Maya Calendars and Writing: 4
Tortuguero Monument 6 and 2012

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October 2012
Background

- Start date of the Maya long count:
  - 11 (or 13) August 3114 BC
  - 13.0.0.0.0 in inscriptions regarding the creation event
  - Treat as 0.0.0.0.0 if doing arithmetic with the long count
- Next 13.0.0.0.0 is 21 (or 23) December 2012
- Is next Baktun ending 1.0.0.0.0 or 14.0.0.0.0?
  - i.e., Does the Baktun count go to 13 or roll over after 19, like the Katun and Tun.
How did the nonsense start?

• Impact of well-intentioned epigraphers:
  – Linda Schele
  – George Stuart “Mysterious” Maya
  – David Stuart “prediction” regarding 2012
  – Error in first drawing of the monument

• Uncertainty due to damage to the monument

• Human and American penchant for catastrophism
Tortuguero Monument 6

• Has a specific reference to the 13.0.0.0.0 Baktun ending on 4 Ahau 3 Kankin, as opposed to the 4 Ahau 8 Kumku creation date

• 3 panels, left one missing, both remaining ones damaged, small right panel is the one of particular interest

• Main panel has a regular sort of content about the king (Kinich Kan Bahlam), etc.

• See Mark van Stone, 2012, for drawings and photographs of the panels
Right hand panel

- 4 columns by 5 rows
- Damaged on the right hand side, so some key glyphs are largely missing
- Parts in 3 different collections
- Look at composite photograph
- Distance number 3.8.3.9.2
- Leads to 13.0.0.0.0
- “It ends, the 13th Baktun, 4 Ahau 3 Kankin”
- See Mark van Stone for drawings and photographs of the panel
End of the text

• U to ma “it will happen”
• Damaged glyph:
  – originally translated as “black” or “blackness”
  – Now thought to be i, a focus marker or i li “see”
• “Descend (or appear)” or Adorn
• Bolon Yok’te: A god who appeared at the creation event
• Ta ... “at ...” or “in”
• Compare with composite photograph
Left hand panel

• 4 columns by 5 rows, so 20 glyph blocks
• Has not been found (to our knowledge)
• What is its content (conjecture):
  – ISIG - occupying 4 blocks?
  – Tzolkin date – 1 block
  – Lunar series – 5 or 6 blocks
  – HAAB date – 1 block
  – Verb
  – Subject ..
  – Distance number?
Other relevant inscriptions

- Discovery at Xultun this year, with reference to 13\textsuperscript{th} Katun ending
- Coba Stela 1: 20 13s
- Yaxchilan Hieroglyphic stairway 2, step 7: 8 13s
- Palenque: References in some of Pakal’s inscriptions to dates in the future and distant past
Background material

• David Stuart’s blog: http://wordpress.com
• Article by Barbara Macleod and Sven Gronemeyer: Wayeb Notes #34
• David Stuart: The End of Days
• Anthony Aveni: The End of Time
• Mark van Stone: 2012: Science and Prophecy of the Ancient Maya
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Long count</th>
<th>Tzolkin</th>
<th>Haab</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E4, E5</td>
<td>9 8 19 9 16</td>
<td>8 Sip</td>
<td>4 Kankin</td>
<td>birth date of Bahlam Ahau</td>
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<tr>
<td>E9</td>
<td>9 10 11 10 13</td>
<td>1 Ok</td>
<td>3 Kumku</td>
<td>accession date of Bahlam Ahau</td>
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<tr>
<td>F11, E12</td>
<td>9 10 11 9 6</td>
<td>13 Cimi</td>
<td>14 Sek</td>
<td>Star war</td>
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<tr>
<td>F13, E14</td>
<td>9 10 12 3 10</td>
<td>10 Ok</td>
<td>18 Kayab</td>
<td>Chopping event</td>
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<tr>
<td>F15, E16</td>
<td>9 10 16 13 6</td>
<td>8 Cimi</td>
<td>9 Mol</td>
<td>Chopping event</td>
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<tr>
<td>G2</td>
<td>9 10 17 2 14</td>
<td>13 Ix</td>
<td>17 Muwan</td>
<td>destruction of flint and shield</td>
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<tr>
<td>G3, H3</td>
<td>9 10 11 3 10</td>
<td>1 Ok</td>
<td>3 Kumku</td>
<td>accession date of Bahlam Ahau</td>
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<tr>
<td>H12, G13</td>
<td>9 10 15 1 11</td>
<td>11 Chuwen</td>
<td>4 Muwan</td>
<td>alliance</td>
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<td>H14, H15</td>
<td>9 10 15 0 0</td>
<td>6 Ahau</td>
<td>13 Mak</td>
<td>Hotun</td>
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<tr>
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<td>9 10 15 1 11</td>
<td>11 Chuwen</td>
<td>4 Muwan</td>
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<tr>
<td>I3-I4</td>
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<td>13 Ix</td>
<td>17 Muwan</td>
<td>destruction of flint and shield</td>
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<td>I6, I7</td>
<td>9 11 16 8 18</td>
<td>9 Etznab</td>
<td>6 Kayab</td>
<td>Burning ceremony</td>
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<td>6 Kayab</td>
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<td>9 Etznab</td>
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<td>6 Kayab</td>
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<tr>
<td>N1, M2</td>
<td>9 3 16 1 11</td>
<td>8 Chuwen</td>
<td>9 Mac</td>
<td>sweatbath placing</td>
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<td>13 0 0 0 0</td>
<td>4 Ahau</td>
<td>3 Kankin</td>
<td>Baktun ending</td>
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Reference to a much later date


• This is an excellent example of a translation of a Maya inscription, with hieroglyphs, transliteration, and English translation