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COVER

Relief I, Early Formative Olmec site of Chalcatengo, Morelos, Mexico. This bas-relief carving (2.75 millimeters in height) depicts an Olmec personage with elaborate headdress and ceremonial bar seated in a U-shaped niche or cave from which scroll-volutes of mist are issuing. The niche becomes an Underworld Earth-Monster mouth with stylized eye above and fang-motifs at the opening. This design, with three rain clouds above, raindrops, and maize symbols, implies an Olmec cosmological theme of the Underworld and agricultural fertility. See page 753. [Drawing by Frances Pratt from Chalcatengo by Carlo T. E. Gay; courtesy of Akademische Druck- und Verlagsanstalt, Graz, Austria]