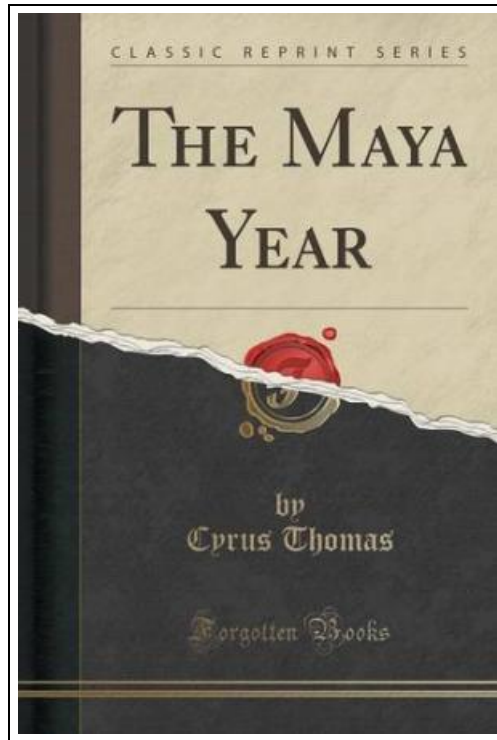


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from The Maya Year In many respects the aboriginal culture of the Western Hemisphere attained highest development in Yucatan, the land of the Maya. Here the Spanish explorers found cities of peculiar yet noble architecture; a people of great individuality and native force, yet of refined manners, clothed in woven and dyed cotton stuffs; a definitely organized system of government; a literature and history inscribed on animal and vegetal parchments and carved in stone or painted on walls; and even a highly developed calendaric and chronologic system. Despite the greed and bigotry of the invaders, who saw nothing good beyond their own selfish aims, despite the diversity of tongues and modes of thought, the civilization of the East and that of the West stood so near the same plane as to blend at some points; and the cities of Copan, Palenque, Chichen Itza, and Uxmal came to be known throughout the world of growing civilization. Although Columbus appears to have encountered representatives of the Maya people in his fourth voyage, it was not until 1517 that the Spaniards, under Francisco Hernandez de Cordova, first landed on the shores of Yucatan. They found that peninsula divided into eighteen or nineteen independent petty states or provinces, each ruled by a hereditary chief, the villages in each province having a subordinate organization under a local ruler, frequently a junior member of the reigning family; the partition of land being communal and changing from year to year. The several provinces were feebly united in a confederation; but this major institutional element was less perfectly developed than among the Aztecs and several other American peoples. While the appellation Maya applies specifically...



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