



# Monuments of Yaxchilan: Lintel 16<sup>1</sup>

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Context: Lintel 16 once spanned the central doorway of the entrance leading to the central room of Structure 21. It was removed to the British Museum by Carlos Gorgonio and Dionicio López under the direction of Alfred P. Maudslay in 1883 (Graham and von Euw 1977:41; Tate 1992:197). Structure 21 is related to the early years of Yaxuun Bahlam IV, in this case a pre-accession capture of an important *sajal* official possibly from the court of Santa Elena, Tabasco (Martin and Grube 2008:132).

Dimensions: MW 0.75 m, HSc 0.60 m, WSc 0.70 m, MTh 0.06 m (sawn), Rel 0.7 cm (Graham and von Euw 1977:41).

Chak ... Took', a *sajal* official subordinate to Pay Lakam Chaak, a lord probably from the court of Santa Elena (*aj wak'ab*), was captured on the day 6 Kaban 5 Pop (9.16.0.13.17, 11 February AD 752). This military achievement occurred almost two months before the accession of Yaxuun Bahlam IV, who is here depicted in military attire holding a spear and a flexible shield in his hands. The captive is sitting below with an anxious gesture, wearing a conical headdress and strips of cloth replacing his ear jewelry as symbols of humiliation. This capture is confirmed by a repetition on Step III from Hieroglyphic Stairway 4 (D3–D5) of Structure 41.

A1 – F5: (A1) 6-“KABAN” (B1) 5-[K'AN]JAL-wa (A2) chu-ka (B2) CHAK-ZV3-TOOK' (A3) AJ-wa-k'a[bi] (B3) u-sa[ja]-la (C1) pa-ya (D1) LAKAM-CHAHK (E1) wa-k'a-be?-AJAW (F1) ye-he-TE' (F2) 3-WINIKHAAB-AJAW (F3) ya-YAXUUN-BAHLAM-ma (F4) AJ-WINIK-BAAK (F5) K'UH-[PA']CHAN-na-AJAW

*wak kaban ho' k'anjalaw chu[h]ka[j] chak ... took' ajwak'aab usajal pay lakam chahk wak'ab ajaw yehte' ux winikhaab ajaw yaxuun bahlam ajwinik baak k'uh[ul] pa'chan ajaw*

“(On the day) 6 Kaban the 5<sup>th</sup> of Pop (11 February AD 752), Chak ... Took' was captured, he of Wak'aab (Santa Elena?). (He is) the *sajal* of Pay Lakam Chahk, lord of Wak'ab (Santa Elena?). It is the achievement of Yaxuun Bahlam IV, lord of three katuns, he of twenty captives, divine lord of Pa'chan.”

<sup>1</sup> See also Zender 2007.

### References

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Yaxchilan Lintel 16. Photograph by Jorge Pérez de Lara. High-resolution version available: [www.mesoweb.com/monuments/Yaxchilan](http://www.mesoweb.com/monuments/Yaxchilan)