

INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

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WORKSHOP ON MAYA ARCHITECTURE NEXT.....By unanimous vote at our meeting last Wednesday, our next meeting, 8 PM, Wed, Aug 16, will be a work shop-seminar on Maya architecture. Member Eugene Dynner will chair a committee of one, two or three to develop the program. Please bring your slides, ideas and questions, and come prepared to share them all at a meeting which should be stimulating and enjoyable. This will be our first workshop and a chance for all to learn.

MANY THANKS TO OUR HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE....Mrs. Ball at the coffee urn and Mrs. Potamkin pouring the tea and the sanko were charming hostesses at our social after the meeting, graciously assisted by Mrs. Moore.

STELA 24 IS ON ITS WAY.....This priceless national treasure of Guatemala should arrive at the Museum on extended loan by August 1, as announced at the meeting. Then the work of restoration to its original beauty will begin. Speaking of "stela stealing", an excellent article on this subject appeared in the April 1972 issue of American Antiquity (V. 37:2). It is by Merle Greene Robertson, who has recorded numerous Maya stelae, altars and lintels by reproducing the sculptured stones with rubbings. The article describes and shows photographs of some of the vandalism that has been taking place in recent years in Guatemala.

MEMBERS ACTIVITIES.....This will be a regular feature of your Newsletter. Please mail items about your projects, trips to Mesoamerica, etc. to the Newsletter so we can tell fellow members about it.....Director Charles Lacombe just got back from a week in Yucatan and a week in Guatemala, arranging for exhibits and visiting Allan and Elayne Kaplan and Ed Shook in Antigua. Albert and Saralee Weintraub also in Antigua. The Kaplans are working on their book on Maya hachas, yokes and palmas....Hal and Alberta Ball recently

returned from a visit to Maya sites in Yucatan, including a day at Comalcalco. This is of particular interest because it is the most western Maya site in which the corbeled arch was used. In addition it has the unusual feature of being constructed with bakes clay brick.

MAYA POPULAR ON TV....This is the year of the Maya on TV. The recent network show on the Maya will be followed Sunday, July 30, 10:30 PM by another classic over WTVJ. The documentary was filmed at Chichen Itza and Uxmal three weeks ago and should surprise you. Don't miss it. The Maya are popular on radio too. Member A.P. Rosenberg was interviewed on a radio show at 1 AM. Better late than never.

NEW MEMBERS....Welcome to Jack and Olga Hold who speak many languages and operate a translation bureau at the Dupont Plaza Hotel. Jack has all the equipment and can't wait to organize a group dig, wherever permission can be gotten. If you are interested in actually digging during a trip to Mayalands, rather than just sightseeing, send a note to the Newsletter at the Museum, and we will put it together.

GOOD NEWS FROM AVIATECA.....Gabriel Cordovez' announcement that Aviateca will soon fly Miami-Guatemala-Merida-Miami was greeted with applause. Just imagine the wonderful package tours this will make possible.

BY-LAWS AVAILABLE....Extra copies of the IMS By-Laws will be printed and will be available to members on request.

NEW BOOKS ON THE MAYA.....Here are some new titles pertaining to the Maya civilization you may like for your library. As a member, you will be entitled to our institutional discount.

1. Heirs of the Ancient Maya by Christine Price
Charles Scribner's Sons
2. Aztecs, Maya and their Predecessors by Murial
Weaver, Seminar Press
3. Maya Hieroglyphics Without Tears, J. Eric S.
Thompson, British Museum Publications
4. The Black-man of Zinacantan, Sarah Blaffer
University of Texas Press
5. Indian Background of Colonial Yucatan, by* Ralph
Roys, University of Oklahoma Press




STELA 24 AT THE GUATEMALA NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY
AND HISTORY BEING READIED FOR SHIPMENT TO MIAMI

From the initial series date on the left side of Stela 24, 9.13.10.0.0 7 Ahau 3 Cumku, we know that it was erected circa Jan. 1, 705 A.D. This is according to the Goodman-Thompson correlation. If you prefer Spinden, the date would be 260 years less or 445 A.D. It is ironic to read the description by Maler in 1905..."Stela 24 lies unbroken in front of Structure C-VII on the south side of the East Plaza at Group C where it was discovered, deeply buried. This, together with the fine hard grain of the limestone of which it is made, accounts for its splendid state of preservation. It's a good thing Maler couldn't see 65 years into the future to a deserted house in Belize where his discovery lay in several pieces waiting to be smuggled out of the country. He had a terrible temper, we've heard.

Stela 24 is still a subject for research, and those of us at the Institute with an interest in sculpture and hieroglyphics will find many mysteries waiting to be unraveled.

DON'T FORGET TO SEND NEWS OF YOUR ACTIVITIES TO THE NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER

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