

Viages Sobre las Antiquedades Mejicanas
1805-1807
Mss.913.72.D92v

American Philosophical Society
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Summary Information

Repository	American Philosophical Society
Creator	Dupaix, Guillermo, 1748 or 1750-1817
Title	Viages Sobre las Antiquedades Mejicanas
Date [inclusive]	1805-1807
Call number	Mss.913.72.D92v
Extent	2.0 Volume(s)
Extent	2 vols.
Location	LH-MV-E-11
Language	Spanish
Container	1-2
Abstract	<p>Born in Austro-Hungary in either 1748 or 1750, Guillermo Dupaix became one of the first Europeans to observe and describe the archaeological riches of Chiapas, Oaxaca, and Yucatan. Between 1805 and 1807, he lead three Royal expeditions to survey major Mexican archaeological sites, working in close concert with Jose Luciano Castañeda, an artist with the National Museum. Among the sites they visited were the Mayan ruins at Palenque, the Zapotec/Mixtec site at Mitla, and several Aztec sites.</p> <p>The APS version of Viages Sobre las Antiquedades Mejicanas is one of several contemporary manuscript copies of Dupaix's seminal work on Mexican archaeology. The work consists of two volumes, the first</p>

containing the text, the second, copies of Castañeda's illustrations, which here lack the distortions introduced in King's edition.

Preferred Citation

Cite as: Guillermo Dupaix, Viages Sobre las Antiquedades Mejicanas, American Philosophical Society.

Background note

Born in Austro-Hungary in either 1748 or 1750, Guillermo Dupaix became one of the first Europeans to observe and describe the archaeological riches of Chiapas, Oaxaca, and Yucatan. As captain of the Regiment of Dragones de Almansa, Dupaix arrived in Mexico in 1791 and served for almost a decade. Between 1805 and 1807, he lead three Royal expeditions to survey major Mexican archaeological sites, working in close concert with Jose Luciano Castañeda, an artist with the National Museum. Among the sites they visited were the Mayan ruins at Palenque, the Zapotec/Mixtec site at Mitla, and several Aztec sites.

During his surveys, Dupaix was arrested under suspicion of being a revolutionary, and although he was acquitted, the charges brought his work to a halt. It took years for the results of his surveys and Castañeda's elegant illustrations to reach publication. Edward King, Lord Kingsborough, published a selection from Dupaix's account in 1831, however he introduced a number of distortions into Castañeda's drawings, making them look more Egyptian or Hebraic. In 1834, a more comprehensive, two volume edition appeared in France under the direction of Henri Baradère as *Antiquités Mexicaines Relation des Trois Expéditions du Capitaine Dupaix, Ordonnés en 1805, 1806 et 1807*.

Scope & content

The APS version of *Viages Sobre las Antiquedades Mejicanas* is one of several contemporary manuscript copies of Guillermo Dupaix's seminal work on Mexican archaeology. The work consists of two volumes, the first containing the text, the second, copies of Castañeda's illustrations, which here lack the distortions introduced in King's edition.

The first volume is divided into ten sections, most of which are signed by Dupaix at the end (possibly in facsimile), and most of which were published in the King edition of 1831. These include:

Primera Expedicion, en al año de 1805	16p.	King, vol. 5, 209-225.
Descripcion de las Mistodas, alta y baxa, 2a Expn., 1806. Borrador 2o.	65p.	King, vol. 5, 227-246.
Descripcion de Monte Alvan, ó Borrador, 2a Expn.	12p.	King, vol. 5, 247-251.
Descripcion de los Monumentos antiguos de Sn. Pablo Mitlan, 2s Expn., 1806	37p.	King, vol. 5, 253-268.
Descripcion de Guiláâ, Zachila y Quilápa.	32p.	King, vol. 5, 269-278.
Descripcion de Tepeyacac, Puebla y Tlaxcálan, 2a. Expn.	21p.	
Tlaxcala y Puebla	18p.	King, vol. 5, 285-294.
Palenque (2o al 3a viage perteniente al Palenque).	40p.	King, vol. 5, 294-321.

Suplementa de la Descripcion
del Palenque

27p.

King, vol. 5, 340-343.

El Monumento Mejicano
antiguo q. se haya en el angulo
suroeste del Simenterio de
Catedral...

6p.

Native American Images Note : In the second volume, almost 300 ink wash sketches, pencil rubbings, and watercolors of Dupaix's expedition surveys of Mayan, Zapotec/Mixtec, and Aztec ruins in Palenque, Mitla, and Mexico City. Bas-reliefs of animals, men, geometric designs interspersed with pyramids (teocalli), fortifications, bridges, masks, idols, and diagrams of tombs and buildings. Primarily copies from rough sketches, with some signed by the artist Josef Castenada. Collated to follow Edward King, viscount Kingsborough, *Antiquities of Mexico* (1831), descriptive phrases on the sketches are in Spanish. The APS manuscript sketch file contains an inventory of the images.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

American Philosophical Society 2002

Provenance

Acquisition Information

Gift of Joel Roberts Poinsett, 1830.

Processing Information

Recatalogued by rsc, 2004. Only scanned images are noted.

Related Materials

Related Material

The Benson Latin American Collection, General Libraries, University of Texas at Austin contains a small collection of Guillermo Dupaix Papers.

Indexing Terms

Genre(s)

- Pen works
- Rubbings
- Sketches.
- Watercolors

Geographic Name(s)

- Mexico--Antiquities

- Mitla Site (Mexico)--Antiquities
- Palenque (Chiapas, Mexico)

Personal Name(s)

- Castaneda, Jose Luciano

Subject(s)

- Archaeology--Mexico
- Aztecs--Antiquities
- Beyond Early America
- Ethnology--Mexico
- Indians of Mexico
- Mayas--Antiquities
- Mixtec Indians--Antiquities
- Southwest Indians

Other Finding Aids

The Dupaix volumes are indexed and briefly described in the online [Daythal Kendall Guide to Native American Collections at the American Philosophical Society](#) (entry 2140).

Other Descriptive Information

This manuscript collection falls outside the geographic scope of the Early American guide (British North America and the United States before 1840). It may be of interest to scholars interested in global history, international relations, imperialism, or the U.S. in the world.

Bibliography

King, Edward, Viscount Kingsborough, *Antiquities of Mexico*, 6 vols. (London, 1831).

Baradère, Henri, *Antiquités Mexicaines Relation des Trois Expéditions du Capitaine Dupaix, Ordonnés en 1805, 1806 et 1807*, 2 vols. (Paris: Jules Didot, 1833-34) **Call no.:** 913.72 B23a v.1, 2.

Antiquités Mexicaines Relation des Trois Expéditions du Capitaine Dupaix, Ordonnés en 1805, 1806 et 1807 [Prospectus] [Broadside] **Call no.:** 973 C683 no.271.

Antiquités Mexicaines Relation des Trois Expéditions du Capitaine Dupaix, Ordonnés en 1805, 1806 et 1807 [Prospectus] [Broadside] Call no.: Pam. Vol. 3, no. 27.

Antiquities of Mexico (London: Havell, 1831) **Call no.:** 913.72 K58 v.1-9.

Collection Inventory

Mayan carvings	1805-1807
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Mayan carvings, 1805-1807

[\[http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:3413\]](http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:3413)

Mayan carvings

1805-1807

Mayan carvings, 1805-1807

[\[http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:3417\]](http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:3417)

Mayan carvings

1805-1807

Mayan carvings, 1805-1807

[\[http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:3410\]](http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:3410)

Mayan carvings

1805-1807

Mayan carvings, 1805-1807

[\[http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:3414\]](http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:3414)

Mayan idol

1805-1807

Mayan idol, 1805-1807

[\[http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:3415\]](http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:3415)

Mayan idol

1805-1807

Mayan idol, 1805-1807

[\[http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:3406\]](http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:3406)

Mayan sculpture

1805-1807

Mayan sculpture, 1805-1807

[\[http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:3412\]](http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:3412)

Mayan temple

1805-1807

Mayan temple, 1805-1807

[\[http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:3411\]](http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:3411)

Mayan temple

1805-1807

Mayan temple, 1805-1807

[\[http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:3407\]](http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:3407)

Mayan temple

1805-1807

Mayan temple, 1805-1807

[\[http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:3416\]](http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:3416)

Mexican temple, columns

Mexican temple, columns, 1805-1807

[\[http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:3419\]](http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:3419)

Mayan temple, tracing

Mayan temple, tracing, 1805-1807

[\[http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:3418\]](http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:3418)

Mayan temple, floor plan

Mayan temple, floor plan, 1805-1807

[\[http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:3420\]](http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:3420)

Ancient medal of Guatemala

Ancient medal of Guatemala, 1805-1807

[\[http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:3408\]](http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:3408)

Mayan temple, altars

Mayan temple, altars, 1805-1807

[\[http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:3409\]](http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:3409)
