

PLATE X

PAINTED DOME FROM TOYUK, SHRINE VI

THE dome from which these portions were removed roofed a small cella, measuring about ten feet by eleven. Although much is missing, fallen away in antiquity, there remains sufficient to show the extremely graceful scheme of decoration, recalling irresistibly that of certain late fifth-century Byzantine mosaics at Ravenna; and in the curling leafy growths springing from the scrolling stems can be recognized forms commonly found in foliate 'Transitional' and Early English Gothic carving.

Toy. VI. 0272

The central medallion, badly damaged, contains a haloed deity seated on a *padmāsana* placed on the back of an unrecognizable animal, against a background of radiating lines. The animal, with legs outstretched fore and aft, resembles, in some respects, an elephant; but the lift of the head is more like that of a goat and is certainly not elephantine.

The scrolling stems arrange themselves gracefully in two concentric registers, or zones, round the central medallion; and within each volute, one, or sometimes two figures, are seated. The stems originate from behind a third, and outer, zone of figures, mostly missing, seated against radiant haloes. It seems probable that the figure in the central medallion represents the deity of the Sun or the Moon and that the surrounding figures are those of celestial attendants, of which the name of one—Rohinī—written in Brāhmī characters has been made out among the several short inscriptions. This would indicate that the central figure is the divinity of the Moon.

The lower part of the dome has suffered most destruction; and smoke from the fires of casual infidel tenants of the cella in later times has contributed to the deterioration of the original colouring. The stems are now a dull red-brown, outlined with red and with an added white line on one side and probably yellow on the other. The leaves and bracts are similarly outlined, and here and there can still be traced, within the outlines, grey, red, red-brown, and possibly blue and green.

The very graceful and delightful little attendant figures, each seated on a lotus growing from the end of the encircling scroll, are slim, square-shouldered, and