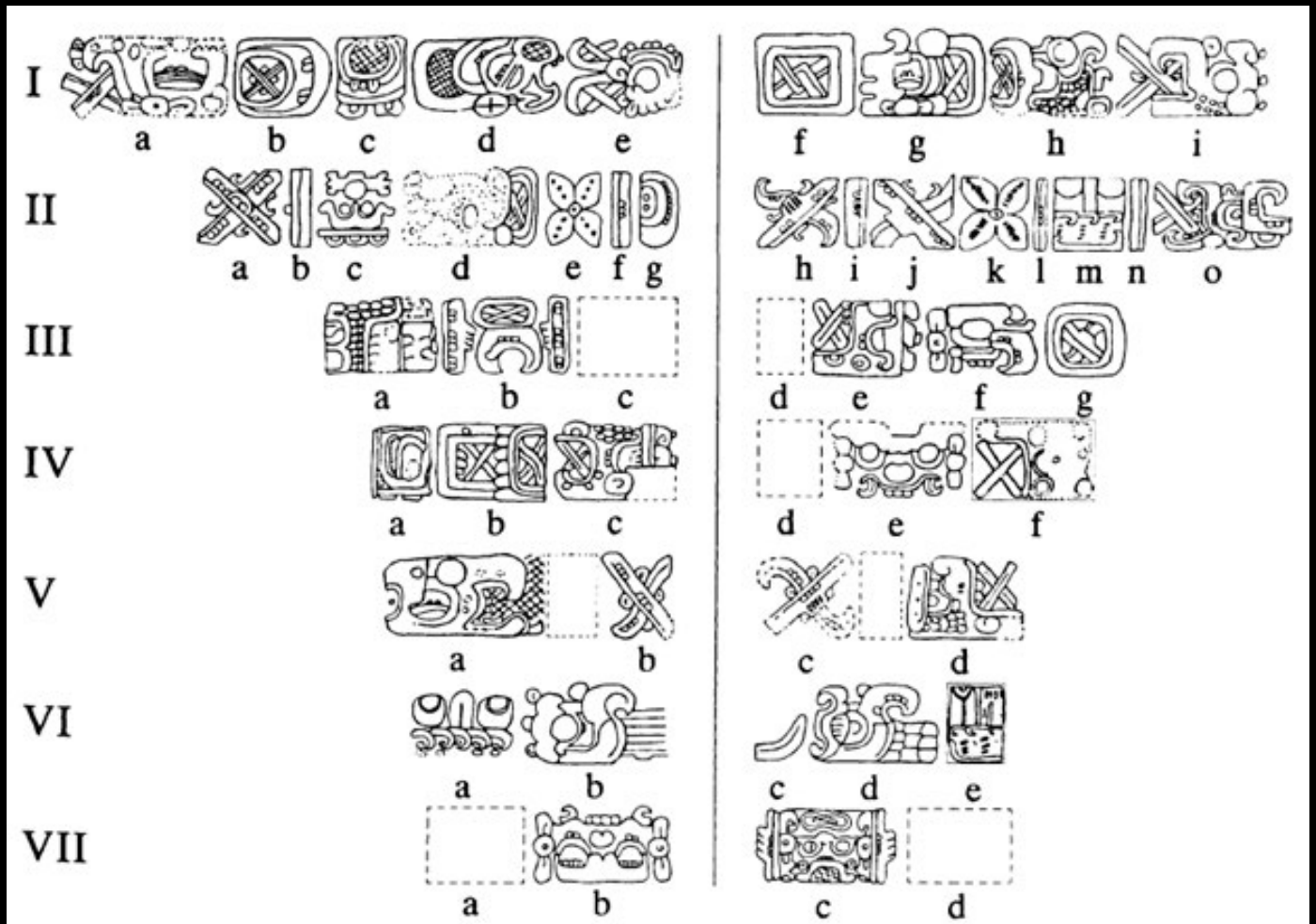


Fig. 150. Sky Band from the architectural façade of the Palace of the Governor, Uxmal. Drawing by Bricker and Bricker 1996: Fig. 3. Since this architecture is in Yucatan (far from the central Peten) not all the motifs are the same as on Yaxchilan, Piedras Negras and other Late Classic Sky Bands. Would be interesting to check if any of the atypical motifs at Uxmal are also found on Sky Bands on Tepeu 3 Molded Carved ceramics of Peten and Belize.

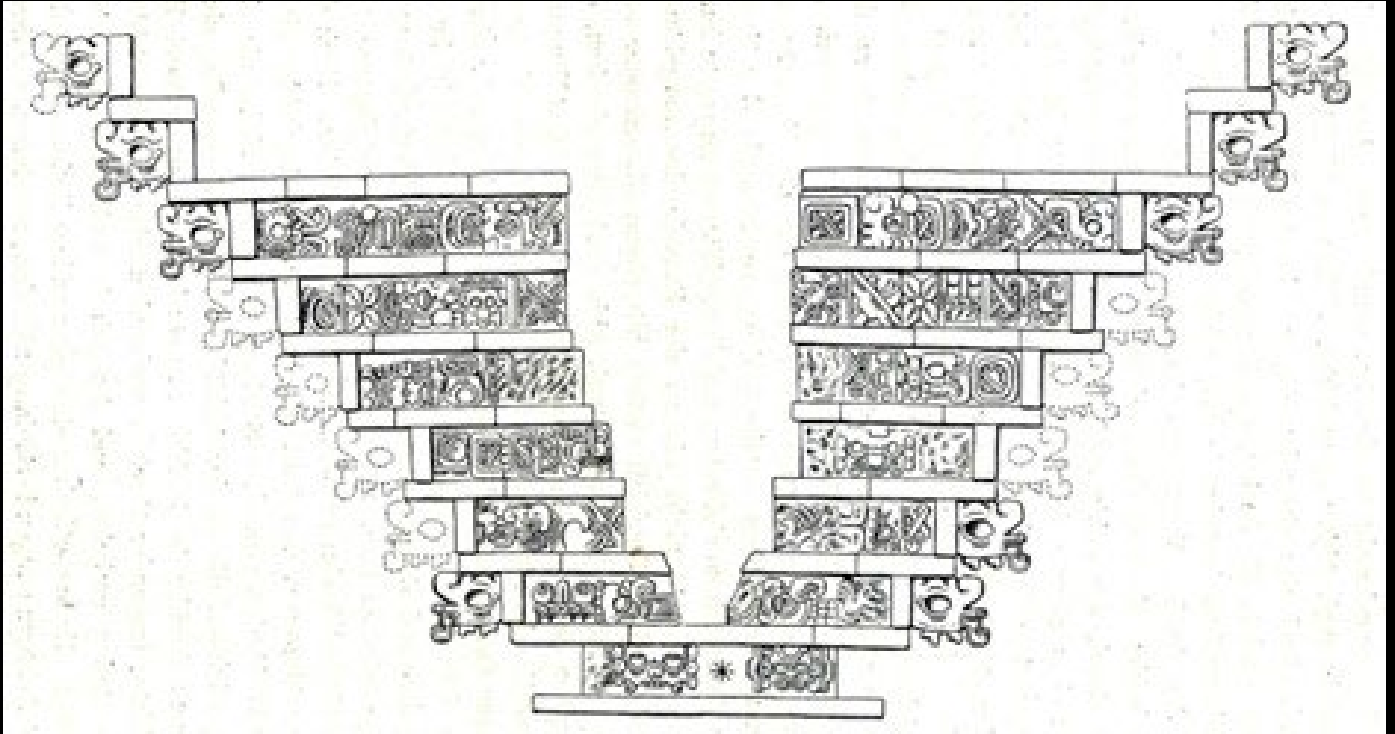


Fig. 151. Sky Band on façade of House of the Governor, Uxmal. Selser, over a century ago, was producing drawings of these Sky Bands. These have been put on-line by Charles S. Rhyne, on Reed.edu.

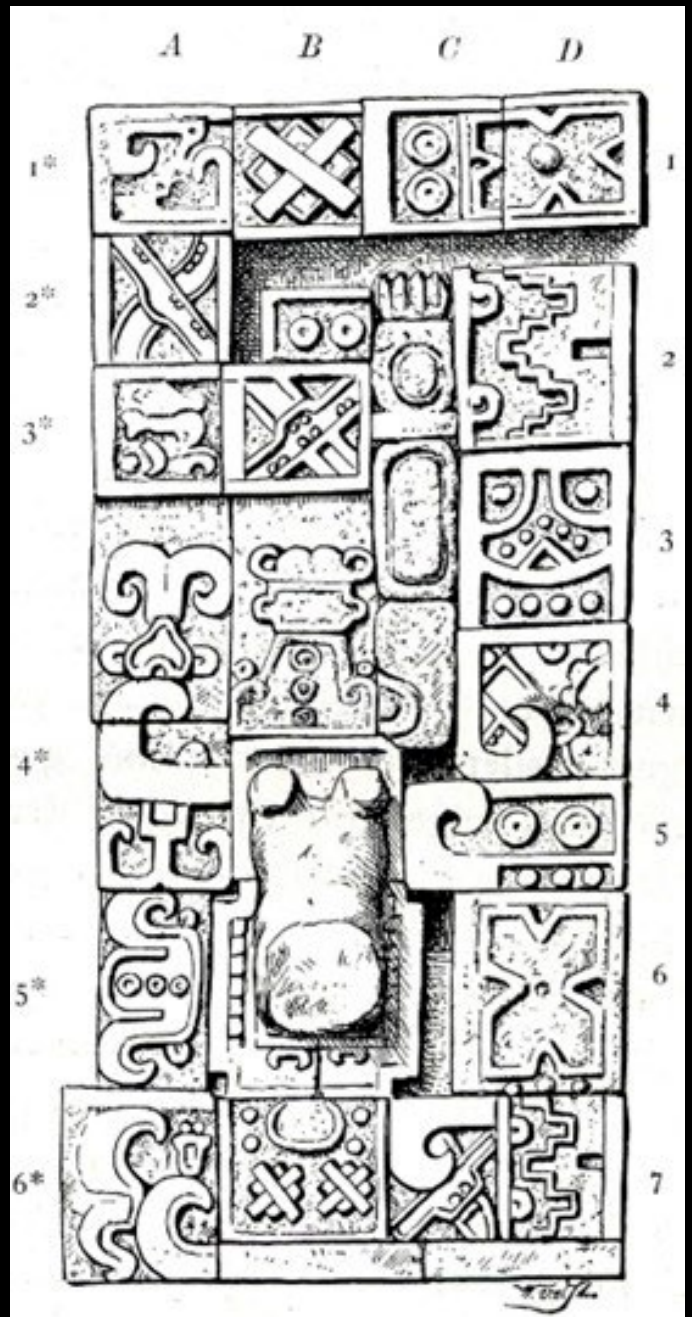
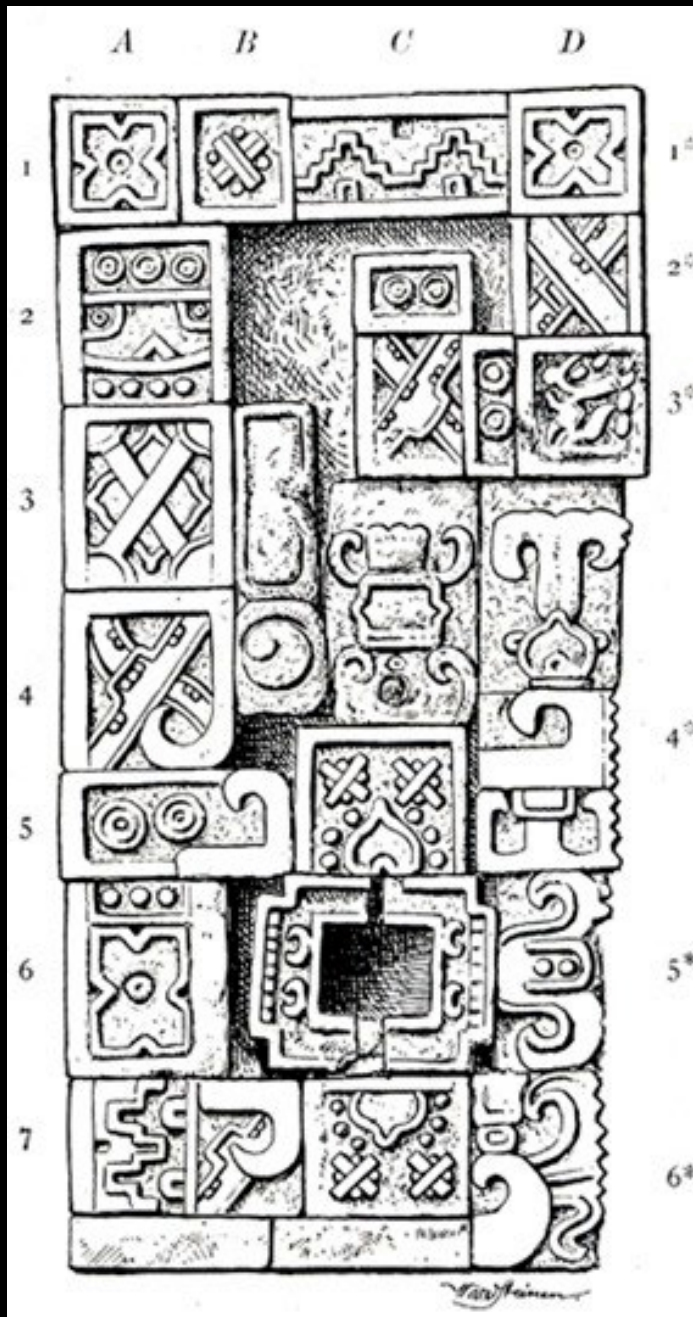


Fig. 152. The Sky Bands of the House of the Governor is the most frequently illustrated Sky Band from Uxmal. But there are other Sky Bands, albeit variants due to being far from Peten and far from Chiapas, and being a later century. In this Pyramid of the Magician sculpture, all motifs are in rectangular frame and several of the motifs are obvious Sky Band motifs. These drawings often in books by Eduard Seler are available on the web site of Charles S. Rhyne, Reed.edu.

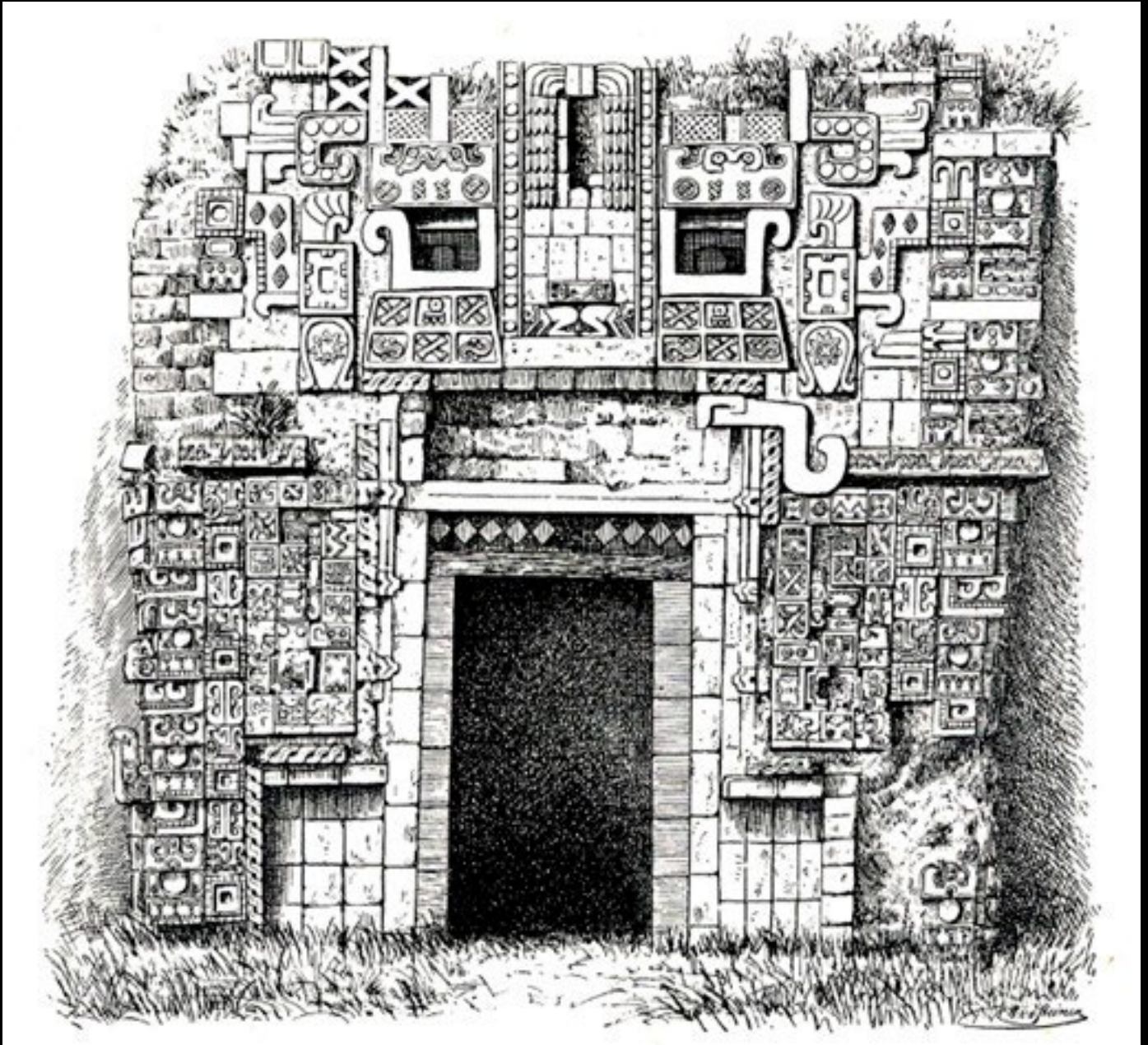


Fig. 153. Two rows of Sky Bands over the doorway, and lots of Sky Bands on each side of the doorway of the Pyramid of the Magician. Is this a monumental recreation of the small Sky Band Huts of the Late Classic? Either way, these Sky Bands deserve more attention, such as making a catalog of each example of each individual motif. The diagonal crossed motif above the doorway may be crossed "bones." The illustrations by Eduard Seler are a major resource for Sky Bands of Uxmal.

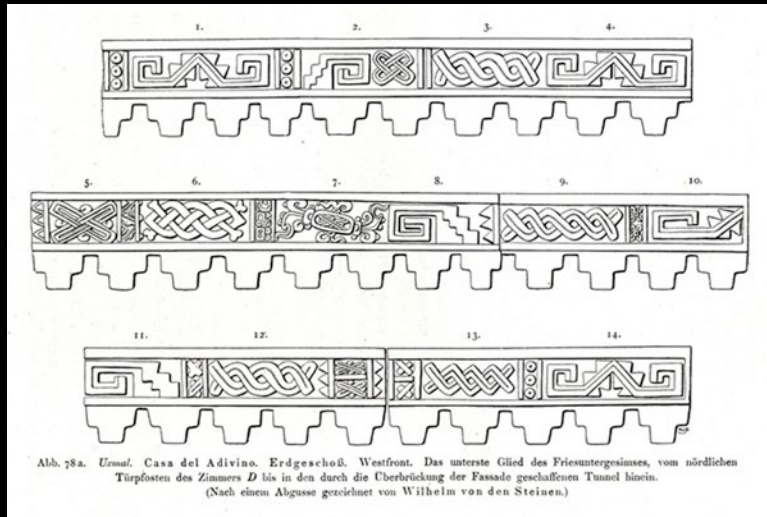


Fig. 154. Uxmal, Magician, from Eduard Seler. Since these are in Yucatan (far from Peten) and relatively late, the individual motifs are different.

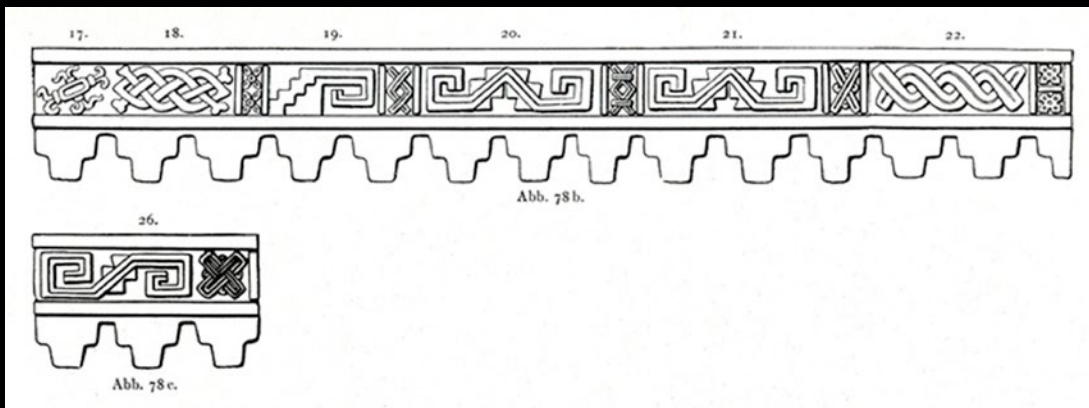


Fig. 155. Uxmal, Magician, from Eduard Seler. Since these are in Yucatan (far from Peten) and relatively late, the individual motifs are different. Stepped Fret is noticeable.

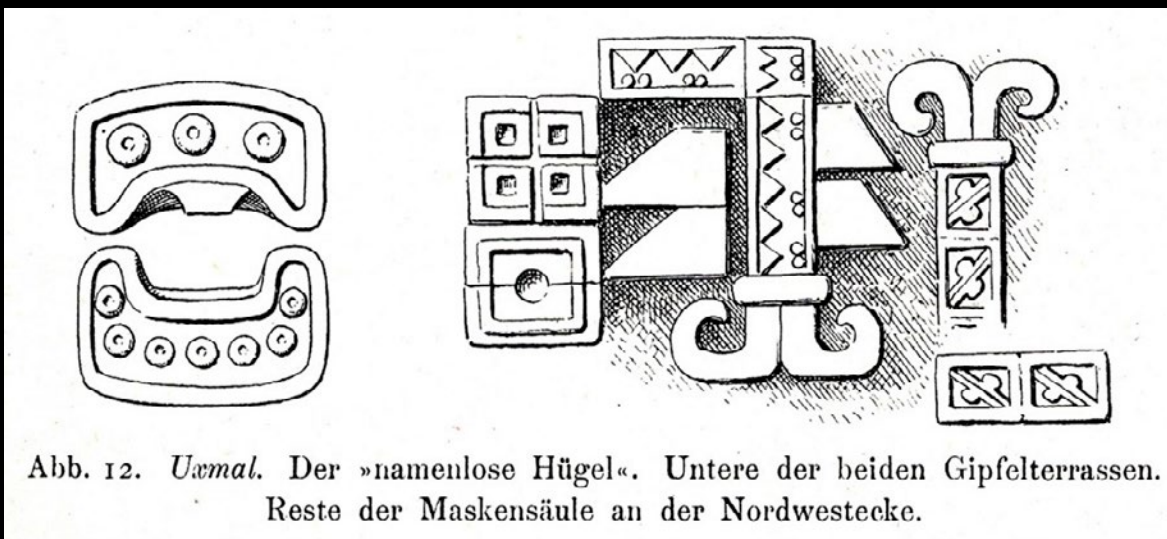


Fig. 156. Many of the stone masks at Uxmal have individual Sky Band Motifs. Seler published lots of these.

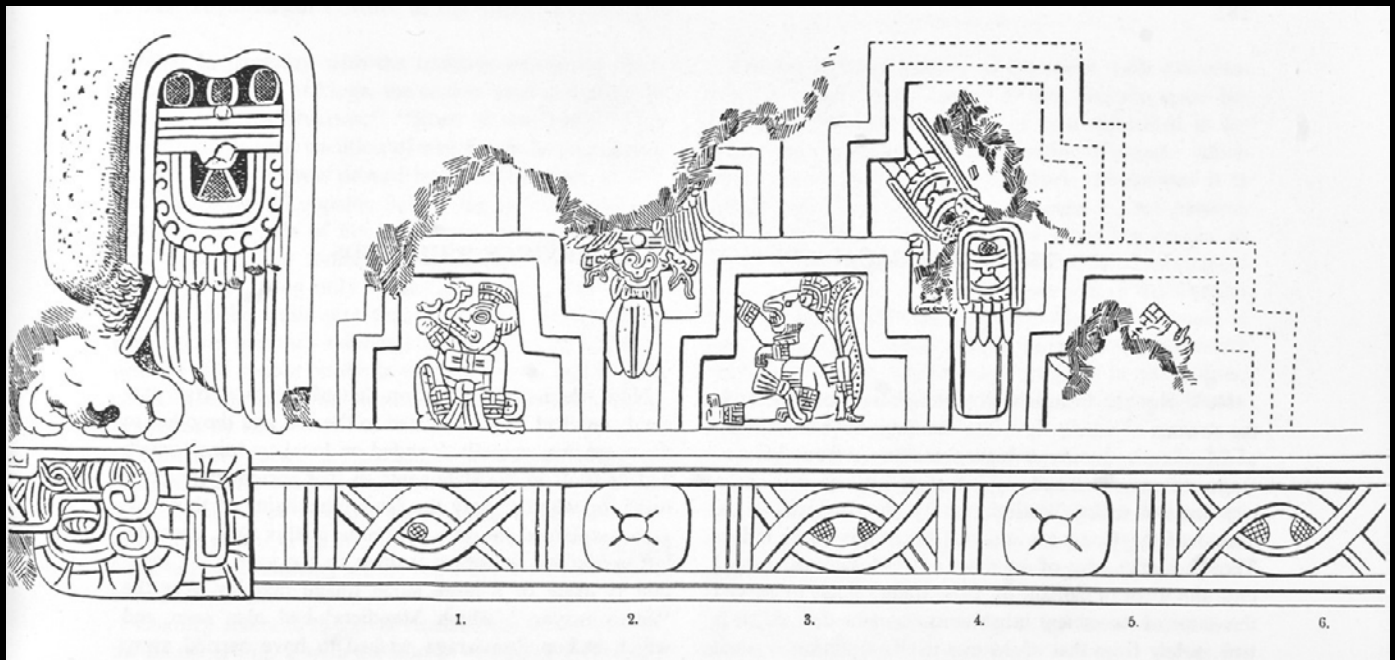


Fig. 157. Acanceh, drawings published by Seler and many others since then. The band has vertical divider lines just like a Sky Band. Since this is Yucatan, no surprise that the motifs are variants.



Fig. 158. Unprovenanced sculpture (Stone and Zender 2011: page 146, Fig. 1). A student or iconographer or archaeologist can surely find lots more sculptures with Sky Bands. The best list dates back to 1985 by Carlson and Landis.

Maya-like Sky Bands are found on Post Classic Art of Mexico

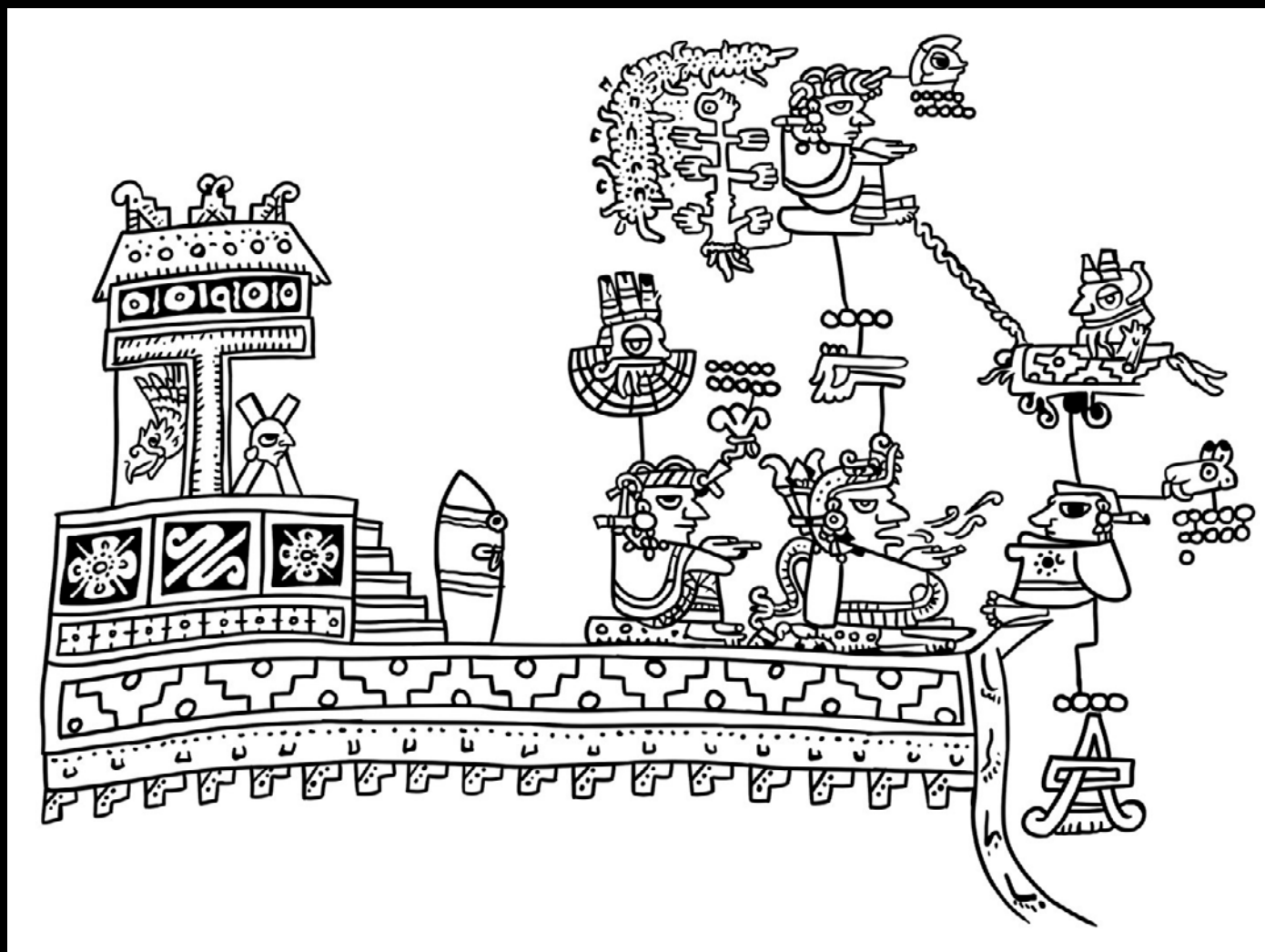


Fig. 159. Sky Band Huts are very common in Classic Maya sculpture and occasionally on vases. Here is a ritual hut far from the Maya areas that has obvious Sky Band motifs on the side of its platform. Lianzo Izacatepec; drawing by FLAAR illustrator, Luis Molina. You could do a separate report on these non-Maya Sky Bands, but our focus are the examples from the Maya areas.



Fig. 160. Sculpture in the Cholula museum. Photo by Nicholas Hellmuth.
There are variants of Sky Band motifs throughout Mexico.

Appendix A

Comparison of Sky Bands found by Hellmuth and helpful List of Sky Bands found by Carlson and Landis

In **bold font** are Sky Bands found in 2024 by Hellmuth not in the helpful 1985 list by Carlson and Landis.

| Location by Hellmuth | Carlson and Landis | Description by Hellmuth |
|---|---|---|
| | Abaj Takalik | Now named Takalik Abaj |
| Acanceh, facade | | Atypical motifs but has divider panels |
| Aguateca Stela 7 | Aguateca Stela 7 | Atypical Sky Band motifs across lower part |
| Balancan-Morales Stela 4 | Balancan-Morales Stela 4 | Lizardi Ramos 1961: 121 |
| Bonampak Stela 2 | Bonampak Stela 2 | headdress |
| Bonampak across top | | Long Sky Band |
| Bonampak, Room 2, north | | Peccary and turtle |
| Cancuen Stela 1 | Cankuen Stela 1 | https://mayadecipherment.com/cancuen-stela-1/ |
| Caracol Stela 3 | | Sky Band across top |
| Caracol Stela 20 | | Early Classic Sky Band |
| Chichen Itza, Nunnery | Chichen Itza, frieze | Maudslay Vol. III |
| Chichen Itza, Str. 3D10, Red House ball court | Chichen Itza, Str. 3D10, Red House ball court | Tozzer 1957: Fig. 295; this illustration was blacked out in the Harvard edition on-line. |
| Chichen Itza Temple Owls | | Vertical Sky Bands as walls (but not as roof) |
| Chunhuitz Stela 1 | Chunhuitz Stela 1 | Sky Band across lower area, but normal motifs |
| Copan Stela A | Copan Stela A | Sky Band around waist, not repeated motifs |
| Copan Stela B | Copan Stela B | Sky Band ceremonial bar and Sky Band waist area |
| Copan Stela D | Copan Stela D | Sky Band around waist |
| Copan Stela F, CPN 11 west | | Sky Band around waist |
| No drawing in book by Baudez | Copan Stela H | Other than possible crescent, I do not see any Sky Band on the ceremonial bar or elsewhere |

| Location by Hellmuth | Carlson and Landis | Description by Hellmuth |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Copan Stela N | Copan Stela N | Sky Band around waist |
| Coba Stela 6 | | Ceremonial Bar |
| Copan Str. 10L-32 | | Sky Band above headdress and across waist area |
| Copan sculpture | | Sky Band across waist area |
| Copan incised bone | | Sky Band steps |
| Copan acropolis, Macizo | | Sky Band probably stucco |
| Copan bench supports | | Beautiful Sky Bands on each support |
| Copan Str. 8N-66C, bench | | Personified Sky Band motifs |
| Copan, Margarita facade | | Early Classic Sky Band in stucco |
| Dos Pilas Stela 1 | | Crossed Bands across waist area |
| Dos Pilas Stela 17 | | Crossed Bands waist area & in backrack |
| Dzibanche Temple I | | Sky Band |
| Edzna, altar | | Vertical Sky Band |
| El Cayo, Lintel 1 | | Crossed Bands across waist area |
| Ek Balam Stela 1 | | Sky Band over headdress |
| Geneva Stela | | Crossed Band on waist area band. |
| Hauberg Stela | | Sky Band across waist albeit no vertical dividers |
| Itzimte Stela 11 | | Crossed Bands across waist area |
| | Ixlu Stela 2 | I see no Sky Band except perhaps top left deity |
| Kuna-Lacanha panel | | Repeated motifs on ceremonial bar |
| La Corona Panel 1 | | Sky Band hut in backrack of Holmul Dancer |
| La Honradez Stela 6 | | Sky Band across waist area |
| Machaquila Stela 6 | Machaquila Stela 6 | Sky Band across waist area, repeated motif |
| Moral Stela 3 | | Partial Sky Band across lower part of stela |
| Moral Reforma sculptures | | Ballcourt sculptures with nice Sky Bands |
| Naranjo Stela 8 | Naranjo Stela 8 | headdress |
| Naranjo Stela 22 | | Ceremonial bar and waist area |

| Location by Hellmuth | Carlson and Landis | Description by Hellmuth |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Naranjo Stela 32 | Naranjo Stela 32 | Sky Bands, 3 steps up to throne room |
| Ocosingo Stela 2 | Ocosingo Stela 2 | Woven bands, no divider areas, across waist |
| Oxkintok Stela 2 | Oxkintok Stela 2 | Sky Band across middle of remaining area of stela |
| Palenque | Palenque | I have separate report on Sky Bands at Palenque |
| Piedras Negras Stela 2 | | Repeated motifs across waist area. |
| Piedras Negras Stela 4 | | Repeated motifs across waist area. |
| Piedras Negras Stela 5 | | Bands but not traditional Sky Band |
| Piedras Negras Stela 6 | Piedras Negras Stela 6 | Sky Band hut and Sky Bands on steps up to throne |
| Piedras Negras Stela 8 | | Crossed Bands but no formal Sky Band |
| Piedras Negras Stela 9 | | Sky Band in each of the bird's two wings |
| Piedras Negras Stela 10 | Piedras Negras Stela 10 | Two rows of large Sky Bands under throne |
| Piedras Negras Stela 11 | Piedras Negras Stela 11 | Both sides of Sky Band hut and on steps |
| Piedras Negras Stela 14 | Piedras Negras Stela 14 | Sky Band, roof of hut and on steps |
| Piedras Negras Stela 15 | | Repeated motif across waist area |
| Piedras Negras Stela 25 | Piedras Negras Stela 25 | Sky Band sides and roof of throne room hut |
| Piedras Negras Stela 33 | | Sky Band across bottom |
| Piedras Negras Stela 34 | | Repeated motifs across waist area |
| Piedras Negras Stela 40 | Piedras Negras Stela 40 | Sky Band across top |
| Pusilha Stela C | | Sky Band on ceremonial bar and waist area |
| Pusilha Stela K | Pusilha Stela K | Sky Band with repeated motifs across bottom |
| Quirigua Stela A | Quirigua Stela A | Sky Band across roof of hut (walls not shown) |
| Quirigua Stela C | Quirigua Stela C | Eroded but probably Sky Band as roof base |
| Quirigua Stela I | Quirigua Stela I | Beautiful Sky Band throne room hut |
| Quirigua Stela K, east side | | Sky Band waist area |
| Quirigua Stela K, west side | | Sky Band waist area |
| Seibal Stela 2 | Seibal Stela 2 | Sky Band motifs across waist area |

| Location by Hellmuth | Carlson and Landis | Description by Hellmuth |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Seibal Stela 8 | Seibal Stela 8 | Sky Band in headdress |
| Seibal Stela 9 | Seibal Stela 9 | Beautiful Sky band on ceremonial bar |
| Seibal Stela 10 | Seibal Stela 10 | Beautiful Sky Band ceremonial bar and waist |
| Seibal Stela 11 | Seibal Stela 11 | Sky Band in headdress and across waist area |
| Takalik Abaj Altar 12 | | Two very early Sky Bands |
| Takalik Abaj Altar 13 | | Similar to but not actual Sky Band |
| Takalik Abaj, sculpture | | Similar to but not actual Sky Band |
| Takalik Abaj Stela 12 | | Similar to but not actual Sky Band |
| Teotihuacan, Tetitla mural | | Sky Band motifs in Maya barrio of Teotihuacan |
| Tikal Lintel 2, Temple II | Tikal Lintel 2, Temple II | Sky Band on hem, so in separate report on hems |
| Tikal Lintel 3, Temple I | Tikal Lintel 3, Temple I | Two rows crossed bands as steps; and belt |
| Tikal Lintel 3, Temple IV | | Snake shares Sky Band motifs as wall and roof, but no vertical divider areas |
| Tonina, Monument T-8 | Tonina, Monument T-8 | Sky Band walls and roof |
| Tonina, Monument T20 | Tonina, Monument T20 | Sky Band, several motifs, ceremonial bar & waist |
| Tonina, Monument 146 | | Nice Sky Band across waist area |
| Tonina Platform 2 | | Horizontal sky band |
| Uaxactun Stela 7 | Uaxactun Stela 7 | Horizontal Sky Band |
| Uaxactun Str. B-XIII mural | | Too eroded to tell if motifs are actual Sky Bands |
| Uaxactun Str. V | | Sky Band in patolli game board in graffiti. |
| Uxmal, House Magician | Uxmal, House Magician | Lots of very interesting Sky Band motifs |
| Uxmal Palace of Governor | | Seven rows of Sky Bands |
| Uxmal, Magician | | Additional Sky Bands not often listed elsewhere |
| Xultun Stela 10 | Xultun Stela 10 | Repeated crossed bands around waist area |
| Xultun Stela 24 | | Important Sky Band motifs on snake, no dividers |
| Xultun Edificio Pimiento | | Sky Band across waist area |

| Location by Hellmuth | Carlson and Landis | Description by Hellmuth |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Xunantunich Str. 1 | Xunantunich Str. 1 | Frieze with several Sky Bands, each repeated motifs |
| Yaxchilan Stela 1 | Yaxchilan Stela 1 | Sky Band with nice Zip Monster |
| Yaxchilan Stela 4 | Yaxchilan Stela 4 | Roof and walls of Sky Band Hut & above also |
| Yaxchilan Stela 6 | Yaxchilan Stela 6 | Sky Band across upper area, and waist area |
| Yaxchilan Stela 10 | Yaxchilan Stela 10 | Sky Band well preserved |
| Yaxchilan Stela 11 | Yaxchilan Stela 11 | Simple Crossed Bands across waist area |
| Hellmuth volume on hems | Yaxchilan Lintel 1 | |
| Hellmuth volume on hems | Yaxchilan Lintel 14 | |
| Hellmuth volume on hems | Yaxchilan Lintel 24 | |
| Hellmuth volume on hems | Yaxchilan Lintel 26 | |
| Yaxchilan Lintel 53 | Yaxchilan Lintel 53 | Hem plus Crossed Bands in headdress |
| Yaxchilan Lintel 54 | Yaxchilan Lintel 54 | Crossed Bands in headdress of both individuals |
| Yaxchilan Structure 14 | | Sky Band across ceremonial bar |
| Yaxha Stela 31 | Yaxha Stela 31 | Horizontal Sky Band |
| Unprovenanced | | Sky Band motifs without vertical dividers |
| Site not yet identified | | Nice Sky Band motifs across waist area |

Found about 46 additional Sky Band sculptures and other art not in the excellent helpful list by Carlson and Landis. Improved Internet and new archaeological discoveries added some of these 46 additional works of art with Sky Bands. Scholars with their own databases can surely find several more, especially at Palenque and lots more on Early Classic stucco facades.

There are so many Maya stelae with crossed-band motifs on the waist area that I do not show them all. Tikal Stela 5 and Tikal Stela 11 are some of many that you can find. Tikal Structure 10 lintel (Jones and Satterthwaite 1982: fig. 75) has a woven mat symbol but not in Sky Band format.

Appendix B

List of Sky Bands of Interest in various Contexts

Waist Area Sky Bands

These are often called a “belt” but I prefer to name them “waist area” or “around waist”. I list the ones that have interesting motifs. There are a lot merely with repeated crossed-bands (which are too common to list below).

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Copan Str. 10L-32 | Three non-repeating Sky Band motifs around waist |
| Copan Stela A | Four different motifs in Sky Band around waist |
| Copan Stela D | Sky Band around waist |
| Copan Stela F | Two repeated entwined crossed-bands |
| Copan Stela N | Zip Monster at left, Bearded Crossed Bands are nice to see on at waist |
| Hauberg Stela | OXOXO motifs on belt, but no vertical divider areas |
| La Honradez Stela 6 | Only one motif is preserved; it is an Akbal |
| Naranjo Stela 8 | Two repeated entwined crossed-bands |
| Piedras Negras Stela 2 | Two repeated Akbal symbols |
| Piedras Negras Stela 4 | Two repeated entwined crossed-bands |
| Piedras Negras Stela 15 | Repeated atypical motif in band around waist |
| Piedras Negras Stela 34 | Two repeated entwined crossed-bands |
| Seibal Stela 2 | Two repeated Bearded crossed-bands |
| Seibal Stela 10 | Nicely detailed; three different motifs |
| Tonina Monument 20 | Zip Monster at left, Bearded Crossed Bands at right |
| Xultun, stucco frieze | Kan Cross in between crossed-bands across waist; no vertical dividers |

Sky Bands on Ceremonial Bars

I list the ones that have interesting motifs. There are a lot merely with repeated crossed-bands (which are too common to list below). Ceremonial bars are shown by Proskouriakoff in her book on Maya sculpture, in a 1994 article by Flora Clancy, and in other books and articles on Maya art.

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Cancuen Stela 1 | Crossed Bands and two repeated double circles on ceremonial bar |
| Copan Stela B | Two different motifs in the ceremonial bar. |
| Pusilha Stela C | Ceremonial bar on Pusilha Stela C has no repeats |
| Seibal Stela 9 | Three nice different Sky Band motifs including Zip Monster on the bar |
| Seibal Stela 10 | Three well preserved different motifs |
| Tonina Monument 20 | Four different motifs including Zip Monster |
| Yaxchilan Stela 4 | Two bars, one with repeated crossed bands; other with additional motifs |
| Yaxchilan ball game | Marker, near Str. 14, poorly preserved central motifs of ceremonial bar |

Sky Bands on Steps that lead up to a throne room and/or a ritual hut

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Copan incised bone | Steps with crossed-bands and star/Venus behind |
| Naranjo Stela 32 | One of the best preserved Sky Band steps |
| Piedras Negras Stela 6 | Sky Band steps alternating with band of other symbols. |
| Piedras Negras Stela 11 | Sky Band steps |
| Piedras Negras Stela 14 | Sky Band steps but most covered by the woman and decorations |
| Piedras Negras Stela 25 | Not enough of these steps are shown to see individual Sky Band motifs |
| Piedras Negras Stela 33 | Sky Band motifs visible only on bottom step |
| Tikal Temple I, Lintel 3 | Steps with repeated crossed-bands |

Sky Band, throne room hut walls and/or roof

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Quirigua stelae A and C | Roof only, no walls shown; best preserved on Stela A |
| Quirigua Stela I, back | Two Zip Monsters and at top left an undocumented motif |
| Piedras Negras Stela 6 | Walls and roof with multiple well defined Sky Band motifs |
| Piedras Negras Stela 11 | Walls with nicely detailed non-repeating Sky Band motifs |
| Piedras Negras Stela 14 | Roof is Sky Band; each wall is giant profile/half-frontal Loincloth Apron Face |
| Piedras Negras Stela 25 | Walls and roof are well preserved well detailed Sky Band motifs. Lots of profile/half-frontal Loincloth Apron Faces |
| Tonina Monument 8 | Side 1, low hut for prisoner |
| Tonina Monument 8 | Side 2, low hut for prisoner |
| Piedras Negras Stela 2 | Two repeated Akbal symbols |
| Uaxactun Stela 7 | The horizontal Sky Band is probably the roof of a throne room |
| Yaxchilan Stela 4 | Roof and top of walls are all that remain |
| Yaxchilan Stela 6 | Roof Sky Band is all that remains |

Sky Band across bottom of a Stela, usually under feet of standing ruler

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Aguateca Stela 7 | Four repeated Cauac motifs under feet of standing ruler. |
| Balancan-Morales Stela 4 | Four repeated Caban motifs under the feet of the ruler |
| Chunhuitz Stela 1 | Has normal Sky Band under feet of ruler, not with special motifs |
| Copan Stela D, both sides | Repeated Caban motifs in lower area of the scene but not wide |
| Copan bench front | Caban motif at bottom of each support of a bench front (no one stands) |
| Moral Stela 3 | Caban motifs under feet of ruler |
| Piedras Negras Stela 6 | Three well defined Caban motifs as bottom of steps to throne room |
| Piedras Negras Stela 10 | Caban motifs as bottom of steps to throne room |
| Piedras Negras Stela 11 | Caban motifs as bottom of steps to throne room |
| Pusilha Stela K | Motifs under feet of the ruler were probably originally Caban. |

Piedras Negras Stela 8, wings of frontal bird deity have two Sky Band motifs, so more than just crossed-band (Fig. 11). Piedras Negras Stela 9 (Fig. 13 and Fig. 14) has three Sky Band motifs on wings of perched bird deity.

Excellent preservation and great detail on two horizontal Sky Bands on Piedras Negras Stela 10 (Fig. 15).

Yaxchilan Stela 10 has well preserved Sky Band (Fig. 43).

Snake forming a throne room hut has double-circles that when in a true Sky Band have not often been recognized as a snake motif.

Bird head at end of Sky Band, Ek Balam Stela 1, Moral-Reforma ballcourt sculptures, Tabasco, Mexico, Naranjo Stela 32, Quirigua Stela I, back. Macizo, Copan Acropolis has a bird head at the preserved end of the Sky Band. Caracol Stela 3 has heads at each end but more anthropomorphic than avian.

The two Moral-Reforma ballcourt sculptures have very nice motifs

Snake on Xultun Stela 24 has multiple star/Venus symbols in addition to V-snakeskin motif.

Copan Str. 8N-11 bench front has personified full-figure celestial personages.

Stucco facades deserve their own MA thesis, PhD dissertation of iconography research project. There are surely more than I list.

Chichen Itza, Temple of the Owls, Initial Series Group has Sky Band that is rarely discussed. The Sky Bands on the façade of the Nunnery Complex, Chichen Itza are very well known.

Sky Band from the architectural façade of Uxmal's Palace of the Governor is well known, but Pyramid of the Magician Sky Bands are more remarkable and need to be cataloged.

Sky Bands were popular throughout non-Maya areas of Mexico, but not many at Teotihuacan.

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