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## Looking Back at Ancient America IV

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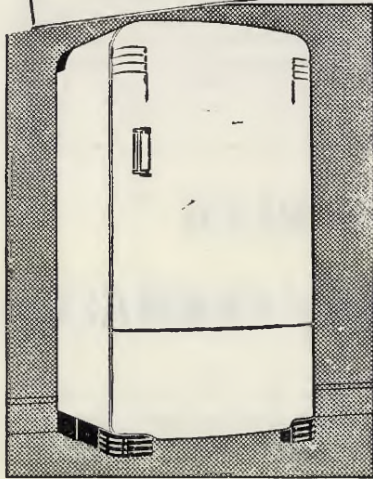
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**Abstract:** A presentation of photographs of ancient American ruins, accompanied by brief descriptions and comments.

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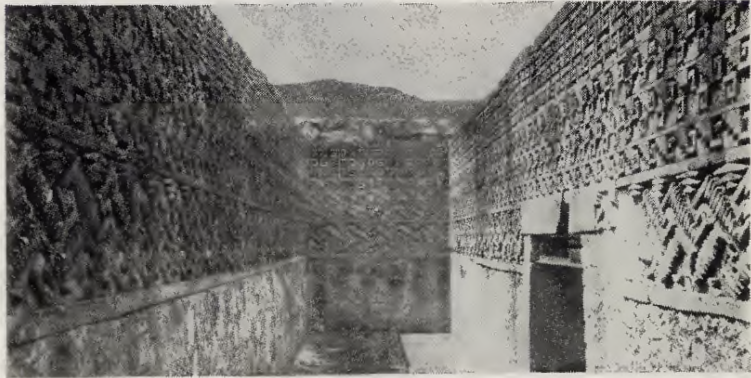
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**LOOKING BACK AT**

*Ancient America*

By WILLIAM and DEWEY FARNSWORTH  
Publishers of "Buried Empires of South America"  
and "Grandeurs of Ancient America."



THE BEAUTIFUL MOSAICS INLAID ON THE WALLS OF MITLA, OAXACA

In the district of Zapoteca, ten leagues from Oaxaca, occur the ruins of Mitla, consisting originally of five structures symmetrically arranged. A gateway opens upon a court one hundred and fifty feet square surrounded by four oblong buildings, in one of which the remains of two columns are still visible. The fifth building rises above the court on an elevated platform. One hundred and thirty feet in length, the interior walls of its spacious halls and apartments are covered with paintings, representing weapons, trophies, and sacrifices. The exterior walls are inlaid with intricate, geometric carvings of most astounding beauty which have endured through the ages almost perfectly preserved. These beautiful arabesques are almost identical with the carved relief work found upon the walls at Chan-Chan in Peru.

TEMPLE OF EL TAJIN

The beautiful terraced pyramid temple of El Tajin, near the village of Papantla, in the former state of Vera Cruz, is constructed of enormous blocks of stone, regularly laid in cement. Three staircases decorated with small niches of supposed astronomical significance lead up its sixty-foot height. This temple is most unusual for its numberless windows and intervening beautiful carved work—the best example of window structure of ancient architecture yet discovered. Intermingled with the masonry is an immense amount of destructive vegetal growth. Pyramidal elevations formerly faced with stone have been thrown down by the growth of great trees whose roots have penetrated between the masonry.



PYRAMID OF CHALULA

(Below)

The world's largest pyramid, at Chalula, in the state of Puebla, is four times larger than the largest pyramid of Egypt. It now has three and one-half miles of tunnels. This pyramid was enlarged by the Toltecs and later by the Aztec nation. A cement and stone stairway has just been found on the second or Toltec period of construction.

