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Yaxha Stela 11

**The largest Tlaloc Warrior
King Image in the Maya Areas**

Part II, Vertical



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

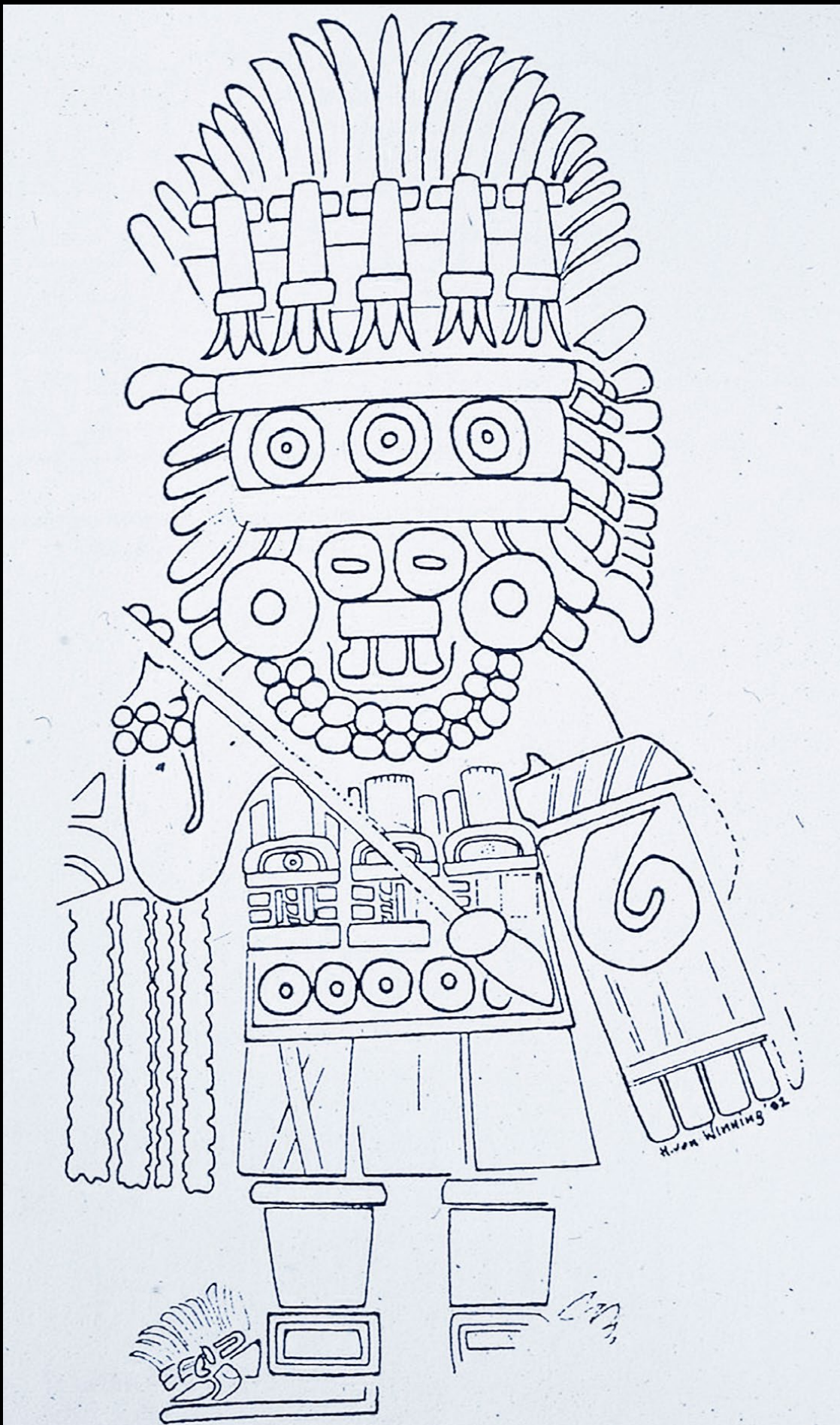
April 2024
Nicholas Hellmuth



The photos are as they are,
so no captions will be used.

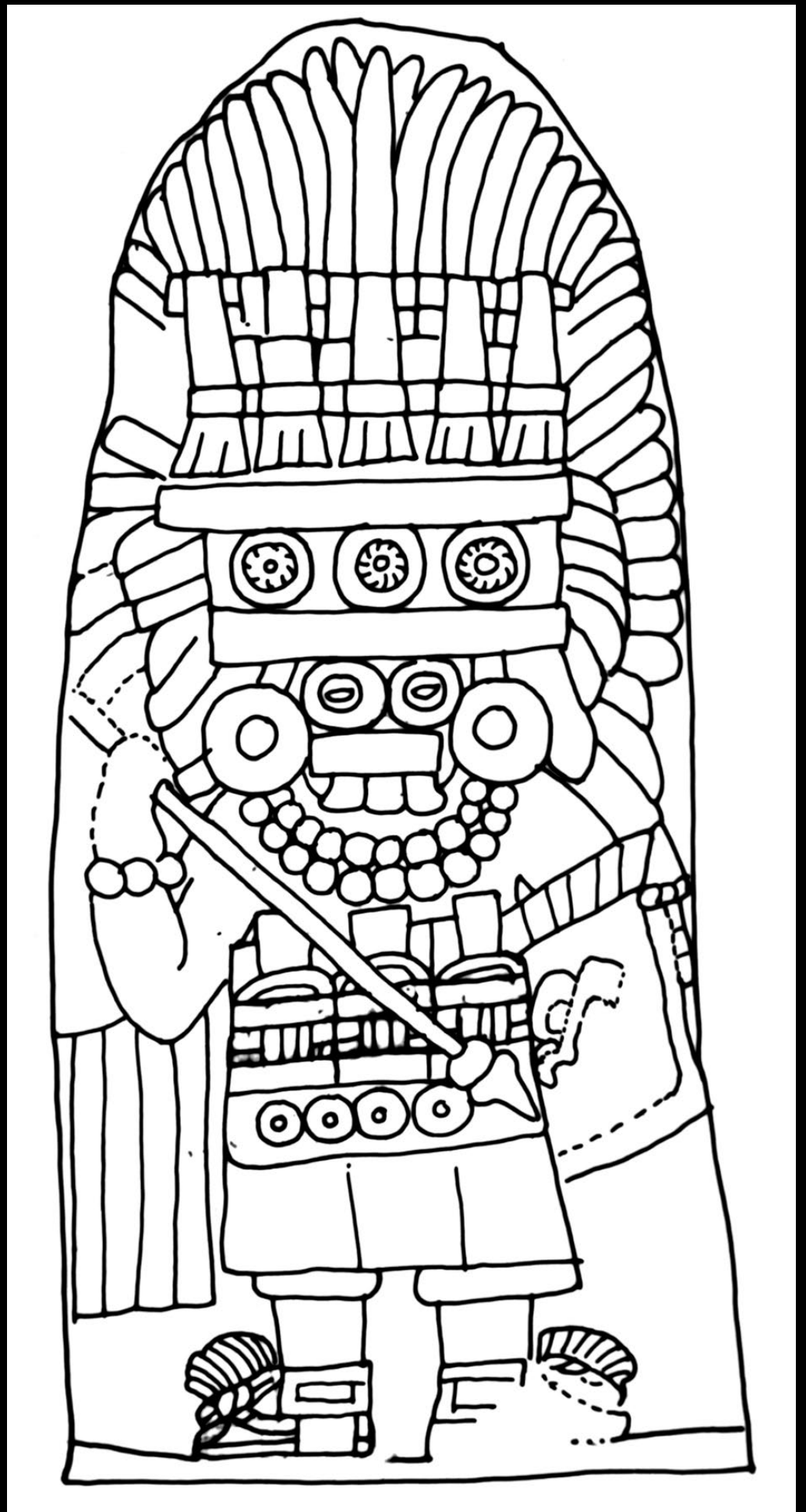


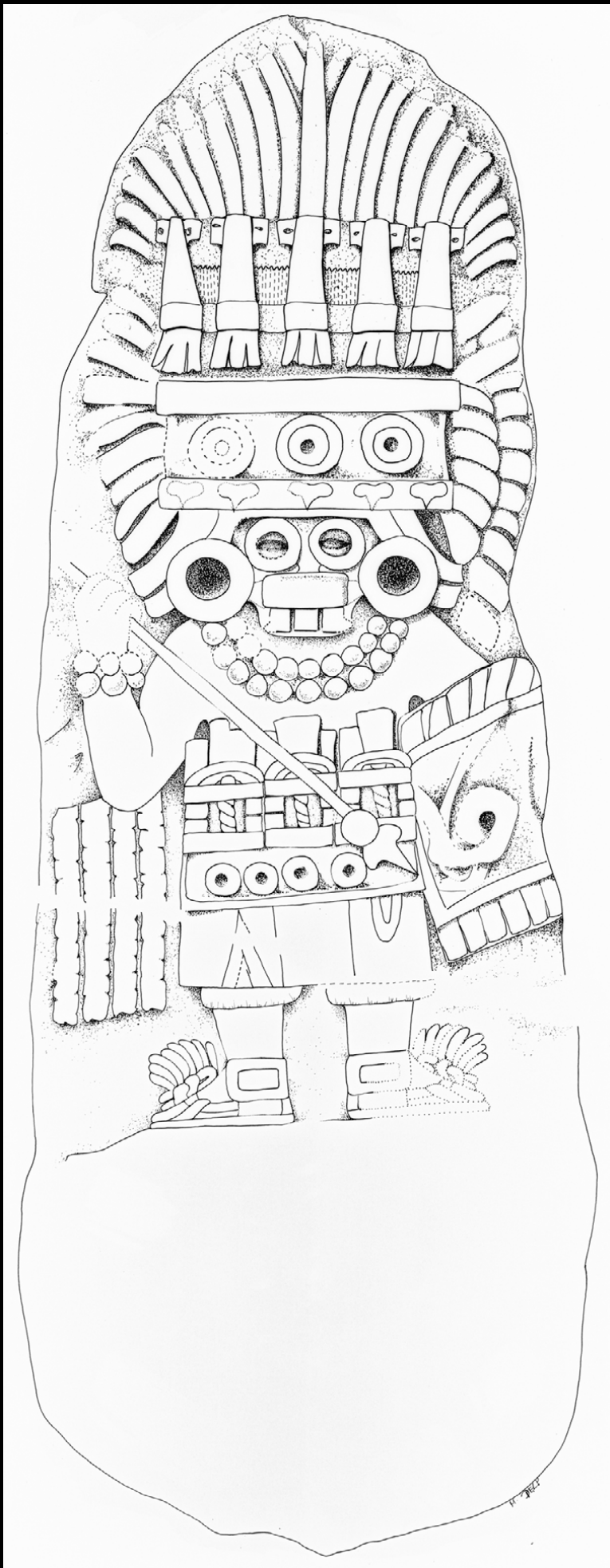




Drawing by Hasso Von Winning who did not actually come to Yaxha. Spear head is wrong shape; Teotihuacan atlatl spear points are triangular. so no captions will be used.

Legs look too short and shield needs to be redrawn. Schele and Hires. The decoration inside the three goggles across the forehead are unlikely to exist and those scrolls should be removed. Angle of the left and right fang should be more rectangular than oval. But at least Schele and Hires got the spearpoint correct shape. But the horizontal row of five spearpoints is totally missing.





FLAAR drawing has the most detail but need to double-check the shield and improve that.

Spearhead is complete and correct on FLAAR drawing and Schele drawing. Spearhead is incomplete and incorrect on Ian Graham drawing and Von Winning drawing

The Schele drawing shows interior decoration on the three circles across the forehead; I doubt those decorations exist.

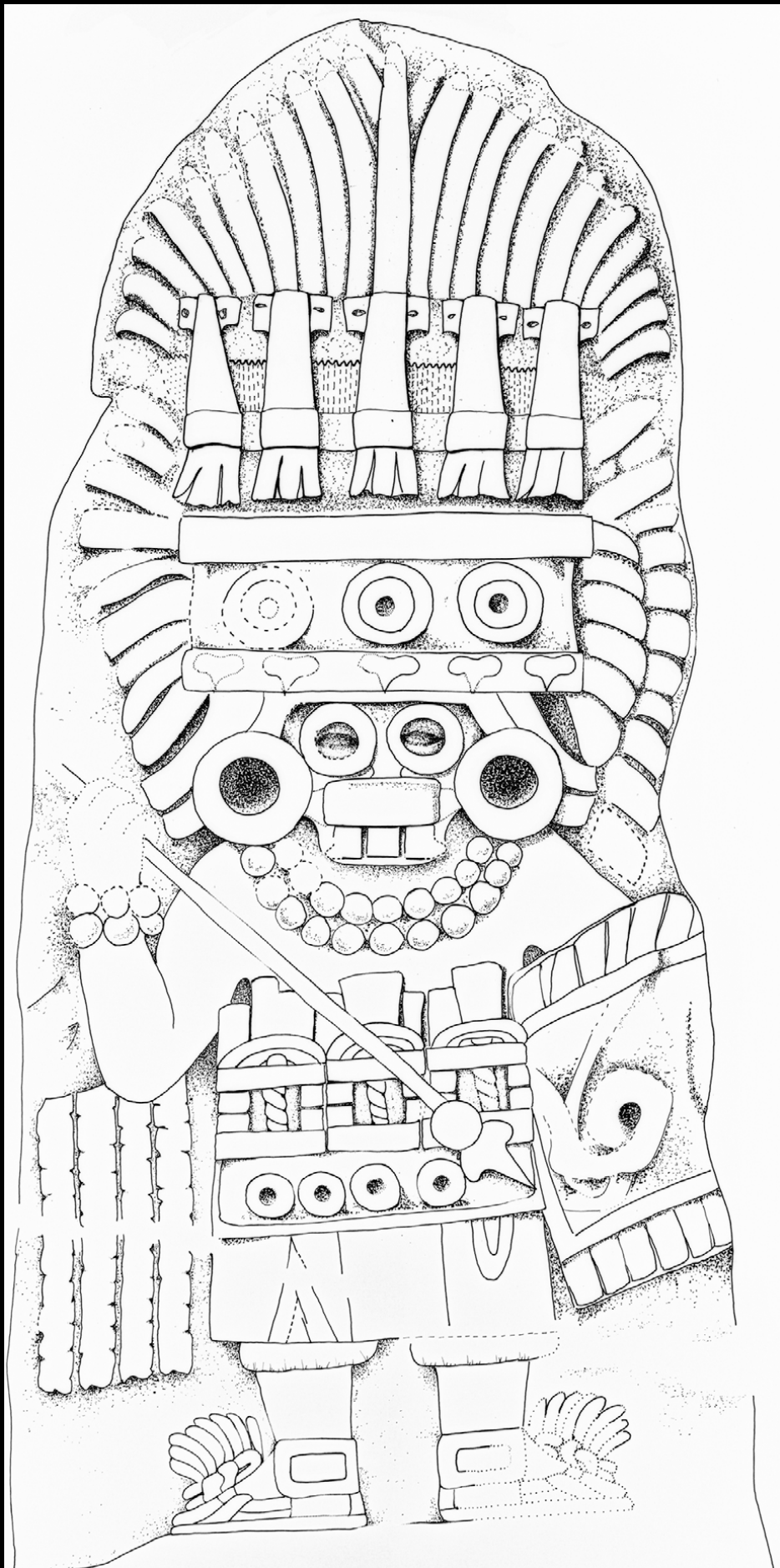
Ian Graham drawing shows no horizontal eyeballs within the Tlaloc goggles. All other drawings show eyes but the Von Winning goggles need improvement.

The horizontal row of five "spearheads" across the lower forehead bar are missing from all but the FLAAR drawing. This row of downward pointing atlatl spearheads are clearly visible on two Tlalocs of Teotihuacan murals (that we show in our horizontal format volume). The Tlaloc shield on the side of Tikal Stela 31 has a row of atlatl spear points, so these need to stay on the Yaxha Stela 11 drawing.

The headdresses have rectangular tableros from which the splatters cascade. On all the drawings of the Yaxha Stela 11, only that of FLAAR shows a tablero shape; all drawings by Graham, Schele and von Winning did not suggest an open tablero. That aspect needs to be checked on the original stela at Yaxha. All Tlalocs from elsewhere have clear tablero indentation.

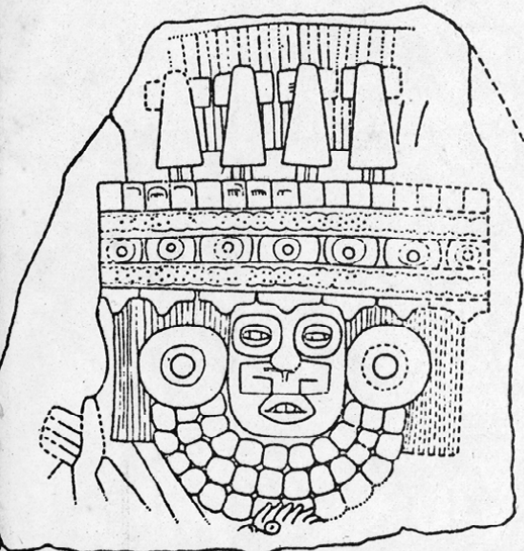
Of the three "fangs" below the nose bar, the drawings by FLAAR, Von Winning, and Schele show a slight curve at the end of the left and right "fang." This segment is missing from the drawing by Ian Graham.

The main aspect of the Yaxha Stela 11 scene that needs to be redrawn directly from the stela at Yaxha is the decoration of the shield. Notable that one of the Tlalocs of Guerrero area of Mexico has a shield with a slightly similar design (but imprecise).

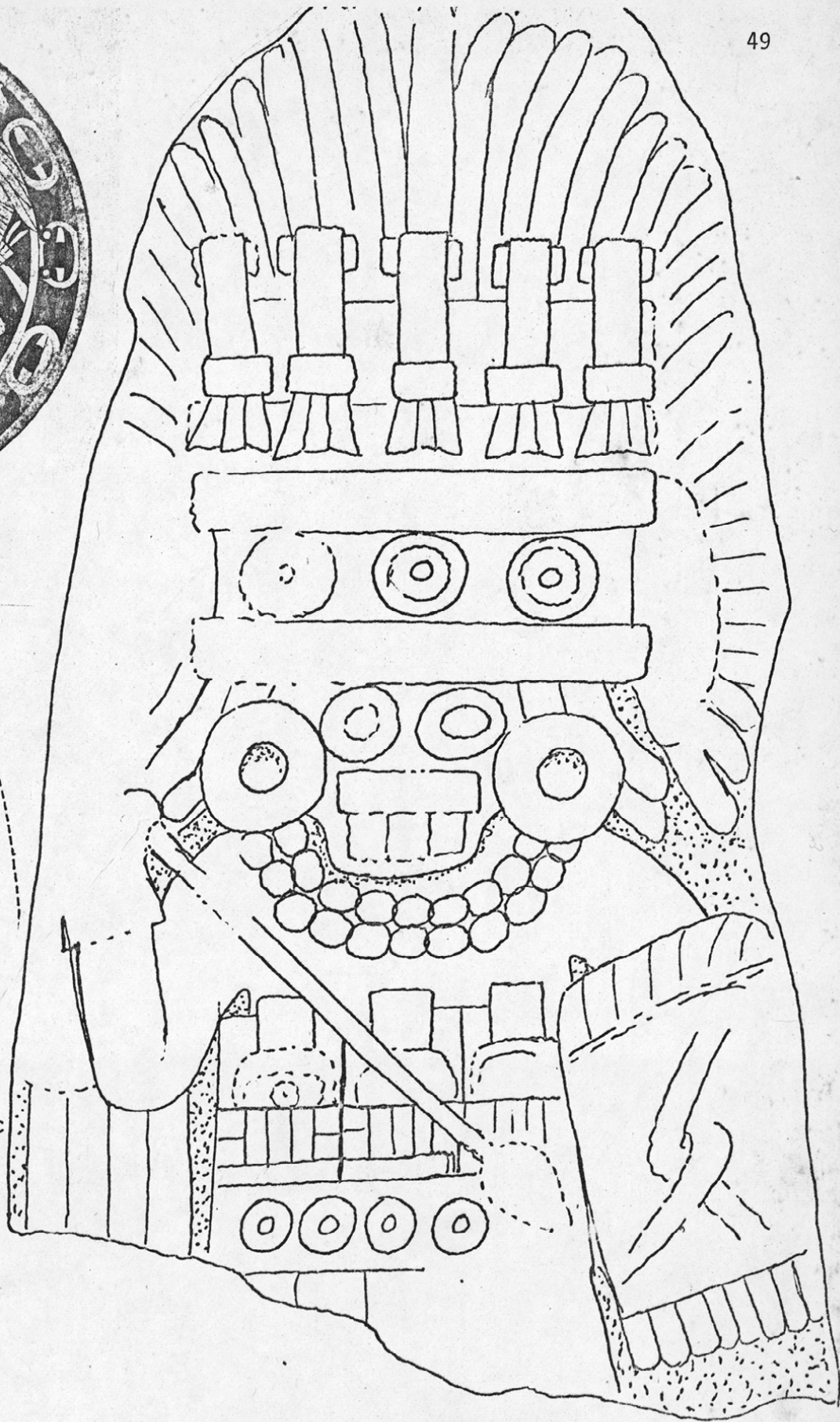




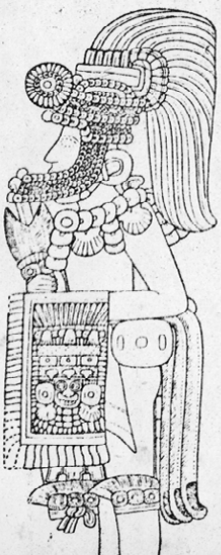
a Kaminaljuyu, Burial B-V (KJS 1946:Fig.175a)



b Tikal Stela 32, Early Classic (M.Coe 1966:Fig.19)



d Yaxha Stela 11 (Xerox copy of unpublished ink drawing kindly provided by Ian Graham)



c Tikal Stela 31 (W.Coe 1965:33)



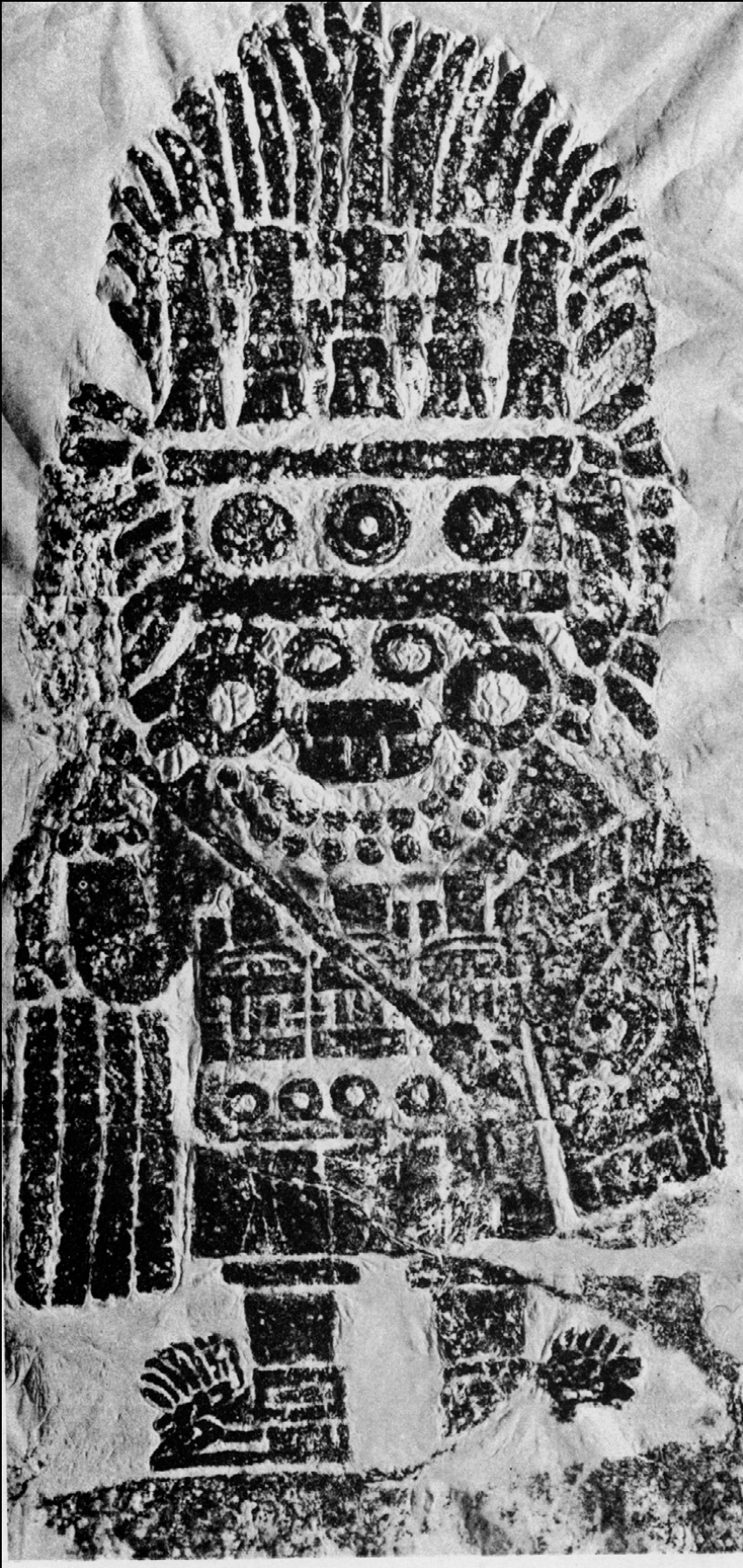
Yaxha Stela 11, rubbing by Merle Greene Robertson, Rubbing ID: D23689,

https://www.mesoweb.com/publications/Rubbings/Rubbings_Favorites.pdf

ROBERTSON, Merle Greene

1995 Merle Greene Robertson's Rubbings of Maya Sculpture, A Selection of Favorites. Pre-Columbian Art Research Institute, San Francisco.

https://www.mesoweb.com/publications/Rubbings/Rubbings_Favorites.pdf



This rubbing was probably an image donated by Merle. We were at Yaxha while she and her husband did rubbings (I estimate she had been there previously as well). This rubbing is not as harsh black as the style of those in "Selection of Favorites".



Tikal Stela 31, Tlaloc shield; has "tablero" in headdress; has row of spearheads across bar on forehead (missing on all drawings of Yaxha Stela 11 except in drawing by FLAAR).



Photo by Nicholas Hellmuth, FLAAR Photo Archive.

References Cited

HELLMUTH, Nicholas M.

1978 Tikal Copan Travel Guide. a General Introduction to Maya Art, Architecture, & Archaeology. a Complete Guide to All of the Maya Ruins of Central America. Foundation for Latin American Anthropological Research.

This 1978 edition is hardcover.

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