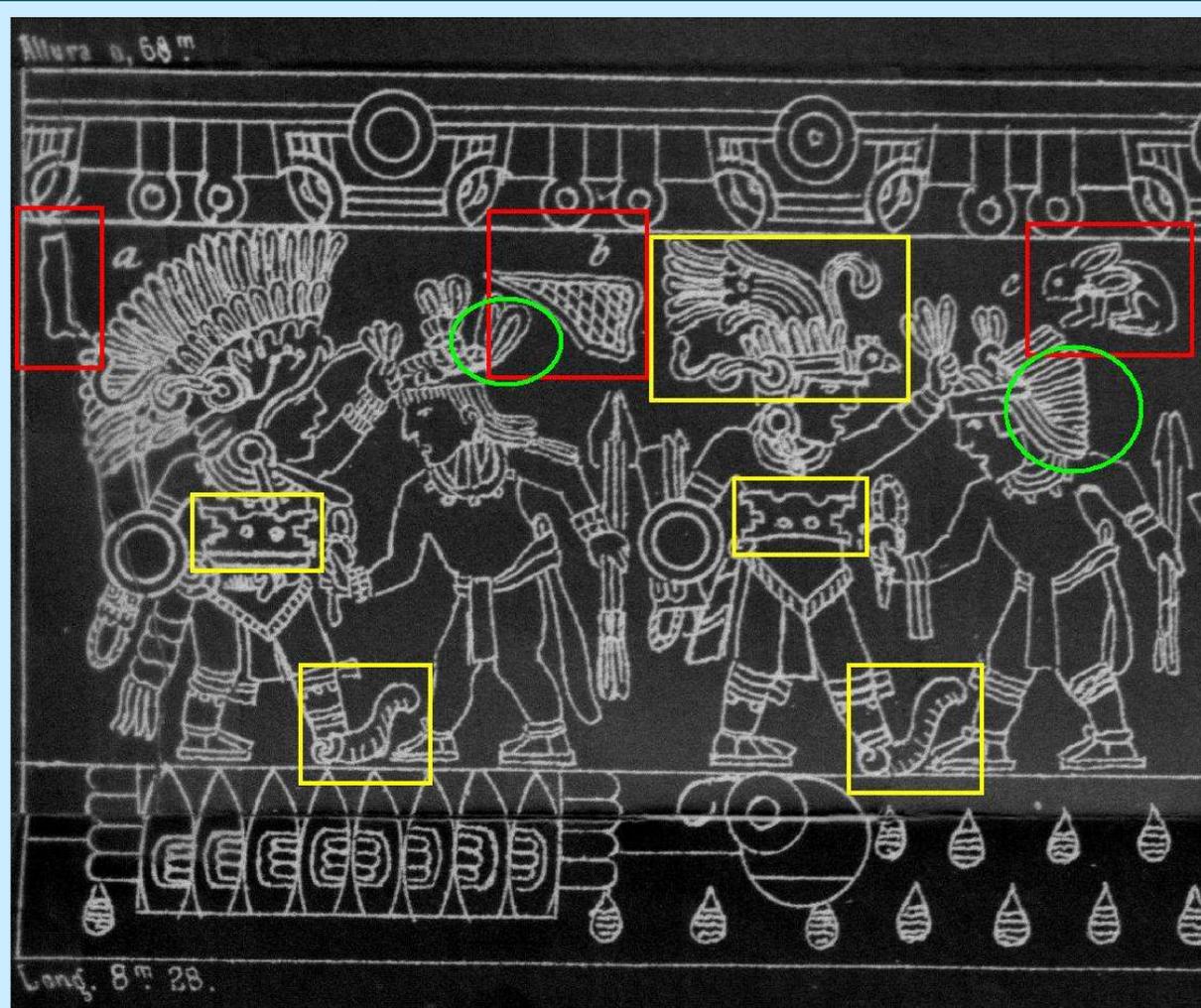
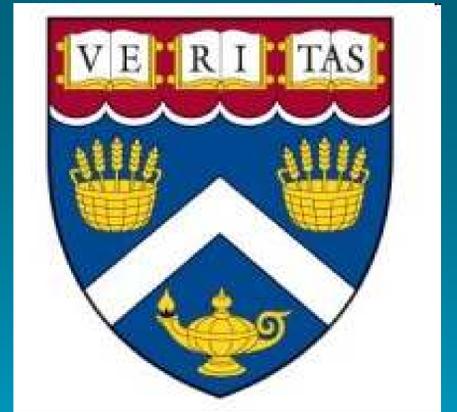


# Hewn Words: Deciphering the Tizoc Stone

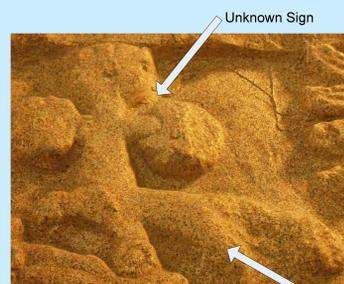
Willem VanEssendelft  
 Master of Liberal Arts in Anthropology and Archaeology, Candidate.  
 Dr. Marc Zender, Advisor  
 Harvard Extension School



3.5 feet high  
 10 feet diameter  
 9.5 Tons

The Tizoc Stone  
 Discovered 1790  
 Mexico City

Yellow = Deity Impersonation and mythical markings  
 Green = Locale Differentiators  
 Red = Glyphic Data



Syllabic A  
 Derived from Nahuatl  
 word for 'water.'



Glyph Block 4



Glyph Block 13

Above are two glyphs which are undeciphered and name an unidentified location. Several possibilities have been proposed by scholars (Nicholson, Wicke).

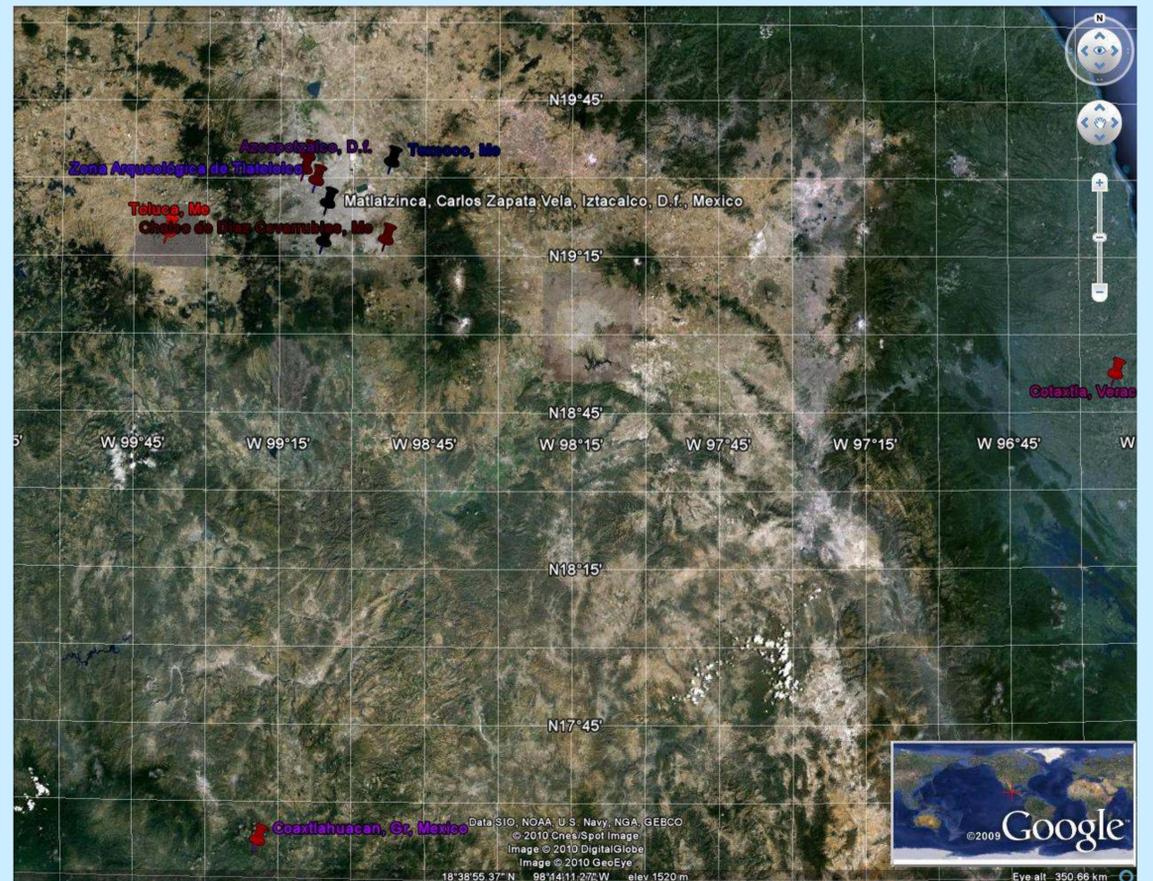
By deciphering the glyphs we will be able to more fully map the conquests shown on the Stone. We will also be able to accurately correlate the locations to other codices and records to reconstruct the military and political conquests of the Aztecs prior to Spanish contact.

The Aztec represented locations with glyphic (writing) systems and deity iconography. There is a direct relationship between gods and physical locations. This is exemplified by the common Aztec practice of removing local deity effigies when they conquered a new area.

The Tizoc stone details 15 conquests by the Aztec ruler Tizoc (ruled 1481 – 1486) and his predecessors. As such, it is a geographic listing which utilizes religious iconography and probable writing to delineate name places.

The predominant work with place name identification has rested on iconographic interpretation of deities associated with locations or known polity symbols.

This project seeks to analyze the glyphs to determine if they have syllabic content. Can we read them like Maya or Japanese? It utilizes a newly proposed syllabary by Alfonso Lacadena.



Above, partial listing of probable locations shown on the Tizoc Stone.