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Oral History, Gordon Ekholm, Side 2, Part 1, Winter-Spring 1971, William C. Sturtevant Papers

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WEBVTT

00:15:46.000 --> 00:16:15.000

<i>Gordon Ekholm</i>: archaeology was primarily a uh, an attempt to work out sequences and slowly develop knowledge of a field. There was-- there was little real theoretical understanding, it seems to me, of what- of what we were doing.

00:16:15.000 --> 00:16:25.000

At least, I feel now that there relatively little theoretical understanding of how we were attempting to connect these areas in Mexico and in the southwest and southeast.

00:16:25.000 --> 00:16:55.000

<i>Shirley Gorenstein</i>: Do you think that might have had something to do with the fact that you really had very little substantive data to work with?

<i>Gordon Ekholm</i>: Yes, that's - that's - that's true. We were actually, in a sense, pioneering an area, which - in areas, which were unknown. We had a general idea of what might be found in these areas but no-one had done any actual work in these intervening areas.

00:16:55.000 --> 00:17:03.000

It was a question of exploring to see what was to be found and that was basically it. 'Go see what you find and see what it means.'

00:17:03.000 --> 00:17:19.000

<i>Shirley Gorenstein</i>: But a great deal of energy and time and, and work was spent on 'go see what you find' that there was practically nothing left over for 'and see what it means.'

<i>Gordon Ekholm</i>: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

00:17:19.000 --> 00:17:39.000

<i>Shirley Gorenstein</i>: And I think even that there might also have been not enough to, not enough substantive data to see what it means because I think there has to be a period in which that's collected.

<i>Gordon Ekholm</i>: Um--[[long pause]]

00:17:39.000 --> 00:17:52.420

<i>Shirley Gorenstein</i>: ..or was this that period in Mexican archaeology?

<i>Gordon Ekholm</i>: Well, Mexican archaeology at this time was, was beginning to come out of a long period of



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