

MMC (4) : Mesoamerica

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The main scenario of Mesoamerican GDM program is provided by the British Museum, utilizing two books published by BM, that is, "Mexican Gallery Resource Pack" and "Ancient Mexico in the British Museum". The program treats ancient Mexican cultures of five regions such as Gulf Coast, Maya, West Mexico, Central Highlands and Oaxaca.

The British Museum conserved many excellent archaeological materials, while the National Museum of Ethnology does not have collected archaeological but modern ethnological pieces. It is, therefore, difficult to combine these two collections. But descendants of the peoples who created Mesoamerican civilizations still live and hand down the heritage, and therefore it is possible to supplement the program with modern ethnological materials.

To amplify the contents we first utilized a catalogue of the exposition entitled *Tejiendo la vida: los mayas de hoy* held at our museum in 1995. This catalogue treats almost all costumes of modern Maya people. Modern Maya women wear wonderful huipiles, some of which resemble to the garments worn by Yaxchilan women in lintels 15 and 17, 24-26 in the program. Although these lintels were sculpted in the eighth century, modern Maya women seem to inherit from them. Therefore, we selected some huipiles whose designs are very similar to those used by Yaxchilan women.

To choose other ethnological pieces related to the program given by BM, we utilized OCM (Outline of Cultural Materials) and OWC (Outline of World Cultures) codes to make an exhaustive investigation of our collection [see Fukukawa in this volume]. Since our materials have been classified in terms of OCM and OWC codes, we asked R. Loverance of BM to put OCM and OWC codes to the materials utilized for the GDM program. Then we searched the corresponding codes in our collections, and selected Mexican masks and Mixtecan ball game paraphernalia. We chose some wooden masks used by Guerrero Nahuan people as modern reflections of the Aztec masks, although the contexts of the usage are different. In Mexico some indigenous people still play several types of ball games. The rule and its paraphernalia are completely different from ancient ball games. For example, modern indigenous people do not use yokes and hachas demonstrated in the program. However, we

picked up two gloves and a ball by which Mixtec people play the ball game, although they are not directly related to the archaeological materials in the program. For other materials utilized in the program we regrettably could not find pieces in our museum.

Although the collections of the National Museum of Ethnology are totally different from those of the British Museum, we may say the pieces we selected make the program rich.

Reference

Yasugi, Yoshiho (ed.)

1995 *Tejiendo la vida: Los mayas de hoy* (in Japanese). Osaka:Senri Bunkazaidan.