



Monuments of Yaxchilan: Lintel 25¹

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Context: This lintel was photographed by Alfred P. Maudslay during his brief visit in 1882. The inscription on the front edge had probably been destroyed by Edwin Rockstroh, who had visited the site previous to Maudslay (Tate 1992:204; Graham and von Euw 1977:54). In preparation for transportation to the British Museum, the carved areas on the underside and the front edge were sawn off by Maudslay's assistant (Graham and von Euw 1977:56). The original context was later identified by Teobert Maler, who found the remainder of the lintel in front of the central doorway of Structure 23.

Dimensions: MW 0.85 m, HSc 1.18 m, WSc 0.74 m, MTh 0.29 m, Rel. 3.2 cm (Graham and von Euw 1977:56).

An important rite of Itzamnaaj(?)/Kokaaj(?) Bahlam III is represented here (9.12.9.8.1 5 Imix 4 Mac, 24 October AD 681). The scene involves the invocation of power (*k'awilaal*) and weapons (*utook' upakal*) of an entity called Aj K'ahk' O' Chahk. From the maws of a conjured serpent rising from a bowl filled with strips of bark paper emerges a figure arrayed in Teotihuacan regalia, in all probability the king himself glorifying in his rulership. Observing the king is his wife Ix K'abal Xook, who is dressed in an elaborate huipil and is holding another receptacle with ritual implements. This masterpiece represents the finest Classic Maya carving skills and is also one of the best-known examples of mirror-inverted text. The text continues—here without mirror inversion—along the front side of the lintel and connects the previous rites of Itzamnaaj(?)/Kokaaj(?) Bahlam III with the date 3 Imix 14 Chen (9.14.11.15.1, 6 August 723), the day associated with the dedication of Lintel 25 and its proper building (Structure 23), which the king commissioned for the commemoration of his wife.

A1-E4: (A1) 5-“IMIX”-4-**ma-MAHK** (B1) **u-TZAK-wa-u-K'AWIIL-wi-la-li** (C1) **u-to-k'a-PAKAL** (D1) **AJ-K'AHK'-o-CHAHK-ki** (E1) **u-K'UH-ju-lu-tza-ku** (F1) 4-WINIKHAAB-AJAW (E2) ITZAMNAAJ?/KOKAAJ?-BAHLAM (E3) **u-CHAN-nu-AJ-T533-ki** (E4) **K'UH?-AJAW ba-ka-ba**

ho' imix chan mahk utzakaw uk'awilaal utook' [u]pakal aj k'ahk' o' chahk uk'uhul tza[h]k chan winikhaab ajaw itzamnaaj?/kokaaj? bahlam uchan aj ...k k'uh[ul] ... ajaw ba[h]kab

“(On the day) 5 Imix the 4th of Mac (24 October AD 681) he (Itzamnaaj?/Kokaaj? Bahlam III conjured the K'awilaal (power), the flint and shield of (the god) Aj K'ahk' O' Chahk. It is the divine conjuring of Itzamnaaj(?)/Kokaaj(?) Bahlam III, lord of four katuns, the guardian of Aj...k, divine lord of ..., head of earth.”

¹ See also Zender 2007.

G1-I3: (G1) **u-BAAH[A'N]-li-IX-OHL-la** (G2) **wi?-WIIN?-TE'-NAAH** (H1) **ch'a-ho-ma** (I1) **IX-k'a[ba]-la-XOOK-ki** (I2) **u-yo-OOK-TE'-le** (I3) **TAHN-HA'-[PA']CHAN-na**

ubaahil a'n ix ohl wiin? te' naah ch'ahoom ix k'abal xook uyookte'l tahn ha' pa'chan

"It is the impersonation of Ix Ohl Wiin(?) Te' Naah, the Censer, Ix K'abal Xook, (this is) her perforation in front of (while facing) the waters/river of Pa'chan."

J1-W1: (J1-J2) **u-TZ'AK-ka-AJ** (K1) **mi-7-WINIK-ya** (K2) **2-HAAB-ya** (L1) **2-WINIKHAAB-ya** (M1) **TZAK-ji-ya** (L2) **K'AWIIL-la** (M2) **TAHN-na-HA'-PA'-CHAN** (N1) **i-u-ti** (O1) **3-'IMIX''** (N2) **14-IHK'-SIJOOM** (O2) **T'AB-yi** (P1) **yu-xu-li** (Q1) **yo-OTOOT-ti** (P2) **T1001-IXIK** (Q1) **K'UH** (R1) **IX-T1058a** (S1) **XOOK-ki** (R2) **IX-k'a[ba]-la** (S2) **XOOK-ki** (T1) **IX-KAL-TE'** (U1) **yo-OHL-la** (T2) **TAHN-na-li** (U2) **TAHN-na-HA'-PA'-CHAN** (V1) **u-KAB-CH'EEN** (W1) **u-CHAN-nu AJ-T533-ki** (V1) **ITZAMNAAJ?/KOKAAJ?-BAHLAM** (W1) **K'UH-PA'-CHAN-AJAW-wa**

utz'akaj mi[h] [heew] huk winik[j]iiy cha' haabiiy cha' winikhaabiiy tza[h]kjiy k'awiil tahn ha' pa'chan i u[h]ti ux imix chanlajuun ihk' sijoos t'ab[aa]y? yuxuul yotoot ... ixik k'uh ix ... xook ix k'abal xook ix kal[oom]te' yohl tahnil tahn ha' pa'chan ukab [u]ch'een uchan aj ...k itzamnaaj?/kokaaj? bahlam k'uh[ul] pa'chan ajaw

"Were put in order 0 days, 7 twenty-day scores, 2 years, and 2 katuns (since/when) K'awiil was conjured facing/in front of the waters/river of Pa'chan, and then it happened that (on the day) 3 Imix (on) the 14th of Chen (6 August 723) is elevated the carving of the house of ... Ixik K'uh, Ix ...n Xook, Ix K'abal Xook, lady Kaloomte', the heart of the center in front of/facing the waters/river of Pa'chan. It is the territory/city of Itzamnaaj(?)/Kokaaj(?) Bahlam III, the guardian of Aj ...k, divine lord of Pa'chan."

References

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Yaxchilan Lintel 25. Photograph by Jorge Pérez de Lara. High-resolution version available: www.mesoweb.com/monuments/Yaxchilan