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ISSN 1097-3737

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# Glyph Dwellers



Report 25

April 2008

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## *Stylistic Analysis of Dancing Maize Gods on Polychrome Ceramics*

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This note presents data in support of a longer study of ancient Maya dance, to be published by the University of Texas Press (Looper 2008). The table was generated from a database compiled using Filemaker Pro to analyze stylistic variation in images of Maize Gods from Tikal Dancer plates and Holmul-style ceramics (see Merwin and Vaillant 1932; Reents 1985; Reents-Budet et al. 1994: 197-198; Reents-Budet and Bishop 2003).

The columns, corresponding to fields of the database, display the following information relating to these images:

1. Object Ref

Identification of the vessel; a number preceded by *K* designates images in the Justin Kerr archive, online at [www.famsi.org](http://www.famsi.org); a number preceded by *MS* designates a vessel that was chemically sampled by the Maya Ceramics Project, Department of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution; a number preceded by *H* designates a vessel from the Hellmuth photographic archive, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collections.

2. Figure Ref

designation of the figure if the vessel depicts more than one major figure

3. Type

Holmul Dancer or Tikal Dancer style

4. Provenience

provisional identification of provenience based on chemical evidence, or site where excavated

5. Frontal

hips and chest of figure are displayed frontally, rather than in profile

6. Facing

face of figure is directed right or left

7. Arms

pose of arms according to the schema shown in Figure 1. A number followed by *m* indicates a mirror image.

8. Wings

refers to large feathered extensions from the dancer's waist, belt, or occasionally, arms

9. Raised heel

one or both heels lifted from the ground-line

10. Face

coloration of the face, especially areas of red pigment

11. Kilt

presence and decoration of the hip cloth

12. Dwarf

presence of a dwarf or hunchback adjacent to the main dancer

13. Animal

animal located in backrack of Holmul Dancers

14. Notes

additional excavation or reference data



Pose 1



Pose 2



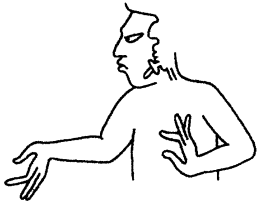
Pose 3



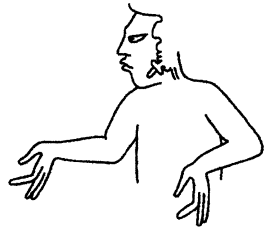
Pose 4



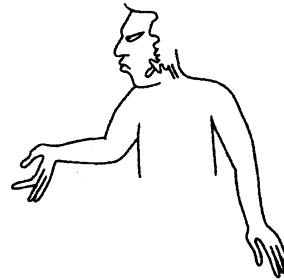
Pose 5



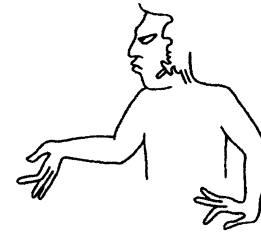
Pose 6



Pose 7



Pose 8



Pose 9



Pose 10

Figure 1.

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TABLE. Stylistic Analysis of Dancing Maize Gods on Polychrome Ceramics

Obj Ref	Type	Provenience	Front	Facing	Arms	Wings	Raised Heel	Face	Body	Kilt	Dwarf	Animal	Notes
H411	1	Holmul Dancer	yes	left	??		no		red		yes	??	
H411	2	Holmul Dancer		left					red		yes	bird	
H412	1	Holmul Dancer	yes	left	02		yes	red	red		yes	reptile	legible text
H412	2	Holmul Dancer	yes	left	01m		no	red eye cheek	red		yes	jaguar	legible text
K1837	1	Holmul Dancer	yes	left	06m		yes	light spots	light spots		yes		backrack like K7720; legible text
K1837	2	Holmul Dancer	yes	left	03		yes	light spots	light spots		yes		backrack like K7720; legible text
K4989	1	Holmul Dancer	yes	left	09		no	red eye cheek	light spots		yes	bird	
K4989	2	Holmul Dancer	yes	left	06m		no	red eye cheek	light spots		yes	mammal?	waterlily serpent backrack
K5026	1	Holmul Dancer	yes	left	06m		no	??	??		yes		no backrack
K5026	2	Holmul Dancer	yes	left	06m		yes	??	??		yes		no backrack
K5648	1	Holmul Dancer	yes	left	01		no	red eye cheek	??	net	no		no backrack

K5648	2	Holmul Dancer		yes	left	01	no	red eye	??	net	no		no backrack
K6002	1	Holmul Dancer		yes	left	06	no	red lips	red		no	?	
K6002	2	Holmul Dancer		yes	left	01	no	red cheek	red		no	snake?	
K7434	1	Holmul Dancer		yes	left	01	no	red eye cheek	red	net?	yes	peccary?	
K7434	2	Holmul Dancer		yes	left	01	no	red eye cheek	red	net?	yes	jaguar	
K7720	1	Holmul Dancer		yes	left	08	no	red cheek	red		no		backrack like K1837
K7720	2	Holmul Dancer		yes	left	01m?	no	red cheek	red		no		backrack like K1837
K7814	1	Holmul Dancer		yes	left	??	no	red	red		yes	??	
K7814	2	Holmul Dancer		yes	left	??	no	??	red		yes	reptile	
K7814	3	Holmul Dancer		yes	left	01	no	red eye cheek	red		yes	jaguar	legible text
K7814	4	Holmul Dancer		yes	left	01	no	red eye cheek	red		yes	monkey	legible text
K8088	1	Holmul Dancer		yes	left	08	no	red	red		no	monkey	
K8088	2	Holmul Dancer		yes	left	??	no	red	red		no	jaguar	
K8088	3	Holmul Dancer		yes	left	08	no	red	red		no	mammal	
K8190	1	Holmul Dancer		yes	left	06	no	light	red	yes	yes	??	
K8190	2	Holmul Dancer		yes	left	06?	yes	red	red	net?	yes	jaguar	
K8533	1	Holmul Dancer		yes	left	06m	no	red cheek	red		yes	jaguar	seated
K8533	2	Holmul Dancer		yes	left	01	no	red cheek	red		yes	??	seated
K8966	1	Holmul Dancer		yes	left	06m	no	red	red		yes	reptile	legible text
K8966	2	Holmul Dancer		yes	left	09	yes	red	red		yes	jaguar	legible text
K9110	1	Holmul Dancer		yes	left	01		red cheek	red	?	yes		
K9110	2	Holmul Dancer		yes	left	01	yes	red cheek	red	?	yes		
MS0032	1	Holmul Dancer	Naranjo	yes	left	01/06	no	??	red		yes	jaguar	
MS0038/ K0517	1	Holmul Dancer	Naranjo	no	left	01	no	red cheek	red		yes	mammal	
MS0038/ K0517	2	Holmul Dancer	Naranjo	yes	left	01	no	red cheek	red		yes	reptile	
MS0375	1	Holmul Dancer	Naranjo	yes	left	??		??	red		no		
MS0603	1	Holmul Dancer	Holmul	yes	left	06m	no	red eye cheek	red		yes	reptile	
MS0605/ K5723	1	Holmul Dancer	Naranjo	yes	left	06	no	red eye cheek	red		yes	jaguar	
MS0708/ H409	1	Holmul Dancer	Holmul	yes	left	01	no	red cheek	red		yes	jaguar	
MS0708/ H409	2	Holmul Dancer	Holmul	yes	left	01	no	red cheek	red		yes	jaguar	
MS0758/ K3388	1	Holmul Dancer	Naranjo	yes	left	01	no	red eye mouth	red	vertical stripes	yes		MPV 0366
MS0758/ K3388	2	Holmul Dancer	Naranjo	yes	left	01	no	red eye cheek	red	dotted circles	yes		MPV 0366
MS1125/ K0703	1	Holmul Dancer	Holmul	yes	left	06	no	red cheek	red		no		
MS1125/ K0703	2	Holmul Dancer	Holmul	yes	left	06/08	no	red cheek	red		no		
MS1127/ K5356	1	Holmul Dancer	Holmul	no	left	other	yes	red	red		yes		
MS1374/ K0633	1	Holmul Dancer	Naranjo	yes	left	02	yes	red eye cheek	red		yes	reptile?	legible text

MS1374/ K0633	2	Holmul Dancer	Naranjo	yes	left	02	yes	red cheek	red		yes	monkey	legible text
MS1374/ K0633	3	Holmul Dancer	Naranjo	yes	left	02	yes	red eye cheek	red		yes	jaguar	legible text
MS1416/ K4464	1	Holmul Dancer	Naranjo	no	right	01	no	light	light	net	no		excavated at Buenavista
MS1416/ K4464	2	Holmul Dancer	Naranjo	no	right	01	no	light	light	net	no		excavated at Buenavista
MS1420/ K4669/K 4619	1	Holmul Dancer	Naranjo	yes	left	other	no	red eye cheek	red		yes	jaguar	
MS1420/ K4669/K 4619	2	Holmul Dancer	Naranjo	yes	left	06	no	red eye cheek	red		yes	mammal	jaguar spotted bird with snake in beak
MS1494	1	Holmul Dancer	Holmul	yes	left	06		red cheek	red		no		
MS1494	2	Holmul Dancer	Holmul	yes	left	06		red cheek	red		no		
MS1598/ K5638	1	Holmul Dancer	Holmul?	yes	left	07	no	red lower	red?	fringed	no		
MS1598/ K5638	2	Holmul Dancer	Holmul?	yes	left	??	no	red lower	red?	yes	no		
MS1643	1	Holmul Dancer	Buenavista	no	left	other	no	red eye	red		no		
MS1662	1	Holmul Dancer	Naranjo	yes	left	01/02		red eye	red		no		
MS1682/ K3400	1	Holmul Dancer	Naranjo	no	left	02	no	red eye cheek	red		yes	jaguar	legible text
MS1682/ K3400	2	Holmul Dancer	Naranjo	yes	left	08	yes	red eye cheek	red		yes	reptile	legible text
MS1712/ K5977	1	Holmul Dancer		no	left	06	yes	red eye cheek	red		no	jaguar	
MS1712/ K5977	2	Holmul Dancer		yes	left	06	yes	red eye cheek	red		no	mammal?	
MS1721/ K5976	1	Holmul Dancer	Xultun?	yes	left	06m	yes	red cheek	red		yes	jaguar	
MS1721/ K5976	2	Holmul Dancer	Xultun?	yes	left	08	yes	red cheek	red		yes	reptile?	
MSBX50	1	Holmul Dancer	Buenavista	yes	right	01m	no	red eye	red		no	human	excavated at Buenavista del Cayo, Belize
MSBX50	2	Holmul Dancer	Buenavista	yes	right	01m	no	red eye	red		no	human	excavated at Buenavista del Cayo, Belize
MSBX54	1	Holmul Dancer	Buenavista	yes	right	01m	no	red eye	red		yes		excavated at Buenavista del Cayo, Belize
MSBX56	1	Holmul Dancer	Buenavista	no	right	??	no	red cheek	red		no		excavated at Buenavista del Cayo, Belize
MSBX56	2	Holmul Dancer	Buenavista	yes	right	01	no	red eye	red		no		excavated at Buenavista del Cayo, Belize
MSBX59	1	Holmul Dancer	Buenavista	yes	right	01m	no	red eye	red		no		seated; excavated at Buenavista del Cayo, Belize

MSBX71	1	Holmul Dancer	Buenavista	no	left	??		no	red eye mouth	red?		no		excavated at Buenavista del Cayo, Belize
MSG471	1	Holmul Dancer	Naranjo	yes	left	01		no	red cheek	red		yes		excavated at UAX
MSH013	1	Holmul Dancer	Holmul	yes	left	??		no	red cheek	red		yes	mammal	excavated at Holmul
MSH013	2	Holmul Dancer	Holmul	yes	left	??		no	red cheek	red		yes	mammal	excavated at Holmul
MSH019	1	Holmul Dancer	Naranjo	yes	left	02		no	red cheek	red		yes	jaguar	excavated at Holmul /
MSH412	1	Holmul Dancer	Holmul	yes	left	02			red	red		yes		
NHcyl	1	Holmul Dancer		yes	left	??			red	red		no		
Yalloch vase	1	Holmul Dancer		yes	left	10		no	??	??		yes	jaguar	excavated at Yalloch, Belize
Yalloch vase 90364	2	Holmul Dancer		yes	left	10		no	??	??		yes	??	excavated at Yalloch, Belize
Col. Wray		Tikal Dancer		yes	left	10	yes	yes	red lips	red				
Col. Zigas		Tikal Dancer		yes	left	09m	yes	yes	white	red				partial PSS
Geneva		Tikal Dancer		yes	left	10		no	??	black				Boot (2003)
H003		Tikal Dancer		yes	left	06m	yes	yes	white	red, white thighs				
H004		Tikal Dancer		yes	left	08m	yes	no	red lines	red		red stripes?		
H008		Tikal Dancer		no	left	06	yes	no	red cheek	red				Mint Museum 83117227
H009		Tikal Dancer		yes	left	06m	yes	yes	red cheek	red		white		
H011		Tikal Dancer		yes	left	08	no	yes	red cheek	red				
H012		Tikal Dancer		yes	left	09m	no	yes	white	red				
H013		Tikal Dancer		yes	left	09m	yes	yes	red cheek spot	red		red border		
H014		Tikal Dancer		yes	left	09m	yes	yes	red lips	red		red bands		
H016		Tikal Dancer		yes	left	09m	no	yes	red cheek	red		??		
H017		Tikal Dancer		no	left	08	no	yes	red cheek	red				
H018		Tikal Dancer		yes	left	10	no	yes	white	pink				
H019		Tikal Dancer		yes	left	06	yes	yes	white	red				MFA Boston 1987.708
H021		Tikal Dancer		yes	left	??	??	yes	red cheek	red		white		
H022		Tikal Dancer		yes	left	07m	no	yes	red lips	red		red bands		
H025		Tikal Dancer		yes	left	06m	no	no	circle red eye	red		dots		
H027		Tikal Dancer		no	left	09m	yes	yes	red cheek	red				
JAV01		Tikal Dancer		yes	left	05m	no	yes	red line?	red				
JAV02		Tikal Dancer		yes	left	10	yes	yes	white	red				
JAV03		Tikal Dancer		yes	left	10	no	yes	red lines	red				
K0097		Tikal Dancer		yes	left	05	yes	yes	??	red		red dots		
K1271		Tikal Dancer		yes	left	05	yes	no	red cheek	red				
K3445		Tikal Dancer		yes	right	09	yes	yes	red lips	red				
		Tikal Dancer		yes	left	02m	no	yes	red cheek spot	??				Partial PSS

K5375	Tikal Dancer		yes	left	10	yes	yes	red cheek	red		
K5875	Tikal Dancer		no	left	03	no	no	red cheek	bichrome		
K5880	Tikal Dancer		yes	right	06	yes	yes	red circle, red lips	red	red patches	
K5881	Tikal Dancer		yes	left	01m	yes	no	red cheek circle	red		
K7266	Tikal Dancer		yes	left	10	yes	yes	white	black	net	
K8593	Tikal Dancer		yes	left	09m	yes	yes	white	red		
K9085	Tikal Dancer		yes	left	09m		yes	red cheek	red		
MNA 8458	Tikal Dancer		no	left	08	no	no	white	red		Museo Nacional, Guatemala
MS0236/ K2360	Tikal Dancer		yes	left	06 & 05		yes	circle white eye, mouth	red		rim figures with wings;
MS0244/ K5358	Tikal Dancer	Tikal 2	yes	left	09m	yes	yes	circle white eye, mouth	red		Nasher Museum
MS0292	Tikal Dancer		no	left	06	no	no	??	red spots		
MS0409	Tikal Dancer		yes	left	??	no	yes	??	red		similar to MS0236
MS0411	Tikal Dancer	Tikal 2	yes	right	09	yes	yes	??	black		
MS0657/ K5076	Tikal Dancer		yes	left	06m	yes	no	red lips	red	jaguar	
MS0714	Tikal Dancer	Tikal 1	yes	left	09m	no	yes	red cheek	red	red bands	
MS0773	Tikal Dancer		no	left	06	yes	no	pink	red	white	
MS0838	Tikal Dancer		yes	left	10	yes	??	pink	red	white	
MS0845/ K5603	Tikal Dancer	Tikal 1	yes	left	06m	yes	no	circle mouth	red	red dots	
MS0847	Tikal Dancer	Tikal 1	yes	left	10	yes	yes	red cheek	red		
MS0860	Tikal Dancer		yes	left	??	yes	yes	??	red		
MS0861	Tikal Dancer		yes	left	09m	no	yes	red cheek	red		
MS0862	Tikal Dancer		yes	left	09m	yes	no	red lips	red	red bands	
MS0863	Tikal Dancer		yes	left	10	no	no	red	red with black forelimbs		
MS0880	Tikal Dancer		yes	left	06m	no	yes	white nose lips	red		
MS0925	Tikal Dancer		yes	left	06m	no	no	red lips	red		
MS0928	Tikal Dancer		no	left	10	??	yes	??	red		
MS0930	Tikal Dancer		no	left	other	yes	no	red front, circle mouth	red	stripes	
MS0933	Tikal Dancer	Tikal 2	no	left	??	yes	no	??	red		PSS
MS0937	Tikal Dancer	Tikal 2	yes	left	09m	yes	yes	red eye	red	red border	
MS0961	Tikal Dancer	Tikal 2	yes	left	??	yes	??	??	??		
MS1057	Tikal Dancer	Tikal 2	yes	right	09	yes	yes	red cheek spot, red forehead	red	jaguar	yes



MS1230	Tikal Dancer		no	left	??	yes	no	??	red			PSS
MS1360	Tikal Dancer		yes	left	06m	no	yes	??	red			
MS1438/ K5379	Tikal Dancer		no	left	03	yes	no	red cheek	red			Mint Museum, 1984.217.14; Tzolk'in glyphs
MS1439	Tikal Dancer	Tikal 1	yes	left	08m	no	yes	red cheek spot	red	red bands		
MS1501	Tikal Dancer		yes	left	09m	no	yes	??	red			
MS1502	Tikal Dancer	Tikal 1	yes	left	10	yes	no	red lips, red cheek	red			
MS1503	Tikal Dancer		yes	left	10	yes	yes	white	red	spots?		
MS1510	Tikal Dancer	Tikal 1	yes	left	05	yes	yes	??	red			
MS1511	Tikal Dancer	Tikal 1	yes	left	06/07 m?	yes	yes	red cheek	red			
MS1560	Tikal Dancer		yes	left	??	yes?	yes	red front	red			
MS1657	Tikal Dancer		yes	left	06m	yes	yes	red lips, nose	red	red stripes		
MS1658	Tikal Dancer	Tikal 2	no	left	other	yes	yes	circle red eye	red			
MS5317	Tikal Dancer		no	left	05m	no	no	circle red eye	red			
MS5505	Tikal Dancer		yes	left	??	no	no	white	black?			
MS5538	Tikal Dancer		yes	left	02	no	yes	red lips	red spots			hands closed
MSG463	Tikal Dancer	Ramonalito	yes	left	06 & 05	no/yes	yes	circle white eye, mouth	red			excavated at Ramonalito; rim dancers arms 5, excavated at TIK
MST063	Tikal Dancer	Tikal 1	yes	left	06m	yes	??	red line, red lips	red	jaguar		
MT216	Tikal Dancer	Tikal	no	right	??	??	yes	??	red			excavated from TIK Bu. 195 Ik complex; Bird, possibly backrack. royal patronage.
N. Orleans MA 69.2	Tikal Dancer		yes	left	01	no	yes	red lips, red lines	pink	red stripes circles net		
RMV Sotheby 7391 no. 82	Tikal Dancer		yes	left	other		yes	red cheek	red			Boot (2003)
TIK Bu. 147	Tikal Dancer	Tikal	yes	left	06 & 05	no/yes	yes	red	red			excavated from TIK Bu. 147 Imix Complex;
TIK Bu. 81	Tikal Dancer	Tikal	no	left	10	no	yes	??	red			excavated from TIK Bu. 81, Ik complex
TIK MT99	Tikal Dancer	Tikal	no	left	??	??	yes	??	red			excavated from TIK Bu. 159, Ik complex
UAX Bu. A3	Tikal Dancer	Uaxactun	yes	left	09m	no	yes	circle red eye, mouth	red	red border		excavated from UAX Bu. A3