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Cover
Prehistoric blue pigment from Chichen Itza, Yucatan, used on temple frescoes and ritual
vessels. The fibers are attapulgite, but the fact that no natural occurrence of blue attapulgite
is known suggests that this is an artificial pigment. The color is remarkably stable,
although the pigment contains no color-producing ions. Experiments are in progress
to determine whether it is a clay-organic complex (X 33,000). [John C. Hathaway,
U.S. Geological Survey, Denver, and Anna O. Shepard, U.S. Geological Survey and
Carnegie Institution of Washington]
Editor's Summary

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