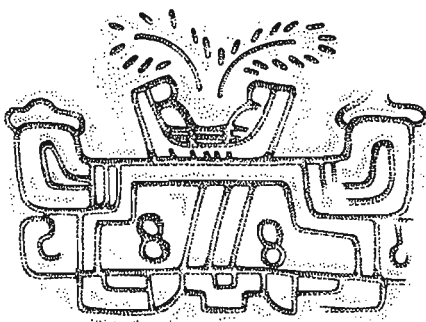


ETHNOBIOTICA

By the time you read this I will have completed my third year as editor of the *Journal of Ethnobiology*. It has not been easy. Editing the *Journal* is not, in my opinion, a proper job for one person, already employed full-time. I'm afraid to count up the hours it has consumed. Hardest has been battling the two-headed monster of schedule and budget: staying on schedule and within the budget. We briefly got on schedule with Volume 16, Number 1, but then slipped seriously into the red. I was struggling to learn what things cost and the relationship between an editorial decision and a bill we would receive some months later. There were failures in communication with those who composed, printed, and mailed the journal. One complex table had to be redone in page proof at a cost of \$2000! I was real green, and I don't mean conservationist.

Just as I was getting the hang of it, I got my research grant and took off for a year in Mexico. I had then to coordinate all phases of the operation from afar via e-mail. Without Jennifer Sepez and Brian Van Hoy, my student assistants, I would have gone down with the ship. I thank my department and the Graduate School at the University of Washington for funding. But once more we slipped inexorably behind schedule, even as we got the budget under control. Volume 17, Number 1 was right on budget but four months late. I pray that Volume 17, Number 2 will catch us up two months and stay within the budget. My goal is to finish Volume 18 at the end of 1998 on time and under budget. I will then gratefully pass the torch to my successor, as yet unnamed.

Despite the frustrations and the daily burden of the job, I take pride in the new cover design, the always diverse and stimulating content, and the fact that subscriptions seem to be on the increase. I believe that will be our salvation: more subscribers means reduced cost per subscriber, which should free our resources for expansion and innovation. I welcome any and all comments, suggestions, and criticisms as, in truth, this journal belongs to all of us.



Engue Hunn

Toponym glyph from Monte Albán, Oaxaca for Miahuatlán 'place [in the water] of the maize tassels', approximate Nahuatl translation of the local Zapotec name, *Guizdòo*. This town was subject to the rulers of Monte Albán between 200 BC and 100 AD. (Joyce Marcus, "Zapotec writing," *Scientific American*, February 1980, pg 56). Hunn's current ethnobiological research is at San Juan Mixtepec 50 km se of Miahuatlán.