

Léon De Rosny's Peresianus of "1869"

by Randa Marhenke (Apr. 24, 2009, last revised February 14, 2012)

The pages following this introduction were taken from the Codex Peresianus pages that were included in Léon de Rosny's "Atlas" of reproductions, which was in his *Archives paléographiques de l'Orient et de l'Amérique*. This was published, with the date of 1869 on its title page, by Maisonneuve, Paris. The Peresianus pages were grouped together starting with one labelled "Manuscrit yucatèque No. 2 de la Bibliothèque nationale (inédit.)". Peresianus pages 5-22 were shown in the Atlas (in plates 117-132), and are thus included here. Pages 1-4 and 23-24 were missing from the Atlas, and are thus missing from this collection. Because of internal evidence of the codex text, pages 13-14 are thought to have once existed, to then become lost by the 19th century.

The existence of this Rosny rendition has been noted before by Mayanists, among them Gates, though he was not consistent in giving the date of this publication. In his *Commentary upon the Maya-Tzental Perez Codex* (1910, p. 7), he gave the date as 1872, and in his booklet that came with his Dresden Codex (1932), he gave the date as 1883. However, not all the blame of confusing bibliographic records can be assigned to Gates, for though the *Archives paléographiques* publication is dated as 1869, Rosny himself gave the date of publication as 1872 both with his 1883 Codex Cortesianus publication (p. xxvij), and in his *Notice sur les Travaux Scientifiques de M. Léon De Rosny* (1878). Since, in the *Archives paléographiques* publication, there are notes with the date of 1870 (pp. 115, 177, 186), it seems likely that the *Archives paléographiques* really came out in 1872. Certainly, though the dating principles of the day now seem a bit sloppy to me, it is difficult to argue that a book was actually published before the apparent date of some of its material. The 1883 date that Gates gave in his Dresden Codex booklet may have been in error—from confusion with the date of Rosny's publication of the Cortesianus.

The pages were scanned by Google¹ from Harvard University and Stanford University copies. Harvard provided two copies; Stanford, one. Out of these, one scan of each Peresianus page was chosen for this collection.

Some of the pages were in the book upside-down. These are herein shown rotated 180°, even though this resulted in the French labels and Google "watermark" then being upside-down. Also, at first glance, it seems that the pages of the Peresianus copy were arranged in a very strange order, but upon closer inspection, it can be seen that apparently they were arranged starting with what we usually now call page 12, and thereafter generally two pages were added at a time, the codex being flipped over back and forth as the adding progressed. A table appears on the next page that may help clarify this. The Peresianus pages are herein shown rearranged into the now generally used order.

Taking the date of this publication as 1869, it is earlier than the Rosny color reproduction (in 1887) by eighteen years, and his b&w photographic reproduction (in 1888) by nineteen years. According to Rosny², this copy was 'autographically'³ done, and he was not particularly pleased with the results. He felt too many errors had crept in because of his unfamiliarity at that time with Mayan hieroglyphs, and the confusion between the glyphs and the images in the b&w reproductive process. Furthermore, he was not pleased with the incorrectly arranged order of pages. In spite of these drawbacks, I feel he did remarkably well.

TABLE

Generally Now Used Page Number	Rosny Plate Number	Rosny Plate Number	Generally Now Used Page Number
1 (or 25)	(absent)	117	12
2	(absent)	118	15
3	(absent)	119	16
4	(absent)	120	11
5	132	121	10
6	129	122	17
7	128	123	18
8	125	124	9
9	124	125	8
10	121	126	19
11	120	127	20
12	117	128	7
15	118	129	6
16	119	130	21
17	122	131	22
18	123	132	5
19	126	(absent)	[4]
20	127	(absent)	[23]
21	130	(absent)	[24]
22	131	(absent)	[3]
23	(absent)	(absent)	[2]
24	(absent)	(absent)	[25 or 1]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks go to my son Laz Marhenke, and my husband Karl Marhenke, for setting up my computer, and for teaching me how various programs work. Further thanks go to my daughter Anna Marhenke for proofreading, and to Carolyn Jones for her very helpful editorial comments on an earlier version of this paper.

NOTES

1. At:

<http://tinyurl.com/lusw75>

and

<http://tinyurl.com/m4lc8o>

and

<http://tinyurl.com/kq3h6j>

2. In *Archives de la Société Américaine de France*, ns.,vol. ii, 1876, p. 27 and in *Archives de la Société Américaine de France*, ns.,vol.vi, 1888, pp 139-142, both of which are accessible from:

<http://books.google.com/books?q=editions:00jHO91NpX8vCh&id=fqAEAAAAYAAJ>

3. It is not completely clear to me what "autography" is. According to the Académie Française of 1878, it was a lithographic process. ["AUTOGRAPHIE. s. f. Art de transporter l'écriture ou des dessins du papier sur une pierre. Par l'autographie, on obtient rapidement plusieurs copies d'une même lettre." (*Dictionnaire de l'Académie Française*, Septième Édition, Paris, 1878).]

It still remains to be understood, however, how the drawings that were to be transferred to the stone were made, and how they were to be transferred to the stone. Reading both the articles given above in the *Archives de la Société Américaine de France* vols. ii and vi, I infer that the drawings were made at least partly by hand, and a photographic process may have been used in, before or after, the lithographic process.

REFERENCES

Barbat, Paul

- 1888 (Review, with Rosny quotes): *Codex Peresianus. Manuscrit hiératique des anciens Indiens de l'Amérique Centrale, conservé à la Bibliothèque Nationale de Paris, publié en couleurs, avec une introduction, par Léon de Rosny. Paris, 1887. – Un vol. in-4°.*
In: *Archives de la Société Américaine de France*, n.s., vol. vi, 1888, Paris, pp 139-142; which is accessible from:
<http://books.google.com/books?q=editions:00jHO91NpX8vCh&id=fqAEAAAAYAAJ>

Codex Peresianus, or *Codex Paris*, or *Paris Codex*, or *Pérez Codex*, or *Manuscrit dit Mexicain No.2 de la Bibliothèque Impériale* is now housed in the *fonds mexicain* as No. 386 in the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris.

Dictionnaire de l'Académie Française, Septième Édition, Paris.

- 1878 Volumes I and II available from: <http://catalogue.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/cb372517524/description>

Gates, William Edmund

- 1910 *Commentary upon the Maya-Tzental Pérez Codex with a Concluding Note upon the Linguistic Problem of the Maya Glyphs.* Papers of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. Harvard University, vol. 6, no. 2. Cambridge: Peabody Museum.
Accessible from:
<http://books.google.com/books?q=editions:0PpIx1Z2yod08FnJZxQRZz&id=w7hpAAAAMAAJ>

- 1932 [Booklet with] *The Dresden Codex, Reproduced from tracings of the original; Colorings finished by hand.* The Maya Society, Baltimore, Maryland. Accessible in:
<http://www.wayeb.org/download/resources/dresden01.pdf>

Rosny, Léon de

"1869" *Archives paléographiques de l'Orient et de l'Amérique.* Maisonneuve, Paris

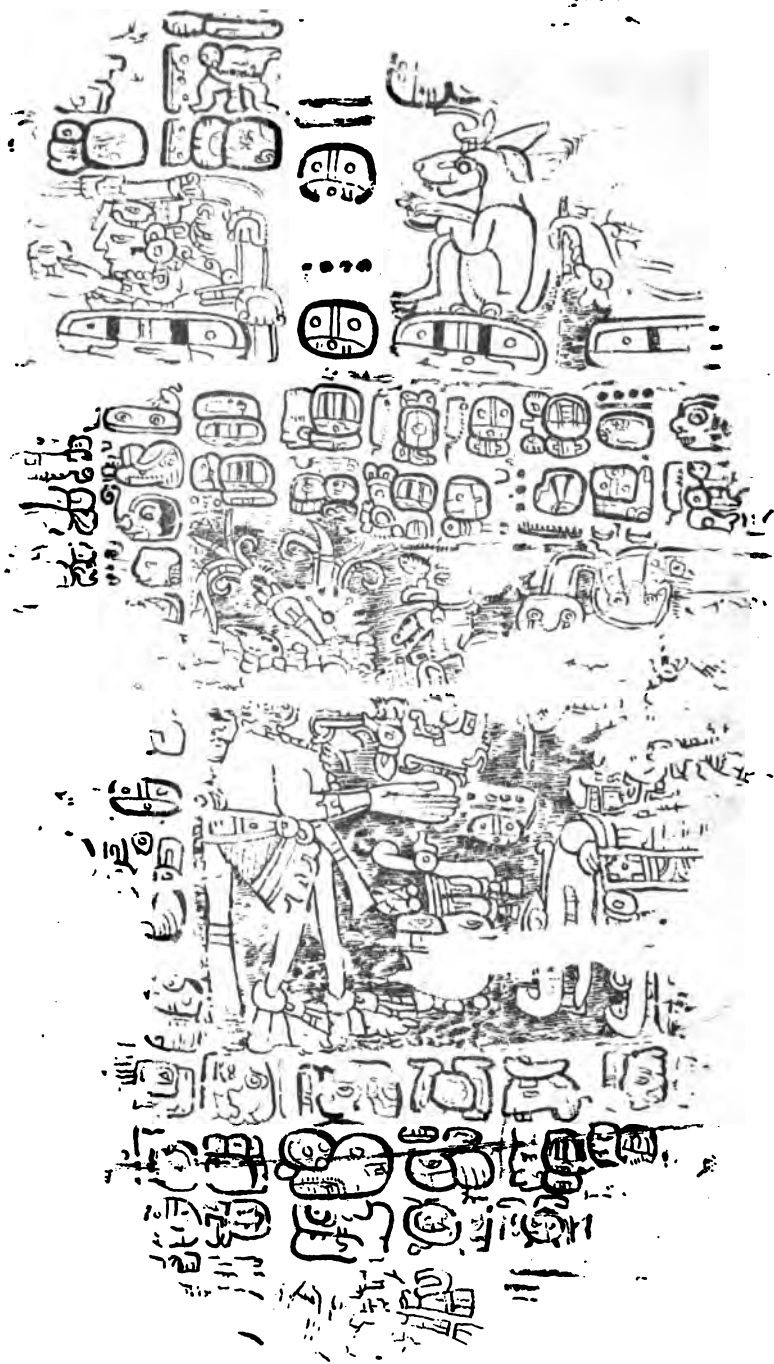
- (1872) Accessible at:
<http://tinyurl.com/lusw75>
and
<http://tinyurl.com/m4lc8o>
and
<http://tinyurl.com/kq3h6j>

- 1876 *Essai sur le Déchiffrement de l'Écriture Hiératique Maya*, in *Archives de la Société Américaine de France*, n.s., vol. ii, 1876, Paris; accessible from:
<http://books.google.com/books?q=editions:00jHO91NpX8vCh&id=fqAEAAAAYAAJ>

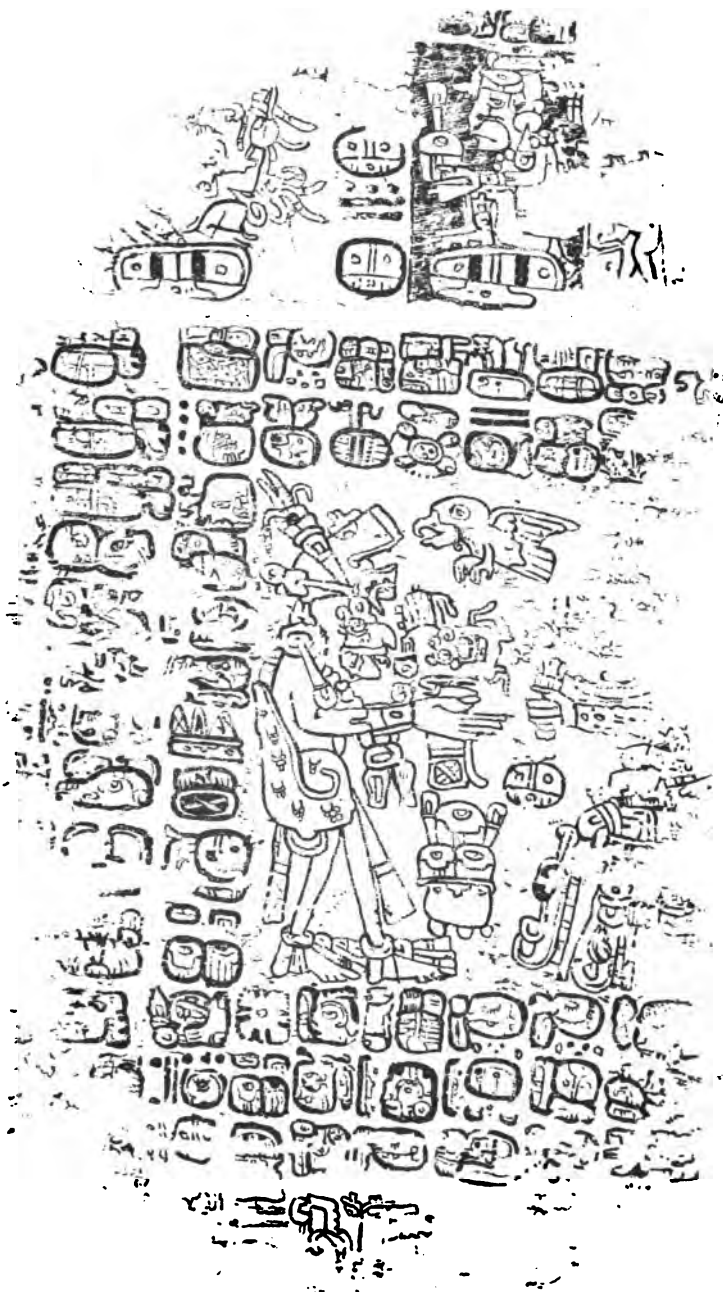
- 1878 *Notice sur les Travaux Scientifiques de M. Léon De Rosny*, Paris; accessible from:
<http://catalogue.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/cb31247882r/description>

- 1883 *Codex Cortesianus, Manuscrit Hiératique des Anciens Indiens de l'Amérique Centrale, Conservé au Musée Archéologique de Madrid, Photographié et Publié pour la Première Fois avec une Introduction et un Vocabulaire de l'Écriture Hiératique Yucatèque*, Paris.
Pdf-facsimile of codex rendition itself is accessible from:
<http://www.famsi.org/mayawriting/codices/madrid.html>
- 1887 *Codex Peresianus. Manuscrit hiératique des anciens Indiens de l'Amérique Centrale, conservé à la Bibliothèque Nationale de Paris. Publié en couleurs, avec une introduction.* Bureau de la Société Américaine, Paris.
- 1888 *Codex Peresianus. Manuscrit hiératique des anciens Indiens de l'Amérique Centrale, conservé à la Bibliothèque Nationale de Paris, avec un introduction. Seconde édition imprimée en noir.* Bureau de la Société Américaine, Paris.

The following is of page 5 from the Codex Peresianus



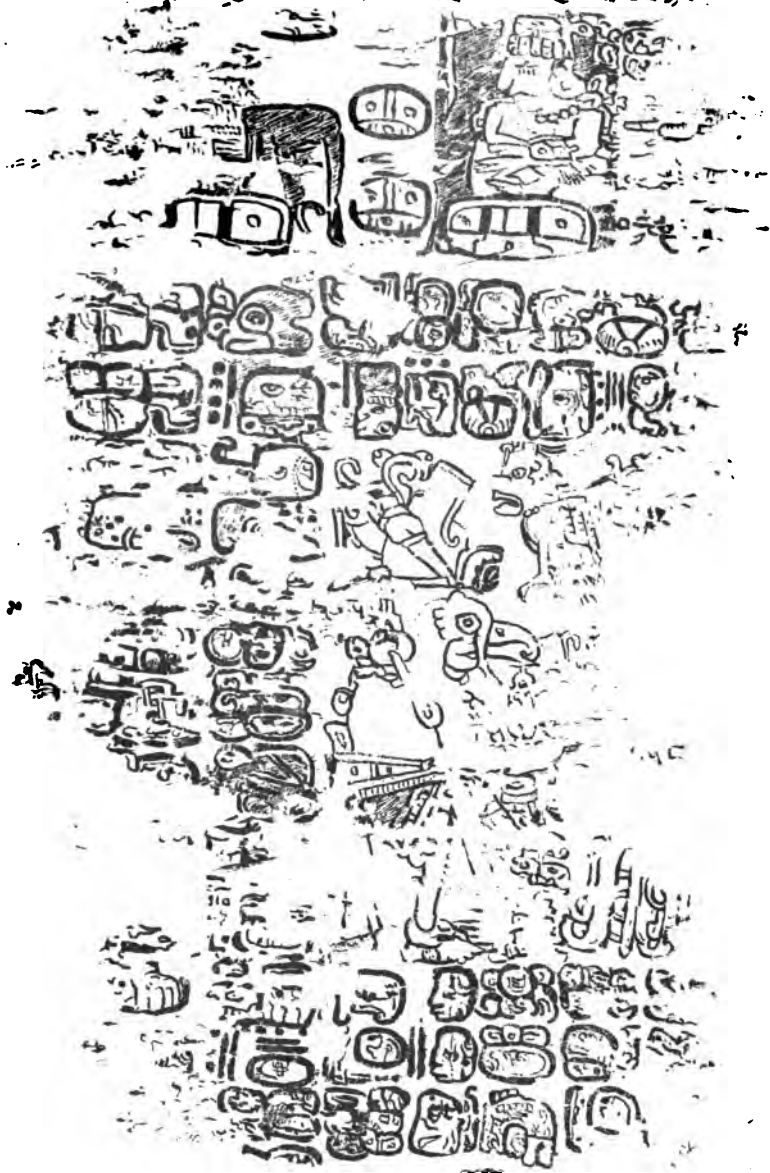
The following is of page 6 from the Codex Peresianus



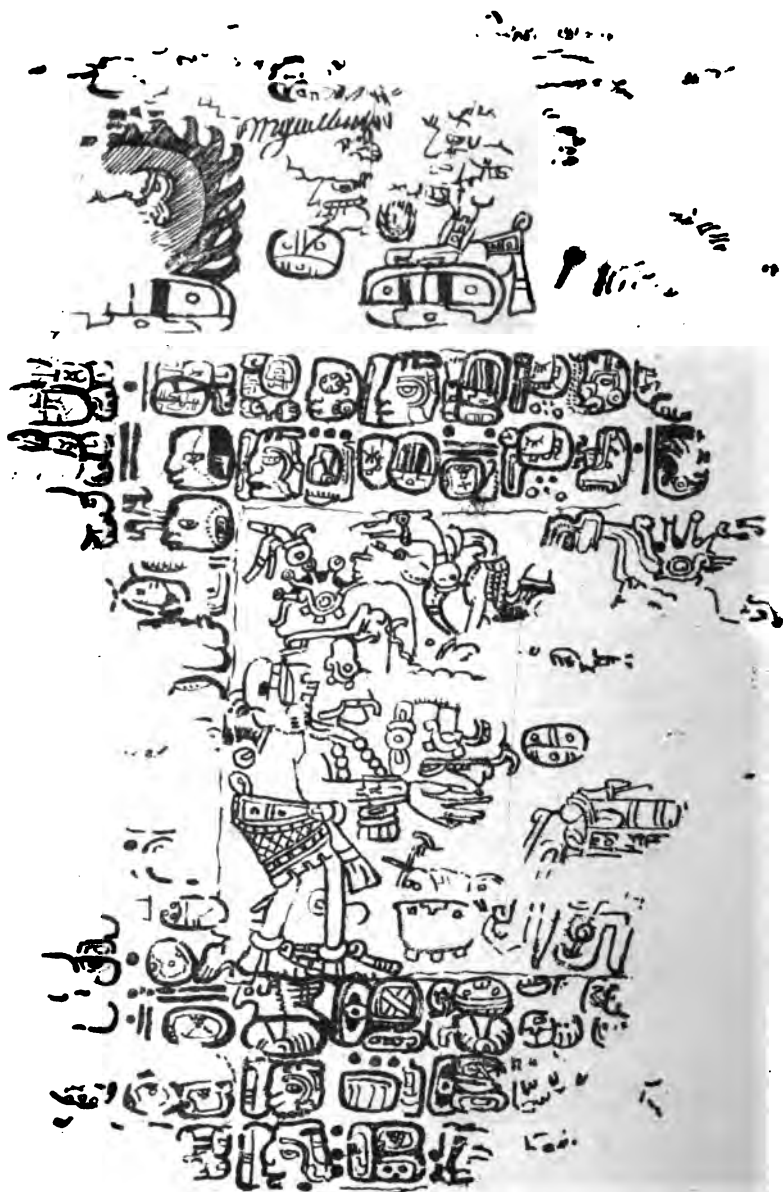
The following is of page 7 from the Codex Peresianus



The following is of page 8 from the Codex Peresianus



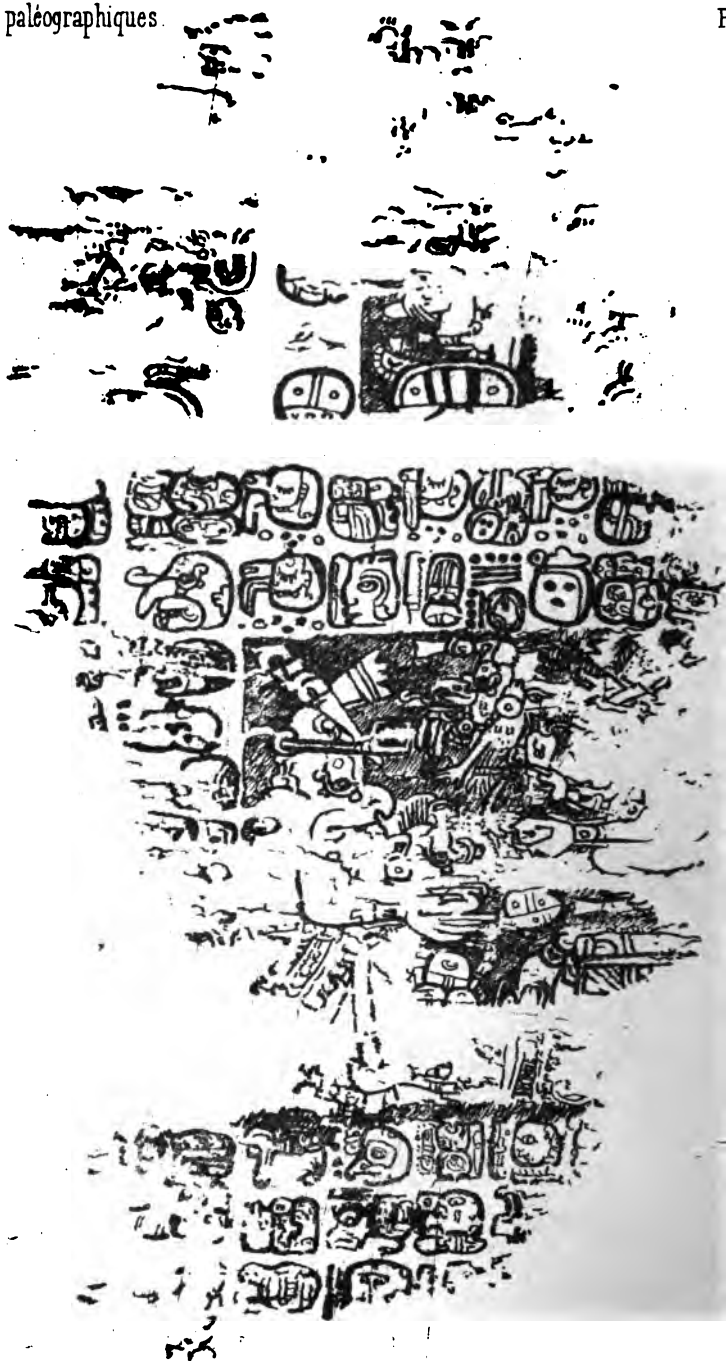
The following is of page 9 from the Codex Peresianus



The following is of page 10 from the Codex Peresianus



The following is of page 11 from the Codex Peresianus



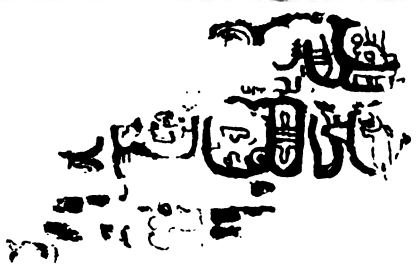
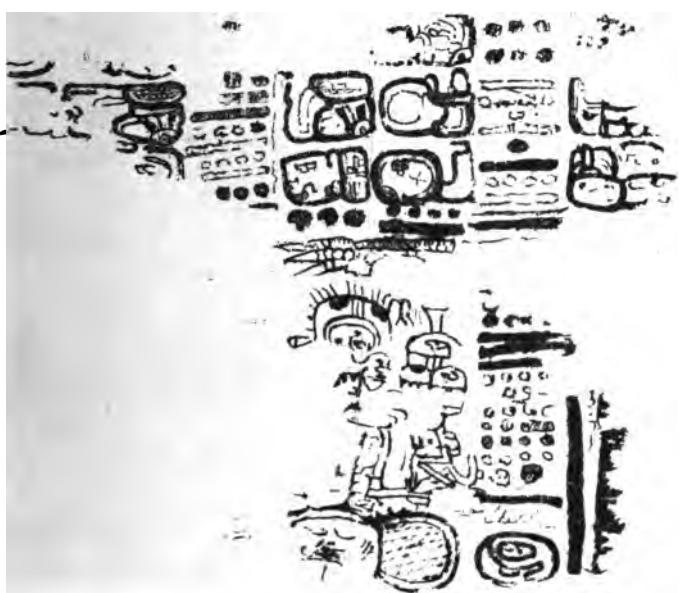
The following is of page 12 from the Codex Peresianus

N° 2 de la Bibliothèque nationale (inédit.)

MANUSCRIT YUCATEQUE



The following is of page 15 from the Codex Peresianus



The following is of page 16 from the Codex Peresianus



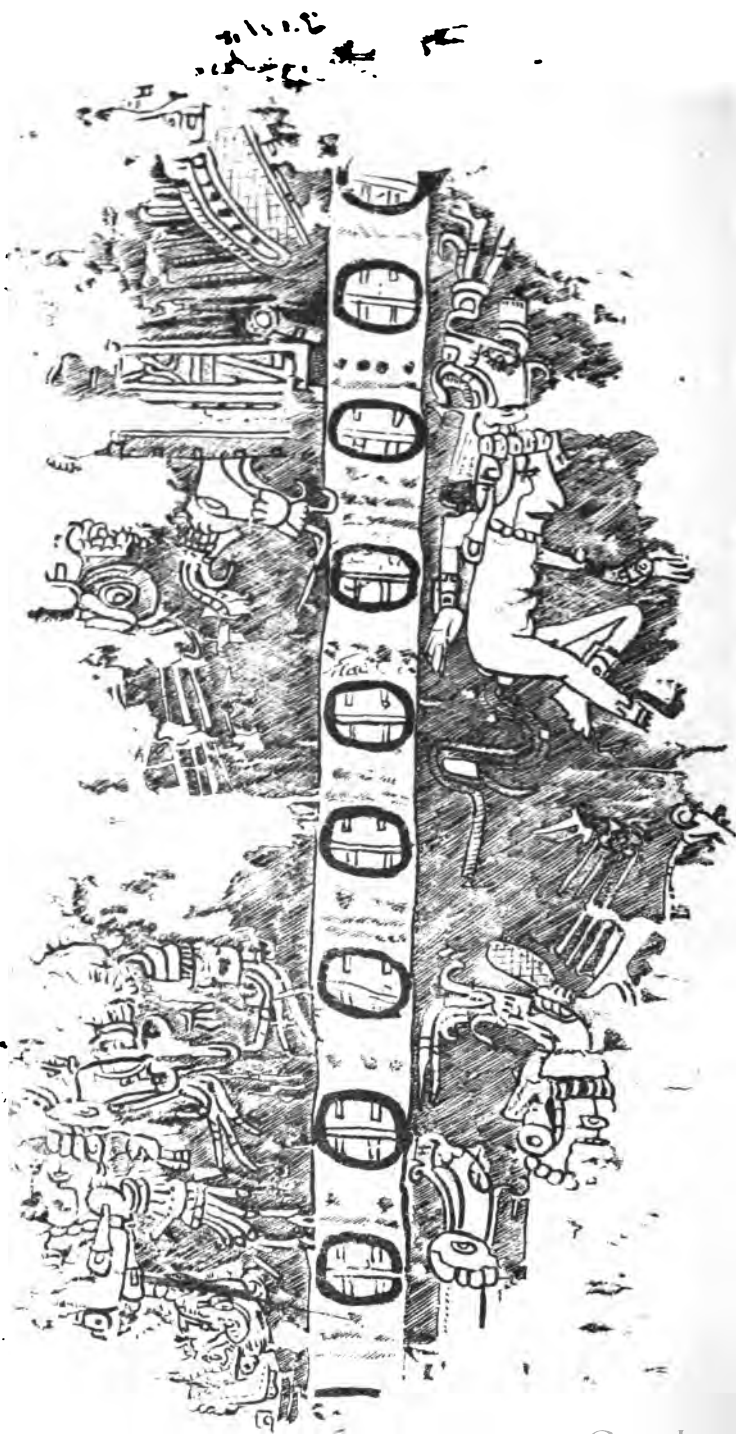
The following is of page 17 from the Codex Peresianus



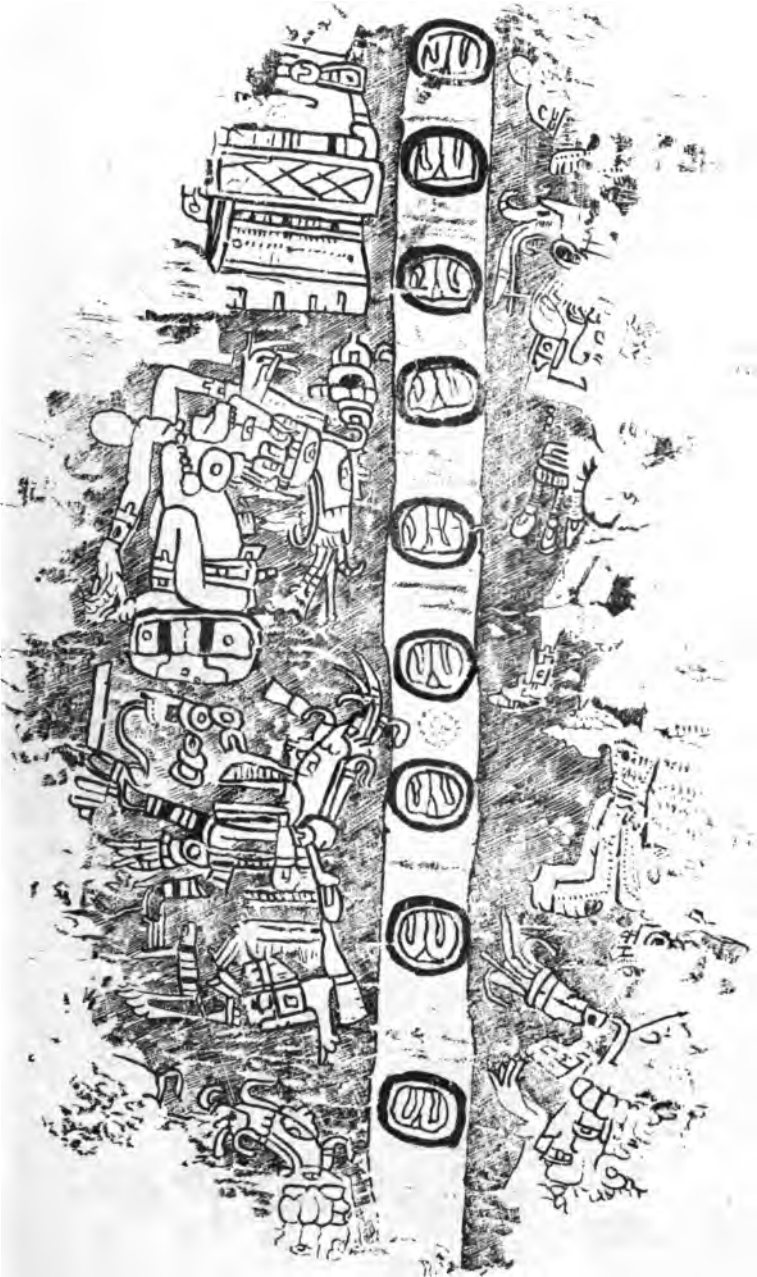
The following is of page 18 from the Codex Peresianus



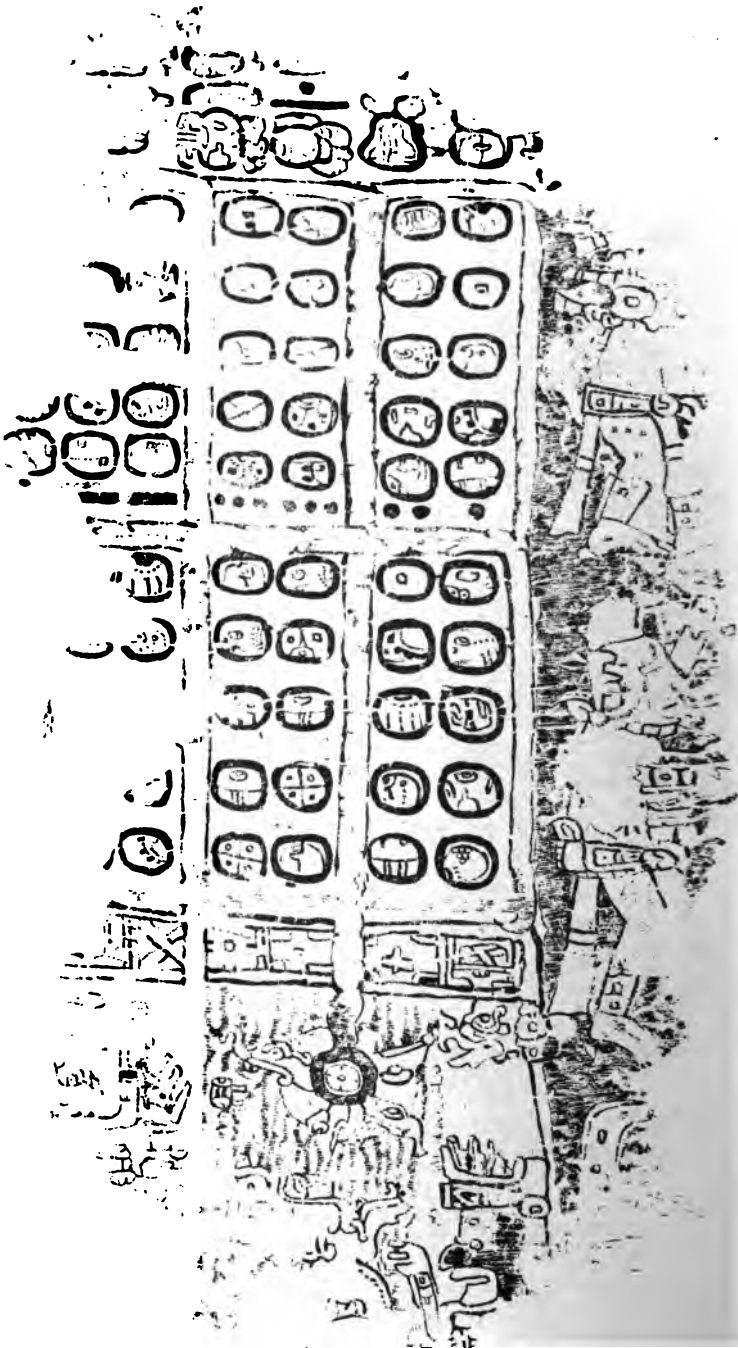
The following is of page 19 from the Codex Peresianus



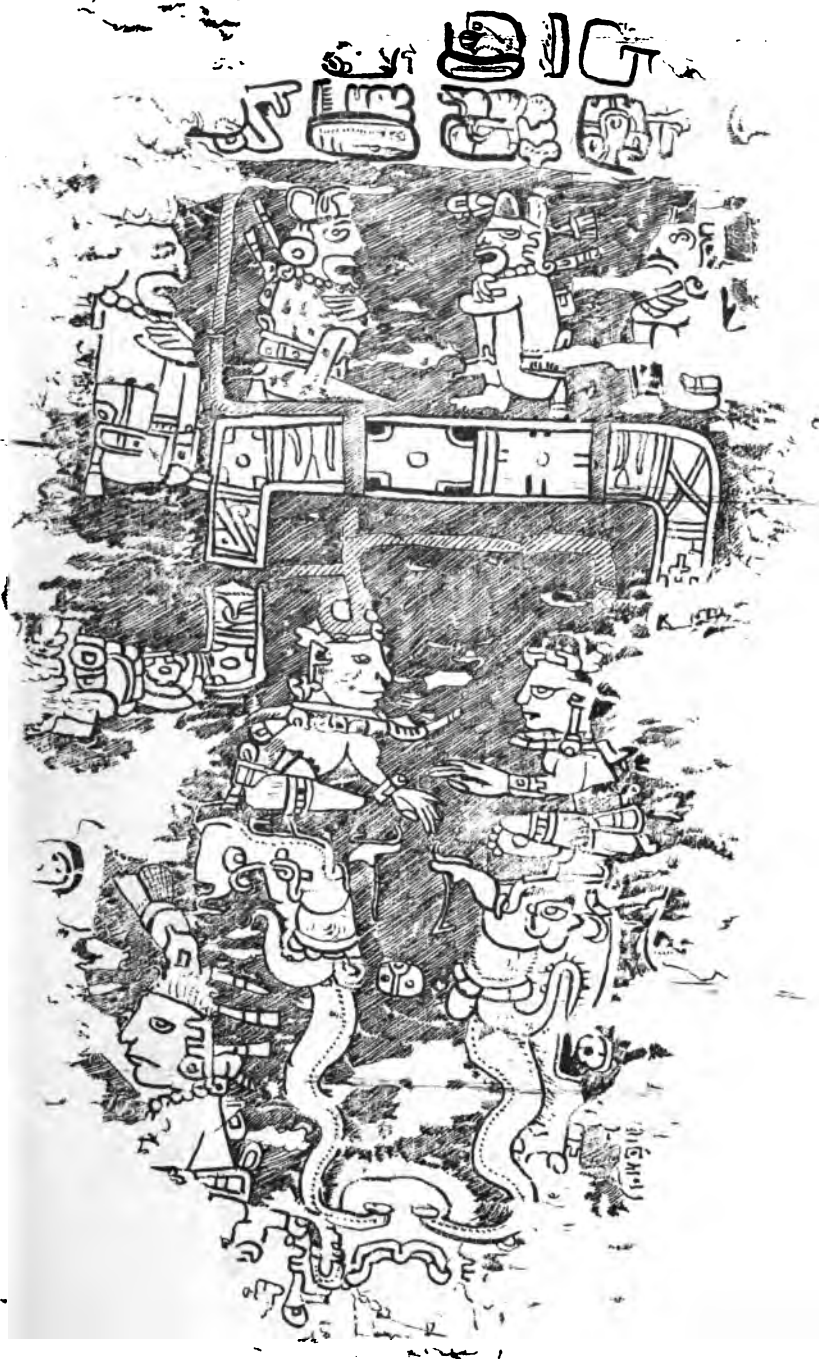
The following is of page 20 from the Codex Peresianus



The following is of page 21 from the Codex Peresianus



The following is of page 22 from the Codex Peresianus



ARCHIVES PALÉOGRAPHIQUES

DE L'ORIENT ET DE L'AMÉRIQUE

PUBLIÉES

AVEC DES NOTICES HISTORIQUES ET PHILOLOGIQUES

PAR

LÉON DE ROSNY

PROFESSEUR A L'ÉCOLE SPÉCIALE DES LANGUES ORIENTALES
SECRÉTAIRE DE LA SOCIÉTÉ D'ETHNOGRAPHIE

TOME PREMIER



PARIS

MAISONNEUVE ET C^{ie}, LIBRAIRES-ÉDITEURS

13, QUAI VOLTAIRE, 13

—
1869.