



Copan Miniature Stone Houses



**FLAAR Photo Archive
Publication Number 33**

**Maya Sculptures of Copan,
Honduras, Publication
Number 24**

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

April 2024
Nicholas Hellmuth

Acknowledgements

We sincerely appreciate the permission from IHAH to photograph at night. You can get better photographs at night with a portable electric generator. We have donated these photos to IHAH.

Parque Arqueológico de Copán, the Museo de Escultura de Copán and museum in the town of Copan Ruinas, Honduras are all great places to visit; local people are hospitable and I have enjoyed visiting the park and the village museum in the town of Copan Ruinas in the late 1960's, 1970's, 1990's, and again when digital cameras became available, to return with higher resolution. We sincerely appreciate the assistance of the park rangers and local guides.

I also thank the capable team of FLAAR Mesoamerica who assisted with setting up the portable photo studio, lighting, etc.

We also appreciate the hospitality by the archaeologists working at Copan over decades.

The IHAH team at their headquarters initiated discussions with the FLAAR and FLAAR Mesoamerica team. We sincerely appreciate the initial reunion we had digitally with them.

The IHAH team at Copan provided cooperation and coordination. Manuel Espinoza was assigned to be with the FLAAR team each day; we sincerely appreciate his assistance.

During our early visits to photograph at Copan (1980's onwards), Oscar Cruz was the Regional Representative of IHAH. He was very helpful on each of our field trips. He is now retired, but we went to say hello to him on our February 2024 field trip.

There are probably thousands of photos of this sculpture with cacao pods. I would estimate that the various Copan projects have plenty of photos, perhaps including 3-dimensional scans. But to study details it helps to have photographs at larger size and in good resolution. In a peer-reviewed journal article the images are often never in color and tend to be very small. I recently was reading

a book on Maya iconography by two capable epigraphers / iconographers and the illustrations were so tiny you could not see details whatsoever. This is the fault of the publishers, not the authors. So we prefer not to publish in commercial books; our goal is to show the Maya sculptures in good details (which starts with using good portable studio lighting and using a tripod so the camera is not vibrating). And publishing at full-page size in good resolution. It will help children in Honduras and neighboring countries to learn about Maya cultural heritage.

One long-range goal is to "translate" iconographic, epigraphic, and archaeological documentation into Mayan Toons books by FLAAR (USA) and FLAAR Mesoamerica (Guatemala) to help school children around the world learn about the Classic Maya of Honduras with reliable archaeological and iconographic documentation (rather than copy-and-paste from normal websites).

But the first step is to find all the photos, scan them if done before digital cameras; process them so you can see the details at high resolution, and provide references in a bibliography to help professors and university students and the general public. But it would be great if primary and secondary school children also had this information in a format appropriate for their early years.

Our material for university students and professors is on:

www.maya-ethnobotany.org
www.maya-ethnozoology.org
www.maya-archaeology.org

Our material for school children is
www.MayanToons.org

www.digital-photography.org shows our camera equipment over the years.

Credits

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We sincerely thank the IHAH team in Copán for the cooperation and coordination provided

Ms.c Salvador Varela, regional representative of the West
Lic. Zoila Madrid, Head of World Heritage Site
Manuel Espinoza, Head of Security and Maintenance of the
Mayan Site of Copán
Hilario Vásquez, maintenance
Rita Martines, vigilant

Caption for front cover illustration

Photograph by Nicholas Hellmuth with portable studio lighting and black backdrop (so you can focus on the size, shape, and designs on the miniature stone house). We bring black cardboard and black paper to single out a sculpture of this size. You don't want a background to compete with the subject being photographed.

February 2, 2024, FLAAR Photo Archive.



Front view of the "thatch roofed" hut. The roof shape one of many typical indigenous shapes. This single-room house is occupied by an anthropomorphic animal. Good luck estimating the Genus species or even common name. You would need to find and study similar animals in full-figure hieroglyphic texts. Copan has more full-figure hieroglyphs than all other Maya sites put together. Photo by Nicholas Hellmuth with Nikon D810 camera using portable studio lighting and black backdrop on February 2, 2024, FLAAR Photo Archive.



Three-quarters angle of the stone house. The sculpture is fixed in the museum and obviously we can't move it or turn it to see the sides better. The hieroglyphic designs on the side are not well enough preserved to see details anyway.



Second miniature stone house; the two are displayed in the Copan Sculpture Museum. The side panel appears to have a vertical space for two face-variant hieroglyphs (like the other stone house). The roof seems to be separate; I am curious whether the house itself has empty space inside, or is solid stone. Photograph by Nicholas Hellmuth, February 2, 2024, FLAAR Photo Archive.

**There are the other sculptures and architecture and artifact
photos that we are preparing to make available
as FLAAR Reports with high-resolution photos**

*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 and Deities 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,

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, Iconography; as Hieroglyph, Epigraphy 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
FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 15
Artifacts of Jade, Obsidian, Flint (Chert) and other Materials of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 1.

Full-Figure Personified Maya Hieroglyphs: 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

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 Mayan 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

Full-Figure Personified Hieroglyphs, Tlaloc, Yearsign, Calendrical Deities, Birds, Mammals, Copan Structure 26, (Temple 26, façade overlooking the Hieroglyphic Stairway below)

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 20

Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 12

Full-Figure Personified Hieroglyphs on Copan Stela 63

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 21

Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 13

Copan Stela D, CPN 7, Full-Figure Personified Hieroglyphs

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 22

Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 14

Crocodiles in Stone Sculpture of Copan: Altar T, CPN 25 (Altar of Stela M), Los Sapos

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 23

Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 15

Loincloth Apron Face on Stelae, Bench Fronts and other Sculptures at Copan, Honduras and Profile/Half Frontal Deity Face on Altars at Copan, Honduras; Hieroglyph T1017

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 24

Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 16

Quadripartite Badge Headdress and Cosmic Monster at Copan, Honduras

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 25

Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 17

Skulls and SKULL RACK, Copan, Honduras

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 26

Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 18

Theobroma cacao Pods on Copan Stone Sculpture, Copan Sculpture Museum

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 27

Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 19

White Male Pelican eating a Fish, 3-Dimensional Copan Stone Sculpture, Copan Sculpture Museum

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 28

Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 20

Scarlet Macaw Maya Ballcourt Goalstones In the Copan Sculpture Museum

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 29

Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 21

Tlaloc and Yearsign, Copan Stela 6

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 30

Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 22

How best to Show Modeled-Carved Vase and Bowl Scenes? As Rubbings? As Drawings?

As Rollout Photos Cleaned?

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 31

Iconography of Maya Ceramics, Publication Number 2

Copan Stela H, Male Ruler wearing Beaded Skirt

Beaded Skirt is usually worn by Females (at El Peru-Waka', Naranjo, Piedras Negras)

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 32

Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 23

Copan Miniature Stone Houses

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 33

Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 24