

Uxmal, Kabah, Sayil, and Labná <http://academic.reed.edu/uxmal/>

[return to Annotated Bibliography](#)

Architecture, Restoration, and Imaging
of the Maya Cities of
UXMAL, KABAH, SAYIL, AND LABNÁ
The Puuc Region, Yucatán, México

Charles Rhyne
Reed College

Annotated Bibliography
Labná

This section includes publications on Labná. Because these often deal extensively with other Puuc Region sites, some of these publications are listed also in the sections on Uxmal, Kabah, or Sayil. Most books on larger topics, such as the Puuc region, Yucatán, or Maya architecture, are listed only under those categories.

Four hundred photographs and diagrams of Labná are reproduced on this web site.
<http://academic.reed.edu/uxmal/labnamap.html>

A

ARTstor

Available on the web through ARTstor subscription at:
<http://www.artstor.org/index.shtml>
(accessed 2007 Dec. 8)

This is one of the two most extensive, publically available collections of early photographs of Uxmal, Kabah, Sayil, and Labná, either in print or on the web. The other equally large collection, also on the web, is hosted by the Peabody Museum of Archeology and Ethnography, Harvard University (which see). The photographs on the ARTstor website are from the Carnegie Institution of Washington Maya Excavations, and are also housed at the Peabody.

Some of the same photographs appear on both web sites. The photographs include distant views, views of individual buildings, including lesser known structures, interiors, many details of collapsing sections and individual pieces of fallen architectural sculpture, reliefs, etc. Both sets of photographs show some structures as discovered, some uncovered, and some at various early stages of restoration.

The main differences are that **the ARTstor images can be opened larger and at higher resolution**, allowing viewers to examine the images in greater detail, a significant advantage for photographs of these elaborate and much restored Maya sites. Also, as of December 2007, the catalogue information posted with the ARTstor images is much more extensive than that on the Peabody site. However, ARTstor images are **only available at subscribing institutions in the United States**, whereas the Peabody images can be viewed by anyone with Internet connection anywhere in the world.

The Carnegie Institution of America photographs were **taken between 1913 and 1957** during the Maya expeditions sponsored by the CIW.

On the ARTstor web site, there are 462 images of Uxmal, 330 of Kabah, 235 of Sayil, and 193 of Labná. The images can be opened full screen-size and larger. Most are **magnificent, grey-scale photographs, highly professional and superbly lit for maximum detail and legibility.**

B

Benavidas Castillo, Antonio

“Sacbé para liegar a Labná”. *Antropología*. Vol. 1 (1985): 19-20

Beyer, Hermann

“Über das Datum auf der Ruesselmaske von Labná, Yucatán”. *El México antiguo*, Vol. 3, Nos. 3-4 (1934): 9-1

Beyer, Hermann

“The Date on the Long-Nosed Mask of Labna”. *Maya Research*, Vol. 2 (1935): 184-190.

An image of the date glyph on the upturned snout of the largest mask at Labná is reproduced on this web site.

<http://academic.reed.edu/uxmal/galleries/thumbnails/labna/Labna-Palace-3.htm>

Blom, Frans

“A Hitherto unreported building at Labna, Yucatan”. *Maya Research*, Vol. 2 (1935): 189-190. New Orleans.

D

Desmond, Lawrence G., Patrick Collins, Tomás Gallareta Negrón, and James Callaghan

“Gateway into the Past: Photogrammetric Documentation of the Arch, Labna, Yucatan, Mexico. *Antropología y Técnica*, IIA, ed. P. Barba. Vol. 7 (2003): 55-66.”.

On the web at:

<http://maya.csuhayward.edu/archaeoplanet/LgdPage/ArchPaper.htm>

(accessed 2008 Jan. 13)

G

Gallareta Negrón, Tomás

“Análisis de un centro Puuc: el caso de Labná”. *Escondido en la selva: arqueología en el norte de Yucatan*, ed Hanns J. Prem: 119-136. Mexico, D.F.: Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia: Universidad de Bonn, 2003.

The author first provides a review of previous studies in the Puuc region. He then **describes in detail the 7 field seasons he conducted at Labná, beginning in 1991**. He supplies a full-page map-diagram, identifying the areas restored in 1991-1992 and in 1993-1994 and the area explored in 1996-1998. There follows an historical-chronological sequence of the settlement of Labná, each of 5 phases described separately. Gallareta Negrón reviews previous scholarship on each subject he treats. The most important discovery was a group of buildings in the extreme south of the area, not previously recognized, named Xcanacruz, which he describes as a satellite of Labná. He provides 3 diagrams of Xcanacruz. The 1st is a diagram of the principal plazas, the 2nd a plan of structure no.1, and the 3rd a plan of structure no.3. Gallareta Negrón concludes that there were two principal occupational phases at Labná. He makes extensive use of ceramic evidence..

Gallareta Negrón, Tomás

“Informe global de avances del Proyecto Labná y propuesta de investigación para 1997”. Reporte preparado a solicitud del consejo de Arqueología del INAH, Mérida, Yucatán. October 1998.

Gallareta Negrón, Tomás

“Objetivos y resultados iniciales del Proyecto arqueológico Labná. Temporadas 1991 y 1992”. Paper presented at the IV Coingreso Interno del Centro INAH Yucatán.

Gallareta Negrón, Tomás

“Restauración e investigaciones arqueológicas en Labná: la temporada de campo de 1992,” Report on file, Centro INAH Yucatán, Mérida, 1993.

Gallareta Negrón, Tomás, and Carlos Pérez A.

“El asentamiento del Valle de Labná: patrones serranos en el distrito de Bolonchén, región Puuc, Yucatán”. Paper presented in the V Encuentro sobre investigaciones en Ciencias Sociales, Centro de Investigaciones Regionales Dr. Hideyo Noguchi, Unidad de Ciencias Sociales, Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán.

Gallareta Negrón, Tomás, and Carlos Pérez A.

“El estudio del asentamiento de Labná”. Ponencia presentada en el III Congreso Internacional de Mayistas, 9-15 July 1995. Chetumal, Quintana Roo, IIF, Centro de Estudios Mayas, UNAM.

Gallareta Negrón, Tomás, George J. Bey III, and William M. Ringle

“Investigaciones arqueológicas en la zona Labná-Kiuic, distrito de Bolonchén, región Puuc, México. Propuesta de investigación al Consejo de Arqueología del INAH y al Centro INAH Yucatán.

Gallareta Negrón, Tomás, Lourdes Toscano Hernández, Carlos Pérez Alvarez, and Carlos Peraza L.

“Investigaciones arqueológicas en Labná: nuevas perspectivas para el estudio de las comunidades del Puuc”. IV Coloquio Pedro Bosch Gimpera, ed. Ernesto Vargas Pacheco. México, D.F.: Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, 1997.

Gallareta Negrón, Tomás, Lourdes Toscano Hernández, and Carlos Pérez Alvarez

Programa de investigación del Proyecto Labná: temporada de campo 1995. Propuesta al Consejo de Arqueología del INAH, 1995.

Gallareta Negrón, Tomás, Lourdes Toscano Hernández, Carlos Pérez Alvarez, and Carlos Peraza L.

“Proyecto Labná, Yucatán, México”. *Land of the Turkey and the Deer: Recent Research in Yucatan*, ed. Ruth Gubler. Lancaster, CA: Labyrinthos, 1999: 85-96.

Photographs of Labná showing restoration over the years are reproduced on this web site.
<http://academic.reed.edu/uxmal/labnamap.html>

A report of the Labná investigation and archaeological restoration project conducted during the 1991-1994 seasons, as authorized by INAH. There is a review of the limited previous studies and restorations. The authors then present the main objectives of the 4 field-season project; to form a database about the Labná ruins, attempt to understand the form and dimension of the city, and to establish the function of the principle structures and their temporal sequence. In addition, the project attempted to understand the temporal relationship of Labná to the rest of the Puuc region.

There is a discussion of fieldwork, collecting fallen stones and conducting stratified excavations to relate the architecture to the ceramic sequence. Special attention is given to the sacbé, especially the southern terminus, which was excavated and consolidated.

There are 13 illustrations, all gray-scale photographs by Tomas Gallareta and line drawings. There is a diagram of the Puuc region, a ground plan of Labná indicating which areas were studied each year, and ground plans of the Palace and Arch-Mirador area. One photograph shows the projecting vaulted room on the main level of the Palace, uncovered and restored. **Especialmente informativas son las fotografías del sacbé y la plataforma en su extremo sur, con su forma y estructura reveladas por primera vez.**

Gallareta Negrón, Tomás, Lourdes Toscano Hernández, Carlos Pérez Alvare, Rossana May Ciau, and David Salazar Aguilar

Restauración e investigaciones arqueológicas en Labná; la temporada de campo de 1994. Report of activities presented in the Consejo de Arqueología del INAH Yucatan, 1994.

Gallareta Negrón, Tomás, et al.

“Planteamientos y resumen de los trabajos de campo del Proyecto Arqueológico Labná”. *I'INAJ*, Vol. 1, No. 3 (1991): 30-39

Gallareta Negrón, Tomás, et al.

“Investigaciones arqueológicas recientes en Labná, Yucatán”. Paper presented at the XX Mesa Redonda de Palenque, Palenque, July 1993.

Gallareta Negrón, Tomás, et. al.

“Proyecto Labná: Conservación, Investigación y Protección del sitio arqueológico”. Paper presented at the Consejo de Arqueología del Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia. México, 1991.

Gallareta Negrón, Tomás, et al.

“Restauración e investigaciones arqueológicas en Labná: informe de la temporada de campo de 1997 y resultado de los análisis de materiales cerámicos y líticos”. Report presented at the Consejo de Arqueología del INAH, Mérida, Yucatan, 1997.

Gallareta Negrón, Tomás, et al.

“Restauración e investigaciones arqueológicas en Labná: la temporada de campo de 1996”. Report of activities presented at the Consejo de Arqueología del INAH, Mérida, Yucatan, 1996.

Gallareta Negrón, Tomás, et al.

“Restauración e investigaciones arqueológicas en Labná: la temporada de campo de 1992”. Report presented at the Consejo de Arqueología del INAH, Mérida, Yucatan, 1992.

Gallareta Negrón, Tomás, et al.

“Restauración e investigaciones arqueológicas en Labná: la temporada de campo de 1991”. Report presented at the Consejo de Arqueología del INAH, Mérida, Yucatan, 1991.

Garza Terrazona de Gonzales, S. and E. B. Kurjack

“Labná”. *Atlas arqueológico del Estado de Yucatán*, 2 vols. México: Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, 1980.

H

Holmes, William Henry

“Masterpieces of Aboriginal American Art I : Stucco-work”. *Art and Archaeology*, Vol. 1, No. 1 (1914): 1-12.

Huchim Herrera, José

Labná, Yucatán. México: Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, 1991.

Huchim Herrera, José, and Lourdes Toscano Hernández

“Algunas anotaciones acerca de los sistemas constructivos de los edificios de Uxmal y Labná”. *Memorias del Tercer Congreso Internacional de Mayistas (9 al 15 de julio 1995)*, 729-739. Mexico [D.F.]: Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, 1998.

A detailed description and interpretation of new observations of the masonry construction at Uxmal and Labná, based on excavations begun in the 1990s by the Centro INAH Yucatán. The article is divided into 4 sections. The Introduction reviews previous studies of Puuc construction by Pollock, Gendrop, and George Andrews, which however were not based on excavations. The INAH studies aimed to obtain new data from extensive excavations and to revise previous descriptions of the architectural sequence. These were conducted at the Palace and Mirador Group, Labná, and at the Pyramid of the Magician, Quadrangle of the Birds, and Nunnery Quadrangle, Uxmal. Especially studied were the constructive content of the Labná Palace and Quadrangle of the Birds at Uxmal.

In the section on Vaults and Friezes, the authors describe some of the results of their excavation of 18 vaults, 9 with mosaic decoration, some showing evidence of the early Puuc style. Photo 1 and figure 2 show spikes discovered and their positions in the nucleus of vaults in order to increase stability. Photo 2 shows that a layer of stucco was placed over the nucleus of a vault before applying the covering frieze area with mosaic decoration. The section on Foundations describes 2 techniques employed for construction of foundations. The brief section on Walls provides a vertical cross-section of the foundation wall of the East Building of the Nunnery. In the section on Remodeling of the Buildings, the authors describe examples of modifications carried out by the Maya when remodeling their buildings, some simply widening foundations, others requiring dismantling of an entire frieze.

This brief article adds significantly to our understanding of innovative Puuc construction processes. There are 7 photographs and 3 diagrams, especially informative in showing important masonry details described in the text.

K

Kowalski, Jeff Karl

Guide to Uxmal and the Puuc Region: Kabah, Sayil, and Labná. Mérida: Editorial Dante (Spanish ed. 1990).

M

May Ciau, Rossana

“Análisis de las torres este y oeste de la estructura 8 de Labná, Yucatán”. Thesis for degree, Mérida, Yucatán, Facultad de Ciencias Antropológicas, Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán, 2000.

P

Palacios, Enrique Juan

“Guía arqueológica de Chacmultún, Labná, Sayil, Kabah, Uxmal, Chichén-itzá y Tulum”. *Enciclopedia Yucatanense*, Vol. 2, *Epoca Maya*: 405-553, ed. Carlos A. Echánove Trujillo. Oficial del Gobierno de Yucatán, México, 1945.

A series of 8 sections on individual sites. There are 32 pages on Uxmal, 5 on Kabah, 7 on Sayil, and 13 on Labná. These are well illustrated, though mostly with small, weak, brown-tone photographs. Notable are photographs of models of the Nunnery Quadrangle, Pyramid of the Magician, and Governor’s House, Uxmal; Palace, Kabah; and Arch and another structure at Labná. Several other photographs are valuable in showing portions of the architecture before restoration.

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University: Collections Online

On the web at:

<http://www.peabody.harvard.edu/col/default.cfm>

(accessed 2007 Nov. 27)

This is **one of the two most extensive, publically available collections of early photographs of Uxmal, Kabah, Sayil, and Labná**, either in print or on the web. The other equally large collection is also on the web, hosted by ARTstor (which see), which earlier this month posted on their web site early photographs from the Carnegie Institution of Washington Maya Excavations, which are now **also housed at the Peabody**.

Some of the same photographs appear on both web sites. These include distant views, views of individual buildings, including lesser known structures, interiors, many details of collapsing sections and individual pieces of fallen architectural sculpture, reliefs, etc. Both sets of photographs show structures as discovered, some uncovered, and some at various early stages of restoration.

The main differences are that the **ARTstor images can be opened larger and at higher resolution**, allowing viewers to examine the images in greater detail, a significant advantage for photographs of these elaborate and much restored Maya sites. Also, as of December 2007, the catalogue information posted with the ARTstor images is much more extensive than that on the Peabody site. However, ARTstor images are only available at subscribing institutions in the United States, whereas the **Peabody images can be viewed by anyone with Internet connection anywhere in the world**.

On the Peabody web site, there are 426 images of Uxmal, 347 of Kabah, 197 of Sayil, and 374 of Labná. The images can be opened mid-size, ca. 640 x 460 ppi. **Nearly all appear to be from the very late 19th and early 20th centuries**, though there are also recent color photographs of some artifacts. Not surprisingly, some of the photographs are badly faded, though most are in remarkably good condition.

R

Reygadas Vértiz, José

"Labná". *Estado actual de los principales edificios arqueológicos de México*: 199-209. México, D.F.: Dirección de Arqueología, 1928.

Reygadas Vértiz, José

"Ruinas de Labná, Yucatán un informe al ministerio de educación pública". *Mexican Folkways*, Vol. 4 (1928): 40-48.

Reygadas Vértiz, José

"The Ruins of Labná, Yucatán". *Art and Archaeology*, Vol. 18 (Vol. 38), No. 4 (1929): 126-130.

Ringle, William M., with contributions by Tomás Gallareta Negrón and George J. Bey III

The 2001 Field Season of the Labná-Kiuic Archaeological Project. Grantee Report for the Foundation for the Advancement of Mesoamerica Studies, Inc. (FAMSI), no posting date.

On the web at:

<http://www.famsi.org/reports/00019/index.html>

(accessed 2007 March 1)

This is primarily a report of the author's excellent study of Kiuic, a Puuc city about 5 ½ miles (about 9 km.) south and a bit east of Labná. This detailed study is outside the range of this web bibliography. However, this is part of a larger project of several

scholars, including Labná and the area between, including Huntichmul. Thus most of the questions examined in the Kiuic study are relevant to the larger area, including Labná.

Ringle calls attention to the difference in soil and productivity between the eastern extreme of the Puuc, the Valle de Santa Elena (which includes Uxmal and Kabah) and the Bolonchén District slightly to the south and east of the Valle de Santa Elena (which includes Sayil, Labná, and Kiuic). Ringle suggests that the deep soils of the Valle de Santa Elena favored larger settlements such as Uxmal and Kabah, whereas, in the Bolonchén District, the small flat areas of rich soil, between the higher slopes which had thin soils, favored more densely packed smaller settlements, such as Sayil, Labná, and Kiuic). He calls attention to the need for study of the hinterlands, not just of the major settlements.

Ringle reviews the contribution of previous scholars who have studied the area and describes the basic questions regarding chronology, size, etc.

S

Saville, Marshall H.

"The Ruins of Labná, Yucatan". *The Archaeologist*. Vol.1, No.12: 229-235. Waterloo, Indiana: Ohio Archaeological and Historical Society, 1893.

Smyth, Michael P.

"Labna (Yucatán, Mexico)". *Archaeology of Ancient Mexico and Central America: An Encyclopedia*, ed. Susan Toby Evans and David L. Webster: 391. N.Y.: Garland Pub. Inc., 2001.

The most up-to-date one page summary including brief bibliography of Labná.

T

Thompson, Edward Herbert

"The Chultunes of Labná, Yucatán: Report of Explorations by the Museum, 1888-89 and 1890-91". *Memoirs of the Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University*. Vol. I, No.3. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University, 1897 (reprinted Kraus Reprints, New York, 1970).

This report consists of 16 pages of text (with diagrams and drawings of stone implements, etc.), 8 plates of chultune diagrams, and illustrations of photographs of

objects found within the chultunes. Thompson presents a detailed factual **description of each chultune and his interpretation of their probably function**. These are discussed in the context of a broader discussion of the sources of water in the northern Yucatan.

Thompson, Edward Herbert

"Explorations at Labna, Yucatan". Abstract of a diary presented at the semi-annual meeting of the American Antiquarian Society. Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1887.

Thompson, Edward Herbert

Portal at Labna, Yucatan. Worcester, Massachusetts: Press of Charles Hamilton, 1888.