

# **The wall engravings**

of the

## **Cenote Xtogil,**

Yukatan / Mexico



Eine Foto-Dokumentation von Josef Rahm Otto



## The wall engravings of the Cenote Xtogil, Yukatan / Mexico

The Cenote Xtogil is situated besides the ruins of Chichatan. Cenotes, coming are flat bowl-like dolines having water whole the les and washing out of in rain water and hard caused corrosion an al-then arose there a deep, sometimes 30 to 80 m in



ated near Piste, a small town chen Itza at the peninsula Yucatan from the Maya word „tz'o-not“, within the peninsula Yucatan year. They arose by air bubb- karst stones. Whenby seeped- chalk saturated ground water ready existing cavity collapses, pit-like naturalwell up to 10, diameter. These cenotes were

used, if not having a natural access, by wooden ladders or stairs carved into the walls as natural water resources. The cenotes are a typical feature of the landscape of the northern lowland. It is not surprising that the people of the Maya, in whose world of thought the imagination of a subterranean next world played a great role, used the place around these wells as meeting points and cultural sites. The Cenote Xtogil is a smaller one laying out of the way of tourists. The whole site is closed as the stairway down to the dark-green water is dangerous of collapse and as the water cannot be used already since a long time. The surface of the cenote today shows a stony area with the ruins of a small chapel to the finder in chance. This chapel was built at the top of another cenote was not used within the last thirty years according the rubble of it. The rim of the cenote is fenced, partly collapsed and dangerous to be used as about 20 m long chutes caused by movements of stones and earth show down. From the actual rim of the cenote, about 6 m above the surface of the water, some caves lead up to 8 m into the walls. About 1 m above the surface of the water there is a platform used up to now by the descendants of the Maya living around as sacrificial altar. Remarkable are the about 1 to 2 cm deep engravings at the northern side right of the altar laying at the southern side. The lower rim of the platform depicts engravings not so deeply carved in and not giving any sense. At the front of the altar laying at the southern wall and being situated on two floors a male person was carved in raising its arms in a bent form as bearing a load on its head. In the extension of the perspective one can see the actual altar at the second floor with some only few days old flowers and a wreath of lianas. Seen from the front one has the impression a

human standing here keeping a bowl above his head. Tracks around at the ground demonstrate that the visitors came without any shoes and put down flowers here.





















































