



# Texas Notes on Precolumbian Art, Writing, and Culture

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## Concordance to and Notes on the *Relaciones de Yucatán, 1579-1580*

by Khristaan D. Villela

The *Relaciones de Yucatán* consist of the answers to fifty questions sent to that province by King Phillip II of Spain in 1577. A subset of the *Relaciones Geográficas* sent to governors throughout the New World, the *Relaciones de Yucatán* describe cities and villages in the modern Mexican states of Tabasco, Yucatán, and Quintana Roo. Since their rediscovery in the late eighteenth century, the *Relaciones de Yucatán* (RY) have proven their worth as critical ethnohistorical documents.

With the exception of the efforts of Carnegie Institution of Washington researchers earlier this century, the *Relaciones de Yucatán* have been virtually ignored. Lack of accurate and obtainable editions of the RY texts clearly contributed to their neglect by students of the ancient and Colonial Yucatec Maya. The RY texts were first published in 1898 and 1900 by the Real Academia de la Histó-

ria in Madrid (Asensio 1898-1900). This edition is now very difficult to locate. Even the 1967 reprint is scarce. Citations in the literature to the RY are also uniformly uninformative. For example, Roys's 1943 *Indian Background of Colonial Yucatán* notes that such and such fact could be found in RY 1:121; that is, page 121 of the 1898 volume of the *Relaciones de Yucatán*. Such citations help little without the original volume or an index thereof. RY 1:121 could be the Relación of Valladolid, Hocaba, Tahdziu, or any of the other 54 documents from the Colonial province of Yucatán.

The Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México recently published a new edition of the *Relaciones de Yucatán* in 2 volumes (Garza et al. 1983). This edition is still readily obtainable in 1994. In this note, I use the recent edition of the RY texts to create a guide to the long out of print 1898-1900 edi-

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tion and to the *Relaciones Geográficas de la Nueva España* in general. Using the concordance presented below, students can easily find which *Relación* Roys's RY 1:121 references and where that text appears in the 1983 edition.

### Previous Investigation of the *Relaciones Geográficas de la Nueva España*

More than twenty years ago Howard Cline, the Library of Congress Latin-Americanist, wrote that the *Relaciones Geográficas* (RGs) had never been systematically exploited and were yet poorly known (Cline 1972:183).<sup>1</sup> This in spite of the fact that they were rediscovered in the 1780s by Juan Bautista Muñoz (Cline 1972:194).<sup>2</sup> Little has appeared in print since Jiménez de la Espada published four volumes of *Relaciones* between 1881 and 1897 (Cline 1972:184; Jiménez de la Espada 1881, 1881-1897). Among the few synthetic treatments of the RGs as a whole are the studies of Amaya (1951), Cline (1964, 1972), Edwards (1969), La Torre (1920), Martínez Carreras (1965), Moreno de Toscano (1969), and Paso y Troncoso (1905-1906). Donald Robertson completed several thorough analyses of the maps included with some RG texts (Robertson 1959a, 1959b, 1972). In fact, publication of the RG texts themselves has been a problem. Many RG texts and accompanying maps remain unpublished. And as Cline repeatedly noted, the published transcriptions are generally both full of paleographic errors and printed in journals or editions so obscure that the original manuscripts are more easily consulted.

### Historical Notes on the *Relaciones Geográficas, 1577 Series*

The group of documents best known as the *Relaciones Geográficas* were the replies to the most successful in a series of questionnaires devised for Spain and the New World between 1575 and 1585 (Cline 1972:188).<sup>3</sup> Drafted by Royal Chronicler and Cosmographer Juan López de Velasco, the first copy of the 1577 series of RGs was signed by King Phillip II on May 25 (Cline 1972:190). A second edition, with slight emendations, appeared in 1584. López de Velasco sent the document, along

with its Royal Cédula and legalistic Instrucción, to the viceroys of New Spain and Peru. These distributed the materials to more minor crown officials, usually to the governor of the county-sized region called a *corregimiento*, or a somewhat similar, but often larger unit called an *alcaldía mayor* (Cline 1972:190).

López de Velasco's 50-item questionnaire solicited basic information from local Colonial officials on all aspects of provincial life, including population, government, history, language, customs, religion, and economics. Aimed at both Spanish and Indian towns, respondents to the questionnaire were also required to submit a map of their territory. Questions 1-10 were meant primarily for Spanish towns; Nos. 11-15 were aimed at villages with Indian populations; Nos. 16-37 were general questions for both communities; and Nos. 38-50 were designed to gather data on ports and other maritime towns (Cline 1972:191). The first responses, from the Caribbean, reached Spain in 1578. The final replies, from South America, did not arrive at the Imperial court until 1586.

As Cline noted (1972:190), the Instrucción and questionnaire have appeared in print several times in Spanish (Jiménez de la Espada 1881-1897 1:cxiv-cxix; Paso y Troncoso 1905-1906 4:2-7; Amaya 1951:23-75). Cline published the first complete English version in 1972. Prior to that, Nuttall (1926) translated questions 1-37; Ida Langman (1955) Nos. 22-26. Cline later (1964) translated those items omitted by Nuttall. This note reproduces Cline's new translation of the *Instrucción* and Clinton Edwards's rendition of the questionnaire.

Following this herculean effort, Imperial officials in Madrid made no use of the RG data (Cline 1972:194). They lay hidden in royal files until the 1780s. After a long series of events, detailed by Cline (1972), the 208 extant RGs from the 1577-1586 were separated into three groups, two in Spain and one in Texas. The Real Academia de la Historia has 45 RG texts with maps, and one additional, unrelated RG map (Cline 1972:200). The collections of Seville's Archivo General de Indias now include 80 RG texts and 22 maps, including the *Relaciones de Yucatán*.

The eminent Mexican historian and bibliophile Joaquín García Icazbalceta, purchased the third

group of RGs in Spain in 1853. They formed volumes 10, 23, 24, and 25 of his manuscript "Collection of Documents for the History of America," started in 1849 and to 1853 largely made up of transcripts or copies of colonial documents (Cline 1972:199). After García's death in 1894, the collection remained in the family until 1937, when the majority was sold to the University of Texas at Austin (Castañeda and Dabbs 1939). All 41 RG texts and 35 maps from the García Collection can be consulted today at the Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas, Austin.

### The Relaciones de Yucatán, 1579-1580

The *Relaciones de Yucatán*, comprising 54 reports and three maps, are now sewn together in an early binding at the Archivo General de Indias in Seville (Cline 1972:225). Unlike RGs from elsewhere in the New World, the Yucatán questionnaires were completed by local *encomenderos*, Spaniards granted the produce and services of various Indian villages. Whereas the institution of the *encomienda* was moribund in parts of New Spain conquered early, Yucatán was not fully reduced to submission until the 1540s (Chamberlain 1948). *Encomenderos* in this territory still held considerable power. In fact, the *encomienda* was not abolished in Yucatán until 1782 (Clendinnen 1987).

Earlier this century, scholars associated with the Carnegie Institution of Washington, especially Ralph L. Roys (1933, 1943, 1957, 1965), Alfred Tozzer (1941), and France V. Scholes (Scholes and Roys 1948), relied heavily on RG data in their reconstructions of Late Precolumbian and Colonial Maya society.<sup>4</sup> These and other students of the Maya were also fascinated by the fact that a Xiu Maya noble, one Gaspar Antonio Chi, completed several RY texts for *encomenderos* (Tozzer 1941; Blom 1928; Genet 1928-1929; Jakeman 1952; Mimenza Castillo 1937; Rubio Mañé 1956).<sup>5</sup> Farriss (1984) and Clendinnen (1987) have been virtually the sole researchers in the last few decades who made extensive use of the *Relaciones de Yucatán*.

### Editions of the Relaciones de Yucatán

As noted above, the principal editions of the *Relaciones de Yucatán* are those published in Madrid in 1898-1900 and in México City in 1983. The Madrid edition includes an early publication of Diego de Landa's *Relación de las Cosas de Yucatán* and also a lengthy *Relación* on Honduras-Higueras, written in 1544 by Cristóbal de Pedraza, Bishop of Honduras. Both editions reprint the actual questionnaire and associated *Cédula* and *Instrucción*. The 1983 edition includes a photostatic "facsimile" of the original documents.

Various other RY texts have been published singly, or in groups, generally in obscure journals or long out of print monographs. The *Relación de Valladolid* has appeared in various forms, in Spanish and English (Marimón 1884; Tozzer 1941; Cline 1967; Mimenza Castillo 1937). Tozzer (1941) published a translation of the *Relación de Yucatán*; and Jakeman (1954) a version of the *Relación de Motul*. Barrera Vásquez (1938) reprinted ten RY texts from Asensio (1898-1900) and Latorre (1920) included six in his 1920 work. These are listed below.

Finally, microfilm versions of the RG texts found in the Archivo General de Indias were given to the Library of Congress by the Carnegie Institution of Washington (Cline 1972:197). These include all the RY texts and maps.

### Modern Names of RG Towns: Yucatán<sup>6</sup>

RY Document	Modern Name
Cacalchen	Cacalchen
Cinanche	Sinanche
Canzacabo	Cansahcab
Chancenote	Chan Cenote
Chubulna	Chuburna de Hidalgo
Quiquil	Kikil
Quitilcum	Citilcum
Quizil	unlocated
Guayma	Uayma
Hocaba	Hocaba
Izamal	Izamal

Mama	Mama	Chunchuchu	Chunkuku
Mérida	Mérida	Ixmúl	Ichmúl
Motul	Motul de F. Carrillo P.	Zama	Tulum
Moxopipe	Muxupip	<b>Contents of Barrera Vásquez 1938</b>	
Nabalon	Nabalam	RY Document	Pages
Oscuzcas	Oxkutzcab	Campocolche	249-260
Pijoy	Pixoy	Chunchuchu	205-212
Popola	Popola	Izamal	187-193
Tahzib	Tahdziu	Mérida	163-186
Teabo	Teabo	Moxopipe	195-203
Tecal	Tekal	Nabalon	261-268
Tecanto	de Venegas	Tezemi	278-289
Tecon	Tekanto	Tiquibalon	241-247
Temul	Tekom	Valladolid	213-240
Tenum	Panaba	Zotuta	269-275
Tequite	Tinum	<b>Contents of Latorre 1920</b>	
Tetzal	Tekit	RY Document	Pages
Tezemi	unlocated	Chancenote	69-79
Tezoco	Tizimin	Hocaba	65-68
Tiquibalon	Tescoco	Popola	90-95
Tishotzuco	unlocated	Zismopo	88-89
Valladolid	Chikindzonot	Zusopo	80-87
Xoquen	Valladolid	Zuzal	58-64
Yalcon	Xocen	<b>Concordance to the Relaciones de Yucatán: Editions of 1898-1900 and 1983</b>	
Yucatán	Yalcon	<b>Volume I</b>	
Zamahil	Samahil	1898 Edition	1983 Edition
Zan	Dzan	Pages	Town
Zical	part of	1:37-75	Mérida
Zismopo	Valladolid	1:78-88	Motul
Zizontum	Dzitnup	1:88-93	Hocaba
Zonot	Dzidzantun	1:93-103	Sotuta and Tibolon
Zotuta	Tizimin		
Zozil	Sotuta		
Zusopo	unlocated		
Zuzal	Sucopo		
	Sudzal		

**Modern Names of RG Towns: Quintana****Roo<sup>7</sup>**

RY Document	Modern place	1898 Edition	1983 Edition
Cacalac	Sacalaca	Pages	Pages
Campocolche	Kampokolche	1:37-75	Mérida
		1:78-88	Motul
		1:88-93	Hocaba
		1:93-103	Sotuta and Tibolon
			1:43-84
			1:255-274
			1:127-135
			1:137-150

1:103-115	Tequite	1:275-291
1:115-126	Tecanto	1:205-219
and Tepacan		
1:126-136	Cacalchen, Yaxa,	1:323-342
and Cihunchen		
1:137-141	Sinanche,	1:117-125
and Egum		
1:142-153	Chunchuchu	1:151-167
and Taby		
1:153-159	Zan,	1:245-254
Panabachen, and Muna		
1:159-174	Mama	1:99-116
1:174-185	Tecal	1:431-445
1:185-190	Tahzib	1:383-391
1:190-198	Canzacabo	1:85-97
1:199-209	Cicontum	1:403-416
1:209-220	Quizil	1:187-203
and Sitipeche		
1:220-231	Quitelcam	1:169-185
and Cabiche		
1:231-240	Oscuzcas	1:343-357
1:240-251	Zuzal	1:417-430
and Chalante		
1:251-265	Quinacama	1:365-382
or Moxopipe		
1:265-275	Isamal	1:293-308
and Santa María		
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and Calamud		
1:277-283	Choburna, Unacama,	1:393-402
Tizcoco, Nolo, Mozocha,		
and Tabucoz		
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and diligencia		
Tabasco		
1:318-341	Provincia de Tabasco	2:353-383
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la Victoria		
1:385-434	Honduras and Higueras, 1544 (Only in 1898 Edition)	

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and Samiol		
2:50-60	Nabalón, Tahcabo	2:173-190
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and Chechemila		
2:77-84	Guayma	2:161-172
and Cantarique		
2:85-87	Quiquil	2:261-268
2:88-92	Tescoco, Tecay	2:251-259
and Cosil		
2:93-97	Tishotzuc	2:191-199
y Chikincenote		
2:98-109	Sucopo	2:105-120
2:110-118	Ixumul	2:285-299
and Tecuche		
2:119-126	Temul	2:93-104
2:127-129	Cismopo	2:53-60
2:130-134	Tenum and Temozón	2:151-159
2:135-138	Xoquen	2:221-226
2:139-141	Pixoy	2:47-52
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and Tancuy		
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and Ecabo		
2:176-195	Kampokolche	2:301-329
and Chochola		
2:196-200	Zama	2:141-149
2:201-203	Cicab	2:201-206
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and Tetzimin		

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3. Hocaba	88-93
4. Sotuta and Tibolon	93-103
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## The Royal Cédula, Instructions, and Questionnaire of 1577<sup>8</sup>

### Cédula

The King:

Know ye, our Governor of...

Those of our Council of the Indies having at various times discussed the procedure that should be established in order that within it can be certain and detailed information about the things of the said Indies, so that the Council can attend to their good government, it has seemed a proper thing to decree that a general description be made of the whole condition of our Indies, islands, and their provinces, the most accurate and certain possible.

In order that you properly aid in forming such description, you will comply with the instructions that have been drawn up for it, in printed form.

They are herewith being sent to you. Because it is our will that such descriptions be made specifically in each province, we command you to make a description of that city in which you reside and of the places within its jurisdiction as soon as you receive this, our Cédula.

You shall send to each of the governors, *corregidores*, and *alcaldes mayores* of the districts within your jurisdiction the number of the said Instructions which you deem necessary for them to distribute among the towns of Spaniards and of Indians within the scope of their *gobernación*, *corregimiento*, or *alcaldía mayor*. You shall despatch them under command that as promptly as possible they shall comply and do what they are ordered to do by the said Instructions.

You shall collect the reports which may be made in each place. You shall send them, together with

those you yourself have prepared, as promptly as possible to our Council of Indies, for review. It will advise us if there are faults in them, and for what cause, and make appropriate recommendations.

Signed,

San Lorenzo el Real, 25 May 1577

I, The King

By Command of His Majesty, Antonio de Eraso.

## INSTRUCTION AND MEMORANDUM FOR PREPARING THE REPORTS WHICH ARE TO BE MADE FOR THE DESCRIPTION OF THE INDIES THAT HIS MAJESTY COMMANDS TO BE MADE FOR THEIR GOOD GOVERNMENT AND ENNOBLEMENT

Firstly, the Governors, Corregidores, or Alcaldes Mayores to whom the Viceroys, Audiencias, or other governmental or administrative officials may send the printed Instruction and Memorandum are, before everything, to make a list and statement of the town inhabited by Spaniards and by Indians within their jurisdictions, on which only the names of these towns are to appear, written clearly and legibly. This list is to be sent immediately to the officials of government, so that they may return it to His Majesty and the Council of the Indies, together with the reports prepared in each town.

They shall distribute this printed Instruction and Memorandum throughout their jurisdiction to all towns of Spaniards and Indians, sending them to the municipal councils of towns in which there are Spaniards, or, if these are lacking, to the parish priests or monks charged with religious instruction. They shall directly order the councils or recommend from His Majesty to the ecclesiastics, that within a short time they satisfactorily respond to the queries, as specified. The reports they make, together with this Instruction, are to be sent to the above official of government who ordered them. The latter shall redistribute the Instructions and Memoranda to other towns, to which none have been sent previously.

In the towns and cities where the Governors, Corregidores, or other administrative officials reside they are to write the reports themselves. Or they may encharge them to intelligent persons with knowledge of matters of the area, requiring them to follow the specifications of the Memorandum.

Persons in the towns to whom responsibility for each of them is given for preparing the particular report shall respond to the chapters of the Memorandum, in the following order and form:

Firstly, on a separate paper, as a cover sheet for their report, they are to write the date—day, month, year—with the name of the person or persons who were found to prepare it. Also the name of the Governor or other person who sent them the Instruction shall appear.

After carefully reading each paragraph of the Memorandum, they are to write down separately what they have to say, answering each one of the questions it contains, one after the other. Those questions to which they have nothing to answer are to be omitted without comment, passing on to the following ones, until all are read. The answers are to be short and clear. That which is certain shall be stated as such, and that which is not shall be declared doubtful, in such a way that the reports shall be valid, and in conformance with the following queries:

### MEMORANDUM OF THE ITEMS TO WHICH RESPONSES SHALL BE MADE, AND WHAT THE REPORTS ARE TO CONTAIN [1577]

1. Firstly: For each Spanish town, state the name of the district or province in which it is situated, what this name means in the language of the Indians, and why it is so called.

2. Who was the discoverer and conqueror of this province; by whose command was it discovered and conquered; in what year was it discovered and conquered; as far as can readily be determined.

3. Describe generally the climate and quality of the province or district: whether it is very cold or hot, humid or arid; with much or scanty rainfall and when it is greater or lesser; how violently and from which directions the wind blows, and at what times of the year.

4. State whether the land is level or rough, open or wooded; with many or few rivers or springs; abundant or lacking in water; fertile or lacking in pasture; abundant or lacking in fruits, and in means of sustenance.

5. State whether there are many or few Indians; whether there have been more or fewer in former times, and any reasons for this that may be known; whether or not they are presently settled in regular and permanent towns; the degree and quality of their intelligence, inclinations, and way of life; and whether there are different languages throughout the province or some general language that they all speak.

6. Give the latitude, or the altitude of the pole star, at each Spanish town, if it has been observed and determined, or if there is anyone who knows how to observe it; or, state on which days of the year the sun does not cast a shadow exactly at noon.

7. Note the distance in leagues and the direction of each Spanish city or town from the city where the audiencia in whose district it falls is established, or from the town where the governor to whom it is subject resides.

8. Likewise, note the distance in leagues and the direction of each Spanish city or town from the others with which they have boundaries, and whether the leagues are long or short, through level or hilly land, and whether over straight or winding roads, easy or difficult of travel.

9. Give the present or former name and surname for each city or town. Why was it called thus, if known; who assigned the name; who was its founder; by whose order did he settle it; in what year was it founded; with how many residents was the settlement begun, and how many does it have at present?

10. Describe the site upon which each town is established: whether it is on a height, or low-lying, or on a plain. Make a plan in color of the streets, plazas, and other significant features such as monasteries, as well as can be sketched easily on paper, indicating which part of the town faces south or north.

[Variant 1584]

10. Describe the site upon which each town is established: whether it is upon a height, or low-lying,



ing, or on a plain. Make a plan of each [remainder omitted].

11. For Indian towns, state only how far they are from the town in whose corregimiento or jurisdiction they fall, and from that which is their center for doctrine [following is added in handwriting to many copies of the 1577 version, but is not found in the 1584 version], listing by name all of the centers for doctrine that lie in this jurisdiction, and all of their subject towns.

12. Likewise, state how far they are from other Indian or Spanish towns that lie around them, noting in each case their direction from them, and whether the leagues are long or short, through level or hilly land, and whether on straight or winding roads, easy or difficult of travel.

13. What does the name of this Indian town mean in the language of the Indians; why is it so called, if known; and what is the name of the language spoken by the Indians of this town?

14. To whom were they subject when they were heathens; what power did their rulers have over them; what did they pay in tribute; what forms of worship, rites [omitted in 1584], and good or evil customs did they have?

15. Describe how they were governed; with whom they fought wars, and their manner of fighting; their former and present manner of dressing; their former and present means of subsistence; and whether they were more or less healthy than at present, giving any insight you may have as to the cause.

16. For each Spanish and Indian town, describe the site on which it is settled: whether it is in the mountains, in a valley, or in open level land; give the name of the mountain or valley, and district; and for each, state what the name means in the local language [final phrase concerning local language omitted in 1584].

17. Also state whether it is in a healthy or unhealthy situation; if unhealthy, for what reason (if it is known); the illnesses that commonly occur, and the remedies that they commonly use for them.

18. State how far or near and in what direction each lies from some nearby prominent mountain or range, giving its name.

19. Note any major river or rivers that flow nearby, with their distance and direction; the magnitude of their flow; and anything notable that

might be determined about their sources, water, plantings and other developments along their banks; and whether there are or could be irrigated lands of value.

20. Note any lakes, lagoons, or significant springs within the town lands, and anything remarkable about them.

21. Note any volcanoes, caves, and all other notable and remarkable aspects of the natural scene worthy of being known that occur in the district [Here and elsewhere were minor orthographical changes in 1584, "cuevas" for "grutas," for instance].

22. Note the common wild trees of the district, with their fruits, the use made of them and their wood, and for what purposes they are or could be beneficial.

23. Note the cultivated trees and fruit orchards native to the region; and those that have been brought from Spain and elsewhere, and whether or not they bear well in that land.

24. Note the grains and seed plants, and other garden vegetables and greens that serve or have served as sustenance for the natives.

25. Note also those that have been brought from Spain; if the land yields wheat, barley, wine, and olive oil; the quantities harvested; if there is silk or cochineal in the region, and in what quantities.

26. Note the herbs or aromatic plants with which the Indians cure themselves, and their medicinal or poisonous qualities.

27. Note the wild and domestic animals and birds native to the region; and those that have been brought from Spain, and how well they breed and multiply in that land.

28. Note any gold or silver mines and other sources of metals, or black mineral or other dyes, that occur in the district and in the town land.

29. Note any quarries of precious stone, jasper, marble, and others of significance and value that may occur.

30. Note whether there are sources of salt in the town or nearby, or whence they procure their salt and all other things they may lack for sustenance or clothing.

31. Describe the form and construction of the houses, and the building materials that occur in the towns, or elsewhere whence they may be brought.

32. Describe the towns' fortifications, posts, and any strong and impregnable places that occur within their bounds and district.

33. Describe the dealings, trade, and profits by which they live and sustain themselves, Spaniards as well as the native Indians; the items involved; and with what they pay their tribute.

34. Note the diocese of the archbishopric, bishopric, or abbey in which each town lies; the district to which it is assigned; how many leagues and in which direction it lies from the town where the cathedral and center for doctrine of the district are located; whether the leagues are long or short, along straight or winding roads, and through level or hilly land.

35. Note the cathedral and parish church or churches that there may be in each town, with the number of endowed church offices and allotments for clergymen's salaries for each; whether they have a chapel or significant endowment, and if so, whose it is and who founded it.

36. Note any monasteries or convents of each Order that the town may have; by whom and when they were founded; any remarkable items they may contain; and the number of religious.

37. Note also any hospitals, schools, and charitable institutions in the towns, and by whom and when they were founded.

38. If the towns are on the seacoast, describe in the report, in addition to the foregoing, the nature of the sea in their vicinity: whether it is calm or stormy, the nature of the storms and other dangers, and in which seasons they are more or less frequent.

39. Note whether the coast has a beach or is lined by cliffs; and the prominent reefs and other dangers to navigation that occur along it.

40. How great are the tides and tidal ranges; on which days and at which hours do they occur; and at which seasons are they greater or lesser.

41. Note any prominent capes, points, bights, and bays that occur in the district, with their names and sizes, as well as can be stated accurately.

42. Note the ports and landings that occur on the coast, making a plan of each in color, as can be drawn on a sheet of paper, by which their form and shape can be seen.

43. Note the size and capacity, with their approximate width and length in leagues and paces, as well as can be determined; and note how many ships they will accommodate.

44. Note their depths in fathoms; whether the bottom is clean; any shallows and shoals, indicating their locations; and whether they are free of shipworm and other disadvantages.

45. Note the directions faced by their entrances and exits, and the winds with which one must enter and depart.

46. Note their accommodations or lack of them in the way of firewood, water, and provisions, and other favorable or unfavorable considerations for entering and remaining.

47. Note the names of the islands along the coast; why they are so called; their form and shape in color, if possible; their length, width, and area; the soil, pastures, trees, and resources they may have; the birds and animals; and the significant rivers and springs.

48. Note generally the locations of abandoned Spanish towns; when they were settled and abandoned; and anything known about the reasons for abandonment.

49. Include anything else notable about the natural scene, and any effects worth knowing of the soil, air, and sky of whatever region.

50. Once the report is completed, the persons who have composed it will sign it and without delay will send it, with this Instruction, to the person from whom they received the Instruction.

## Notes

1. I owe much of the following background data to Cline's excellent article in volume 12 of the *Handbook of Middle American Indians* (Cline 1972).

2. Muñoz went on to found Seville's Archivo General de Indias in 1785 (Cline 1972:197).

3. Cline noted that earlier unsuccessful versions included more than 50 items (1570 -- 200 questions; 1573 -- 135 questions) (Cline 1972:190).

4. See also Jakeman's (1945) reconstruction of Maya society.

5. As Cline noted, the interested reader should consult Tozzer 1941:44-46, Note 219, for information on Chi, who was also Landa's principal in-

formant. He was the sole author of a General Yucatán RG and was primarily responsible for the RGs of Quitelcum (Citilcum), Quizil (unlocated), Mérida, Moxopipe (Muxupip), Teabo, Tecal (Tekal de Venegas), Tecanto (Tekanto), Zan (Dzan), Zuzal (Sudzal).

6. After Cline 1972:Table 29.

7. After Cline 1972:Table 27.

8. After Cline 1972:233-237. Cline's translation of the Cédula and Instructions, Clinton R. Edwards's translation and notes on the Questionnaire.

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