

reduced if I omitted the objects, examples of which I have not encountered in the excavations, or are from other places.

The falsity of the Tecpaneca figurines, although suspected for a number of months, was not definitely established until the autumn of 1921, when Hyde and Mena investigated the artifacts and their supposed place of origin. "It was found that Señor Niven had been cleverly duped by the Indians," wrote Hyde. "Of this error on the part of Señor Niven, Señor Mena had unfortunately become the victim" by publishing a small monograph on the remarkable yet now discredited pieces. Niven agreed with Hyde's conclusion and destroyed all that remained in his possession.

Hyde also used the public forum to praise Niven for his archaeological contributions and to restore his credibility.

... I wish to pay one more tribute to William Niven who as a man and for his enthusiasm in archaeological labours I consider is deserving of my greatest respect. Many times during the 18 months I have seen him labour harder than a peon in his diggings, with untiring zeal, only sorry when the day would end.

William Niven has popularized archaeological studies in Mexico; thousands have visited his diggings, thousands more have visited his archaeological museum, and his friends are many. Probably through no man's door in Mexico has passed a greater number of scientific men and almost every day one still sees others, foreigners of all nations, gathering material, taking measurements, or making sketches or photographs of his collection.

The character of the man is however perhaps seen in the simplest actions viewed by the writer many a Sunday as we have passed together through the little Indian villages near the diggings. There the little Indian children and the cripples always await him upon the homeward journey, and without begging they never expect in vain.