William Henry Holmes – Monte Alban (Oaxaca), Mexico, 1895

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Lesse alban

Lesser Alban

Mound unusual
much dry
dense stones. [gradule ? granule ?]
& [coarse ?]

N or S. 20 ft long
other bits of [? ?]

much fuller
Straw houses
Chiles
meal[?] of sl[?]
Lesser Alban

[[drawn image, may be mounds[[map, floor plan ]] numbers associated include 200, 600, 600, 300]]

[[drawn arrow, N10E]]

[[Saddle bulo 200
fit a gr
porter clubs
Shapeless ruin]]

[[hill]]
alban [[image]]
W 05-S
W 20N
N 50W
lesser alban
N 15-E [[Alemeda City?]]
bearing from East [[bowl?]] of lesser alban

William Henry Holmes – Monte Alban (Oaxaca), Mexico, 1895
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Lesser Alban

Side building x dug into excel. cement floor, prob 20 wide on level of court. also some rectangular outlines of stone with bdg. one small, squared stones, small sit about 4 x 6 ft on edge crop out xx side buildings have been at least one story ends prob 2. traces of walls and cement in all holes
Square top to top 100 ft
South End Monte Alban

obsidian flakes            Lesser Alban
[[chaleony ?]] * [[ditto for: flakes]]
Fine ground hulling, item hard bowls found in bedded in cement of mound.

The lower spur contains a very interesting group of remains. The central feature is the mound at the outer edge and the quadrangle to which it belongs. Below on the S.W. is another ridge probably [[probably]] a structure.

Most remarkable is the system of terraces carried up the slope of the mountain from this [[group ?]] ending 100 ft at most above & 400 yards horizontal.

More terraces extend around the side of the Mt. & appear at every available point at various heights & in no regular outline. Although [[?]] for recent culture there is no doubt that they were made & near fully.
destruction, building its temples of material torn from the massive walls of more ancient & interesting temples and the people did not hesitate to make use of the convenient quarries which furnished those already cut & dressed with the utmost accuracy & finish. It is a wonder that any remain The triple temple in the village is now only a means of the paper interior mass of rough adobe stone work, the triple palace on the other bank remains only on account of the massive lintels. The lower palace
Alban. East end main ruin
16 miles from Oaxaca
[[image in corner]] appears to be map of about 5 mounds [[image in corner]] town block

[[elevation of mounds]] 6 miles below Haleloca ca, quadrangle, 300 ft, road, by union, quadrangle, turners [[?]] & past a 3rd [[?]] example.
[[image: pencil sketch of mountain range]]

[[underline]] Lesser Alban [[/underline]] from direction [[flatlined ?]] 10 miles East
[[at left of range]] Highest bdg.
[[at right of range]] Alban
This ruined quadrangle does not demand lengthy description. It is utterly dismantled and consists of one great pyramid on the east [[confines plus another ?]] North & West and the bare trace of a building on the south. There is little doubt that this was one of the great *[[edifices]]* structures of the pueblo, older and greater, [[strikethrough]] that [[/strikethrough]] than those so well preserved today. It with its companion groups in this terrace had the best situation & the one to be first & most fully [[deleged ?]].
Lesser Alban

used by the ancients. bits of worked stone & frags of the ornate pottery occur everywhere.

Even little batches of [[the ?]] soil were terraced and used up the steep west sides where ^[[mainly]] all is stone
Passing some 300 or 400 ft [[rest ?]] up the narrow east end we encounter an extensive series of terraces encircling the top 100 or 200 ft el. They are covered with ancient pottery & though recently cultivated are no doubt ancient
The fact that most pottery occurs at the outer [[pts ?]] & edges is good proof

Disks of limestone rude

[[image: drawing of stone with flat bottom]]
Beyond the last quadrangle is a little rocky ridge say 100 ft cover with blackens mosses & layers of gnarled chrysaline limestone, these come 200 ft leveled down in two main terraces nearly 100 ft wide the upper [[shealy ?]] level with the rectangle & the farther say 8 ft lower. Ground rich side [[shelf ? sheet ?]] & rock pottery, [[veuheh ?]] [[acciently ?]]

Narrow rocky ridge, 50 ft a level & scratched partly with plow 300 ft then rocky [[gravile ?]]ridge rising slowly toward Summit 400 ft
Lesser Alban

Last hill 400 ft above alban saddle
300 ft space on top
mound 70 ft high 78 long
20 wide. [Strike through]] other [Strike through]] other [[?] perhaps &
some [strike through]] [gueseissc ?][strike through]] [quartz like ?]
rocks.
fine field: plenty of pottery
Profile of alban from road south of Oaxaca
Milla excites wonder and pleases the imagination & gratifies the taste. Alban fills the beholder \[?] with astonishment \[strikethrough\] at the magnitude of \[strikethrough\] so far does its remains exceed the expectations of the \[strikethrough\] the work of mens hands \[strikethrough\] possibilities of the native races

The mountain \[strikethrough\] crest a mile long & nearly a \[strikethrough\] is a colossal ruin, for mens hands have made it completely a work of art \[image: five-pointed star\]

\[strikethrough\] now, \[strikethrough\] they have remodeled the broad & upper slope developing a bewildering building \[?\] a magnificent \[strikethrough\] crest. cluster \[strikethrough\] growth \[strikethrough\]

\[strikethrough\] Mass \[strikethrough\]

\[strikethrough\] courts of terraces, pyramids & temples \[strikethrough\] remodeling the upper slopes \[strikethrough\]

\[end of blue-pencil strikeout\]

The mountain is the greatest monument to the enterprise, \[en ?\] as Culture of the race now found on the American Continent
It may give [strike through] little [strike through] idea of the grandeur of the remains to say that these are 25 [[--enths]] of noble dimension accompanied by as many temple enclosed courts but it is only to the actual beholder that the grandeur & effectiveness of the grouping of these upon the mountain crest, supported by multiple terraces and array around terrace enclosed courts that a true & full impression can be apparent.

Of course these grand structures...
are dismantled and covered with fields and forest like the natural forms but the expedition is fully warranted in rehabilitating these forms with the elaboration & finish characteristic of the work of the ancient peoples. New traces of stone work everywhere & cement floor out with around the crests of banners & pennants & there can be little doubt that all were finished in elaborate sheen & [strike through]] color [/[strike through]] plaster & finished in brilliant colors.

Again it is not the dimensions & an grouping alone the work
Monte Alban 4

This ruin is unique. The [strikethrough] parched [strikethrough] mountain is a thousand feet high with rich ribbed [strikethrough] slopes [strikethrough] walls & slopes [insertion] so steep as to be almost inaccessible on all sides. In the dry season it is parched & uninhabitable and its hard to see how a water supply could by secured for [strikethrough] the great [strikethrough] population as great as the [strikethrough] dimensions of the city [insertion] would seem to [insertion] imply.

If it were a palace & sepulcher & it would be a willing [?] & mecca & complex [strikethrough] worship [strikethrough] This difficulty is [strikethrough] for it would be a worthy [?] [strikethrough] &c overcome, but this does not seem a terrible thing, to be sure there are tombs here and there are the pyramids but the funeral of a few individuals, [this?]
however magnificent in area [strikethrough] tastes [strikethrough] Mortuary tastes would not justify the enormous building and terrace making. Beside there is ample evidence of dwelling and the fields enclosed in the courts & built out about the margins [insertion] * of the summit [insertion] are as rich as any on the Oaxaca valley. There are potshards, everywhere and mealing stones, evidences of domestic work are seen in all the lands. Indeed it seems to me that the terracing implies gardening [strikethrough] a work carried on today on [strikethrough] and every available foot of ground level or steep must have been
occupied in those ancient days
Just as it is now by the present peoples

The quadrangle plan is employed throughout, in the smaller & less groups of structures about the margins of the west and spaces & neighboring hills as well as on the great central groupings of terraces & pyramids. An isolated structure is hard to find and never so placed that it may not have had its near associates. All are oriented to toluma a few degrees no & neighboring hills as well as on the great central

The essential idea in a cases is the grouping
Monte Alban 7

of four [[strikethrough]] buil [[strikethrough]]
units about
a court and a pyramidal
pile more or less forward,
forward the base of each, the
ordinary group [[insert]] distinguished from the corn field ground
[[insert]] encloses a
court occupying probably
100 ft in dimensions nearly
always with a structure, now
represented by conical hills [[insert, strike through]] or rectangular
[[insert,strike through]] [[strike through]] of earth & stones [[strike
through]]in the centre taking the place of a centre [[?]] in foundation in a
patio

[[image - sketch map of four structures arranged in a saure with a
smaller central structure]]

The pyramidal bases were
generally oblong very often one
Monte Alban 8
was more prominent than the others and one was [[imppertant?]].
Sometimes two opposite
piles are nearly equal, two being large & two small & rarely three are
alike, as
a rule in slopes the outer pile is the longest the sides being less
important. These appear to have been superstructures
in all [[insertion]] or nearly all [[insertion]] cases traces of walls and
of cement floors; the centre obscured
by low breaks of debris in the rugged [[?]] outcropping around the edges
all that can be said of these buildings is that they were rectangular,
opened onto the
court, were built of stone & possibly of rubble & adobe - all plastered generally one way or [?] are quite unimportant in dimensions as compared with the massive pyramided bases. The latter were rectangular & oblong and were [strike through] often too [strike through] faced with masonry, the walls often sloping a few degrees as with terraces where height demanded & presumably stairways on the inner facade. Often the superstructure stood back leaving a wide floor-terrace overlooking a court. It is difficult to say whether the promenade in lower terraces or in Grand Inner
or coalesced at [[]] or not.
There is [[strike through]] often [[strike through]] always a low
place in the debris [[insert]] at the cross [[insert]] indicating
little in separation or but slight contact.
Some of the lower sides may have been
were walls inclosing the court
or buildings without decided pyramidal bases

I have been speaking of the order in
many isolated quadrangle & clusters
of such groups. I now came
to speak of the Great Compound
groups of the of the Centre of the City.
Monte Alban 11

The main group is a Grand Conception, [[insert]] & a magnificent ruin [[insert]] a perfectly level rectangular space 300 [[strike through]] by 900 [[strike through]] feet N & S. 900 East and West, occupying the Central summit space, [[insert]] sits low in and [[insert]] and inclosed by a rectangle of terraces, buildings [[?]]

and pyramids [[strike through]] a [[?]] [[?]] [[?]] [[strike through]] which extend to the outer range [[?]] of the mountain descending all around by carved terraces down to the steep [[insert]]& rocky [[insert]] slopes. [[Strike through]]Up the Mountain, [[strike through]] Extending along the [[?]] [[?]], the view obstructs spaces, occupying in [[?]] this centerpiece from one [[?]] pyramids at the [[?]] is a clan of flat pyramids, re[[?]] south [[?]] down the great in [[?]] [[?]] from the outer world, Event - now a rich [[?]] -

and along the fine perspective of

[[end page]]
Monte Albán 12
lateral pyramids [?] [Strikeout] North [Strikeout] [?] enclosing the
opposite end rising in a terrace to a group of pyramids which crown it as
one of the most remarkable [Strikeout] and [Strikeout] fascinating and
astounding haneramas [?] I have ever seen.

This idea this accompanying sketch will but inadequately convey for [?]
[Strikeout] this [Strikeout] conception idea of dimension and solitude
[?] [Strikeout] this dark farrowed [Underline] field
[Underline] lever field floor the [Insert] russet [Insert] tree covered
slopes and the dull yellow grass surrounds with nothing else in view but
then rubbed [?] & distant [?] blue with smoke & lit up here others by
this feeble sun [?] be [?]
Monte Alban 13

now can the effect of dimension swan [[?]] [[?]] a passing indian with his loaded donkey far away across [[strikeout]] crossing [[/strikeout]] the field they a trail he trans from[[strikeout]]on his way from west to east [[strikeout]] court [[/strikeout]] side [[insert]] small enclosure [[/insert]] be even suggested like an ant. [[arrow pointing left]] it is a dead city, if not a city of much suspense and in this blue an [[?]] this magnificent valley of Oaxaca 100ft above sight else the eye may behold. There is not a foot of material surface remaining. Far away [[insert]] a little to the north [[/insert]] is Oaxaca set like [[text goes sideways at this point]] a may linterd [[?]] gem in a green barge [[?]] in the trough of a peerless valley. [[text returns to last paragraph]]

The accompanying sketch may will convey a notion of this relation of this ground central court to the whole group and of the south [[?] other groups 7 the Mt Summit.
Alban
The grand court
The great hidden court
Nuordway quadrangle

Milla
1 Upper ruin - church ruin
2 [[strikethrough]] quadrangle [[/strikethrough]] ruin of the columns
3 ruin of the arroyo
4 adobe ruin
5 south side ruin
6 other [[strikethrough]] traces [[/strikethrough]] ruins (traces
7 Fortiped (?) Hill
8 Tombs
6. [The number, perhaps referring to Monte Alban 6] lesser Alban

[[drawing showing layout of chain of mounds with lines drawn to indicate sections of the mounds, a number with each mound and some text as well]]

[[Numbers and text start with first section at top.]]

[[smaller drawing in first section at top of four rectangles shown forming a square.]] Centre II Centre 140 ft.

[[Second section]]
200
rich [[?]]

[[Third section]]
300
hamnse in flower
- dip 45 N-E toward only [[?]]- heavy have course grey

[[Fourth section]]
200
scratched hatches
square of stone on edge
100 ft terrace
5 ft above 18' ridge

[[Fifth section]]
200
ridge

[[Sixth section]]
300

[[Seventh section - 5 oval circles drawn, no words, no numbers]]
FIELD COLUMBIAN MUSEUM
CHICAGO.

Lesser Alban East end

A cement pavement good quality 2 ft below top slopes up at one edge, mass cement like
B Stone masonry
C traces of masonry suggesting steps
Body rubble filling

Drawing showing top down view of elevated mounds with some words and numbers in several places,
District garden about 100 x 100

30 010
100
80
10

Arrow with letter "N" [perhaps indicating where north is]
FIELD COLUMBIAN MUSEUM
CHICAGO.

S65E to lower mound

^[[lower ruin East end other sheet]]

[[Small drawing of mound on page bisected by longitude and latitude line S65E and N65W. Several numbers on center of mound.]]

40
16
19
10
10
100

East end ruin of Lesser Alban
William Henry Holmes – Monte Alban (Oaxaca), Mexico, 1895
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Alban
Alban
William Henry Holmes – Monte Alban (Oaxaca), Mexico, 1895
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[[image - drawing of topography of several hilltops and ridgelines with squares drawn in multiple place]]
^
^[[NE spur]]
^[[outer butte]]
^[[Alban]]
Alban
Oajaca
Tlacolula
Nilla

Wide imp [[?]] 300 N. L8 S
800 E. L8 W
William Henry Holmes – Monte Alban (Oaxaca), Mexico, 1895
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
William Henry Holmes – Monte Alban (Oaxaca), Mexico, 1895
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Alban

[[image - sketch of Oaxaca building and mound complex, with surrounding topography and distance markers]]

Ridge some 800 ft high
William Henry Holmes – Monte Alban (Oaxaca), Mexico, 1895
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Alban
Base of pyramid S. end of great gunard [[?] pestal [[?]]

[[Large drawing of what might be carvings of some type of figure head.]]

[[Second small drawing showing carving on some type of pillar perhaps.]] Come stand [[?]] 5 ft of level base [[?]]

[[Third small drawing]] Base S.E. corner [[?]] 50 ft pyramid

William Henry Holmes – Monte Alban (Oaxaca), Mexico, 1895
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
North Alban
Bancroft
It was late on this day when I crossed the river picking my way through the crowded highway where I was loathe to stop and study the sharply picturesque, their loaded donkeys & their extraordinary ox teams & wayfors [??] rather than to clinch unknown momentum [??] in search of ruins and half a miles for ? an began to ascend the mont's east side of the mountain which suftboned? be alban at the heigh of some 300 feet the first group of wisks? was reached ascending? a narrow terrace interr? the slope.

William Henry Holmes – Monte Alban (Oaxaca), Mexico, 1895
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Alban [[title of this page looks to be at the lower right edge near the word "south" with an arrow pointing in a direction.]]

[[Drawing of group of mounds from bird's eye view showing perhaps terraces to summits of mounds. some notes written from many directions around drawing.]]

[[Numbers in many places around central places, perhaps summits.]]

Dam
Mound of usual size [[strikeout]]not [[strikeout]] broken down in North and East

about 40 wide at base. Traces of broken down walls Hyperote? No part of it 10? higher.

pitted slow? stone mound

wall

Deep cement
90 or 100 long
slopes come together

Roundish square
8 ft high
40 diam

Cement

A-100 square
mid- 25 ft huge with back huge culu? plates flow and wh. hole

40 wide loh? 40 long

Bdg N
5 to 10 E
William Henry Holmes – Monte Alban (Oaxaca), Mexico, 1895
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Rough stone

200 wide
Half way up left side 1st mound in cement

other billes? each? west side mound much deformed by digging

Many large stones
Merkyde? blocks large
size some shallow
sculpture
? large stan?
Interior of great west mound
centre hole [[20?]] ft deep 10 di [[?]] at top 15 below
four galleries E W S N dug out

Reveals stone work and cement deposits in great confusion. A few
daces are such even stone work shows a wall is apparent but whether
they bordered a gallery or only [[levels?]] of work [[&?]] material remains
a question

stone work, adobe lumps & great masses level & slope. broken about
layers of cement are able [[?]] alternating with stone, ending against a
base of stone work in wall

[[image - sketch of wall with opening. Several words around sketch.]]

Adobe walls
Broken stone

south mound of great group
[[Four small drawings. Cannot find title to page.]]

Sculptural stones in S west corner? great square type in stone? 4x _

[[Drawing one and two each show one figure on a stone.]] Head 15 high 1/2 in relief driveslow?

[[circled]] Fig. 4 [[/circled]]

hole same masonry

Sculptures in clay? hole in round

Stoking roof?

Side of archer room
Great terrace
200 wide 600 long
Alban
William Henry Holmes – Monte Alban (Oaxaca), Mexico, 1895
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Alban
South md of Great Group
[image - sketch map of an unidentified mound/structure complex labeled with measurements]

Alban
Alban
FIELD COLUMBIAN MUSEUM
CHICAGO.

William Henry Holmes – Monte Alban (Oaxaca), Mexico, 1895
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Alban
Lesser Alban

middle [?][?] [?][?]

low ridges for walls

[?][?] of wall

N & S.

digging shows rough & squared stones in both & signs of cement
Alban
Alban
Alban

William Henry Holmes – Monte Alban (Oaxaca), Mexico, 1895
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this mound should come over this mount
square
not broad enough

[Image - drawing of a large area, perhaps miles showing mounds arranged in lines some parallel, some perpendicular. Low hills rising behind mounds. Label: too far off]

Alban
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