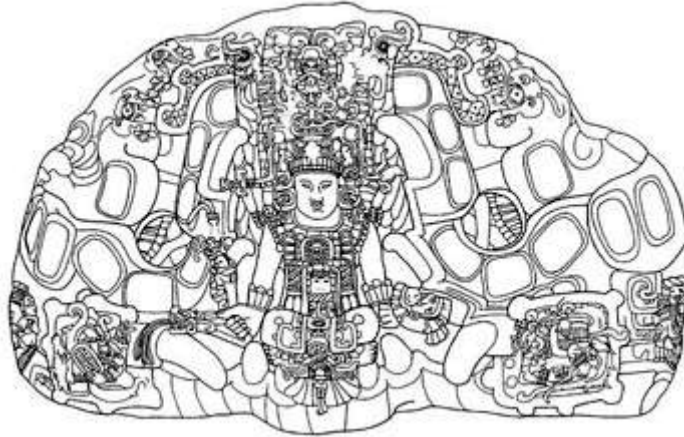


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Documentation of Sculptures at Quiriguá, Guatemala



Research Year: 1996

Culture: Maya

Chronology: Classic

Location: Izabal, Guatemala

Site: Quiriguá

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Introduction

The ancient Maya site of Quiriguá, Izabal, Guatemala is renowned for its large monumental sculptures. Most of these sculptures were executed over a sixty-year period between A.D. 746 and 805. The final seven sculptures of this series, dated between A.D. 785 and 805, are considered to be masterworks of ancient Maya

sculpture and represent the complete monumental commissions of the last two known Classic period kings of Quiriguá, Sky-Xul and Jade-Sky (Kelley, 1962). These seven large, elaborately carved sculptures range in format from flat altars to zoomorphic thrones to stelae. They served the kings of Quiriguá as both centerpoints for religious festivals and loci for the promulgation of political propaganda through presentation of royal imagery and extensive hieroglyphic texts. As such, the sculptures are not only significant as works of art, but are also important iconographic sources and are essential for historical and political reconstructions.

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Description of Project

This project was concerned with the documentation of these seven monuments. Together with the drawings of Quiriguá monuments executed previously by Andrea Stone (1983) and those created in the context of my doctoral dissertation (Looper, 1995), the new drawings complete a modern corpus of drawings of Quiriguá monumental sculptures. Monuments included in this study are Zoomorphs G, O, and P; Altars O' and P'; and Stelae I and K.

Previous Studies

Several of the monuments included in this project have been drawn previously, but never as a complete corpus. Alfred Maudslay's (1889-1902) artist produced drawings of some of these sculptures and their texts; however, their accuracy and style are inadequate. More recently, William Coe (Jones, 1983) produced drawings of Altars O' and P', but these drawings, too, are inaccurate. To date, only Andrea Stone's drawings of the figural portions of Zoomorphs G and O and the east face of Stela I are suitable for iconographic research. The current project provides, accurate, easily reproducible and available drawings of these sculptures, suitable for both epigraphic and iconographic research.

Methodology

The procedure for drawing these monuments followed that which I employed for my dissertation (Looper, 1995). Photographs were traced to provide the basic lines of the sculptures, with modifications based on examination of the original monuments. Earlier photographs from various expeditions to Quiriguá were used to verify important details

in now eroded monuments. Important as well are the several collections of plaster casts made by previous archaeological projects at Quiriguá. Now located at the Peabody Museum of Harvard University and at the British Museum, these casts preserve details not otherwise documented, and were checked to verify the accuracy of drawings.

The drawing methodology used in this project seeks to display iconographic and hieroglyphic information as legibly as possible. Thus, figures are drawn separately from hieroglyphic texts, and stelae with wrap-around compositions (i.e., Stela K) are drawn as rollouts. For in-the-round sculptures (Zoomorphs G, O, and P) drawings were made from multiple viewpoints as well as details. Original drawings were scanned into a computer using a Hewlett Packard ScanJet 3p, converted into bitmaps (Corel Draw 5.0), and corrected accordingly. The conversion of drawings into the computerized format enhances reproduction quality, facilitates future modification, and aids in publication and distribution.

Fieldwork

The project was undertaken between September 1, 1995 and May 30, 1996 in Antigua, Guatemala and Quiriguá. Beginning in September, preliminary drawings of the monuments were made. A permit for work at the site of Quiriguá was obtained from the Instituto de Antropología e Historia of Guatemala on 18 October 1995. Work at the site commenced shortly thereafter and continued until March 1996, when the field season was officially concluded. A total of twelve expeditions to the site were undertaken, four of which were accompanied by the photographer. Work at the site involved examination and photography of monuments and checking of details of the drawings. Execution of final drawings and all computer work was undertaken in Antigua, and completed by May 1996.

In November 1995, trips were made to the British Museum in London and the Peabody Museum in Boston, in order to check casts of the relevant monuments.

Results

This project resulted in the execution of 30 drawings. These are included in the present report. An additional loose set of drawings was submitted to FAMSI. A complete set of my drawings of Quiriguá monuments will be submitted to CIRMA, in Antigua, Guatemala. Many of these drawings have previously appeared in the 1996 Workbook for the XXth Maya Hieroglyphic Forum (Schele and Looper, 1996), and are at present being incorporated into the Maya Hieroglyphic Database Project, edited by Martha Macri.

Conclusions

This project has resulted in the completion of a new complete corpus of drawings of the monuments of Quiriguá. This corpus should further studies of Quiriguá, the Maya Southeast, and the field of ancient Maya art and archaeology, in general.

Acknowledgements

I wish to acknowledge the generous support of this project by the Instituto de Antropología e Historia of Guatemala, as well as by the board of directors of FAMSI. I am also grateful for the support of this project offered by Federico Fahsen, David Freidel, Nikolai Grube, Linda Schele, and Robert Sharer. Many thanks also to my photographer, Thomas Tolles.

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Monument Drawings

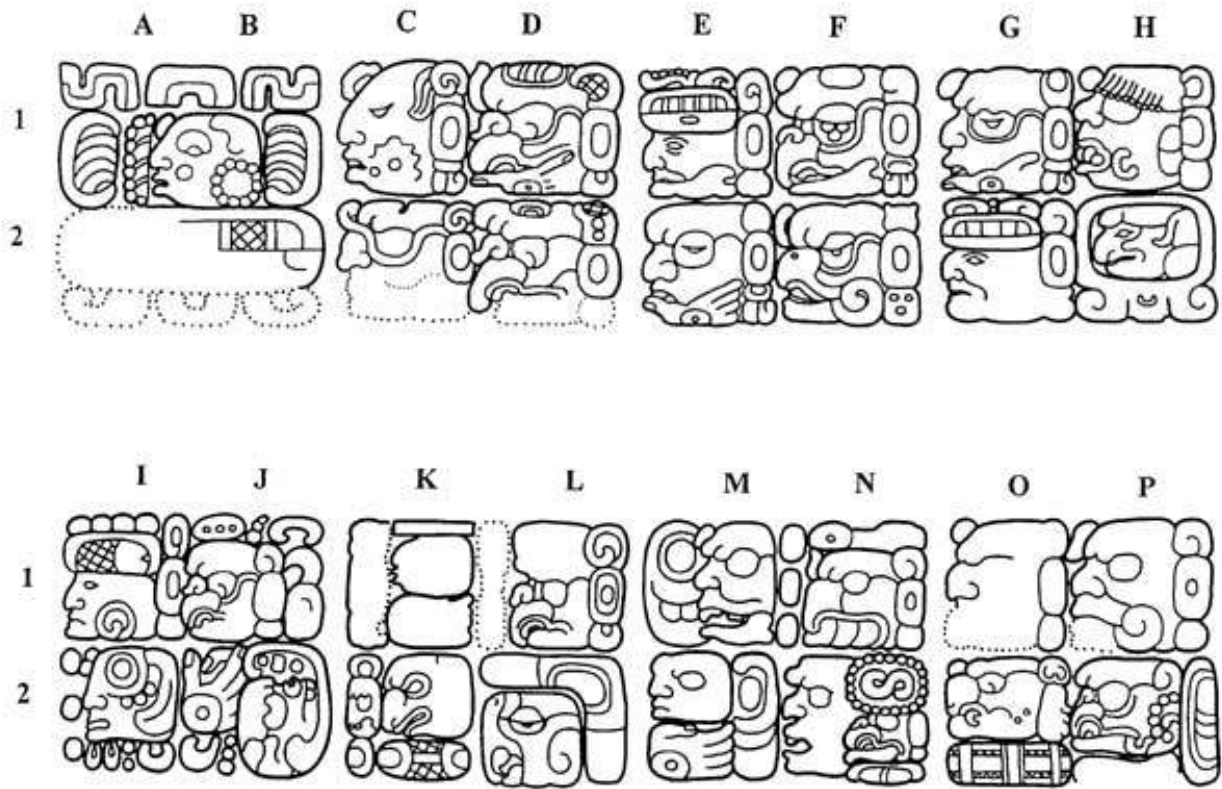


Figure 1. Zoomorph G east, A-P.

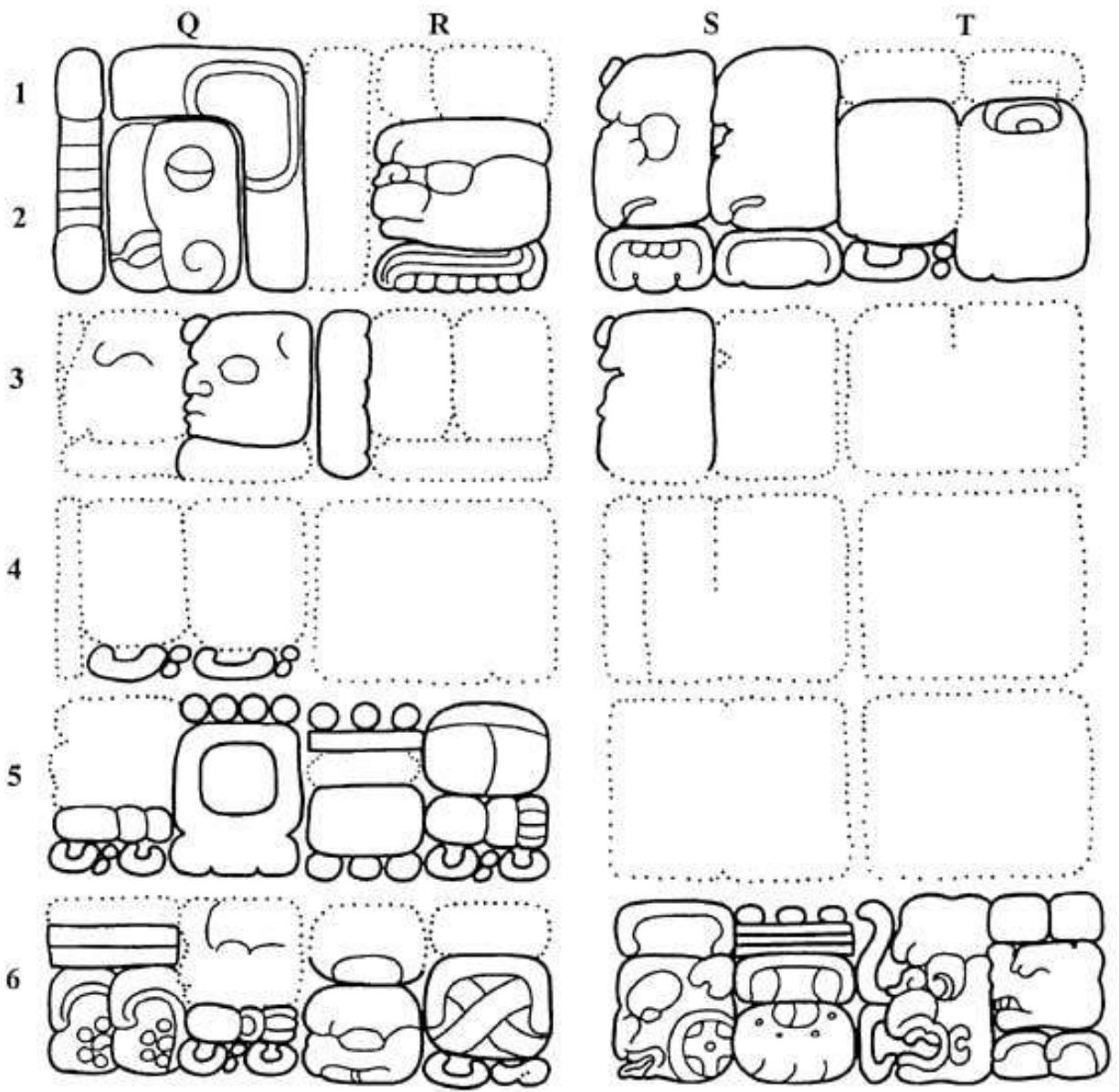


Figure 2. Zoomorph G east, Q-T.

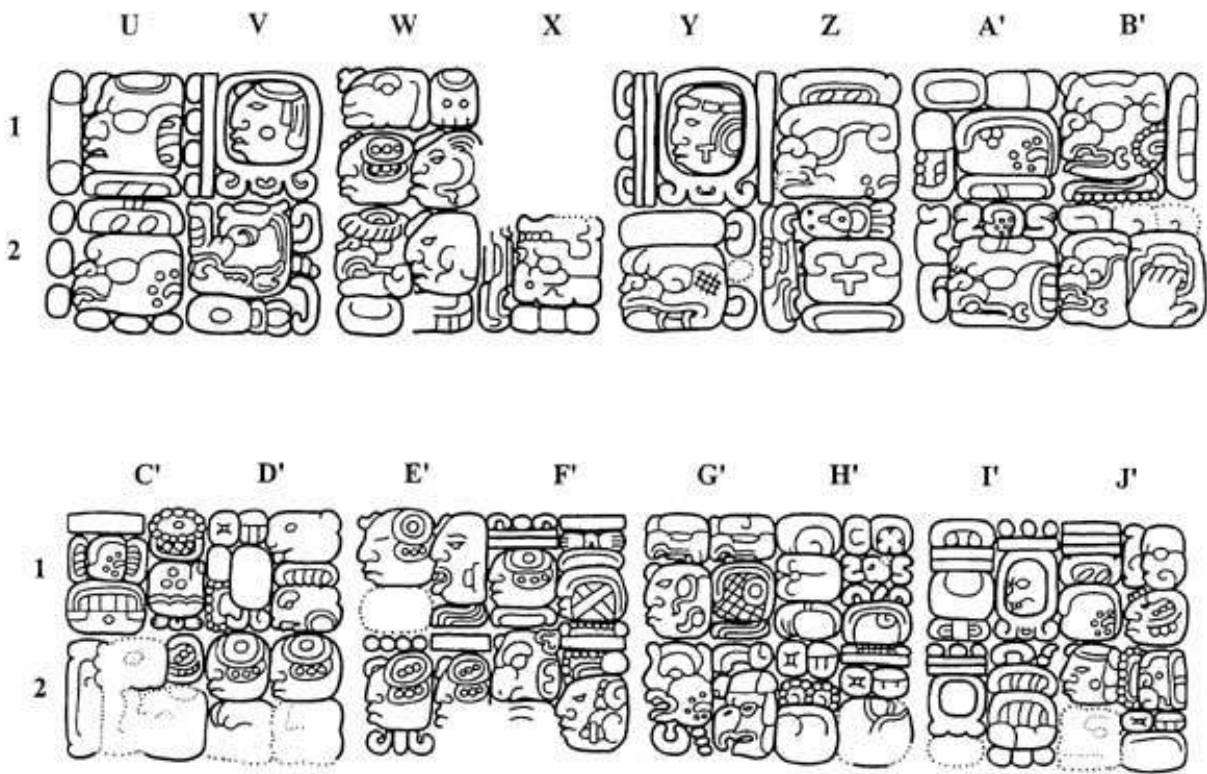


Figure 3. Zoomorph G west, U-J'.

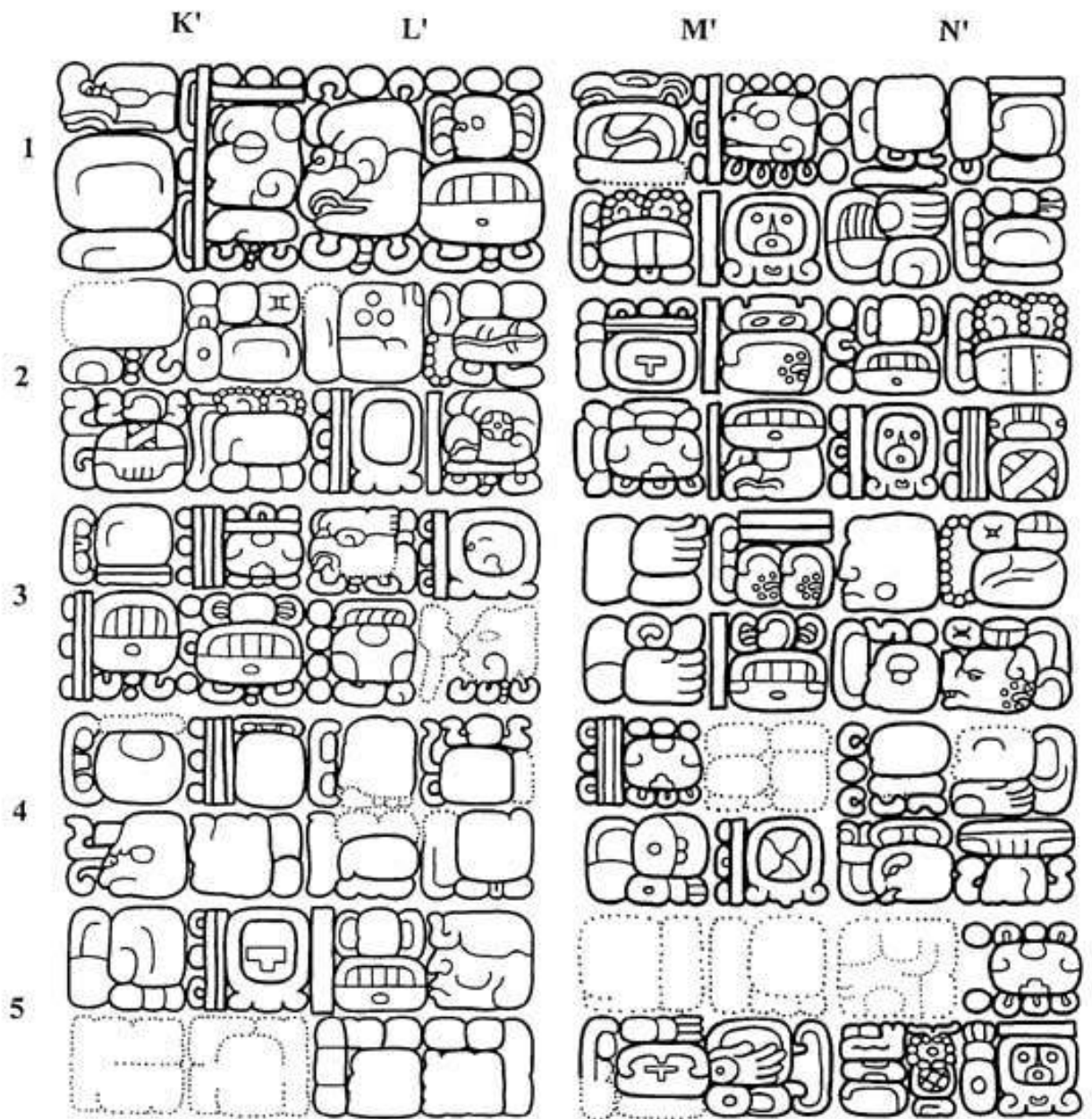


Figure 4. Zoomorph G west, K'-N'.

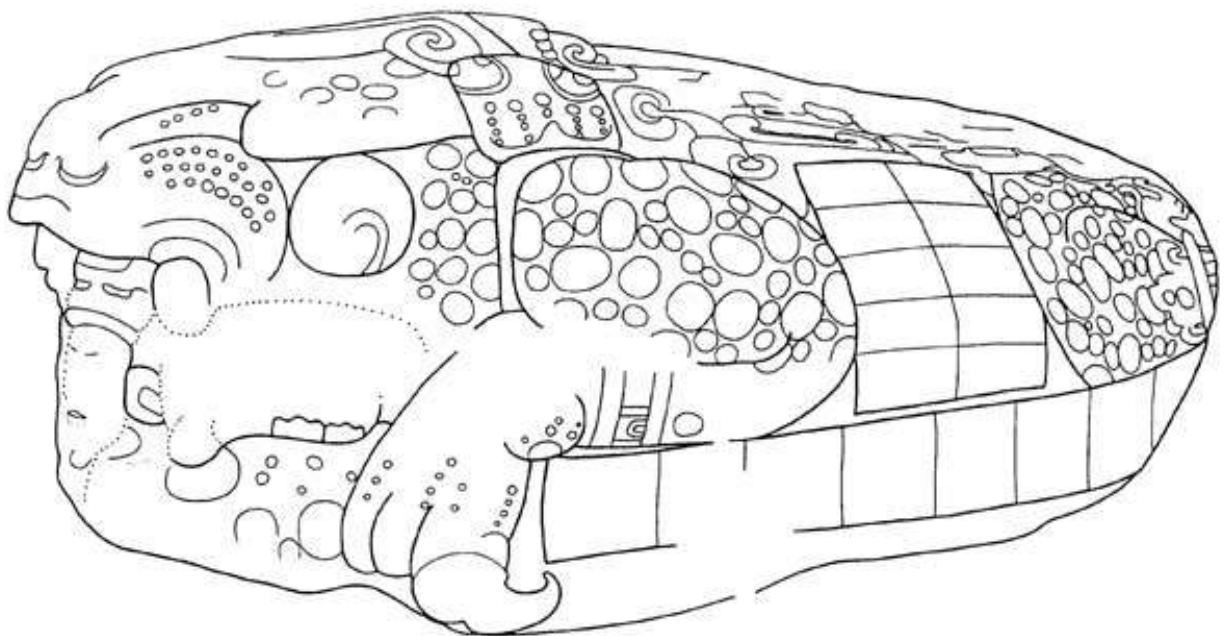


Figure 5. Zoomorph G west.

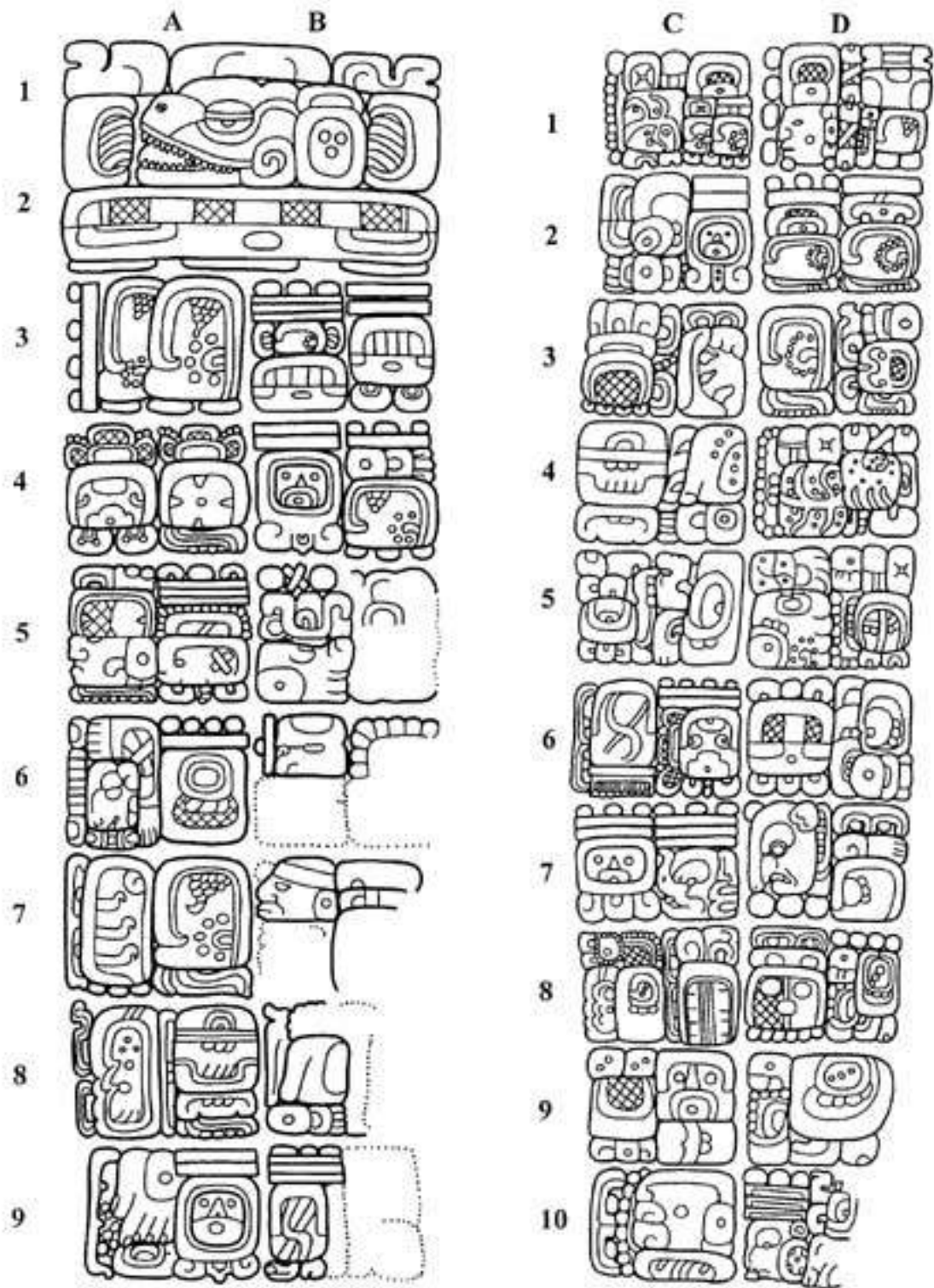


Figure 6. Stela I north, A-B & Stela I south, C-D.



Figure 7. Stela I west.

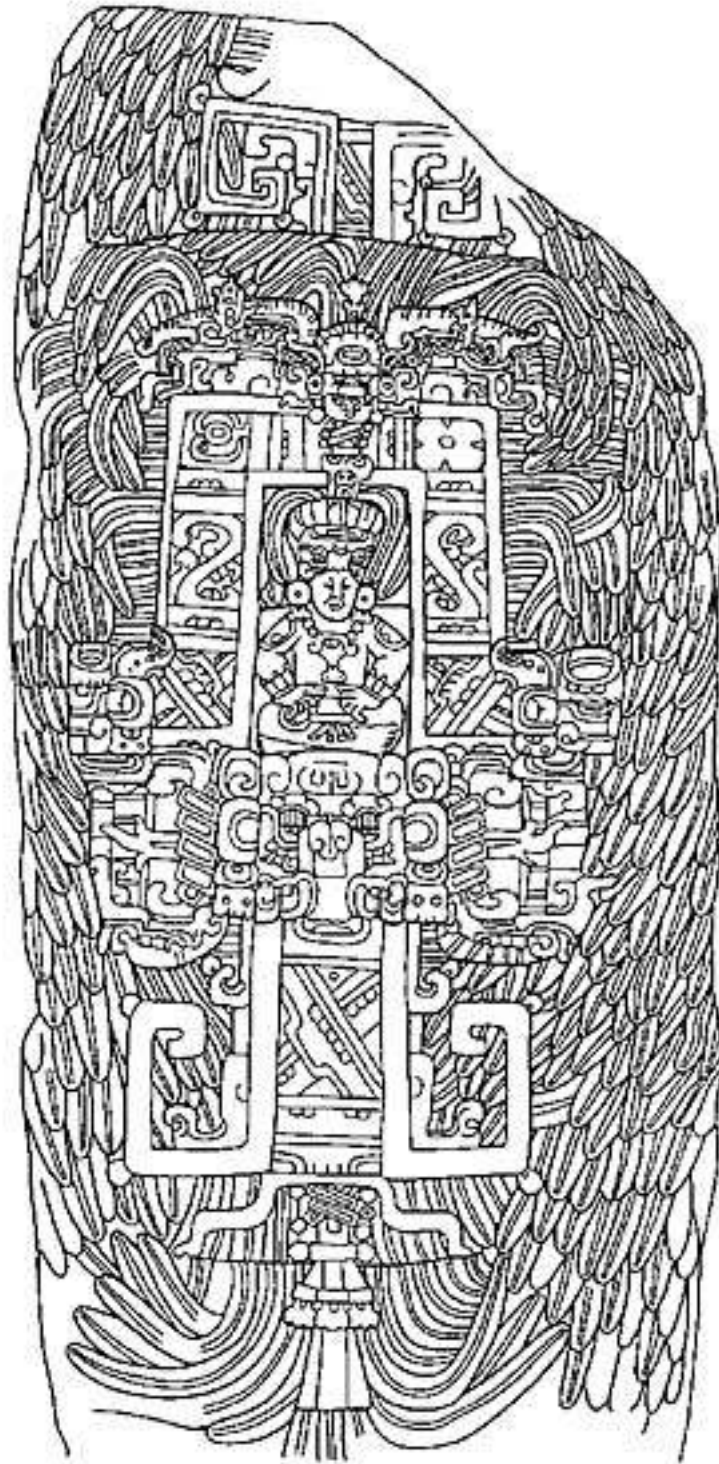


Figure 8. Stela I east.

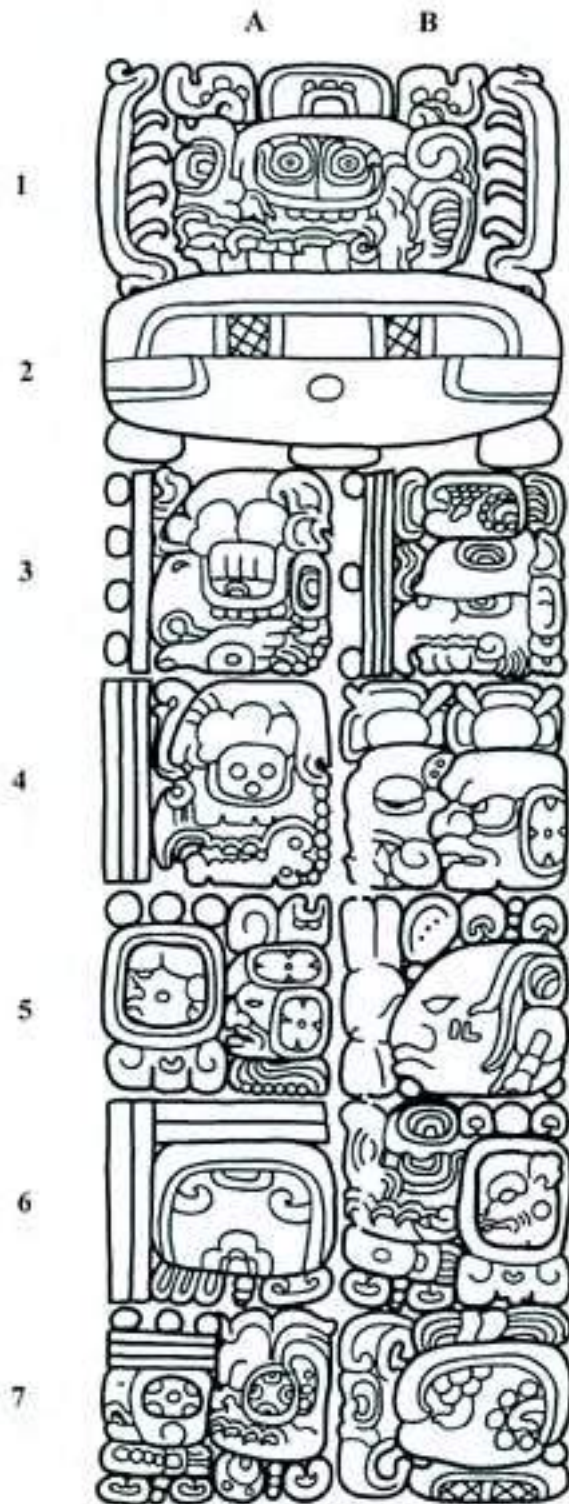


Figure 9. Stela K north, A-B.

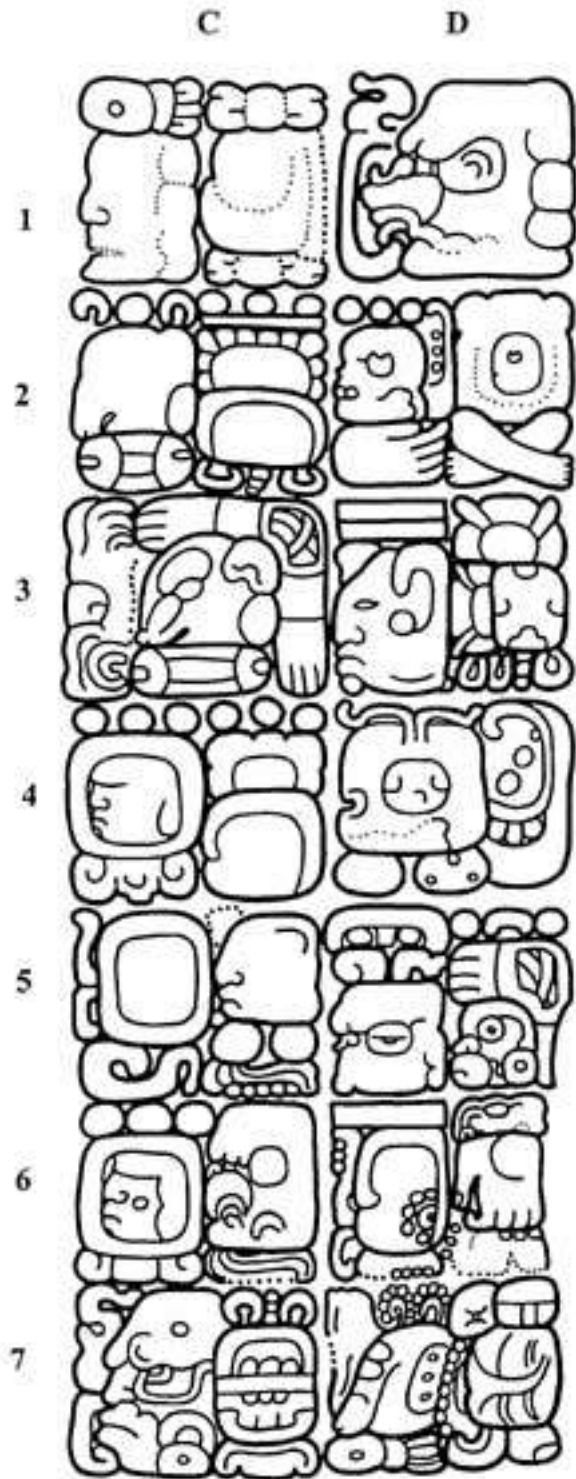


Figure 10. Stela K south, C-D.



Figure 11. Stela K east.



Figure 12. Stela K west.

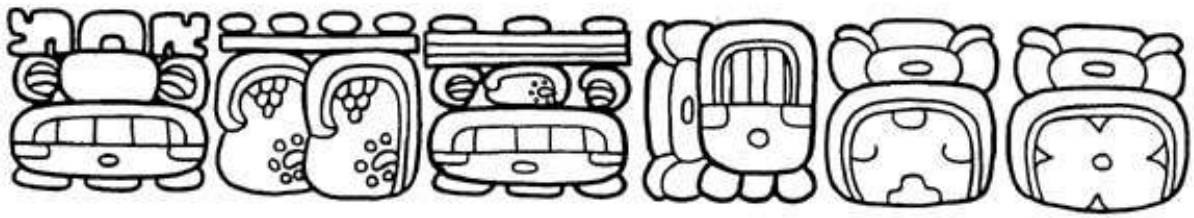


Figure 13. Zoomorph O south.

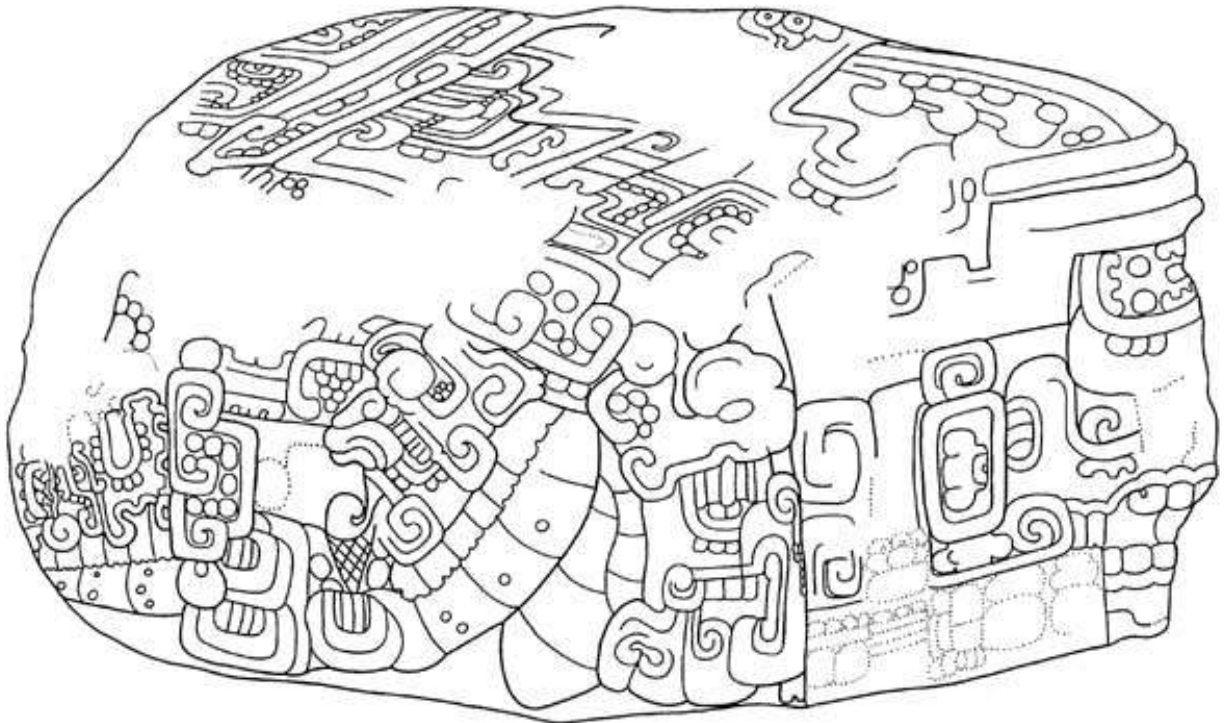


Figure 14. Zoomorph O west.



Figure 15. Altar O', A-F.

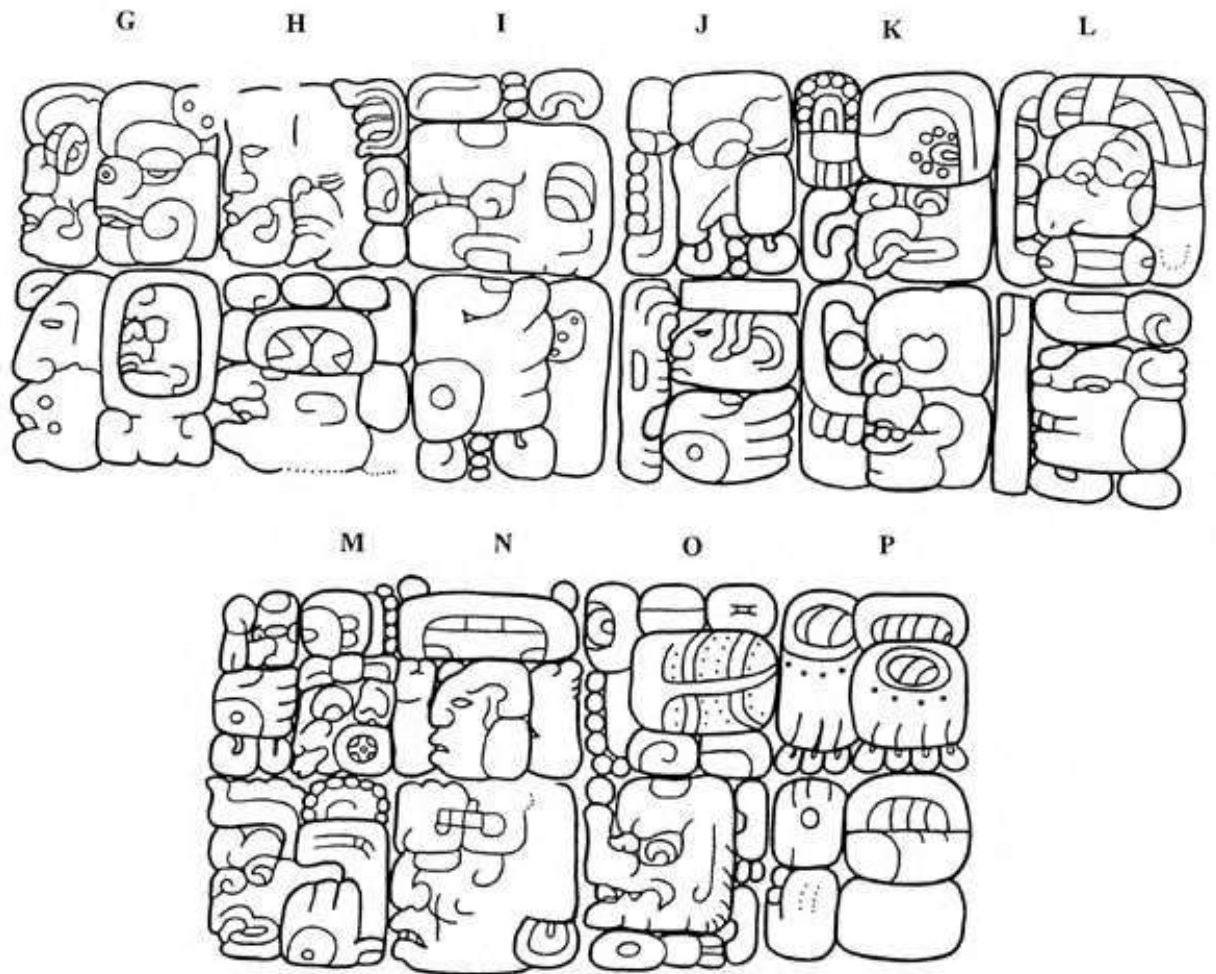


Figure 16. Altar O', G-P.

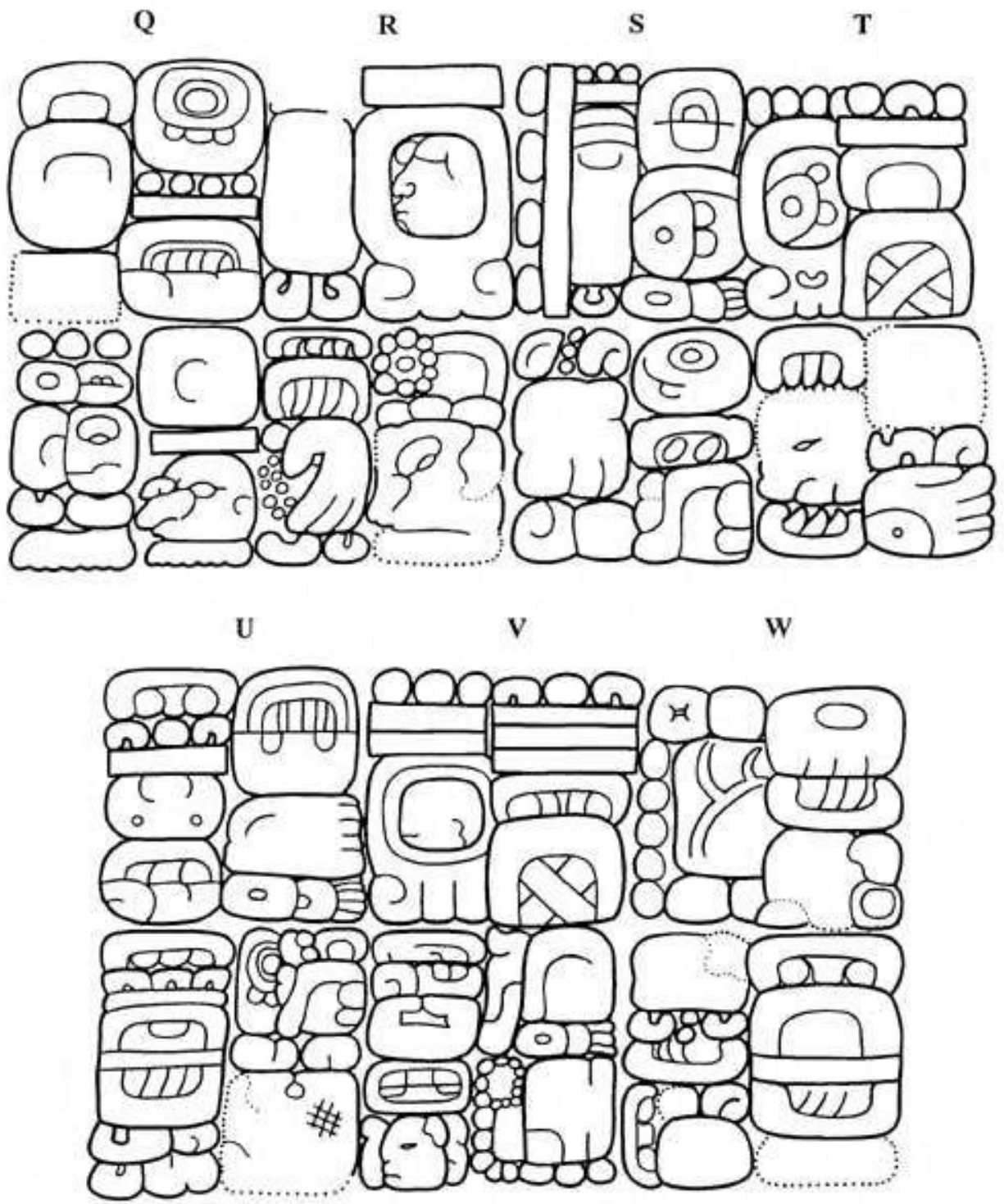


Figure 17. Altar O', Q-W.

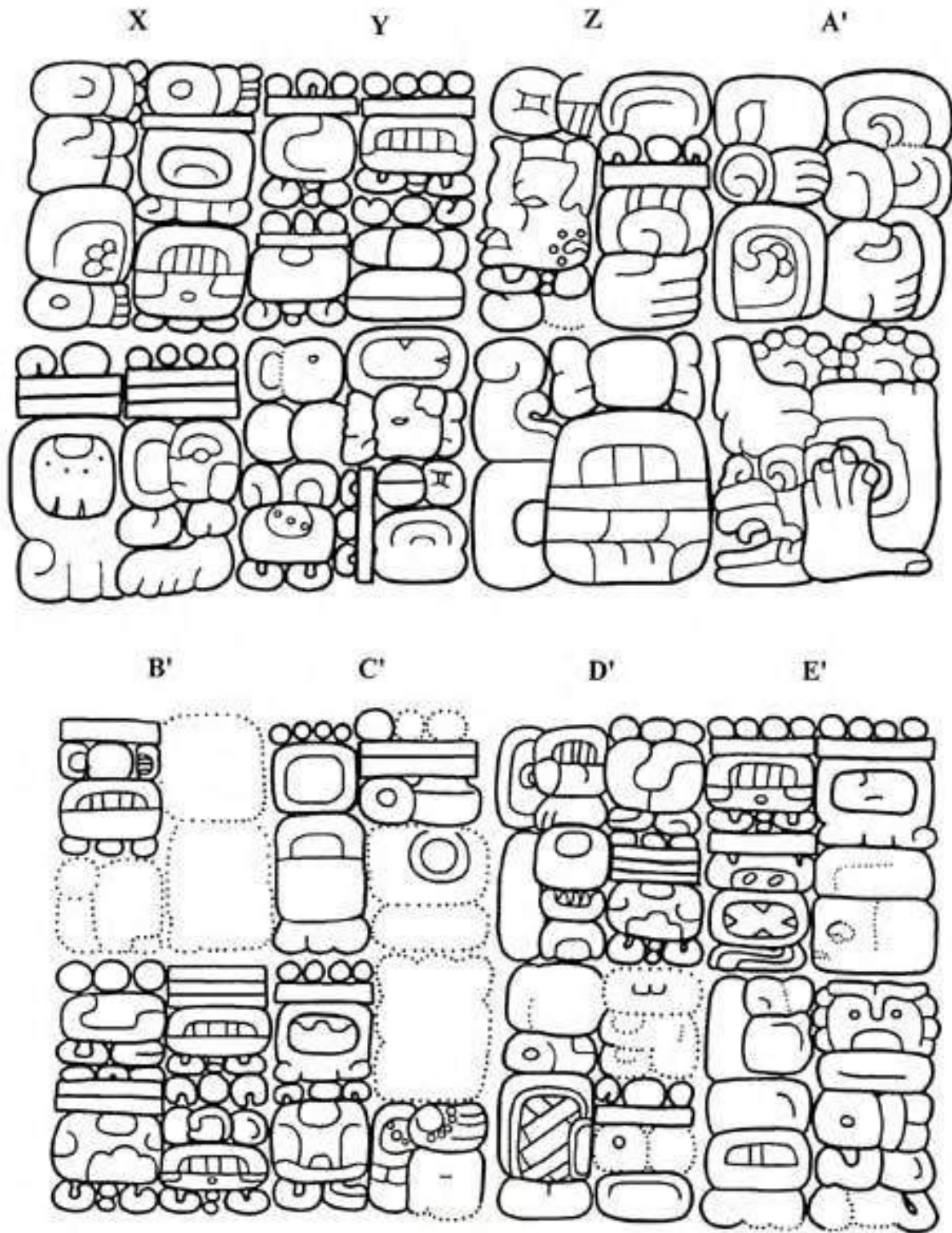


Figure 18. Altar O', X-E'.

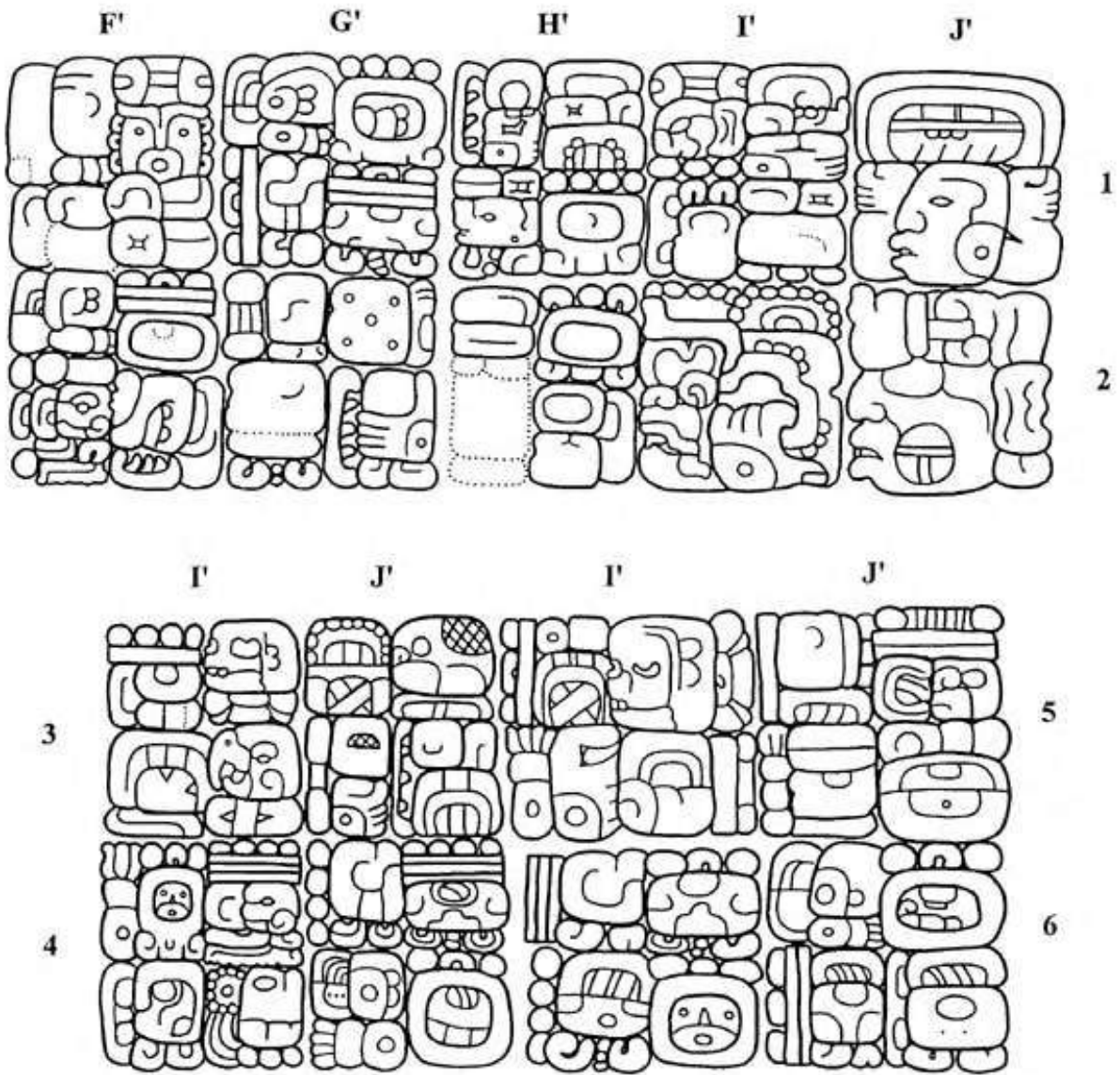


Figure 19. Altar O', F'-J'.

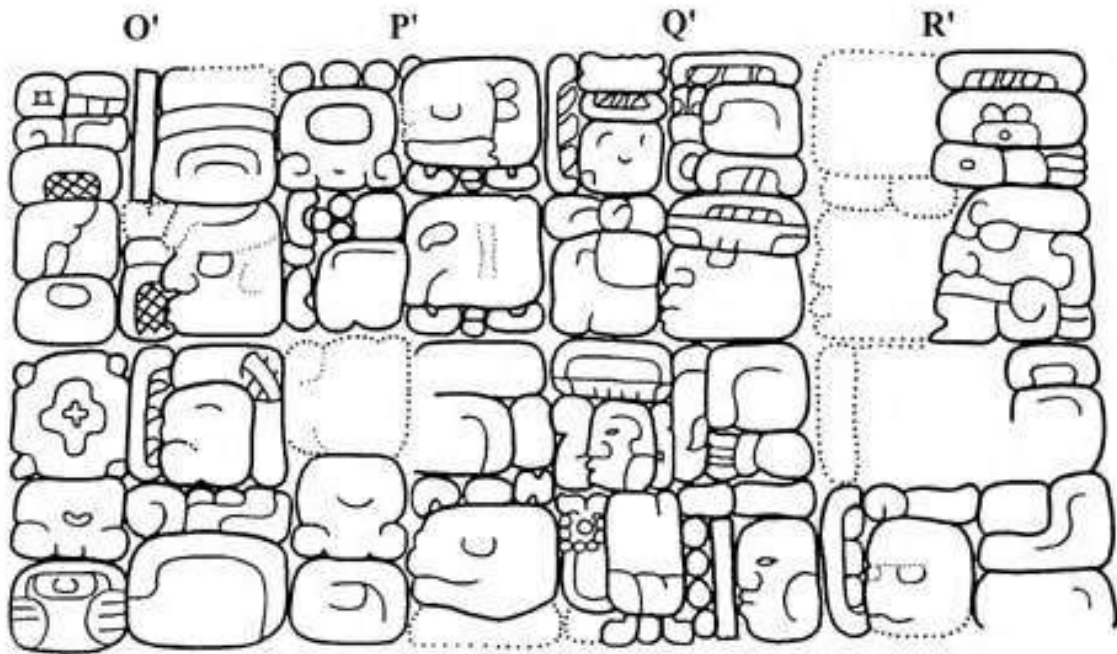
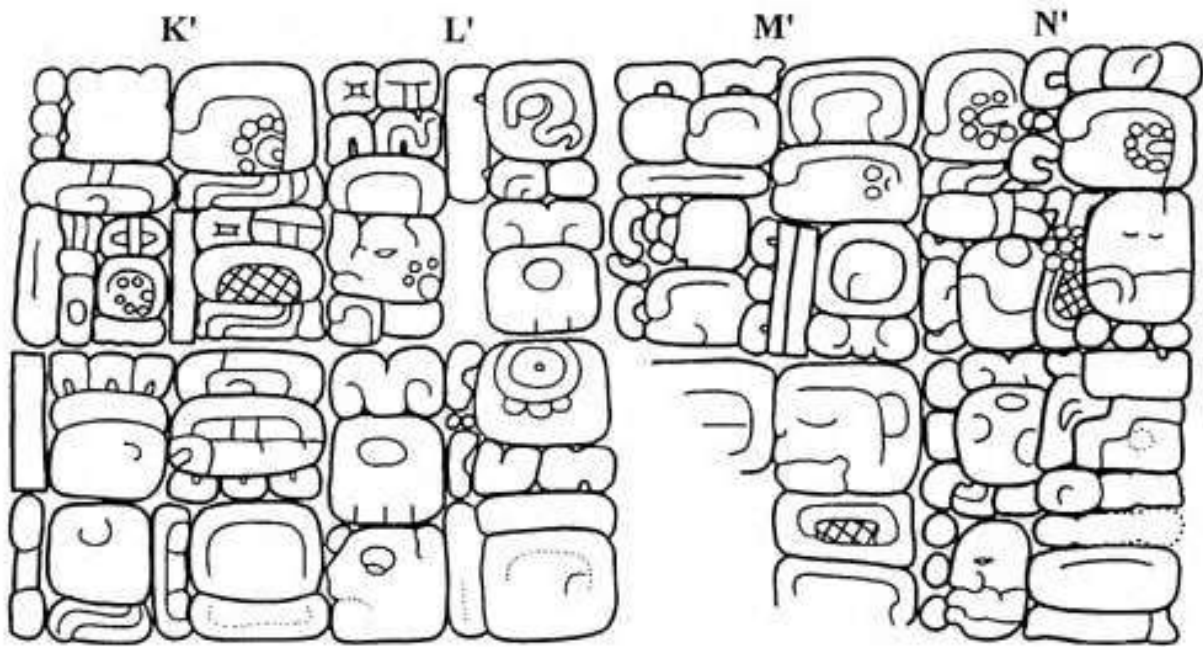


Figure 20. Altar O', K'-R'.

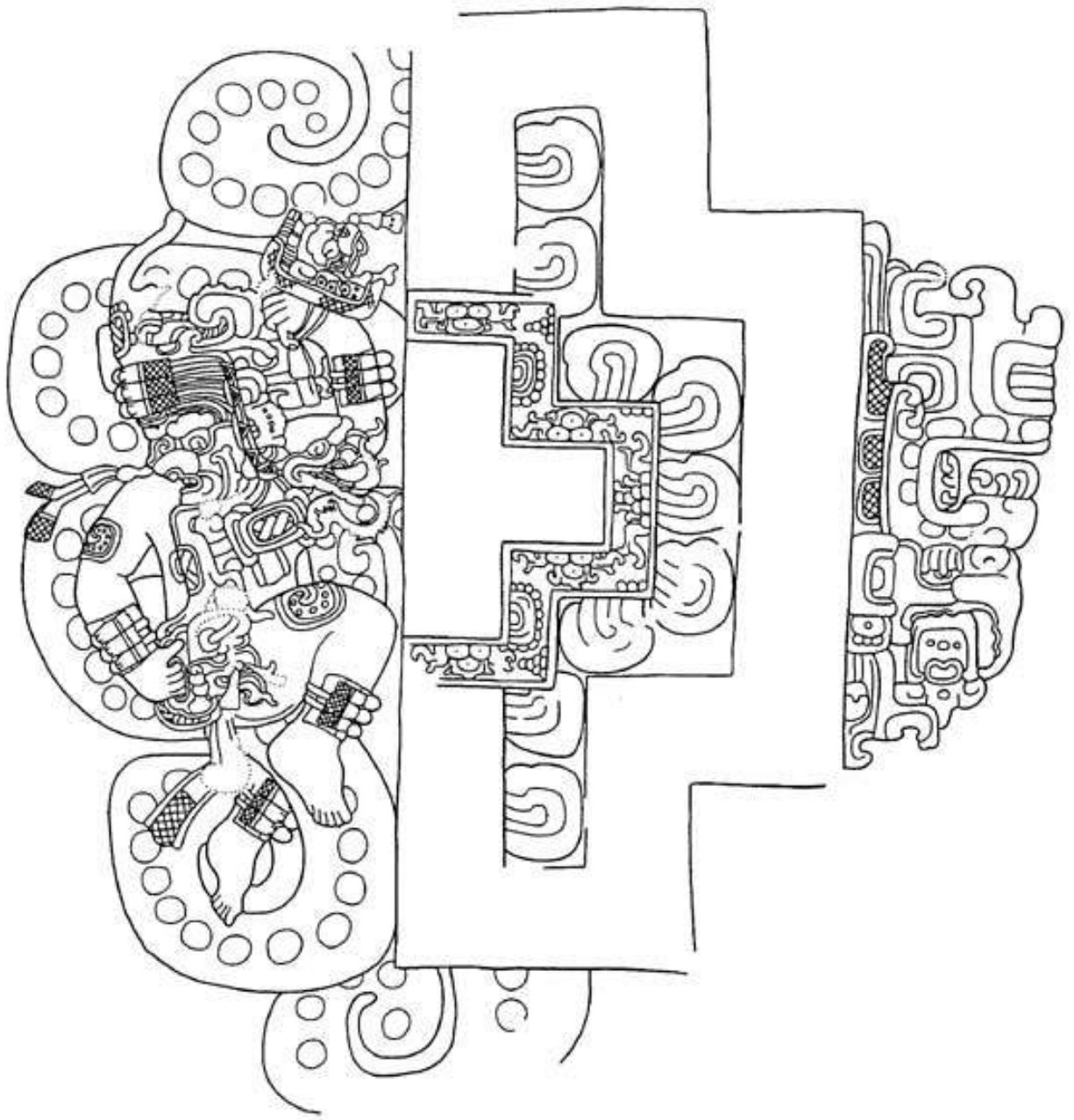


Figure 21. Altar O'.

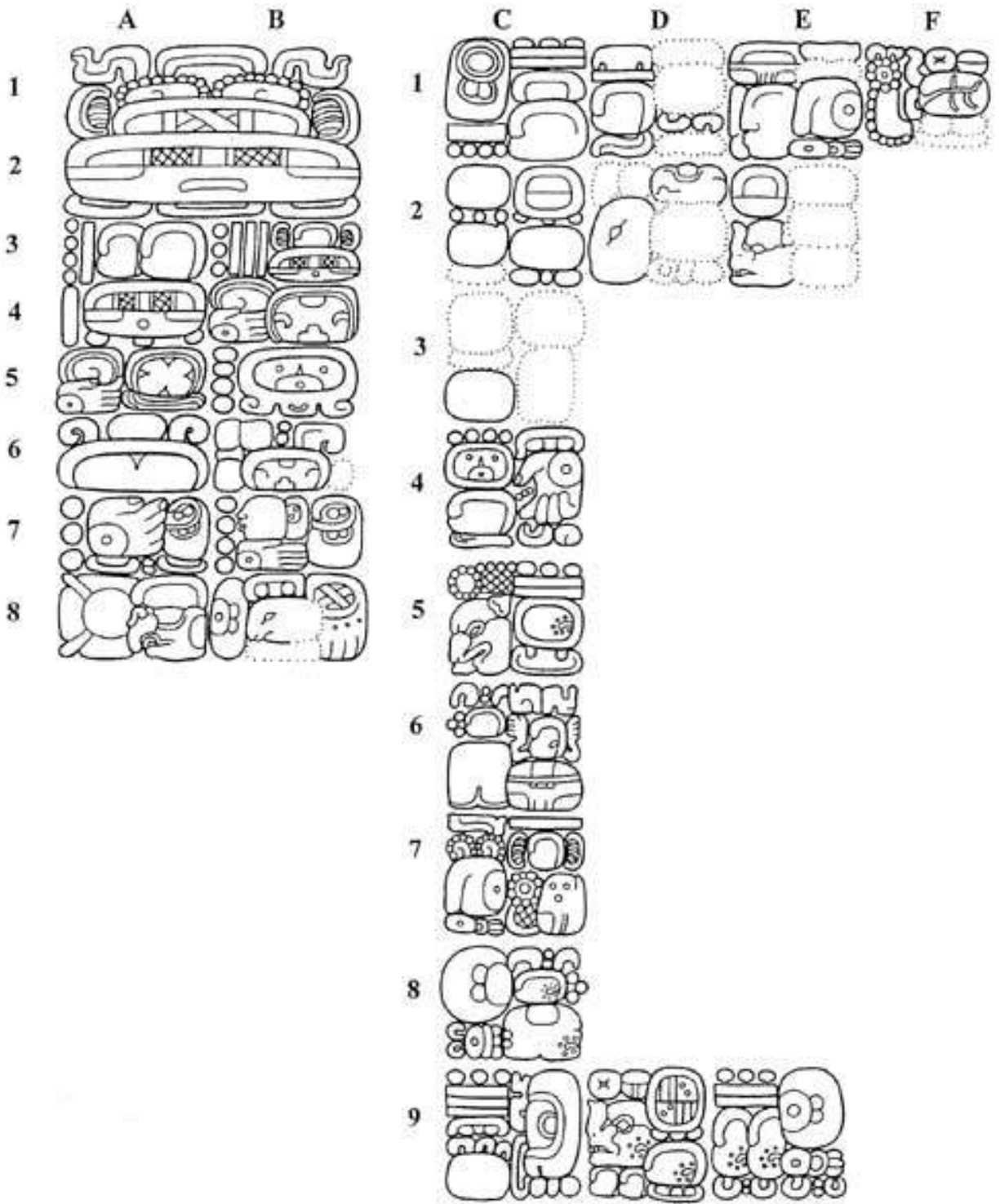


Figure 22. Zoomorph P south, text 01.

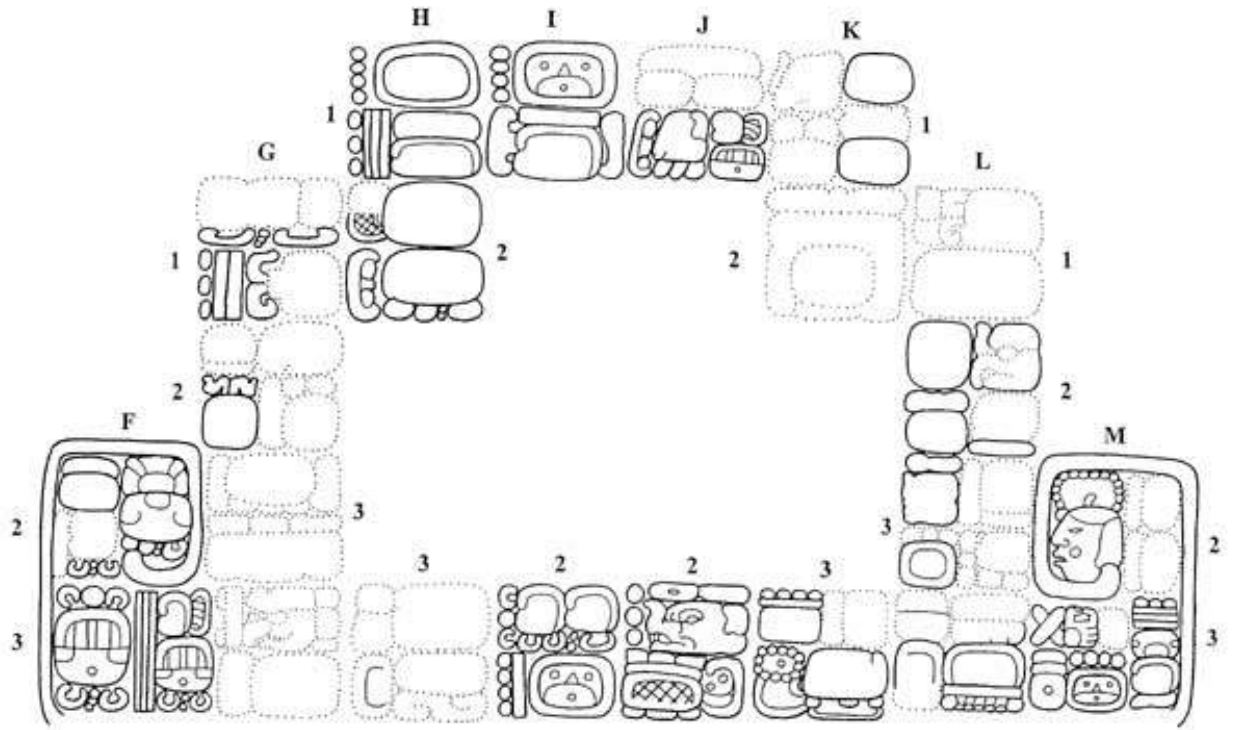


Figure 23. Zoomorph P south, text 02.

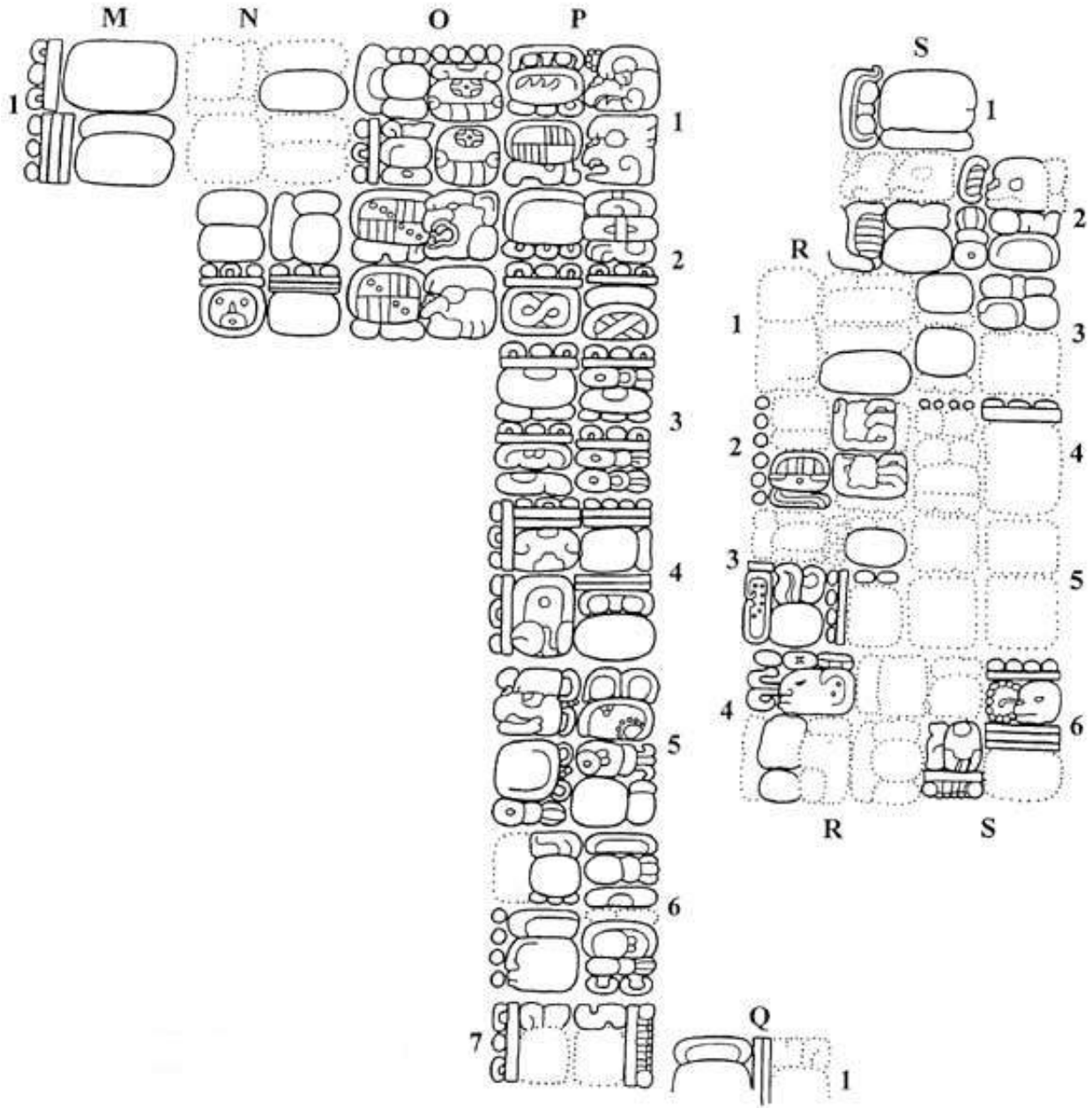


Figure 24. Zoomorph P south, text 03.

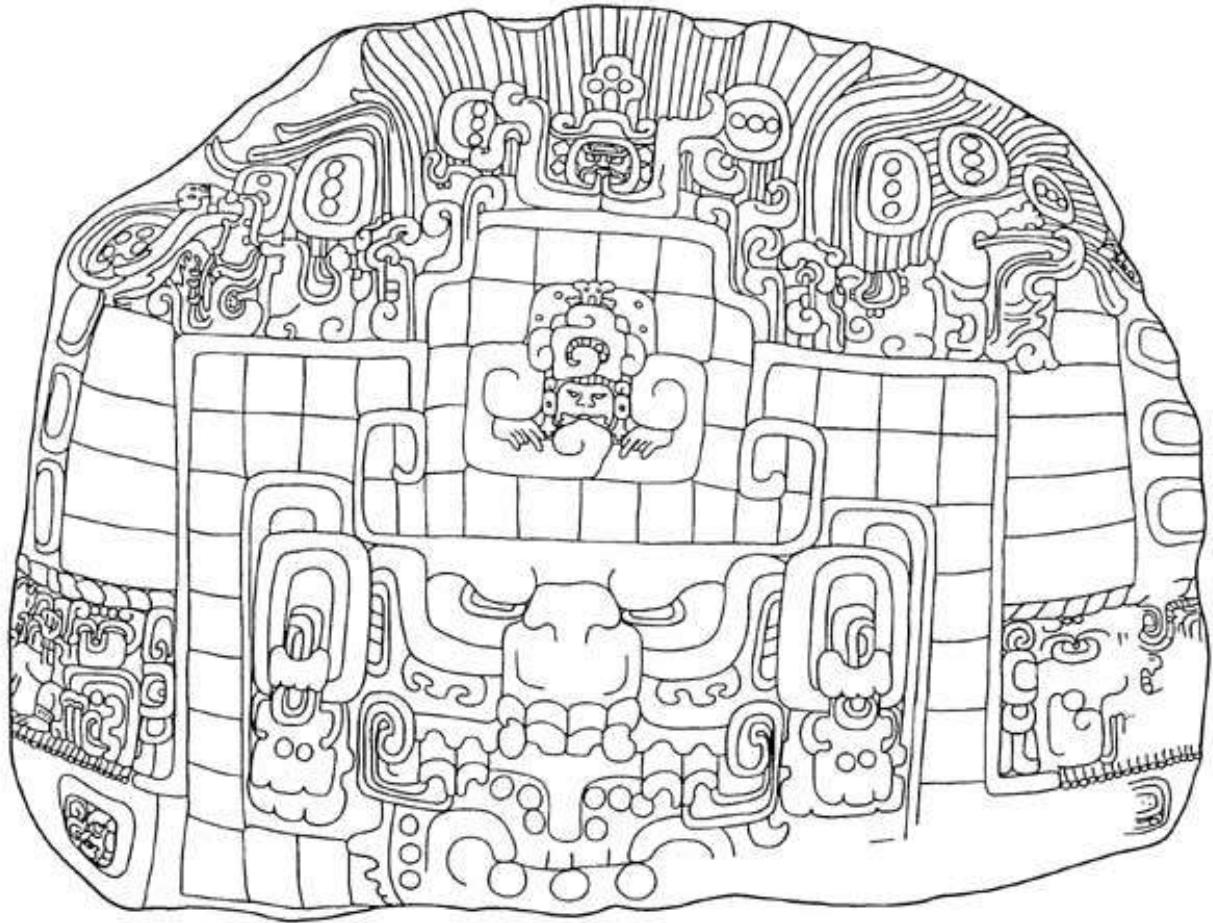


Figure 25. Zoomorph P south.

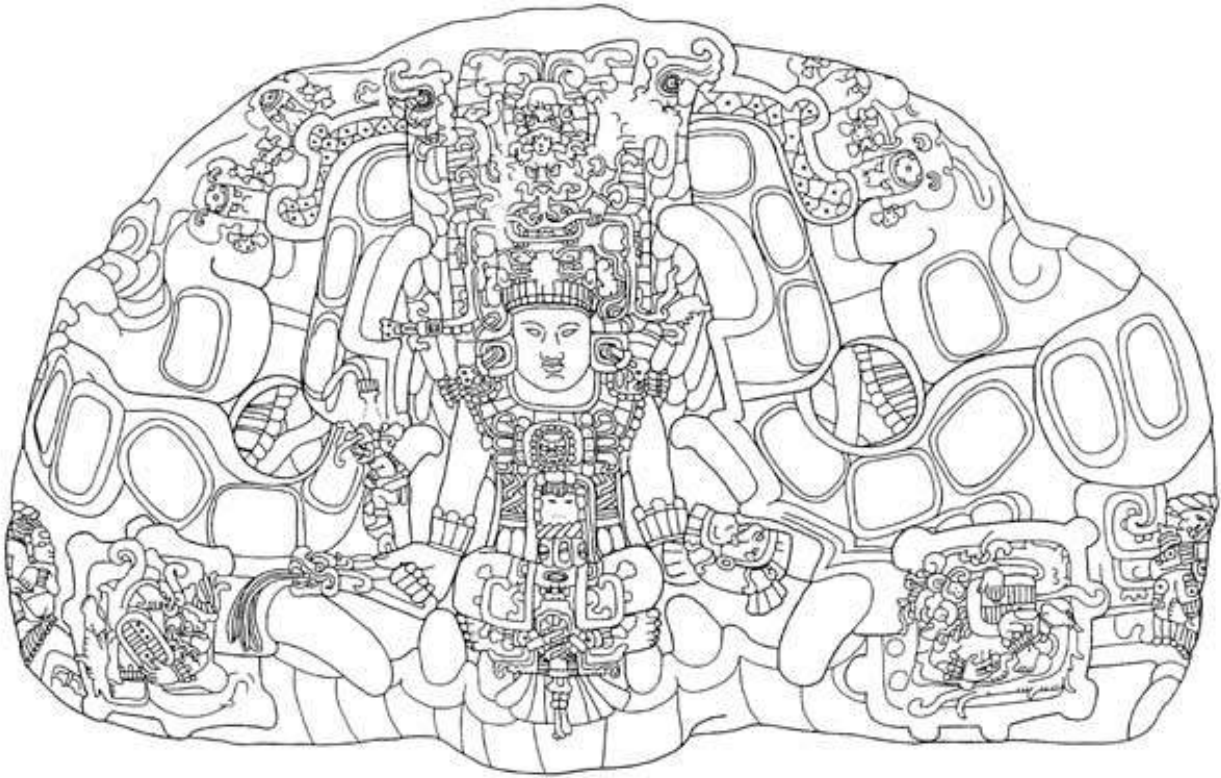


Figure 26. Zoomorph P north.

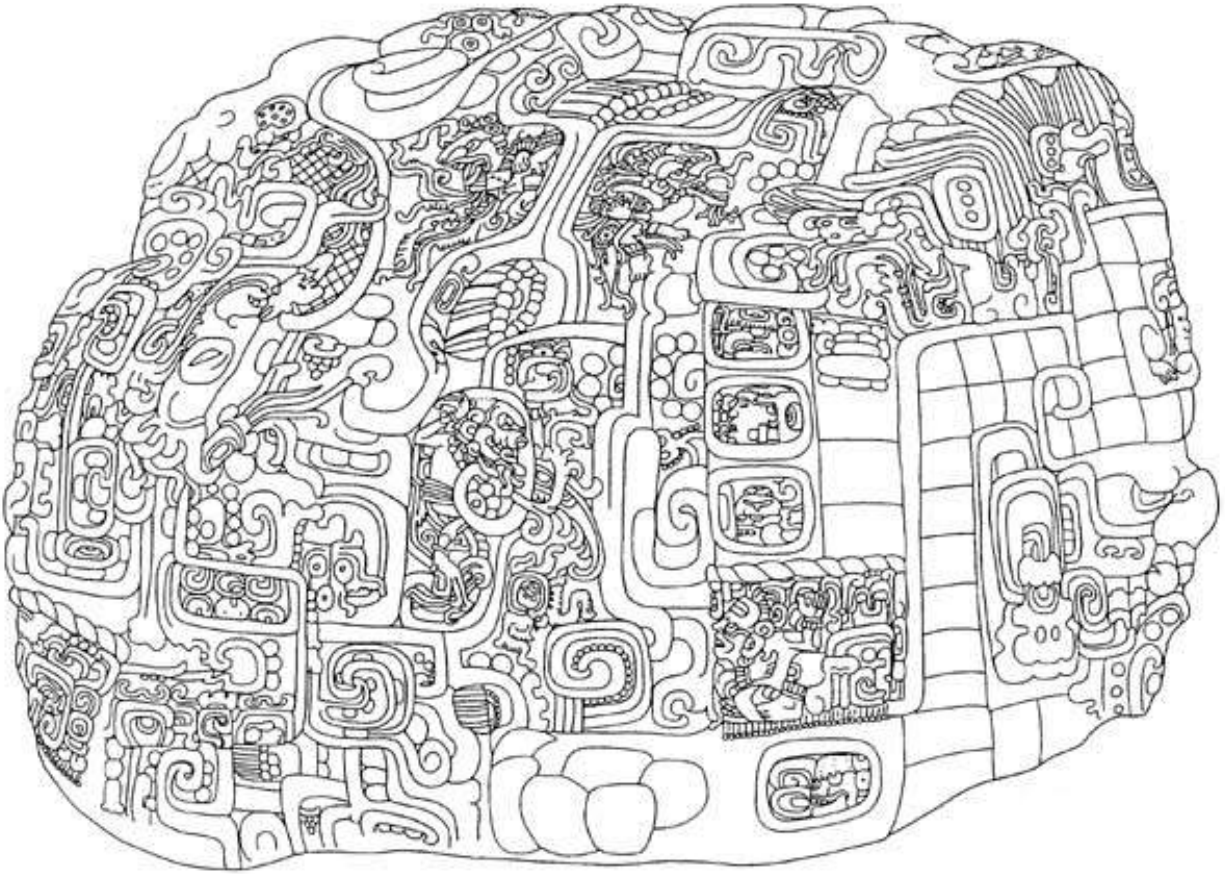


Figure 27. Zoomorph P west.



Figure 28. Zoomorph P, top view.

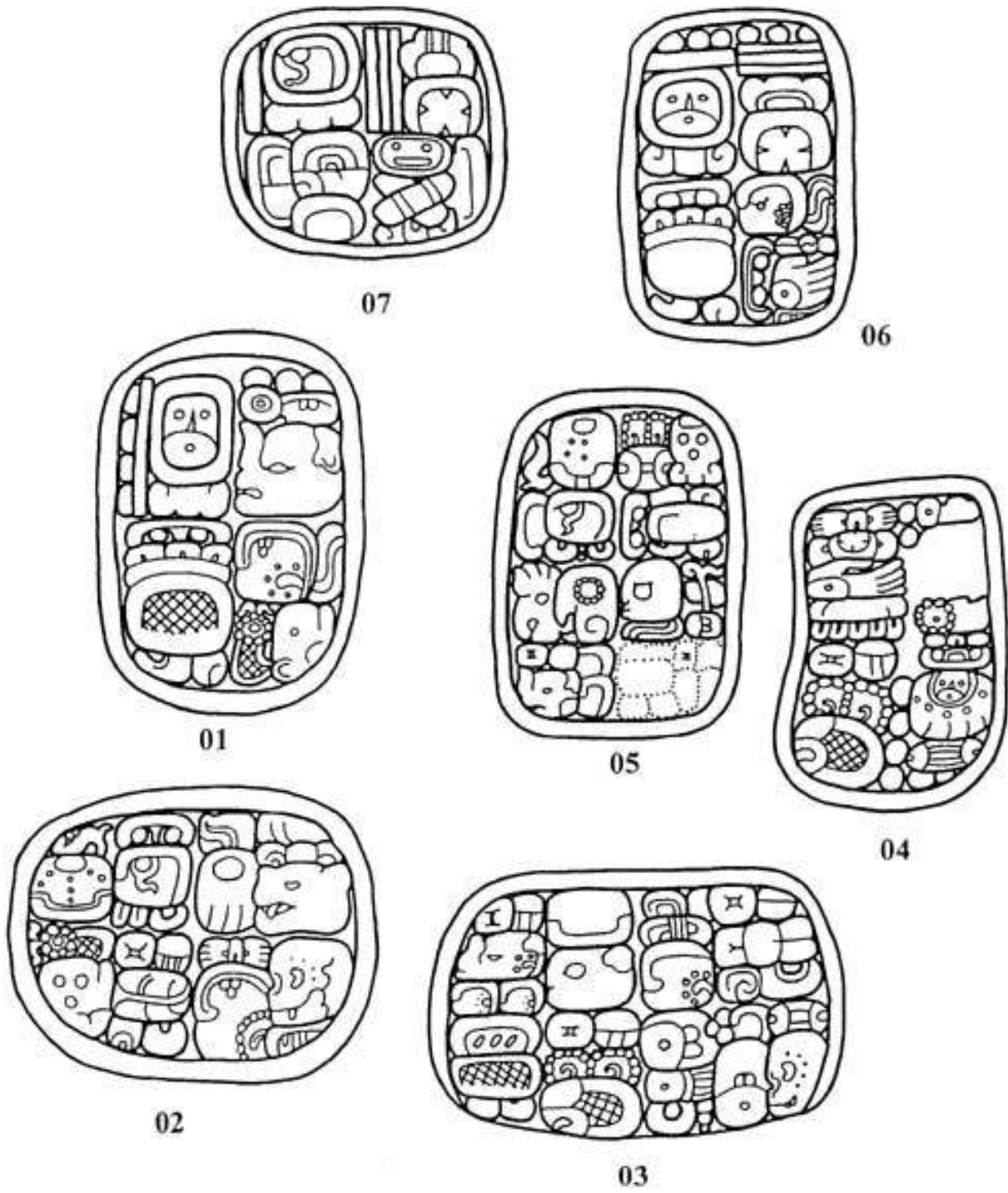


Figure 29. Zoomorph P north, cartouches 01-07.

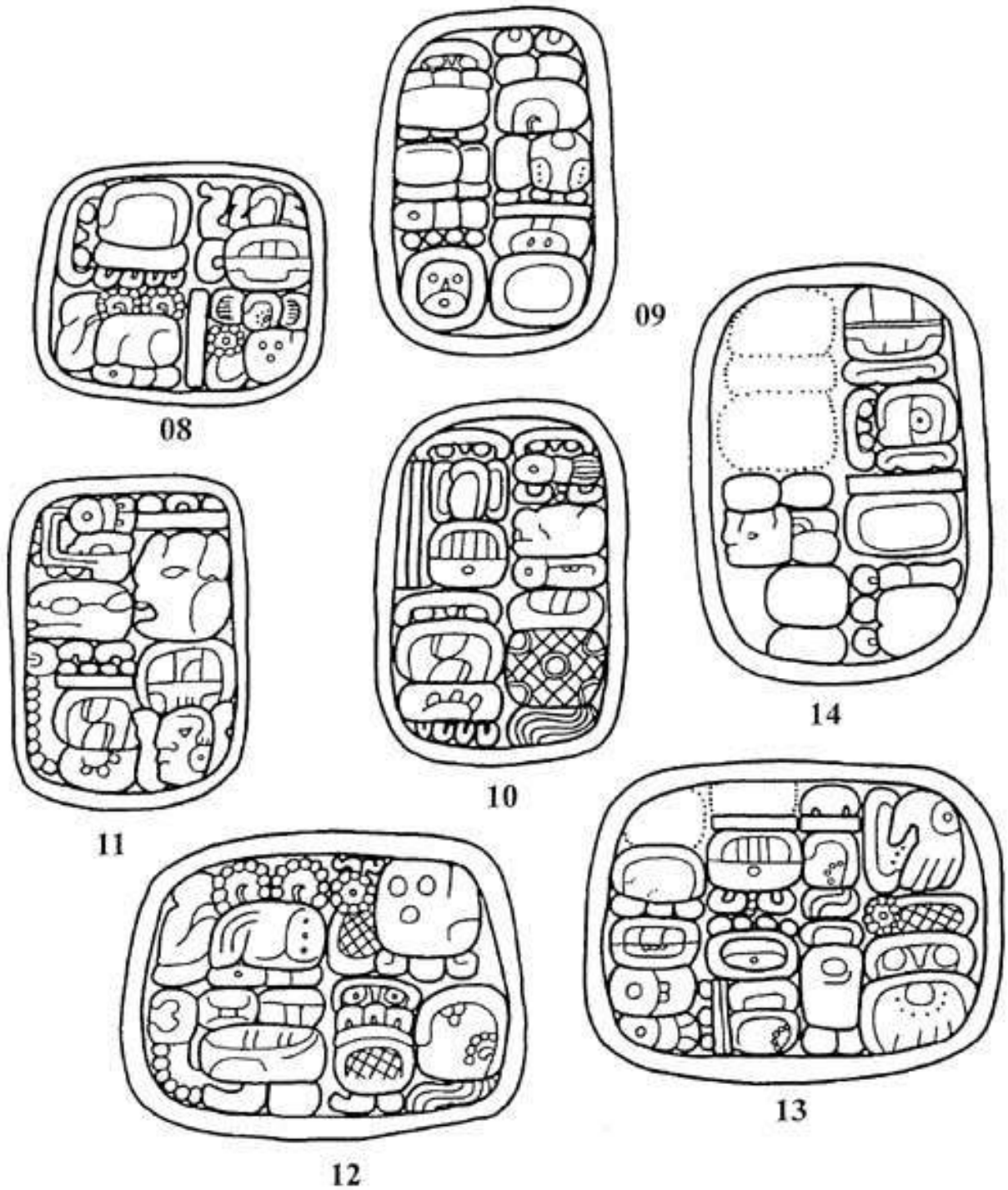


Figure 30. Zoomorph P north, cartouches 08-14.



Figure 31. Zoomorph P north, detail.

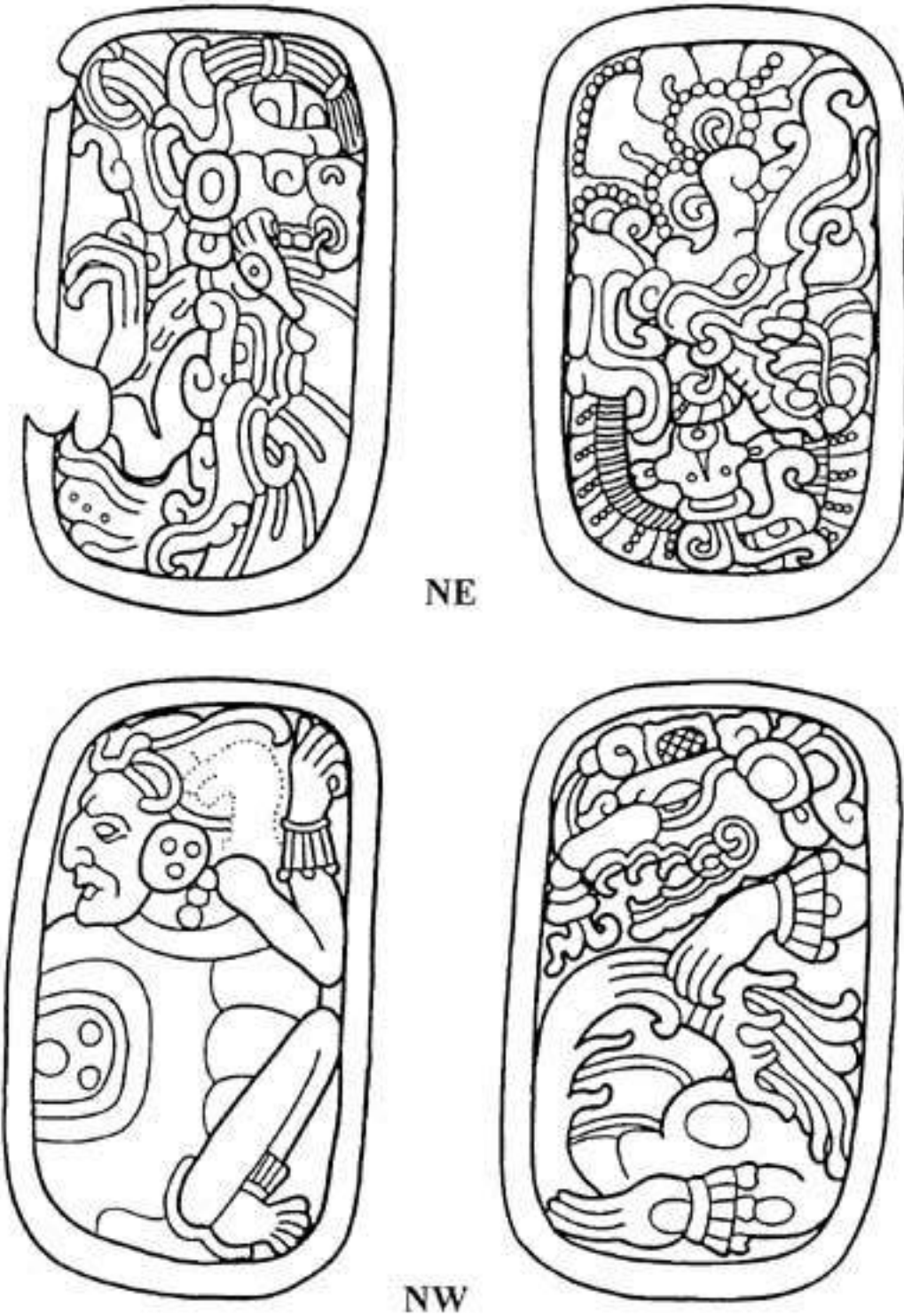
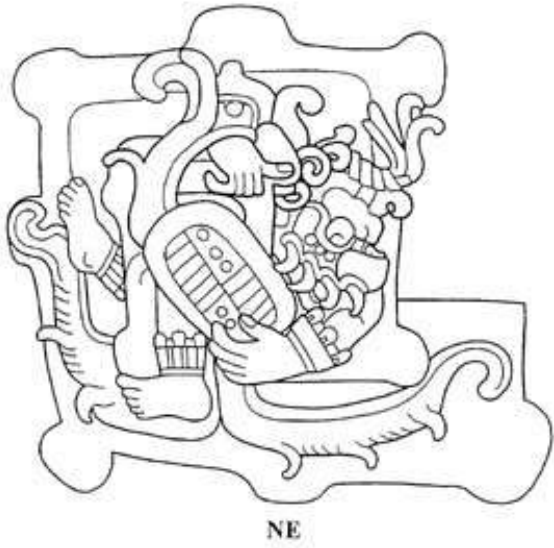
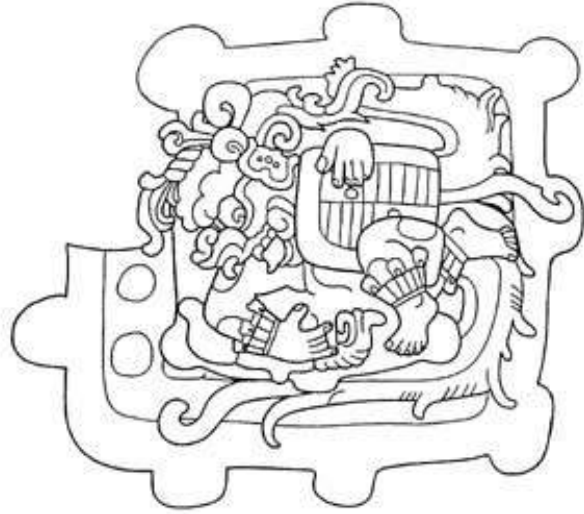


Figure 32. Zoomorph P, cartouches on front legs.



NE



NW

Figure 33. Zoomorph P, mouth scrolls.

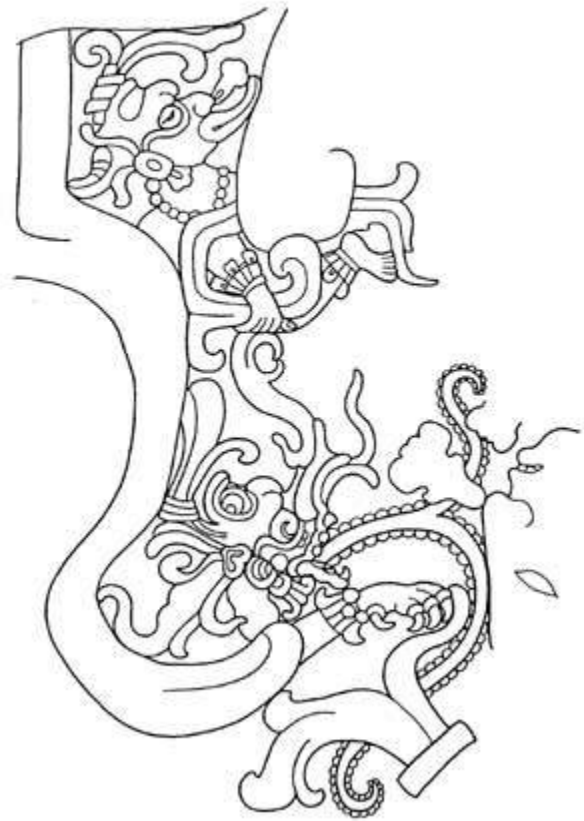
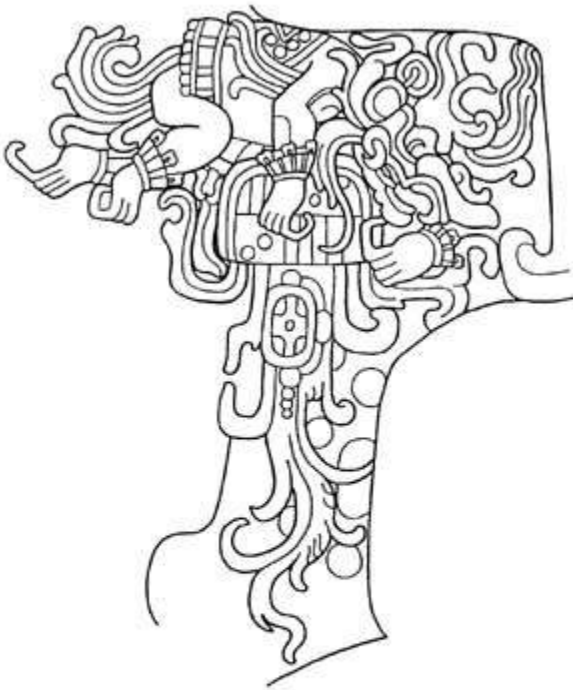


Figure 34. Zoomorph P east, detail.

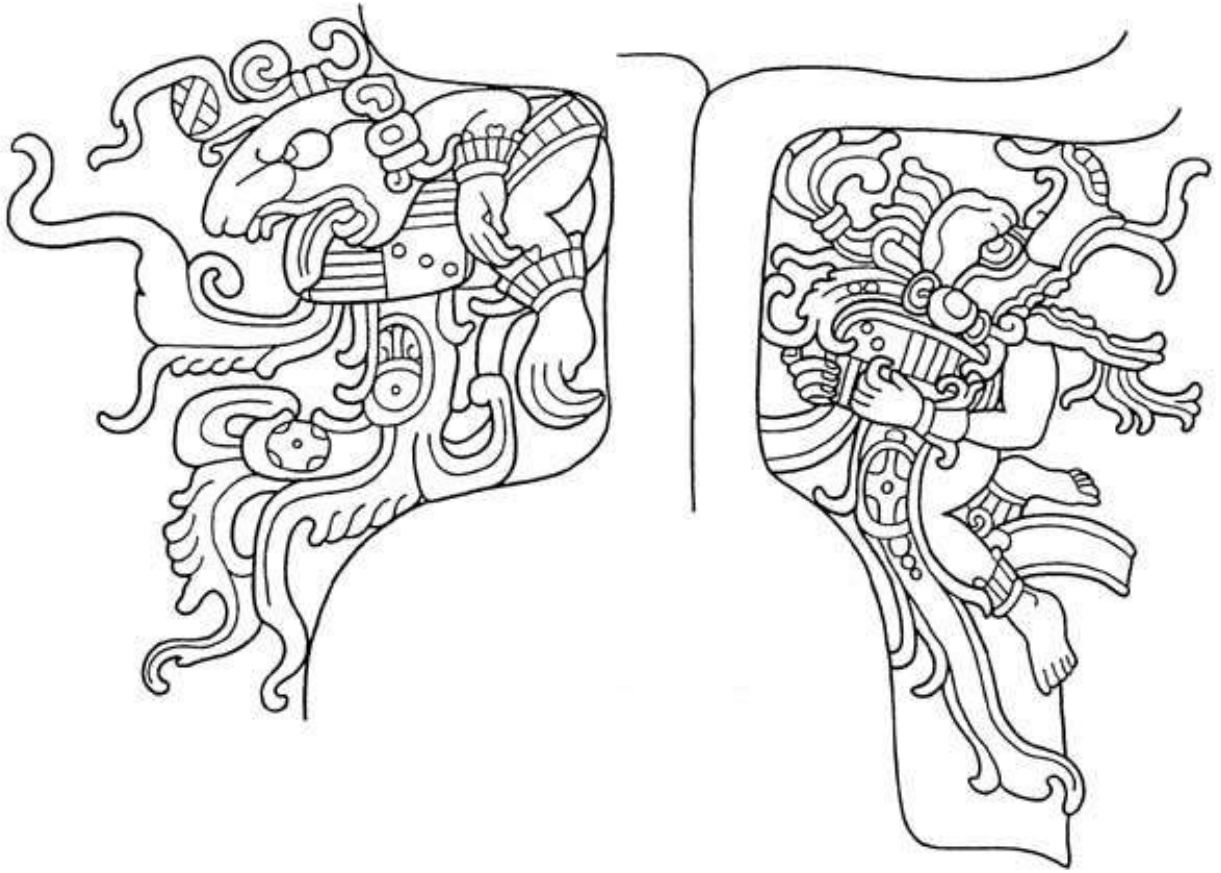


Figure 35. Zoomorph P west, detail.

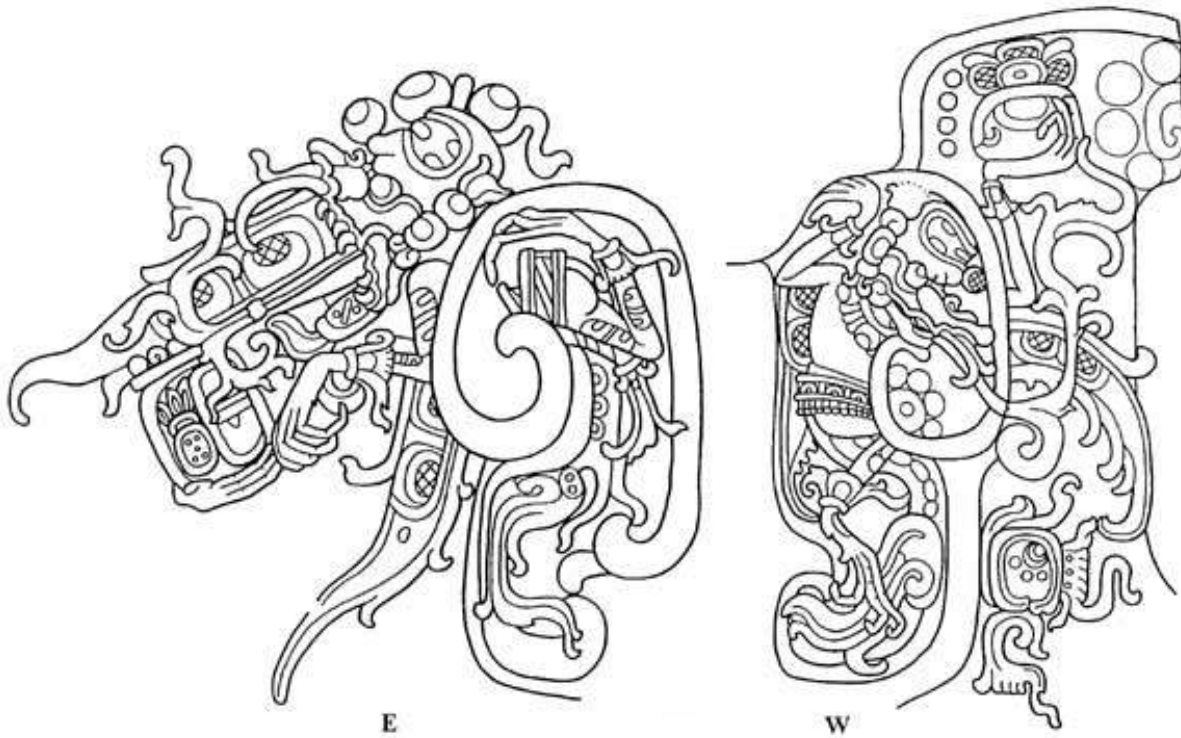
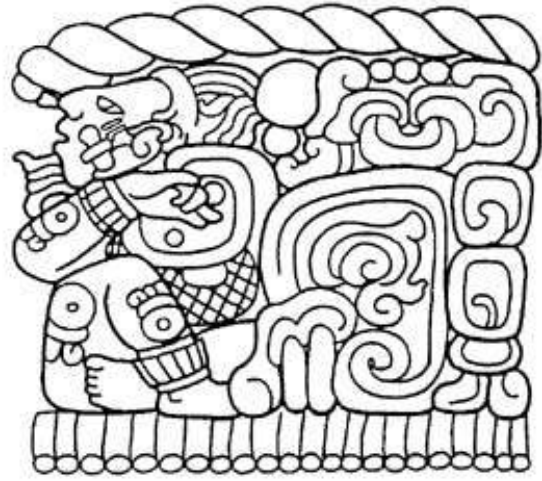


Figure 36. Zoomorph P, details.

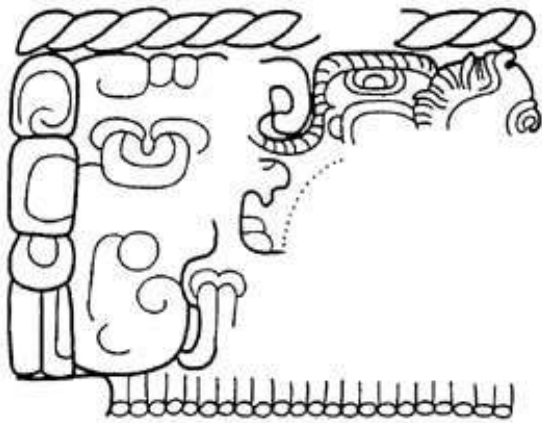


NE

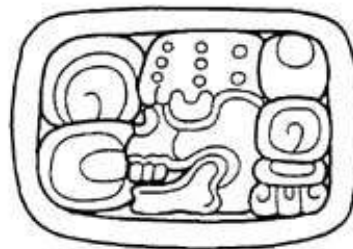


NW

Figure 37a. Zoomorph P, cuffs and cartouches on feet - NE & NW.



SE



SW

Figure 37b. Zoomorph P, cuffs and cartouches on feet - SE & SW.

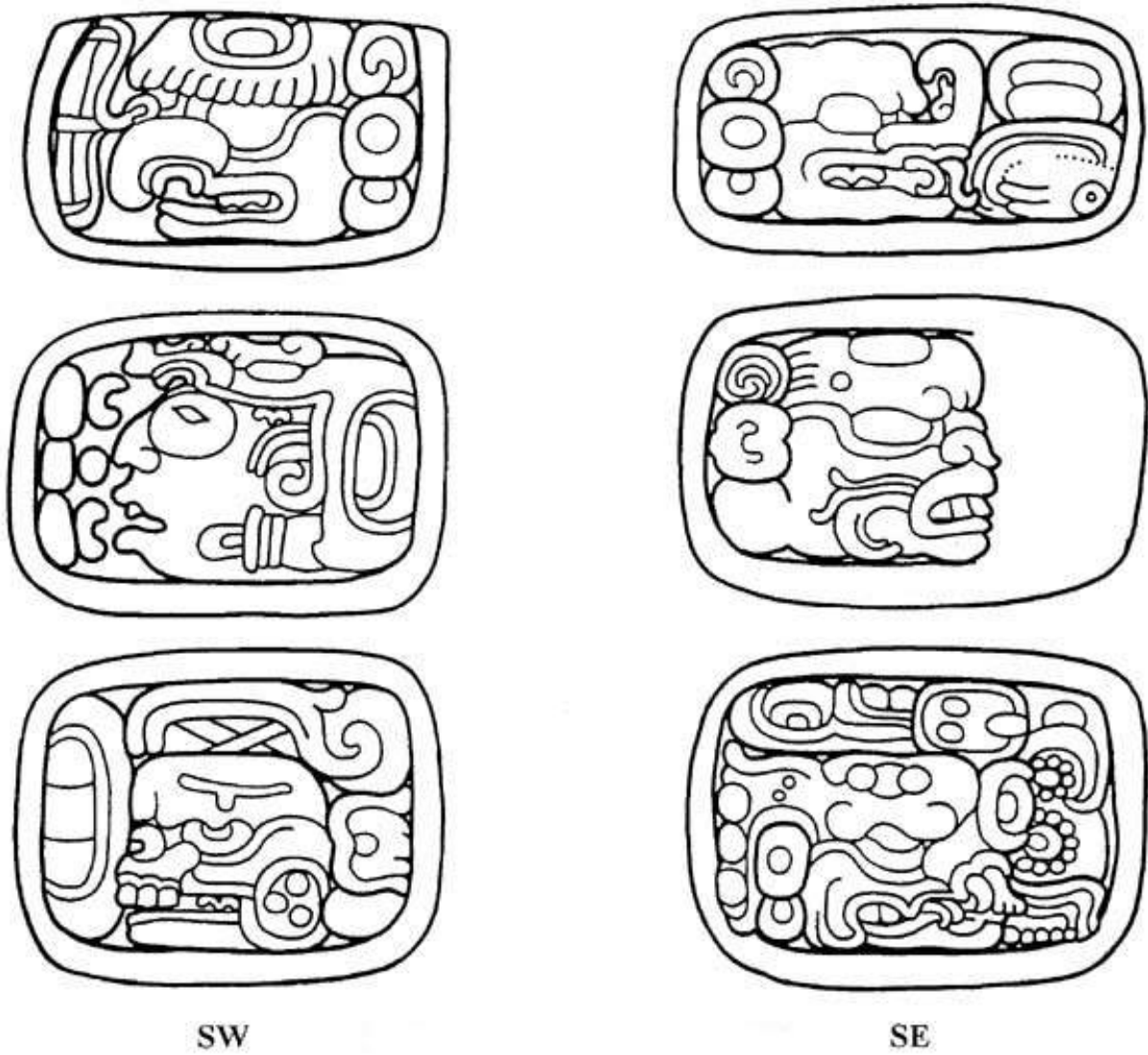


Figure 38. Zoomorph P, cartouches on rear legs.

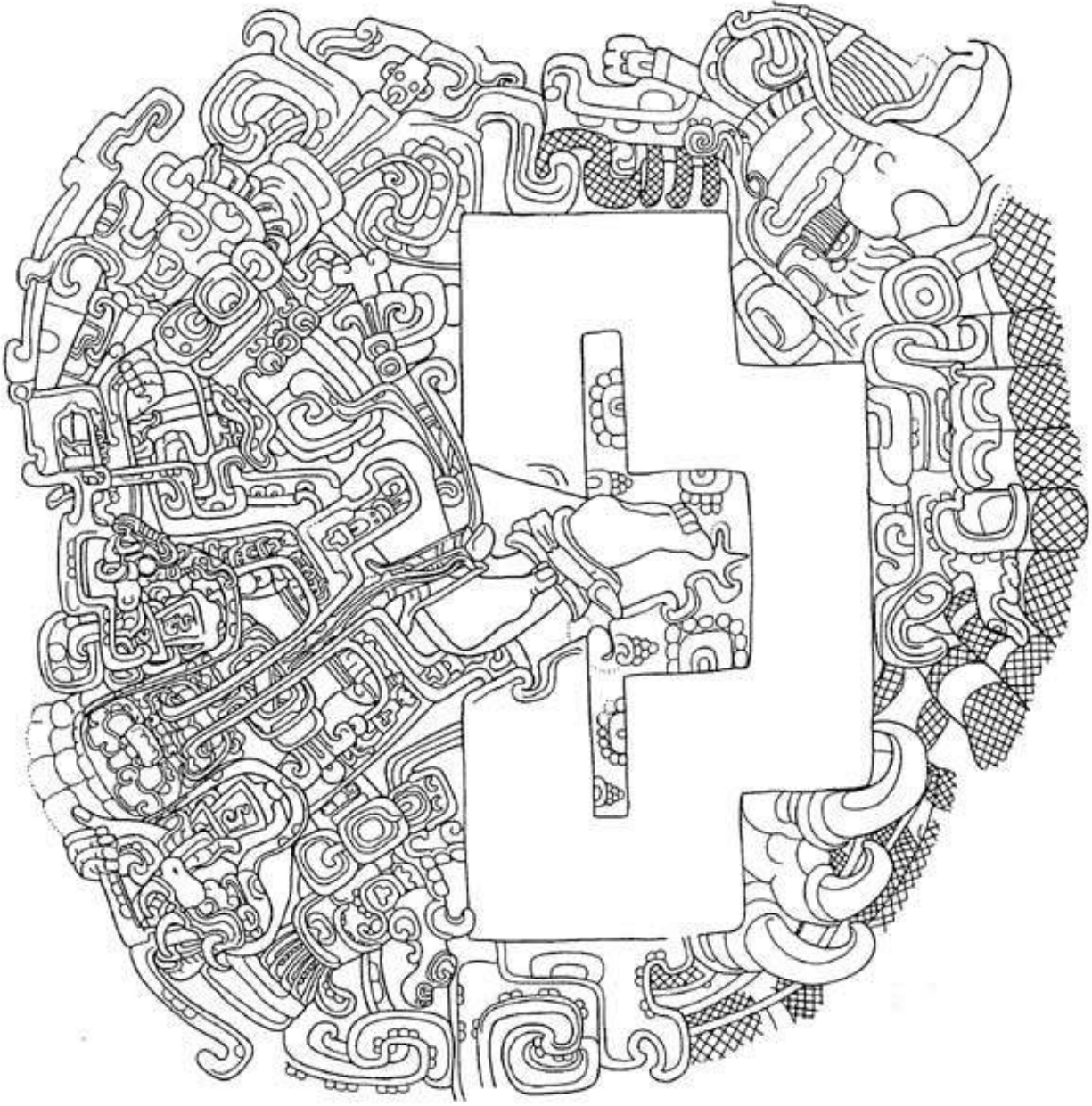


Figure 39. Altar P'.

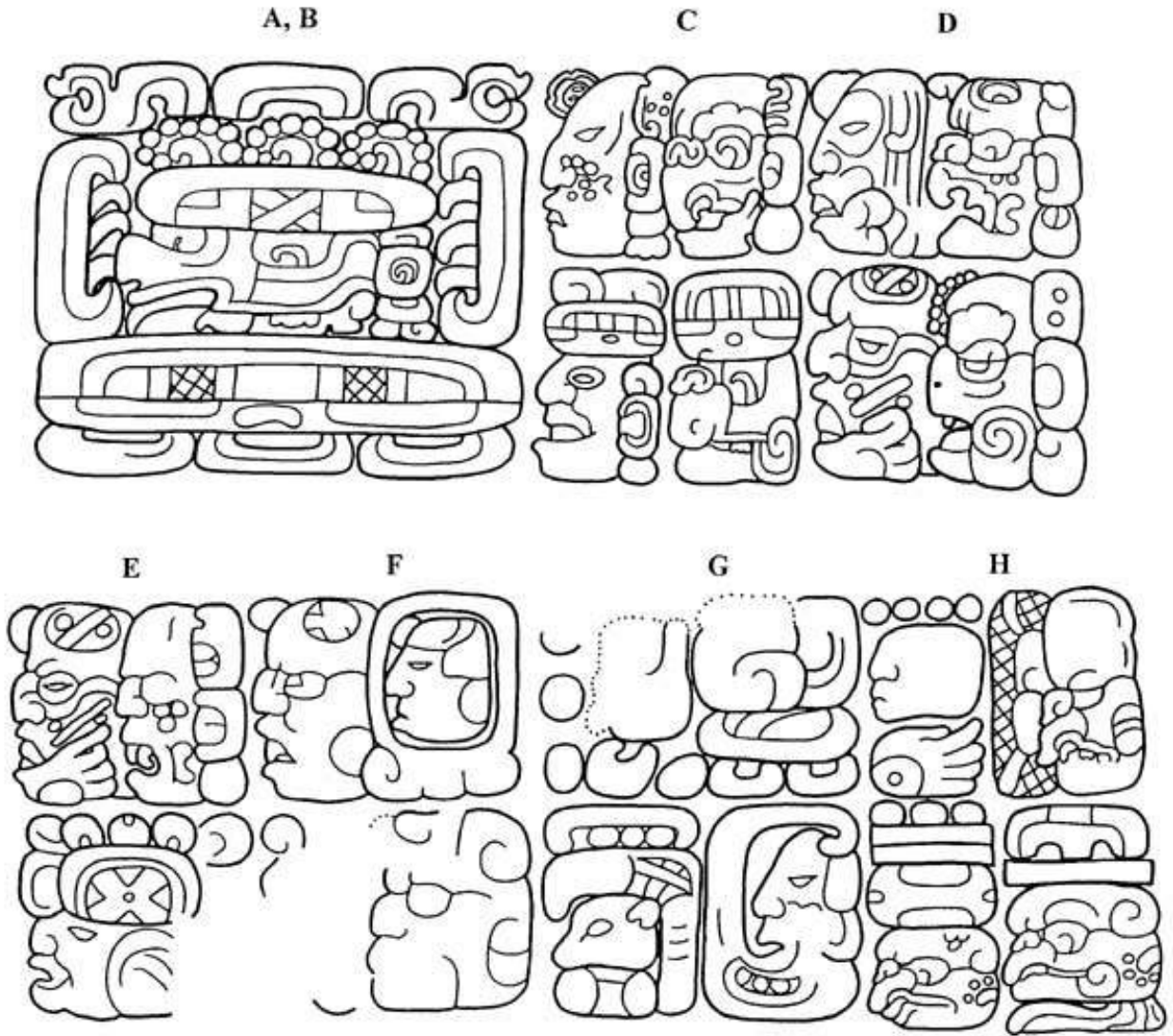


Figure 40. Altar P', A-H.

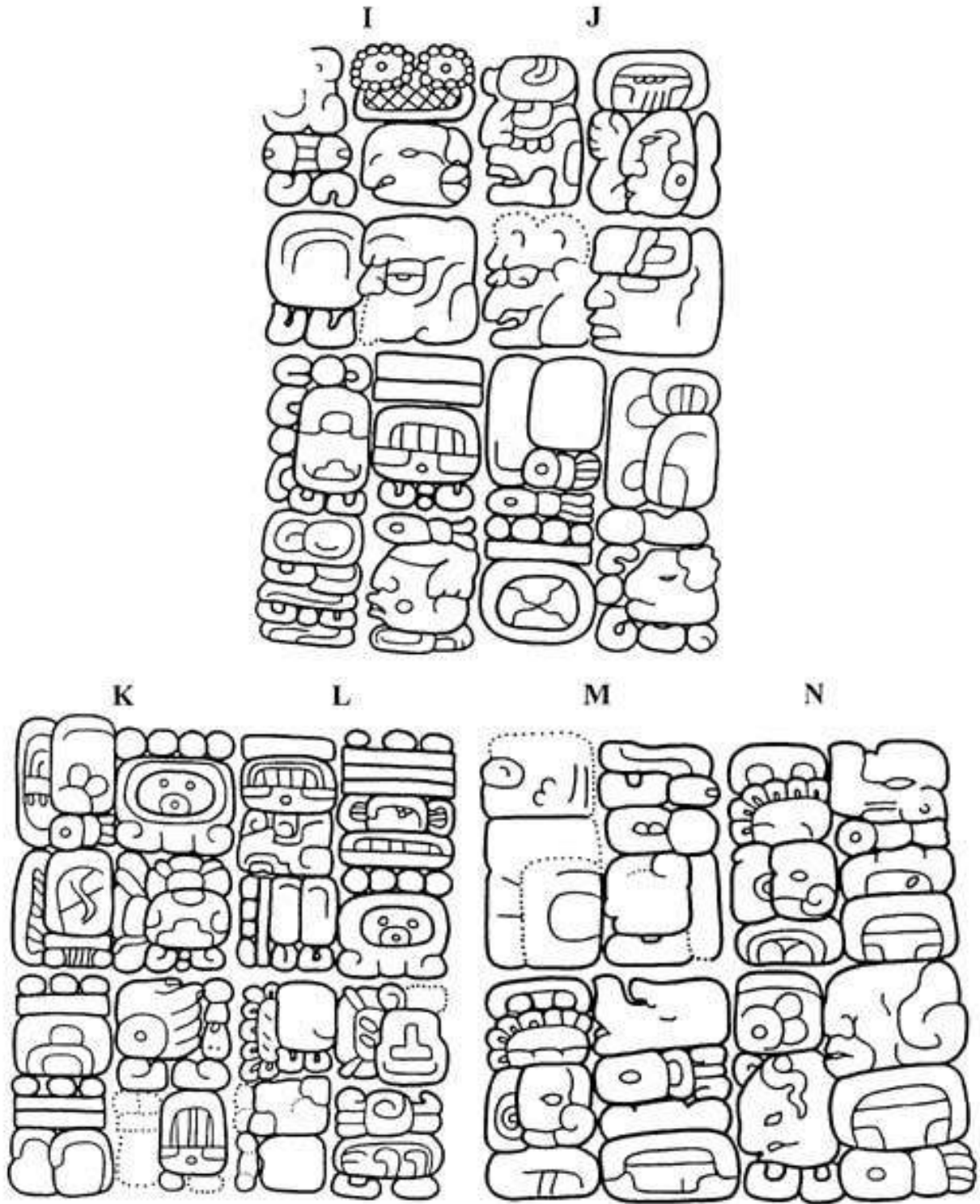


Figure 41. Altar P', I1-N4.

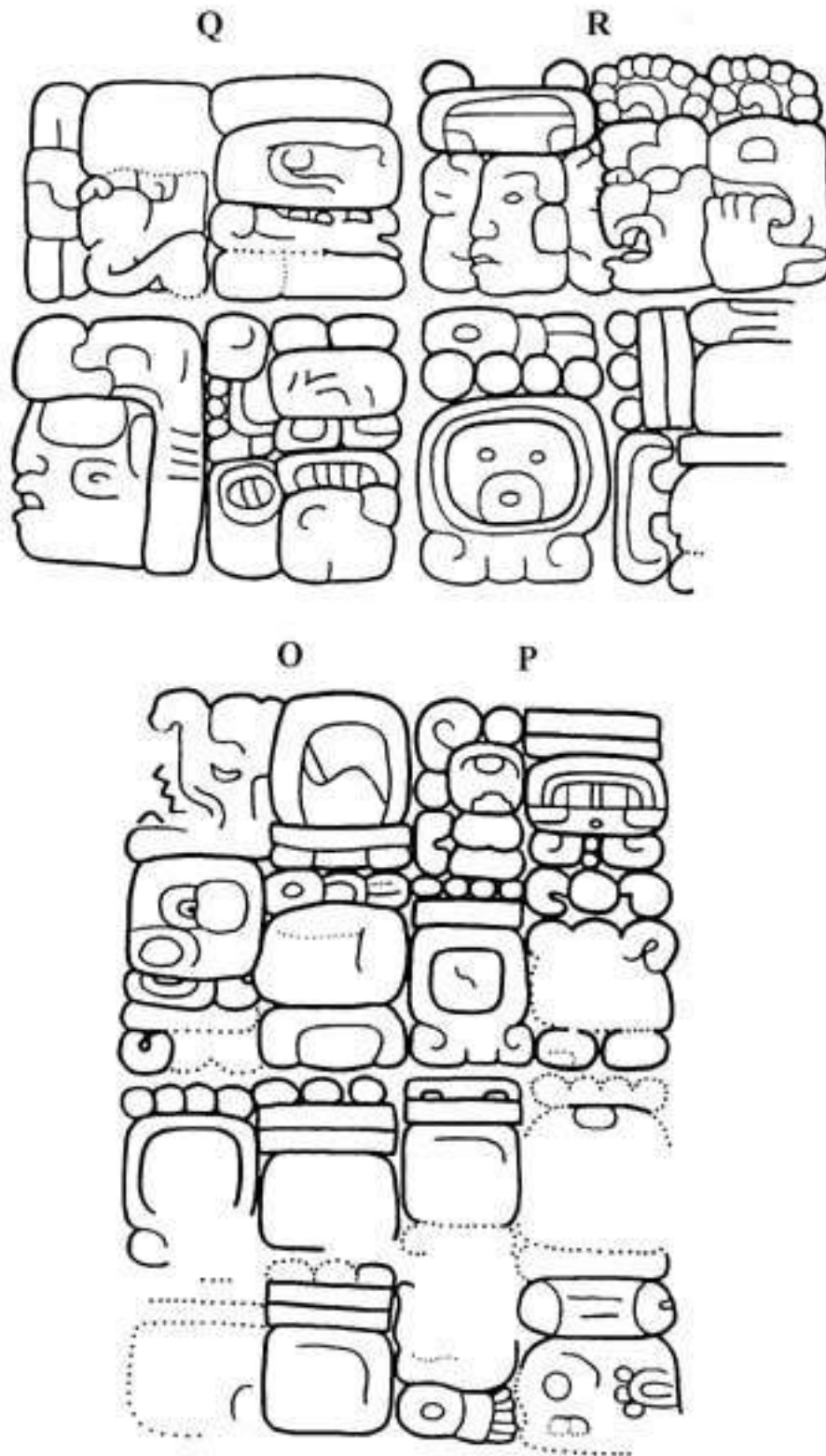


Figure 42. Altar P', O1-R2.

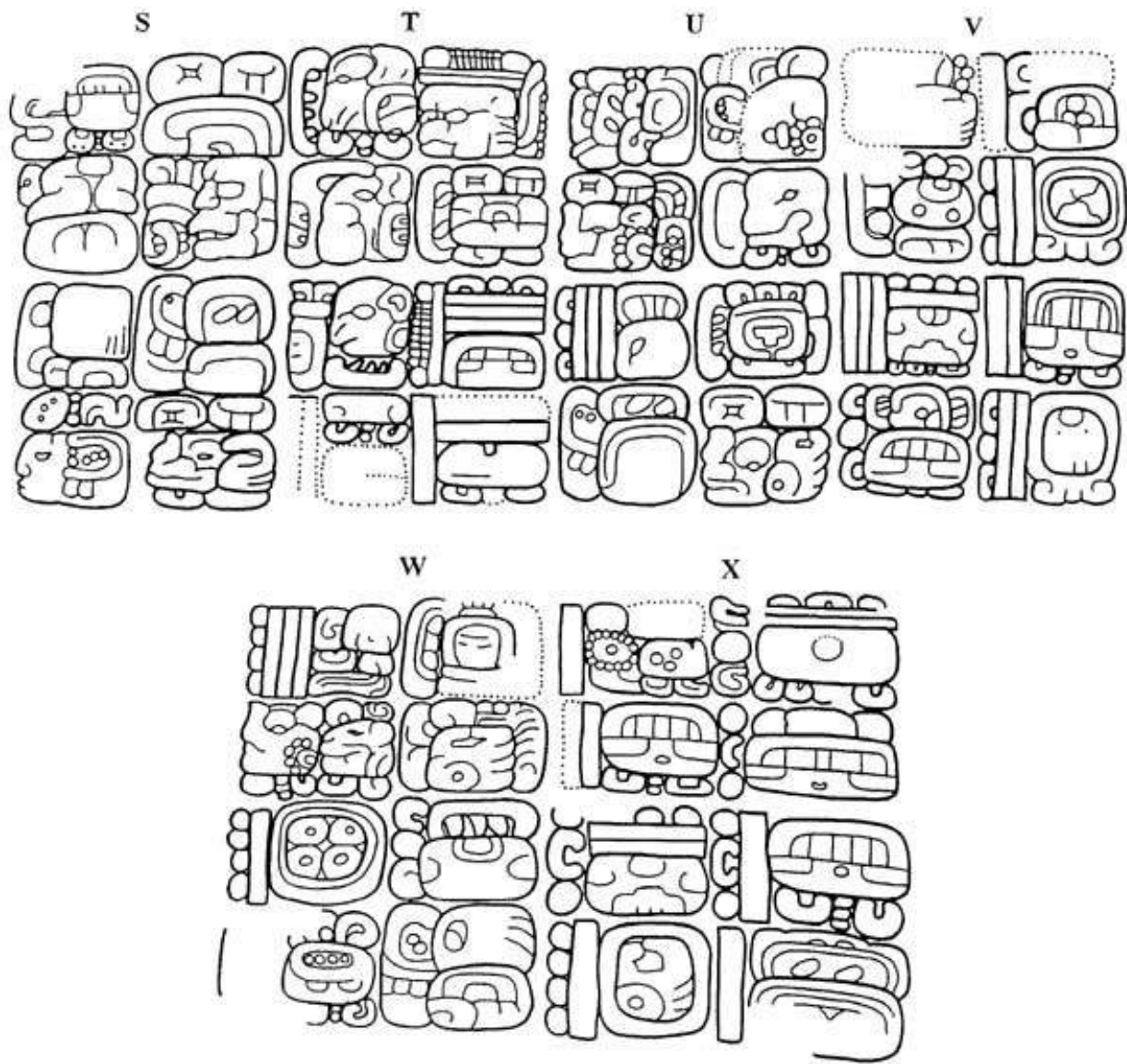


Figure 43. Altar P', S1-X4.