

colored. It emerged from the kiln with the soft red it bears today.

The principal figures are two men dressed as birds. Their cloaks take the form of wings; they wear feather hats, from each of which rises a bird's head. That on the right seems to be a vulture, the other possibly the rare quetzal. Each bird-man, holding out his hands to a conventionalized snake-head, sits on a grotesque head; from where its nose should be, come shooting flames.

The scene has no close parallels. It is an example of the religious symbolism that marks Maya art. We may explain it as a picture of two priests arrayed as bird-gods to conduct their ceremonies. Or we can interpret it as an artist's conception of two divinities with their attributes: power over death, the cunning of the snake, the keen sight of the bird. However, it is not yet possible to speak with authority on Maya religion.

The scene is repeated on the reverse side. The height of the whole vase is about seven inches. Within its small panels the design is finely executed. On stylistic grounds it has been tentatively assigned to the first millennium after Christ.

M. B.

THE LATIN-AMERICAN INSTITUTE

ACTIVE in the advisory council of the newly-formed Latin-American Institute are E. R. Fenimore Johnson, Percy C. Madeira, Jr., J. Alden Mason, Vincenzo Petruzzo, and Linton Satterthwaite, Jr., of the Museum, as well as Professors Frank G. Speck, A. I. Hallowell and D. S. Davidson of the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania.

The Institute has been formed, as announced recently in the press, in recognition of the need for organization and coordination of research, and the dissemination of information, in the entire field of Middle and South American ethnology, archaeology, physical anthropology and linguistics.

The development of the Institute's program will be related in the *Memorandum*, of which two initial numbers have appeared. Copies may be obtained gratis from the Secretary of the Institute at the University Museum. Membership involves no dues or other obligations.