MEMOIRS OF THE PEABODY MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY, HARVARD UNIVERSITY. VOL. I. - NOS. 4,5: RESEARCHES IN THE ULOA VALLEY, HONDURAS; CAVERNS OF COPAN, HONDURAS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649323081

Memoirs of the peabody museum of American archaeology and ethnology, Harvard university. Vol. I. - Nos. 4,5: Researches in the uloa valley, honduras; caverns of copan, honduras by George Byron Gordon

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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GEORGE BYRON GORDON

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CAMBRIDGE:
PUBLISHED BY THE MUSEUM.
1898.

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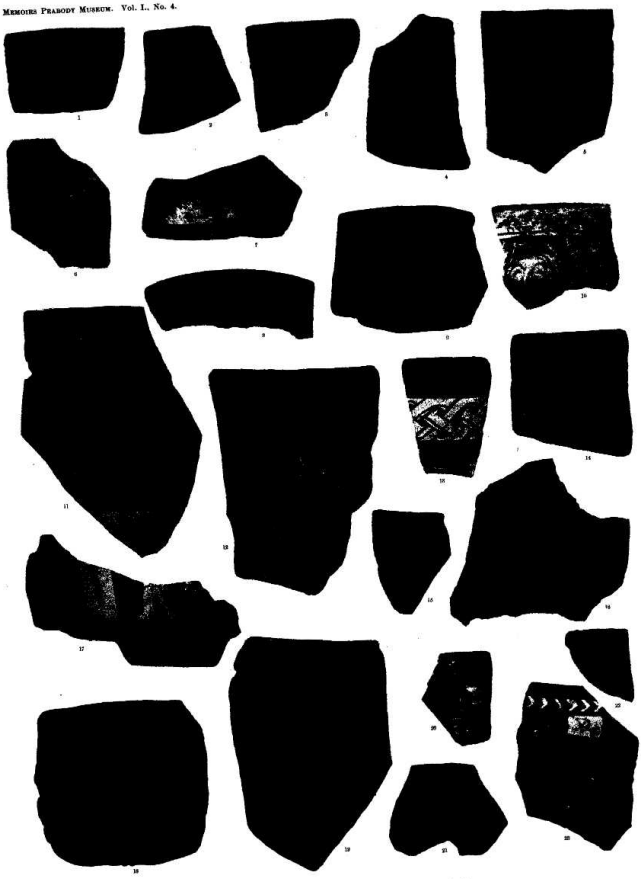

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EDITORIAL NOTE.

THESE two memoirs, issued under one cover, contain an account of the explorations in Honduras by the Peabody Museum in the years 1896 and 1897. During these years the work at the Ruins of Copan was suspended, owing to the unfortunate position taken by the present government of Honduras in relation to the edict granted to the Museum by the former government. Mr. Gordon has therefore turned his attention to other localities in that region, and has been so fortunate as to find much of interest and importance relating to the antiquities of the country.

The Uloa valley, as shown by Mr. Gordon's researches, was at one time well populated, but was not, at least for any length of time, occupied by the people whose ruined buildings of stone are found on various sites from the Copan valley and Guatemala to Yucatan and southern Mexico. That the Uloa valley was a region visited by several distinct peoples in ancient times seems to be shown by the mixture of cultures, as represented by the pottery and other objects found in the great deposits of refuse exposed along the banks of the river. This commingling of cultures, indicative of the various peoples who have occupied this rich valley of the Uloa, is worthy of an extended research, to which this report by Mr. Gordon opens the way.

The stone covered mounds, discovered by Mr. Gordon, comprise a group similar to others that have been referred to by travellers in the region of the headwaters of the Uloa. These mounds should be thoroughly explored, for it seems probable that an extended research would bring to light something of importance in relation to the people who built them. The one rude sculpture of stone discovered by Mr. Gordon and figured in his report, certainly has a closer resemblance to the rude sculptures from Nicaragua than to the elaborately sculptured monoliths of Copan.

Mr. Gordon's explorations in the caves on the hillsides of the Copan valley do not give evidence of extreme antiquity of man in that region; although the caves were undoubtedly used by man many centuries ago. Here again the culture of the people, as indicated by the few objects found