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ENRIQUE JUAN PALACIOS (1881-1953)

Juan Palacios, a native of the state of Puebla, Mexico, received his A.B. from the University of Puebla. From adolescence he had shown a lively interest in the past, pre-columbian and colonial, of his country, and in 1908 he published the first account of the famous friary of San Francisco Acatepec, near Cholula. Nine years later, Puebla, su territorio y sus habitantes, a work of nearly 750 pages, appeared. In 1919 his account of the ruins of Tuxtepec, Oaxaca, saw the light, and in 1921 his La piedra del calendario appeared. In 1925, after some years of teaching, he joined the staff of the Dirección de Arqueología, later a part of the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia. He wrote extensively on the archaeology of the Maya area and of Veracruz and adjacent Puebla, his two main interests. In 1926, he and Miguel Mendizabal discovered the important Maya city of Santa Elena Poco Uinic, in Chiapas (En ols confines de la selva lacandona, Mexico, 1928). He was intensely interested in the Maya hieroglyphic writing (El calendario y los jeroglíficos cronográficos mayas. Mexico, 1933), and to him we owe the identification of the head for the number two (Mas gemas del arte maya en Palenque. Mexico, 1935). Many of the most important reliefs at Tajin were first published in La ciudad arqueológica del Tajín. Sus revelaciones, written in collaboration with Dr. Enrique Meyer (Mexico, 1932). He was also the first to publish on the ruins of Yohualinchan, Veracruz, although Miss Adela Breton had prepared a manuscript on the subject which was in the Saville library.

His publication, in 1951, of a Spanish version in blank verse of Vergil's Fourth eclogue and his great knowledge of Mexican majolica attest to the wide interests typical of a man of culture whose formative years fell in the pre-revolutionary period when much of the world, including Mexico, was spared our present mania for narrow specialization. His many friends in Mexico and in U.S.A. mourn his death.

—J. Eric S. Thompson