

INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

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June 12, 1973

MEETING NOTICE:

Following a short business session at the next regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, June 20th, at 8:00 pm in the museum auditorium, a program will be presented by Hal C. Ball on MAYA ARCHAEOLOGY IN BELIZE (BRITISH HONDURAS)...In addition there will be a brief resume on the proceedings of the annual meeting of The Society for American Archaeology, that was held in San Francisco on May 3rd, 4th and 5th...

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SECTION MEETING:

The initial meeting of the IMS archaeological section was held at the Museum of Science on Friday, May 25th...There was an interesting discussion by the fifteen attending members on various aspects of the six general topics in archaeology that had been selected by the chairman, as listed in the last issue of the Newsletter...A plan was devised, whereas a particular subject relative to some phase of archaeology would be chosen for research and discussion at subsequent monthly meetings...The next meeting will be in classroom "C" at the museum on Friday, June 22nd at 8:00 pm...The topic will be "Basic Principles of Archaeological Excavation", and all members attending are expected to participate in the discussion and are asked to come prepared with appropriate notes and general information on the subject...

NEW "PROGRAM SERIES":

A new type of "program series" has been proposed for the coming winter for our members and the public...Rather than three separate programs, as we had last year, tentative plans are for a symposium to be held on two consecutive nights...This will consist of a panel of persons prominent in the field of Maya Archaeology discussing a topic such as "The Rise and Fall of the Maya Civilization"...As the program is still in the formative stage, more information on this will be announced in future issues of the Newsletter...

LIBRARY NEWS:

For the convenience of those using the IMS library, our librarian, Mrs. Pauline Potamkin, is now compiling a "subject" index of all books, magazines etc...At present there are certain restrictions on use of the library and it is suggested that you retain the last copy of the Newsletter, (Vol. 2 No. 2), for information relative to current rules and regulations...

Note: Mrs. Potamkin would like all section chairmen to advise her of any books they would like in the library relative to their particular study group...

NEW EDITOR FOR THE NEWSLETTER:

Beginning with this issue the new editor of the Newsletter will be Hal C. Ball, who was appointed at a board of directors meeting on Wednesday, June 6th...In order to minimize mistakes, he requests that all items submitted for publication be either written or typed...Such information may be sent in care of the museum, or to the editor's home address at 311 N.E. 103rd Street, Miami Shores, 33138.

IMS-MUSEUM EXHIBIT COMMITTEE:

The Museum of Science Exhibit Committee has approved the formation of a sub-committee to work, in effect, as Curator of the new Pre-Columbian Hall. (Gallery D)...It is presently proposed that the committee will consist of 2 or 3 members each of the Institute of Maya Studies and Archaeological Society of the museum...Working in cooperation with the museum, they will play a large part in the arrangement of exhibits and displays in this particular gallery...

LECTURE BY A.P. ROSENBERG:

Mr. A.P. Rosenberg, IMS board member, will give a lecture on "Cultural Diffusion, an Alternate Point of View", for the Hollywood-San Salvador People to People Committee...The lecture is scheduled for 8:00 pm on June 19th at the First National Bank Building in Hollywood...(Florida, that is!)...

NEW MEMBERS:

The Institute of Maya Studies cordially welcomes Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Cremer and family, who became members during May...

STELA 24:

Latest information on stela 24, indicates that it has been packed and is at the airport in Guatemala City scheduled for shipment to Miami on Tuesday, June 12th...This will be the second Maya stela to be acquired "on extended loan" from the government of Guatemala for exhibit in the Museum of Science's Pre-Columbian Room and its acquisition has been looked forward to for some

time...Besides the museum administrator, Mr. Lewis Dorn, a great deal of credit must be given to Mr. Gabriel Cordovez for his help in making arrangements for this Classic Period Maya monument to be sent to Miami for public display...As Director Charles Lacombe says, "he made Mission Impossible, possible"...(Note: An interesting article with reference to stela 24 is in the June first issue of SCIENCE magazine.)...

NEW BOOK ON THE MAYA:

The Grolier Club of New York, has recently announced that a new book entitled THE MAYA SCRIBE AND HIS WORLD will be available in the Fall of 1973.. The author is Michael D. Coe, Professor of Anthropology at Yale University, and who incidently, was one of the speakers for the IMS 1972 lecture series... The book is 184 pp, 11x17 inches, with 278 black and white plates and 28 in color...Much of the text relates to Professor Coe's discovery that pictorial Maya ceramics deal exclusively with the Underworld--to which the Maya lords were fated to journey after death...

CORRECTION RE: THE RIO BEC PROJECT:

Regarding the funding of the Rio Bec Project, a statement in the last issue of Newsletter was in error, as the project was actually supported by a modest grant from the National Geographic Society, and not the University of Texas...

SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY MEETING:

The 38th annual meeting of the SAA was held in San Francisco, California on May 3rd, 4th and 5th...Two IMS members from Miami attended and report that a number of interesting papers on the Maya were read, including Productivity in Lowland Maya Agriculture, Regional Dress Patterns of Classic Maya Women and Trade Indices for Utilitarian Imports of the Classic Maya... The 1974 meeting is scheduled for May and will be in Washington D.C.

NEW MEXICAN ANTIQUITY LAWS:

In May of 1972, the Congress of the United Mexican States decreed a new FEDERAL LAW ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL, ARTISTIC AND HISTORICAL MONUMENTS AND ZONES...The document is quite lengthy and comprehensive, providing for jail sentences up to 10 years, and fines to 10,000 pesos for such law violations as: (1) Unauthorized digging, (2) illegal possession, (3) malicious damage, (4) illegal acquisition and (5) illegal export... It clearly states that ALL archaeological property belongs to the nation!

NOTES ON MAYA RESEARCH AND DISCOVERY:

NEW DISCOVERIES AT EDZNA:

Continuing investigations of the variety of hydraulic systems at the Maya site of Edzna (Campeche), new discoveries have been reported of canals, reservoirs and aguadas...These evidently were originally constructed for the purpose of drainage and manual irrigation and some measure as much as 12 km in length...(New World Archaeological Foundation)...

A POSSIBLE CALENDAR IN THE MADRID CODEX:

In a recent paper by Marion P. Hatch, it is suggested that pages XII to XVII in the Madrid Codex correlate very well with the appearance of certain constellations as they would have been observed after sunset as the year progressed...The author believes these pages may represent a "serpent calendar", and that it is possible that the Chicchan serpent may have had astronomical-calendrical connotation...

NEWSLETTER

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