

LEOCADIO E. HOPUN

1894–1960

Maya archaeology and Maya archaeologists lost a loyal friend with the death, on November 24, 1960, of Leocadio E. Hopun in El Cayo, British Honduras. In the 1920's and 1930's, when the best means of access to the eastern Petén Department of Guatemala was by way of British Honduras, with equipment and supplies shipped by river from Belize to El Cayo and there transferred to mule trains for the journey into such places as Uaxactún, Tikal, or Naranjo, a key person in every archaeological organization was the expedition's agent in El Cayo. He made all the arrangements and kept a field party's life-lines maintained for the three or four month period in the bush. Leocadio Hopun, by profession an accountant and Cayo businessman, performed in this role of agent with excellence. Efficient, vigilant, he saw to everything. He acted as agent for the Carnegie Institution of Washington during its long program at Uaxactún. Again, after the second war, he served the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard University in the same capacity during their surveys and excavations in British Honduras and Guatemala. This is to name only a few of the scientific groups aided by Hopun over a period of almost 40 years. His friends will remember him as a man of keen intelligence, familiar with the country and with its people, and interested in the cause of archaeology. It will be difficult, indeed, to find someone to take his place.

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KARL RUPPERT

1895–1960

The sudden death of Karl Ruppert, at Rochester, Minnesota, on August 14, 1960, came as a great shock to many. He had gone to the Mayo Clinic, hoping to gain relief from an arthritic neck condition, which had been causing intense pain for nearly a year. Only two days before death struck, friends in Santa Fe had received cheerful notes from Karl, in which he said he was without pain for the first time in months. Death was caused by peritonitis. Ruppert was born in 1895 in Phoenix; his only survivor is a brother who lives in that city. His first academic work was at the University of Arizona, where, fortunately, under the tutelage of Byron Cummings, he was bitten by the archaeological bug. As Cummings' assistant, he was a partner on many explorations in the Kayenta region.

His first important assignment was in Chaco Canyon, with Neil Judd. Here he was in charge of the excavation of Pueblo del Arroyo, during 1921–26. Some of his happiest memories were of this period. Ruppert, equally gifted as an architect and archaeologist, was an absolute perfectionist in anything he undertook. He once said that the experience he gained in the Chaco was invaluable to him later. Even after

(Continued on next page)