



Monuments of Yaxchilan: Lintel 18^{*}

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Context: Found by Teobert Maler as one of five lintels of Structure 22 (Maler mistakenly reported a total of six lintels, one of which, however, was never found). According to Linton Satterthwaite who excavated around the building in 1935, Structure 22 consisted of a “three-doorway chamber with extra doorways at each end and two doorways with lintels on either side” (quoted in Morley 1937-1938:2:390). Only Lintel 19 was reportedly found in situ on the northwest side (Morley 1937-1938:387; Tate 1992:200). In 1964 it was removed to the Museo Nacional de Antropología in Mexico City (Graham and von Euw 1977:45).

The associated Lintel 21 is important for our understanding of Structure 22, not least because it states that on 2 Kan 2 Yax (9.0.19.2.4, 17 October AD 454), this dwelling (Chan Suutz’(?) Winkil) was dedicated by the ruler “Moon Skull.” It is likely that Lintels 18 and 19, both showing characteristic incision styles, were monuments associated with this event, while Lintels 20 and 22 (associated in style, calligraphy, and content with the lintels of Structure 12) pertain to the reign of K’inich Tatbu Jol II. Lintel 21 connects the aforementioned structure dedication with the date 7 Muluc 17 Zec (9.16.1.0.9, 13 May 752), nine days after the accession date of Yaxuun Bahlam IV. Thus, there was a clear intention of the latter to associate his reign with the reigns of “Moon Skull” and K’inich Tatbu Jol II.

Dimensions: MW 0.65 m, HSc 0.49 m, WSc 0.65 m, MTh 0.22 m, Rel 0.1 cm (Graham and von Euw 1977:45).

Both Lintel 18 and Lintel 19 pertain to the earliest sculptural programs from Yaxchilan known so far. Interestingly, Lintel 18 bears a probable sequence of three *ch’ok* “youths,” of which the names Tatbu Jol (A3) and Yaxuun (A4) stand out.

(A1) ko?-?-ta (B1) i-ni-? (A2) [ta?]bu-? (B2) ch’o-ko (A3) [ta?]bu-JOL (B3) ch’o-ko (A4) ya-xu-ni (B4) ch’o-ko (A5) SAK?-HA’?-la-? (B5) ba-TUUN (C1) AJ-YOP-TE’ (D1) K’AN?-na-JU’-TE’ (C2) o-to-yi-HIX (D2) CHAK-TOK-MO’-ba-BAJ? (C3) ya-na-tzi (D3) IX-MO’ (C4) CHAK-su-tz’i (D4) AJ-tz’i-ba (C5) mu?/bu?-yu (D5) KAL?-TE’

ko... ta ini... ta[t]bu... ch’ok ta[t]bu jol ch’ok yaxuun ch’ok sak ha’al... ba[ah] tuun aj yop te’ k’an ju’ te’ otooy hix chak tok mo’ baj yantz ix mo’ chak suutz’ ajtz’ihb muy/buy kal[oomte’]

“... .. Tatbu ... the youth, Tatbu Jol the youth, Yaxuun the youth, Sak Ha’al... the head-stone... Aj Yop Te’, K’an Ju’ Te’, Otooy Hix, Chak Tok Mo’ Baj(?) the ... of Ix Mo’, Chak Suutz’ the scribe, Muy/buy, the Kaloonte’.”

^{*} See also Zender 2007.

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Yaxchilan Lintel 18. Photograph by Jorge Pérez de Lara. High-resolution version available: www.mesoweb.com/monuments/Yaxchilan