

Nose Ornaments

One of the most interesting attributes of Mesoamerican royalty that is incorporated in the Cydonia Face is the use of elaborate facial ornaments. Many factions of the ancient Mesoamerican people produced elaborate facial adornments out of gold, which was sometimes called the "tears" of the gods. Nose ornaments were shaped in such exotic designs such as flowers and highly stylized moths and butterflies (Figure 1). These ceremonial facial ornaments were at times so large that they covered the entire nose.



Figure 1

Mesoamerican Nose Ornaments

Left: Butterfly (Aztec)

Center: Moth (Peru)

Right: Flower (Maya)

Richard C. Hoagland and other researchers have been concerned about the absence of a distinct nose formation in the new MOC image. They have speculated that the nose was possibly blown off sometime in the past by a meteorite (or by the acts of some ancient Martian war). The debris or fallout of this "major hit" distorted the nose and left an odd feature that Hoagland called the "teardrop" resting on the cheek of the humanoid side of the Cydonia Face.

Interestingly this remnant of the nose that Hoagland called the "Teardrop" fell within such a precise placement on the cheek that it is aligned with the center of the "City Square" in the Cydonia complex. This precise alignment and measurement of the "Teardrop" feature would lead one to conclude that it was actually part of an intentional design. ¹

We suggest that the nose feature of the Cydonia Face is obscured because; it is covered by a large ceremonial nose ornament. Hoagland's "Teardrop" feature is just one part of a larger facial ornament that covers the entire nose area. This type of ornamentation over the nose is typical of the ones seen throughout Mesoamerica art (Figure 2).

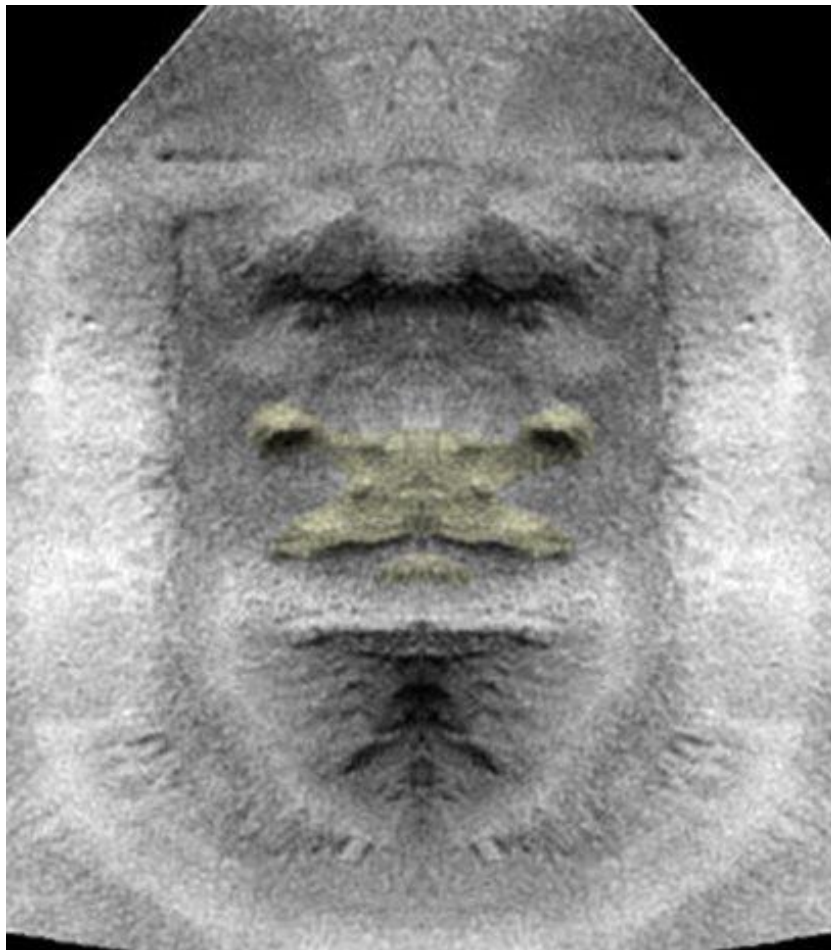


Figure 2
The humanoid side of the Cydonia Face (Duplicated)
Detail of 1998 MGS MOC (SP1-22003)
Notice nose ornament and teeth (color wash).

Teeth

Now, if we look at the mouth area of the Humanoid side of the Face we may see another example of a Mesoamerican ceremonial feature (Figure 2). Two objects, that appear to be teeth, can be seen directly below the nose ornament in the mouth area. In the center of each these front teeth is a dot, possibly representing a dental gemstone. This dot feature is similar in design to the Mesoamerican practice of decorating the front teeth with gemstones and elaborate gold dental caps.

The Maya produced elaborate beads of jade, obsidian, or iron pyrite that were fashioned into decorative ornaments that were imbedded into the front teeth.² Take note of the deliberate mutilation and decoration of the upper incisors in this drawing of Mesoamerican dentistry from Uaxactun Mexico (figure 3).

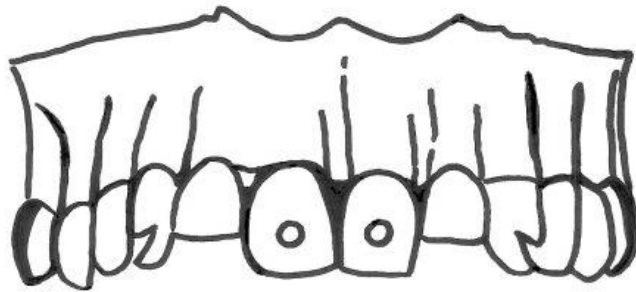


Figure 3

Mesoamerican dentistry (Uaxactun, Mexico, Late Classic Maya)

Note the "dot" shaped gemstone on the two front teeth.

Drawing by George J. Haas

(Image source: *The Gods and Symbols of Ancient Mexico and the Maya an illustrated dictionary of Mesoamerican* by Mill & Taube)

The teeth on either side of the central incisors have been filed down enabling the two front teeth to appear more prominent. Amazingly, this effect of dental prominence is very similar to what is displayed on the Humanoid side of the Face (Figure 2).

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Footnotes

1. Richard C. Hoagland, *The Monuments of Mars: A City on the Edge of Forever*, 4th ed. (Berkeley: North Atlantic, 1992), 22.
2. J. Eric S. Thompson, *The Rise and Fall of Maya Civilization*, (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma, 1966), 214.