

FELINES Presentation Series

Jaguar, Jaguarundi, Puma, Margay and Ocelot of Mexico, Guatemala and nearby countries

17 Topics in 7 Presentations (each presentation 1 hour)

Dr Nicholas Hellmuth



Available from FLAAR (USA) and from FLAAR Mesoamerica (Guatemala)

Available worldwide in English or Spanish, via ZOOM and Facebook Live

The first lecture will start with the abstracts of 17 Segments.

Then Lecture **I** will be presented.

Then Lecture **II** will be presented.

Presentation 1

I: All Five Felines of Guatemala (and adjacent countries)

Photographs and drawings to show: Jaguar, Ocelot, Margay, Jaguarundi, Puma

II: Jaguar-Spotted Designs on Late Classic Ceramics of Tikal, Uaxactun, etc.

On Maya vases, bowls, and plates: which are really Jaguar spots; which others are actually Ocelot spots or Margay spots?

Presentation 2

III: Jaguar-Spotted Clothing for Warriors & Royal Elite, Murals of Cacaxtla, Mexico

IV: Jaguar-Spotted Clothing for Warriors & Royal Elite, Murals of Bonampak

**V: Jaguar-Spotted Hides used as Royal Clothing
(and Military Symbolism) on Stone Stelae and (rarely) military scenes on Ceramics**

- jaguar-spotted vests, jaguar-spotted skirts, jaguar heads as headdresses
- jaguar headdress and jaguar pelage throne coverings for God L (merchant god)

Presentation 3

**VI: (Jaguar-Spotted Coverings for Royal Furniture
Shown on Vases, Bowls, Plates and Stone Stelae**

- for oval-thrones
- back-rests of thrones
- for rectangular platforms used as seats or thrones for the elite
- 3-dimensional thrones (mostly jaguars but possibly some pumas)
- jaguar pelage throne coverings for God L (merchant god)

VII: Jaguar Jade, Jaguar Leather, Jaguar Throne painting on Vase (Tikal Burial 196)

Presented as a preview of a potential Tomb of the Jade Jaguar lecture, Tikal Bu. 196, Tikal Str. 5D-73.

Presentation 4

VIII: Jaguars as trained to help in Human Sacrifice

IX: Jaguar Dancers (usually actors in jaguar outfits)

X: Jaguars and Jaguar Actors in other ceremonies (enema and other rituals)

XI: Jaguar God of the Underworld (JGU), Paddler Gods, and Hero Twins of the Popol Vuh

XII Jaguars on Late Classic Highland Maya Urns, Incensarios, Cache Vessels

Presentation 5

XIII: Jaguars and Felines in the Murals of Teotihuacan, Mexico

- Jaguars with ropes or material woven around them, shown in the murals
 - Jaguar-Bird-Reptile creatures
 - Jaguars associated with stylized water
 - Felines with no spots or other aspects to showcase as a jaguar (so probably a puma)
 - Warriors with jaguar accessories (men in jaguar outfits)
- Priests, Rulers or other Elite with Jaguar headdresses or other aspects

Presentation 6

XIV: Where did all this Feline-Pelage Spot symbolism come from?

- Olmec Were-Jaguar
- Teotihuacan had jaguars but was more focused on Owls, Serpents, etc.
- Most Jaguar-pelage-spot designs in Maya settings are in the Late Classic not Early Classic
- Early Classic Jaguars in Maya Lowlands mainly as ceramic lid decor (what was inside?)
- Note that representations of full-figure puma, margay and ocelot exist but are very rare
- Popol Vuh has a “Cave of the Jaguars”

Presentation 7

XV: Jaguars & other Felines in the Maya Codices

XVI: Jaguars & other Felines in the Aztec and Mixtec Codices

XVII: Jaguars and Jaguarundi come in notable Diversity of Colors

- White jaguars, Black jaguars, Gray jaguars.
- Different colors of Jaguarundi

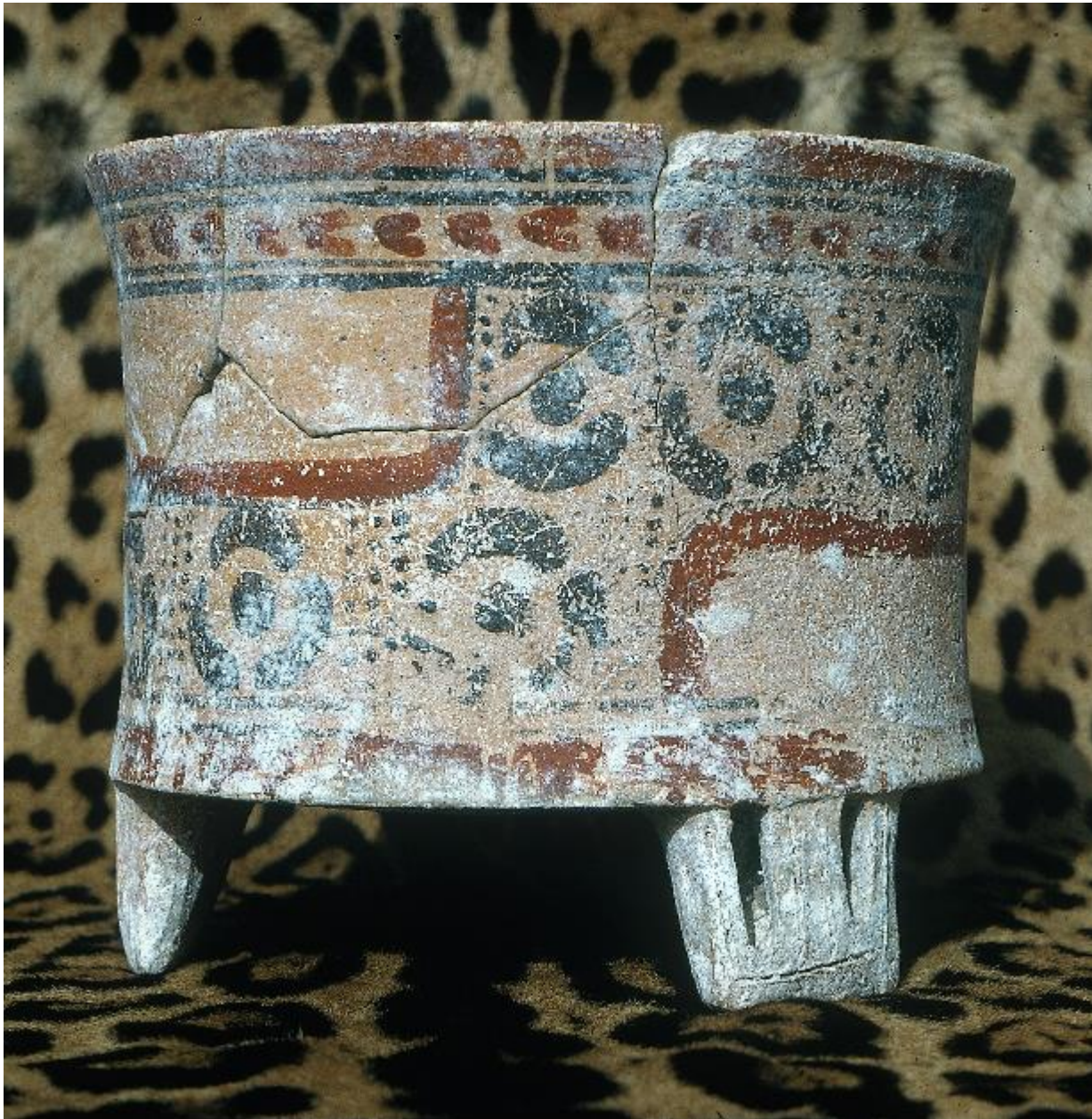
I: All Five Felines of Guatemala (and adjacent countries)
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Fotos por: Nicholas Hellmuth, FLAAR Mesoamérica.

II: Jaguar-Spotted Designs on Late Classic Ceramics of Tikal, Uaxactun, etc.

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III: Jaguar-Spotted Clothing for Warriors & Royal Elite, Murals of Cacaxtla, Mexico



Figura 5.57. Edificio A, pinturas de las jambas:
a) jamba norte;
b) jamba sur.
(Fotos: R. Alvarado, M. J. Chávez y P. Peña, 2010.)

a

b

Jaguar-Spotted Clothing for Warriors & Royal Elite, Murals of Cacaxtla, Mexico



God L is the Merchant God of the Classic Maya (a patron deity of long-distance merchants). God L is usually sitting on a jaguar-pelt throne or otherwise associated with jaguar hides as clothing.

God L usually (but not always) is smoking a cigar. Thus it is estimated that Maximon, the revered personage in Mayan villages around Lake Atitlan is at least partially based on God L of over a thousand years ago.

Map showing location of Cacaxtla



IV: Jaguar-Spotted Clothing for Warriors & Royal Elite, Murals of Bonampak



The Spectacle of the Late Maya Court: Reflections on the Murals of Bonampak (2013) Mary Ellen Miller and Claudia Brittenham. Room 1.



V: Jaguar-Spotted Hides used as Royal Clothing (and Military Symbolism) on Stone Stelae and (rarely) military scenes on Ceramics

- jaguar-spotted vests, jaguar-spotted skirts, jaguar heads as headdresses
- jaguar headdress and jaguar pelage throne coverings for God L (merchant god)

Site: Palenque

Schele Number: 236

Description: Detail of the war stack from the temple of the sun panel. god I (left) and an unidentified god, resting on a band decorated with earth symbols, hold aloft a bench embellished with jaguar and serpent motifs. Atop the bench are two crossed stone lances and a shield decorated with the face of G-III.

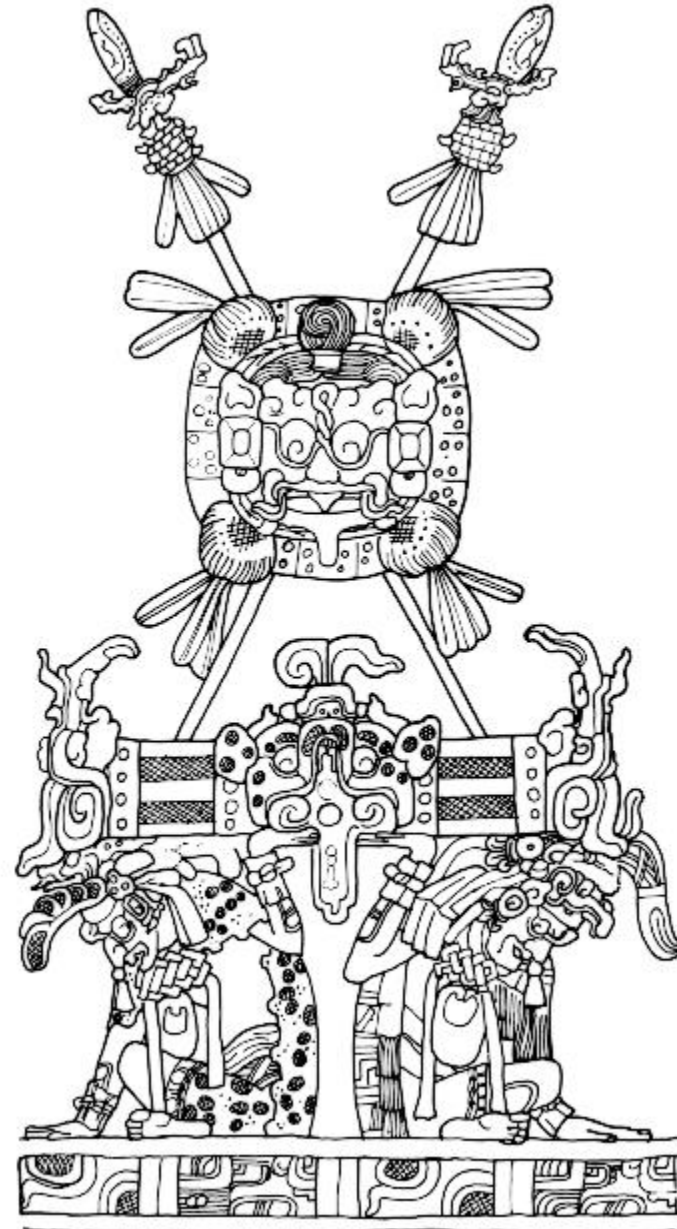
Current Location: At Site

Architectural Feature: Panel, Tablet

Chronological Era: Late Classic

Culture: Maya

Iconographic Features: God Giii, Jaguar God Of Underworld; God L; Warfare; Jaguar; Serpent



Site: Palenque

Schele Number: 158

Description: Pier b from temple of the inscriptions.

Based on the quetzal and jaguar in the headdress, the standing figure may represent k'uk' b'alam i, founder of the palenque dynasty. the child cradled in his arms is presumably k'inich kan b'alam ii. However, the child exhibits a flaming axe in his forehead and one foot in the form of a serpent; traits that are diagnostic of k'awiil.

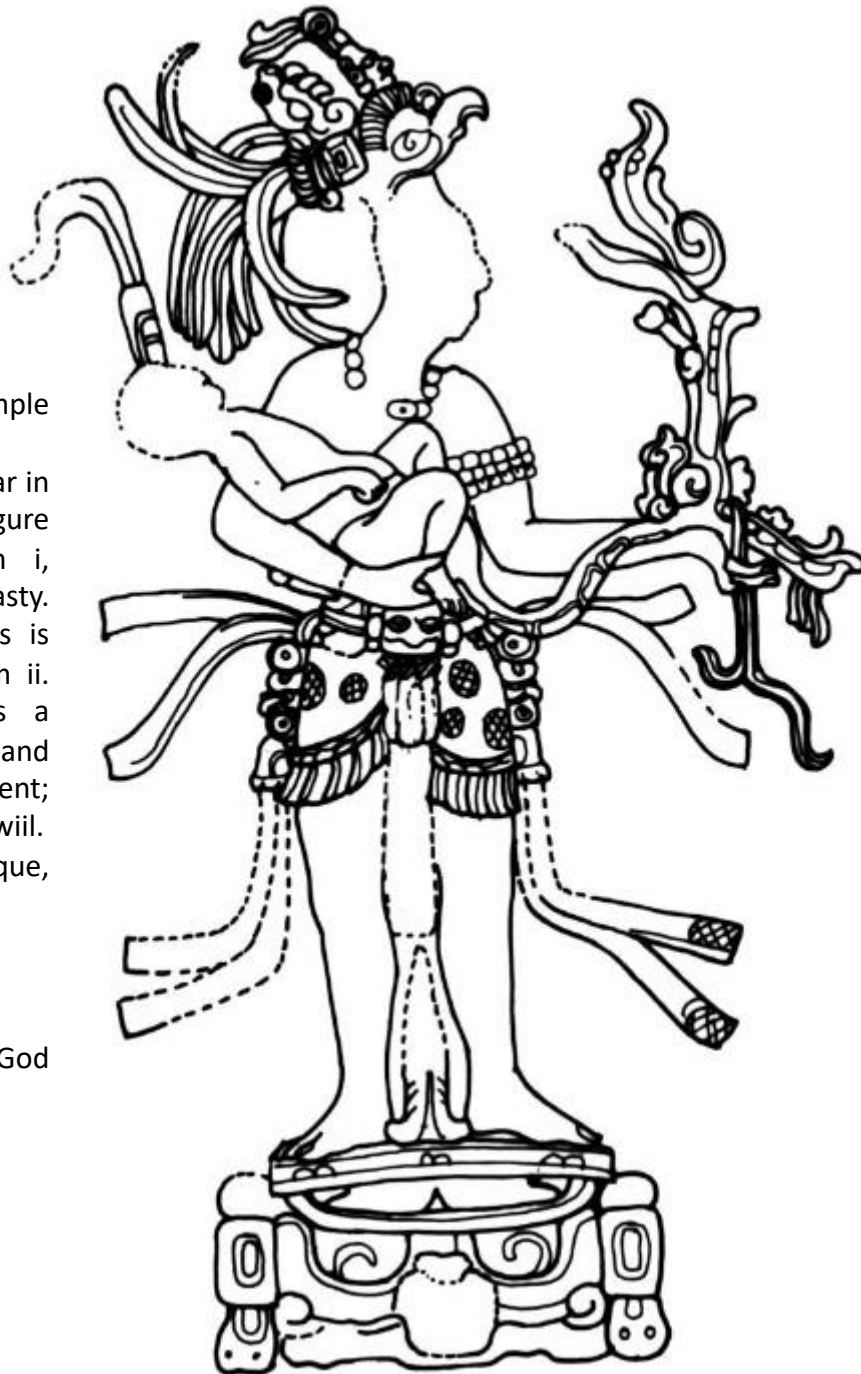
Current Location: Palenque, Temple Of The Inscriptions

Architectural Feature: Pier

Chronological Era: Late Classic

Culture: Maya

Iconographic Features: Child; God Gii, God K, K'awiil



Site: Palenque

Schele Number: 176

Description: East sanctuary jamb from the temple of the cross. god l, identified by his muan-bird headdress and jaguar pelt cloak, smokes a large cigar.

Current Location: Palenque

Architectural Feature: Panel, Tablet

Chronological Era: Late Classic

Notes: The text in the panel above god L's head continues the text from the west sanctuary jamb and names gi as u-hun-tan ("his cherished one") K'inich Kan B'alam II. For drawing of panel from west sanctuary jamb see sd175.

Culture: Maya

Iconographic Features: God L

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La Pintura Mural Prehispánica en México
Tomo IV (2001), Beatriz de la Fuente.

Dibujo de Víctor R. Castillo

VII: Jaguar Jade, Jaguar Leather, Jaguar Throne painting on Vase (Tikal Burial 196)

Presented as a preview of a potential Tomb of the Jade Jaguar lecture, Tikal Bu. 196, Tikal Str. 5D-73.



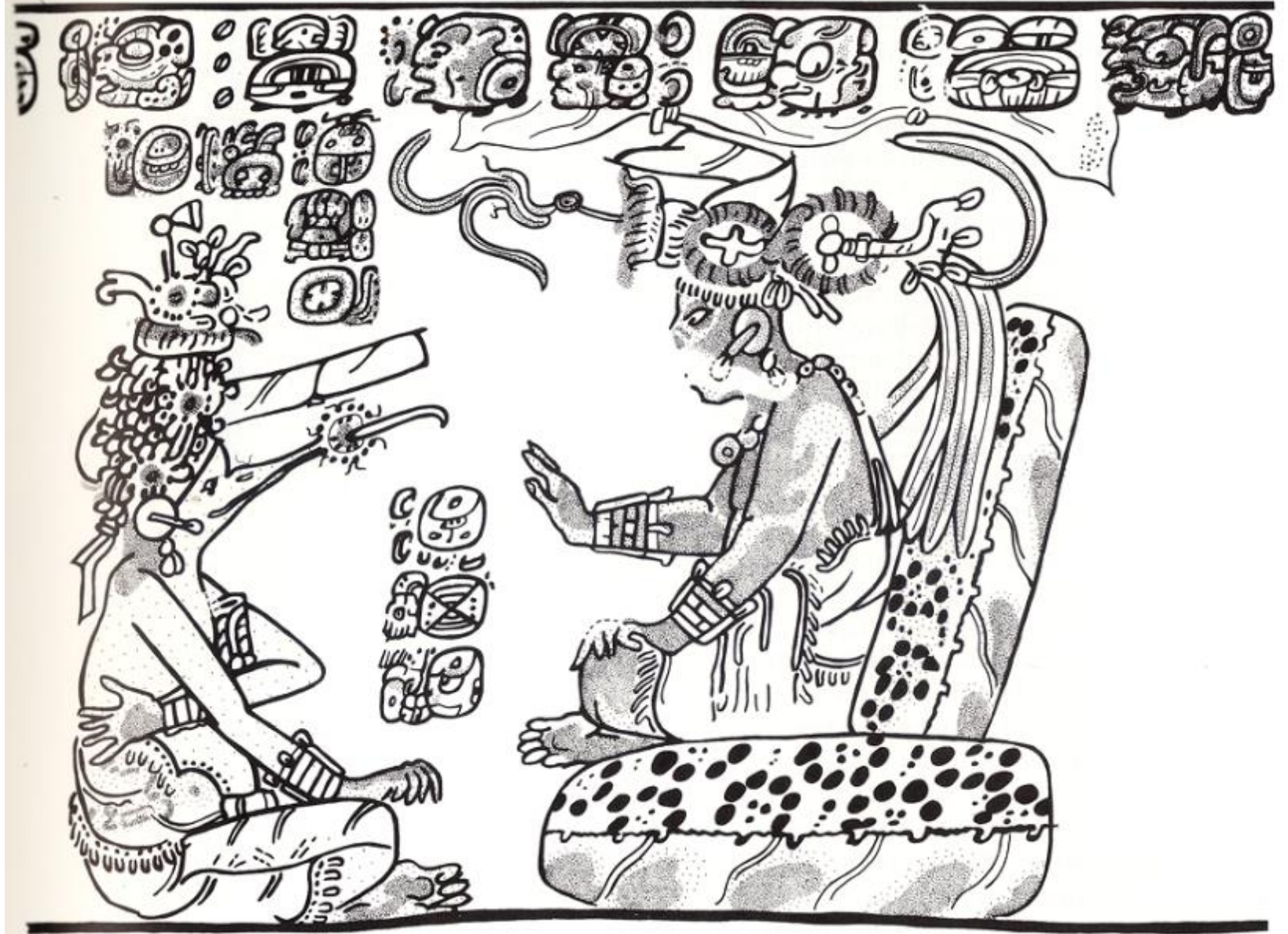
**Jade Jaguar, el
homónimo de la tumba**

The polychrome vase with the seated ruler is to the right of the fallen rock (part of the walls, some of the corbel vault, and above the roof of the tomb collapsed over a thousand years ago). It took over a month to remove the fallen stones to record the vases and plates underneath.



Jarrón no muy alto con exquisita representación de líneas finas de dos personajes de hombre páiara

The polychrome vase showing a ruler seated on a jaguar pelt throne (shown in other slide) was found by Nicholas Hellmuth inside Burial 196, Tikal Str. 5D-73, in 1965, while a student intern in architectural recording, archaeology, and photography at Tikal. Photo with Leica, Kodachrome film, digitized with slide scanner.



VIII: Jaguars as trained to help in Human Sacrifice



Fig. 42 Uaxactun, polychrome plate (after A.L. Smith, 1934)



Studies in Classic Maya Iconography (1969) George Kubler.

IX: Jaguar Dancers (usually actors in jaguar outfits)

Lots of Tepeu 1 vases show a row of dancers; usually one is dressed as a jaguar, another as a deer. But here I show a ceramic figurine; probably a dancer expertly dressed as a jaguar. Lots of animals are pictured in scenes (both actors and real animals, especially deer, monkeys, jaguars, and birds).



X: Jaguars and Jaguar Actors in other ceremonies (enema and other rituals)



Two jaguars in different episodes of different rituals (at the right with enema clyster and jug that carries the liquid that will be injected). Segment of a digital rollout photograph by Nicholas Hellmuth of the Tepeu 2 (Late Classic) "Castillo Bowl" Museo Popol Vuh, Universidad Francisco Marroquin.

XI: Jaguar God of the Underworld (JGU), Paddler Gods, and Hero Twins of the Popol Vuh



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XIII: Jaguars and Felines in the Murals of Teotihuacan, Mexico

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Jaguars in murals of Teotihuacan.

By. Carlos Navarrete. Redrawn from Miller

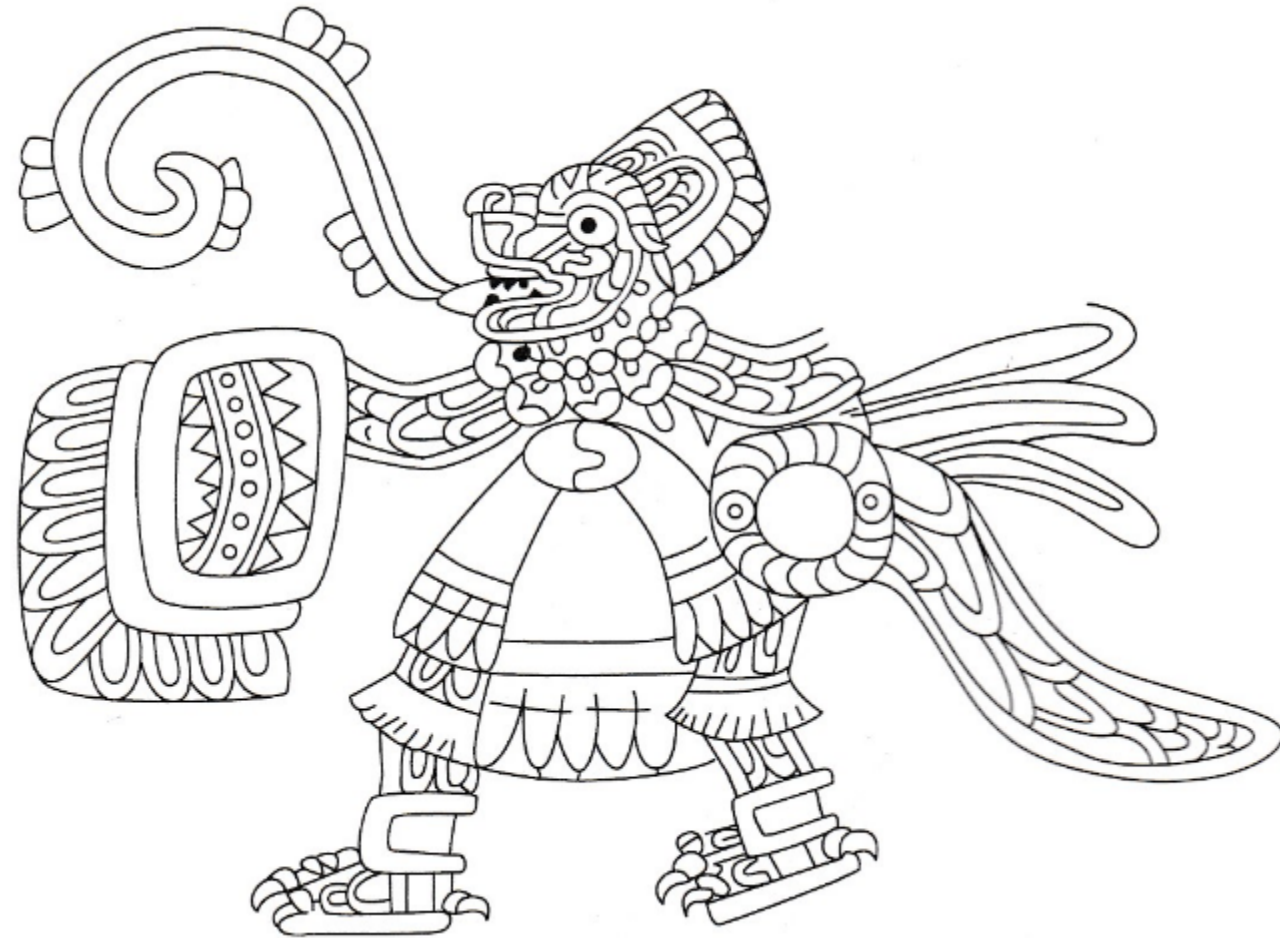


Figure 4.8. Mural depicting a jaguar warrior with a shield and back mirror, Zacuala, Teotihuacan. Drawing by: Jenni Bongard after von winning 1987.

In the murals of Teotihuacan you see Felines associated with feathers of Raptors and Venemous Snakes

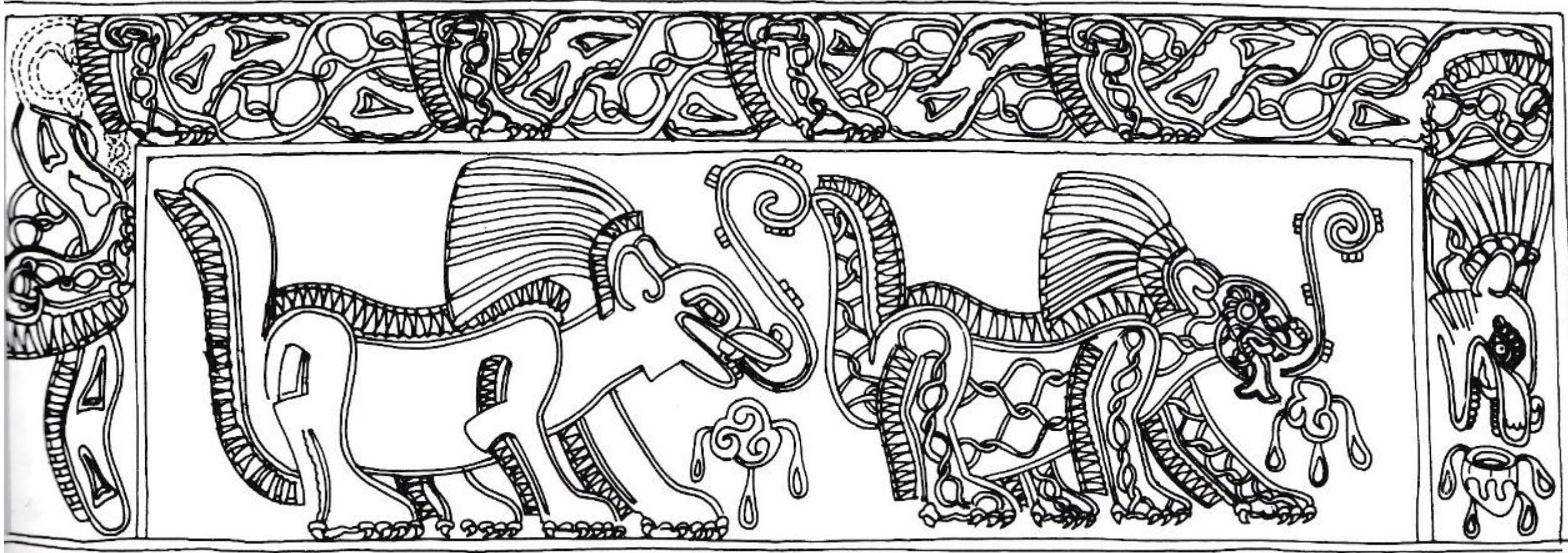


Figura 18.4 Atetelco. Patio Blanco. Pórtico 2, murales 1-4 Talud (procesión de jaguares y coyotes, según Von Winning, 1987).

XIV: Where did all this Feline-Pelage Spot symbolism come from?

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Los Olmecas en Mesoamérica (1994), John E. Clark, Fotografía de Ann Cyphers Guillén.

Máscara de un felino olmeca procedente de la Mixteca, Oaxaca. Esta placa de jade fue una de las primeras piezas olmecas reconocidas, y fue descrita en el catálogo del Museo Nacional de Antropología de 1927.

XV: Jaguars & other Felines in the Maya Codices





Fig. 5. Jaguar (*Felis Hernandezi*), Dresden 24.

Animal Figures in the Maya Codices by Alfred Marston Tozzer, Glover Morrill Allen (1910).



Drawing of a jaguar Dresden Codex.



Fig. 8. Jaguar, Tro-Cortesianus 28c.



Fig. 10. Jaguar, Tro-Cortesianus 30b.

XVI: Jaguars & other Felines in the Aztec and Mixtec Codices





Códice Tonalamatl Aubin (Loubat 1901).

XVII: Jaguars and Jaguarundi come in notable Civersity of Colors

- White jaguars, Black jaguars, Gray jaguars.
- Different colors of Jaguarundi



Jaguarundi come in three different colors; here are two of these different colors.

A jaguarundi is the size "of a cat on steroids" (longer neck, thicker body, thicker and longer tail).

A lot to learn about all five different felines of Guatemala, Mexico and nearby countries with this series of presentations by Nicholas Hellmuth, FLAAR (USA) and FLAAR Mesoamerica (Guatemala).

