

INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

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MEETING NOTICE....A double feature program will be presented at our regular monthly meeting Wed, May 16, 8pm in the auditorium of the museum. The Maya Calendar will be discussed by Charles Lacombe, and a slide-witness account of the recent Holy Week pageantry in Antigua, Guatemala will be given by Dr. Allan Kaplan.

IMS ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION TO MEET...Section chairman Hal Ball announces that on Fri, May 25, at 8 pm, there will be a meeting in classroom "C" at the museum for all IMS members who are interested in Maya Archaeological Study. This will be an informal meeting and subjects to be discussed will include:

1. Future activities and projects of the Maya Archaeological Group.
2. Methods of excavation and restoration.
3. Classification of artifacts.
4. Scientific methods of dating various pre-historic objects.
5. Stratigraphic recording and ceramic sequence.
6. Mapping and photography.

Everyone attending is asked to come prepared to enter into an "open forum" type of discussion, and a 35mm projector will be provided for those who may wish to show slides relative to any phase of Maya archaeology.

MONTE ALTO FUNDS APPROVED...The National Geographic Society has approved its budget for the final phase of the Monte Alto project co-sponsored by the Museum of Science and IMS. Project Director Edwin Shook is now preparing his first report on the pre-classic heads and figures carved out of massive boulders. The discovery was made at Monte Alto, near La Democracia in south central Guatemala.

C-14 TESTS AT U OF M....The University of Miami now has a C-14 laboratory, and students enrolled in the course on carbon dating are presently dating samples in the form of wood, bone, charcoal and shell. David Dayan is dating a sample from an ancient Florida canoe provided by IMS board member A.P. Rosenberg who is also president of the Museum Archaeological Society. The canoe will be exhibited in the museum after the dating is completed. IMS board member Elayne Kaplan has dated a pre-classic Maya sample as noted below. Anyone interested in having an artifact carbon dated, please contact the Geology Dept of the U of M. Cost is \$100 a sample.

SAVED FROM THE BULLDOZER....A salvage archaeological project was accomplished by Ed Shook on the Pacific coast of Guatemala at a pre-classic site near the Mexican border, at the same time a road was going through. About a thousand heads and figurines were recovered from the site by IMS member Shook, and a sample has been dated at the U of M C-14 lab by Elayne Kaplan. The dating of circa 850 B.C. was done through materials from the same level that contained carbon.

IMS LIBRARY IS BORN...Our research library has begun its existence with 30 books. Through action by the Board of Directors books are being purchased by librarian Mrs. Pauline Potamkin, from a list approved by the board. Initial gifts of books are already on the shelves, but many more are needed. Please bring any books you would like to donate to the meeting May 16 or leave a message for Mrs. Potamkin at the museum that you have some books on the Meso-American area that you would like to donate. The Library Committee met April 24 and passed the following resolutions:

1. Members may use the library for reference only. Books will not circulate (at the present time).
2. A catalog will be set up. Until complete, typed lists of acquisitions will be available.
3. A geographical index will be set up, describing and locating Maya areas, and sites.
4. Bookplates will be in all books indicating donor.
5. Members are asked to submit titles of books that would be of interest for the collection. Titles will be sent to the board for approval.
6. Members are asked to contribute books, magazines and articles of interest

7. Two dates, May 23 and May 30, from 7-9 pm, have been made available in the museum library room for use of IMS members. (The committee is negotiating with the museum for a regular schedule)
8. Reginald Kennedy has volunteered his services for members who want to use the library during the day. Call him at 251-0581.
9. The committee welcomes suggestions from members so our library will be of maximum service to all.

MEMBERS ACTIVITIES

Hal and Alberta Ball participated in a program of aerial surveys and photography with the directors of the Rio Bec and Tancah projects in Yucatan.

Stanley Boggs had a very interesting article on "Pre-Maya Costumes and Coiffures" in the Feb 1973 issue of "Americas". Prof. Boggs is a member of the IMS Editorial Review Board.

Robert Moore will lecture on Maya Hieroglyphics at the Miami Public Library (downtown) May 14, 12:15 pm in the auditorium.

Charles Lacombe will teach a summer course on the Maya civilization at Florida International University, Tues and Thurs 8:30-11 pm, beginning June 26. He guest lectured at Dr. Jerry Brown's anthropology class in April.

Joseph Ball presented a paper on "Pre-classic Architecture at Becan, Campeche, Mexico" at the 38th annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology held in San Francisco May 3-5.

IMS SUPPORT FOR RIO BEC PROJECT....Although this important project in Yucatan is funded by the University of Texas, there is very little for the creature comforts of the archaeologists in the field. To supply some emergency needs, the board voted an IMS donation of \$250. This is subject to approval by the membership at the May 16 meeting. IMS member Jack Eaton, incidentally, was just appointed field director of the project, with staff headquarters at Xpuhil, near the Maya site of the same name. We congratulate Jack and wish him every success.

A CORDIAL WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS....Mrs. Jed Jacobson, Mrs. Shirley Wheeler, Mrs. Kay Whittelsey, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wittenberg, Mr. and Mrs. Irving Eyster, and Dr. and Mrs. Richard Keller.

MAYA EXHIBIT IN LONDON....The British Museum's New World archaeological Section will open an Exhibit on the Maya in their new building just off Picadilly Circus.

NEW ISSUE OF "KATUNOB" AVAILABLE....The latest issue of this fine Newsletter-Bulletin on Meso-American anthropology has just been released and contains 97 pages on interesting articles, both in English and Spanish. The subscription price is \$4 a year (usually 4 issues), and can be obtained by writing the editor, Prof. George E. Fay, Dept of Anthropology, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Col. 80631.

NEW BOOKS ON THE MAYA.....The University of New Mexico has just published three new books on the Maya. Please contact Mrs. Potamkin at 672-6227 if you would like to purchase them.

In Search of the Maya by Robert Brunhouse
Stonework of the Maya by Edward Ranney
The Classic Maya Collapse by T. Patrick Culbert-Editor

A discount on books is available to IMS members if purchased through our librarian.

NEWSLETTER
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