Censer Symbolism and the State Polity in Teotihuacán

Research Year: 1998
Culture: Teotihuacán
Chronology: Late Pre-Classic to Late Classic
Location: Highland México
Site: Teotihuacán

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Data Base for Theater-type Censers Found in Teotihuacán and Abroad #1
"Adornos" and molds for censers from the "North Palace" in the Ciudadela, Teotihuacán Archaeological Project 1980-82, INAH
"Adornos" and molds for censers from Compound "Group 5" of the Sector N5W1, Scholarship Program, INAH
"Adornos" and molds for censers from surface collection in Teotihuacán, Teotihuacán Mapping Project
"Adornos" and molds for censers from the Project of the Feathered Serpent Pyramid in 1988-89, Arizona State University and INAH

Preliminary Comments

Sources Cited

Note on the Conventions Used for Captions

Considering this is a collection whose origin was a workshop fully dedicated to mold production, most pieces presented are molds and reproductions.

In those cases where only the mold could be recovered, and to obtain examples of the pieces involved, reproductions were made with the clay that modern potters from the village of San Sebastián Xolalpan nowadays use.

An alphabetical order was adopted for the reading of captions, making reference to what we have enunciated in the previous lines:

Therefore:

A. Capital letters indicate: Prehispanic Mold.


c. Underlined small letters indicate: Modern Reproduction Accomplished with a Prehispanic Mold.

In the case of Molded pieces, they will be indicated throughout the text; to the effects of making comparisons of pieces between two photos, we have indicated: See Photo No. ....

Example:

Photo No. 1.

B. Mold.

a, c, d, e, h, i. Prehispanic Molded Reproduction.

f, g. Modern Reproduction Made with a Prehispanic Mold.
III. Anthropomorphic: Attributes of Deities and Characters.

Photo 50. a, B. Mask. Character with Tlaloc attributes.

Photo 51. a, b, c, d, e, f. Characters with Tlaloc attributes.
Photo 52. a, b. Characters with Tlaloc attributes and frontal tying. c. Character with circles on forehead and eyes. d, e, f. Tlaloc-type fragments of nose and mouth. h, i. Characters in profile. See Photo 70. b.

Photo 53. a, b, c, D, e. Tlaloc motif with water lily, variants.
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Photo 55. a, b, c, d. Figures in the shape of a drop with Tlaloc effigy and some sort of chest protector with a triple-mountain motif. e, f. Variants of the preceding. See Photo 180. A, b, F, g.
Photo 56. a, b, c, d. Variants of the preceding photo.

Photo 57. A, b, c, d, g, h, i. Tlaloc motifs with headdress variants. c. Tlaloc motif carrying in his hand a serpentine feature with volutes. See Photo 60. A, b, and Photo 70. b, E, f. Tlaloc motif; lower jaw with fang, arm and pectoral with three drops. Fragment. J, k. Tlaloc motif with water lily. Fragment.
Photo 58. a, b. Tlaloc "mustache cover" in disc, variants. c, d. Tlaloc "mustache cover" in appliqués for figurines, variants.
Photo 59. a. Plaque showing three fangs and bifid tongue.

Photo 61. a. Head resembling Xipe Totec, with headdress of intertwined trapezoids. b. Body of character apparently covered with a human skin. c. Xipe Totec head.

Photo 64. A, b, c, d, g, h. Serpent rattles. E, f. Snake rattle with feathers. See Photo 63. D, e.
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Photo 66. A, b. Character with feathered serpent headdress.
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Photo 71. A, b, C, d, e, F, g, h, i, j. Characters with bead necklace. A, b, C, d, F, g, i, j. Characters with sphere nose plugs.

Photo 73. A, b, C, d, e, f, g, h. Characters, fragments.
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