

in this rejection of sex, but it is unwise to overstate this. Indeed practical experience leads one to the belief that individuals with built-in problems seek religious sanction for their prejudices rather than that a religious attitude discourages a healthy sexual outlook.

Traumatic early experiences can certainly lead to difficulties, particularly in those predisposed by a low sexual drive. A clear example of this was the young man whose first sexual experience was with a prostitute, an experience, it was arranged, to be shared with three friends for reasons of economy. He was the lucky, or unlucky, companion who was deputed to be first. His inexperience, combined with the encouraging comments of his friends through the closed door, ensured his lack of success and his subsequent impotence.

Latent or overt homosexuals may well be found suffering from primary impotence with a female partner. Here too, of course, family background may be significant.

As with the other problems already considered, analysis of the problem and re-education to a more healthy regard for sex are most important. Specific stimulation by the female partner may be of value, but it is unwise to expect too much of this approach. Often "like marries like," and a couple may be content to live without intercourse by mutual consent until perhaps their friends or relatives question them about lack of a family. In such circumstances complete success for any form of therapy is rare. Even if successful intercourse and pregnancy are achieved, such couples rarely feel the need or indeed obtain any great satisfaction from their physical relationship.

#### SECONDARY IMPOTENCE

This is a commoner problem and usually more amenable to management. Physical causes may be entirely responsible or perhaps make a major though indirect contribution to the problem. Testicular loss, general endocrine disorders, perineal prostatectomy, and neurological diseases such as multiple sclerosis may explain the situation completely. Angina, severe dyspnoea, hypotensive drugs, and painful local lesions such as phimosis may be important factors without interfering directly with the mechanism of erection. If a physical cause is found it may not or more likely will not be amenable to treatment. The problem then becomes one of marriage counselling.

More commonly secondary impotence is a consequence of a complex of physical, social, and psychological factors. It is most frequently seen in those of middle age, under stress, socially

and financially successful. Cultural elements are important because the greater the demand for male excellence in performance the higher is the rate of secondary impotence. Overwork, physical and mental strain, and alcoholic episodes are usually found when the analysis of the problem takes one back to its origin. Frequently there has been marital disharmony for some time, perhaps connected with business problems, perhaps going back further. Certainly it is common to find that premature ejaculation and failure of the wife to achieve orgasm over many years has been a feature of the marriage. Probably because of the underlying disharmony the results of failure to achieve erection are magnified. Anxiety to avoid further failure makes it only more likely, and if the help of alcohol is sought further failure is virtually assured. The more frequent the failure the more critical the partner, and the worse the situation becomes. Compounding the difficulty is often a wife's fear of her husband's infidelity, and in some circumstances his own seeking of reassurance about his sexual abilities outside marriage.

In spite of the daunting nature of these problems, secondary impotence of this type can almost always be dealt with. Analysis of the problem with the couple, resolution of their underlying fears, shedding of business cares at least for a time, and above all the discouragement of the man from a constant analysis of his performance offer the real prospect of restored potency and marital happiness.

This paper, and the clinical examples cited, form part of an analysis of 200 personal cases of sexual dysfunction referred to me during the past eight years and previously unpublished though publicly discussed.

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## Outside Medicine

### Thomas Gann in the Maya Ruins

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Thomas William Francis Gann (1867-1938) was the son of William Gann, of Whitstable, and Rose Gann, née Garvey, of

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Murrisk Abbey, Mayo, Eire. Though born at Murrisk Abbey he grew up in Whitstable. His parents were prominent in the social life of that then small town, in which young Somerset Maugham, seven years Gann's junior, also moved.

Maugham named his strumpet heroine of *Cakes and Ale* Rosie Gann, and has her a native of Whitstable, thinly disguised as Blackstable, in which the early scenes of the novel are laid. Several characters in this book have been widely recognized as portraits of persons the author disliked. Accordingly, it may well be that Maugham, whose sense of spite was acutely

developed and whose early years at Whitstable were unhappy, deliberately chose that name for his wanton character to pay off some old score or fancied insult. Gann's widow informs me that no love was lost between her husband and Somerset Maugham. She does not know the reason; I suggest it was the appearance of Rosie Gann in the novel.



Thomas Gann, reproduced from frontispiece of *Maya Cities* (1927, Duckworth) by permission of the publishers.

### British Honduras

Young Gann went to King's School, Canterbury, and thence to medical school, followed in both steps by Maugham. Gann trained at the Middlesex Hospital, receiving his M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P. in 1890. He arrived in Belize, then British Honduras, in June 1892 and very shortly took up an appointment as district surgeon and district commissioner of the Cayo (Western) District, the latter posting surely to fill a temporary vacancy, for the two positions were never permanently merged.

According to Mr. William Schofield, of Corozal, Belize, with whose father Gann maintained a long friendship from 1894 onward, Gann decided to practise in the Colony because of an interest in Maya archaeology he had already developed, and he took up the appointment on the understanding by the Colonial Office that he would serve only in those parts of the country well endowed with Maya ruins. Certainly he was never stationed in the Belize District or coastal districts to the south, in which Maya ruins are not plentiful and those there are lie distant from medical centres located in the larger settlements.

One can only guess how this young medical student first became interested in Maya archaeology. Those classics *Incidents of Travel in Central America, Chiapas and Yucatan*, and *Incidents of Travel in Yucatan*, by J. L. Stephens, with their fine descriptions and illustrations of Maya ruins, were readily available, as well as Charnay's *The Ancient Cities of the New World*. This last may have brought him into touch with the great pioneer Alfred Maudslay, perhaps the only man in England who knew that British Honduras was Maya territory.

That small land, about the size of Wales, is bitten out of the east flank of the Peninsula of Yucatan which points northward towards Florida across the Gulf of Mexico. Favoured by buccaneers in the 17th century as a tropical hide-out and

convenient spot for careening—the celebrated Bartholomew Sharp lived there in 1677—it became a source of logwood which fetched very high prices in Europe because of the dye it yielded. The labour force required for cutting and transporting logwood and, later, mahogany for Georgian homes was met by the introduction of negroes. When Gann set foot in Belize, as now, they were the largest element in the population.

In outlying parts of the Colony, in the north and along the western frontier, were Maya Indians in considerable numbers, some long established there, others recent immigrants from neighbouring Mexico and Guatemala. Their ancestors created the Maya civilization which flourished from about A.D. 100 to the arrival of the Spaniards in A.D. 1540, but its beginnings reach back to 800 B.C. or earlier.

### Fantastic Implements

From the Cayo or Western District Gann was transferred in early 1894 to the Corozal or Northern District. Both are liberally sprinkled with Maya ruins, some almost on the surgery doorstep. Moreover, neither district was heavily populated, so surgery hours for treatment of malaria, hookworm, machete wounds from Saturday-night brawls, and so on left ample time for archaeological exploration. In those early days no domestic ties interfered with mound digging; Gann remained a bachelor until the age of 60. He wasted no time in indulging his hobby, for his first paper, *Exploration of two mounds in British Honduras*, appeared in the *Journal of the Society of Antiquaries* for 1894-5.

One of those mounds was at a large ruin a mile or two from his surgery at Benque Viejo, second largest village in his practice. From later knowledge of Gann I picture him speeding up the flow of patients through his surgery and cutting short long-winded recitals of ills so that he could be off to see how the dig had progressed. That first paper has almost the earliest account of the discovery of certain fantastically shaped implements, now called eccentric flints or eccentric obsidians, which are such a common feature of Maya sites in Belize and the neighbouring Guatemalan Department of the Peten. Gann was not aware that he had been beaten to the post by an Italian who in 1891 had reported similar finds in an obscure journal in Florence.

Transfer to Corozal, in the north of Belize, whetted Gann's appetite for Maya ruins; in an article in the same *Journal of the Society of Antiquaries* for 1896-7 he reported that by then he had opened between 50 and 60 mounds. Gann of course had had no archaeological training, and that showed itself in his failure to keep adequate notes of his excavations and even to oversee the labourers (often he would go to the dig only at noon and sundown to collect the finds). Consequently, much important information was not recorded. But Gann reflected the attitude of his period, which regarded excavation as the retrieval of works of art or "curios," not as a means of recovering history. Moreover, archaeological techniques now taken for granted were then unknown. Potsherd stratification, today indispensable, came into use in the New World nearly three decades after Gann had opened his mounds. Similarly, no one then bothered to keep charcoal, for the discovery of carbon-14 dating lay far in the future.

On the other hand if Gann had not opened those mounds looters would have done so, or the mounds would have been bulldozed to supply road metal or to level land for plantations, fates which have befallen so many archaeological sites in Belize and elsewhere.

In his early years in Belize Gann was also at the disadvantage of being very much on his own. Nevertheless, his report of 1900 on his discoveries at Santa Rita, discussed below, shows that he already had a good acquaintance with the authorities in Spanish and English then available, several of the books he cites being quite rare. Perhaps initially he did get advice from Maudslay, but he certainly studied his sources either before

going to Belize or when in England on leave, perhaps with the aid of a working library.

### Pulverized Inscription

Soon after taking over as medical officer of the Corozal District, in the extreme north of the country, Gann made the most important discovery of his long career. The town of the same name had been settled nearly 40 years earlier by Spanish-speaking mestizos fleeing from the Maya Indians in revolt against white rule in Yucatan; in the surrounding country were several Maya Indian villages. A mile or so from Corozal town, which then boasted a fort and small garrison as a protection against Maya raiders from across the border, was Santa Rita, a property of some 500 acres cleared some years earlier for growing sugar cane. Removal of the forest had disclosed between 40 and 50 ancient mounds.

By the time Gann came on the scene in 1894 a number of those mounds had been completely destroyed; the limestone rocks of the cores and the dressed stone of the facings had been carted off to build houses in Corozal. That is a process with which the world is only too familiar: Roman villas robbed to build St. Albans Abbey; suppressed abbeys pulled down to build the stately homes of Henry VIII's henchmen, and so on. There are good grounds for believing that Santa Rita was part of the site of Chetumal, capital of the Maya province of that name which flourished at the time of the Spanish conquest. It was a wealthy town, for it controlled the export to Yucatan and perhaps to Central Mexico of huge quantities of cacao (chocolate) beans, for the cacao bean was *the* currency of all Middle America. Whatever group held territory with the precise degrees of heat and humidity needed for its cultivation was in the happy position of having money that grows on trees. Just as the British once established their "factories" in China and India, so the aggressive seagoing group of Maya, the Putun Maya, with strong mercantile interests had settled at Chetumal to control the cacao trade.

Gann uncovered one building at Santa Rita inside a later construction. The covering of one building by a larger and later one was a regular feature of the Maya "bigger and better" attitude. What made this example of extraordinary interest was that the outside walls of the inner building had been completely covered with figures painted in red, yellow, blue, green, black, and white, a large number of which were in fair to good condition. Maya murals are rare; these had the added importance of being the only examples of a vivacious blending of Maya and non-Maya motifs surely attributable to those Argonauts of the Caribbean, the Putun Maya.

Unfortunately, as it turned out, the east wall was first laid bare. When its mural unexpectedly came to light no tracing paper was to be had in Corozal. Gann was forced to copy the painted design with an improvised and far from satisfactory substitute, oiled paper. The consequent delays were fatal (the

old paddle steamer Egerton arrived weekly from Belize). With only about half the outline crudely traced, mischievous Indians one night removed the whole of the stucco surface. The Maya Indians were said to have ground this up and used it in water as a sovereign cure for unspecified ailments.

Most unfortunately a long hieroglyphic inscription occupied half the destroyed surface, a tragic loss, for not a single hieroglyphic text of that late period has survived. We are dependent for knowledge of the writing of that period on short divinatory passages in a couple of Maya books. One wonders whether Gann saw the irony of his great discovery being carted off to make medicine for his rivals, the local witch doctors. I doubt whether he did, for he was liable to fits of uncontrollable temper which sorted ill with philosophical acquiescence.

### Collection of Jades

Gann was not caught out again. He uncovered and copied on good tracing paper the remaining figures on the north and west walls one by one, partly because they faded rapidly on exposure to sunlight, but partly no doubt to ensure they were not converted into products of the Maya pharmacy. Gann's publication of the murals—*Mounds in Northern Honduras*—was and is an outstanding contribution to Maya studies.

His medical practice brought Gann into close contact with the present-day Maya. An important outcome was that he was able to procure a Maya text of the great rain-making ceremony called *ch'achac*, "summon the rain gods," performed in times of drought. Such texts have been recorded more recently in other parts of the Maya area, but the early Gann version has important details lacking in others.

In 1918 Gann in the company of the Maya archaeologist Sylvanus Morley sailed round the peninsula of Yucatan from Belize to Champoton, visiting many important coastal and inland Maya sites. His highly readable *In an Unknown Land*, describing the exploratory journey, appeared in 1924 and was followed in the next four years by as many more books of travel and archaeological exploration in the Maya area, all written in a pleasant non-technical style. In them are accounts of important Maya ruins which Gann discovered or first brought to public attention.

Gann formed an outstanding collection of carved Maya jades, which with many other artifacts he bequeathed to the British museum. They are part of the superb Maya exhibition open until late in 1975 at the Museum of Mankind, 6 Burlington Gardens, London W.1. He was in fact the first man to collect Maya jades. In a way that interest epitomizes the Victorian or Edwardian collector attracted by intrinsic beauty and exquisite workmanship. It is not the approach of the present-day archaeologist, often more interested in finds that reconstruct economic history, but it would be a poorer world were there not room for both "schools." After all, Gann's fellow Whitstablean, Somerset Maugham, collected Zoffanys.