

Supplemental Note 1. The Dating of Chicanná Structure II and the Paaktzatz Modeled Cache Vessel Subcomplex

On review, the construction chronology of only one building excavated in the course of the NGS–Tulane program of 1969–1971 would seem to require revisiting and clarification as a result of the new revision. This is Structure II at Chicanná, located 2.5 km west-southwest of Becán. Although just one more of the many tandem-range, vaulted palace-type buildings

dotted across the Río Bec region, Structure II has become nationally and globally emblematic of the monster-mouth façade architectonic style in popular and general art historical literatures (Figure 1; Miller and O’Neil 2014:79; Figure 69). Correctly fixing its exact dating and place in local architectural history would therefore seem of genuine value.



Figure 1. Structure II, Chicanná, Campeche. Photo by the author, 1970.

The plan and stylistic attributes of Structure II place it squarely in the Río Bec Tardío I architectural style of the 2002–2010 French Río Bec project, dated to A.D. 630–710 (Michelet et al. 2013; Taladoire et al. 2013). My original 1970 ceramic dating of the structure was based on subfloor core samples consisting of preponderantly Bejuco-complex sherds and trash admixed with smaller quantities of what seemed to be ever so slightly aberrant or atypical Chintok material. The latter inclusions of course forced a *terminus post quem* dating of Chintok for the construction, and weighing the atypical

character of the subfloor materials against that of the sherds consistently found associated with Xcocom or mixed Xcocom and Bejuco deposits, I ascribed it to an early facet of the complex dating to ca. A.D. 730/750–770/780. Two radiocarbon determinations—one from twig charcoal in a subfloor “cookie jar” (Paaktzatz Modeled) cache (I-5024); one from the apparent outer surface of a wood lintel beam (I-5025)—cross-confirmed each other and supported a late seventh- through middle eighth-century span. This then became an important part of the basis for extending the early aspect of Chintok

backward to A.D. 750 or 730.¹ Somewhat perplexing at the time, however, was that the twig-charcoal cache determination, 1280 ± 95 B.P., was identical to another obtained on charred wood from a pure, uncontaminated full Bejuco-complex primary refuse deposit sealed in situ beneath Structure XXV at Becán (I-5028: Ball 1977:186; Webster 1976:62–74).



Figure 2. Paaktzatz Modeled “cookie jar” cache vessel from blocked center doorway. Photo by the author, 1971. Height: 16.65 cm.

Ramón Carrasco (1989) subsequently determined that the platform complex immediately adjacent to Structure II, Structure III/III-sub, had originally been built in the terminal Early Classic Sabucan phase (ca. A.D. 450–620), then modified and enlarged early in Bejuco and occupied well through that ceramic phase. Carrasco obtained radiocarbon determinations of 1414 ± 70 B.P. (cal A.D. 567–669 [$p = 1$]) for the Bejuco construction episode, and 1346 ± 78 B.P. (cal A.D. 618–726 [$p = .8$]) and cal A.D.

738–768 [$p = .2$]) for the associated occupation.²

Combining all of the foregoing information, I would now assign the construction of Structure II to the early eighth century, at or near the end of the Bejuco ceramic phase. What I identified in 1970 as “atypical” Chintok pottery, I now believe was probably early Makan-complex material reflecting increasing interactions with the growing Río Bec populations to the south and east, and perhaps even the beginnings of the spread of the latter into the immediate Becán area. Perhaps of greater moment than we then realized, the excavator of Structure II, Jack Eaton (1972), observed at the time that the entire rear wall and vault of the building had collapsed inward either during the final stages of its construction or almost immediately after completion, and that the spinewall doorways had been walled up to seal off the collapsed rear range from the useable front one. An empty Paaktzatz Modeled cookie jar cache container in the same tradition as three emplaced in the subfloor cores of the front rooms of the building had been set into the rubble plug sealing the central doorway of the structure (Figure 2). Absolutely no trace of Chintok occupational utilization was recovered from within or around the building, but deep, rich Xcocom refuse had accumulated on and off of its front and side terraces, and benches added to the three front chambers all contained substantial “Chintok”/Makan and Bejuco inclusions as well as Xcocom material in their construction cores.

The historical chronology of the distinctive local Paaktzatz Modeled “cookie jar” cache-vessel subcomplex associated with the construction of Structure II is also affected by the proposed sequence reconfiguration. The previously mentioned radiocarbon determination (I-5024) on one of these vessel’s contents had always indicated an early eighth-century or earlier dating for the most elaborate expressions of the subcomplex (Figure 3; Ball 1977:Figures 38d, 39, 40), and the proposed realignments would associate these with the Bejuco complex of the Late Classic apogee of Becán rather than the ephemeral Chintok assemblage as I originally suggested (Ball 1977). Related examples from other controlled contexts at Becán and Xpuhil II had also previously been dated to Bejuco (Ball 1977). Among these was a



Figure 3. Paaktzatz Modeled “cookie jar” cache vessels from subfloor core and blocked doorway, Structure II, Chicanná. Photo by the author, 1971. Height of middle vessel: 24.7 cm.

simpler but still typical two-piece Paaktzatz “cookie jar” deposited as the centerpoint cache in the great Bejuco-phase ballcourt of Becán, Structure XI (Ball 1977:Figure 38c; Campaña 2005). The temporal and spatial distributions of the subcomplex across the wider Río Bec zone remain to be documented.

In sum, Structure II was built during the late aspect of the Bejuco ceramic phase overlapping with the Makan complex, ca. A.D. 700–720/740. The rear range of the building collapsed and it was abandoned either while still under construction, or almost immediately

following its completion. Structure II was refurbished and occupied as a familial residence in the distinctive pattern characteristic of Río Bec zonal settlement (Michelet et al. 2013; Nondédéo et al. 2013) early in the Terminal Classic Xcocom phase, ca. A.D. 860/880 or later, at the same time that Structures III, VI, XX, and others at Chicanná were renovated or constructed. Based on on-floor de facto and enveloping primary refuse deposits, it continued in habitational use until at least A.D. 1000 or later.

Notes

1. I-5024, cache charcoal: 1280 ± 95 B.P. = cal A.D. 657–778 ($p = .72$) and cal A.D. 790–828 ($p = .17$) and cal A.D. 838–865 ($p = .11$); I-5025, lintel sliver: cal A.D. $1265 \pm 95 = 665$ –779 ($p = .65$) and cal A.D. 789–833 ($p = .20$) and cal A.D. 836–868 ($p = .15$). Both calibrated at 1σ with the program CALIB 7.0.2 (Stuiver and Reimer 1993, 2014).
2. Both calibrated at 1σ with the program CALIB 7.0.2 (Stuiver and Reimer 1993, 2014). Structure III-sub was built over again (Structure III) in early Xcocom (ca. A.D. 850 or later) in the first episode of a lengthy history of enlargement and expansion not terminating until the very late eleventh or early twelfth century (Carrasco 1989).

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