

PARED DE LOS REYES

LATITUDE 17° 58.8' N.

LONGITUDE 89° 48.2' W.

Pared de los Reyes was first reported by Lundell, who was there January 9, 1932, when studying the sapodilla forests in Campeche and the Peten, Guatemala, in the interests of the chicle industry. The site was visited April 4-8, 1934, by the Institution's expedition.

The ruins are most easily reached from La Fama, thence a two hours' ride in a northwesterly direction over a fairly open trail to the abandoned chicle camp of Aguada Union. The fallen thatch shelters still visible testify a large settlement at one time. The ruins lie not more than 10 or 15 minutes' walk northwest of the aguada. About an hour's ride from La Fama, on the right side of the trail, is an ancient stone quarry. Here is an excellent example of clean cutting over a surface measuring 1.80 m. by 65 cm.

Referring to the name of the site, Lundell says, "The chicleros call this monument 'El Paredo de los Reyes' or 'The Wall of the Kings,' as the turbans on the heads resemble crowns (Lundell, 1933a, p. 167. The form "El Paredo" is not clear; it is possible that "La Pared" or "El Paredon" is meant). The terrain in the region is relatively flat, broken only by small irregularities. The water supply at Aguada Union is adequate at most times of the year and ramon for the stock should suffice for a short stay.

The site is a single quadrangle covering an area not over 50 m. square (fig. 85). The west range comprises a low platform approximately 1 m. high supporting a fairly well preserved building, and two mounds representing single chambers, one at each of the north and south ends of the platform. In front (east) of the central building the platform is 6.5 m. wide.

The west structure is 25 by 5.40 m. The back wall and the roof comb which it supports are all that remain exposed above the debris. Minor excavations were undertaken to determine the thickness of the front wall, width of chamber and floor level.

The plan and section are given in figures 85 and 86a. Only the north doorway was located; two others were suggested by the contour of the detritus and by the fact that a symmetrical arrangement is customary in Maya architecture. The east face of a podium, 62 cm. high, was exposed in front of the north doorway. Set

inward 3 cm. from its edge rises the façade of the building. The excavations also showed the north doorway as 1.67 m. wide, 84 cm. deep, and located 3.60 m. from the northeast corner of the room. The jambs, standing to a height of 1.10 m., are formed of large blocks. Cross walls in the chamber were not noted; this does not preclude their existence but the possibility is questioned. Directly inward from the center of the doorway and built against the back wall of the chamber is the north end of a masonry bench (pl. 27a). It was traced only a short distance beyond the line of the south jamb of the doorway; it rises vertically 53 cm. and is not finished with a cornice. The plan (fig. 85) suggests that the bench extends to the south doorway, but this is conjectural and it may terminate at any point on this line.

The back wall of the chamber rises 2 m., with an inward slope of 4 cm. The masonry is of well-worked, carefully surfaced stones averaging 40.5 by 61 cm. and 12 cm. deep. There is no offset at the spring line. Vault stones recovered are large, heavy, and poorly worked. The exposed faces average 70 by 21 cm. and some of the tenons are 90 cm. long (pl. 27c).

The first zone of the west façade is in position except for small sections at the north and south. It is set inward 3 cm. from the vertical face of the basal zone and rises with a slight batter. The base on which the first zone rests is 30 cm. lower than the top of the podium on the east side of the building. For the most part the masonry of the back wall is of large carefully worked veneer-like stones averaging 60 by 40 cm. on the exposed face.

Of special interest in this zone of the back wall are two series of small holes having an average diameter and depth of 8 cm. and 6 cm. respectively (fig. 86b). One series was worked in the lower edge of the second course of stones, about 33 cm. above the base of the wall. The other series, almost in a vertical line with, and 1.65 m. above, the first, occurs in the approximate center of the upper course of the zone. The holes in the upper row, of which seven were noted, are spaced at 2.25-, 2.50-, 2.73-, 2.50-, 2.50-, and 2.10-m. intervals (fig. 86b, pl. 27d). A single hole, 12 cm. in diameter, is midway between the two rows. They were all filled with plugs—stone,

stone and plaster, and plaster only—which in no case projected beyond the line of the wall and which had been completely hidden by the wall plaster. It is suggested that the holes, although they average only 6 cm. deep, served as timber rests for scaffolding during the erection of the wall.

Above the first zone is an overhanging cornice rising with a slight batter. The upper zone rose 1.40 m. and though the facing has almost all fallen, a few stones in position suggest that it had a batter of 77°. The roof was finished with a carefully smoothed, lime plaster surface; resting on it and rising above the back wall approximately 22 cm. inward from the top of the upper zone of the south façade, is a roof comb (fig. 86*a*). It is 20.60 m. long, 2.98 m. high, and, at its base and top, is 1.20 m. and 75 cm. wide respectively. Lundell (1933*a*, p. 166) gives a length of 90 feet (27.43 m.) for the wall and says that, "the part of the wall now standing is over twenty feet tall. It appears to have been an immense memorial monument. [On p. 167:] This wall is a meter thick." Lundell apparently mistook the lower zone of the back wall for part of the roof comb and, in fact, did not seem to realize that the structure was a building with a roof comb. The west face of the roof comb rises with a batter of 85° and the east with a batter of 89°. The masonry is composed of such carefully finished stones that they fitted together with practically no interstices. The roof comb is of solid construction except for three horizontal rows of transverse openings, eight openings to a row, arranged one above the other in vertical tiers. The openings divide each side of the wall into nine panels as exemplified by those at the north end which are in the best state of preservation. The first row is on a level with the roof of the

building and each opening has a width and height of 16 cm. and 25 cm. respectively. The second row is 96 cm. above the roof, and the openings measure 18 cm. wide by 38 cm. high. In the third row, 10 cm. above the second, the individual openings have the same width but a height of 52 cm.

The panels between the tiers have an average width of 2.25 m., except the one in the center which measures 2.45 m. The lower 50 cm. of the panels are plain; above is a stucco mask (pl. 27*b*). On the west side, in the north panel and above the mask, is a stucco human figure (pl. 27*d*, north end of structure), seated with legs crossed on a projecting stone. In the same panel on the opposite side of the roof comb are the sweeping plumes of a headdress (pl. 28*a*) flanked on one side by remnants of a standing figure. On the north end of the roof comb are the torso and legs of a figure.

The north and south ranges of the quadrangle are now represented by low mounds showing no standing walls. The east range rests on a low platform, 5.35 m. wide, to which a single step rises from the plaza. The building on this platform appears to have two parallel series of three longitudinal rooms flanked at either end by a transverse chamber. The longitudinal rooms have an average length and width of 8.10 m. and 2.15 m. respectively; the end walls of these rooms have a thickness of 52 cm. and 62 cm. The masonry is very crude, the wall stones are only roughly worked, not squared or surfaced. Many chips were used to fill the interstices. The vault stones show some working on the exposed surface—a crude attempt to produce a bevel. The workmen had, perhaps, selected stones nearest the shape desired rather than working them to a specialized and unvarying form (pl. 28*b*).