

The West Group ball court has been found to differ markedly from the court of the supposedly early South Group, and in the West Group court there has been recovered a sculptured fragment, fallen from its wall, bearing one of the latest dates in the city — indicating that this court was one of the last building operations at Piedras Negras. A second sculpture from the ball court shows twin figures facing each other, each holding what looks like a ping-pong bat, and each with right knee raised and bearing something tied around the back of the knee, presumably a knee-pad or guard. This is a detail of equipment not hitherto noted in connection with Maya representations of their ball games.

Low mounds and platforms found around the main Groups have yielded many metates (corn grinding stones); consideration of these finds, together with the size and lack of precise grouping of the mounds, and the quantities of surface sherds encountered, have led the expedition to regard them as foundations for dwelling houses of wood and thatch. Burned wattle-clay on one indicates that they were neatly plastered. Since this material only survives when burned by an accidental fire, we may assume that the city proper, apart from the ceremonial buildings, consisted of houses of this type. If these are, indeed, house sites, they are the first that have been found and may be considered a discovery of no little importance.

*Gold and Copper  
Ornaments  
from Peru*

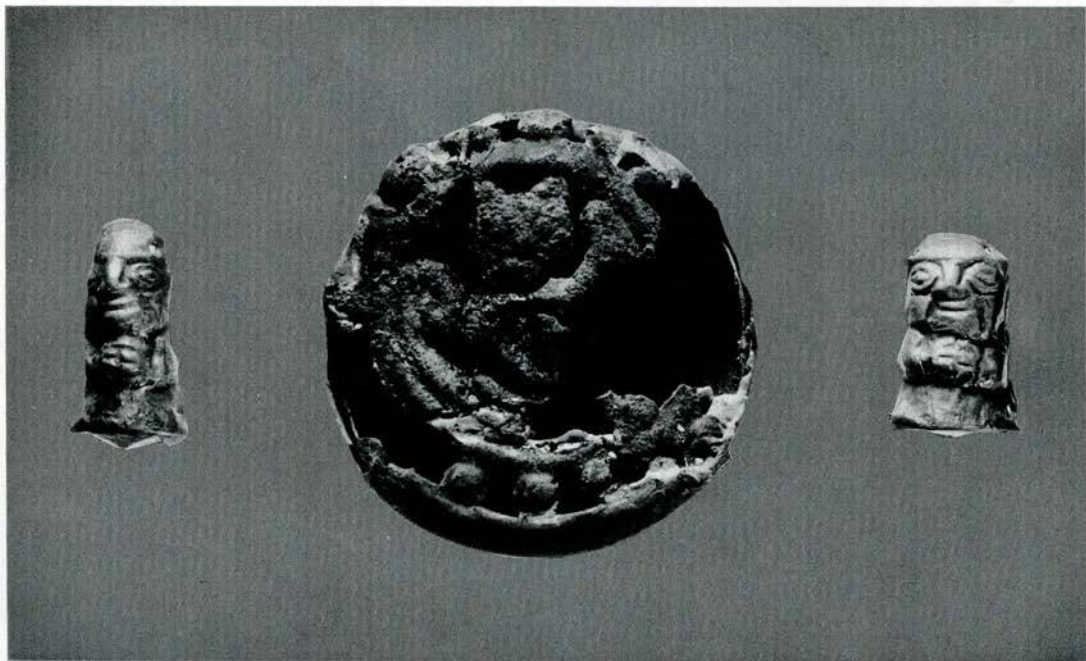
**M**R. CHARLES L. CHANDLER has recently presented the Museum with three dainty metal objects from prehistoric Peru. These were excavated from ancient graves at Lambayeque on the low arid Pacific coast in northern Peru. This was the seat of the Chimu nation, one of the highest of the Peruvian cultures, although also one of the earliest. There is no method of dating this civilization and these objects, but the culture is believed to have flourished in the early centuries

of the Christian era, far antedating the time of the more famous Incas of the Peruvian highlands who later conquered the Chimu. It was in this region that Pizarro first set foot on Peruvian soil and received his first impression of the quality of Peruvian civilization. He and the other Conquerors who followed him secured immense quantities of gold from the graves of the Gran Chimu.

Two of these objects, shown at the sides in Plate III in larger than natural size, are tiny human figures of gold. The metal is very thin, almost gold leaf, and the figures were probably made by the *repoussé* process of hammering the thin metal over a carved mould with a padded hammer. The section of each is semicircular, the back being open. The forehead curves back in hemispherical form, but the base is cut and turned back. Along the edges of each are four tiny perforations, indicating that the figures were sewn on to cloth as decorations. Probably there were many more of these on the garment. Each example shows a stylized figure without feet, with hands clasped on the breast. Each is about three-quarters of an inch high.

The central figure is a somewhat larger ornament of copper, one and five-eighths inches in diameter and three-eighths of an inch in thickness. The metal is, as commonly with copper, much oxidized, and the object therefore broken, although it has been repaired as well as possible. It resembles a small circular box with solid thin bottom and sides and perforated top, but was probably also an ornament, as there are small holes in the side for suspension. The perforated top, parts of which are missing, shows a feline figure, probably a puma or jaguar, an animal of great religious importance in ancient Peru. Head and tail are far out of proportion to the rest of the body. In one paw it holds an unidentifiable object. The peripheral ring of circles probably originally completely encircled the puma figure.

J. A. M.



GOLD FIGURINES AND A COPPER ORNAMENT FROM PREHISTORIC GRAVES AT LAMBAYEQUE, PERU