



Hieroglyphic Panel Fragment

Date

ca. 700-800

Primary Maker

Maya (archaeological culture)

Medium

limestone

Description

This fragment from Tablet 3 of the hieroglyphic stairway at the site of Seibal records a scattering event in the upper-left glyph block, and the associated ceremonies performed by K'awiil Chan K'inich, ch'ul ajaw (holy lord) of Dos Pilas, who celebrated this ritual at the site of Seibal on May 30, 746 (7 Etz'nab 16 Xul in the Maya calendar). According to other textual sources, Dos Pilas won a decisive victory over Seibal approximately ten years

earlier and this stairway commemorated the vassal status of Seibal. K'awiil Chan K'inich was named for one of the principal Maya deities, in this case K'awiil, the god of royal bloodlines. Parts of this text were removed from the stairway in antiquity and surviving elements were moved to the archaeological camp at the turn of the twentieth century. Sadly, many of these have now disappeared. Maya hieroglyphic writing was one of the most sophisticated notational systems of the ancient world.

Dimensions

Overall: 19 5/8 x 13 1/4 x 2 3/4 in. (49.8 x 33.7 x 7 cm)