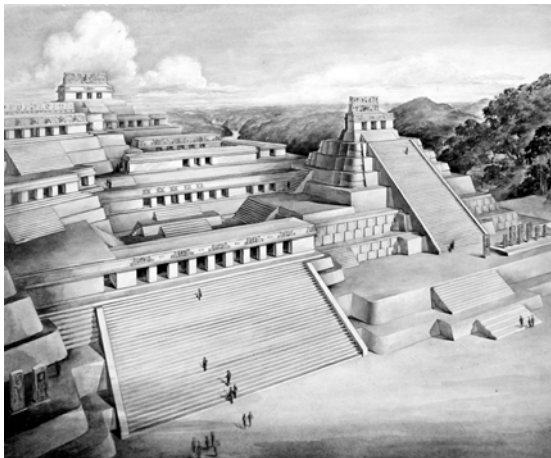


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Tatiana Proskouriakoff
at Piedras Negras, 1937
Gift of Ian Graham, 1993
PM 993-25-20/74021
Courtesy of the Peabody Museum
of Archaeology & Ethnology,
Harvard University

Illustration of West Group, restoration of Acropolis from South

Gift of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1958

PM 58-34-20/56362

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The brilliant architect Tatiana Proskouriakoff (1909–1985) painted this memorable watercolor reconstruction of Piedras Negras, a Maya site in northeastern Guatemala, as it might have appeared in Classic Maya times. It is one of many she admirably produced while accompanying expeditions to sites all over Mesoamerica for her book, *An Album of Maya Architecture* (1946). The history of the Peabody Museum is deeply interwoven with that of Maya research and hieroglyphic decipherment. While at the Peabody Museum in the 1960s, Proskouriakoff studied the texts from Piedras Negras. She daringly proposed that dates in the inscriptions corresponded to key events in the lives of historical individuals, not to astronomical phenomena, as was widely thought at the time. One of her foremost accomplishments was a breakthrough that established the historical nature of the inscriptions, and paved the way for future decipherments. In 1998, colleagues interred her ashes among these buildings at Piedras Negras, overlooking the beautiful Usumacinta River.

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