

THE DRESDEN CODEX

THE Dresden Codex was first found, in the hands of a private owner in Vienna, in 1739, by Johann Christian Götze, Director of the Royal Library at Dresden. It was given, as being a mere curiosity, "ununderstandable and hence valueless," by the owner to Götze, who in turn gave it to the Royal Library in 1744.

In 1810 five pages from it were published by von Humboldt in his "Atlas Pittoresque." In 1826 it was copied, traced, by the Italian Agostino Aglio, working for Lord Kingsborough, and was then published by the latter in the third volume of his "Mexican Antiquities." From the early date of Aglio's work, his painstaking care, and the fact that he traced the original, thus preserving lines obscured in the necessary reworking of the colors in a gelatine photographic reproduction such as the Förstemann issue, Aglio's uncolored work is still of value in occasional doubtful places. In the particular case of the red and black dot and bar numerals, Aglio used dotted outlines for the red; in at least one case (namely the important date on page 51), the retoucher in the later editions allowed a black dot to superimpose on the correct red one, causing much waste of writing and printer's ink over the "error"—which existed only in the Förstemann edition, but not in the original. The colors in the Kingsborough edition, however, are entirely useless, and wrong.

It was not until the time of Brasseur de Bourbourg, the real founder of Maya research, that "Maya" became distinguished, and the Dresden Codex known for what it is. The Paris Codex, photographed and issued in a very limited number of copies by Duruy, Minister of Public Instruction under Napoleon III, was still titled as "Manuscrit dit Mexicain," in 1864. In 1853, however, Brasseur had compared the Dresden and Paris Codices, and the Palenque inscriptions, in his "Revue archéologique," and our Maya study began.

In 1865 Brasseur discovered the Troano part of the Madrid, and it was given an elaborate publication as the "Codex Troano," by the Imperial government in 1869-70, part of the series of works on the Commission Scientifique du Mexique. In 1875 Léon de Rosny, inheriting his bent from his father, came into the field, and became the real founder of the Société Américaine de France. His contributions in print, both as to Oriental and American writings and languages, were both many and good.

In 1880 the second part of the Madrid Codex was discovered in Spain, bought by the government, named the "Cortés," and a few photographs made for private distribution by the Director of the Museum, Don Juan de Dios de la Rada y Delgado. From these de Rosny recognized that the Troano and Cortés were but parts of one codex, probably cut in two by a former owner to give half to a