Before Kukulkán

Tiesler, Vera, Cucina, Andrea, Stanton, Travis W., Freidel, David, Ardren, Traci

Published by University of Arizona Press


For additional information about this book
https://muse.jhu.edu/book/56804

For content related to this chapter
https://muse.jhu.edu/related_content?type=book&id=2047585
NOTES

CHAPTER 1

1. There has been substantial revision of the chronology since the time of the Carnegie Project at Chichén Itzá. We will review our current understanding of the chronology later in the chapter. Just as a point of clarification here, the Carnegie equivalent of today’s Terminal Classic period (in their terms “Pure Florescent”) was thought to date AD 800–1000, while the following Early Postclassic period (Modified Florescent), when the primary occupation of Chichén Itzá was thought to date, was placed at AD 1000–1200. We now know that a great amount of the monumental architecture at Chichén Itzá was built during the ninth century AD, squarely within the bounds of the Terminal Classic (Andrews et al. 2003; Chung 2009; Cobos 2003; Pérez de Heredia 2010). While the ceramic and architectural chronologies of Chichén Itzá are still hotly debated (Ball 1979; Lincoln 1986; Schele and Mathews 1998), we can safely say that the end of the important Classic period cities such as Uxmal and Tikal overlapped with the beginnings of urbanism at Chichén Itzá. In hindsight this overlap would have, in theory, mitigated the need for the Carnegie archaeologists to find a site, such as Yaxuná, to connect the chronologies of the new and old “empires” (cf. Thompson 1954; Tozzer 1957) in early archaeological narratives of the ancient Maya.

2. The dates for these periods are based on our current understanding of changes in ceramic complexes, which may vary from region to region. Ceramic complexes do not change wholesale from period to period, and in some respects the chronological divisions between complexes are based on the frequency of arbitrarily selected vessel attributes. The dates presented here are the result of a systematic program of radiocarbon dating at Yaxuná undertaken since 2007 using widely accepted ceramic attributes to define complexes.

CHAPTER 2

1. Fisher Exact test shows no differences below the α .05 thresholds.

2. Although in rats, blood-water levels of δ¹⁸O stabilize in about one week after the introduction of foods and liquids with a different isotopic composition (Longinelli 1984).

3. At Tikal (Wright 2012), however, oxygen isotopic values for individuals thought to be “local” based on ðSr/¹⁰⁶Sr ratios range approximately from −1‰ to about −5‰ when measured in the canine tooth, and from −2‰ to −5‰ when measured in the third molar. The authors noted that such variability in oxygen values, and the differences between the Early Classic, Late Classic,
and Terminal Classic, could be due to climate changes through times as well as (potentially) to the construction of water reservoirs to recollect rainwater and their seasonal evaporation rates, recharge, and usage (Wright 2012:343). In contrast, at Kaminaljuyú Wright and colleagues (2010) report local values between −4‰ and −6‰ from the Late Preclassic to the Late Classic period, indicating more stability among these factors. In any case, the oxygen values provide a further numeric information to help clarify existing data on movements of people.

CHAPTER 3

1. Paleoepidemiology is an interdisciplinary line of research that applies epidemiological methods to the study of the distribution and determinants of past health-related states or events.
2. This approach limits the possibility of recording grooves or furrows that could be related to any extent to the physiological perikymata striations.

CHAPTER 4

1. For Burial 24-10 we lack Sr isotopic data to make any inference on the individual’s place of origin.
2. Level 4 is being reserved for exceptional attritional degrees involving parts of the root in individuals suffering from gum-retraction.
3. A score of 0 indicates that the tooth did not present any evidence of decay. Teeth classified as grade 1 demonstrate that minor demineralization had just started affecting the enamel surface without penetrating deep into the enamel and without reaching the dentin. Grade 2 teeth indicate that the carious lesion penetrated the enamel and reached the underlying dentin. A score of grade 3 shows that a deep cavity penetrating the dentin and reaching the pulp chamber had occurred. Finally, teeth classified as grade 4 indicate a cavity that had destroyed most of the crown (Cucina et al. 2011a).

CHAPTER 5

1. It should be kept in mind that head-shaping practices were carried out by females on babies. As the skeletal remnants of the ancient Maya communicate, male and female babies were seemingly granted equivalent artificial morphologies, and noble infants show similar head styles to those that were common in their kingdom. It appears therefore that babies were modeled at a social age when they were still conceived of mainly as “ungendered,” as “nonpeople” in the works, in preparation for posterior social integration, the time that “reason” entered their bodies (Cervera 2007; Tiesler 2011a, 2011b).
2. This includes the populations of Dzibilchaltún, Oskintok, Chac, Yaxuná, and Noh Bec, among others.
3. Extensive patches of ossified hemorrhages cover the areas of ligamentous muscle insertions and indicate a pathological weakening of the connective tissue, probably a side effect of a systemic metabolic condition.
4. Such is the case of top flattening, a cranial modification that was apparently subscribed to maritime trader communities with ties to the west but was not seen on the Yucatecan shelf before the apex of Chichén Itzá (Tiesler 2014, 2015).
CHAPTER 6

1. Before the skeletal remains are lifted and detailed, anatomical and contextual data is lost.
2. This dish and the ceramic material from the surrounding matrix were used to assign a Yaxuná III designation.
3. Burial 14 is located in the extreme southeast of the excavation unit right up against two of the unit walls. As with Burial 12, the Yaxuná III designation was assigned based on the ceramic materials.
4. During the Early Classic, this structure was expanded and the only stela known from the site was erected along the centerline of the staircase leading to the plaza. A series of three vaulted rooms were also erected on this side of the building. At some point in the latter stages of the Early Classic the Burial 24 tomb was placed. All of these data indicate that Str. 6F-4 was an important political and ceremonial building at Yaxuná.
5. The Chac II burials are reported in a seated position. From the position of the skeletal remains, Burial 28 at Yaxuná also appears seated.
6. This assignment is founded on the ceramic wares found within the grave and in the fill of the structure.
7. This residential complex has been interpreted as a Puuc administrative space, which came to control Yaxuná (Novelo Rincón 2012).

CHAPTER 7

1. Labyrinth rituals were known in the Early Classic northern lowlands. An Early Classic ruler with a Formative style royal jewel was interred at Oxkintok in Tomb 1. Probably a secondary burial, archaeologists discovered him interred in a blocked-off room segment in the Satunsat, the labyrinth structure there (Varela Torrecilla and Braswell 2003).
2. The notion of fiery termination events is evoked by the epigraphic inscriptions that talk of fire entering the [dead soul’s] house (Stuart 1998:396–399).
3. The northernmost reference to the Kaanul hegemony is a sixth-century queen at Yo’okop, some 100 km south of Yaxuná. This suggests that Kaanul was indeed operating in the northern lowlands during the Early Classic period.

CHAPTER 8

1. Histological sections, obtained from one long bone diaphysis, indicate that remodeling had just set in (which occurs between 15 to 20 years of age), still showing drifting osteons in the bone matrix.
2. With signs of warping, conical and transverse heat fractures, stratification of bone layers, whitish to blue surface tones, multiple heat fractures, and banding (Schmidt and Symes 2008).
3. Further primary cremations of this kind come from the urban centers of Classic period Oxkintok, Colhá, and Dos Pilas.
4. From this aspect we infer that the corpse was either before or well past rigor mortis when being deposited, allowing for maximum relaxation of the neck musculature.