

The *Mapa de Huilotepec*

By R. H. BARLOW
University of California
Berkeley

AS PLATE II we reproduce a Zapotec Indian codex first published by Frederick Starr at the beginning of the present century. He included this as No. 3 of a series of broadsides "intended for Portfolio or framing . . . suitable for Library or Museum . . . [or as] instructive wall-decorations for High Schools and for Eighth Grades."¹

This *Mapa* originates in Huilotepec, a pueblo of the State of Oaxaca, located on the R. Tehuantepec. It is situated in *tierra caliente*, palms and parrots abounding. It belonged in pre-Conquest days to an area never overrun by the Triple Alliance of the highland, doubtless being subject then—as in the 1580s—to Tehuantepec.² The ancient *Mapa* reproduced here probably exists yet in the pueblo.

A "Mr. Werner" was apparently the first investigator to see this *Mapa*, but his photograph of it was unsuccessful.³ In January, 1896, Dr. and Mrs. Seler saw it.⁴ Though not allowed (?) to photograph it, he made a drawing from memory which he used in explaining the costume of the god Xipe.⁵ Five years later, Starr visited the town expressly to photograph the *Mapa*, which he managed to do, though the local authorities indicated that it "plainly was not to their taste." He described it as "painted on a piece of coarse cotton cloth, of native weaving, in three colors—blue, red and black,"⁶ and gives its measurement as "about five feet by twenty-one inches." He calls the colors "faded"⁷ though Mrs. Seler says "im besten Stile gemalt und sehr gut erhalten."

The present reproduction is printed from Starr's plate, engraved many years ago for his fugitive edition. This plate has been made

¹ *Description of the series of Mexican Literary Curiosities issued by Frederick Starr*. Leaflet, n.d.

² "Descripción de Tehuantepec," *Rev. Mex. de Estudios Históricos*, T. II, Apéndice, 167.

³ Starr, *In Indian Mexico*, 330-331.

⁴ *Gesammelte Abhandlungen*, III, 193; *Auf Alten Wegen*, 1925, p. 76.

⁵ *Gesammelte Abhandlungen*, II, 466.

⁶ Starr, *loc. cit.*

⁷ Starr, *Description*.

available to us through the generosity of the Bancroft Library, Berkeley, California.

Because of the excessive reduction of the *Mapa* from the size of the original, this edition can do little more than call attention to it as a source for Zapotec history. Though it resembles the lienzo of neighboring Guevea, it is by no means a copy, but an independent document containing genealogico-topographical information.

The *Mapa* is post-Conquest, to judge by its style. It is divided into sections by straight lines, through which a river meanders to a body of water at the bottom—the Pacific, probably. At the top and right is a compartment in which are four seated figures with their names written in European script above them. Since the lower two of these figures wear native headdress and the upper two European, they are to be read upward. Beneath them is a hill (*tepetl*) with a *tigre* (*tecuaní*) on top—Tecuantepec. A European-style church is adjacent to this glyph.

This series of rulers, faced by eleven seated figures, and with the glyph of Tehuantepec, may be compared with a similar scene in the Lienzo de Santiago Guevea, which Seler has studied.⁸ He identifies them as the caciques of Tehuantepec and their vassals. In the Guevea Ms. there is but one figure, the top one, with European headgear, and the legend "Don Juan Cortes"; that is, Cocijo-Pij. The Huilotepec picture shows two, that is, it ends a generation later. The lower of the two figures in European headgear in the Huilotepec has, as we should expect, the name "... Cortes" above it, barely distinguishable in the present reproduction. The word "cociyo..." is legible in the names of the two figures in native dress, below that of D. Juan Cortés.

Below this section containing the glyph of Tehuantepec appear what seem to be three narrow plots of land, and their owners.

Another wide section follows, this being divided by the river, from which a path branches off here. Four seated figures with their names (and one dubious hieroglyph) written above them, and a place-glyph "tani quexopa" appear to the left of the river and road. To the right of the river are three place-glyphs, two large and one small, and three written names with no glyphs. One of the large glyphs is a bird on a hill, with the legend "tani quepito [?]" and a building adjacent. This ought to represent Huilotepec, the Hill of the Dove.

⁸ "Das Dorfbuch von Santiago Guevea," *Gesammelte Abhandlungen*, III, 157-193.

The other glyph shows a bird and a lake, with an illegible name. The small glyph also bears an illegible name.

In the bottom section of the *Mapa*, river and path end in a body of water. To the left of the path are two place-glyphs, each with a name lettered in. Between the path and the river are two seated figures with their names, and to the right of the river two more place-glyphs with names, one of these glyphs being superimposed on the river.

The language of the inscriptions is presumably Zapotec: it must be remarked, however, that the meanings of the Zapotec names for Tehuantepec and Huilotepec (*Guixegui: Monte de Fuego*, and *Guievisho: Piedra de Avispa*) would seem to demand other glyph-forms than those given.