

INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

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MEETING NOTICE....Our next meeting, September 20, 8 PM in the auditorium of the museum, will feature an excellent program presented by Eugene Dynner and his committee members Hal Ball and Julius Blustein, continuing our workshop on Maya architecture. A social hour will follow. Member Dynner, by the way, is the author of a fascinating book soon to be published, on comparison of Maya and Chinese art forms.

FIRST STELA ARRIVES....As reported in the press, Stela No. 3 (Piedras Negras) has arrived at the museum from Brooklyn, the first of three original stelae from the Peten to be on extended loan to the museum by special permission of the Guatemalan government. Plans for exhibit of this stela will be announced at the meeting September 20.

SHOWCASE COMING UP....The museum's annual Showcase for affiliate groups will be held October 28-29. It will provide a great opportunity for IMS to tell its story to thousands of visitors. If you have an interesting Maya artifact to exhibit please tell our Showcase co-ordinator Hal Ball at the meeting September 20 and provide him with a written description.

PROGRESS OF OUR PUBLICATION SERIES....Dr. David Pendergast of the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto and a member of our Editorial Review Board, now has Prof. Stanley Boggs' manuscript "Salvadoran Varieties of Wheeled Figurines". As soon as he approves it, production of the article will begin, with publication set for October. It will be published jointly by IMS and the Miami Museum of Science as Number One in our series: Contributions to Meso-American Anthropology.

TOUR DIRECTORS WANTED....Here is a chance to trade your expertise on Maya sites for a trip to Guatemala as a group leader. If interested and qualified, contact Albert Weintraub, travel co-ordinator for IMS and the museum, at the Sept. 20 meeting.

FROM MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - AUGUST 24, 1972

Writers of articles for our Contributions series will receive 25 copies of the published article for their own use. Hal Ball and Dr. Allan Kaplan were designated as a Publications Committee for the handling and processing of manuscripts submitted.

Dr. E. Wyllys Andrews V, a graduate of Harvard, with a Ph.D. from Tulane, was elected to the Editorial Review Board. Dr. Andrews is currently working on archaeological material in Merida, Yucatan. His father, Dr. E. Wyllys Andrews IV, directed the Dzibilchaltun project.

Lew Dorn, administrator of the museum and a Board member, offered two existing, fixed book cases in the museum library for IMS use. We will have to assume the cost of adding glass and locks for security. Our library will be for the use of members only, and books cannot be removed from the premises. A system of signing in and out of the library room will be initiated.

Although IMS has permission to select books from the gifts division of the Library of Congress, member Eugene Dynner our man in Washington reported that the limitless stacks are not cataloged or arranged by subject so trying to find any in our area of interest is impractical at this time. It was therefore proposed and carried that IMS should begin to build a research library on our own resources. An initial appropriation of \$100 was made to buy books of a basic nature and \$25 a month was made available for purchase of books on a regular basis. For maximum discount, books will be bought through the museum. Mrs. Pauline Potamkin was named librarian. If you have any suggestions for acquisitions, please write her at the museum. A subscription to American Antiquity was ordered, and The Ancient Maya by Morley and the 4-volume set of John L. Stephens' travels in Yucatan and Central America will be among the initial acquisitions.

HAVE WE GOT NAME PLATES!...Many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. David Ferwerda for designing and painting beautiful, individualized name plates for our members, each on a different Maya theme. Appropriately, our director's name plate has the figure of Itzamna, chief god of the Maya. However, he hopes to do a better job for IMS than Itzamna did for the Maya.

MYSTERIOUS MUSICAL STONES....Does anyone recall the projectile shaped stones of varying sizes stacked up behind the gatehouse at Chichen Itza? A bell-like tone is produced by striking the tapered end. The bigger the size, the lower the tone. Those of you who saw the documentary about Chichen on Channel 4 last month heard "Mary had a little lamb" played on these stones. But, the possibility exists that they may unlock the secret of the ancient Maya scale. Musicologist Jacques Donnet is interested in studying the stones, and will go to Yucatan as soon as IMS can make the necessary arrangements with the Mexican government. But first, we must find out if anybody has ever done such a study. It is odd that they are not mentioned in books on the site, and yet they are supposed to be ancient and were reportedly found near the same spot. If any member has seen any reference to these stones in literature on the site, please inform Hal Ball or director Lacombe.

PLANS FOR LECTURE SERIES UNDERWAY....Program Chairman Elayne Kaplan reports that letters have gone out to outstanding authorities in the field of Meso-American art and archaeology to determine availability for lectures in the late fall and early winter. The lectures will be held on nights other than IMS meeting nights and a charge will be made for the series. IMS members will be offered discounts.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS....Ben and Cherryl Hendricks, Sidney and Ethel Teller, Hannah P. Coleman, Dr. and Mrs. E.J. Carroll, Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Welch, Barbara B. Mullen, Erwin Rovner, and Elizabeth L. Beardmore. Mrs. Hendrick's father owns land in British Honduras with Maya ruins on the property. This could develop into a mapping project of a new site for our explorers Hal and Alberta Ball.

PLANS FOR MAYA PLAZA TAKING SHAPE....There must be more than co-incidence in this. A talented young artist named Dixie Bogusky walked into Lew Dorn's office a couple of weeks ago and volunteered her artistic talent to the museum. She had expected to be put to work drawing butterflies or alligators, but Lew had the Maya Plaza in mind and asked her if she had any background in Meso-American art. It just so happened that Dixie and her husband had just returned from a visit to Yucatan and she was now fascinated by anything Maya. As a result, Dixie went to work and produced some exceptionally beautiful designs for the Maya Plaza.

Basically, Mrs. Bogusky's designs utilize the three walls of the plaza area as facades of typical Maya buildings, with the three stelae set in a tranquil court close to the floor to ceiling window for best visibility from the gallery. The concept is to depict the plaza as it probably looked in the 8th century when the stelae were dedicated, rather than in ruins. An IMS committee headed by Elayne Kaplan recommended that the architecture of the plaza reflect the Peten rather than a combination of styles from various Maya areas, since all three stelae to be exhibited are from the Peten (Machaquila, Naranjo and Piedras Negras).

Meeting jointly with the IMS committee to consider Mrs. Bogusky's renderings were museum president Arthur Smith, former president Albert Weintraub and administrator Lew Dorn. Mr. Weintraub and Mr. Dorn wore two hats, as both are also IMS board members. Our committee is assisting Dixie in her research on Peten architecture. She will soon submit another design. Also attending the joint meeting were Col. Rafael Arriaga, consul general of Guatemala and his attache Gabriel Cordovez. Both were delighted with the designs and invited our talented artist to visit Guatemala and sketch on the sites.

NEWSLETTER

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