Izapa Group B: Excavations, Burials, and Offerings

Rosemary Lieske

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Izapa Group B: Excavations, Burials, and Offerings

Rosemary Lieske

A thesis submitted to the faculty of
Brigham Young University
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Arts

John E. Clark, Chair
Donald W. Forsyth
Allen C. Christensen

Department of Anthropology
Brigham Young University
December 2013

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ABSTRACT

Izapa Group B: Excavations, Burials, and Offerings

Rosemary Lieske
Department of Anthropology, BYU
Master of Arts

Izapa, a Late Preclassic regional center located in southern Mexico, was heavily excavated by the New World Archaeological Foundation from 1961-1965. However, much remains unclear regarding the details of those excavations, specifically in regards to Group B. In this thesis I hope to present important details derived from those excavations in a way that is meaningful and useful. The purpose of this thesis project is to: (1) reconstruct the excavation history of Izapa Group B, (2) to provide a reconstruction of Group B’s architectural history as revealed through the excavations, and (3) to identify and present descriptions of the contents and context of the plaza’s numerous burials and offerings. Group B, containing the oldest known constructions at Izapa, is a special place and vital to understanding the growth and development of Izapa as a regional center.

Keywords: Izapa, Soconusco, architecture, burials, offerings, NWAF
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Last of all I thank my parents, Albert and Dorian Francini, for their love, support, and faith in me. It is their life-long examples of hard work and diligence that have inspired me throughout my years of education.
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1 | Introduction

Of all the archaeological sites in Southern Mexico, few pique more interest than the ruins and stone monuments of Izapa, Mexico. Comprised of more than eighty pyramids, Izapa functioned as a Late Preclassic ceremonial center, advantageously situated on the natural trade routes connecting Southern Chiapas with Central America (Figure 1.1). Izapa’s favorable position in the fertile piedmont zone is thought to have added to its growth and development as one of the area’s most important sites. In truth, Izapa played a powerful role in shaping the history of the southern Chiapas and the Pacific coast.

Much of what is known about Izapa outside of iconographic studies comes from investigations conducted by the New World Archaeological Foundation (NWAF) in 1961-1965. Group B, the oldest subcomplex at Izapa, was the most intensively excavated complex for the project. Particular attention was accorded to the Mound 30 acropolis and its supplementary mounds.

Group B consists of several mounds located on the eastern edge of central Izapa. Included in Group B is a large open-cornered plaza (Figure 1.2). Four pyramidal platforms form the boundaries of the plaza. The northern pyramid, Mound 30a, appears to lie on top of an acropolis, which, in turn, has eight small supplementary platforms built upon it. Lowe et al. referred to the acropolis as “Mound 30” or as the “Mound 30 platform” in their fieldnotes and in their publication (1982). Structures at Izapa were numbered prior to excavation. As such, Lowe et al. were unaware, until excavations began, that what appeared to be a platform for Mound 30a was...
Figure 1.1. Map of southern Mexico showing important Late Preclassic sites (Bryant et al. 2005:2;fig.1.2).
Figure 1.2. Drawing of the Group B plaza. Structures are approximate (Lowe et al. 1982:178).

actually a later construction that was built as an apron around the pyramid.

Lowe et al. use the term “platform” to discuss three types of architectural substructures: primary platforms, terraced pyramidal platforms, and ballcourt platforms. Using the same term, “platform,” to discuss the architecture of the Mound 30 platform and Mounds 30a-i can be confusing. Therefore, for descriptive purposes, I call the Mound 30 platform an acropolis. Of course, Mound 30 is not a true acropolis, but using that label helps to distinguish it from the other platforms built upon it. Any mention of Mound 30 in this thesis refers to the acropolis.
Mounds 30b-i and Mound 16 are all secondary platforms on the Mound 30i acropolis. Platforms are generally rectangular with a broad, flat surface that may be used to support additional structures.

Also included in Group B are two small parallel mounds, 48 and 49, found adjacent to Mound 50 on its western side. Just east of Mound 51 is another smaller mound, Mound 52. To the north and east of the Mound 30 subcomplex is another subcomplex comprised of Mounds 31-36. These mounds are small and may represent residential housing. Mounds 33, 34, 35, and 36 create a small open-cornered plaza (see Figure 4.1).

In describing the excavation history of Group B, I use a variety of different terms defined here. The “Mound 30 subcomplex” refers to the Mound 30 acropolis and Mounds 30a-i. I use the term “lower courtyard” to refer to the enclosed space created by the Mound 30 acropolis and Mounds
47, 50, and 51. “Upper courtyard” is used to refer to the enclosed space delineated by Mounds 30a, 30c, 30d, and 30e upon the Mound 30 acropolis. “Group B plaza” refers to the Mound 30 subcomplex and Mounds 47, 50, and 51, including both the upper and lower courtyards. Lowe refers to the small platforms on the Mound 30 acropolis as “secondary platforms.”

Each field season began in October and would finish the following April or May, except for the final field season which finished in July of 1965. During each season of field work, artifacts were brought to the NWAF lab in Tapachula for analysis. The Early Preclassic ceramics from the Mound 30a fill were sorted and analyzed by Susanna Ekholm as part of her MA thesis. Her ceramic study, published in 1969, established the basic chronological sequence for early Izapa. It includes a short description of Mound 30a as well as a reconstruction of the Mound 30a architecture through time. However, Ekholm’s description of Mound 30a’s excavation history mentions only four of the 20 plus trenches and test pits originally dug into the mound.

In 1982, Gareth Lowe, Thomas Lee, and Eduardo Martinez published a general overview of Izapa which includes a description of each mound. The book summarizes the excavation history of Izapa but was not meant to be a final excavation report. Thus, many important details were not included. Profiles and cross-sections of the excavations in the mounds in Group B were not published. As does Ekholm’s publication, the illustrations of Mound 30a in the Lowe et al. monograph show only four or five excavation trenches. Information regarding these additional excavation units has not been published. Lowe intended to publish a more detailed description of the Group B excavations, architecture, and offerings, but he was never able to do so due to involvement with other projects.

This project seeks to create a final report of all of the information regarding the NWAF’s excavations at Group B. However, much has been lost since 1965, so this project will make do with what is available. The following is an inventory of the materials recovered from the NWAF concerning the excavations of 1961-1965, specifically in regards to Group B.
Fieldnotes: These fieldnotes, written by Gareth Lowe, cover the final field season in the spring of 1965. Notes for previous seasons have not been located. Although the information provided is minimal, it does contain details regarding Trenches Q-T, which were dug in the Mound 30 acropolis as well as through Mounds 30e and 30f. These fieldnotes also contain some information regarding excavations outside of Group B and are included in the appendix.

Lab Notes: The lab notes contain descriptions and quantities of the ceramic deposits found at various levels of excavation in Group B. These deposits are separated by the mound, trench, and level in which they were found. This information was used to date the different levels of construction within Mound 30a. These notes were a quick assessment of sherd types and phases. It was not systematic. There are not many descriptions or drawings. These notes are also included in the appendix.

MRE sheets: The majority of the Izapa artifacts were given to the Regional Museum of Anthropology and History of Chiapas in Tuxtla, Gutiérrez, in the 1980s. The museum used an MRE cataloging system to organize their artifacts. MRE is an acronym which stands for “Museo Regional del Estado.” Each artifact turned over to the museum was first given an MRE number and was then photographed and described. These numbers are sequential and are no longer used by the museum. A MRE record sheet was filled out for each artifact and included important information such as provenience and basic dimensions. A copy of each MRE sheet was kept by the NWAF and the original form was sent to the museum along with the artifact.

Stone Monument Records: These records contain important information concerning the stone monuments at Group B. Included are monument dimensions and provenience. Several of the records have a pencil sketch of the monument drawn on the back of the sheet.

Artifact Records: Included in the records are dimensions and the provenience for each special artifact. These records often include sketches of the object and, at times, contextual associations.

Plans and profiles: Plan maps, cross-sections, and profiles were drawn for Mounds 30a-f and
Mound 47. Plan maps were also drawn for the burials in Mounds 30d and 30e.

*Photographs:* Photographs were taken of Mound 30a and its platform as they were excavated. Photos of other Group B mounds were also taken throughout the field seasons. In addition to original copies the NWAF has slides and negatives of these images. All photo images included in this thesis are NWAF photos, unless otherwise specified.

*Illustrations:* In addition to plans and profiles, Eduardo Martínez drew images of the burial goods for many of the burials as well as other offerings. All illustrations included in this thesis are redrawn NWAF drawings, unless otherwise specified.

*Monthly Reports:* During the NWAF’s time at Izapa, monthly reports with photos and drawings were prepared for its Board of Directors. These reports provide a brief description of monthly activities. In the absence of fieldnotes, these reports offer information on the chronology of excavations. Information from monthly reports is used frequently throughout this thesis and is cited by month followed by the year and page number. For example, information derived from the February 1963 monthly report would be cited as (Feb. 1963:1).

My intent in this thesis is to collect and coalesce as much of the unpublished information regarding the excavations of Group B as possible and thereby provide a more complete record of the NWAF excavations in Group B. Included is an appendix containing the remaining lab and field notes that could be located. Details regarding the contents and context of Group B’s burials and offerings are also lacking in the two Izapa publications mentioned. This thesis revisits the excavation of Izapa and addresses the Preclassic history of Izapa Group B through its architecture, burials, and offerings.

The first portion of my thesis places Izapa in context. I provide an overview of Izapa’s environmental setting, its postulated linguistic and ethnic affiliations, and its cultural history as understood through the archaeology in Chapter 2. This is followed by a general history of
investigation at Izapa in Chapter 3. Chapter 4 offers a detailed history of the excavations of each mound within Group B by field season, including the locations, dimensions, and stratigraphy of all known excavations for each mound. A plan map with the approximate locations and dimensions for each unit is provided. The architectural features of each mound are also described in Chapter 4. Important associated artifacts not part of burials and offerings are also discussed. In Chapter 5, I describe the burials and offerings recovered in Group B. In the final chapter, I summarize my conclusions of preceding chapters and note key on the architecture, burials, and offerings.
Izapa’s environmental setting likely played a vital role in its development and significance. Located in the southernmost part of Chiapas, Mexico, Izapa lies a few kilometers west of the Guatemalan border, just 11 km northeast of Tapachula and 35 km from the Pacific Ocean (Lowe et al. 1982:2). Izapa is part of the larger Soconusco region which is defined as the long, narrow coastal plain bordering the Sierra Madre mountains in Chiapas to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west (Lowe et al. 1982:62). The Sierra Madre, a range of volcanic (intrusive) mountains parallel to the coast, plays a major role in the vitality of the region. Many small rivers flow from the mountains and across the coastal plain to empty into the Pacific Ocean. In the sector near the Guatemala border they transports volcanic ash to fertilize the piedmont. One of these water courses, the Izapa River, forms the eastern boundary of the site and connects to the larger Suchiate River, which separates the coastal plain between modern-day Guatemala and Chiapas (Lowe et al. 1982:55). Situated in the piedmont zone above the Pacific coast alluvial plain, ancient Izapa was blessed with an abundance of wildlife and flora (Ekholm 1969:2; Norman 1976:1).

The combination of both a humid climate with a low altitude led to an optimal environment for the growth and production of cacao, likely Izapa’s greatest resource (Figure 2.1). Cacao, which requires ample shade to grow, benefits from the cover provided by the tall forest trees...
which surround Izapa (Figure 2.2) (Lowe et al. 1982:62). Today, Izapa is divided into small lots owned by locals who use the land as both a dwelling space and a place to cultivate crops (Figure 2.3) (Lowe et al. 1982:62). Some parts of the site are owned by INAH as well. Cacao, bananas, maize, and rambutans (a southeast Asian fruit) are among the many tropical plants harvested by local families.

**ETHNIC AND LINGUISTIC ORIGINS**

The ethnic and linguistic identity of the ancient peoples of Izapa is unclear. Geographically, Izapa is positioned in the middle of a natural route for trade and migration, which played an integral role in Izapa’s development as a regional center (Lowe et al. 1982:2). During the
Table 1. Chronological sequence of the Soconusco, derived from Bryant et al. 2005:fig 1.3.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1900-1700 BC</td>
<td>Barra</td>
<td>Early Preclassic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1700- 1500 BC</td>
<td>Locona</td>
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<tr>
<td>1100-1000 BC</td>
<td>Jocotal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000-850 BC</td>
<td>Conchas</td>
<td>Middle Preclassic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>850-750 BC</td>
<td>Duende</td>
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<tr>
<td>750-500 BC</td>
<td>Escalon</td>
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<td>500-300 BC</td>
<td>Frontera</td>
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<tr>
<td>300-100 BC</td>
<td>Guillen</td>
<td>Late Preclassic</td>
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<tr>
<td>100 BC- AD 50</td>
<td>Hato</td>
<td>Protoclassic</td>
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<tr>
<td>AD 50-250</td>
<td>Itstapa</td>
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<tr>
<td>AD 250-400</td>
<td>Jaritas</td>
<td>Early Classic</td>
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<td>AD 400-500</td>
<td>Kato</td>
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<td>AD 500-550</td>
<td>Loros</td>
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<td>AD 550-700</td>
<td>Metapa</td>
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<tr>
<td>AD 700-900</td>
<td>Peistal</td>
<td>Late Classic</td>
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<td>AD 900-1250</td>
<td>Remanso</td>
<td>Early Postclassic</td>
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<tr>
<td>AD 1250- 500</td>
<td>Sandoval</td>
<td>Late Postclassic</td>
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11
Late Preclassic Izapa was also situated between two major linguistic groups, the Mixe-Zoque speakers to the west and Mayan speakers to the east (Guernsey 2006:4; Kappelman 2004:99). Archaeological and iconographical evidence indicate that the ethnic and linguistic affiliation of ancient Izapa likely fluctuated and changed through time.

Several scholars have argued for a Mixe-Zoque affiliation for the Soconusco region. Archaeological evidence suggests that the Early Preclassic peoples of the Pacific Coast shared strong ties with peoples of the Gulf Coast, an area historically and linguistically aligned with Mixe-Zoque peoples (Lowe 1977:198). The Gulf Coast was home to the Olmec, a civilization that thrived during the Early and Middle Preclassic at the sites of San Lorenzo and La Venta. Olmec influence can be seen in Chiapas and the Soconusco region beginning in the Early Preclassic. Excavations at Canton Corralito, the largest ceremonial center in southern Chiapas from about 1400-1200 BC, established clear evidence for a strong Gulf Coast presence in the Soconusco, with the discovery of 800 early Olmec figurine fragments and over 4,000 carved/incised ceramic sherds with designs similar to those found in San Lorenzo, Veracruz. Twenty percent of the Olmec-style pottery found at Canton Corralito were actual imports from San Lorenzo (Cheetham 2006; Clark and Pye 2011:35). Likewise the presence of Gulf Coast tradewares at Izapa is evident throughout the Early Preclassic (Lowe and Clark 2013:43).

During the Middle Preclassic period Izapa was one of the many sites along the Pacific Coast to participate in the Cloudy-Resist-Orange ceramic tradition, a tradition that according to Lowe (1977) stemmed from the Zoque community. The Frontera and Guillen phase ceramics at Izapa can be seen as a continuation of this orange-ware tradition (Clark and Lowe 2013:100).

During the time of the Spanish Conquest, Zoque speakers were found distributed throughout the northwestern third of the state of Chiapas in addition to sections of Tabasco and Oaxaca (Thomas 1974:1). Thomas proposed that within the Soconusco, three linguistic groups coexisted at this time. These were Nahuatl, Nahua or Pipil, and Huehueteca. The dominant language of
the region according to Thomas was Huehueteca, a regional dialect of Zoque. Less commonly spoken was Nahua; speakers of this language resided in the western part of the Soconusco. Nahuatl was the least spoken in the region and was the result of the Aztec conquest of the Soconusco in the late fifteenth century (Thomas 1974:27-28). Tapachutec, a Mixe language, was still spoken in the piedmont and slopes of the Sierra Madres near Izapa in the early twentieth century (Lowe et al. 1982).

The distribution of Zoque and Mixe speakers through time suggest that Izapeños were Mixe-Zoque speakers throughout the Preclassic, although the evidence is not conclusive (Geurnsey 2006). Michael Coe proposed that the ancient Izapeños spoke Tapachulteco which is a vestigial member of the larger Mixe-Zoque group, but he argues that culturally the ancient Izapans may have shared more characteristics with the Maya than with the rest of Mexico, based on the iconography of Izapa’s abundant stone monuments (Coe 2005:67).

Izapan art appears to more closely follow a Maya tradition than an Olmec one (Schriber de Lavarreda and Corzo 2010:182). Olmec sculpture is often three-dimensional and characterized by its round, voluminous proportions, even in the smallest of Olmec artifacts. Conversely, Maya expression is more “pictorially oriented, two-dimensional, [with] decoratively patterned relief surfaces” (Schriber de Lavarreda and Corzo 2010:182). The iconography on Izapa’s stone monuments also exhibits a two-dimensional technique.

Indeed, Izapan art displays many of the symbolic and artistic styles that would later be classified as Classic Maya (Kappelman 2004:99). These features include the stela-altar tradition, the frequent depiction of Chaak the Maya rain god, as well as a two-dimensional art style which portrays historical and mythical content with particular emphasis to details in plumage and costumes (Coe 2005:67). One of the stylistic developments characteristic of Izapa monuments is the use of basal and celestial bands which frame and delineate the narrative carved on stelae. The stela-altar tradition first appears at Izapa following the Middle Preclassic (Figure
2.4) (Kappelman 2004:100). Additionally, Izapa’s use of the long lipped god, and the baroque style are also common among later Maya art (Quirarte 1973:6). Many Izapan traditions would later become ubiquitous throughout the Maya region. Based on these shared similarities, some scholars have argued that ancient Izapa was culturally Maya.

It has also been suggested that Izapan iconography played a transitional role between Olmec and early Maya art styles (Quirarte 1973:5). Coe, in his early work, claimed that the Izapa style, although distinctive, is most certainly derived from Olmec influences (Coe 1962; Quirarte 1973:6). In accordance with Coe, Julia Guersney (2006:1) describes the Izapan art style as bearing “iconographic continuities with earlier Olmec art and the later art of the Classic Maya.”

The general lack of hieroglyphic texts on the large corpus of stone monuments at Izapa makes identifying the linguistic affiliation of the site’s occupants difficult. This lack of texts is also unusual for the time period. The advent of hieroglyphic writing occurred during the

Figure 2.4. Stela 5 and Altar 36. The stela-altar tradition began at Izapa during the Late Preclassic.
Middle Preclassic, and writing became widespread in southeastern Mesoamerica. Evidence of hieroglyphic writing and the Long Count appears at Chiapa de Corzo, Tres Zapotes, Tak’alik Abaj, and among other sites contemporaneous to Izapa (Geurnsey 2006:10-11). Despite frequency of hieroglyphic scripts on stone monuments during the Late Preclassic, few monuments at Izapa exhibit hieroglyphic writing, and those that do are calendrical (Guernsey 2006:14). It is possible that Izapa’s elite chose to communicate messages of political authority and cosmological order through images instead of texts. This form has the ability of communicating important concepts that are independent of language. Such messages could be understood by peoples of diverse ethnic and linguistic backgrounds. This ability would have been useful given Izapa’s position between two linguistic regions. Messages would be understood by all regardless of linguistic background (Guernsey 2006:14-15, 23). Such an explanation would support a multi-ethnic occupation at Izapa.

**SEQUENCE OF OCCUPATION**

The cultural history of Izapa spanned some 2500 years with varying degrees of activity and occupation. Much of what is known concerning this history derives from ceramic analyses. Original analysis by Gareth Lowe, with the aid of Susanna Ekholm, identified 15 ceramic phases at Izapa, beginning with the Early Preclassic and ending with the Early Postclassic (Table 1) (Lowe et al. 1982:115). The sherds studied in Ekholm’s analysis of Izapa Preclassic ceramics came from mixed fills in Mound 30a from Group B. They were compared to pottery from stratigraphic sequences from other Soconusco sites (Lowe et al. 1982:117). Reanalysis by John Clark in 2011 identified the presence of more Early Preclassic phases, marking Izapa’s beginning as much earlier (Clark and Lowe 2013).

The phase names used in the Izapa sequence are arbitrary Soconusco place names organized
in alphabetical order with the exception of the Early Preclassic phases. The names and criteria for each phase came from earlier work at La Victoria and Salinas La Blanca, two sites in the Soconusco region that had both excavated by Coe (Ekholm 1969:1).

Preclassic Ocos, Cuadros, Jocotal, and Duende phase sherds were identified by Ekholm (1969). Reanalysis of the Preclassic ceramics by Clark identified sherds from Barra, Locona, Cherla, and Conchas phases, suggesting that the occupation of Izapa is older than previously thought. The presence of Barra sherds indicates that by 1800 BC Izapa was a small agricultural village. It is likely that occupants inhabited the area for centuries prior. Izapa remains the only site in the piedmont zone with such an early date. It grew steadily, reaching a considerable population by 1500 BC, as demonstrated by the number of Ocos phase sherds found at the site (Clark and Lowe 2013:47). Almost all of the Ocos sherds came from Mound 30a; they are rarely found in any other part of the site. These sherds are badly weathered, but the incised and stamped designs commonly attributed to the Ocos phase were recognizable. Aside from pottery, no other Ocos phase elements were found at Izapa (Lowe et al. 1982:119).

During the subsequent Cherla (1400-1300 BC) and Cuadros (1300-1100 BC) phases, the Soconusco region saw a wave of Olmec influence which is represented in the ceramic assemblages from this period. Ceramics at Izapa from these phases were also found primarily in Mound 30a fill, occasionally supplemented by sherds found in other contexts throughout the site. Aside from the pottery and a few ceramic figurine heads, no other Cuadros elements have been found at Izapa (Lowe et al. 1982:119). Cuadros phase ceramics share similarities with the ceramics from the Olmec center in San Lorenzo, Veracruz. The evidence of ceramic vessel and design similarities supports the idea that peoples of both regions shared the same linguistic affiliation (Lowe et al. 1982:121). It appears that Izapa remained a small agricultural village for much of the Early Preclassic period. However, the scarcity of early Preclassic Conchas phase
(1000-850 BC) sherds suggests a decline in occupation at the tail end of the Early Preclassic (Lowe et al. 2013:59).

The later Middle Preclassic was an era of growth and development for Izapa. Following a century long hiatus, Izapa transformed into a large-scale ceremonial center, complete with the political order necessary to organize labor for the construction of Izapa’s various pyramids and the erection of stone monuments (Lowe et al. 1982:121). Construction of Mound 30a, Izapa’s oldest known pyramid, began early in the Duende phase (850-750 BC). It received multiple additions throughout the subsequent phases as Izapa continued its expansion.

The Escalon phase (750-500 BC) was a time of “wide-spread intensive occupation” at Izapa (Lowe et al. 1982:127). Prior to this phase, Izapa’s occupation appeared to be confined to the Group B terrace. However, Escalon ceramics have found and identified in Groups A and C as well (Lowe et al. 1982:127). The Escalon phase was an era of great construction throughout the Chiapas region. It was during this time that platforms and pyramids were built in contemporaneous sites. However, little evidence exists for architectural construction during the Escalon Phase at Izapa. It may be that such evidence is still buried beneath later constructions that have yet to be unearthed through excavations. A few enlargements were made to Group B during this time (Lowe et al. 1982:127).

The succeeding Frontera phase served as a transitional cultural shift between the Middle and Late Preclassic periods. Despite the decline of the large ceremonial center of La Venta on the Gulf Coast, Izapa continued to maintain old Mixe-Zoquean cultural traditions, with only slight regional developments, throughout the Frontera Phase. This phase witnessed additional growth in population and construction of architecture from the Escalon phase. Several additions were made to the Mound 30a pyramid, in addition to a southward extension of its acropolis. At Group C, additional terraces and platforms were constructed. During this time stone monuments began to be carved and erected (Lowe et al. 1982:129).
The height of Izapa’s florescence occurred in the Guillen phase (300-100 BC) during which time Izapa became a significant ceremonial center. Izapa’s location between the peripheries of two large ethnic groups was most likely a determining factor in its evolution. This phase was phenomenal in the growth that occurred in population, architecture, and stone monuments. Most of the buildings within all of the groups, except Group F, were expanded to their current size. Mound 60, Izapa’s tallest pyramid, reached a height of 22 m during the Guillen phase. Additionally, almost all of the stone monuments found at the site were erected during this time (Lowe et al. 1982:133; Quirarte 1973:7).

Lowe et al. proposed that architectural construction dwindled greatly following the Guillen phase (Lowe et al. 1982:133). Although minimal occupation continued to occur at various mounds in Groups A and B, it appears that from the Protoclassic onward, the main occupation at Izapa was confined to Group F. However, Izapa’s central zones continued to play an important role for the Izapeños; burials and offerings were placed in Groups A, B, and C that date to Protoclassic, Classic, and Postclassic times (Lowe et al. 1982:135, 153). Lowe et al. posited that the foreign nature of the Mound 30d burial goods seems to imply a foreign invasion from a region east of Soconusco (Lowe et al. 1982:139).

Offerings continued to be placed in Izapa’s center during the Itstapa phase. The placement of additional offerings within Group B implies that the center became some sort of “secondary shrine” (Lowe et al. 1982:141). On the other hand, Group F in the northern periphery began to expand at a rapid rate. Several offerings were buried during the Itstapa period, including seven burials placed in Group F, a cache deposit in Group C, and several intrusive caches in Group B (Lowe et al. 1982:141).

The Early Classic (AD 250-500) at Izapa produced regional ceramics not seen elsewhere and represents a period of cultural growth for Izapa’s new center at Group F. Excavations exposed 21 Jaritas phase offerings. Additional urn burials were found in Mounds 30b and 30e. It appears that
some reparative construction also took place at the base of Mound 30a, as evidenced by Jaritas
refuse. Aside from these few repairs at the site’s center, all other construction took place at Group
F. During the Jaritas phase there was a complete absence in lower Izapa of Usulután pottery,
a major pottery type of ceramic assemblages in southern Mesoamerica. The majority of pottery
crafted during this phase comprised local paste wares (Lowe et al. 1982:145). The Kato phase
(AD 400-500) saw 13 features added to Group F, four of which were urn burials (Demarest and

The Central Mexican Teotihuacan style horizon became popular during the Middle Classic
at Izapa. However, no imported Teotihuacan trade ware has been found at Izapa, only imitations,
and only within the confines of Group F (Lowe et al. 1982:147). Throughout the early Middle
Classic, urn burials and offerings continued to be placed in mounds. New to Izapa was the
construction of three boulder-masonry tombs full of burial goods. The end of the Middle Classic
shows a general decline of cache burials and offerings (Lowe et al. 1982:151).

The Late Classic Peistal Phase (AD 700-900) was marked by the introduction of Plumbate
pottery. This type of pottery is found in great abundance at Izapa, with refuse found scattered
throughout Groups A, B, and D. Lowe was of the opinion that the large quantities of refuse
suggest that Izapa was the center of manufacture for Peistal Plumbate. Such activity would have
been shared with other sites along the Suchiate River (Lowe et al. 1982:153).

In the Early Postclassic period evidence of reuse of Izapa’s ceremonial plazas is
demonstrated with intrusive offerings of Plumbate vessels. However, Group F is the only
location that has a large quantity of Postclassic deposits. Eighteen caches and ten “ceremonial
trash dumps” are attributed to the Early Postclassic, predominantly at Group F (Lowe et al.
1982:153). An intrusive Plumbate vessel in Mound 30a suggests some activity at Izapa’s
center during the Early Postclassic (Lowe et al. 1982:157). Additionally, Mound 60 contained
a complex, intrusive Late Postclassic offering at its eastern base, suggesting that use of Izapa’s
central zones as a place of reverence continued to the time of the Spanish Conquest (Clark and Lee 2013:19).
3 History of Exploration at Izapa

The architectural remains of Izapa were first reported to INAH (Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia) by José Coffin in 1935. In 1938, Karl Ruppert became the first North American archaeologist to visit the site. Alfred V. Kidder visited the site the following year and photographed the area in great detail (Lowe et al. 1982:1-2). A brief description of the site was included in *Atlas Arqueológico de la República Mexicana* by Mexican archaeologist Ignacio Marquina in 1939 (Guernsey 2006:44). However, it was not until 1941 that the first significant investigation at Izapa took place; it was funded by the National Geographic-Smithsonian Institute and led by Matthew Stirling with the aid of Miguel Covarrubias. Covarrubias had come across photo images of the stone monuments at Izapa and was intrigued by the similarities between the Izapa monuments and those seen at La Venta. This inspired a week-long exploration of the grounds in which Stirling, Covarrubias, and a small crew cleared and photographed 30 monuments (Guernsey 2006:45; Lowe et al. 1982:1-2). He designated various groups of mounds with letter designations. In 1943, Stirling published a report of his findings which included photographs and descriptions for carved stelae, altars, and shaped stones from Izapa (Stirling 1943).

In 1947, Philip Drucker continued work at Izapa by creating a provisional map of the area and excavating twelve test trenches. Several of these trenches were placed in Group F, Izapa’s northern zone. Within Izapa’s central zone, Drucker tested a variety of areas, including Groups
D, E, G, and H. The large number of erected stone monuments in Groups A and B mark them as obvious places of interest, yet no excavations were conducted in those areas. The trenches yielded little information, and many of the retrieved soil profiles were completely barren of cultural remains. Drucker noted a 2 to 3 inch patchy layer of volcanic ash found just beneath the surface, presumably from the 1902 eruption of the Santa María volcano in Guatemala. Overall, Drucker was unable to determine much concerning the ceramic sequence of Izapa, but he did note in his report the presence of Plumbate pottery and a lack of polychrome wares (Drucker 1948:153).

Following Drucker’s work, several prominent Mexican archaeologists continued to visit the site, but no plans for excavation were made until the 1960s (Guernsey 2006:52-53; Lowe et al. 1982:2). The first major excavations at Izapa took place during 1961-1965 and were funded by the New World Archaeological Foundation. The project was directed by Gareth Lowe with the assistance of Carlos Navarrete and Thomas Lee. Eduardo Martínez was hired to map the site. The Izapa project had three principal aims. These were to create an adequate map of the site, to examine all of the stone sculptures and monuments, and to excavate in and around what appeared to be significant mound structures to create a chronological sequence (Lowe et al. 1982:75). Excavations took place over four consecutive field seasons beginning in the Fall of 1961, and ending in July of 1965. The work force and staff varied from season to season, fluctuating between 30 to 100 individuals (Lowe et al. 1982:4). During the course of this project, more than 20 trenches/test pits were excavated in the Mound 30 complex alone.

Focus during the first field season was placed on creating an accurate topographical map for the site. This project would continue through all of the following seasons. The primary datum was established at the base of Mound 58 in Group A, and from that point a standard grid system was superimposed over the site for mapping purposes. Stirling’s initial study of Izapa used the
word “group” to distinguish among different concentrations of monuments spatially distributed throughout the area. He labeled the groups A through F. The NWAF made the decision to maintain that original identification system, with the additions of Groups G and H (Lowe et al. 1982:75).

The principal investigation of Izapa during the first field season took place in the Group A and Group B plazas. Under the direction of Lowe, with the assistance of Navarrete, a narrow trench (Trench 1) was excavated into the south face of the Mound 30 acropolis and revealed the first evidence of cut-stone at Izapa (Nov 1961:2; Feb 1962:2). Various stone monuments were also excavated, and several burials and caches were uncovered in Mound 30d behind Stelae 8, 9, and 10. Group H was also explored extensively (Lowe et al. 1982:4).

Using a new tractor (backhoe), three shallow trenches were dug in areas mostly devoid of trees and large stones. The first of these trenches was an east-west unit excavated in the Mound

Figure 3.1. Photo of the crew working at Group B, likely taken in 1962.
30 acropolis. Excavators encountered a large, uncarved boulder altar in the center of the trench. This area was lined with boulders which prevented excavators from using the tractor to continue their work (Feb 1962:3).

The second trench was dug in Group H between Groups A and B. An altar (A35) was found on the center line of the plaza. The trench continued below the base of the altar until sterile deposits were encountered. It appeared that the area had been scraped to cascajo before the altar was placed upon it. A third tractor trench was dug east of Stela 12 in Group B. At a depth of less than 3 feet they hit a sterile layer. Large boulders were found within the deposit. The presence of the boulders suggested to Lowe a very uneven original surface for the plaza, which he found to be true of other plazas as well (Feb 1962:4).
The second field season (1962) focused on the continued excavations of Mound 30a. Navarrete began excavations around the sculpture known as “El Leon” (MM-2) and the associated Mound 30i, just north of Mound 30a (Dec 1962:3). This monument was sculpted in the Olmec style and is likely the oldest monument at Izapa (Lowe et al. 1982:4).

Lee, the assistant field director, tested Mound 60, the largest pyramid at Izapa as well as Mound 61 and the Group G plaza. Excavations also began in the northern periphery of the site starting with Mound 125a in Group F. These investigations and the resetting of all fallen monuments were the primary aims of the second field season (Lowe et al. 1982:5). Navarrete continued excavation in Mound 30d where an additional urn burial was uncovered. Excavations conducted by Lowe in January 1963 at the corners of Mound 30a unearthed the original boulder wall corners beneath the rubble (Jan. 1963:2).

The third season continued the ambitions of the previous year, in addition to expanding excavations into Mounds 10, 23, 25, and 47. Further work continued in Group F, with the reconstruction of several platforms. All of the stone monuments were reset by the end of the field season (Lowe et al. 1982:5). During this time, Navarrete extended his Pacific Coast reconnaissance project to include the entire Soconusco region in an attempt to better place Izapa in its proper geographic context (Lowe et al. 1982:5). An exploratory trench on the eastern side of Mound 30a began with the use of a backhoe in an attempt to uncover the early pyramid (Oct-Nov 1963:2). Efforts were made during this time to remove the entire northeast quarter of Mound 30a. Excavations began in Mound 47, the western mound of the Group B plaza. These investigations unearthed some of the best preserved Middle Preclassic figurine heads found at Izapa; however, little was found by way of architectural vestiges other than boulder walls (Jan 1964:4).

By February of the third field season, efforts to reduce the entire northeast quarter of the Mound 30a were abandoned. Instead, tunnels were placed on the front and sides of the mound.
to probe its heart. Half of the efforts for the remaining two months of the field season were
dedicated to this mound (Feb 1964). During this time, Trench D hit cascajo at around 15 m
below the mound summit. No refuse layer was uncovered, although some carbon samples were
taken. Trench N, which ran on the southern side of Mound 30a, uncovered a variety of platform
faces. The advent of the rains prevented any further investigations until the following year
(April-May 1964).

The final field season commenced in Group B by extending the southern trench at the base of
Mound 30a. Several platform trenches were excavated, and the supplementary platforms 30e and
30f were explored. Projects that had been ongoing throughout seasons past were completed, such
as the detailed site map and the consolidation of Group F. Within Group F, excavations continued
through Mound 125a as well as some smaller ceremonial mounds. In May of this field season,
Susanna Ekholm joined the staff to finish up work that had begun in Group A. The field season
ended in July of 1965 (Lowe et al. 1982:5).

Several publications followed the close of the NWAF excavations at Izapa. In 1969,
Ekholm published the Early Preclassic ceramic sequence at Izapa. Included in her work was a
reconstruction of the Mound 30a pyramid and descriptions of the mound’s internal structures.

In 1976, Garth Norman published *Izapa Sculpture*. This monograph contained drawings of
the stone monuments at Izapa. He described and illustrated 37 carved stelae, 7 plain stelae, 10
carved altars, 3 thrones, and 68 miscellaneous monuments. His work was the first publication of
the iconography of Izapa’s numerous stone monuments.

The most comprehensive study of Izapa was published in 1982 by Lowe, Lee, and Martinez.
This volume provides a general description of the excavations, architecture, burials, and
offerings found within each group excavated at Izapa by the NWAF. Lowe additionally published
a chapter in *The Origins of Maya Civilization* (1977) and another in *Segundo y Tercero Foros de*
Arqueología de Chiapas (1993) regarding selected stone monuments and artifacts from Izapa’s burials and offerings.

By the early 1990s, excavation at Izapa began once more under the direction of Hernando Gomez Rueda, with the main purpose of studying Formative hydraulic systems. For two field seasons (1992-1994) Rueda excavated a series of test units in Group H, primarily the former reservoir at the southern end of plaza (Gomez Rueda 1995:6).

In 2011, Robert Rosenswig from the University of Albany-SUNY conducted a systematic survey of the piedmont zone east of Tapachula in southern Chiapas. This zone included both sides of the Izapa River between the Cahuacán and the Suchiate Rivers, which included the site of Izapa and its surrounding area. A total of 470 mounds was found in this survey. These mounds were identified using a digital elevation model derived from high resolution LiDAR data (Rosenswig et al. 2012:6). Following the close of the survey, Rosenswig oversaw the excavations of test trenches in Group B, along the northern edge of the Mound 30 platform, and in Group G, the main plaza just south of Group B (Rosenswig, in press).

To date, the NWAF 1961-1965 excavations remain the most intensive investigation of Izapa, providing the most information about the site and serving as the foundation for our understanding of Izapa’s cultural history.
Excavations and Architecture at Group B

The NWAF excavated Izapa Group B extensively during its four consecutive field seasons at the site. Limited information regarding these excavations was published by Ekholm (1969) and Lowe, Lee, and Martinez (1982). The information in this chapter was derived from the aforementioned publications as well as unpublished sources. These sources include Lowe’s lab notes, NWAF monthly reports, stone monument and artifact records, field notes by Navarrete for the first two field seasons, and Lowe’s notes during the final field season. Much of the precise information concerning the location and dimensions of Group B’s excavation units is unknown. This chapter includes what information remains. Lowe had intended to present additional data from the platform excavation trenches in forthcoming publications but was never able to do so. Included here are important artifacts found in the Group B excavation, offerings and burials, the latter of which are discussed in Chapter 5.

Excavation methods used by the NWAF included hand labor with picks and shovels as well as the use of a Ford Industrial diesel tractor “with a series of front and rear excavating attachments” (Lowe et al. 1982:84). None of the fill from any of these units was screened. Many types of excavation units were used for the NWAF project, including square pits, rectangular trenches, tunnels, and the horizontal clearing of large structures. Excavation units were typically identified with related structures followed by a letter designation in alphabetical order (Lowe et al. 1982:84). Many of the following “trenches” are not true trenches, but are actually test pits and tunnels.
Figure 4.1. Plan map of the excavation at Group B as published in 1982 (Lowe et al. 1982:191). No legend or key was provided for the illustration.
Excavation units with known dimensions and locations.
Excavation units with unknown dimensions but known or relative locations.
Stela
Altar
Steles

Figure 4.2. Plan map of Group B with specified excavation units (Lowe et al. 1982:191). The units outlined in red have known locations and dimensions. The units outlined in blue have relative locations and/or unknown dimensions.
Also included in this chapter is the history of architectural construction for Group B as revealed by excavation. Three types of architectural substructures were found at Izapa: primary platforms, terraced pyramidal platforms, and ballcourt platforms. Nearly no evidence of the superstructures or buildings that these platforms supported was found. The most common architectural arrangement at Izapa is four platforms or pyramids forming the boundaries of an open-cornered plaza. Many of Izapa’s mounds form part of multiple plazas. Each ceremonial court had “inward-facing terrace walls and stairways of the four or more flanking platform structures, the facades of the buildings which each had originally supported, and the central plaza they bordered” (Lowe et al. 1982:77). The primary platforms and pyramids are made of “earth-and-rubble fill with surface slopes or walls of carefully aligned river boulders” (Lowe et al. 1982:77). These boulder walls were likely clay-plastered. Cut-stone walls and stairs are also present at Izapa, but only in Guillen phase constructions (Lowe et al. 1982:194). All architecture at Izapa was built with the orientation 20º east of magnetic north.

The architectural sequence for Mound 30a was described by Ekholm in 1969. To describe the Mound 30a architecture, she used the system of classification established for Chiapa de Corzo, a contemporaneous site in the Chiapas interior. According to this system, primary platforms were assigned “letter designators based on the first letter of the cultural phase to which they pertain” (Ekholm 1969:13). Primary platforms were defined as the “basal pyramids or broader platforms which usually support one or more lower supplementary and building platforms, which in turn sustained buildings or superstructures” (Ekholm 1969:13). Izapa phases are named alphabetically from early to late. These phases were defined based on ceramics, but were thought to represent meaningful architectural stages as well. To articulate modifications and additions to the Mound 30a structure, Ekholm used a system of nomenclature designed by Lowe and Agrinier (1960:4-6):
Substages, discernible modification or enlargement phases of particular stages, have been identified with appended Arabic numbers, and superimposed supplementary and building platforms are identified by the addition of arabic numerals. The arabic numeral identifiers of substages are applied in inverse order to that of their construction, i.e., in order of their discovery.

I use the labels used by Ekholm to describe and differentiate among the various structures, modifications, and additions associated with Mound 30a.

**MOUND 30 ACROPOLIS**

The Mound 30 acropolis is the largest elevated construction in area at Izapa. It measures approximately 200 by 140 m at its base with an average height of 3 m. While the acropolis appears to have been built beneath Mound 30a, it was, in fact, a latter addition constructed around Mound 30a. A series of excavations suggested that the acropolis received multiple additions and was extended southward through several episodes of construction. The acropolis in its final stage supported eight secondary building platforms (labeled b through i), with Mound 16 in the northwest corner (Lowe et al. 1982:179).

**Excavation**

The Mound 30 acropolis and its supporting structures was the largest construct in Group B. It was the most intensely excavated within that plaza. The majority of excavation of the Mound 30 acropolis was done in the southern side of the structure, in front and east of Mound 30a (Figure 4.3).
**Trench 1**

Trench 1 was the first excavation unit dug at Group B. Work on the unit began early in the first field season (1961) under the direction of Lowe and was shortly thereafter continued by Navarrete in December 1961 (Nov1961:2). Trench 1 was located at the southern base of the Mound 30 acropolis and ran north-south along the western side of Stela 9 and Altar 6, in a section of the plaza owned at the time by Don Mauro Tercero (Figure 4.4). The initial trench was 1 m wide and extended 6 m from its point of origin on the floor of the courtyard to the southern edge of Altar 6. The goal of this unit was to excavate the trench down to sterile ground with the hope of finding ceramics that would help distinguish the different stages of occupation (Navarrete...
2013). By the end of November 1961, the excavation of Trench 1 had extended 12 m into the lower slope of the acropolis (Nov 1961:2).

Trench 1 was excavated in four 3 meter sections which were labeled as 1A, 1B, etc. The southwest stake served as the guide for horizontal and vertical measurements. Each layer was excavated in arbitrary levels of 25 cm. The first 25 cm layer of humus contained only small sherds and was of little interest. A thin grayish volcanic ash layer began 15 cm deep and was 10 cm thick. This ash layer paralleled the slope of the acropolis’ surface and was the result of the eruption of the Santa María volcano in 1902 (Drucker 1948:153). The second layer, 25 cm in thickness, produced only a few small sherds which were heavily eroded. A small amount of ceramics was also collected from the second level in 1C and 1D containing Frontera phase sherds.
Within the third level of section 1A, a few large, good quality Preclassic red and brown sherds were found and collected, though stripped of their slip during washing (Navarrete 2013). Nevertheless, Lowe was still able to identify Frontera and early Guillen phase sherds from the third level of both 1A and 1B.

Sections 1C and 1D reached a depth of 90 cm at which point the earth had become a fine dark brown color. Middle to Late Preclassic incensario fragments were collected from this depth. Two metate halves were also found within the trench. The first metate uncovered was face down 80 cm below the surface and 1.80 m north of stake 1A. The second metate half was found 75 cm deep, 30 cm north of stake 1A, also face down (Navarrete 2013).

Two cut-stone walls were discovered in Trench 1. The edge of the first wall was found on the eastern side of the trench. Two standing square stones were exposed in a row on the eastern side of the trench 80 cm north of stake 1B. The bases of the stones were laid 1.10 m beneath the surface. The front of a third, smaller stone was found in the level below the two others. The stones were made of volcanic tuff, a very soft material when wet (Navarrete 2013). The edge of this wall aligned with the edge of Stela 9 and Altar 6. Another low wall composed of squared stones was found at a depth of 1 m below the surface and 1.60 m north from the foot of the platform (Figure 4.5). This was the first evidence of cut stone blocks found at Izapa. The potsherds associated with the wall suggest it was Late Preclassic. An offering consisting of a small brown cylindrical vessel was found beneath the wall that dates to the same period (Nov 1961:2).

Early photographs of Trench 1 and later Trench A show Trench A as an extension of Trench 1 (Figure 4.6). Indicators from Navarrete’s drawings and notes support the assumption that Trench 1, begun by Lowe, later became a part of Trench A, excavated by Navarrete in December 1961 (Navarrete 2013, Lowe et al. 1982:185, Lowe 1962:).
Figure 4.5. Profile of the second wall found in Trench 1. A single vessel offering was found beneath the wall.

Figure 4.6. Notes indicate that Trench 1 was 12 m long and excavated along the western side of Stela 9 and Altar 6. This image was identified as Trench 1 in Lowe’s 1962 report (Lowe 1962). It was later published in 1982 as Trench A (Lowe et al. 1982:183; fig. 9.5).
Trinchera Superior 1

Trinchera Superior 1 Plaza B was the first investigative testing unit into the upper courtyard in front of Mound 30d, a small north facing platform mound behind Stela 9. The exact location and dimensions of the trench are unknown. The ceramics from this trench were grouped in a single level because of the shallow nature of the excavation, and they were labeled “Plaza B Estela y altar/superior monticulo 1.” Five metate fragments were uncovered in the collapse of the interior construction. They are listed in the NWAF catalog as numbers 22-26. On the floor of the platform was a stela fragment (S-24) and altar fragment (A-20). No other fragments of the stela were found (Navarrete 2013).

Several of the profiles drawn by Martínez are unlabeled, but they do include east or north coordinates. Based on the coordinates provided, two of the unlabeled profiles are believed to be the west and east walls of Trinchera Superior 1. These drawings indicate that the eastern wall of the unit was 10 m long, about 2.4 m deep, and cut through six levels of different colored soil (Figure 4.7). Beneath the humus layer was a continuous layer of volcanic ash 10-20 cm thick. Below the ash on the southern side of the eastern wall was a 2 m long 20 cm thick deposit of black soil. To the north of and beneath this deposit was a layer of light brown soil 50 cm to 1 m thick. The fourth layer was only present on the southern side of the profile and was comprised of dark brown clayey soil. The layer was 3 m long and ranged from 80 cm to 1.5 m thick. The bottom layer in the wall was dark brown soil 90 cm thick on the northern end of the unit and 10 to 80 cm thick on the southern end. Altar 20 was placed on the surface of this layer as seen in the northern end of the profile.

The western wall of the unit was 17 m long and 3 m deep (Figure 4.8). Below the humus was a layer of light brown soil 1.2 to 2.2 m thick. A concentration of solid rock fill was uncovered on the southwest end of the unit 2 m deep and 2.8 m wide. Within the layer of light brown soil was a
Trinchera 1 eastern profile

Figure 4.7. The eastern profile of Trinchera 1.
Trinchera 1 western profile

Figure 4.8. The western profile of Trinchera 1.
deposit of dark brown soil from 10-70 cm in thickness. The final layer in the unit was a yellowish earth (*cascajo*) ranging from 30 cm to 1.2 m thick.

**Trench A**

The first Trench A was labeled by Navarrete in 1961 and was associated with the Mound 30 acropolis. He continued the work initiated by Lowe and began the excavation of two intersecting perpendicular trenches on the southern side of the Mound 30 acropolis (Figure 4.9). The first of these trenches ran north-south, with its northern extremity labeled as “Trinchera A norte” and the southern extremity “Trinchera A sur.” Trench A ran alongside the western edge of Stela 9 and Altar 6, enveloping Trench 1 and extending south into the lower courtyard (Navarrete 2013, Lowe et al. 1982:185, Lowe 1962). This extension added about 6 m to what was Trench 1, thereby making Trench A 18 m long (Figure 4.10).

The southern extremity of Trench A or “Trinchera A sur” was placed to investigate the relationship between the second wall Lowe found in Trench 1 and a stone column that was found slightly west of the Stela 9 axis (Figure 4.11). From the stela to the base of the column was a distance of 11.4 m. The column’s associated stone sphere came out of the ground at Level 1. Throne 1 was also found in this excavation. This trench was excavated in 30 cm thick levels and was labeled as “Izapa. Plaza B. Trinchera A sur.” Four levels were excavated in this section of the trench (Navarrete 2013).

**Trench B**

Trench B in the Mound 30 acropolis was excavated under the direction of Navarrete in the first field season. Trench B was the east-west trench of the two perpendicular trenches excavated by Navarrete (see Figure 4.10). The western extremity of the trench was labeled “Trinchera B oeste,” and the eastern extremity was “Trinchera B este.” Trench B ran east-west in front
Figure 4.9. Sketch of Trenches A and B drawn by Carlos Navarrete during the first field season (E = “estela” or stela).

Figure 4.10. This image was published in 1961 as Trench A (Lowe et al. 1982: 183; fig.9.5).

Figure 4.11. Trench A was used to uncover the column, ball, and Throne 1 situated south of Stela 9 and Altar 6 (Lowe et al. 1982:94; fig.6.5).
of Stelae 8, 9, and 10 and their associated altars. The width and exact length of Trench B are unknown, but Navarrete sketched Trench B as having the same width as Trench A, which was 1 m wide. Twenty-two sherds were collected from inside the lower wall under the level of Stela 9. These sherds dated to the Guillen phase or earlier. Two smaller trenches were excavated from each end of Trench B during the second field season (Dec. 1962:4). These ran north-south perpendicular to Trench B and parallel to Trench A (see Figure 4.9). The small trench branching off of Trench B-east was excavated in three 30 cm levels. Artifacts from each layer of cultural material were placed in a separate bag labeled “Izapa. Plaza B. Desvio South Trench B-east.” Seven metate or grinding stone fragments were found in this excavation. The second small trench branching off of the western extension of Trench B was labeled “Trench W”. Its purpose was to reach the westernmost column (Column W). It was also excavated in 30 cm levels. Sherds collected from this trench were labeled “Izapa. Plaza B. Desvio South Trench W.” The stone column was found resting on a base of dirt and stones. Plaza layers were not part of this excavation (Navarrete 2013).

**Trench M**

Trench M was a 2 by 6 m trench located on the south ramp and stairway of the Mound 30 acropolis (Figure 4.12). Excavation of this unit began March 13, 1964, during the third field season. At least four levels were excavated in this test unit. Levels were excavated in vertical increments of 20 cm, after an initial section was leveled. Plumbate and Itstapa phase sherds were collected from the surface. Several obsidian flakes were collected from the first two levels. Level 4 was approximately 1.86 to 2.25 m deep and contained 45 sherds from the late Frontera-Early Guillen phases. In general, the material within these four levels was mainly of the Guillen phase. Earlier sherds were also present, including six early tecomate rims. There were also 20 probable Hato phase sherds from about 500-600 sherds as well as a few punctated sherds.
Figure 4.12. The front of the Mound 30 platform; cobble-stone facing

Figure 4.13. Cut-stone stairway on the front of the Mound 30 acropolis.
At least two walls (A and B) were uncovered in this trench. A number of sherds gathered below and south of Wall A date to the Frontera-early Guillen phases. The sherds on the inside of the wall dated to the Frontera phase or earlier. About 45 Escalon phase sherds were collected inside Wall B, but Lowe suspected there may have been some preselecting of the sherds collected from the excavation.

*Trench P*

Excavation of Trench P began on January 22, 1965, as a tractor trench crossing Mounds 30e and 30f through their central axis running east to west. The tractor uncovered part of an offering (Offering 30f-1) and the upper half of a carved stela (S-88) from the west base of the structure in Mound 30f. Four workers proceeded to uncover the south side of the west face of Mound 30f in order to further investigate the stela fragment and the line of worked stones (Figure 4.15). The carved stela had been positioned at the center of the stairway steps, and the offering, which contained eight vessels, had been intrusively placed at the base of the stairway (Jan. 1965).
Another carved stone fragment was found in Mound 30f in the Trench P clearing. This fragment was part of a round altar with legs. Refuse located on the north side of the west wall was collected and labeled “30-P-7.” Workmen continued to deepen the eastern end of the trench until hitting *cascajo*.

The western extension of Trench P cut into the edge of Mound 30e, a very low building platform. The excavation in this part of the trench was carried down to sterile, some 3 m below the surface. At 2.40 m in depth, a small cut-stone Late Preclassic burial crypt was uncovered (Burial 30e-1) almost in line with the trench (Lowe et al. 1982:194). Excavation of the burial began in the southeast corner.

On the western end of Trench P Lowe dug two test pits approximately 2.5 m deep from the base of the backhoe trench to the sterile level. The first pit was 25 m west of the base of the Mound 30f steps. Sampling of this pit began at 2.95 m below the acropolis surface. The washed sherds look Middle Preclassic, mostly of the Chumate type, although Lowe suspected there may have been some preselecting of the sherds collected from the excavation. Thirty-five sherds were collected from a layer of black soil below the *cascajo* fill in the acropolis and were labeled “30-P-6.” The ceramics from the second pit excavated to bedrock in the west end of the trench were labeled “30-P-8.” These were also extracted from a dark soil level below the *cascajo*, but they include earlier sherds than those found in 30-P-6. The presence of an ancient trench was discovered as it was crossed by the tractor trench and the test pit. This ancient trench was about 80 cm wide, the fill of which consisted of black soil. Twenty sherds were collected from the black soil below the *cascajo* platform fill, including the cut through the ancient trench. All sherds date to Duende times or earlier.

Lowe’s lab notes describe the depths and ceramic associations for each level in Trench P. Whether they describe the entirety of Trench P or just one particular section is unclear. With the exception of Level 1, which was 1.50 m thick, all other levels were excavated in 50 cm vertical
increments. Of the sherds collected from Level 1, 65 of them date to the Frontera phase or earlier, with some possible Guillen phase sherds. Level 2 was 1.50-2.00 m deep and contained at least 45 sherds dating to Frontera times or earlier, including one Ocos sherd. Level 3 was 2.00-2.50 m deep with sherds dating to the Escalon phase and earlier, along with four Early Preclassic sherds. Level 4 was 2.50-3.00 m deep and produced 45 sherds that date to the Early Frontera phase, with one polished Koya orange sherd, collected at this level. Five manos and five metate fragments were found as well as two Preclassic figurines.

The stratigraphy of the profiles changed when the trench cut through the Mound 30 acropolis as opposed to Mounds 30e and 30f (see Figure 4.15). The northern profile of Trench P shows several strata of different colored soils. Beneath the humus and a 20 cm thick layer of volcanic ash, Layer 1 was a thin layer of black soil, ranging from 10 to 60 cm in thickness. Layer 2 was a layer of black soil, ranging from 25 cm to 1.2 m thick. Layer 3 was of yellowish earth ranging from 50 cm to 2 m thick. This layer all but disappears at the western end of the trench, with the exception of a 3.5 m wide pocket of yellowish earth. Below Layer 3 was a layer of dark brown clayey soil ranging from 20 cm to 2.5 m thick. Beneath this layer was a final layer of sand 25-50 cm thick. This final layer of sand is only seen in the northern wall of the unit outside of Mounds 30e and 30f. Layer 2 in the last 12.5 m on the western end of the trench was of dark brown soil that included a large concentration of rocks, ranging from 10 to 75 cm in diameter, in the western most 6 m of the trench.

**Trench Q**

Excavation of Trench Q began on January 26, 1965, during the final field season. The purpose of this trench was to check the stratigraphy of the platform which supports Stelae 8, 9, 10. The trench ran north-south along the east side of Stela 9 and was laid out 1.50 by 10 m
(Figure 4.16). It is not clear how many levels were excavated in this trench. Four men dug the upper two sections south of the acropolis wall. One metate fragment was found in the fill and labeled “30-Q-1.” A stone head was also found next to the base of the altar (Altar 6) in Level 1 and was labeled “30-Q-4.” The sherds from the first level of the upper three sections were bagged as “30-Q-3.” By January 28, 1965, the bottom two sections of the trench had been fully excavated. Lowe had been looking for the base wall that was originally found in 1962, presumably in Trench 1. At the bottom of the platform wall 30 sherds were collected; they date to the Guillen phase or earlier. Below the east edge of Altar 6, 35 sherds were collected, also dating to Guillen times or earlier.
Trench R

During the final field season (1964-1965), Trench R was changed to Trench S. The letter R was then used to label a pit dug on the slopes of the Mound 30 acropolis in 1964 by Lee. As such, all records concerning Trench R prior to the final field season should be associated with Trench S.

Trench S

Trench S was a north-south 1.2 by 36 m backhoe trench in the Mound 30 acropolis, beginning from the southern edge of the acropolis. It cut through the eastern end of Mound 30d and crossed Trench 30-P which ran east to west. Excavations of this trench began on January 28, 1965. A backhoe was used to excavate the first 10 m. Nothing of interest was found. The trench was too deep to continue the use of the backhoe, so the next 3 m sections were dug by hand to the sterile level. On January 30, 1965, four men were assigned to Trench S to excavate test pits in the bottom of the trench while two men dug at the base of the talud (sloping wall). One pit in Trench S was pure cascajo so excavation of that pit was stopped; nothing is known concerning the other units. The southern section of Trench S was cleared out in order to continue investigating the taluds. Several sherds were collected from this trench, all of which belong to the Guillen phase or earlier. The plan map and eastern profile of the trench show that the trench cut through two platform structures and three possible additions (Figure 4.17).

Trench east of Mound 30c

A deep trench was excavated east of Mound 30c in the center of the upper courtyard on the Mound 30 acropolis. This trench revealed that an earlier platform had been completely covered by the final Mound 30 acropolis. This earlier platform, in turn, covered the foundations of an even earlier structure which was identified by lines of stones over the sterile zone. A large
Figure 4.17. Western profile of Trench S with a reconstruction of the different episodes of construction. Below the profile is a plan view of Trench S.
number of incense burner stand fragments were found in the upper zone of the trench (Figure 4.18) (April 1962:5). The plan map of the Group B excavations published in 1982 shows a large trench east of Mound 30c in the upper courtyard (see Fig. 4.1). The dimensions for that trench are 3.5 by 30 m and it ran east to west (Lowe et al. 1982:191). Whether the trench described in the monthly report is the same one outlined on the map is not certain. On the western side of the trench, 38 sherds were collected; they date to Escalon times and earlier.

**Architecture**

The Mound 30 acropolis was built centuries after the construction of the initial Mound 30a pyramid. Although made to look as though the pyramid rests on top of the Mound 30 acropolis, the acropolis was actually built around the pyramid at a much later date. Information regarding the architecture of the Mound 30 acropolis is derived mainly from the profiles of Trenches N and S, in addition to a few details from the NWAF monthly reports. Ceramic information found in
Lowe’s lab notes aid in dating the acropolis.

The western profile of Trench N suggests that the earliest construction of the acropolis south of Mound 30a is associated with the Frontera-phase additions made to Mound 30a (see Ekholm 1969:fig 10). The cobble-stone *talud* of an early platform built on *cascajo* is depicted in the eastern profile of Trench S (see Figure 4.17). Due to the 9 m gap between Trenches N and S, it is not certain that the first structure revealed in the Trench S profile is the same acropolis first constructed during the Frontera phase, but it is likely. This would suggest that the southern portion of the earliest acropolis was approximately 31 m long and 2 m tall. The width of this early structure is unknown. The fill for this structure was primarily yellowish earth with a few sections of dark brown soil.

The acropolis was extended southward through a series of horizontal enlargements (Lowe et al. 1982:183). The first addition extended the acropolis 4 m to the south, but did not add any height to the structure. The fill for this addition was a dark brown soil finished with another cobble-stone faced *talud* and was also built on a sterile level. The third southward addition extended the structure an additional 5 m and was 1 m high, thereby creating two levels to the broad acropolis. The fill was a light brown soil. A fourth addition was made to the front of the acropolis extending it approximately another 5 m south and gave it a stepped appearance.

The final construction episode for the acropolis was a massive endeavor. The entire earlier acropolis was covered with a 1 m high layer of light brown soil. This raised the total height of the acropolis to 3 m. The southern end of the acropolis was further expanded 3 m south and included the lower terrace on which Stelae 8, 9, 10, and their associated altars were placed. Enclosed around the acropolis was a single-plane slightly insloping wall. The front of the acropolis had two sets of paired stairways. Each set of stairs was at a different level and were set within an outer terraced and inner sloping balustrade (Lowe et al. 1982:184).
A low wall encountered in Trench 1 during the beginning of the first field season revealed the first evidence of cut-stone blocks at Izapa. A Late Preclassic vessel was found beneath the wall and dates the structure to this period (see Figure 4.5) (Nov 1961:2, Navarrete 2013). Lowe suggested that the construction of the Mound 30 acropolis in its final state occurred during the Guillen phase. This is supported by the ceramics found in various trenches throughout the platform. The ceramics associated with Trench Q and Trench S date to the Guillen phase or earlier. The sherds from the deepest level of Trench M on the front of the acropolis date to late Frontera-early Guillen times.

In 2012, additional excavations into the Mound 30 acropolis north of Mound 30a were overseen by Robert Rosenswig. Analysis of the ceramics in the northern portion of the acropolis will add to our understanding of its construction history (Rosenswig, in press).

Artifacts

Perhaps the most important artifact associated with the acropolis was a dedicatory offering consisting of a single brown vase found beneath a cut-stone wall 1.6 m in from the base of the acropolis. This was the first offering found at Group B, and it dates to the Guillen phase in the Late Preclassic (Nov 1961).

A large number of incense burner stand fragments were also found in the upper courtyard in front of Mound 30a. These were Early Classic refuse; their presence suggests that ceremonial use of Group B continued after the supposed abandonment of Izapa’s central zones during this period (Lowe 1982:194).

MOUND 30a

Mound 30a is the central pyramid in Group B. It stands 17 m high and is the third largest pyramid at Izapa, eclipsed only by Mounds 25 and 60. Mound 30a shows the earliest signs
of construction at Izapa beginning during the Duende phase (850-750 BC). At the time of its excavation, it was the oldest known pyramid in Chiapas (Lowe et al. 1982:184).

**Excavation**

Excavation of Mound 30a began during the second field season in the fall of 1962. Plans were made to excavate the summit, corners, and sides of Mound 30a and investigate any interior structures. Trenches A-K were used to accomplish this task (Figure 4.19) (Ekholm 1969:7). These trenches and excavation units are described here in alphabetical order.
**Trench A**

By January 1963 Lowe had excavated the corners of the Mound 30a pyramid and uncovered the original boulder walls beneath the rubble. These walls were in very poor condition (Jan 1963:2). According to a hand-drawn illustration of early excavation units in Lowe’s notes, these corner excavation units were given the letter designation A, C, E, and F, with Trench A being the northeast corner. A plan map of Mound 30a shows an excavation unit in the northeast corner which is likely Trench A (Figure 4.20). This trench ran east-west and was 12 m long. It was 3.5 m wide at its eastern end and 1.5 m wide at its western end. A corner of a wall was exposed by this testing unit. This wall ran 8 m east-west and 2.5 m north-south. A large quantity of sherds was gathered from the base of the northeast corner of the mound. They were later identified by Lowe as belonging mostly to the Escalon-Frontera phases, with one San Juan Plumbate sherd (Peistal phase) and two Itstapa phase sherds. These sherds were labeled “Lot X.” Lot Y, which was the 20 cm level beneath Lot X, had sherds only from Escalon-Frontera times.

**Trench B**

Trench B was a 6 by 10 m testing unit excavated north-south at the northern base of Mound 30a (see Figure 4.19). It was 4 m deep at the southernmost end and 1 m deep at its northernmost end. The western profile of Trench B was published by Ekholm in 1969. This profile shows a cobble stone wall that was part of St. 30a-F1. A second wall was found 2.50 m from the southern edge of the trench which appears to be associated with a later veneer of cobblestones (Figure 4.19, see Ekholm 1969: fig.10). Offering 30-2, which consisted of a single Hato-phase vessel, was found 2.55 m below the surface at the bottom of the wall (see Figure 5.3) (Lowe et al. 1982:17).
Figure 4.20. Plan map of Mound 30a. The dashed lines indicate the placement of various excavation units. Drawn prior to the fourth field season in 1964.
Trench C

Trench C was used to investigate the northwest corner of Mound 30a during the second field season under the direction of Lowe (Jan 1963:2). A plan map of Mound 30a shows an “L” shaped unit in the northwest corner. The north-south arm of the unit was 3.2 by 8 m and the east-west arm was 3.5 m long and 2 m wide. This unit uncovered the corner of two connecting stone walls. Artifact records indicate that this testing unit was at least 1.2 m deep. Numerous figurine and metate fragments were collected from this excavation unit.

Trench D

A looter’s pit, approximately 4.6 m deep, had been dug through the summit of Mound 30a.
many years prior to the NWAF investigations of the site (Lowe et al. 1982:184). Trench D was a vertical 6 m square test pit dug through the summit of Mound 30a around the looter’s pit, which had been partially eroded and filled (Figure 4.22). Trench D was excavated by levels according to the visible changes in the material fill, and sherds were separated based on those soil changes (Ekholm 1969:7). As a result of the looter’s pit, sherds were not saved until a depth of 4.6 m to avoid mixed levels. From the 4.6 m level, the unit continued downward until reaching 10.6 m, stopping approximately 5 m above sterile (Lowe et al. 1982:184). The trench was reduced in size the deeper it went and, consequently, produced fewer sherds in the lowest levels (Ekholm 1969:7).

Two carbon samples were taken from Trench D. One was collected from a floor 4.56 m below the summit; it dated to the Duende phase. The other sample was associated with Offering
30a-1, found 1 m below the surface in the southeast corner of the unit; it dated to Frontera-Guillen times (ca 190 BC) (Lowe et al. 1982:117).

A profile of Trench D was published by Ekholm in 1969. This profile shows 10 stratigraphic layers of varying thickness, four structures, and six building modifications (see Ekholm 1969: fig. 10).

**Trench E**

Trench E was used to investigate the southwest corner of Mound 30a. Excavation took place during the second field season (Jan 1983:2). The exact dimensions of this trench are unknown; however, a plan map of Mound 30a shows an east/west testing unit near the southwest corner that was 2.5 by 7 m (see Figure 4.20). Artifact records indicate that Trench E was at least 1.9 m deep. A 9 m long east-west wall was uncovered in this unit, and 40 sherds were collected. They were mainly from the Itstapa phase.

**Trench F**

Trench F was excavated in the southeast corner of Mound 30a during the second field season (Jan 1983:2). The exact dimensions of this unit are unknown (see Figure 4.19). I could find no information for this excavation.

**Trench G**

Lowe’s sketch of the Mound 30a trench system depicts Trench G as a north-south trench extending from the southern end of Trench D to the southern base of Mound 30a. Lowe’s plan map of Mound 30a in 1962, depicts a small north/south trench at the center axis on the southern face of Mound 30a, and a 1962 photo of the trench in Mound 30a confirms that the trench is Mound 30a-G (Figures 4.23 and 4.24). A plan map drawn by Martínez shows a north-south 2 by
Figure 4.23. Plan map of Group B excavations in 1962 (Lowe 1962).

Figure 4.24. Trench G at the southern base of Mound 30a. Photo taken prior to the fourth field season in 1964.
13 m trench on the south face of Mound 30a that partially overlaps with Trench N, which was placed slightly east of the Mound 30a central axis. It is likely this was Trench G. The plan map shows nine lined rows of stone in this trench running east-west which represent walls and edges of the interior structures within Mound 30a or possible stairs (see Figure 4.20).

A fragment of a stone monument (MM-71) was found in Trench G in February 1963. Its exact provenience within Trench G is not known. Lowe described the monument as a quarter section of a pedestal or altar stone made from coarse volcanic rock. The monument is 37 cm high, 47 cm long, and 34 cm wide.

**Trenches H-K**

Ekholm identifies Trenchs A-K as test trenches that were dug on the sides or summit of Mound 30a; she does not specify the exact location of any of those units (Ekholm 1969:7). Lowe’s notes contain a hand-drawn sketch of Mound 30a with a provisional trench system that identifies the tentative location of Trenches A-J. Trench H was drawn as a north-south trench on the southern face of Mound 30a. Trench H was east of Trench E and west of Trench I. Based on Lowe’s sketch of the Mound 30a trench system, Trench I was smaller than Trench H, although the exact dimensions are not specified. According to Lowe’s sketch, Trench J lay on the eastern side of the southern face of Mound 30a. Trench J appears to have been a north-south trench that ran parallel to Trenches H and I. Although the exact dimensions of the trench are unknown, Lowe’s notes depict Trench J as smaller than Trenches H or I. Ekholm’s description of the Mound 30a excavations suggest that Trench K was placed somewhere on the sides of the mound; the exact location of the unit was not provided.

A series of testing units was excavated on the western side of the southern face of Mound 30a, as shown on the plan map of the mound (see Figure 4.20). It is possible that Trenchs H and I were among these units, although I cannot be sure. The most western of these units was a 1 by 1
test pit that uncovered the edge of the final construction of the Mound 30a pyramid. East of that test pit was an east-west 1 by 1.8 m trench that exposed another portion of the wall belonging to Mound 30a’s latest architectural addition. The last of these testing units was a north-south trench 5 m long. The northern half was 1.5 m wide and the southern half was 1 m wide. A north-south wall and traversing east-west wall were uncovered within this unit. The southeast section of the mound was cleared, revealing the southeast corner of the pyramid and the southeast section of the *banqueta* or terrace placed in front of the mound. This clearing was about 20 m wide.

Lowe’s lab notes indicate that the ceramics from Trench H represent all periods up to the Early Classic in addition to a few San Juan Plumbate and coarse ware sherds. Thick *incensario* fragments were found 1 m deep within Trench I as part of the fill over Mound 30a. These fragments dated to the Itstapa-Jaritas phases.

*Trench L*

In January 1964 a decision was made to remove the entire northeast quadrant of Mound 30a. By the end of January, this portion of the mound had been excavated down 2.5 m below the surface (Jan 1964:2). At this level three defined structures that had been recovered. By February 1964, the upper northeast quadrant of Mound 30a had been removed down to 4 m below the original surface of the mound. An offering (Offering 30a-6) was found on the surface of the second structure (F2a1) four meters below the surface of Mound 30a (Figure 4.25). A charcoal sample from a floor (D1a1) at the 4.56 m level dated to around 700 BC or the Duende phase (Jan 1964:4; Lowe 1982:117). A narrow test pit dug six meters into the fill below this floor uncovered potsherds that dated to Chiapa I (Cuadros phase) and II (Duende phase) cultural levels (Jan 1964).

Trench L was dug in levels according to visible changes in the soil. This was a difficult task given that the trench was excavated from the top down instead of against a clear face of known
Figure 4.25. Offering 30a-6 found 4 m below the surface in Trench 30a-L (Lowe et al. 1982:186; fig.9.7).

stratigraphy. Of this challenge Ekholm states, “The obvious difficulties encountered when using such a procedure in a large and complexly modified earthen pyramid were complicated by the overlapping of the successively dug trenches. To minimize these problem, a 4 x 4 m. block was left unexcavated at the 4 m. level” (Ekholm 1969:7). Consequently, the western and southern edges were excavated semi-independently, resulting in some errors in the alignment of the fill sherds. Trench D served as a check for Trench L data (Ekholm 1969:7, 9). On the east side of the unexcavated 4 m square, a deposit of carbon at 1.70 m in depth was found at a level with some small stone paving. This carbon deposit was discovered amid red burned clay, but no real architectural feature was found.

By February 1964 it became evident that it would not be feasible to lower the entire quarter section of the mound to sterile levels in the allotted time frame. Consequently, excavation of the
quadrant stopped at the 4 m level and a decision was made to carry down a narrow trench instead (Figure 4.26). Excavation continued with two 2 m wide trenches on both the east and north axis of Mound 30a. These two perpendicular trenches connected together forming an “L” shape that was up to 25 m long (see Figure 4.20). Half of the crew’s efforts were used to continue the excavation of this trench during the final two months of the third field season (Feb.1964:1).

A Middle Preclassic structure was found in the fill at a depth of 6 m. All of the pottery uncovered in the fill was from an early period, and it is assumed that the ceramics were used as contemporary refuse at the time of construction (Feb.1964:1; Lowe et al. 1982:184).

By March, the eastern arm of Trench L had been excavated to a 10 m depth. As digging continued the space that was excavated became smaller and smaller. Thus, fewer artifacts were
Figure 4.27. Overview of Trench 30a-L. Half of the crew excavated this trench during the last 2 months of the final field season.

Figure 4.28. The eastern extension of Trench 30a-L looking eastward. A similar photo was published in 1969 and 1982 (Ekholm 1969:10; fig.7; Lowe et al. 1982:186; fig. 9.7).

Figure 4.29. The eastern arm of Trench 30a-L facing west.
collected (March 1964:4). Only the innermost 4 m section of the east-to-west trench reached the sterile cascajo level. This was due to the difficulty of removing earth at this depth (Ekholm 1969:7). The north-to-south section of the trench stopped at the 8 m level. Other than Offering 30a-6, no caches, burials, or primary refuse deposits were found in this trench (Ekholm 1969:7).

The western and southern profiles of Trench L were published by Ekholm in 1969. The east-west arm of Trench L was excavated in 14 levels until hitting cascajo. The north-south arm was excavated in 13 levels (see Ekholm 1969; fig.10, 13).

**Trench N**

Trench N was a north-south trench located on the southern face of Mound 30a just west of its center axis. The trench was 20 m long, 2.5 m deep at its southern end, and 7.5 m deep at its northern end (see Ekholm 1969: fig.10). It was excavated with the use of a tractor as well.
as by hand (Figure 4.30). Excavation of Trench N began May 1964 at the tail end of the third field season under Lowe’s direction. The purpose of this trench was to explore the sequence of structures within the mound and uncover offerings or refuse that might help date those structures (Ekholm 1969:9). Lowe had hoped that this trench would connect the southern base of the pyramid with Trench L.

Work on Trench N recommenced in January 1965 after a seven month hiatus. Fourteen men were tasked with taking down the upper slopes of the excavation, which proved complicated and resulted in walls being cleared on both sides in different places. On the west side of the trench a transverse north-south wall was uncovered against a section of an east-west wall. These walls were cleared and drawn before excavation continued. A tractor was used to open an approach on the east side of the trench so that the deeper part of the excavation could be carried out by wheelbarrow. At this point in excavation, wall profiles became visible in the upper 2 m of the trench.

Several artifacts and features were uncovered during the clearing of Trench N. At approximately 1 m below the platform surface and 4 m in from the mound base, a small section of floor and a piece of wall plaster were found. They were photographed as “L-3” and left in place for recording. On the same level just 30 cm south of the floor and wall plaster was another wall face, also fragmentary and of burnt clay. A stone terrace wall crossing the east half of the trench was discovered, but it was badly broken by picks. Hearth stones and an associated small bowl (Offering 30a-10) were also found 25 cm below the surface in the forepart of the trench. Within a few days of continued excavation, the wall sections protruding on the east and west sides of the trench demonstrated clearly the terraced nature of the pyramid. Pottery associated with this structure indicated that this construction was either of Early Classic period or at least functioned during that time.

Within Trench N at least three 2 by 2 m test pits were excavated. The first test pit was dug in
1964 to a depth of 1 m. This pit was refilled and then cleared out again in 1965. An additional 2 by 2 m pit was excavated uncovering a large boulder in its southern wall. Lowe extended this pit 2 by 2 m south, over the boulder. This southern extension was dug in 30 cm levels, measured from the platform surface. Workers hit *cascajo* at a depth of 90-120 cm. The boulder was left in place in addition to a group of associated stones. Salvador Ordiñez was commissioned to draw plan maps and profiles for Trench N, beginning at the end of January 1965. Once drawn, workers backfilled the test pits and began preparations for tunneling into the mound.

By mid-February workers commenced a second tunnel into the west face of Trench N at the southern base of the lowermost structure of Mound 30a. The stones of this structure represented the base of a *talud* surface. At this time a 1 by 2 m section of Trench N south of and adjacent to the tunnel (Trench T) was deepened in order to trace the black soil level over *cascajo*. The sherds saved from this level were labeled “30-N-8.”

As work resumed on Trench N, large sherds were collected and saved as “30-N-1.” In his field notes, Lowe recorded the provenience for these sherds as 1 m below the surface and 4 m in from the mound base. However, his lab notes assert that these sherds were collected 3 m below the surface and 6 m in from the mound. Thirty of these sherds Lowe identified as dating to the late Protoclassic/Early Classic phases; he acknowledged that several of the sherds date to much earlier. I assume his field notes are more reliable; Lowe’s lab notes were written in 1988, years after excavation at Izapa ceased. It also makes more sense that sherds from these later phases would be found closer to the surface of the acropolis as opposed to its core.

Level 3 in Trench N was 30 cm thick and began 60 cm below the acropolis surface. The sherds from this level were Middle Preclassic; one Ocos phase sherd was also found. Level 4 was 30 cm thick and began 90 cm below the platform level; it contained late Early to Middle Preclassic ceramics. There is no record of Level 5. Level 6 is described only as the level with the lowermost stone wall. Thirty Middle Preclassic sherds were collected at this depth. Level 7
The interior of the unit shows low-wall stones of earlier buried structures (Lowe et al. 1982:186; fig. 9.7). Consisted of black soil and was excavated below the lowermost wall. Lowe identified the sherds from this level as dating to Frontera times.

The western profile of Trench N was published by Ekholm in 1969. Trench N cut through the latest structures and additions made to Mound 30a, with the earliest being St. 30a-D1 (see Ekholm 1969: fig.10).

**Trench T**

Trench T was an extension tunnel that began at the northern edge of Trench N within the Mound 30a pyramid (Figure 4.31). Excavation of this trench was carried out during the final field season, beginning on February 12, 1965. It began at a sterile level well within Trench N. The majority of Trench T was excavated in 12 arbitrary 2 m horizontal sections, with each section of the tunnel being approximately 1 m wide and 1.80 m high. Each of these 2 m sections was
labeled “30-T” followed by a sequential number. The tunnel followed cascajo underneath the base of the pyramid (Ekholm 1969:11). Trench T resulted in an increase in Middle and Early Preclassic sherds, as well as revealed some additional architectural features. Midway through the tunnel, workers cut through a sloping surface faced with boulders presumably of an earlier structure. It was decided digging along the foot of this wall at right angles to the original trench could provide important details of this earlier platform (Feb 1965:3). Several right angle branches were excavated to follow vestiges of architectural features. All of these features ended up being badly preserved boulder walls or talud slopes (Lowe et al. 1982:184). The base of another, earlier wall was found approximately 1.8 m within the tunnel.

The tunnel predominately cut through wet black soil mixed with field stones and an abundance of sherds, all of which date to the Middle Preclassic. The low foundation wall uncovered by Trench T rests almost directly on cascajo. This suggests the ground had been cleared prior to the construction of the pyramid. No primary refuse or in situ offering was uncovered in Trench T despite being excavated to the sterile cascajo level (Ekholm1969:11). Sherds were collected from the first 4 m tunneled into the mound. No natural changes in the soil were noted. At 3.80 m within the tunnel, a 1.40 m high stone wall was found. These stones were removed and digging continued. The fill at this point was a uniform black clay soil with occasional globs of yellow cascajo. A crude wedge-shaped foot from a flat-bottom vessel was found wedged between stones at 3.80 m. This object was included in 30-T-3. Just before meeting Trench L, in the intermost few meters of the tunnel, two sand floors approximately 30 and 50 cm long were discovered below the ceiling of Trench T (Ekholm 1969:11). The western profile of Trench T was published by Ekholm in 1969. Her illustration reveals that Trench T cut through the base of the five earliest structures within Mound 30a and one building addition (see Ekholm 1969: fig.10).
**Trench U**

The only record of Trench U is a Field Specimen Sheet. This record associates Trench U with Mound 30a, although the exact location and dimensions of the trench are unknown. The Field Specimen Sheet describes four artifacts found within Trench U and attributes their discovery to the end of the third field season. Among the artifacts found were a pestle fragment, a figurine fragment, a metate, and a cylinder vessel, the later being found in fill at a depth of 3 m.

**Mound 30a-East Trench**

Excavation of a deep trench on the eastern side of Mound 30a began in October 1963. A backhoe was used to dig the trench, which began in the Mound 30 acropolis and cut through the eastern side of Mound 30a. The plan was to uncover the early pyramid that lay beneath, however the wetness of the soil caused constant cave-ins of the unit walls. Workmen spent considerable time straightening the walls and continued the excavation to *cascajo* (Oct 1963:2). The trench established that the Mound 30 acropolis had been constructed during the Late Preclassic and had been constructed as an apron around the Mound 30a pyramid (Jan 1964). The area where the Mound 30a-east Trench was excavated had previously been used as a dumping ground for the excavated earth from Trench 30a-L. Most of the sherds collected from the Mound 30a-East trench date to the late Early Preclassic to Middle Preclassic, but they included a few Guillen phase sherds. However, Lowe suspected an admixture of sherds because the trench was located at the dumping ground for Trench 30a-L.

**Architecture**

Ekholm defined the archaeological sequence for the Mound 30a pyramid as part of her MA thesis, published in 1969. Her hypothetical reconstruction of the pyramid was derived from comparisons of artifacts from among the three largest trenches into Mound 30a, Trenches D, L,
and T (Ekholm 1969:13). Some the interior structures were not well defined or understood. As such, the dimensions for some of these interior structures as shown in the reconstruction were approximate based on Lowe and Ekholm’s best guess of the evidence. Due to the nature of the excavations of Mound 30a, enlargements or additions on the northern face for early structures are purely hypothetical (Ekholm 1969:13). Here the architecture is described by phase.

**Duende**

The building of Mound 30a is thought to have begun around during the Duende phase. This date was supported by various carbon samples taken from the interior fill of the earliest structure. Excavation of the base of Mound 30a revealed that preparation for building began by scraping the area down to *cascajo* (Ekholm 1969:15). This pattern of clearing to *cascajo* continued for each addition or extension to the previous platform (Ekholm 1969:13). Lowe proposed the area was scraped to *cascajo* as a way of gathering dirt for mound fill. Clark proposes that scraping down to sterile may been a practice in preparing a proper plaza. By clearing the ground to *cascajo*, builders would have removed all cultural materials and vegetation, providing a clean surface on which to build (Clark and Lee 2013:68).

Mound 30a began as platform just under 2 m high. Ekholm describes the north-south length of the structure, labeled D5a2, as approximately 5 m long. However, the Trench T profile shows structure D5a2 as being at least 9 m long, with a hypothetical reconstruction of 14 m (see Ekholm 1969: fig.10). This structure was built in layers. The primary layer was about 1 m thick, the fill of which was dark brown soil mottled with burnt clay and lots of rocks. A roughly aligned vertical wall was found on the northern face of the platform. The southern face of the platform had a pronounced slope typical of platforms built over it. A floor of brown sandy clay about 10 cm thick was superimposed over the structure, perhaps as a renewal or to level the surface of the building. This raised the structure by 30 cm (Ekholm 1969:13).
Another floor of sandy clay was found 30 cm above the first sandy floor. Additional fill on top of the second floor raised the height of the platform to about 1.8 m tall (D5a1). Other than raising the total height of the platform, these additions did little to change the overall appearance of the structure (Ekholm 1969:13).

Structure 30a-D5 was covered by a suprastructure of similar form (Str. 30a-D3). This new addition raised the height of the initial platform by only a few centimeters and maintained the sloping southern face. On top of the primary platform, another low building platform was constructed. This building platform, 30a-D4a1 was 90 cm high and more than 3 m wide. The addition was composed of rock fill and covered with a clay surface. Based on known practices at later times, Lowe and Martínez proposed that the south or front of the primary platform likely had a terraced step and sloping rear surface (Ekholm 1969:14). Shortly thereafter, an enlargement (30a-D3) to the preceding structure was made, raising the platform height 1.5 m and extending the southern base by 4 m. Enlargements to the northern face are unknown because no excavation was done on the northern side of the structure. Fill for this structure was burnt earth that became rockier as it approached sterile. A building platform (30a-D3a1) was added to the surface of 30a-D3 adding an additional meter in height making the total height of the platform 5 m. Fill for this building platform was yellowish earth (Ekholm 1969:15).

The manner of construction changed as the next addition, St. 30a-D2, added substantial height to the platform without increasing its base. This gave the structure the appearance of a pyramid rather than a platform. The height was increased by approximately 1.2 m, resulting in a pyramidal form about 6 m high. The sloping front seems to have had narrow insets thus suggesting the face was stepped. The fill was a black, rocky soil. Ekholm noted an unusual number of rocks in the fill for this structure. A buttress-and-filling technique was used on the eastern extension of Str. 30a-D2. Yellowish cascajo was placed “on the eastern edge to the desired height and the resultant hollow filled with refuse, including a great amount of stone”
Ekholm proposed that the *cascajo* embankment may have been an attempt to secure and to hold in the refuse-filled earth as platform surfaces at Izapa are susceptible to rapid erosion (Ekholm 1969:15).

A low building platform (Str. 30a-D2a1) was placed on top of the new pyramid, adding an additional layer to the northern side of the structure. This layer covered the entire north slope of the structure and added another meter in height. The thickening of the northern layer may have been a preventative for erosion. The fill for this building platform was *cascajo*, similar to the fill of the previous structure (Ekholm 1969:16).

The final episode of construction at the end of the Duende phase was its largest, adding 2.75 m to the height of the pyramid and 15 m as an extension of the base. The added fill for this construction was almost equal to the total bulk of the substructures before it. Terracing of the southern hillside began in order to begin a forecourt. The pyramid fill was consistently uniform and of a dark earth (Ekholm 1969:16). The base of the pyramid went down 2 m on the southern face due to a natural depression in the plaza floor (Ekholm 1969:17).

Two building platforms were added to the summit of the new pyramid. The floor of each of these building platforms was covered in a layer of coarse white volcanic sand taken from the *cascajo* levels beneath Izapa. A small stone altar was placed on the surface of the second building platform, and the postmold pattern in the floor suggests that a series of poles set into the floor formed a 4 by 1.5 m enclosure (Ekholm 1969:18). On the west side of the first of these two building platforms, an abundance of charcoal was found from burned poles (Figure 4.32). The result of this latest addition was a total height of the pyramid of 10.5 m (Ekholm 1969:17). By the end of the Duende phase, Mound 30a had transformed from a simple platform to a large pyramid with a terraced façade. In total, 10 episodes of construction occurred in Mound 30a during the Duende phase, some of which may have been concurrent.
The proposed enlargement constructed in the Escalon phase added a layer of yellow *cascajo* to the front (southern face) of the Mound 30a pyramid approximately 1 m thick. A much greater addition of about 3 m thick was made to the back or northern face of the pyramid. This addition resulted in the enlargement of the Mound 30a summit (Ekholm 1969:18). Very few alternations were made to the pyramid during the Escalon phase.
**Frontera and Beyond**

The Frontera phase constructions were not addressed in depth by Ekholm as she felt they were beyond the scope of her project. She did, however, include a reconstruction of Frontera phase additions to her north-south profile of Mound 30a. The first construction in this period was a building platform on the summit of the mound pyramid. This addition added little height to the pyramid but did extend the building platform 2.5 m to the south and about 7 m on its northern side (Ekholm 1969:18).

The subsequent construction, Str. 30a-F1, was a large addition that covered the entire pyramid. It added about 3 m to the height, width, and length of the pyramid (Ekholm 1969:20). The fill for this addition was dark brown, rocky matrix. Two building platforms were eventually added, the first being 50 cm high and the second is undefined.

The profile of Trench 30a-B shows a wall in its southern end that appears to have been associated with Frontera phase construction. About 2.5 m north of the southern edge of Trench 30a-B was a wall with a Hato phase offering buried beneath it that does not seem to be intrusive. Remnants of a sloping stone veneer were found in the profile above the walls, suggesting possible Hato or Itstapa phase additions to Mound 30a (Ekholm 1969:20). The large quantity of Jaritas phase refuse found at the base of Mound 30a led Lowe to believe that Early Classic additions may have been made to the southern face of the pyramid (Lowe et al. 1982:188).

The reconstruction of Group B published in 1982 shows Mound 30a as a large terraced pyramid centered on the Mound 30 platform, with a central southern stairway leading to the summit of the mound. A small square platform was added to the base of the western side of the mound and a small rectangular was placed in front (Lowe et al. 1982:179; fig 9.1).

**Artifacts**

Mound 30a has six known offerings (see Chapter 5). A variety of other artifacts were also
found in Mound 30a’s numerous trenches and test pits, including jade, obsidian, and figurines. A solitary bead of mottled green stone was found in Trench D 1.75 m beneath the surface. The average diameter of the bead is 2.5 cm with a perforated hole 57 mm wide (Figure 4.33). A 3 by 4 cm block of pumice was also found in the Trench D fill next to a potbellied clay figurine.

Two round pale green beads and 15 fragments of the same material were collected from Mound 30a in January 1964. The context and location of this offering are unknown. All of the jade fragments had been worked; average bead diameter was 1.5 cm.

Within Trench L, several worked sherds and dozens of obsidian flakes were found throughout the unit, particularly in the upper two levels or Frontera phase additions to the mound. Several metate fragments were found in the Mound 30a fill as well as a handful of Early Preclassic figurines from the Locona, Cuadros, and Jocotal phases (Ekholm 1989).
Figure 4.34. Plan map of Mound 30b excavations.
Mound 30b

Mound 30b is a small supplementary platform located in the southwest corner of the Mound 30 platform. The mound appears to have originally been less than 2 m in height. Mound 30b is approximately 24 m long and 20 m wide (Lowe et al. 1982:188).

Excavation

Excavation of Mound 30b began during the end of the first field season. The central surface and eastern front of the mound were cleared and revealed a five step cut-stone stairway. A shallow excavation of the front or eastern side of the mound was used to clear off the steps. The excavation extended 12 m wide in front and 5 m east of the stairway. Centrally located in front of the stairway were plain Stela 63 and Altar 22. Two additional carved pedestal altars were
Figure 4.36. Gareth Lowe standing by Stela 63 and Altar 22 in front of Mound 30b, (likely taken in 1963).

Figure 4.37. The front of Mound 30b facing southwest, with Stela 63 and Altar 22 in front of the workman and Miscellaneous Monument 22 to his right.
uncovered a few meters in front of the stairway. These altars likely tumbled off the platform following abandonment (Figure 4.35) (Lowe et al. 1982:188). Numerous fragments of broken incense burner stands were found at the base of these steps, and are evidence of Early Classic activity within the area (April 1962:4).

A 2 m wide east-west testing unit was excavated into the summit of the mound. The southern wall of the unit was 5 m long and the northern wall was 4 m long with a depth of 2.20 m. The summit of the mound was covered with cobble-stones. Beneath this layer was a layer of light brown soil 1.8 m thick. About 50 cm down within this layer was a horizontal row of rocks that extended 1.2 m wide. A patch of burnt earth was found at the bottom west side of the northern profile. Below this stratum was another layer of yellowish earth 30 cm thick.

A 1 by 11.5 m trench running east-west was excavated on the western side of the mound; it revealed two stone walls. The western-most wall is the edge of the Mound 30b platform and is 1.20 m tall. Four meters east of the wall and approximately 80 cm below the surface was the second wall, which appears to be a retaining wall. Over a hundred sherds were collected from the first level of this trench; most were Guillen phase pottery, with a few Itstapa phase sherds.

The western side of the mound was cleared off and uncovered a Jaritas phase urn burial (Feature 30b-1) just beneath the surface. Due to its shallow positioning, the associated pottery was completely smashed. An additional sculpture was found in 1977 near the west side of the mound. The sculpture was a meter high rudimentary representation of a sitting or squatting figure. The monument was found near the surface and was recovered during the house construction project by the federal guard for this zone (Lowe et al. 1982:188).

Architecture

Mound 30b was a small, 2 m high supplementary platform facing east with a broad five step
Figure 4.39. Mound 30b steps facing south. Note the use of cut-stone blocks in the stairway.

Figure 4.40. Mound 30b steps facing west.
The stairway was constructed with cut-stone steps, with the exception of the central step which was made from a broken stela, with the two halves placed in opposition to each other. The structure was covered with cobble-stones and its front corners were inset. The original height of the platform was just under 2 m high. The ceramics collected from the mound suggest that construction of this supplementary platform took place during the Guillen phase (Lowe et al. 1982:188).

**MOUND 30c**

Mound 30c is a 3 m high supplementary platform located on the southwestern side of the Mound 30 platform, just east of Mound 30b. The structure is about 21 by 23 m in extent and faces eastward towards Mound 30e.
Mound 30 “c”

Figure 4.42. Mound 30c north-south cross-section.

Figure 4.43. Mound 30c east-west cross-section.
Excavation

In April of the first field season (1962) the east face and southeast corner of Mound 30c were cleared off and exposed a poorly preserved stairway (Figure 4.44). Approximately 1 m was excavated around the walls of the Mound 30c structure. The front and southern side of the mound were completely excavated, and all but 3 m of the back, or western side, was also excavated. Only the northwest and northeast corners were excavated on the northern side of the mound.

Trench A

Trench A in Mound 30c was used to expose the entire eastern side of the mound. A plan map of the mound shows excavation having taken place all along the eastern side of the structure, including the staircase. The excavation of the eastern side of the mound was 23 m long and 7.5 m wide, except for in front of the steps, where the excavation extended an additional 1 m to the east (see Figure 4.44). During the second field season an additional 1.5 by 2.75 m test pit was dug in the upper northern portion of the stairway on the eastern side of Mound 30c. It is included as part of Trench A. Offering 30c-1, an intrusive Itstapa phase cache, was found right below the surface in this test pit (see Figure 5.9). Offerings 30c-2 and 30c-3 were also found in Trench A at the base of the stairway (see Figures 5.10-5.13) (Lowe et al. 1982:191). These offerings are described in Chapter 5. Lowe identified the sherds collected from Trench A as a mixture of all phases, including 25 sherds from the Itstapa phase, dating to the late Protoclassic period.

Trench B

The Mound 30c Trench B was excavated during the second field season. A small 3 by 4.5
Mound 30 "c"

Figure 4.44. Plan map of Mound 30c excavations.
m excavation unit was placed through the summit of Mound 30c, but it failed to yield any significant information in regards to architecture, as the surface had eroded. The unit was 4 m deep and revealed three layers of different types of soil and the presence of two floors. Beneath the layer of volcanic ash was a layer of light brown soil 1.8 m thick. Below this layer was a floor about 10 cm thick. The second layer was made of yellowish earth 1 m in thickness followed by a uniform layer of rock 20 cm thick. The third layer was a dark brown clayey soil about 80 cm thick (see Figure 4.43). Of the sherds collected between 2.75-3.20 m deep, 40 date to the Guillen phase or earlier. Several of the sherds were from the Early Preclassic.

_Trench C_

Lab notes describe Trench 30c-C as a trench excavated somewhere along the back base of the west wall during the second field season. The plan view of the mound shows excavation along the walls of the Mound 30c structure on the east and south sides of the mound as well as part of the western wall. Fifty sherds were collected from the unit, they include some from the Late Protoclassic (Itstapa). Offering 30c-4 was found in Trench C along the back or western wall.

_Architecture_

Investigations into Mound 30c revealed some of the best preserved architecture in central Izapa (Lowe et al. 1982:191). The present height of the platform is 3 m, and vestiges of the central staircase suggest that it once had eight or more cut-stone steps. The staircase was outset from the platform with no balustrades. Each front corner of the platform was inset (Lowe et al. 1982:188). There was no standing sculpture linked to the Mound 30c platform. However, Miscellaneous Monument 14, a broken sculpture with evidence of reuse, was found in the
Figure 4.45. Mound 30c Trench A with Offering 30c-1.

Figure 4.46. The front Mound 30c. The upper-right section of the stairway was removed during the second field season.
southeast corner of the lower front wall (Lowe et al. 1982:188).

The presence of two floors, and the large number of Itstapa phase sherds found in the upper layers and base of the mound, suggest that perhaps the platform had two stages of construction. The first construction was likely a Late Preclassic structure, followed by additions in Protoclassic times.

Artifacts

Four intrusive offerings were found in Mound 30c. Of these, three had vessels dating to the Itstapa phase and one was a Late Classic Plumbate jar (see Chapter 5). Other significant artifacts found in Mound 30c include a mottled green stone figurine, a jade bead, and a stone mortar fragment.

The figurine was found below the ash layer at the northeast corner of the structure. It was rudely shaped from mottled green stone with features such as “coffee bean” eyes, hands on the stomach and the chest, and a top-knot like headdress. It was found near a small perforated jade bead 6.34 mm in length and 5.36 mm in width (Figure 4.47). A fragment of a stone mortar was also found in Trench A along the eastern wall of the structure. The fragment has a shallow basin with a raised edge; it was made from coarse, gray, volcanic tuff.

MOUND 30d

Mound 30d is a low, central building platform located north of Stelae 8, 9, and 10 in line with the center axis of Mound 30a. The platform is 19 by 28 m in size and faces north. More offerings were placed in Mound 30d than any other structure found in central Izapa. The first urn burial at Izapa was placed in Mound 30d—a cultural practice which would continue for a thousand years at the northern zone of Izapa in Group F.
Excavation

A trench was excavated through Mound 30d in January 1962. It uncovered urn burials 3a, 3b, and 4. The eastern half of the mound was then excavated and revealed numerous urn burials and offerings. The western half of the mound was excavated the following field season by Navarrete with the anticipation of uncovering more offerings such as those found in the eastern portion of the mound. However, only a single urn burial was found on the western side of Mound 30d. By March 1962, all of the earth covering the burials and offerings had been removed and preparations began to exhume and remove them. Ross T. Christensen from Brigham Young University Department of Archaeology aided in this task (Figure 4.50) (March 1962:2). Thus, by the end of the second field season the entire platform had been excavated and the burials and offerings removed. The total depth of the excavation was 2 m.
Figure 4.48. Early excavation of Mound 30d; photograph taken in either the first or second field season.

Figure 4.49. Low wall in Mound 30d.
A total of 250 sherds was collected within the upper 70 cm of the mound. These ceramics were mostly Frontera and Guillen phase sherds. Among them were a few incised, red and white, and polished black sherds, all of which suggest they date to Hato times. The next 85 cm of mound fill was mostly from Frontera times, with a few possible Guillen phase sherds. The bottom 25 cm of the platform had 19 late Frontera/Guillen phase sherds as well as one Ocos sherd.

Architecture

The Mound 30d structure was a low building platform that faced north towards Mound 30a. While no remnants of the original surface of the mound remained, isolated sections of a cut-stone wall about 60 cm high were found at the northeast corner of the platform. The base of the outer wall was represented by aligned river stones (Feb 1962:2). Ceramic evidence suggests that this platform was constructed during the Guillen phase, prior to the placement of the Hato phase burials and offerings.

Artifacts

At least nine urn burials and seven caches were intrusively placed into Mound 30d after its construction. In addition to these burials and offerings, several isolated Itstapa and Jaritas phase jars were found above the older burials and offerings on the eastern side of the mound (Lowe et al. 1982:194). The Jaritas phase jars correspond with the large amount of Early Classic refuse found behind Mound 30d (Lowe 1977:180).

Other significant artifacts from Mound 30d include a large jade bead of unknown context. It measures 2 cm in length and 1.5 cm in width with a perforated hole 74 mm on one side and 3 mm on the opposite side (Figure 4.51).
Figure 4.50. Miscellaneous large jade bead found in Mound 30d.

Figure 4.51. Ross T. Christensen aided in the exhumation of Burial 30d-5.
MOUND 30e

Mound 30e is a low building platform on the southeast side of the Mound 30 platform, just west of Mound 30f. It faces west towards the front of Mound 30c. Excavation of the mound uncovered an early Late Preclassic burial chamber in addition to an intrusive Early Classic urn burial.

Excavation

The Mound 30e building platform was very low and difficult to distinguish. In the spring of 1965, a large platform trench (Trench P) cut across the western portion of the mound (Figure 4.52). Excavation was taken to sterile ground, which was approximately 4 m below the surface. At 2.40 m below the surface, Burial 30e-1, a small cut-stone burial crypt, was found almost in
Figure 4.53. Mound 30 “e” north-south cross-section.
line with the trench. The crypt was demarcated by a single course of cut stones set on edge, the same type of cut stone used in Late Preclassic architecture (Figure 4.54) (Lowe et al. 1982:194).

The excavation through Mound 30e revealed four main layers. Below the upper layer of humus was a layer of black soil ranging from 25 to 50 cm thick. Layer 3 was of light brown soil averaging 1.3 m in thickness. This layer contained several rocks ranging from 5 to 30 cm in diameter. Layer 4 averaged 2.5 cm thick and was dark brown clayey soil. Burial 30e-1 was found 1.5 m deep within Layer 3 in virtually the center of the mound. The fill 25-50 cm above the burial contained a large concentration of rocks ranging from 5 to 30 cm in diameter.

Just beneath the surface on the western edge of Mound 30e sat Miscellaneous Monument 60. This monument is the only Izapa monument that has a bar and dot numeral. Due to the position of the monument upon discovery, Lowe suspected that the monument was erected during late
Figure 4.55. Plan map of Mound 30e.
Further investigation of Mound 30e unearthed a large upright urn burial. Seven other vessels, including a censer stand, were found alongside the burial. This burial strongly resembles the Jaritas urn burials found in Mound 125a in Group F and is thought to date to this phase of the Early Classic (Figure 6.24) (Lowe et al. 1982:194).

**Architecture**

Mound 30e was built as a small supplementary platform with a broad cut-stone stairway on its front or western face (Figure 4.56). A stone monument fragment (MM-63) was used as part of the fourth step in the stairway (Figure 4.57). The northwest and southwest corners of the platform are inset, similar to those of Mounds 30b and 30c. A Late Preclassic tomb was found approximately 2.4 m deep from the surface of the mound. It is likely that the tomb was intrusively placed into the Mound 30 acropolis after its final stage of construction but prior to the building of the Mound 30e platform. The northern profile of Mound 30e shows a distinct difference in fill between the acropolis and Mound 30e. Lowe also noted that the acropolis fill to the west of Mound 30e was earlier, although he does not specify a time or phase (Feb 1965:3). Based on the ceramics found in Mound 30e, in addition to the cut-stone blocks used to construct the burial tomb, Lowe surmised that the small platform was an early Guillen phase construction (Lowe et al. 1982:194).

**MOUND 30f**

Mound 30f is a small, low-walled, rectangular platform situated on the southeast corner of the Mound 30 platform. This platform sits east of Mound 30e and faces west. It is approximately 11 by 22 m in size.
Figure 4.56. Mound 30e stairway, looking north.

Figure 4.57. Mound 30e stairway with MM-63 off to the left, looking east.
Figure 4.58. Plan map of Mound 30f.
Excavation

Mound 30f was poorly preserved and eroded and evinced abundant root disturbance. Several broad steps of cut stone blocks inset into balustrades were uncovered on the west side of the mound upon clearing the surface. The core of Mound 30f was primarily investigated by means of Trench P, a long east-west tractor trench which cut across Mound 30f. The upper portion of a carved stela was incorporated in the stairway steps. A row of Protoclassic ceramic vessels (Offering 30f-1) were found below and in front of the lower step of the platform (Figures 4.60) (Lowe et al. 1982:194).

The portion of Trench P that cut through Mound 30f shows five different layers of soil (Figures 4.62 and 4.63). Beneath the layers of humus and volcanic ash, Layer 1 consisted of black soil 30 cm thick. This layer contained medium sized rocks 10-30 cm in diameter. The next layer comprised of dark brown soil ranged from 50 cm to 1.5 m thick. A concentration of rocks 10-50 cm in diameter was found on the eastern end of the mound. A veneer of 4 cut-stone blocks
Figure 4.60. Mound 30f stairway with vessels from Offering 30f-1, looking north.

Figure 4.61. Excavation of Mound 30f in 1965.
Figure 4.62. Mound 30\textsuperscript{f} east-west cross-section.

Figure 4.63. Mound 30\textsuperscript{f} north-south cross-section.
can be seen in this layer on the northern wall of the trench on western side of the mound. A 3 m wide layer of *cascajo* fill was present on the eastern side of the mound. The layer was about 2.2 m thick at its thickest point and gradually thinned out near the center of the mound. A 10 cm strip of dark brown clayey soil cut through this layer at approximately 1 m within the stratum. Layer 4, a layer of dark brown clayey soil, was present on the western side of the mound, beneath Layer 2 and cut through the layer of *cascajo*. On the western end of the mound, this layer extended to the base of the profile. A wall of cut-stone blocks was found in this layer near the center of the mound, 2.5 m from the surface. An inclusion of black soil 10-30 cm thick was present in the *cascajo* fill.

**Architecture**

Mound 30f is a low building platform facing west with inset corners in the front of the platform. The front or western side of the platform had a central staircase made of cut-stone blocks inset into balustrades. Three carved stones were used as part of the stairway construction. They were broken beforehand, probably deliberately. These pieces were once a part of another carved stela, an altar stone, and a round throne with cylindrical legs (Jan 1965). Lowe concluded that Mound 30f was a Guillen phase construction similar to the other supplementary platforms on the Mound 30 acropolis (Lowe et al. 1982:195).

**MOUND 30i**

Mound 30i is a small mound north of the Mound 30a pyramid and on the northeast corner of the Mound 30 platform. Mound 30i was the only mound excavated behind Mound 30a. It is associated with the largest sculpture found at Izapa, known locally as “El Leon” (MM-2).
It should be noted that the mound was labeled “Mound 30k” in early seasons and was later designated as Mound 30i.

**Excavation**

Excavation of Mound 30i began during the first field season and continued throughout the second under the supervision of Navarrete. A preliminary excavation (Leon Pit 1) in front of the sculpture uncovered a stone floor deep beneath the structure. A test pit that cut beneath the floor produced well preserved potsherds entirely from the Preclassic (Feb 1962:3).

**Leon Pit 1**

This test pit was placed 2.20 m in front of the El Leon monument and was likely 2 by 2 m. Ten arbitrary layers were excavated in 20 levels, resulting in a total depth of 2 m (Figure 4.65).
The stratigraphy revealed a layer of ash and humus which had remained untouched. The intact layer of ash indicated that that area had not been excavated by Stirling when he discovered the monument in 1941. At 1.20 m deep, a layer of stones was uncovered. The stones appeared to be part of the floor on which the monument rested. The stones were of irregular size and continued without order, which may indicate that the stones were fill. Below the floor, ceramics were found that appeared to be Middle Preclassic. Around 2 to 2.10 m deep a sterile layer of sand was uncovered (Navarrete 2013).

**Leon Pit 2**

Leon Pit 2 was placed 30 m west of Leon Pit 1 and was excavated to a depth of 1.90 m. Nine levels of cultural material were excavated in 20 cm increments. The first level was completely sterile. The layer of ash and humus was 34 cm thick. The final level containing
Figure 4.66. A grid with twenty 2 by 2 m grid sections were laid out in front of the monument (1962).

Figure 4.67. The stone flooring around the monument.
cultural material was 10 cm thick and ended at a depth of 1.25 m. At this point the yellow soil became mixed with rocks of different sizes, as well as gravel which seemed like a natural fill. This layer was completely sterile (Navarrete 2013).

Leon Pits 1 and 2 were excavated during the first field season. A more intensive excavation of Mound 30i and around the sculpture occurred during the second field season. The excavation goals were to verify the apparent change in ceramics above and below the stone floor uncovered in Leon Pit 1 and to check the opinion of Edwin Shook that the monument was older than the rest of the construction at Izapa. Another objective was to find any offering that could help date the monument (Navarrete 2013).

To test Shook’s hypothesis concerning the age of the El León monument, the back dirt was removed from the trench made in the first season as well as the excavation made by Stirling in 1941 (Dec 1962:2). Prior to excavation, Mound 30i and its surrounding area had been part of local maize cultivation. The NWAF purchased this crop and laid out a grid with twenty 2 by 2 grid sections (Figure 4.66). As of December 1962, seven of the 20 sections had been excavated to the depth of the stone flooring in front of the monument. Each section was excavated in 20 cm levels. Ceramics gathered from these excavations were labeled “Tr. 20 sur, Capa x.” Most sections were excavated to a depth between 80 cm to 1 m. Ceramics collected below the floor were saved separately and were indicated as such on the bags. Shook arrived during the middle of the second field season to assist with the excavations (Navarrete 2013).

Excavation around “El León” revealed that the monument was not isolated but was actually a part of the Mound 30i architecture. This relationship was not evident at first because several layers of earth and stone rubble from the slopes of Mound 30a had covered the building and part of the monument (Navarrete 2013).

The trench excavated behind “El León” uncovered evidence of two buttresses. This trench
was extended southward to better understand the relationship between the Mound 30i structure and the Mound 30 platform. During the course of the excavation, a fragmented Plumbate vessel was found between 10 to 25 cm deep. The position of the pot was such that it seemed clear that the vessel had rolled from the back of Mound 30a as vessel fragments were found 75 cm to 1.25 m from the back wall of that building (see Figure 5.24).

Approximately 13.25 m in front of the “El Leon” monument was the back of Mound 30a. Excavations uncovered what appeared to be the existence of a ramp on the back of the mound. The trench, which continued for an additional 6 m within the Mound 30 acropolis, uncovered a wall. This wall was 3 m from the back of the mound. A small zoomorphic shaped stone with a concave shaped back was found in the fill of this trench.

The monument was positioned on a layer of fill composed of earth, gravel, and stones of different sizes. Encountered at a depth of 1.15 m from the base of the monument was a layer of sand that constituted the natural floor. Five metate fragments were found in the excavation fill in front of the monument (Navarrete 2013).

**Architecture**

The architecture of Mound 30I was heavily eroded and only remnants of the original boulder walls remained, allowing for only minimal reconstruction of the platform (Figure 4.68) (Jan 1963:2). The building rested on an occupation floor made from fine gravel and burnt earth. El León was centrally positioned in front of Mound 30i. Excavation around the monument revealed the vestiges of two small, rectangular elements on either side of El León, thereby creating a niche for the monument. The foundations of these rectangular structures were very eroded and their original height could not be determined. These niche elements were approximately 2 m long and 75 cm wide; the space between them was 2.75 m. (Navarrete 2013).
Figure 4.68. Reconstruction of the Mound 30i structure in relation to Miscellaneous Monument 2.
Figure 4.69. Cross-sections of Mound 47.
Behind the sculpture was a step, leading to a large platform. Two ramps projected out from the southeastern and southwestern corners of the platform. It is unknown if they were sloping ramps or if they had been terraced. The ramps were between 2 to 2.75 m wide. The distance from each ramp to the small rectangular elements flanking the El León sculpture was 1 m. The remains of a hearth-like feature were found to the east of El León, in between the southeastern ramp and the small, rectangular element on the east side of the monument. It was likely used for burnt offerings. The interior diameter of this feature was 80 cm. No ashes were found, although there was some carbon staining in the soil (Navarrete 2013).

Based on the ceramics uncovered in the test pits around El León (MM2), Lowe believed that MM2 was erected in the Frontera phase (400-300 BC). It may in fact be even earlier but not later. However, the platform behind the monument was definitely a Guillen phase construction (Lowe et al. 1982:195).

MOUND 47

Mound 47 is an 11 m high pyramidal platform located southwest of Mound 30a. The mound is approximately 45 by 50 m in basal dimensions and makes up the western side of the Group B plaza. The mound faces east and has three stela-altar pairs at its eastern base.

Excavation

Investigation of Mound 47 began in January 1964 during the third field season. Three trenches were excavated into mound, two at the base and one through the summit.

Trench A

Trench A in Mound 47 was an east-west trench placed at the western base of the mound. It was 11 m long; the width is unknown. The western end of the unit was 5 m deep; the eastern end
was 8 m deep (Figure 4.70). The unit exposed seven layers of different colored soils. The first layer consisted of black soil that ranged from 10 to 40 cm thick. This layer was predominantly present on the eastern side of the southern wall of the unit. To the west was a 10-20 cm thick layer of volcanic ash. Layer 2 was made of light brown soil that ranged from 20 to 60 cm thick. Layer 3 comprised yellowish earth and lots of small rocks. It ranged from 20 to 50 cm thick and was absent on the western portion of the profile. Layer 4 consisted of dark brown soil, ranging 50 to 190 cm in thickness. It contained several small to medium-size rocks 10-30 cm in diameter. At the base of this layer was a wall and cobblestone facing of a structure found inside the mound. Layer 5 was of dark brown clayey soil that contained several rocks 10-60 cm in diameter. This layer was only prevalent on the eastern end of the profile where it was 1.75 m thick and 3 m
wide gradually thinning out to 20 cm thick. Layer 6 was a pocket 1.8 m wide and 25 cm thick of black soil between Layers 5 and 7. Layer 7 was yellowish earth 20-25 cm thick with stones at the bottom of the layer.

Limited information regarding the ceramics found in this trench is available. According to Lowe’s lab notes, Level 1 contained some Plumbate sherds. Level 2 comprised mixed fill with Guillen phase sherds being the youngest sherds found. A surprising number of Cuadros phase sherds were found in the mix. Sherds collected from the eastern portion of Level 2 were entirely from the Frontera phase. The interior rock fill had earlier pottery but included a fragment of one good Tuzantan labial flange bowl (Guillen phase). The layer above *cascajo* had some Plumbate sherds in addition to Itstapa phase ceramics.

*Trench B*

Lab notes indicate that the Mound 47 Trench B was placed at the base of the mound. Of the two excavation units placed at the base of Mound 47, Trench B is most likely the unit on the northern base of the mound (see Figure 4.70). This test unit was a stepped trench 8 m long and 3 m deep. It cut through four layers of different colored soils. Layer 1 was of dark black soil beneath thin patches of volcanic ash. It contained small to medium sized rocks. Layer 2 comprised yellowish earth with lots of medium-size stones, ranging from 10-60 cm in diameter. This stratum ranged from 40 cm to 1.8 m in thickness. Layer 3 was a dark brown clayey soil with small boulders averaging 60-80 cm in diameter. Layer 4 was *cascajo* and was only visible in the northern end of the profile. Several Plumbate and two Itstapa phase sherds were recovered from 1.30 to 1 m above *cascajo* at the base of the mound. Ceramics collected just above the *cascajo* were of the Guillen phase or earlier.
**Trench C**

Trench C in Mound 47 was excavated during the third field season. The plan map of Mound 47 shows three excavation units, one through the summit and two along the base. Due to the proposed locations of Trenches A and B, it is assumed that Trench C was the trench dug through the summit of Mound 47. The western and southern walls of the summit trench were 2 m wide, 8 m long, and 2.5 m deep. At least three known levels were excavated in Trench C. The first level was 50 cm thick and contained a mixture of ceramics including Plumbate and Ocos phase sherds as well as two fragments of late incense burners. The second level was also 50 cm thick and included Middle Preclassic (Escalon) sherds as well as a few earlier ceramics. Level 3 was of an unknown thickness and contained Cuadros-like pottery with some late Frontera-early Guillen phase ceramics. Three different layers of soil were present in this unit. Beneath the upper layer of humus was a layer of black soil ranging from 20 to 50 cm thick. The next layer was a yellowish soil mixed with large rocks from 60 cm to 1.5 m in diameter. The bottom layer was dark brown clayey soil ranging from 80 cm to 1 m thick.

**Stone Monuments**

Excavations on the east base of Mound 47 were made to clear Stelae 11, 12, and 50 along with their associated altars. When Stela 50 was discovered in 1962, only its upper edge was visible. Deep pits were then used to expose Stelae 11 and 50 as well as their altars (Figures 4.71 and 4.72). Stela 12, on the other hand, was partially exposed upon discovery (Lowe et al. 1982:200).

**Architecture**

Lowe was of the opinion that Mound 47 was a Late Classic construction over an earlier core. He believed that the stelae and altars in front of the mound were set up during the Late Preclassic
Figure 4.71. Plan view and profile of Stela 50 and Altar 44
when Mound 47 was likely a low platform. Mound 47 is unique in that it one of a few Late Classic constructions known for central Izapa (Lowe et al. 1982:200).

**MOUND 50**

Mound 50 is a 9 m high pyramid located across the plaza from the Mound 30 acropolis. Mound 50 was divided among several land owners and was covered in cacao orchards and tall pacaya trees, which made excavations in the 1960s problematic. No excavations took place in Mound 50 during the NWAF’s project at Izapa, except for test pits around Stelae 30 and 31. Stela 89, the mound’s third stela, was later found in 1976 (Lowe et al. 1982:200). Investigations of Mound 50 by Robert Rosenswig in 2012 may provide further insight into the internal structure and date of the mound (Rosenswig, in press).

**MOUND 33**

In 1963, Carlos Navarrete explored Mound 33, an area which he believed to be a common house mound. Mound 33 is located east of the Mound 30 platform and 150 m west of the Izapa River. Mounds 33, 34, 35, and 36, constitute a small plaza (Navarette 2013).
Excavation

Excavation of Mound 33 started in 1963 overseen by Navarette. Work began by clearing the mound while leaving in place stones they felt belonged to the internal structure. These boulders were found very close to the sterile subsoil (Figure 4.73) (Lowe et al. 1982:200). An east-west trench was also excavated through the mound. The profile of this excavation unit revealed four separate substructures (Figure 4.74). Ceramics collected from this mound date to the Late Preclassic.

Architecture

Mound 33 gives off the appearance of a low terraced pyramid, with each level built on top of the other. However, a cross-section of the mound reveals that this is not the case. Similar to other constructions at Izapa, the building of the Mound 33 structure began by clearing the ground to *cascajo*. The structure for Mound 33 was constructed in at least 4 stages or is made up of four substructures. Each substructure was built separately, as if one within the other. The inner-most structure was 4 m square and about 1.5 m high (Navarrete 2013).

A floor comprised of large stones was placed on the surface of the interior-most structure. These were much larger than the other stones used in construction with the average size being 50 cm in diameter. The floor of this structure was a 70 cm thick layer, the fill of which was river gravel mixed with earth. Two rows of stones were found on the interior of the structure that form buttresses (Navarrete 2013).

The second substructure was built around the first and was 1 m high. This addition was 10 by 11 m, and added 2 m to the front of the structure and 4 m to its sides and back. The third substructure was 11 by 16 and was 75 cm high. The final substructure was 13.5 by 19 m and 50
Figure 4.73. Cobble stone from the Mound 33 excavations.
Figure 4.74. Plan map and profile of excavations in Mound 33 (Navarrete 2013).
cm high. The front of the structure was extended 1.5 m wide and 16.5 m long with in-set corners. The dimensions of the final structure were 15 by 19 m. Three stairs were placed in the middle of the edifice. These stairs were crafted from a mix of cut-stone blocks and natural shaped rocks that were flat on one side (Navarrete 2013).

Cut-stone blocks were found randomly placed in the fill, one with a carved spiral design. Navarette speculated these cut-stone blocks were taken from other constructions. Three metate fragments were also recovered from the fill (Navarrete 2013).

**MISCELLANEOUS EXCAVATIONS**

Included here are miscellaneous units excavated outside of mounds and platforms, but are still associated with Group B.

**Pit 1**

Pit 1 was excavated in the courtyard of the plaza created by Mounds 30a, 41, 47, and 50. Pit 1 began at the stone column (MM-5) uncovered in Trinchera A sur and ran 11 m south (see Figure 4.2). The purpose of this test unit was to look for the general floor in Plaza B and to find good stratigraphy. Pit 1 was excavated in seven levels; the thickness of each level is unknown (Figure 4.75). Because Level 1 was mostly sterile, its sherds were combined with those of Level 2. Sixty-five sherds were collected from Level 3, including a good example of Plumbate. Thirty sherds were collected from Level 4 and 32 from Level 5. Three large stones were found in Levels 3, 4, and 5 which may have occurred during the collapse of the building. Level 6 contained 8 sherds and 4 from Level 7. This final level was made of yellow earth and was mostly sterile (Navarrete 2013). Nothing is known regarding the type of ceramics found.
This pit was dug next to the home of Mauro Tercero which had been contracted by the crew for storage. The location of Tercero’s home and its proximity to Group B is unclear. The test pit was excavated to a depth of 2.20 m with 10 levels with material culture. The first layer of ash and humus was 20 cm thick. The next 80 cm consisted of black soil rich with ceramic sherds. The following level was a layer of irregular rocks. These stones ranged from 40 cm in diameter to small gravel, similar to what was found in Leon Pit 2. Sherds were found mixed within the layer of stones, indicating that this was artificial fill (Navarrete 2013). Cultural fill stopped at a depth of 2 m. Most of the sherds retrieved from this test pit were body sherds. All levels contained Itstapa phase sherds.

**Test Pits in Tercero’s pasture**

In January 1965 Lowe began digging backhoe test pits in Tercero’s pasture on the east
side of the Mound 30 subcomplex. The exact locations of these test pits are not known. The first four pits were all relatively sterile. There were no trashy areas or architecture found anywhere. All of the pits ended in *cascajo* and gravel.
More offerings were found in Group B than in any other part of central Izapa. However, limited information is available regarding these offerings. Some details can be found in the 1982 publication of *Izapa: An Introduction to the Ruins and Monuments* by Lowe, Lee, and Martinez. The most comprehensive detailing of the Late Preclassic offerings at Izapa was an article written by Lowe in 1993 found in *Segundo y Tercer Foro de Arqueología de Chiapas*, in which he discusses the meaningful contexts of the offerings, some of which he later identified as burials, and their relationships with the stone monuments. However, basic descriptions of the contents of the offerings were not provided.

Offerings were given the same label as the structure in which they were found followed by a sequential number based on the order of their discovery. This chapter is organized by structure or mound considered in numerical-alphabetical order. Several offerings were later thought by Lowe to be burials. I have separated potential burials from the offerings and describe them in Chapter 6. As part of this chapter, I distinguish among the types of offerings found in Group B. These types of offerings include the following: dedicatory offerings, commemorative offerings, and offerings associated with burials. Dedicatory offerings are described as caches found in meaningful contexts associated with architectural stages of construction (Lowe and Agrinier 1960:55). Commemorative offerings were also placed in monumental architecture but are not related to episodes of construction; rather, their placement appears to have been associated with commemoration.
Table 2. Group B offerings organized by sequentially by mound.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Offering No.</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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<td>30a-1</td>
<td>Commemorative</td>
<td>Frontera-</td>
<td>1 vase</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Guillen</td>
<td>1 bowl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 obsidian flakes</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 carbon sample</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30a-2</td>
<td>Dedicatory</td>
<td>Hato</td>
<td>1 vase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 carbon sample</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Dedicatory</td>
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<td>Frontera</td>
<td>1 bowl</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Lowe et al. 1982:184, 186)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30a-7</td>
<td>Dedicatory</td>
<td>Hato</td>
<td>1 vase</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 jar</td>
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<tr>
<td>30a-10</td>
<td>Dedicatory</td>
<td>Protoclassic</td>
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<td>30c-1</td>
<td>Commemorative</td>
<td>Itstapa</td>
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<td>6 small irregular andesite pebbles</td>
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<td>1 large andesite flake</td>
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<tr>
<td>30c-2</td>
<td>Commemorative</td>
<td>Itstapa</td>
<td>2 vases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30c-3</td>
<td>Dedicatory</td>
<td>Itstapa</td>
<td>6 vases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30c-4</td>
<td>Commemorative</td>
<td>Remanso</td>
<td>1 jar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30d-2</td>
<td>Commemorative</td>
<td>Itstapa</td>
<td>4 vases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 bowl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 amber object</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30d-5</td>
<td>Commemorative</td>
<td>Itstapa</td>
<td>2 vases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30d-6</td>
<td>Commemorative</td>
<td>Late Hato</td>
<td>1 incense burner bowl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30d-7</td>
<td>Commemorative</td>
<td>Late Hato</td>
<td>1 open plate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30d-9</td>
<td>Commemorative</td>
<td>Early Hato</td>
<td>2 bowls</td>
</tr>
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Table 2. Continued.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offering</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30d-13</td>
<td>Mortuary</td>
<td>Late Hato</td>
<td>3 bowls (1 effigy pot)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Lowe et al. 1982:195;fig.9.13)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30d-16</td>
<td>Commemorative</td>
<td>Kato</td>
<td>1 tripod bowl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30e-1</td>
<td>Mortuary</td>
<td>Guillen</td>
<td>1 jar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Lowe et al. 1982:130;fig.7.9)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 vase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30e-3</td>
<td>Mortuary</td>
<td>Guillen</td>
<td>3 bowls (1 tetrapod)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Lowe et al. 1982:130;fig.7.9)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>44 irregular tuff stones (26 large oval and 15 small rectangular)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30f-1</td>
<td>Commemorative</td>
<td>Itstapa</td>
<td>2 jars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 bowls (2 tripod)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30i-1</td>
<td>Commemorative</td>
<td>Remanso</td>
<td>1 zoomorphic jar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

and rituals of remembrance. Commemorative offerings tend to be intrusive. In the case of Mound 30d, it is difficult to know whether the offerings were commemorative or were associated with the structure’s numerous urn burials. Mortuary offerings are not described here, but are listed in Chapter 6 with their associated burials.

**Mound 30a**

Mound 30a, the largest and oldest structure (Lowe et al. 1982:184) within Group B, contained some of the oldest offerings at the site. Lowe and others stated that, with the exception of a small bowl found 4 m below the surface of the mound, (Offering 30a-6), no other offerings or burials were found in Mound 30a. The same claim was made in Ekholm’s earlier publication (1969:7). However, excavation records indicate that several offerings were recovered and
recorded for Mound 30a. The exact provenience for some of these offerings was not specified in the available notes. Thus the context of their discovery is unclear.

Offerings were given a sequential number based on their order of discovery. As we have records for Offering 30a-10, I assume that at least 10 offerings were recovered from Mound 30a. However, feature records for four of the 10 offerings are missing, so their nature and content is unknown. It is also possible that more than 10 offerings were found and recorded. We do know that more offerings were found than are described here. Additionally, prior to the NWAF investigations of Group B, looters dug approximately 4.6 m deep through the summit of the mound, cutting through to Duende phase constructions; they may have removed burial goods or caches. Mound 30a has the longest known construction history for Izapa mounds; yet evidence available suggests that offerings were not placed in this mound until the Frontera phase. However, it is possible that the absence of earlier offerings may be the result of theft by looters or of missing
records. Known offerings are described here according to their numerical order assigned in field notes and photographs.

One of the following offerings, (Offering 30a-7), was actually found in the southern face of the Mound 30 acropolis but was labeled in association with Mound 30a. It is, therefore, possible that some of the offerings for which there are now no known records may have been recovered from the Mound 30 acropolis and were then included with the Mound 30a offerings. According to NWAF monthly reports, the first offering found at Izapa was a small vessel placed beneath a wall in Trench 1 on the southern side of the Mound 30 acropolis during the first field season (see Figure 4.5). This offering has no known label and is not included in this chapter. No information concerning the dimensions, type, or phase association for the vessel in this offering is available. What little is known concerning the context of its discovery is presented in Chapter 4.

Offering 30a-1 (Figure 5.2)

Type: Dedicatory offering.

Location: 2.10 m from the southeast corner of Trench 30a-D; 1 m below the surface.

Period: Frontera-Guillen.

Contents:

1. Vase, red paste, insloping walls, no rim, height 17.5 cm, diameter 16.5 cm.
2. Bowl, outcurving walls and a flat bottom, height 7.2 cm, diameter 23 cm.
3. Three obsidian blade fragments. The largest fragment measures 3.4 cm in length, 1.2 cm in width, and 0.2 cm in thickness.
Remarks: Vessel 1 was found on top of a layer of carbon bits; these were collected, saved, and dated. Vessel 1 was also found next to a large mass of red clay.

Offering 30a-2 (Figure 5.3)

Type: Dedicatory offering.

Location: 2.55 m below the surface in Trench 30a-B at the base of a large boulder wall.

Period: Hato.

Contents:

1. Vase, brown with flaky red slip, low neck with double ridge, incised zig-zag design repeated three times on shoulder; rim diameter 10.2 cm, height 8.7 cm.

Remarks: Vessel was found at the base of a wall of large boulders, approximately at the level of cascajo.

*Offering 30a-3* (Figure 5.4)

Type: Dedicatory offering.

Location: 4.46 m west of the east terrace west wall at the southern base of Mound 30a; depth 1.58 m below the surface.

Period: Unknown.

Contents: Bowl, flat bottom, outleaning walls, height 12.7 cm, diameter 19.3 cm.

Remarks: The vessel was found upright but tipped slightly to the north at the base of a wall. The wall had fallen over the vessel which apparently had been set on a floor.

*Offering 30a-6* (Figure 5.5)

Type: Dedicatory offering.

Location: Trench 30a-L, depth 4 m below the surface.

Period: Frontera.
Contents: Bowl, rim diameter 17 cm, shoulder diameter 21 cm.

Remarks: The vessel was found upright near a large clay “altar” and an area of burned earth/charcoal (Lowe et al. 1982:184).

Offering 30a-7 (Figures 5.6 and 5.7)

Type: Dedicatory offering.

Location: Trench 30-M, Level 4.

Period: Hato

Contents:

1. Vase, vertical walls, missing rim.

2. Jar, composite silhouette, decorated with two parallel, horizontal, wavy lines on the upper shoulder of the vessel.

Remarks: Offering 30a-7 was found on the southern face of the Mound 30 acropolis. Vessel 1 was placed on cascajo. Vessel 2 was found in front of a well-built stone wall.
Figure 5.6. Offering 30-7: a. Vessel 1, b. Vessel 2, not drawn to scale.

Figure 5.7. Offering 30a-7; found on the floor of the final reconstruction of Mound 30a.
**Offering 30a-10**

Type: Dedicatory offering.

Location: Trench 30a-N, southern face of Mound 30a.

Period: Protoclassic.

Contents: Small red bowl.

Remarks: The vessel was found on a layer of small stones and blackened clay on the west side of a hearth feature. It appeared to be at floor level with the final reconstruction of Mound 30a. Offering 30a-10 was also recorded as Specimen 30-N-3 in Lowe’s field notes.

**Mound 30c**

Four offerings were found in Mound 30c. Three of the four offerings were found in association with the central staircase on the eastern side of the mound. Two were intrusive and date to the Late Protoclassic Itstapa phase. The third offering also dates to the Protoclassic but did not appear to be intrusive. It is possible that this offering correlates with Protoclassic additions to the platform. The last offering was found on the back or western side of the mound and dates to the Late Classic, nearly a millennium after the placement of the first three offerings.

**Offering 30c-1** (Figures 5.8 and 5.9)

Type: Commemorative offering.

Location: Trench 30c-A, upper right-hand section of the stairway.

Period: Itstapa.
Figure 5.8. Offering 30c-1, found in the upper right-hand corner of the stairway (Lowe et al. 1982:190; fig. 9.10).

Contents:

1. Vase, height 24 cm, diameter 19 cm.

2. Vase, incurving walls, exterior folded rim, height 21.7 cm, diameter 20 cm.

3. Vase, outflaring walls, exterior folded rim, height 28.2 cm, diameter 15.5 cm.

4. Vase, vertical walls, height 21 cm, diameter 19.8 cm.

5. Vase, slightly outflaring walls, height 19.2 cm, diameter 15.7 cm.

6. Vase.

7. Vase.

8. Vase.


10. Six small, irregular andesite pebbles and one large andesite flake.

Remarks: The vessels within this cache were found upright behind the fifth step in the stairway. There were no steps above the offering. The stairs appear to have been cut
Figure 5.9. Offering 30c-1; a. Vessel 1, b. Vessel 2, c. Vessel 3. d. Vessel 4, e. Vessel 5, f. obsidian flake, g. andesite pebbles. Not drawn to scale.
through for the placement of these vessels. Two small stones were found on the surface above the two southernmost vessels. No descriptions were found for Vessels 6-8 other than that they were similar to the other vessels in the offering.

*Offering 30c-2 (Figures 5.10 and 5.11)*

Type: Commemorative offering.

Location: Trench 30c-A, below the level of the wall and the lowest step.

Period: Itstapa.

Contents:

1. Vase, slightly incurving walls which curve out near the rim, exterior folded rim, height 19 cm, diameter 17 cm.
2. Vase, outflaring walls, exterior folded rim, height 21 cm, width 16 cm.

Remarks: The distance of the offering from the corner of the lowermost step is 1.15 m west and 54 cm south of the center of the feature. Depth from the bottom of the step is 35 cm. The cache was placed outside of the Mound 30c structure.

*Offering 30c-3 (Figures 5.12 and 5.13)*

Type: Dedicatory offering.

Location: Northeast corner of the lowest step, placed beneath the step

Period: Itstapa.

Contents:

1. Vase, outflaring walls, exterior folded rim, height 22.2 cm, diameter 18 cm.
2. Vase, outflaring walls, height 23.5 cm, diameter 17.5 cm.
Figure 5.10. Offering 30e-2; a. Vessel 1, b. Vessel 2; not drawn to scale.

Figure 5.11. Offering 30e-2.
Figure 5.12. Offering 30c-3; a. Vessel 1, b. Vessel 2, c. Vessel 3, d. Vessel 4. Not drawn to scale.
3. Vase, outflaring walls, height 22.4 cm, diameter 18 cm.

4. Vase, outflaring walls, height 21 cm, diameter 15.4 cm.

5. Vase.

6. Vase.

Remarks: All vessels except for Vessel 3 were found beneath the steps; Vessel 3 was found at the same level as the lowest step. The cache was probably placed prior to setting the step. No description was found for Vessels 5-6 other than they were similar to the other vessels in the offering.

Offering 30c-4 (Figure 5.14)

Type: Commemorative offering.

Location: Western wall of Mound 30c, 9 m from the southwest corner of the mound, 11 m from northwest corner.
Period: Remanso.

Contents: Plumbate jar, fluted, height 8.5 cm, diameter 4.8 cm.

Remarks: The vessel was found upside down on top of stones at a depth of 36 cm below the surface.

**Mound 30d**

The Mound 30d offerings are Protoclassic, with both Hato and Itstapa phase vessels represented. Offerings were found intrusively placed in the center, behind, and eastern side of Mound 30d. At least 17 offerings were found within Mound 30d. Nine of the 17 offerings were later classified as urn burials and are described in Chapter 6. No records have been found for Offering 30d-1.

*Offering 30d-2 (Figure 5.15)*

Type: Commemorative offering.
Figure 5.15. Offering 30d-2; a. Vessel 1, b. Vessel 2, c. Vessel 3, d. Vessel 4, e. Vessel 5, not drawn to scale.
Location: Northern edge of Mound 30d on the same general axis as Burials 30d-1, 30d-2, and 30d-3.

Period: Itstapa.

Contents:

1. Deep vase, reddish-brown paste with thin eroded self-slip, faint vertical striations as if from polishing; rim diameter 12 cm, height is 20.3 cm.

2. Deep vase, reddish-brown paste with red slip and vertical striations, incurving sides and exterior folded rim; rim diameter 18 cm, height 21 cm.

3. Bowl, brown paste with thin red slip, direct rim with slightly outflaring walls, horizontal polish marks on the interior with vertical marks on the exterior; rim diameter 14 cm, height 11.7 cm.

4. Deep vase, brown paste with red slip, direct wall, slightly restricted mouth and everted rim, smooth on the underside, rim diameter 16 cm, height 17.5 cm.

5. Deep vase, brown paste with eroded red slip, black spattering on the interior and exterior, vertical striations and horizontal interior striations; rim diameter 19.1 cm, height 28 cm.

6. Possible amber object with rounded corners, disintegrating surface.

Remarks: The vessels in Offering 30d-2 were found between 1.4 to 1.5 m below the surface.

Offering 30d-5 (Figure 5.16)

Type: Commemorative offering.

Location: Just north of Offering 30d-3, also in line with the center axis of Stela 9 and Stela 24.

Period: Itstapa.
Contents:

1. Vase, lacking part of the rim, coarse orange paste with mica flakes and a well
   smoothed orange-red slip; rim diameter 16 cm, shoulder diameter 18 cm, base diam-
   eter 14 cm, and height 36 cm. Decorated with fugitive dull red paint. The bottom is
   slightly convex, and the interior show corrugations.

2. Vase, slightly incomplete, coarse brown paste with white inclusions and an unevenly
   smoothed finish; rim diameter 21 cm, base diameter 24.3 cm, height 33 cm. Contains
   traces of a fugitive red paint or wash.

Remarks: Vessel 1 was found 80 cm south and 1.3 m west of Vessel 2. The distance be-
 tween the two vessels indicates that they may have been two separate offerings. It is un-
 clear why Lowe included both vessels within the same offering. It is also possible that the
 offering was part of an extended burial. If this was an extended burial, no bones would
 have preserved in Mound 30d.
Offering 30d-6 (Figure 5.17)

Type: Commemorative offering.
Location: Eastern half of Mound 30d, just north of Burial 30d-10.
Period: Late Hato.
Contents: Incense burner bowl, three horns around central vent, black, sandy ash paste with mica inclusions; height 4.7 cm, rim diameter 25.3 cm, vent diameter 2.2 cm.
Remarks: Offerings 30d-6 and 30d-13 were found 7 m north of the area in between Stelae 9 and 10. Offering 30d-6 was found just north of Offering 30d-7 and may have been associated with it and Offering 30d-13.

Offering 30d-7 (Figures 5.18 and 5.19)

Type: Commemorative offering.
Location: Eastern half of Mound 30d, just east of Offering 30d-6.
Period: Late Hato.
Contents:
1. Bowl, wide everted rim with four double protuberances. Paste is a fine, dense brown with ashy inclusions and a black core. The profile is composite, and the shoulder has
Figure 5.18. Offering 30d-7; a. Vessel 1, b. Vessel 2; not drawn to scale.

Figure 5.19. Offering 30d-7.
a low bulge. The height of the vessel is 9.5 cm, with a rim diameter of 31.5 cm. Usulután exterior, the interior wall and rim has negative black designs of circles, dots, and bars.

2. Bowl, everted rim with four double protuberances and single grooves. The profile is composite, and the shoulder has a slight bulge. The height of the vessel is 7.6 cm with a circumference of 42 cm. Usulután with eroded red slip. Vessel was burned and badly smashed.

Remarks: Vessel 1 was found 80 cm below the surface and Vessel 2 was found 85 cm below the surface. This offering was found just south of Offering 30d-6 and may have been associated with it.

**Offering 30d-9 (Figure 5.20)**

Type: Commemorative offering.

Location: Just east of Burial 30d-3; 2.13 m deep.

Period: Early Hato.

Contents: Open plate, polished red finish, rim diameter 47 cm with a height of 6.5 cm.

Remarks: Offering 30d-9 was found on the same east-west axis as Burial 30d-3 and Burials 30d-6.

**Offering 30d-16 (Figure 5.21)**

Type: Commemorative offering.

Location: Below the north wall, depth 1.35 m below the surface.

Period: Kato.

Contents: Tripod bowl, painted orange; height 7.5 cm, rim diameter 16 cm, thickness 0.5
cm.

Remarks: Feature records and MRE sheets indicate that Offering 30d-16 was a Kato phase vessel, making it the youngest offering found in Mound 30d. However, in their 1982 publication, Lowe et al. describe the Kato phase and state that outside of Group F “Kato materials have not been identified anywhere else at the site” (1982:147). It is unclear why this vessel was not mentioned in their monograph.

**Mound 30f**

*Offering 30f-1 (Figures 5.22 and 5.23)*

Type: Commemorative offering.

Location: West side of Mound 30f near the center axis; beneath the floor level at the base of the steps. Possibly associated with Stela 88.

Period: Itstapa.

Contents:

1. Jar, height 14.2 cm, diameter 11.4 cm.

2. Tripod bowl, height 7 cm, diameter 7.6 cm.

3. Jar, height 14 cm, diameter 13.3 cm.
Figure 5.22. Vessels from Offering 30f-1, not drawn to scale.
Figure 5.23. Offering 30f-1 was found associated with Mound 30f stairway.

4. Bowl.

5. Bowl, height 3.5 cm, diameter 5.3 cm.

6. Jar, height 13 cm, diameter 7.4 cm.

7. Tripod bowl, height 8.3 cm, diameter 30 cm.

8. Tripod bowl, height 5.2 cm, diameter 6.3 cm.

9. Jar, height 20 cm, diameter 16.9 cm.

Remarks: Vessels 1 and 2 were dug up by a backhoe; Vessels 3-5 were dug by hand. Vessels 3-6 were found directly beneath the base of the stairway. No floor was identifiable. Lowe was originally of the opinion that the contents of this offering dated to the Early Classic, congruent with the construction of the Mound 30f structure. However, his opinion on the matter changed. In his 1982 publication he states that Mound 30f is a Late Preclassic structure and that this offering was Protoclassic and intrusive, similar to the Protoclassic offerings found in Mounds 30c and 30d.
Mound 30i

Offering 30i-1 (Figure 5.24)

Type: Commemorative offering.

Location: Trench 20s.

Period: Remanso.

Contents: Zoomorphic jar, possibly Tohil Plumbate; height 16.5 cm, rim diameter 8 cm.

Vessel resembles a jaguar.

Remarks: Fragments of this vessel were found in the southern extension of Trench 20s, the excavation unit used to explore the relationship among Mound 30i, the Mound 30 acropolis, and Mound 30a. This vessel was recorded in association with Mound 30i, however, it may have actually been related to Mound 30a.
Burials

Group B contained the only known burials in central Izapa. Burials at Group B were primarily intrusive Hato and Jaritas phase urn burials; the one exception is a Late Preclassic tomb in Mound 30e. This chapter is organized by structure or mound considered in numerical-alphabetical order. In the field, all cache deposits were labeled as offerings because no human remains were found. Bones and other organic matter do not preserve at Izapa. However, Lowe et al. identified the offerings thought to be burials in feature records. All offerings that contained a large urn were considered urn burials. The stone crypt found in Mound 30e was also considered a burial despite the absence of a skeleton.

Here, I identify the “offerings” which were actually burials and separate them from offerings per se, with the exception of mortuary offerings which are listed with the burials for which they are associated. I use the same logic as Lowe et al. to identify potential burials. Offerings thought to have been burials are given burial numbers and are presented in the in order in which they were discovered. The descriptions of burials and their accompanying goods are derived primarily from artifact records and MRE sheets, some of which contain original descriptions provided by Lowe, Lee, or Martínez, and others descriptions that have little more than a photo or sketch of an artifact.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Burial No.</th>
<th>Offering No.</th>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Ornaments</th>
<th>Non-ornaments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>30b-1</td>
<td>30b-1</td>
<td>Jaritas</td>
<td>Urn</td>
<td>12 tubular jade beads</td>
<td>1 urn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>1 jar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5 tripod bowls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30d-1</td>
<td>30d-3a</td>
<td>Early Hato</td>
<td>Urn</td>
<td>3 tubular jadeite beads</td>
<td>1 large urn fragment</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>3 jade beads</td>
<td>1 pottery tub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 jade amulet</td>
<td>5 bowls (1 tetrapod)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 jade fragments</td>
<td>3 vases (1 tripod)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30d-2</td>
<td>30d-3b</td>
<td>Late Hato</td>
<td>Urn</td>
<td>20 jade beads</td>
<td>1 tub fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>2 bowls (tripod)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 zoomorphic stone scepter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30d-3</td>
<td>30d-4</td>
<td>Early Hato</td>
<td>Urn</td>
<td>2 jade earspools</td>
<td>1 urn</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>7 jade beads (6 round and 1 cylinder)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 bowls (tetrapod)</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 olla</td>
</tr>
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<td>30d-4</td>
<td>30d-8</td>
<td>Late Hato</td>
<td>Urn</td>
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<td>2 urns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4 bowls (2 tetrapod)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 jars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30d-5</td>
<td>30d-10</td>
<td>Late Hato</td>
<td>Urn</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 urn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6 jars (1 spouted)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4 vases (2 polychrome)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 bowls (1 tripod)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 vessel</td>
</tr>
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Table 3. Group B burials listed sequentially by mound. Also listed are offering numbers assigned each burial in the field.
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<th>Burial No. Offering No.</th>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Ornaments</th>
<th>Non-ornaments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30d-6 30d-11</td>
<td>Late Hato</td>
<td>Urn</td>
<td>1 jade earspool</td>
<td>1 urn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4 bowls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9 small blocks of light brown squared pumice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30d-7 30d-12</td>
<td>Late Hato</td>
<td>Urn</td>
<td>3 jade beads</td>
<td>2 urns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 jade incised fish pendants</td>
<td>6 jars (3 spouted)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 jade earspools</td>
<td>19 bowls (4 tetrapod and 1 tripod)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>24 large round beads</td>
<td>2 vases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>21 small beads</td>
<td>1 jade axe</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 large tubular bead</td>
<td>1 hematite-strip mirror</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 human head pendant</td>
<td>1 soap stone object</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30d-8 30d-14</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Urn</td>
<td>1 stone ring</td>
<td>2 urns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 jars</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 incense burner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30d-9 30d-15</td>
<td>Early Hato</td>
<td>Urn</td>
<td>1 jade earspool</td>
<td>1 urn</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4 bowls (2 tetrapod)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 tetrapod vase</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 olla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30e-1 30e-4</td>
<td>Guillen</td>
<td>Extended internment</td>
<td>9 spherical jade beads</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 tubular jade bead</td>
<td>1 jade pendant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 jade pendant</td>
<td>2 jade earspools (1 with a jade bead in its throat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burial No. Offering No.</td>
<td>Phase</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Ornaments</td>
<td>Non-ornaments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30e-2 30e-2 (Lowe et al. 1982:196;fig.9.14)</td>
<td>Jaritas</td>
<td>Urn</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>1 urn 7 bowls (2 tripod and 1 tetrapod) 4 tripod dishes 3 jars (1 tripod) 1 drum or pot stand 1 smooth unworked stone of irregular shape</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 6.1. Burial 30b-1, Early Classic urn burial.

Mound 30b

Mound 30b contained a single Early Classic urn burial. This burial correlates with the large deposit of Jaritas-phase incense burner fragments found on the eastern or front side of Mound 30b (Lowe et al. 1982:188).

Burial 30b-1 (Figure 6.1, 6.2, and 6.3)

Location: Trench 30b-C, the back or western side of Mound 30b.

Period: Jaritas.

Grave: Urn.

Contents:

1. Tripod bowl with medial ridge; height 9.2 cm, diameter 33 cm.
2. Tripod bowl with medial ridge; height 15 cm, diameter 41 cm.
3. Tripod bowl with medial ridge; height 8.7 cm, diameter 8.7 cm.
Figure 6.2. Vessels from Burila 30b-1. Not drawn to scale.
Figure 6.3. Burial 30b-1, Vessel 5. Not drawn to scale.
4. Jar, decoration around the neck; height 25.2 cm, diameter 19 cm.

5. Urn, flat bottom, incurving walls; height 50 cm, diameter 42 cm.

6. Tripod bowl with medial ridge; height 7 cm, diameter 24 cm.

7. Tripod bowl with medial ridge; height 12.6 cm, diameter 36.5 cm.

8. Twelve tubular jade beads.

Remarks: Burial 30b-1 was found in a brief clearing of the western side of Mound 30b just 25 cm below the surface. Due to its proximity to the surface, the contents of the burial were smashed. The large urn (Vessel 5) was placed on the center line of the mound and was closely surrounded by the other vessels. The twelve jade beads were found inside the urn.

Mound 30d

A total of nine known urn burials was associated with Mound 30d, the small supporting platform behind Stelae 8, 9, and 10. These burials were intruded after the construction of the platform. Four of the nine burials had shallow placements, some right beneath the surface, and were concentrated in the eastern portion of the mound. These burials were assigned by Lowe to the Late Hato phase. Four of the remaining burials were found 60-120 cm below the surface. One burial was located on the western side of Mound 30d, and the other three were found along the north-south axis of the mound. These burials were assigned to the early Hato phase. With one exception in Group G, all known urn burials in central Izapa were restricted to Mound 30d (Lowe et al. 1982:191).

The eastern portion of the mound was obviously favored for the placement of burials as only a single burial was found in the western side of the structure (Figure 6.4). Excavation of these
Figure 6.4. Mound 30 burials and offerings.
burials occurred during the first field season with the assistance of Ross T. Christensen (March 1962:2, April 1962:3). Most of the vessels found in these burials and offerings were imported exotic goods (Lowe 1977:180). In regards to the origin of these imports, Lowe et al. state:

An overwhelming proportion of the ceramics in the abundant offerings with the Mound 30d urn burials are exotic to Izapa, including a large number of Usulután resist-striped vessels, all of them apparently imported from Guatemala or El Salvador and then stucco-painted at or near Izapa with colorful geometric or mythological designs. Very few local pots accompany the urn burials. (Lowe et al. 1982:139)

It seems that the urn burial practice was introduced to Izapa during the Protoclassic, around the time that the erection of carved stone monuments came to a sudden end (Lowe et al 1982:194). Lowe considered these burials and offerings to have a direct relationship with the surrounding stone monuments, including Stelae 8, 9, 10, 24, and their associated altars, as well as the three stone columns and Throne 1 (Lowe 1977:180). No human remains were found in the urn burials; bones and teeth do not preserve well in Izapa’s acidic soil.

The first urn burials discovered were “Offering 30d-3” and “Offering 30d-4”. It later became clear that “Offering 30d-3” was likely two separate burials as the offering had two urns with independent covers. As such, “Offering 30d-3” was separated into “Offering 30d-3a” and “Offering 30d-3b,” which are Burials 30d-1 and 30d-2 respectively.

*Burial 30d-1*

Location: Mound 30d, in line with the center axis of Stela 9 and Stela 24.

Period: Early Hato.
Grave: Urn.

Furniture:

1. Base sherd of a large urn, incurved bottom, crumbly texture due to poor firing.
2. Pottery tub, brown sandy volcanic paste with a brownish-red finish and fugitive red slip; rim diameter 1 m, base diameter 85 cm, height 35 cm.
3. Three tubular jadeite beads, perforated longitudinally; one has a depressed end.
4. Three jade beads, 1 jade amulet, and 3 jade fragments.
5. Bowl, reddish-brown with white ash inclusion; rim diameter 13.5 cm, base diameter 11.5 cm, with a height of 8 cm. Decorated with wide groves on the rim and base that appear to be pre-slipped and a step design on the wall of the vessel.
6. Bowl, brown coarse volcanic paste with a smooth unpolished reddish-brown finish; rim diameter is 22 cm, base diameter is 9 cm, and a height of 12 cm. Decorated with Usulután multiple brush striping, covered with fugitive red paint on the interior and exterior.
7. Bowl, brown sandy paste with white inclusions and a polished black brown finish; rim diameter 12 cm, base diameter 6.5 cm, and a height of 8.7 cm. Decorated with four incised vertical lines within scalloped lines and vertical fluting on the shoulder. Base shows use (Lowe et al 1982:136 fig.7.13e).
8. Vase, polished brown slip; rim diameter 14.5 cm, base diameter 11.5 cm, and height 17.5 cm. Double grooves and ridges at the rim, mid-section, and near the base. Decorated with a repeating design of four vertical lines enclosed within scalloped lines. Pattern repeated four times. Incising occurred post-firing (Lowe et al. 1982:136 fig7.13g).
9. Tripod vase with nubbin feet, volcanic ashy brown paste and a polished gray-brown
finish; rim diameter 14.7 cm, base diameter 12.5 cm, and height 14.7 cm. Deco-
rated with six or seven finely incised vertical lines within scalloped lines. Horizontal
groove at rim, medial ridge, and base. Black fire clouding on one side. Feet show
wear (Lowe et al 1982:136 fig.7.13h).

10. Tetrapod bowl, medium brown paste, length 14.5 cm and width 12.6 cm.

11. Vase, incomplete, brown, sandy, well-fired paste with well a smoothed reddish-brown
finish, no rim; shoulder diameter 31 cm, base diameter 9 cm, height 33 cm. Decorated
with a dull red slip on the interior and exterior, with wide curvilinear incised design
scratched into the exterior, perhaps a lizard.

12. Bowl, brown medium ashy paste with a polished brown interior and smooth brown
exterior. The interior is slipped with a pre-paint stick polish design of parallel lines
and zig-zags. The paint is a dark reddish-brown, partly eroded.

Remarks: Only the base sherd was saved from the large urn. No rim sherds were recov-
ered, and the urn may have been incomplete when deposited. Vessel 2 was a possible
cover for the urn, the latter of which contained three tubular jade beads, four small jade
beads, a small jade pendant, and three pieces of jade mosaic. Several sherds of similar
type decoration to that of Vessel 11 were found scattered throughout the offering.

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*Burial 30d-2*

Location: Mound 30d, in line with the center axis of S9 and S24

Period: Late Hato.

Grave: Urn.

Furniture:

1. Deep bowl, red semi-dull finish on the interior, slightly outflaring walls with a flat
bottom, and labial ridge (Lowe et al. 1982:136 fig.7.13i).

2. Tub fragment, coarse, brown ashy paste with iron oxide nodules; exterior has well-smoothed brown slip, rim diameter 62 cm, base diameter 58 cm, height 30 cm. Decorated with four shallow horizontal grooves on the interior rim and has a dark full red paint on the rim.

3. Bowl, nubbin tripod, coarse brown sandy ash with a polished reddish-brown finish; rim diameter 24 cm, base diameter 16.5 cm, and height 7 cm. Vessel has a labial flange 6 mm below the rim and decorated with a fugitive red-orange wash.

4. Zoomorphic stone scepter of a seated monkey. There is a hole in the back of the head of the figure and on the handle, the tip of the scepter is also notched.

5. 20 jade beads.

Remarks: Vessel 2 was used as a cover for Vessel 1, the latter of which contained a zoomorphic scepter and a necklace consisting of 20 jade beads. The figure on the scepter was initially thought by Lowe to have been a sitting monkey with a hole notched in its head. In Lowe’s (1990) later description of Izapa’s Late Preclassic burials, he states that the zoomorphic figure appears to resemble a *tlacuachem* (opossum), a marsupial animal known to the Maya as dancers and regents of the New Year. The scepter was likely an object of cyclical celebration. It seems appropriate that such a funerary object would be placed behind Stela 9 considering to the stela’s reference to the sun (Lowe 1990:182).

*Burial 30d-3 (Figure 6.5)*

Location: Mound 30d, in line with the center axis of Stela 9 and Stela 24.

Period: Late Hato.

Grave: Urn.
Figure 6.5. Burial 30d-3, two earspools and seven jade beads found in the interior of a large urn.

Furniture:

1. Urn, brown slip unevenly distributed with a decorative thumb-punched ridge on the shoulder of the vessel, ashy brown paste with large sand inclusions; rim diameter 60 cm and height is about 60-70 cm.

2. Deep bowl, sandy brown paste with iron nodules, up to 5 mm thick. Has slightly out-flaring walls, smooth reddish-brown slip, and is decorated with dark red paint on the rim, two parallel grooves on the interior rim. Vessel is 24.5 cm in height, 97 cm rim diameter, and 75 cm base diameter.

3. Vase with nubbin tripod feet, coarse, brown, soft, and ashy paste with large inclusions; rim diameter 15.6 cm, base diameter 13.4 cm, and height 13 cm; nubbin feet 3-4 cm. Decorated with shallow groove below the rim and above the base, low ridge at mid-section, and repeated designs of five to six vertical lines in between scalloped lines (Lowe et al. 1982:136 fig7.13b).

4. Vase, red medium coarse well fired sandy ashy paste with a light brownish-orange slip. Rim diameter is 16.7 cm, base diameter 14.1 cm, and height 13.9 cm. Decorated
with Usulután stripes, vertical on the interior, sloping and crisscrossing on the exterior, and it has a double groove below the rim. Originally stucco-painted gray with a pink rim band extending 1 cm into the interior (Lowe et al. 1982:136 fig7.13c).

5. Tetrapod bowl, fine orange paste with brown inclusions and a soft orange slip; rim diameter 18.4 cm, base diameter 11 cm, and height is 6.2 cm. Decorated with grooved and modeled everted rim that includes four double protuberances. Usulután pottery originally stuccoed white and pink on the interior and exterior of the rim (at least). Usulután design mostly removed on the interior, few Usulután lines noted on the exterior. Vessel appears over-fired (Lowe et al. 1982:136 fig7.13a).

6. Olla with double handles, dark gray medium paste with white inclusions and brownish-black well-smoothed finish; rim diameter 14.5 cm, shoulder 17 cm, base diameter 9.5 cm, and height 8.7 cm. Loop handles extend from rim to the shoulder. Vessel shows no sign of use (Lowe et al. 1982:136 fig7.13j).

7. Two jade earspools.

8. Seven jade beads, 6 round and 1 cylinder.

Remarks: Burials 30d-1 and 30d-2 appear to be the oldest burials and were found in line with the center axis of Stelae 9 and 24 (Lowe 1977:180). The large urn was placed 30 m below the surface just east of the center axis of Mound 30d. It was found in fragments, but a section of the rim was preserved. The urn was covered by a large ceramic tub. Within the urn were small jade pieces, including two earspools, six round beads, and one tubular bead. The other four vessels were found surrounding the large urn.

*Burial 30d-4* (Figures 6.6 and 6.7)

Location: Eastern half of Mound 30d.
Figure 6.6. Burial 30d-4 (Offering 30d-8), Hato phase burial. The bottom photograph is an image of a bowl set on edge. The flower arrangement are sherds of a fractured pot.
Period: Late Hato.

Grave: Urn.

Furniture:

1. Urn. Poorly fired, sandy brown paste with granules up to 5 mm of reddish iron oxide. Smoothed surface, possibly self-slipped. Height approximately 50 cm, rim diameter approximately 45 cm.

2. Bowl fragment, probably had hollow tetrapod supports. The vessel was poorly fired with a dark black core, brown paste with small white inclusions, and traces of red paint on the exterior and interior. Height is 10.2 cm, rim diameter 18 cm, shoulder diameter 28 cm, and a base diameter of 10 cm. Vessel has ten shoulder lobes with rudimentary handle vestiges on opposite sides of the vessel. The walls of the lobes are extremely thin making complete restoration impossible.

3. Tetrapod Usulutan bowl. Well-smoothed with reddish brown slip and a cream underslip exposed in some areas. The paste was an ashy brown with a black core and a groove under the exterior rim. Upper part of the vessel has an applique face with reptilian snout, coffee-bean eyes, a mouth, and two applique hands and four double protrusions. Possibly a representation of a turtle. The supports for the vessel were solid. Height 9.9 cm, rim diameter 21 cm, base diameter 7 cm.

4. Jar. Brown polished matte, possibly self-slip. Medium coarse paste with an abundance of mica showing on the surface. Decorated with a band of diagonal punctuations at the base of the neck. Upper part of the vessel contains appliqué of a human face and stylized arms, legs with three toes, fin-like appendages and fishtail. The human face has a jutted jaw and double perforated coffee-bean eyes. Height 8 cm, rim diameter 12.8 cm, shoulder diameter 16 cm and base diameter 6 cm.

5. Jar. Reddish brown slip, semi-polished. Brown sandy ash paste with tiny mica speck-
les. Contains a ridge at the base of the neck with a diagonal punctuations below ridge. Two rudimentary handle vestiges at opposed positions on the shoulder, flanked by tiny flutings. Height 8.5 cm, rim diameter 11.5 cm, shoulder diameter 15 cm, and base diameter 5.5 cm.

6. **Bowl.** Brown, medium fine ashy paste, with a semi-polished black-brown slip. Contains a flange 1 cm below the exterior lip with thumb impressions. Height 6.3 cm, rim diameter 21.5 cm, flange diameter 22.6 cm, base diameter 13 cm. Base shows no wear.

7. **Urn.** Brown sandy paste with a light red wash and a soft brown slip that has a polished and soapy feel. Three faint horizontal grooving below the rim exterior. Height approximately 80 cm, rim diameter approximately 92 cm, and base diameter approximately 55 cm.

8. **Tetrapod Usulután bowl,** four nubbin feet, outflaring wall, everted rim with four double protuberances. Originally stuccoed pink. Rim diameter 32 cm with a height of 10.1 cm.
Remarks: Vessel 7 was a large urn that was turned upside down and likely served to cover the smaller urn (Vessel 1) and the surrounding vessels included in this cache.

*Burial 30d-5 (Figures 6.8, 6.9, and 6.10)*

Location: Eastern half of Mound 30d, just south of Offering 30d-6.

Period: Late Hato.

Grave: Urn.

Furniture:

1. Urn.

2. Spouted jar, brown, fine sandy or ashy paste with dull fugitive red slip over a light brown slip. Vague Usulutan, most visible on the bottom, originally stuccoed in white and pink with apparently a curvilinear design. The base was concave with a curved inner rim shelf. Height 27 cm, rim diameter 15.8 cm, body diameter 23.8 cm, base 10 cm.

3. Jar with lid, brown-black paste with buff ash grains and a highly polished brown-
4. Vase, fine brown paste with black paste and a polished dark brown over light brown slips. Low ridge below the exterior rim. Decorated with vertical, slightly diagonal Usulután stripes on the interior and exterior. Vessel contains pink stucco bands around the rim and base. The central plane of the vessels has remains of greenish-blue, yellow, purple, and pink stucco designs. Height 13.1 cm, rim diameter 14.3 cm, base diameter 12 cm (Lowe et al. 1982:137 fig. 7.14a).

5. Vase, brown medium paste with black core and buff inclusions. Negative black design with apparently Usulután underneath. Contains thin red wash and buff slip over a well smoothed surface. Black negative consists of circles, triangles, and wavy lines. Height
29 cm, rim diameter 16.5 cm, shoulder diameter 15.3 cm, neck diameter 7.5 cm, and base diameter 13.5 cm (Lowe et al. 1982:137 fig. 7.14j).

6. Tripod bowl, negative dark brown wash on some parts of the vessel. The three supports were polished on the interior and semi-polished on the exterior. Height 7 cm, rim diameter 16 cm, base diameter 13.6 cm.

7. Jar in the form of a Tejón, semi-polished reddish orange paste; height 5.5 cm.

8. Bowl, light brown paste, semi-polished, flat bottom. Height is 9.5 cm, base 17 cm, rim diameter 20 cm (Lowe et al. 1982:138 fig. 7.15f).

9. Jar, dark, polished red wash with coarse black clay in the interior of the vessel. Height 14 cm, rim diameter 13 cm, body diameter 18 cm, base diameter 6.5 cm.

10. Jar, composite silhouette, black wash, horizontal row of designs around the middle or widest part of the vessel. Height 14.7 cm, body diameter 18 cm, base diameter 6.5 cm.

11. Vessel, sandy yellow paste, only a base and body sherd were found.

12. Jar, fragmented with incised designs, possible rim diameter 8.2 cm, possible height 15 cm.

13. Polychrome vase, stucco, cylinder with slightly concave walls. Design of two intertwined serpents forms a motif on both sides. Colors red, yellow, and white over black, height 21.2 cm (Lowe et al. 1982:268 fig. 15.1a; Lowe 1993:203, 205).

14. Polychrome vase, cylinder with slightly flaring lip, stucco design of monster face in red, yellow, and white over black. Circumference approximately 30 cm, height 28.3 cm (Lowe 1993:203).

15. Bowl, grainy, brown paste with a thin reddish orange slip over a semi-polished brown. Small horizontal grooves on the inner shoulder edge, raised outer edge of rim.
A painted red band was found on the exterior and interior of the rim.

_Burial 30d-6_ (Figures 6.11 and 6.12)

Location: Eastern half of Mound 30d, just south of Burial 30d-4.

Period: Early Hato.

Grave: Urn.

Furniture:

1. Urn, rim diameter 60 cm.

2. Bowl, outflaring walls, flat bottom; height 9 cm, rim diameter 29 cm, base diameter 22 cm.

3. Bowl, outflaring walls, flat bottom, light brown finish with two lines around the inside; height 13 cm, rim diameter 43 cm, base diameter 33 cm.

4. Bowl with labial flange, flat bottom, brown ware with eroded buff slip fired red in places; circumference 16 cm, height 4.5 cm.

5. Bowl, orange-red sandy ware with eroded red slip. Coarse incised parallel band and step design on flaring wall, slightly everted rim, rim diameter 14.5 cm, height 4.8 cm.
Figure 6.11. Ross T. Christensen aided in the exhumation of Burial 30d-6 in 1962.

Figure 6.12. Burial 30d-6 (Offering 30d-11).

7. One jade earspool 2 by 2.5 cm.

Offering 30d-13 (Figures 6.13 and 6.14)

Type: Commemorative offering.

Location: Eastern half of Mound 30d, lies on the center axis and is the most eastern offering in the mound.

Period: Late Hato.

Contents:

1. Bowl, sandy yellowish paste, outflaring walls with a flat bottom; height 6.3 cm, rim diameter 31 cm, base diameter 26.1 cm.

2. Bowl, outflaring walls with flat bottom; height 4.3, rim diameter 22 cm, base diameter 15.5 cm.

3. Bowl, outflaring walls, everted rim, and flat bottom; height 4.9 cm, rim diameter 22
Figure 6.14. Offering 30d-13

...cm, base diameter 20 cm.

4. Effigy pot, fine paste, painted red and then stuccoed.

Remarks: Offering 30d-13 was found just west of Burial 30d-7. It is quite possible that it was associated with that burial. The most prominent piece from this offering was an effigy vessel, an import from Guatemala or El Salvador. It was given a second decoration locally which consisted of pink and white stucco paint over red hematite. The effigy figure is shown wearing a buccal mask. The mouth is enlarged showing teeth. The individual is blowing or speaking forcefully. The effigy is presumably related to the element wind and is associated with Ehecatl/Quetzalcoatl (Lowe 1993:77).

Burial 30d-7 (Figures 6.15, 6.16 and 6.17)

Location: Eastern half of Mound 30d, just west of Offering 30d-13.
Period: Late Hato.

Grave: Urn.

Furniture:

1. Urn.

2. Urn.

3. Jar, restricted neck without curved rim, fine sand temper, thin red slip; height 10.1, neck diameter 9.5 cm, and rim diameter 11.8 cm.

4. Spouted jar, Usulután Resist, brown with red slip on the exterior; height 22 cm, diameter 19 cm, and thickness .9 cm. Swollen spout with restricted mouth. Jar mouth is everted and curves out and up. (Lowe et al. 1982:137, fig.7.14b).

5. Deep bowl, brown with fine limestone temper, unslipped, flat outcurved rim. Decorated with crudely incised lines forming parallel lined patterns in the form of opposed triangles and bands. Height 9 cm with a rim diameter of 20.5 cm.

6. Tetrapod bowl, pseudo-Usulután, hollow tetrapod feet, red to brown, medium fine, soft paste, reddish slip varying to brown according to firing, interior and exterior decorated with negative design left by dark brown paint or secondary slip, design consists of repeated sets of three vertical curvy lines; height 7.6 cm, rim diameter 23.3 cm, thickness 0.8 cm. Vessel is extremely lightweight (Lowe et al 1982:137 fig 7.14h).

7. Bowl, outflaring walls and flat bottom, sandy paste, interior of the bowl is light brown, the exterior dark brown, rim diameter 21.5 cm with a height of 9.4 cm.

8. Spouted Jar, height 14.8 cm, rim diameter 10.2 cm, base diameter 7 cm (Lowe et al 1982:195).

9. Bowl, height 7.2 cm with a rim diameter of 12.3 cm. Decorated with incised lines forming parallel lined patterns in the form of opposed triangles and bands.
Figure 6.15. Burial 30d-7 (Offering 30d-12).

Figure 6.16. Jade necklace with pendant of human face.

Figure 6.17. Close-up of jade objects found within the smashed urn.
10. Tetrapod bowl, Usulután resist, polished black finish. Decorated with lined bands and cross-hatch patterns in the background all of which are painted in red. The height is 15.1 cm, rim diameter 14.7, and thickness 0.9 cm.

11. Bowl, rounded lips with two small handles, rounded walls, semi-polished; height 5.3 cm, rim diameter 11.3 cm, and body diameter 12.4 cm.


14. Bowl, outflaring walls and a flat bottom; height 9 mm, rim diameter 22.6 cm, base 18.2 cm.

15. Jar, height 13.6 cm, rim diameter 12 cm, body diameter 17.6 cm, and base diameter 5.5 cm.

16. Jar, outcurving neck, polished black finish, height 13.1 cm, rim diameter 9.5 cm, body diameter 18 cm, base 5 cm.

17. Vase, outflaring walls and a flat bottom, painted red and cream, height 7.5 cm, rim diameter 12 cm, base diameter 8.2 cm, and thickness 0.8 cm (Lowe et al. 1982:137, fig. 7.14e).

18. Vase, height 8 cm, rim diameter 9.5 cm, and base diameter 7.5 cm.

19. Bowl, outflaring walls and flat bottom; height 4.7 cm, rim diameter 19 cm, and base 14 cm.

20. Bowl, outflaring walls with flat bottom, rim diameter 14.4 cm.


22. Bowl, outflaring walls, everted rim, and a flat bottom, sandy paste, painted red, height 6.5 cm, rim diameter 32 cm, and base diameter 26.8 cm (Lowe et al. 1982:195).

23. Tetrapod bowl, height 10.2 cm, rim diameter 21 cm, and base 16.5 cm (Lowe 1993:204).
24. Bowl, outflaring walls, wide everted rim, flat bottom with designs on the rim. Height 6.9 cm, interior rim diameter 29.2 cm, exterior rim diameter 40.2 cm, and base diameter 22.2 cm (Lowe 1993:204).

25. Spouted Jar, Usulután resist, painted red and black, was probably stuccoed; height 20 cm, rim diameter 18.6 cm, and 0.7 thick (Lowe et al. 1982:137, fig.7.14g)

26. Three jade beads, rudely rounded with large perforation.

27. Bowl, outflaring walls, slightly everted rim, and a flat bottom, black paste, brown slip. Traces of red pigment on surface, rim diameter 26 cm and 2 cm in height.

28. Jade axe, blue green fine grain stone, good edge on bit.

29. Tripod bowl, vertical walls with thickened and outcurving lip, three nubbin feet, dark brown polished slip over reddish-brown paste, rim diameter 20 cm, and a height of 12.2 cm.

30. Shallow bowl, outflaring walls with flat thickened rim, sand temper, thick red fugitive slip, height 5.5 cm, and a rim diameter of 22.8 cm.

31. Deep bowl, round bottom with thick everted rim, fine paste and temper, thin light brown slip; rim diameter 23.4 cm, and height 15 cm. Decorated with parallel bands of grooves under the rim of the vessel.

32. Two jade pendants; carved and incised with fish design (Lowe 1993:197 fig.3e,f).

33. Two pairs of jade earspools, 24 large round beads, 21 small beads, 1 large tubular bead, 1 small tubular bead, and 1 human head pendant (Lowe 1982:193 fig. 9.12).


35. Soap stone, squarish cross-section, length 12.9 cm, width 1.5 cm.

Remarks: Burial 30d-7 had the largest mortuary offering found at Izapa and also the greatest number of jade items. Two jade necklaces, three pendants, four earspools, and a hematite mirror were all found within the large urn. The jade pendants consisted of a
human figurine head and two fish. The figurine head is depicted with a large open mouth and extended lips, as if blowing, demonstrating wind-god attributes (Lowe 1982:193). The pendent also had double interconnected perforations on the cheeks, chin, and forehead. The pair of jade fish pendants was stolen shortly after discovery of the cache and has never been found (Lowe 1993:78). The two sets of earspools and the two necklaces suggest that perhaps two individuals were interred within this urn.

*Burial 30d-8*

Location: Tractor trench, presumably associated with Mound 30d.

Period: Unknown.

Grave: Urn.

Furniture:

1. Urn.
2. Urn.
3. Jar, height 21 cm, diameter 29 cm.
4. Jar, diameter 29 cm.
5. Jar, diameter 20 cm.
6. Incense burner, width 37.6 cm.
7. Stone ring, diameter 7.4 cm, width 5.5 cm, biconical central hole 3.7 to 2.5 cm.

Remarks: Little is known about Burial 30d-8; minimal information regarding the burial is available. Burial 30d-8 was originally labeled “Offering 30d-14,” clearly associating the burial with Mound 30d. However, the coordinates given for the burial actually place it some 20 plus meters north of Mound 30d. This would suggest that its location was in the upper courtyard delineated by Mounds 30a, 30c, 30d, and 30e. This would also ex-
plain why Burial 30d-8 was not included in the reconstruction of the burials and offerings found in Mound 30d as illustrated by Martinez (see Figure 6.4). The burial was apparently found in a tractor trench, yet none of the notes regarding the trenches excavated in the upper courtyard in front of Mound 30d make any mention of an urn burial. It is possible that the given coordinates are inaccurate. The original feature record for this burial is missing.

*Burial 30d-9 (Figure 6.18)*

Location: Western half of Mound 30d, isolated from the other offerings.

Period: Early Hato.

Grave: Urn.

Furniture:

1. Urn, rim sherd, reddish orange.

2. Tetrapod bowl, orange, crumbly paste. Adorned with two, small, nonfunctioning handles.

3. Tetrapod pot, Usulután style, has two handles that connect the neck and the body, decorated with vertical lines starting from the neck down to the middle of the vessel, followed two or three punctations.

4. Tetrapod vase, globular body with a long neck and outcurving lip. Decorated below the neck with a row of punctuations followed by long vertical lines.

5. Bowl, flat bottom.

6. Bowl, flat bottom, direct walls, and a labial ridge below the rim, dark brown finish.

7. Olla, flat base, two handles that connect the rim with the body, dark brown finish.
8. Jade earspool, height 1.88 cm, diameter 4.83, and thickness 48 mm.

Remarks: Burial 30d-9 was the only burial found on the western side of Mound 30d. Lowe proposed that this burial was placed there in relation to Stela 8 (Lowe 1977:180).

**Mound 30e**

Mound 30e contained the oldest burial in Izapa and the only of its kind. Offerings 30e-1 and 30e-3 are caches associated with the Late Preclassic burial.

*Offering 30e-1* (Figure 6.19)

Type: Mortuary offering.

Location: Fallen into the southwest corner of offering 30e-4.

Period: Guillen.

Contents:
1. Vase, outflaring walls.

2. Tetrapod bowl with nubbin feet, medial flange, and a head, possibly a bird.

3. Bowl with medial flange and a bird head, fine tan paste, orange slip, well-polished with a dimpled bottom, rim diameter 15 cm, height 6.8 cm, flange 2.5 cm thick.

4. Jar, convex bottom, height 18.7 cm, diameter 17 cm.

Remarks: These vessels were found in a fallen position at the southwest corner of the Burial 30e-1 crypt. The illustration for Vessel 4 was originally labeled as “IZ-MD-30-e-3-1,” suggesting it belongs to Offering 30e-3. However, the image for Vessel 4 did not match any of the descriptions for the vessels found in Offering 30e-3. Illustrations of all three vessels within Offering 30e-3 were published in 1982 and did not include an image of Vessel 4 (Lowe et al. 1982:190; fig.7.9d, e, f). The feature form for Offering 30e-1 lists four vessels in the offering, although descriptions for two of the four vessels are lacking. However, illustrations for only three of the four vessels were published (Lowe et al. 1982:190; fig.7.9a, b, c). Based on the above information, I assume that the aforementioned vessel is actually the fourth vessel found in Offering 30e-1 as opposed to Offering 30e-3 as it is labeled.

Offering 30e-3 (Figure 6.20)

Type: Mortuary offering.

Period: Guillen.

Location: North wall of Burial 30d-3.

Contents:

1. Bowl with faceted shoulder.

2. Bowl, outflaring walls, multiple protuberances in vertical rows of three.
3. Tetrapod bowl, medial flange, outcurved walls.

4. Forty-four irregular tuff stones, 26 large oval, 15 small rectangular.

Remarks: Two of the vessels within this cache were found along the north wall of the tomb. One vessel was found in the northeast corner of the tomb as if it had fallen into the tomb. There was no evidence of a covering for the tomb, but these three vessels were found smashed against the north wall, implying that their original placement may have been on a cover made of perishable material such as timber (Lowe et al. 1982:194).

*Burial 30e-1* (Figures 6.21, 6.22 and 6.23)

Location: Trench 30-P, the southern half of Mound 30e.

Phase: Guillen

Grave: Tomb, extended internment

Furniture:

1. Nine spherical jade beads.
Figure 6.21. Burial 30e-1, cut stone crypt, facing west.

Figure 6.22. Burial 30e-1, Offering 30e-3 in the northeast corner and along the northern wall.
Figure 6.23. Plan view of burial 30e-1.
2. One tubular jade bead.
3. One jade pendant.
4. Two earspools, one with a jade bead in its throat.

Remarks: Burial 30e-1 is the oldest known burial at Izapa and the only Preclassic tomb. The walls of the crypt were composed of 19 cut-stone blocks. The interior of the crypt measured 1.75 m in length, 40 cm wide on the western end and 30 cm wide on the east end. Although no skeletal remains were found, it is supposed that the burial was extended with the head buried facing west. The jade burial goods were found at what would be waist level on an individual (Lowe et al. 1982:130; fig. 7.9). However, the nature of the jade goods, two earspools, a head ornament, and a necklace, suggest that they would have been worn at the head of the deceased rather than as a belt. It is possible that the deceased was a child (Clark and Lee 2013). One of the jade earspools was stolen during excavation and is not pictured in any of the photos of the burial; the purloined artifact is mentioned in the NWAF monthly report for February 1965.

*Burial 30e-2 (Offering 30e-2)* (Figures 6.24, 6.25, 6.26, and 6.27)

Location: Beneath the surface of Mound 30e.

Phase: Jaritas.

Grave: Urn.

Furniture:

1. Tripod dish, medial flange; height 9.2 cm, diameter 29 cm.
2. Tetrapod bowl, contains flange and modeling; height 8.3 cm, diameter 28 cm.
3. Tripod jar, decorated with three horizontal bands around the middle of the vessel, incised designs on the upper and lower parts of the vessel. Height is 13.5 cm, rim diam-
1. Tripod dish, medial flange height 8.3 cm, diameter 16 cm.

2. Tripod dish, flange below the rim with punctations; height 8.9 cm, diameter 28 cm.

3. Tripod bowl, flange below the rim with punctations, height 8.7 cm, diameter 29.5 cm.

4. Drum or pot stand, mid-section of vessel contains spherical holes, height 22.9 cm, diameter 20.3 cm.

5. Tripod dish, height 16.5 cm, diameter 53 cm.

6. Urn, height 56.3 cm, diameter 70.5 cm.

7. Deep bowl, height 9.3 cm, diameter 13.5 cm.

8. Bowl, upper part of vessel contains numerous incised designs. Double grooving below the rim and below the portion of incised decoration. Height, 6.2 cm, diameter 14.3 cm.

9. Tripod bowl, medial flange, height 5.9 cm, diameter 5.5 cm.

10. Jar, incised designs on the upper portion of the vessel, height 11.9 cm, diameter 13 cm.
Figure 6.25. Vessel with Burial 30e-2. Not drawn to scale.
Figure 6.26. Vessels from Buial 30e-2. Not drawn to scale.
14. Bowl, incised designs, height 5.7 cm, diameter 6.9 cm.

15. Bowl, incised designs, height 6.7 cm, diameter 16.6 cm.

16. Jar, flange around the rim, incised designs on the upper portion of the vessel, height 34.7 cm, diameter 33.4 cm.

17. Smooth unworked stone of irregular shape.

Remarks: Vessel 3 was found inside of Vessel 2 with Vessel 1 placed upside down over Vessel 2. The unworked stone had been placed inside of the urn (Vessel 9). Vessel 8 was found upside down over the urn.
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Izapa stands as one of the most important sites in southern Chiapas; one that has fascinated archaeologists and the general public. Due, in part, to its importance in the region and its long occupational history, Izapa is one of the most heavily excavated sites in the Soconusco. Despite this fact, much remains unclear regarding the details of those excavations. In this thesis I have tried to provide important details derived from the NWAF excavations in a way that is meaningful and useful. The purpose of this thesis project is to: (1) reconstruct the excavation history of Izapa Group B, (2) to provide a reconstruction of Group B’s architectural history as revealed through the excavations, and (3) to identify and present descriptions of the contents and context of the plaza’s numerous burials and offerings. Group B, containing the oldest known constructions at Izapa, is a special place and vital to understanding the growth and development of Izapa as a regional center.

EXCAVATION HISTORY

One of the major aims of this thesis was to recover the excavation history of Group B. Although some descriptions of select excavation units were published in 1969 and 1982, much of the basic information regarding the locations and dimensions of Group B’s multiple test units remained unknown. Piecing together this history was an arduous task. Group B had been excavated by various people who oversaw parts of the project during different field seasons.
Included in this ensemble of field directors and assistants were Lowe, Lee, and Navarrete, with Martínez and Ordiñez assisting with the mapping and the recording of artifacts. Visitors Edwin Shook and Ross T. Christensen aided the excavation process at various points in different seasons. The result of having so many participants led to idiosyncrasies in recording information. In some cases, trenches had to be relabeled because the same letter designation had been given to two different units in the same structure.

The NWAF history of excavation at Izapa Group B is an important part of the biography of the site. One value of this history lies in its potential to aid future work at Izapa. Possessing information regarding the locations, dimensions, and stratigraphic data for Group B’s various excavations units will help archaeologists make informed decisions about where and how to excavate as well as what sorts of results to expect. Knowledge of artifacts in their stratigraphic context will guide potential research questions and choices/strategies for future work. Lowe et al. published the analytical results of their work but not the descriptive information necessary to understand how some conclusions were reached. They all died before they could finish the descriptive monographs of their excavations. Without this information, it is difficult to evaluate interpretations of Izapa’s cultural history.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

The second focus of this thesis project was to piece together the evolution of Group B’s architectural development through time. Here I sketch a picture of Group B’s architectural history as revealed by the NWAF excavations. Most of what is known concerning the development of Group B is restricted to Mound 30a, the Mound 30 acropolis, and related small mounds on the acropolis. The placement of offerings in relation to the platforms aids our understanding of the development of Group B. Group B’s early history revolves primarily around
Mound 30a. Mound 30a began as a small building platform just 2 m high. Construction of the Mound 30a platform occurred during the Duende phase, making Mound 30a the oldest known structure at Izapa. Builders first prepared the area by clearing the ground to the *cascajo* level, essentially removing all cultural and vegetative materials as well as the dirt. Through a series of enlargements and additions during the Duende phase, Mound 30a was transformed into a pyramid with a building platform on its summit. The structure was built using earthen fill and was covered with a cobble-stone façade. Most construction episodes were carried out during the Duende phase. Only minimal additions followed during the Escalon phase; these broadened the summit of the 30a pyramid.

Significant additions to the Mound 30a pyramid were made during the Frontera phase. These increased the height of the pyramid to 17 m. The outer appearance of the structure changed from sloping *talud* walls to a stepped pyramid with a cobblestone facade.

Construction of an acropolis around the base of Mound 30a likely began early in the Frontera phase. It would receive several horizontal enlargements throughout the phase. Thus, by the end of the Frontera phase Group B consisted of at least Mound 30a and its acropolis; these resembled the contemporaneous pyramid Complex A at La Venta on the Gulf Coast with its large northern pyramid on an acropolis (Clark and Lowe 2013). At least one offering was placed within Mound 30a during this time period.

More construction took place at Group B during the subsequent Guillen phase than any other phase other than the Duende phase. Final additions to the southern part of the acropolis were made during the beginning of this phase. An additional meter in height was added to the southern section of the acropolis in front of Mound 30a. The terrace on which Stelae 8, 9, and 10 were placed was also constructed. Some time following the completion of the Mound 30 acropolis, eight secondary, small platforms were placed on its surface, five south of Mound 30a and three north of the pyramid. The arrangement of the mounds south of Mound 30a is such that they
create an inner courtyard on top of the acropolis with Mound 30a serving as the northern member enclosing the court. Cut-stone blocks, first seen in Izapan architecture during the Guillen phase, are found in the outer walls of the Mound 30 platform and as part of the steps in the stairways of the secondary building platforms. A grave lined with cut-stone blocks was intrusively placed in the platform beneath Mound 30e. This burial may have been that of a child; it was associated with two cache offerings that date to the Guillen phase. In addition to cut-stone steps, broken stone monument fragments were also incorporated into the construction of Mound 30’s secondary mounds, and they are found in Mounds 30b, 30c, 30e, and 30f.

Lowe proposed that construction in Group B ceased after the Guillen phase, with the exception of some possible, minimal additions to Mound 30a during the Early Classic period. It appeared to Lowe that following the Guillen phase, Group B, in addition to most of central Izapa, was deserted in favor of the growing center to the north (Group F). He posited that during the Protoclassic, after the abandonment of Izapa’s central zone, Group B was used as a secondary shrine. Placement of Protoclassic burials and offerings in Group B suggest the meaning and use of this complex had changed.

During the first century A.D., and perhaps somewhat later or earlier than that convenient round century Izapa seems to have ceased to grow, as construction in the central zones came to a halt. Only one of the ceremonial precincts already built continued to serve ritual functions, and this appears to have been strictly commemorative and honorary. A series of elaborate urn burials in the small Mound 30d building platform behind Stelae 8, 9, and 10 would seem, offhand, most probably to represent consecutive interments or sacrifices related to the adjacent monuments which have a mythical or calendrical importance. We are forced to conclude, however, that these positions of honor in Mound 30d are being occupied by the deceased of a people no longer living at Izapa, or at least
no longer building up its central areas. (Lowe et al. 1982:135,138)

However, the data organized in this thesis seem to suggest that construction continued after the Guillen phase. Three Hato phase offerings associated with episodes of construction were found in Mound 30a; one in the north face and two in the southern face. Offering 30a-2, a single vessel, was placed on the north side of Mound 30a beneath a stone wall (see Ekholm 1969: fig. 10). On the southern side of the mound, a Protoclassic vessel (Offering 30a-10) was placed beneath a wall as a dedicatory offering. Offering 30a-7 was found sitting on *cascajo* in front of a wall associated with the Mound 30 acropolis. These offerings and their position suggest Hato phase additions were made to Mound 30a.

Additional construction during the Itstapa phase may be seen in Mounds 30c and 30f. Three Itstapa-phase offerings were placed in Mound 30c. Offering 30c-1 was intrusive and a portion of the upper-right hand corner of the stairway was removed to place the cache. Offering 30c-2 was placed at the base of the stairway outside of the structure. It, too, may have been intrusive. Offering 30c-3 consisted of eight vessels, all of which, with one exception, were placed beneath the lowest step of the stairway. Lowe believed that these vessels were placed prior to setting the step, thus suggesting that Itstapa phase construction may have taken place at Mound 30c. The ceramics collected from the excavation of the eastern face of Mound 30c also include 25 Itstapa phase sherds.

In Mound 30f, an Itstapa phase offering was placed in front of and below the stairway facing west. Lowe originally thought the offering dated the mound to the Early Classic, which would not have made sense if the offering had been considered intrusive. He later changed his mind concerning the date of the offering to the Protoclassic and argued that the structure was built in Guillen times. However, it is not certain that the offering was intrusive; it is possible that some construction took place in Protoclassic times. Additional Istapa phase offerings were placed in
Mound 30d, but there is no evidence of Itstapa phase construction for the mound.

An abundance of broken Early Classic incense burner refuse was found at the southern base of Mound 30a in the upper courtyard delineated by Mounds 30c, 30d, and 30e. This mound arrangement suggested to Lowe that Mound 30a had Jaritas phase additions. Some could have been earlier Protoclassic constructions. The change in ritual practice at Izapa which began in the Protoclassic continued throughout the Early Classic, as evident in the placement of two Jaritas-phase urn burials in Mounds 30b and 30e. Jaritas-phase incensario refuse was also found at the eastern base of Mound 30b, further suggesting Early Classic activity there. A single Classic period offering was found in Mound 30d, and two Postclassic offerings were found at Group B, one placed in Mound 30c and another between Mounds 30a and 30i. Thus, ritual and architectural activity continued at Izapa Group B from the Middle Preclassic to the Early Postclassic.

How Group B developed outside of Mound 30 subcomplex is unclear. What is known is that construction continued into the Late Classic at Mound 47, the only other mound within the Group B plaza to be excavated. Test units dug at the base and summit of the mound revealed Late Classic additions to a possible early core. Mounds 50 and 51 were not investigated in the NWAF excavations. Evidence suggests there was continuous construction from the Duende phase to the Early Classic period for Mound 30a. However, construction at Group B may have continued in the Late Classic as suggested by evidence for Mound 47.

It is not clear at what point Group B changed from a single platform/pyramid into a larger plaza. Knowledge of the cores of Mounds 47, 50, and 51 is lacking. Investigation of these three mounds is necessary for a more complete understanding of the constructive history of Group B. Despite the extensive excavations undertaken, there is still much work to be done.
BURIALS AND OFFERINGS

The third task for this project was to describe the context and contents of Group B’s various burials and offerings. I distinguished burials from offerings as well as identified the types of offerings made. Thirty-four burials and offerings were identified in this thesis. That there were more offerings than this is certain. I described those I could verify in NWAF records.

The use or role of Group B changed through time as burials and offerings were placed in the Mound 30 acropolis and it auxiliary platforms. Offerings and burials, particularly elite burials, were carefully prepared deposits, and their placement was a conscious and well-thought-out activity imbued with deep significance and meaning. Placing burials and offerings in a particular locale can be used to create and fortify relationships between entities and place. Burials and offerings can be used to delineate sacred spaces or places of great significance. The number of offerings and burials placed in Group B is significantly more than any other location in central Izapa. As well, the number of Protoclassic burials and offerings found in Group B greatly outnumber those found there for all other phases.

Although it is debatable whether occupation of Group B changed following the Guillen phase, it is clear that there was a change in ritual activity during the Protoclassic. This change in ritual practice is evident in the introduction of urn burials during the Hato phase. Prior to the introduction of urn burials, the only evidence of burying the dead at Izapa was a single crypt placed beneath Mound 30e. The presence of jade in this crypt suggests it was an elite burial; the position of the jade suggests it may have been a child. Although placement of burials in Group B appears to have ceased shortly following the Protoclassic period, offerings were still placed in Group B well into the early Postclassic.

Where the dead are placed is rarely a matter of simple function, but depends, rather, on the social relationships to a particular place as understood by the living (Pearson 1999:124). The
choice to bury at Group B was deliberate. At Group B, Mound 30d housed the most elaborate of central Izapa’s burials and offerings. Their placement in Mound 30d, a small platform, was likely related to the stone monuments found in front of this mound. The messages conveyed by the monuments, combined with the placement of elaborate burials and offerings, delineate Group B as a very special place.

**SUMMARY**

Lowe expressed his intent to provide detailed reports regarding the excavations and architecture of Group B in his 1982 publication (Lowe et al. 1982:184). However, he was never able to do so, because of his involvement in other projects. As decades passed since the NWAF investigations of Izapa, notes and records have been misplaced and lost. In this thesis, I have pieced together the surviving details from extant records concerning the NWAF’s 1961-1965 project at Izapa. I hope this summary of the excavation history, architectural history, and description of burials and offerings will aid future investigations of this important site.
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APPENDIX

The appendix consists of Gareth Lowe’s field and lab notes. His fieldnotes were written in 1965 during the fourth field season. They were not written chronologically, but I have placed the notes in chronological order by date for the ease of the reader. There are gaps in the notes where Lowe was going to drop in measurements or other information, but did not. I represent missing information with an underscore.

Lowe’s lab notes date to 1988, 23 years after the last field season at Izapa. John Clark noted in 2011 that if Lowe’s lab note date to 1988, it would mean that he made all of his guesses about the dates of the mounds before he actually looked at the sherds. It would also mean that these notes would supersede comments made in the Lowe et al. 1982 publication. Italicized comments between brackets were made by me or by John Clark [JEC] if specified.
LOWE’S FIELDNOTES

Mound 30a-N

Recommend 30a-N, trench into South face of 30a. Put 14 men to work widening surface area of trench to ensure greater safety of workers in bottom of trench.

Photo Lowe 1 taken of the start of work

MOUND 30-Q  IZAPA

Begin Trench on east side of Stela 9, known locally as “El Aguila.” Trench laid out 1.50 m wide by 10.00 m long N-S.

Purpose of this trench is to make careful stratigraphic check of the [Mound] 30 apron construction which supports Stelae 9, 10 + 11. (A trench (A)) has already been dug on the west side of the stela.

The surface of the TR 30-Q areas has been cleared previously down to the river boulder surface. Photo Lowe 2 taken. (Letter O not used for trench).

LOWE-DIARY

Begin work at Izapa with following: Lowe, Mound 30 group 16 men and the tractor. Tractor is out of action due to battery failure and I must buy new one this morning. Have tractor drivers laying out TR. 30-0 at east side of Stela 9, and clearing entrance to the southeastern potreros of Don Mauro. I intend to dig tractor test trenches at intervals over these mound and plaza areas in an attempt to locate an area of primary refuse underneath, as well as to plumb the nature of the structures, and learn something of their relationship to Mound 30.

Have 14 men widening 30a-N, a job of little scientific importance which will take several days. Will plan to review work of Agrinier and Lee this morning in addition to going to town for banking and purchases. We must also see about finding suitable lodging. We are at the Hotel Fenix so far.

Weather is clear and warm. It has not rained 2 weeks. No ticks here yet, but are suffering from those encountered on Monday at Los Horcones.

Izapa Diary

Lowe, Jan. 20, 1965
Lee—beginning work at Group F, with 15 men. Plan is to check out a few more house mounds and foundations with 4 to 6 men, and to use the remainder to dig deep exploratory trench through the south and principal (only) stairway of Mound 125a.

Martinez—has 4 stone masons, 4 helpers and 6 men clearing architecture. Masons are working on its ballcourt and the diggers on 125a. We plan to finish with the masonry in one month and transfer all concentration of efforts onto Preclassic structures.

Agrinier—exploring Mounds 55 and 56 in Group A. Trench in Mound 56 is alongside Stela 5, the “Tree of Life” stone. Trenches in Mound 55 are three, spaced along the east face. All three have been begun by ts Backhoe during Dec. and Jan. The central Trench (B) is ___ m. wide and as [unreadable word] into mound front as it is possible to go by machine. 15 men at work here.

The dirt and stones from the Mound 55 cuts have been moved across the playa and piled at the north end of Mound 57.

West to town, bought lottery, went to bank.

In the afternoon we manage to rent rooms at end av. Note where used to be. Bought 3 [?? nd] sheets. The remainder of the bldg. is the McKeenen English Institute.
JAN. 21, 1965

14 men continue taking down upper slopes of the excavation. The tractor is opening an approach on the right side (E) so that we can wheelbarrow out of the deeper part of the trench. Wall profiles visible in the upper 2 meters of the trench are being respected.

LOWE, DIARY  IZAPA  JAN. 21, 1965

Have all my men on 30a-N, except 2 men clearing around a string of stone monuments in the SE corner of Mauro Terceros property. These are 8 rude stones and 4 altar-like stones, two of which have pecked basins. These are being cleared for cataloguing.

This morning walked through Potreros with Mauro. I propose to excavate a string of test pits through these fields and at the base and summit of the mounds all or partly in this area and so far uninvestigated. Agree to pay Mauro 15 pesos a day for disturbing his pasture land.

Mauro mention need of doing something with the TR. 30a-L dug last year. The lower part which are backfilled has washed out badly. We will have to put some men on this project later.

Went to town to arrange rent of our quarters and to see about some furniture. Also wrote to Mason.

In the afternoon we moved from the Hotel Fenix to 2nd Av. norte 29, upstairs.

MOUND 30a-N  JAN. 21, 1965

14 men continue taking down upper slopes of the excavation. The tractor is opening an approach on the right side (E) so that we can wheelbarrow out of the deeper part of the trench. Wall profiles visible in the upper 2 meters of the trench are being respected.

The widening of this trench is becoming complicated. Walls are being cleared on both sides in different places. On the west side____a transverse N-S wall section is found____against the section of E-W wall. The____are being cleared and will have to____drawn in before we can go much farther____

The tractor on the right side will finish its cut this morning. Yesterday in____absence a lot of large sherds were____[part of the page was torn off]
The widening of this trench is becoming complicated. Walls are being cleared on both sides in different places. On the west side a transverse N-S wall section is found butting against the section of E-W wall. These are being cleared and will have to be drawn in before we can go much farther.

The tractor on the right side will finish its cut this morning. Yesterday in my absence a lot of large sherds were recovered at approximately one meter below platform surface level but about 4 m. in from the mound base. These sherds are being saved as 30-N-1.

At this approximate area a small section of floor and wall plaster (burnt clay) is found. Photographed as L-3 and left in place for recording. It is a small isolated piece of clay platform. 30 cm in front (S) at some level there is another wall face, also fragmentary and of burnt clay.

Spec. 30-N-2 is found at __

in clearing N face of trench. It is a flat clay anthropomorphic figurine head of unique style, broken on edges. Found ca. 50 cm below surface of mound slope right at north edge of trench, and at base of 2 tier stone terraces wall crossing east half of trench. Badly broken by picks.

LOWE, DIARY IZAPA  JAN. 22, '65

Examined work at 30a-N (q.v.) which is getting complicated. Washed sherds from before outer stone wall bases, which seem surely Early Classic if not later. Saved bag.

Went to town after breakfast to straighten up my “office” and leave for Tuxtla on the plane at noon.
JAN. 26, 1965

Start four men digging top two sections, just south of platform wall. One metate fragment found 30-Q-1. Charged to include 2 lower sections, 2 men added, and by quitting time all sections removed to end of first level. See drawing attached for tomorrow.

JAN. 26, 1965

Returned to site today. Wall sections protruding on east and west sides of trench show clearly the terraced nature of the pyramid—pottery associations indicate that this stone construction is either Early Classic or at least was still functionary during the Early Classic. All but 4 men removed from trench. Those remaining are clearing stones on north face and wall stub on west—apparently is edge of balustrade.

IZAPA Md. 30, Trench N-
JAN. 26, 1965

Put two men to cleaning out original excavation at inner base of cut—we still have a pit 2 x 2 m and about 1 m deep here from last year to clean out.

Man? clearing its apparent hearth stones in forepart of trench finds small pot just at 1 pm.

JAN. 26, 1965

Continued work on Trenches 30-N, P, Q. Only four men at N. Since stela fragment was found in P on Saturday, put 4 men to uncovering south side of west face of Mound 30f. 6 men are in Q.

Examine Agrinier’s work in 55. No stone architecture, but some burnt clay. Also review Lee’s work at 125. Nice balustrade on inner stairway. Take photo.

Go to town and put money in bank.

IZAPA Trench 30-P   JAN. 26, 1965

This began on Jan. 22 as tractor trench crossing Mounds 30e + 30f on this central axis, tunnel running east to west. On Saturday 23 the tractor brought up Feature 30f-1 and the upper half of a carved stela. Martinez made note of both these finds (__). They come from the west base of the structure.

To further investigate the above, put 4 men to clearing south side of the west base of
mound (Mound 30f is only about 50 cm high). By the end of the day a row of worked stones had been uncovered alongside and south of the backhoe trench will be drawn later.

In the afternoon had the tractor remove earth on the north side of the trench in order to follow the north face of the mound. I hope to find the base of the Stela top found on the 23rd.
JAN. 27, 1965

Photo taken of lower section, which had many stones on surface—actually these had been exposed two years ago.

A stone head, rudely carved, was found at approximate level of base of altar, and next to it. Specimen 30-Q-4. Sherds from 1st level of upper three sections are bagged as 30-Q-3. This level is to base of wall remnant found.

IZAPA Md. 30, Trench N-

JAN. 27, 1985

Small bowl-SPECIMAN 30-N-3, found alongside hearthstone, at 25 cm. depth below surface of our excavation—see drawing attached.

By end of day, the old pit is almost cleared; all except 70 cm-wide probe section on west. Have men scale walls to remove all fill dirt which may have clung there. In the south wall of the present 2 x 2 m. pit there is a huge boulder. We will remove the next 2 x 2 m section on the south, over this boulder, before beginning to tunnel.

The hearth area in forepart of 30-N is pending.

JAN. 27, 1965

All trenches continued. Start digging in Mound 25. Morning passes rapidly. Examine tractor cut in 30-N. This should end tomorrow and we will begin N-S trench through 30e to connect with old scraper trench.

Authorize Tom to hire another 8 men, in attempt to complete all Group F work by end of February.

Agrinier has its [fl??]

Go to town at 10 to go to bank. Also finish reading proof of Delgado Isthmus paper to send to Mason. Return to ruins at 12:00. In the evening I write to Mason and work on the Annual Report.

JAN. 27, 1965

The southern section of west face of 30f is cleared and clean by 9:00 am. Take photos 10 and 11 and put men to clearing north side of west face. By 1:00 pm the 1st line of stones is visible, nicely worked and placed. There is apparently a well-made tread set of steps to this low mound. No trace of the missing portion of stela yet.
2 men at work deepening east end of backhoe trench. It is almost straight cascajo, but has occasional mamom-like sherds. Tractor continues with western extension of Trench P.
JAN. 28, 1965

Digging continued in bottom 2 sections. We are looking for the base wall found in 1962 in the bottom section.

JAN. 28, 1965

South 2 m. extension of inner pit dug in 30 cm. levels, measured from level of platform surface. First bag is 30-N-3, 60-90 cm.

JAN. 28, 1965

Work continued in all trenches of Mound 30. 4 men clearing TR. 25-c also. Move tractor to N-S trench R, and by end of day they have dug about 10 meters, nothing interesting.

Examine Group F, Mound 125 with Eduardo. Discuss problems.

Take out cache at foot of Md. 30f stairway. Feature 30f-1, seems to be late Early Classic.

Have informal staff meeting in the afternoon. Decide to hire additional mason for Md. 125.
After removing altar 2 for exhibition at the 2nd Exposition, a pit 2.5 x 2.5 m was dug to sterile depth below the altar, this pit, on its south wall, traversing the base of Stela 3. The pit bottomed 1 m below the base of the sculptured zone of the stela, and 50 cm below the stub of the stela itself, photos (2). A small sherd collection from below the level of the base of Altar 2 was saved. The Altar had rested upon a small platform of small unworked stones, each about 15 cm in diameter.

The profile (south) along the base of the stela shows a dip below the butt of the stela, descending between two boulders. The boulders are probably in situ, being characteristic of “cascajo” level at Izapa everywhere.

JAN. 29, 1965

4 men and 2 on wheelbarrows continue inner pit south extension. It is, at 90-120 cm, pure lumpy, hard, cascajo. May prove to be fill.

We have left the huge boulder in place, along with a group of associated stones.

JAN. 29, 1965

Work continued in all trenches. Feature 30f-1 recorded (vessels removed previous day). Finish roll of film to be developed in Tuxtla. Washed stones appear in the 30f clearing (west face) and the stops are well made of squared rectangular stones. Seems desirable to consolidate or restore this platform, and the owner is [anxious?] to have it done.

The 30a-N trench pit is in yellow sand which appears to be sterile, but I am going on down to make sure that it is not construction fill.

Went to town at 10 am to go to bank and take Tom and Pierre to airport at 11:45. Also wrote letter to Carole for Tom to deliver.
Work continued on all fronts. Stopped in the deep pit of 30a-N. 4 men from there placed in R, bottom of tractor trench, to make deep tests. Ordiñez is drawing plan and profile of N (began yesterday). Once drawn, we will backfill the N deep pit, and pull down dangerous wall stones above. Then begin tunneling to test feasibility of this type of excavation. We have never tunneled.

Another carved stone fragment found in 30f (TR. 30-P) clearing. It is part of round altars with legs. Two add. vessels found North of 30f-1 and recorded as 7 and 8 of same.

Examine 25-c; still getting down to bottom of tractor out. Take pictures in Group A.

In afternoon buy camera (kontaflex? Super B) for lab use, and used Kontaflex for field. Trade in [unreadable word] old Exacta and [Contessan??] at in exchange.
Jan. 31, 1965

    Sunday, spent on correspondence and bookkeeping.

MOUND 30d, EXC. ‘L’

    Excavation of NE quadrant of mound, from top to bottom. Dirt being dumped on NW quadrant slope, and stones down SE quadrant slope. Begun Jan.

    By 1/31/64 the excavation is at 2.50 m from surface. An afternoon crew is hired to take down its center 4 m. square which includes a corner of its old excavation.

    On east side of center 4 m square is a deposit of carbon at 1.70 m depth. It is amid clay burned red but no real architectural feature. It is at a level even with its small-stone paving section. (Drawn into plan by Salvador.) Carbon is apparently from a fireplace with stubs of wood up to 15cm. across. Suggests a fire covered over by the fill for Str. 2. Photo taken, close up and lejos
Feb. 1, 1965

Work on 30-Q, R, P. One pit in R is in pure cascajo so put men to backdirt clearing on 30f, south side. Men in deep part of 30-P also moved to surface clearing.

Men on Mound 55 (Agrinier) continue in Piere’s absence. Eduardo is mapping individual plots of the Perez brother for the lawyer, in order to draw up papers on the bank? tract apart.

LOWE DIARY, IZAPA

FEB. 1, 1965

Start backhoe digging test pits in pasture on east side of Md. 30 complex. 4 pits dug by breakfast all relatively sterile. No trashy areas or architecture encountered anywhere. All pits end in cascajo and gravel- boulder fill.
Feb. 7, Cont.

Pit 16 dug by tractor at east base of Mound 25.

1 x 3 m.

Level 1 00-60 cm. largely ash.

Level 2 60-90 cm-stopped at 90 cm. due to layer of large stones – few sherds, some stone. Probably rel

recent fill.

Level 3 – 9-1.1 c [meter]—very few sherds and many boulders c/ usual size

Level 4 – “

”
IZAPA TRENCH 30-S

(Trench dug two weeks ago)

Trench 30-S is backhoe trench in the Mound 30 platform, N-S, running from the south edge of the platform north to cross Trench 30-P running east and west. As with P, the 10 ?? limit of the backhoe does not permit it to reach bedrock. Three-meter sections are dug by hand to sterile level, as indicated in Martinez cross-section. Nearing the south edge, a series of sloping faces are noted and are being further dug. At least 3 southern enlargement of the platform are apparent. This trench is at the eastern extremity of Md. 30d.

IZAPA MD 30-P FEB. 13, 1965

Having been absent from the site most of the last 15 days. Men have been occupied on other work, but some clearing of Mound 30f has been done. Today a second job in the north side of the west wall is found. There is some refuse located at the base of the wall, labeled 30-P-7.

In the western section of the backhoe trench I have dug two sections, ca. 2.50 m. long, from base of the backhoe cut to sterile depth. First pit is 25 m. west of the base of 30f steps, and produced a bag of sherds (30-P-G) from a black soil level below the cascajo or yellow clay fill of the platform. Section sample begins at 2.95 m. below platform surface. Washed sherds are like Chiapa III.

In second pit to bedrock, in west end of trench, another [lot? cut?] of sherds, labeled 30-P-8. These are also from the black soil below the yellow platform fill and include earlier type sherds than 30-P-6, due to presence of an ancient trench crossed by the tractor trench and our present pit. This is about 80 cm wide and deep, making a dip in the black soil level.

Feb. 13, 1965

Return to field after having spent most days of last two weeks in the office, and trip to Tuxtla Gutierrez. Have worked on Dee Green Altamira report and other things. For one week the men in Group B all worked at backfilling Md. 30a trench L, left partly open from last year. This week the men have worked at their different trenches, with brief inspection by myself or Martinez.

Today I have inspected work in all Izapa groups, as Lee and Agrinier are in Tuxtla Gutz. The tunnel, 30a-t, into the north face of Trench N, is at 2.50 m depth and I have left a 4- man crew working afternoons beginning today. One Olmec figurine is found at level just above cascajo.

Work going forward in T, P and S (q.u)
Lowe IZAPA TR. 30-T

Feb. 15, 1965

Trench 30-T is a tunnel one meter wide and 1.80 m high being dug into the N. face of Tr. 30-N. It was begun on Feb. 12. Today the tunnel has reached a depth of m. by noon. Sherds have been taken out as 30-T-1:00.0 to 2.50 m; 30-T-3: 2.50 to 4.00 m., and being started is 30-T-4, 4.00 m. to next break? No natural changes in fill have been noted, except for some stones at 3.80 meter piled up across the trench to height of about 1.40 m. These are removed and digging continued. Fill is a rather uniform black clay soil with globs of yellow cascajo here and there. It is soft to dig.

An interesting object was found wedged between the stones at 3.80 m. It is a crudish wedge-shape foot from a flat-bottom vessel (included in 30-T-3). vessel-support on bowls are not expected in this fill, which otherwise seems Early Preclassic or at latest Middle Preclassic. There is no question about provenience of the object in question, [unreadable word] took it out myself and it was well encased in hard pack clay and wedged between the stones. [sounds like a support of conchas-phase grater bowl. JEC]

Feb. 15, 1965

Two men placed to remove earth piled up from excavation continuing down faced stone-paved talud.

Feb. 15, 1965

Commence second tunnel into west face of N, against face of lowermost structure. Put men clearing out southern section of S in order to continue investigation of taludes.

Feb. 15, 1965

Decide to remove top step of 30f. This is sunken almost to level of second from top steps. I suspect there may be offering beneath. The “offering” or “basin” stone forming one stone in the step is also removed. This is turned at an angle, either by tree roots or the sinking of remainder of step.

IZAPA TR. 30-P Feb. 15, cont.

In the bottom of the 30-P backhoe trench at ca. 272 m. E, two worked stones are located right in the north wall and just above the bottom of the trench. This line of squared blocks is found to continue to the west, and by 9 am. 8 blocks were uncovered. These are just within the wall of the trench. A vessel (1) is found at the base of the 5th stone, which has been cut in half by the backhoe. At the end and just above the 7th stone there is found a wide-everted rim plate with
4 nubbin feet and a small effigy on the rim. These two vessels are labeled Feature 30e-1. An additional vessel is found (3) just like and below 2. Cleared as far as possible without endangering falling out and 3 photos taken. Drawing made on Extension sheet. Vessels removed. One hollow fig. leg taken out as (4) is probably just a fill object and not part of the feature.

Feature 30e-1 gives the impression of having been placed together on the corner of structure 30-e-III and of having sluffed off as covering fill was placed or settled.

Put 2 men to digging SE corner of Str. 30e-III exposed in backhoe trench. The single-course wall, of squared stones standing on end, turns and runs northward. A caved area 80 cm deep is dug to follow along the beginning of this wall.

With 30-P-9, sherds from around SE corner of Str. 30e-III, is included a figurine body, female, very similar to those of El Salvador, with cream slip.
IZAPA LOWE DIARY  FEB. 16, 1965

Work continuing in 30-T,N, P, and S. (original ‘R’ of 1965 season changed to S, since R was used in 1964 for pit in slopes of Md. 30 platform, dug by Lee). Topographers are drawing profile of P backhoe trench. Two men are deepening area at base of St. 30e-III and four men are clearing west end of P trench. 2 men are digging in S at base of talud. The T tunnel is at about 5 meters. Soil is black and very wet. All sherds still seem very early Middle Preclassic at least, with no Chiapa III.

Alejandro Gomez and 3 others are digging in Md 48 without significant results. Mostly a mounding of stones over cleared cascajo. Lower fill sherds from the center of this mound, below the stones are mostly Chiapa II. Expect to move [unreadable word] to Md. 25 again.

IZAPA Md. 30, TR.N

FEB. 16, 1965

Yesterday began small tunnel into west face of tractor trench at south base of lowermost stone structure. I had hoped to find its wall turning, but no evidence for this appeared. Instead the stones appear to represent the base of a talud surface. Put the two men to deepening a 1 x 2 m. section of N just south of and adjacent to the tunnel, in order to trace the black soil level over cascajo. One basket of sherds saved from this level is labeled 30-N-8
Feb. 21, ‘63

MD 30a

White, cacajo-like floor was covered with burned clay floor and on the west side many bits of carbon. Sample saved is from fragment 18 cm long, laying in part on floor and part over about 1 cm of silt.
Feb. 27, 1965

Have spent several days at office working on reports; trip to Tuxtla also. Work has been overseen by Martinez. Str. 30e-III located in Tr. P has been completely uncovered and proved to be a tomb rather than a structure. Has been taken out as 3 features, 30e 1, 30e-3 and 30e-4. Plan and profile were drawn by Martinez and Ordonez. The pottery offerings were placed on the walls rather than in the tomb proper. Only offering in___.
Lowe- May 13, 1965

Md. 59

Work progressing on 3 trenches:

C: at north side of talud face ?? Perez well. Continues at base of talud looking for sterile level, now at 3.90 m. Photos taken of talud. Bottoms in casco at 3.90-4.00 m. Stones at base are of huge size. Drawing being made by Salvador, of profile at ?? where drain “connects” with talud. After drawing will remove talud section to check drain termination.

E. Tractor yesterday discovered north-south extension of its great talud, at SW corner of Md. 60. But proximity of ?? prevented further tractor clearing. Men put to clearing base of talud in G, throwing dirt into tractor trench on east. Thursday this continued, digging to 3 meters North of base of talud.
Ca. 500 south of Md 95

Misc. Mon No.

Land of Roberto Barilla

Rectangular with top partly hollowed out in part. One end has design of unclear design. Left side has horizontal line about 25 to 20 cm down on the side. [Stone?] suggests as uncompleted monument. There are few natural boulders very near here, and no Mds. closer than 300 meters—its position here's unknown.

It appears more likely that this is a destroyed monument, brought here as a grinding stone.
Site: Izapa
Structure: Md 58
Excav. Unit: Ofrenda Altar 1
Level: De Piso De
Collector: Mtz Date: 29

Site: Izapa
Structure: Md 58
Excav. Unit: Estela 1, Altar 1
Level: De Piso de Estelas
Collector: Mts
Date 29-I-64

8/12/88
“Ofrenda” consists of the neck sherds of several large ollas (body sherds prob. have been discarded). All plain no inc. but appear to be IXTAPA (?) Jaritas. Coarse, heavy. Sherds from “piso de Estela 1 a .34” are all Guillen phase exc. for 1 S.J. plumbate and 1 Jarritas (no doubt intrusive
All discarded except a few type sherds
of the jars- put in IXTAPA??
seems refuse, not cache
Sherds labeled AS-2-F incl.
33 good SJ plumbate + 26 classic P.C. jar sherds
wrong labeled or what?

Site: Izapa
Structure: Md. 58
Excav. Unit: Estela 2
Level: De la Base de la Estela  Mts: 70
Collector: Mtz  Date: 29-I-64
Notes over? IZ-58
AS-2.
110 sherds (w “F-5” mixed in) all
Seem to be Frontera- Guillen except
for 2 Jarritas olla necks and 4 S. J. Plumbate,
prob. intrusive (i.e. base of stela “floor” exposed?)
All discarded.

Site: Izapa
Structure: Md. 58
Excav. Unit: Altar 2
Level: Abajo del altar
Collector: Mts  date: 29-I-64

22 sherds all Guillen (DISC.)
Md. 58 Trincheria Superior

LLM Fig 6.3 profile, letters applied
to fill section by EME

“K-2” deepest (capa 24, 5.30-5.50 27/1/62

Frontera-Guillen 16 sherds

(Capa 23 4,50-470
Guillen 15

Capa 22 430-450
Guillen 17

Capa 21 410-430
Guillen 25

Capa 20 390-410
Guillen 12

“K-1” “Bajo piso” Capa 19 370-390

Front.-Guillen 22

Capa 18 350-340

“ “ 13

“ Capa 17 10

“L” Capas 15 to L 3.10 to 1.90

Few IXTAPA sherds in all levels (ex. 14) 28 total Saved as type sample

Remainder GUILLEN 78

‘M’ all GUILLEN (few earlier). ALL DISCARDED
215 rims

Site: IZAPA

Structure: Md. 58

Excav. Unit: Tierra Amarillo Sobre Trinch 1

Level: 239.00-238.90

S-10.30a to S 18.00

Collector: MTZ  Date: V-5-62

‘T’ 50 sherds 4 ‘early” Tuzantan

3 “Koya” red, 3 “Chumate”

Early Guillen?
Md. 58 No depth

‘N’

11 Front. – ESCALON Sherds

50 Guillen

‘O’ few sherds FRONT-GUILLEN

or “Early “ ”

‘P’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elevation</th>
<th>ESC-FRONT</th>
<th>GUILLEN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>239-239.20</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>238.80-238.60</td>
<td>50+ 2 Teopisca Wh.</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38.40-38.30</td>
<td>20+</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
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</table>

‘R’ No depth

37 IXTAPA (mostly inc.) all saved

180 Guillen and Earlier

“W1” No depth

21 IXTAPA (only 5) inc.

65 Guillen and Earlier

W2 60 IXTAPA 125 GUILLEN ETC.

X 5 IXTAPA 12 GUILLEN ETC.

X3 25 Badly eroded but 3 tiny IXTAPA, 4 Guillen

‘S’ 3 IXTAPA 100 GUILLE + EARLIER

‘V’ Few sherds- Frontera + later(maybe)

‘T’ (20)
59-B   Level 9   3-12-65
No depth given   26   Frontera
   (Late?)
No depth Level 8   45   5-10-65
   (one fancy eff. adornment) Frontera

No depth   Level 5   3-8-65
   2 obsidian   50   Frontera

No depth Level “F-4
   One facet rim 25   Frontera or
   Early Guillen

No depth Level 4   3-8-65
   3 obsid.   55   Guillen
   6 def. sherds

3 obsid. Level 3   3-8-65
Tag says “check 45” 30   Front-Guillen

1.30- Level 2   22   Front-Guillen

90-1.30 Level 1   18   Esc-Frontera
   4-9-1965

“SE corner only (Basurero- resto
En la pared.”

236
IZ-59-DREN

Sections 9-19 contain
almost all Escalon sherds incl.
20 of Chumate-like (all saved).
35 large sherds of ass.
Frontera type discarded
(prov. not certain as all marked
as to section but no bags tags.

all “Dren” sherds discarded,
w/ few saved for typology.
A-1 [gen ly] presorted by S.

IZ-59-A-1 Level 6
No level 3/4/65
24 sherds all Frontera,
saved for type coll! definition
21 ditto Level 5
Maybe late Frontera or early Guillen
Local? -No wide everted rims!!!
i.e., no pre orange!

Level 4
47 seems mixed Escalon-Front
w/ 3 prob. Guillen. NOT SAVED

Level 3 large bag-clean large sherds
Late Front + Guillen
Level 1

Very large Bag- all discarded
Guillen or (months) earlier.

59-A-2 3/6/65
2 obsid 25 early Guillen Level 5
20 Ditto Level 1
IZ-59-A-3

Level 8 no depth or date
   13 sherds Escalon Saved as Type coll

1 m. 86 (no level?) [??]
85 Escalon-Frontera sample Frontera

Level unknown- large trash sherd
FRONT- GUILLEN 2nd PHASE. Large Bag
“ ” “59-A-3” 2nd “ ”
Heavy jar above sherds

Levels 1-2  3/14/65
Ditto above perhaps early Guillen
Mostly ESC- Front.
IZ-59-A-4

Level 7  3/11/65
No depth 75 Frontera, some saved

No depth Level 4- 20 Frontera

3/5/65 Level 2 15 Frontera maybe 1 or 2 Guillen
   No depth


4

30 sherds mostly IXTAPA (possibly mislabeled!)

-another small bag no rims!

But no obvious IXTAPA
Chumate

IZ-59-A-6

Level 10 no depth 3/16/65

50 ESC-FRONT? [circled]

(But no Tuzantan- thus LOCAL??

Level 8 no depth or date

31 “Chumate” sherds all saved plus 15

No Tuzantan

55 crud 3 cream

5 obsidian (3 blades)

2\textsuperscript{nd Bag} has 15 more Chumate

but 3 poss. Frontera sherds

-40 crud and 4 cream

Level 7

Frontera but still has 13 chumate

60 others, still no Tuzantan

but 1 good NAKA wide everted

7 obsid

Large sherds-looks primary

Level 6

Large sherds

Still has 15 chumate and large sherds

NO TUZANTAN LOCAL?

**Level 5** 3/6/65

17 sherds (4 chumate No Tuzantan)

2 obs. But app. Frontera

**Level 4**

40 sherds Early Guillen

3/14/65 5 Chumate 5 Tuzantan Late

2nd bag 25 sherds (2 chumate) Early Guillen

**Level 2** sherd

27 sherds Front-Gu-IXTAPA?

IZ-59-A-7

**Level 11**

No depth 3/17/65

35 sherds Frontera

No chumate or Tuzantan!

100% local?

Peculiar maybe been picked over?

**Level 10** 3/17/65

No depth

36 sherds Frontera

Ditto above
Chumate Brown TIZAPA?

IZ-59-A-7

Level 9

No depth or date

20 “chumate” Brown- Tizapa? (not Chumate?)

10 Crema

35 Remainder crud ware

NO TUZANTAN or everted RIMS!

Laste Escalon?

LARGE SHERDS!

Level 8 no depth or date

6 “Chumate Brown” saved

27 crud  3 cream

Large sherds

No TUZANATAN no everted rims

Level 1.87 m.

10 “Chumate Brown” saved

20 crude 2 cream

Level 7 to 1.67 m

2 large bags

27 “chumate brown”

13 cream

25 crud  Early Frontera?

or Escalon ?

No TUZANTAN no everted rim
IZ-59-A-7
6
8 “Chumate”
3 TUZANTAN
1 Plumbate Front-Guill
40 crud etc.? 

59-A-7
2+3
35 sherds mostly Guillen

59-A-8
6
35 messy sherds, 1 plumbate
Front-Guillen?

4/3/65 59-A-11 1.75-2.00m
8
Only Bodies- discarded

59-A-11
10 Bodies DISC.

59-A-13
3
40 junk IXTAPA (1 plumb.)
disc.
IZ-59-A-15

10

Bodies (60) 3 chum. rims missed

Level 9 “Zona de Tepalcates
Bodies Disc.

Level 7 ditto (few)

Level 6 DITTO

Level 5 DITTO
1.00-1.25m
4/9/65
IZ-59-C  By the buried dam

16

No depth or date 20 sherds Escalon

IZ-59-C  5/13/65

“Base of Talud Prof. 3.90m.”

5 rims sherds 11 body ESC.- Frontera?

IZ-59-C  5/12/65

“North and 1 m above base of
Talud (dam) see bag”

N ←

Piso de barro

9 sherds 3 app. IXTAPA (saved), rim Front.

12-59-C  11/3/65

1.75-2.00m

7 sherds Frontera
IZ-59-C
1.50-1.75  IV/12/65
5 sherds 1 rim is Frontera

IZ-59-C
6  1.25-1.50  IV/12/65
14 sherds Frontera

IZ-59-C
5  1.00-1.25  IV/10/65
3 sherds Frontera

IZ-59-D  IV/12/65
5  1.00-1.25
28 sherds Late Frontera?

IZ-59-D  IV/13/65
.75-100
4 sherds Frontera

IZ-59-D  IV/12/65
.50-.75
9 sherds GUILLEN
“Koya” Early Guillen?
IZ-59-F
4/23/65

From feature (F-F) and material below in a 2x2 pit only.

“Feature” app. a small basurero
with no “joiners.”

10 TUZANTAN (No “CHUMATE” ETC)
“cream w/ white paint in zones” kept
13 other large sherds
Some saved as GUILLEN
2 obsid.

I suspect an EARLY GUILLEN placement

Zone below Feature  1.50-1.75
is Frontera w/few Guillen Tizapa Tuzantan [pencil correction over ink]
w/ 18 “Chumate” class
17 cream  25 crud ware
2 obsid, 3 Tuzantan grooved
5 wide ev. rim app. not TUZ.
again late Frontera or Early Guillen
-another very similar lot
w/no details but smaller rim
sherds, incl. 4 Koya w/ev. rims saved
Chumate

IZ-59-F cont. 4/27/65
2.00-2.25 levels 8, 9, 10, 11?
2.00-2.75 combined

16 “chumate” on reddish side (saved)
8 “cream”
35 crud 3 Maz-red-on-brown
looks all Esc. but may be Frontera

IZ-59-F 3.50 one Faceted shoulder red ware flaky
“Tuzantan, Koya, Chumate’

IZ-59-G 5/13/65
Base of Talud (DAM) 3.50m

1 “Chumate” red, 3 Koya ev. rims
17 crud – late Frontera

5/13/65
2.35-2.50
1 inc. brown comp. w/ inc.  [1 incised brown composite (silhouette) w/ inclusion]
1 facet flange. No def. Tuzantan
But flakey red-brown w/ inc. + groove
prob early Guillen? Late Frontera

1.25 10/V/65
9 sherds Frontera
IZ-59-H
Levels 8-18 Large Bag of dark Cream, black, and brown rims, all saved temp. for poss. S. use. seem to be Front. or earlier

59-H says, but it’s a large Ditto bag of reddish ollas large bowl rims But of not only H but many other sections and levels of 59 (A, P, H, etc.) also 30a L! Saved for S. to opine about Seem to be Frontera

IZ-59-H  6/2/65 “Cave-in” (Derrumbe de tierra cerca de la posicion a H. ” 12 large sherd good late Front or early Guillen 2 Tuzantan like, 1 Koya ev. gr.rim
Zoned punctate level 3/4/5

**IZ-59-K**

.50-1.00  3/4/5

14 large sherds

1 heavy rim

1 Koya Tuzantan-like grooved rim

3 grooved with comp.

10 crud Frontera?

**IZ-59-K**  no date

3

large sherds, like dump

12 sherd of prob same Tuzantan single grooved (int) rim bowl

2 other Tuzantan

2 Koya ev. rim (grooved)

3 chumate

2 cream 2 Red-Brown

1 Pol. Bl.

8 in. crud bl.  Late

13 MISC. crud ware  Frontera?

**IZ-59-K**

2

3 Tuzantan Guillen form

8 other Tuzantan

3 cream

10 misc crud
15 zoned punctate!

Red-on-cream

SAVED

Guillen evolution? Saved

IZ-59-L

Level 8 no depth bit is

about 1.50-200

25 Guillen sherds

IZ-59-L

7 and levels 2-6 (see next page)

No depth but is

130 to 150

9 Bags of a refuse dump.

Large sherds (“1 Koya Red” 25 cm long)

Levels: 7 2-6 large

“Chunate”-like (survivors?) 30 8 smaller and eroded

large

Koya-like (ditto?) 24 (69) 45 no change app.

-mostly red wide ev. rims

“TUZANTAN” 58 150 combined

“Red-brownish crud ware”

Blackish “ ” 25 35 larger sherds

Pol. Black, Pol. Brown combined 17 11 eroded

Maz. Red – on Brown 18 9(poor??) 1 zoned punctate

“Cream survivors” 37 45 more varied

some poss. overlap w/ “Blackish crude”

But here at least one surface is good cream

252
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Quantity 1</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MISC. small olla rims</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12 thin red crud?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grooved Crud Black</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7 5 from 1 vessel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Totals:
IZ-59-L Levels 2-6
all seem to be the same Guillen refuse
found in level 7-I accordingly
combined them for count and incl. counts
on prev. page (ie “type” seem same
throughout!

Level 6 1.30-140
5/27/65  5  1.20-1.30 (apparently)
        4  1.10-120 “past zone of refuse-east end.
        3 100-110

5/27/65  2  0.60-100 “same ‘o’ point as ‘m’??
        “Level below sherds of
      5/26/65

In other words, Levels 2-7
is 60 cm to 1.50, all one
dump?
There is a suggestion in the
figures of some change in
content, ie “Chumate” goes from
ap. 50% of Tuzantan in 7 to only
5% of Tuzantan in 2-6?
check others
all saved!
IZ-59-M  5/19/65?
E 30-37 m “From bottom of
canal (1.45) to 2.28m
“Trench 2.00 x .80”

[Apparently
Escalon]  29 sherds with 1 Nicapa like
NO TUZANTAN or Koya, but 3 creamish
and 4 Mazatan R-on-Brown
all Disc.
IZ-59-M
2.30- 3.00 m.
3 “chumate” 3 Maz R on Brown. No Tuzantan
2 creamish. 16 sherds Total
Possibly has been preselected
12-59-Me  No dates
“2.50- bottom” 14 sherds, No sure markers
Except 2 pos. Maz R on B
“1.45-2.50” 2 bags. 3 eroded NICAPA
6 “chumate, 1 “thick”, 4 maz. R on brown
24 creamish No Tuzantan or Koya [all Escalon or
12 misc. olla, 5 inc. gray Early Frontera?]
“1.25-145” 4 Maz. R. on Br.
5 eroded NICAPA
7 “ ” chumate
9 creamish
8 gray/black crud, no inc.
7 MISC. olla
IZ-59-N 5/31/65  [these dates appear to be excavation dates rather than his date of studying the material. JEC]

7 levels from “1.70-1.90” to 2.40-2.50
Level 3 says 2.00-2.10 “under canal” same date
- Seems to be Escalon-Frontera but no Koya. (or Tuzantan)
5 Nicapa in Level 1! w/ 3 “chumate”
Some Red on B (Mazatan)
“N” Pit is generally similar to ‘M’, and all discarded- poss of selection by Susanna 2 obsid.

IZ-59-P 5/31/65
5
Bottom level 5 at 1.40-1.50
1.30-1.40? is still Guillen phase. 2 obsidian
Level 4 at 1.20-1.30 sort of junky 1 “Koya” red
Levels 3 1.00-1.10 and 2 are large (2 large bags each) and very large sherds, Real Guillen trash and lots of Tuzantan, Gives suggestion of some pre-sorting
Level 2: .85-1.00
Level 1 0.00 -0.88 “‘o’ is ash base”
5/28/65 small bag 10 sherds all Guillen
No “Koya” or chumate left in these lots but great Tuzantan

[I think they called “Koya” Mundet red later on. 17 June 2011 JEC]
IZ-59-P (cont.)
Sections ‘N’, ‘NW’, “carved in”
all appear to be same
Guillen Refuse dump
Much Tuzantan, few “Koya”
seems to have suffered some pre-selection
and sorting. Large bags.
ALL DISCARDED w/o counting
4 obsidian. 1 rest. black bowl

ALL DISCARDED
IZ-59-Q  5/31/65
2.25-2.50 “among stones over
cascajo”
Possibly pre-selected? 4 Maz. R-on Br.
6 other eroded coarse buff
Frontera?
2.05-2.25 eroded crud, 2 cream 2/29/65 ditto [i.e., Frontera?]
Level 1= 1.90-2.05 appears mostly
Frontera but 2 Tuzantan
15 “chumate”, 8 Maz. Red on Br.

IZ-59-R
10 sherds MISC. ERODED
All discarded

IZ-59-S  Possibly Preselected out of?
1.30-1.40 to 1.70-1.80 1 lump pumice 3 Tuzantan, 18 other eroded

ALL GUILLEN

1 Bag  5/31/65

says “3.00-3.50 “ADJUNTA”

contains 5 Guillen sherds

1.30 to 1.70m is large

refuse dump w/ huge Tuzantan

and related sherds

“IZ-59-S Feature 5.” incl. 28 Tuzantan, 5 Chumate, 3 cream

(possibly has been preselected!)

all discarded except a

few good “Guillen” type sherds.

whole thing may have been

preselected for odd type??

Seems to be same refuse zone

as ‘M’. Includes several “Koya”

Red

IZ-59-T  “1.70m”, “1.50”

3 bags odd sherds w/ some Tuzantans

May be pre-selected.

60 sherds, good size in part of a dump

All Discarded

[Couldn’t ask Susanna about poss. pre-selection? JEC]
Navarrete Test Pits Plaza A Izapa

all 2x2m 1 through 10

Pit 6 “Casa Perez” seems earlier than the 59-A series w/ refuse depth above and below the exit canal of Dam the same? 13 levels 18/12/61 Levels 1-4 (80cm) very eroded and includes some IXTAPA Level 5 (1.00) also shows dramatic increase (82 rim sherds) eroded and mixed- 2 IXTAPA

6 Level (-1.20) 18/1/62 2 large obsidian chunks (Taj.) 82 rims Reported Erosion is bad on all.

NICAPA-like 7 creamish 8 Chumate-like 14 maz R on Br. 5 (2 quest.) Small jar 4 crud block 11 (1 pol.) [polished] Punctate R+Cream 1 “Early Tuzantan 18 MISC. Crud 8 2 Thickies Level 7: “172 bordes” many large sherd 1 cream and Red grooved 25 crud Bl (unknown) 1 thickies 2 small olla 2 poss. early Tuz 6 poss Maz R on B 25 chumate-like 30 creamish (inc common but mer nd [conaverture?]
IZ-Plaza A test pit 6 cont. Late Frontera?

Level 8  1.40-1.60  19/I/62

“95 bordes”

14 creamish  6 crud black

17 chumate  15 “orange brown to red

(but none looks

like Tuzantan)

[Selection saved for levels 6-9 only]

Level 9 -1.60-1.80 “91 Bordes”

6 look like “early’ Tuzantan-13 crud red

8 crud black  5 Maz. R on Brown

26 “chumate”  28 creamish (some very big)

ALL FRONTERA? [level 10 and down, maybe level 9]

Level 10-1.80-2.00 “56 Bordes” 18/I/62

10 chumate-like  5 Bl. Crud

12 creamish  18 orange-Red crud

Level 11 “16 bordes”

2 inc. Brown  No chumate

4 creamish  2 poss. Maz. R on Brown

7 crud

Level 12 -2.20-2.40

4 “chumate”  2 poss. Maz R on Brown (combined)

8 crud  12 creamish

Level 13 “9 borde  2.40-2.60

2 Maz R on Br.  2 creamish

2 ‘koya-like’  3 crud
IZ-Plaza A Pit 1 16 Dic 1961 2x2m
Levels 1-7, few sherds. sterile
Pit in level 7, 4 eroded sherds at 1.20-1.4
Level 4 already had IXTAPA sherds
Level 3 has plumbate (2)
all discarded
all discarded PIT A-1 18/Dic/61
Levels 1-4 few and eroded- 1 plumbate in Level 1
Level 5-9 seem to be good late
Frontera refuse but somewhat worn
All discarded (47 rims)
PIT 3 3 bags, app. mixed
All have a little plumbate.
even “level 7”
Discarded
Pit 4. 15/12/61
7 levels. All very dirty and eroded
1 plumb. In level 1, 1 IXTAPA in level 5
Remainder (160 rims app. Front-Guillen
ALL DISCARDED

DISCARDED PIT 5 15/12/61
5 levels, some plumb big bowls in all
PIT 7 21/12/61
4 bags horrible dirty stuff (small eroded)
-plumb. in 3, thus IXTAPA-Guillen
ALL DISCARDED

261
md. 47 Cuadros

**IZ-Plaza A, Pit 9**

7 Bags dirty stuff-discarded

IXTAPA to Level 5 then Guillen/Front.

Prob. fill of reservoir!

**PIT 10**

IXAPA to level 5 (rare)
then good Guillen refuse to sterile
seems to be dump. one piece
large “Double Ring app.)

**DISCARDED**

**IZ-47-A**

2

1 spindle whorl w/ indent circles
-prob intrusive of late classic date

Material is loose in wooden boxes and
is mixed fill, of Guillen latest date
but w/ impressive numbers of
Cuadros etc sherds- (all saved)

1 bag says “inner stone fill” 2/19/64
-another saying “interior Rock fill 2/1/64
seems earlier but has one good Tuzantan
labial flange

1 bag marked “innermost” **12-47-2**

IN.M

seems entirely Frontera
OCOS

IZ-47-A  1/21/64

1

-has plumbate small bag
Box marked same has tags
“Md 47 west tr. fill” 1/21/64
another Md. 47 A level 1
“Bottom over Cascajo 1/15/64
Box has S.J. Plumbate, IXTAPA

IZ-47-B  2/1/64

2-STER “over Cascajo at base”
appears to be GUILLEN.
30 sherds- 3 seem Guillen
others earlier

IZ-47-B  1/31/64

2       1.00-1.30 over
cascajo at base of mound
has S.J. Plumbate (10 sherds)
has IXTAPA (2)

IZ-47-C  2/12/64

1       0.00-0.60
Mixed lot of surface and plumbate
(3) and 2 frags. of late burners
and many ocos sherds!
Cuadros

IZ-47-C  2/17/64  2/14/64

2       50-1.00

30 Escalon sherds, few earlier
another small bag of same-

IZ-47-C

3       1 “Koya Rojo”

Ditto above. Many Cuadros-like
sherds, small. some saved

Some Late Frontera- early Guillen

IZ-47-Stela 50

16/II/63

At 1.65 back base of Stela,
3 IXTAPA sherds, large-
Levels 1,2,3
all mixed
eroded very few sherds.
Sherds unmarked!

B and

IZ-9-BN “0-6 m al norte

Levels 4 (april 4, 1965) to all discarded uncounted 18 (april 4/65)

(No levels 14-17)

Levels 1 to 3 only in 9-B.

Bottom levels
18-3.40-360, 13 (15?)-2.80-3.00)
12-2.60-2.80 (2.20-2.40 in “Lado Noroeste)
appears to be Escalon (no `pol cream on Koya)

Mid-levels 11-8/7 Good Frontera 1.40-1.80
1.80 level 68 Good Frontera
Levels 5, 4 1.60-1.00 some Guillen (acc. to 1 bag, by 1.80
“ ” 1-3 mixed
Partial Bowl in ‘Level 13” 2.60-2.80
Has Rude face in relief
Brown “crud ware”, app. slipped
dark brown but unpolished
Lot of obsidian- however levels Tajamulco chunks
This pit may have been monkeyed with by S.
IZ-9-B  3.00 Apr. 20, 1965
“zone of basurero, below charcoal
layer, south end of pit is Frontera!”
12 May
10 body sherds from inside drain
After removing cover “nondistictive but
prob. Frontera (mostly crud ware, eroded.
Chumate
IZ-9-A EXT. (WEST)
Has been worked over by S. I think
and only 4 lots remain:

**BAT [in pencil]**
-2.90 “Below stones and over basura
area. Stopped at 2.90m. (But
Incensario base fragment from 2.90.”
30 sherds w/ above are all bodies
and mostly Chumate-like.

-“to 2.70 Basurero” 16 sherds
mostly brown/red crud ware.
1 Nicapa narrow ground rim.

-1.80 + to 2.40 Good Frontera/Early Guillen
-3.35-3.85 few Escalon sherds

IZ-9A-5
Level 2.60
apparently complete or near-complete
Vertical wall bowl of their “Chumate”
dark brown
Late ESCALON
IZ-9-C
S. has a chart or graph on 9-C
which may indicate that she has
pulled certain types.
2 bags from Level 18, labeled “F-2”
F-2 -seems all Escalon, but one bag is
pure Chumate-like, raising questions of
prior selection?
-Remainder of pit is all unmarked and small
-Level 15 “2.80-3.00” 13/4/65 is Frontera
w/ wide everted grooved rims (medium)
1 Guillen-like rim in level 11 (200-220).
Remainig levels seem mainly Frontera
until 3 when IXTAPA (as sherd)
ALL DISCARDED UNCOUNTED
One Tajamulco obsid. Boulder in
F-2
1 Bag IZ-9-C ext. “abajo y al
Sur del Talud “Early Guillen
1 bag IZ-9-C (cover Cascajo
18  tierra Amarillo)
Koya-like- Fish-head rim (w/ evert) and
19 sherds “Rest is Feature 1”)
SAVED in type coll.
5 Maz R on Br, 6 chumate like, 2 ev. rims jars
3 brown crud  Prob. Late Escalon!
IZ-9-D
Levels 1 to 11 (2.2.20)  29/IV/65
Few sherds, all unmarked

Levels 11-9 Frontera? one classic flange in Level 8 (1.40)
  10-5-late-several wide strap handles
  4-1 S.J. Plumbate
    notched slab support in thin orange
Looks like late mixed deposit (Late fill?)

IZ-9-D-EXT. E Levels 4,5,6 (1.20)
Few sherds, unmarked 55 rims
Shows same late Classic admixture

IZ-9-D-EXT.S.
Levels 1,3,4,6 (1.20)
Levels 7,10,11 (2.20)
Mostly Frontera but late (late classic admixture)  1 late fine paste S. J. plumbate
stepped flange
8 [also F or G] looks Guillen or Frontera one Teopisca white
9 olla 4 sherds only Guillen?

IZ-9-D-EXT.NE
Levels 2,3,7 (1.20-1.40) S.J. Plumbate in all levels
7/V/65

Everything from 1.60 up seems Late Classic fill
IZ-9-E
Levels 1-10 (2.20) 30/IV/65
sherds unmarked
Levels 9, 10 contain only 6 sherds

Maz. R-on-Brown
Level 8 (1.60-1.80 Guillen (9 sh. total)
Level 7 (140-160) IXTAPA (8 sherds)
Level 6 (2 bags) Front-Guillen (27)
Level 5 (1.00-120) “Talud sherds from
behind (east) rest within stones”
Guillen and IXTAPA 4/27/65
Level 4 8 sherds (2 IXTAPA) obsid. core
Level 3-1 eroded includes Late Classic
IZ-9-F
Levels 1-16 (300-320) 10/V/65
16-13 ‘Mitad del Pozo”
7 obsid bl. in level 15 Level 16=14 sherds
Level 16, 15= ESCALON (Lot of M. R on B)
 14-12 (280-2.20) Frontera
  11-5 Guillen and clean fill sherds
  No 4, 3-1- mixed and few or small

IZ-9-G (Modern Canal Bottom)
Level 3 40-60 cm 7 mixed 1 Cuadros
  6 “ Guillen?
Level 2 20-40 Below floor of canal 9 sherds ditto
  10-20 11 sherds Guillen and later?
IZ-30a “SW Corner”
“at base burned section wall”
March 24, 1963 “9 m east-west wall”
---for m.
40 largish sherds, mainly IXTAPA
IZ-30a-‘X’
35 Preclassic, 5 IXTAPA-JARRITAS
IZ FEA 28 4/2/63 #3
Large bag lousy eroded sherds (Guillen and mainly earlier)
May have been “picked over” DISCARDED
IZ-30a-I 3/25/63
1m.
“Fill over structure” large bag mixed
dirty sherds, some heavy pieces
of incens. IXTAPA-JARRITAS
DISCARDED
IZ-30a-A “Lot X”
“At base of NE corner of mound, app. at floor
Level.
Very large bag all seems early
(Front-ESC) except 1 S.J. Plumbate
and 2 IXTAPA.

IZ-30a-A, “Lot Y”
1/31/63 “Beneath Lot X (20 cm. level)
    pure Escalon-Frontera
Escalon

IZ-30a-East Test Jan 13/1964

“INF.”

40 sherds pure Escalon- much chumate 1 NICAPA

“Bottom of the ___depth, west of metate

30 sherds, pure Escalon. Much Chumate

IZ-30a-EAST TEST 1/9/69

Ster.west

3.m. east of west extreme. Lowest part

trench; still coming out

IZ-30c-EAST TEST 1/9/64

On STER

“West extreme west sterile

38 sherd Escalon and earlier”

IZ-30a E.T. STER.EXT.

No tags 5 obsid chips

Large bag rather clean sherds

Mostly early but few Guillen

suspect admixture-trench was at

its dumping spot for 30a L

IZAPA-30a-B Feb 11, 1963

2.55 from surface 2.50 south of bottom

wall at south edge of trench.

“carbon are 30 cm in sherd on

vessel bottoms” “Carbon Sample 25”

13 sherds of an olla bottom.

Red-brown crud wares DISC.
IZ-30-1
“altar-tractor”
No tag 1 “jaguar snout
   2 thick vessel frags.
   1 notched labial flange
   app. Guillen selects
   7 sherds

IZ-30-TR 12/8/61
“TR. 1C” .30-.60
“Level 2” junk, but 30 Frontera

“Trench 1B level 3  1.70m
   50 sherds Frontera- Early Guillen

“Trench 1A” md B-1  12/6/61
   Level 3 50-80  Ditto above
   ALL DISC.

“TR B-1” Inside lower wall
(under level of Stela 9)
22 sherds, Guillen and earlier)

IZ-30b-C Apr. 21, 64
“Surface to base of wall
-large bag junk all provide but much IXTAPA
IZ-30b-
3 bags of material from base of
mound-one says “Lado norte- nivel
con la cima del altar” (presum.
the small round altars in front of 30b)
ALSO BOX of
all lots include crude burner parts
“sample saved. Presumably IXTAPA-JARRITAS

IZ-30b
1
Large bag of dirty fill sherds
100+
Tag says “Lado Este, primera sobre
Construction EME II-11-62
Mostly Guillen (Hato?) but few Ixtapa

Feature 30b-1
4
30 IXTAPA SHERDS, small mostly
parts of vessels in cache no doubt
DISCARDED

IZ-30a-H no label
FF.W.
Large box mixed mati. all periods up to Jarritas
and a few S.J. Plumbato and coarse ware parts.
IZ-30c-FILL 2/11/63
Large Bag “Fill over front steps
and at base”
mess of dirty sherds inc. S.J. Plumbate
and Kato-like bowl frag. Few coarse
burner frags like in front or base of
mound, all discarded

IZ-30-c-A 2/23/63
FILL
“S and N corners on east” “from surface
to base of wall”
-Large bag of sherds, all periods
but at 25 of IXTAPA (no JARRITAS or Plumbate)
DISCARDED
30c- SURFACE “in rocks”
Small bag but DITTO ABOVE
(few coarse censer parts)

IZ-30c-B (Rear Center)
Mts 2.75-3.20 3/18/63
40 sherds, Guillen and (mostly) earlier
(several Early Preclassic)
DISCARDED
IZ-30c-C  2/23/63
“Back base of west wall
50 sherds of junk, some Ixtapa

IZ-30c-C
1     00-
“From rear of Str. 30 c in fill
around top of wall.”
DITTO ABOVE-same stuff

IZ-30d-
5    1.75-2.00
19 sherds  Late Frontera-Guillen. 1 ocos
Disc.
IZ-30d  28/4/62
4
“Trinchera de 9 m. al 11m hacia el
Este de norte a sur de 177
cm a 197 cm. al neivel de trampo.”

120 sherds mostly Frontera but few
Guillen and one purple-HATO. (saved)
7 cuadros tecomates! all sherd smallish.
DISCARDED
HATO

IZ-30d-

3  .70-1.55

60 sherds mainly Frontera, couple poss. Guillen, no IXTAPA

IZ-30d

2  “to 70 cm”

Huge bag large clean basura-like sherds 250+ sherds mainly Frontera Guillen but a few incised, red and white, and pol. black sherds suggest Hato (no true IXTAPA!)

2 low labial flange jar above rims in brown crud ware. Sample of “Hato” saved, rest discarded.

No more 30d

IZ-30e-3

“semi complete” vessel (dwarf fig. torso)

Seems to be base sherds only a very thin crud red vertical wall bowl or jar Disc. Guillen?

N-292.30

E 207.9

Nivel 242.65
IZ-30-N-8  Feb 16, 65
“Black soil level over casajo”
21 sherds, 2 ocos, 3 cuadros,
Remainder Escalon? (no Chumate!)

IZ-30-N-7  Feb 13
“Sherds below lowermost wall in
black soil.” 21 sherds, Frontera?

IZ-30-N-6
“level w/ lowermost stone wall”
30 sherds, Escalon-Frontera?

IZ-30-N-4   Jan 28, 65
“0.90-1.20m”
5 sherds Early Preclassic (perhaps Jocotal)
(1 wh-rim black) 4 Frontera

IZ-30-N-3
“inner pit 60-90 cm below
platform surface.” 15 lousy
sherds. App. Frontera but no chumate
(1 cream) Maz R on B. Escalon?
1 frag ocos smaller [unreadable word]
IZ-30-N-1

1

“Fill 6 m. in from mound base and 3 m below surface.
30 large sherds pure IXTAPA/JARRITAS
Several earlier sherds found in separate bag!

IZ-30 Platform
Feb. 18, 1965
“Pozo en (N-S of tr. P) Trinchera 2.85-3.25
50 sherds large, clean, several “Koya”
good crud blocks Frontera

Feb 19, 65 IZ-30-Platform
“Pozo en Trinchera” 3.25 a- TRASHY
“ ” several inc. cream
40 sherds, 2 Koya- Frontera

IZ-30-Platform
Feb. 19
“Pozo en Trinchera, Bajo empedrada”
30 sherds late Escalon? No “Koya”
IZ-30-M
1
Levels 1-4
only date Apr 16, 1964
for L. 1½
Apr 11, 64 L. 1
Apr 13, 64 L. 1
6 large bags, (all has been re-bagged),
apparently the large scraper trench on
the surface of mound 30 platform,
or the cleaning of the front? (too late date of dig?)!
“april” says “Surface to platform level.”
Since all is surface, a few
Ixtapa sherds are included and a few
(one) S.J. Plumbate also, but not many
-Material mainly Guillen (and earlier –six
early tecomates) but saved out about
20 probable Hato sherds (dist. by means [distinction]
being “different.”
about 500-600 sherds
-few punctate, saved
IZ-30-M -April 16, ‘64
1½
2 bags, “section and at level of —
“yellow-brown layer below
and south of Platform A”
Seems mostly pre-Guillen (no IXTAPA)

few punctate, saved
IZ-30a-M

2

2 large bags “below and south of wall A”

1 large bag “April 14, 63” **IZ-30a M**

2

150 sherds good late Frontera- Early Guillen ALL DISC.

“general fill below humus to
about 1 to 2m.”

seem Guillen and earlier

-1 IXTAPA-like, put in Hato

1 bag says “inside wall? and seems all Frontera and earlier

40 sherds

IZ-30c-M

3

1 Bag, med. “Inside wall B”

45 sherds all Escalon brown

wares- suggests pre-selection??

IZ-30a-M2

4

1.86-2.25 m “Ultima seccion”

45 sherds late Frontera- Early Guillen
DUENDE?

IZ-30-P TRACTOR

1,2,3,4 Enero 22, 1965

Level 1: 0.00-1.50 m 65 sherds
Frontera and earlier -3 poss. Guillen

Level 2 1.50-200 45 sherds DITTO ABOVE

No Guillen. 1 ocos

Level 3 2.00-2.50 m ESCALON and earlier

(4 Early Precl.) at least
50 sherds- much “chumate”, 2 NICAPA

Level 4: 2.50-3.00 45 sherds
Early Frontera? 1 pol orange “Koya”

IZ-30-P-6

2 2.50 to .25m. “west of
bottom steps of 30 P”

“sherd level below yellow platform
level.” 35 sherds, small, mostly

“Chumate.” May have been pre-selected?

All ESCALON

IZ-30-P-8 Feb. 13, 1965

20 poor sherds may also have been

“pre-selected?” says “from black soil
below yellow clay platform fills
incl. cut thru ancient trench.” All DUENDE or earlier?
Cuadros and Duende

IZ-30-P-9

“Sherds from SE corner of
structure 30e-III
incl. Fig. Body, white and special
incl. complete head
14 sherds purely selected, incl
2 painted, one neg. and others
Red-on-cream scroll!
ESCALON-Frontera

IZ-30-P-10

“Fill sherds in 1 meter level over
str, 30e-III, to base of wall
-30 definite Early Preclassic incl
some prob. Duende, All SAVED
1 chunk Taj. obsidian. 35 large sherdss
app. Escalon early Frontera, but
4 Guillen sherds!

IZ-30-P-10

“Zona norte de 30e-III” 3 Early Precl.
1 painted like above. 65 sherds, all ESCALON or EARLIER
IZ-30-Q-4  1/28/65
“(lower section of trench, surface Level,”) 25 small sherds. Guillen and earlier

IZ-30-Q  1/30/65
“Behind bottom wall”
30 small sherds-Guillen and earlier

IZ-30-Q-7  Feb. 1, 1905
STELA 9
Altar
“Below and east edge of altar in front of Stela 9.
35 small sherds, Guillen and earlier

IZ-30-R  4/17/64
My notes say trench dup up face of Md 30 by T.A. Lee. Bags 1-12 of av. size, all Guillen or earlier; app. all surface cleaning. NO IXTAPA or Hato-like!
IZ-Group B 3/I/62
Navarrete Trench 1 in
front of Stela 9 altar,
0-1.00 m in 5 levels
all small dirty sherds, all levels have at
least 1 small S.J. Plumbate sherd.
Several Early Precl. (2 OCOS)
“B-1” Trinchera 2- ESTE and “w”
13/12/61
Large bag: “Frente al muro inferior”
3 ocos (incl. swollen tripod foot)
sev. Early Tecomates
6 good IXTAPA, 1 S.J. Plumbate
150 sherds Guillen or earlier

IZ-CASA-Bodega
1 sack MISC sherds mostly bodies
all discarded
Levels are mixed 1 thru 5 all
contain some IXTAPA- JARRITAS?

IZ- ESTELAS 73 a 82
Del Supial Cascajo Ca o-1.00
(Potero de mango junto al rio y tereno
de Doña Cecelia Becerra.)
45 dirty sherds, all periods
IZ-54-A  2/23/65
0-.50 “above stone “structure”?  
20 small sherds incl. 2 S. J. Plumbate

IZ-41-A
Bolsa ‘A’ –GUILLLEN JUNK- Presorted
Relleno entre 12 y 14

“Pizo 12” tractor – IXTAPA JUNK
1.00-1.50

IZ-33
“GENERAL” 2 bags, some S.J. Plumbate  
and IXTAPA w/ earlier junk  
Bag of SURFACE [unreadable word/ tides  1 S.J. Plumb.  
Tr. I. (INT?) 2 bags ditto above  
“INT-ULT(imate?) 9 sherds, Guillen  
1 Bag I-TR has no IXTAPA-35 Frontera-Guillen
Ocos Enero 21

IZ-23-SUR

DEEP

33 small sherds “Deep part of
section South”

Frontera and IXTAPA (1 sherd)

IZ-23-IV 15 sherds Early Guillen?

7

PEG. 4

Level 6 1.20-140 2 obs. 1/11/23?

21 sherds 4 inc. burner sherds. Late Frontera?

Level 5 21 sherds. 1 w/ graphite black paint

all Frontera

Level 5, section 12 sherds. Frontera

Level 5, section 13, all Frontera

IV, Level 4 9 sherds prob Guillen

V  Level 4 5 sherds Frontera or Escalon

Level III sev. sections combined/ 3 IXTAPA

50 sherds, small, 2 S.J. Plumbate

Level II, pegs XXX and XXXII- 3 Plumbate

2 Tiquisote 2 IXTAPA

Remainder of sections is junk

Level I pego XXX, 5 S. J Plumbate, BG big

sherds. 6 IXTAPA (joiners) 25 sherds

1 ocos all section levels combined, few plumbate DISCARDED
IZ-1-Pit 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3.00-3.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>25-Esc-Frontera sherds, 1 hard Pl.-like sherd intrusive?</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10 Frontera sherds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ditto</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>280-300</td>
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<td>“ “</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>level 13-6 Front.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ditto</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>some prob. Guillen?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ditto</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Capa 10-18 pure Frontera</td>
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<tr>
<td>“ “</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“ “</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>“ “</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Body sherd</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frontera</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“ Junk</td>
<td>3 second 7 sherds Guillen</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

IZ-1-Pit 1  8/5/63

Level 10: 1.80-2.00, 2.00 m E. Guillen

Levels 9-3 Early Guillen. Few sherds

“ ” 1,2 IXTAPA

IZ-1-Pit 2  May 23, 1963

Levels 14-5 Late Frontera-Early Guillen

4-0 some IXTAPA
Md 55

Tractor 21 Front-Guillen

2 Front-Guillen

3 “ ” IXTAPA

4- Front

Guillen

- “south” clay structures- Guillen

   int, below plaza level

Tractor #1-Guillen,

Tr, A “Lateral, inside clay structure

Front/Guillen (mostly Front)

1 m trench- Black earth, 5-8m Guillen/Hato?
1988 GWL

Mound 55

Top part or terrace of interior structure (see notes kept from sherd bag) all sherds (large bag) are good Frontera-Guillen) w/ only 1 rim flange in black crud ware. All discarded

Trench B

“Level 1 100-150 Very Large Bag
Mostly Frontera-Guillen but some possibly Hato-Itzapa, sample kept to check, of late inc. types

One-meter-wide trench 8 m east of -area of black fill. NO LEVEL! Feb. 11-15 1965 app. all Guillen on earlier-sample kept for checking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chumate and Tizapa</th>
<th>Purplish-Flanged yellow/white</th>
<th>Flanged</th>
<th>Flakey Red</th>
<th>Flakey Black</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8/6/88

Md. 56, Trench C

All fill material in 56-C NORTH

98,100,102,104,108 -104/2 has effigy head

Levels 7 (1.80-2.00) to 3.20-3.40 (14 in 102)

is GUILLEN or Earlier—about 95% Frontera-Escalon

N-100 seems particularly free of Guillen up to

Level 8 2.00-2.20

All discarded (uncounted) except some

type example for Guillen.

All upper levels seem also Guillen up 2 top levels

which begin to include Jarritas and S.J. Plumbate

all discarded

N-112 levels 1,3,4 only- Jarritas and 2 S.J. Plumbate

N 110 ditto—to 1.20 only 1 large S.J Plumbate in level 1, rest Guillen

N94-N96 seems Frontera in lowest levels and

Guillen up to surface and EARLY Guillen at 200-220

-Some plumbate after level 4, but all others seems Guillen

N92 below 160 to is very eroded Frontera

N90 and 88 Frontera at base, Guillen up to level 3

Then a few Jarritas and later in 2 and 1

N86 bottoms at 84- Guillen to level 2

N84 bottoms at 1.30-1.50 (level 6); 2 poss 1XT-JAR sherd
to surface Guillen w/ 3 later sherds

N82 capa 6 at 130-150 seems Guillen (few unmarked sherds)

all later has some post-Guillen
N80 bottom at 110-130 already 1XT-JAR, (5 sherds!)

All remaining sherds surface (22) include, 1XT- Jarritas
5/6/88

Mound 56, TRENCH A (on top)

Level 2 .20-.40 m all Guillen

Level 1. Same except for 2 S.J. Plumaite many earlier sherds in both lots
all discarded both levels

Md. 56 Tractor trench east of mound

No levels 2 bags

Mainly Guillen but app.

small dump of Jarritas jars

Md. 57, trench B, in 6 levels, all seems to

EARLY GUILLEN, lots of large crisp

Sherds, collection saved to some as type for

Sub-phase, outstanding is large number of

Tuzantan Orange in the typical forms. Also much

Flakey black + flaky red. There is almost

no incising in this collection, although plenty

of horiz. grooving.

coll. seems very diff. from fill lots.

Has some carry-ups of earlier phases.

I presume this is trench along front of mound but

not sure!

No other Md. 57 stuff appears-no sign of any

in Stela 27 material.