



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Frederick Catherwood drawing of the great Teocallis at Uxmal, 1841

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Frederick Catherwood drawing of the great Teocallis at Uxmal
Date:	1841
Identifier:	NAA.MS211351
Creator:	Catherwood, Frederick, 1799-1854 (Artist)
Extent:	1 Drawings (visual works) (watercolor; 42 x 28 inches)
Language:	No linguistic content; Not applicable .
Digital Content:	Image(s): Frederick Catherwood drawing of the great Teocallis at Uxmal
Container:	Item 211351

Administrative Information

Provenance

The drawing was given to James Rivers King, father of the geologist Clarence King, possibly as a memento in exchange for his financial support of the Stephens and Catherwood expedition. Clarence King gave the drawing to W. H. Phillips of Washington around 1890. After Mr. Phillips' death, it became the property of his daughter Imogene Phillips. It was purchased by Bureau of American Ethnology from Imogene Phillips in 1901. The drawing was transferred from the object collections of the Department of Anthropology to the National Anthropological Archives in 1988.

Preferred Citation

Frederick Catherwood drawing of the great Teocallis at Uxmal (MS 211351), National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.
Access to the collection requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

Frederick Catherwood (1799–1854) was an English artist and architect known for his meticulously detailed drawings of the ruins of the Maya civilization. In 1839 and 1841, Catherwood and John Lloyd Stephens toured dozens of archaeological sites in Central America and Mexico. Together they published two books describing their discoveries:

Incidents of Travel in Central America, Chiapas, and Yucatan (published in 1841, after the first voyage) and *Incidents of Travel in Yucatan* (published in 1843, after the second voyage).

Scope and Contents

A gouache drawing depicting the Teocallis, also called House of the Diviner or Dwarf's House, sitting on a pyramidal mound. It is a grand stone structure with intricate stone carvings at the gateway. Several people and a dog gather outside the entrance.

Please note that the contents of the collection and the language and terminology used reflect the context and culture of the time of its creation. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today. The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution or National Anthropological Archives, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.

Local Numbers

NAA MS 211,351

USNM Accession Number 38171

Variant Title

Drawing of a ruined temple in Yucatan

House of the Magician

House of the Dwarf

Publication Note

A lithograph of a portion of this drawing was published in:

Catherwood, F. (1844). *Views of ancient monuments in Central America, Chiapas and Yucatan*. London: Published by F. Catherwood.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Maya

Cultures:

Maya

Types of Materials:

Watercolors

Works of art

Places:

Mexico
North America
Uxmal Site (Mexico)