

Letter from Thomas Phips(?) to Sir James McGrigor re deposit in the museum at Chatham of an idol from British Honduras

Publication/Creation

1841

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Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

the idol niño perdido

1834
112

A Dⁿ Manuel Vargas was measuring the Hacienda of St. Germain by order of the Government and being on the N. E. of said Estate got to the top of a very high Hill in which it was supposed to find a land mark called by the ancients El niño perdido. on the summit of this high mountain which is seen from the Gulf of Mexico he found a small Hill as if made on purpose: desirous of finding a place to correspond to the exact limits of the Estate on that side he ordered the people that were with him to dig in the very top after clearing the wood and brush which ^{to see if they could find any sign of a land mark of stone and mortar} was very thick, and to their surprise they found after digging a little, the figure or idol which is about little more than a vara high. This circumstance happened on the latter days of December 1834 about Christmas, exactly about the day called in the calendar el niño perdido. Dⁿ Carlos Meany got the idol brought down to the Capital of the Estate and it was observed that the generality of

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The Indians living in that neighborhood were
much displeas'd of the measure saying it was
not w^{ill} that would speak and would bring
some evils by its resentment.

M. Gerónimo in Vera Paz 1st of Jan^y

1835.

Don't it all any

The Idol
Niño Preciosa

Found among
Dr. Williamson's papers
N. A.
Apr. 27: 1860

12166

112

RAN 638

Belize

28th July 1840

Sir

I take the liberty of enclosing a brief
History of the Image which I forwarded to you
some months past. I was ignorant of its
importance at the period. I now avail myself
of Capt Loder's departure for England to send
you under his charge a small Indian Jug
found in the Forest bordering the Rio Grande.

I beg you will inform me whether such things are
thought worthy of a place in your Museum at
Chatham if they are I will endeavour to obtain
a larger collection. The brains of the
tribes of Indians could be easily obtained if

I had time to leave this Garrison for a few
months, however if an opportunity offers it
shall not be lost

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your Obedt Servant

W. M. M.

Sir James Mc Coyne Bart.

Museum
Report relative
to a Stone
Tool. sent
from Honduras
for "Museum"

Recd? 24 Oct 1840