Detail of the *Itzcuintepec Papers*

The so-called Papers of Itzcuintepec (or Itzcuintlan), also known as *Códice de Tulantzinco,* are located at the British Museum, Department of Ethnography, London, catalogued as “Egerton Ms. 2896” and “Egerton Ms. 2897.” The documents are drawn on amatl paper. Egerton Ms. 2896 consists of three sheets, measuring c. 47–48 cm × 38–40 cm; each consists of two joined leaves. These three sheets fit together to make one long strip which was at one time stored as a roll, as indicated by the water damages.

Egerton Ms. 2896 is an historical and cartographical record showing a tribal migration with calendrical dates, place signs and the genealogy of the founding couple of an ancient, mythical place. The cover reproduces the introductory section of Egerton Ms. 2896: The early settlement with surrounding walls (above) is encircled by several place signs, and flanked on the right side by some calendrical dates ([13 acatl [Reed], 1 tecpatl [Flint], 13 calli [House] and 1 tochtli [Rabbit]). Within the walled area there are pictograms and name glyphs of six persons; in the centre two rulers (?) are engaged in a conference in the year 9 tecpatl (Flint), accompanied by a black-painted male with scrolls or flames before his face and the year sign 1 tochtli (Rabbit). This part of the document probably refers to the early inhabitants and dates of the place; the persons represent the divine and mythical ancestors and the calendrical dates refer to important events in this early history. The following part (below) describes the beginning of a migration led by Lord Tonatiuh (Sun). He and his group meet Lord 4 Cuauhtli (Eagle) who is accompanied by a couple both with the calendrical name 4 Calli (House).

For an analysis of the place names of the Itzcuintepec papers, see the article of Uta Berger in this issue.

Text: Uta Berger
Photograph: courtesy of the British Museum, London. © The British Museum

**News and Notes**

**Spain probes ex-Guatemala leaders**

NEW YORK (AP). At the end of March, Spain’s National Court began investigating allegations of torture, state terror and genocide against eight Guatemalans, including a former dictator who now leads the Senate. The investigation is based on allegations by Guatemalan Nobel Peace Prize winner Rigoberta Menchú of human rights abuses, some against Spanish citizens in the 1980s. Menchú went to the Spanish court after being impressed by its efforts to try to bring former Chilean dictator General Augusto Pinochet to trial on abuses during his 1973–1990 dictatorship. London released Pinochet earlier in March after 16 months under house arrest while considering his extradition to Spain. Menchú’s complaint names Senate leader Efrain Rios Montt, a general who seized power in a March 1982 coup and governed until he was overthrown in August 1983. The complaint also names former dictators Lucas García, Oscar Humberto Mejía Victores, and five senior police officials.

Menchú included the Guatemalan army assault on the Spanish Embassy in Guatemala in which 37 people died, including Menchú’s father and several Spanish nationals. The army assaulted the embassy after Maya occupied it to protest poor living and working conditions. The case also covers the murder of four Spanish priests and some of Menchú’s other relatives, including her mother.

**A lost Maya mural painting from Izamal, Yucatan, Mexico**

GRAZ (K. H. Mayer). In the Photothèque of the Musée de L’Homme in Paris, there is preserved a large collection of over 500 negatives of photographs by the French explorer

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McDonald, James H.: The neoliberal project and governmentalit in rural Mexico: Emergent farmer organization in the Michoacán highlands, pp. 274–284; Brown, Denise Fay: Mayas and tourists in the Maya world, pp. 295–304

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