

Aztec ball game

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 26 Oct 1997

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m.driussi — 26 Oct 1997, 16:54

Reply: Item #4734471 from WHORL at LISTS.BEST.COM@INET01#

Gordon,

Welcome aboard!

Re: the ballgame of Viron as being more Aztec than basketball. Well, yes and no.

The Aztec ball game, "ollamalitztli," does feature a court with two vertically oriented rings (in contrast to the horizontal rings of basket ball) and a rubber ball smaller than a tennis ball. However, ollamalitztli players can only use their hips, knees, and elbows to shoot the ball through the ring--Silk throws it with his hand.

The ring that Silk throws the ball at seems parallel to the wall it is on--more like a dart board, with the inner section removed. The trigger within the hole is called a hellstone, which is interesting because in ollamalitztli the game is said to be symbolic of the struggle of the sun: one ring is the entrance to the underworld, the other ring is the exit from the underworld. If there is another ring on the Vironese court, its trigger might be called the heavenstone.

The target ring reminded and reminds me most of the goal in movie "Rollerball"! But otherwise the game played in Viron seems to me to be a blend of ollamalitztli, basketball, and baseball pitching.

=mantis=