

Here is a list of ideas for self-guided study of the "Dynasty Pots"

To strengthen your skills, try to figure them out before reading Simon Martin's article on them, or the two articles on this web site.

This is a different kind of problem than we usually work on.

Here we have multiple documents (many pots), which have records which are not exactly the same, but share a lot. They do not have prominent period endings, nor any long counts, so we cannot simply use tables of period endings to figure out the sequence of dates. (One exception, not a ruler list but in the same style, is K1457. It has two Calendar Rounds and one Long Count which work well.)

Problems you can set yourself (there are surely more):

- (1) What are these about (the title sort of gives it away, but still...). Is there a general pattern?
- (2) How much similarity, how much difference is there between the different records?
- (3) Can you identify distinct artists or scribal "hands"?
- (4) When one record disagrees with another, how can you figure out which may be right, and which in error? Does that even make sense?
- (5) Are single dates consistent within themselves?
- (6) Using either a computer or hand calculations, can you figure out the distances between dates? That is, can you figure out a history? (See also Kerr vase K1457 mentioned above.)
- (7) Consider whether the bars in the numerals are represented as lines or as bars with width (outlined). Or as bars with centerline or as two-tone bars. How can you tell the difference? Are the scribes consistent across different pots, or within single pots? Are there differences between Tzolk'in and Haab portions of the Calendar Rounds in this respect?
- (8) Are some pots overall more accurate than others?
- (9) Can you produce a "family tree" of texts, hypothesizing which were derived from others? Does this make sense? Or do you think all of the pots were copied from a single source manuscript perhaps on bark or hide?
- (10) Do you agree with Simon Martin's grouping of pots supposing them to be from a set of 5 scribes (A, B, C, D, E)? Any modifications you would make to that? Any further characteristics you would regard as diagnostic, beyond the ones Simon used?

For doing the kinds of calculations you need to find long count dates for these Dynastic pots, useful tools are available on Ivan Van Laningham's web site here:

<http://www.pauhtun.org/Calendar/tools.html>

The most useful one for the dynasty pots is in the upper right corner "Calendar Rounds to Long Counts"

(set the Baktun to "7", "8" or "9" depending on your hypothesis –

this tool produces a set of 7 or 8 possible long counts within the Baktun you choose)

When you are working on damaged stelae and have partial information, this one is good:

"Search for Matching Dates" in the right column lower down

Note that you can download this software for use on Windows computers (see the bottom right of the page) and make a financial contribution

