The Aztec influence on Mexican art of all periods even to the present time has always been of great interest to the student.

AZTEC MOTIFS

BY JEAN CHARLOT

The Aztec civilization flourished from the Seventeenth Century to its destruction by the Spanish conquistadores. The examples of picture writing here shown are all names of Aztec towns. Though these glyphs can still be deciphered they are interesting also as pure designs. In contrast with the Maya glyphs, the Aztec emphasized the value of straight lines, verticals and horizontals, thus linking their art to our modern cubistic aesthetics. Their art, however, never ceased to be representational. Here can be recognized, put to decorative use, a house, a temple, a tree with a mask hanging freely from it, and a mosquito.