

LEOCADIO E. HOPUN

1894–1960

Maya archaeology and Maya archaeologists lost a loyal friend with the death, on November 24, 1960, of Leocadio E. Hopun in El Cayo, British Honduras. In the 1920's and 1930's, when the best means of access to the eastern Petén Department of Guatemala was by way of British Honduras, with equipment and supplies shipped by river from Belize to El Cayo and there transferred to mule trains for the journey into such places as Uaxactún, Tikal, or Naranjo, a key person in every archaeological organization was the expedition's agent in El Cayo. He made all the arrangements and kept a field party's life-lines maintained for the three or four month period in the bush. Leocadio Hopun, by profession an accountant and Cayo businessman, performed in this role of agent with excellence. Efficient, vigilant, he saw to everything. He acted as agent for the Carnegie Institution of Washington during its long program at Uaxactún. Again, after the second war, he served the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard University in the same capacity during their surveys and excavations in British Honduras and Guatemala. This is to name only a few of the scientific groups aided by Hopun over a period of almost 40 years. His friends will remember him as a man of keen intelligence, familiar with the country and with its people, and interested in the cause of archaeology. It will be difficult, indeed, to find someone to take his place.

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KARL RUPPERT

1895–1960

The sudden death of Karl Ruppert, at Rochester, Minnesota, on August 14, 1960, came as a great shock to many. He had gone to the Mayo Clinic, hoping to gain relief from an arthritic neck condition, which had been causing intense pain for nearly a year. Only two days before death struck, friends in Santa Fe had received cheerful notes from Karl, in which he said he was without pain for the first time in months. Death was caused by peritonitis. Ruppert was born in 1895 in Phoenix; his only survivor is a brother who lives in that city. His first academic work was at the University of Arizona, where, fortunately, under the tutelage of Byron Cummings, he was bitten by the archaeological bug. As Cummings' assistant, he was a partner on many explorations in the Kayenta region.

His first important assignment was in Chaco Canyon, with Neil Judd. Here he was in charge of the excavation of Pueblo del Arroyo, during 1921–26. Some of his happiest memories were of this period. Ruppert, equally gifted as an architect and archaeologist, was an absolute perfectionist in anything he undertook. He once said that the experience he gained in the Chaco was invaluable to him later. Even after

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long association with some of Mesoamerica's most impressive stone cities, he still retained his respect for the masonry edifices of the Chaco.

In the winter of 1925, he joined the staff of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, and for the next 32 years, dedicated himself to Maya archaeology. As a result of the superior quality of all of his work, Ruppert will be remembered forever as one of America's most distinguished archaeologists. In 1956, he resigned from the Carnegie Institution, and moved to Santa Fe. He holds the distinction of having the longest service record of any member of the Carnegie Institution's Division of Historical Research, which later became the Department of Archaeology.

His name has become synonymous with the work at Chichén Itzá, and his first field work for Carnegie was there. At this time, Sylvanus G. Morley was in general charge; Ruppert was an assistant to Earl Morris, on the excavation and repair of the Temple of the Warriors. He then went on to excavate, stabilize, and publish classic works on the Temple of the Wall Panels, Red House, Mercado, Sweat House, some of the ball courts, and numerous minor structures. Perhaps he is best-known for a major work at Chichén Itzá—the excavation and repair of the Caracol. His magnificent publication on this building is a masterpiece of meticulous recording, embracing excavation, architectural reconstruction, with drawings and photographs, and presentation of data.

From the time of his early field work and surveying in the Southwest, Ruppert continued to seek out the unknown or undescribed site. The hidden ruins in the jungle around Chichén Itzá came under his intensive scrutiny, whenever there was any spare time. He is credited with having summarized the architecture of Chichén Itzá, including an excellent classification of the individual buildings there.

Ruppert also will be remembered as an explorer, and as an excellent expedition man. With Morley, he participated in the exploration and study of Maya cities in the southern area, including Ezná and Calakmul in Campeche, and Yaxchilán on the Rio Usumacinta. Other explorations and research took him to the east coast of Yucatán, the interior of Campeche, Nicaragua, and elsewhere in Mesoamerica. When the Bonampak temple, with its magnificent wall paintings, was discovered, Karl Ruppert led the expedition to this jungle site where

Antonio Tejada, then with Carnegie, was to make copies of the paintings.

Ruppert has been described as a man "hard to know." Very few of those who, at first meeting, felt his so-called diffidence, realized how shy he was. He loathed large social gatherings of the cocktail party variety. He took to retirement far more gracefully than anyone I have ever known, but never lost interest in his first, enduring love—American archaeology. A little house, new, but not quite finished, on some of Santa Fe's most beautiful land, had been given to him by a devoted friend. This was the first home of his own he had ever known; he loved it dearly. It is sad that he had so few years in which to enjoy it, but during this Santa Fe period, he was extremely happy. Ruppert, the architect and homemaker, spent a good part of his time finishing the house, doing all the work himself. It contained his dearest personal possessions, and his library. The fortunate few, whom he numbered among his friends, enjoyed evenings full of pleasant company and good conversation, for he was a delightful host and an excellent cook. Taking little or no credit for himself, he was always eager to point out the good work of others, even to the extent of crediting them with some of his own accomplishments.

Karl was also a delightfully witty storyteller, although only a few friends knew this. Several of his anecdotes might well be included with the classic recitals of the professional bards, such as Kidder, Hodge, Morley, Nusbaum, and Chapman.

Those of us who came to know this quiet, shy, kindly, and, above all, scholarly man shall miss him very much. He gave his friendship to few, but it was both generous and genuine.

MARJORIE F. LAMBERT

CIW — Carnegie Institution of Washington, published in Washington unless otherwise indicated.

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