

# INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

## OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

### NEWSLETTER

Hal C. Ball, Editor  
Vol. 2 - No. 4 July 11, 1973

#### MEETING NOTICE:

The regular monthly meeting of the Institute of Maya Studies will be held on Wednesday, July 18th, at 8:00 pm in the auditorium of the Museum of Science. The program for the evening will be presented by Charles Lacombe, who will lecture on the subject of THE MAYA CALENDAR. As the ancient Maya used more than one method of recording time periods, an explanation will be given of the Tzolkin, or 260-day Period, the Haab, or year of 365 days, and the Calendar Round, or 18,980-day-Period. In addition there will be a brief review of both the glyphic and bar-dot system of counting, and basic data on the Initial Series, Secondary and Supplementary Series of Maya Hieroglyphic inscriptions...

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SECTION MEETINGS:

The June meeting of the IMS archaeological section was held at the Museum on Friday the 25th, at which time the 16 attending members participated in a general discussion on "The Basic Principles of Archaeological Excavation". Papers were read by Mary Mitchell, John Rousseau and Edward Johnson, and a short program of slides and commentaries was presented by the section chairman, Hal Ball. The next meeting is scheduled for July 30th at 8:00 pm in classroom "C" of the museum. The topic for the evening will be "Excavation and Classification of Artifacts"...

#### NEW BOOKS FOR OUR LIBRARY:

A valuable addition to our library was recently acquired when Miss Mary Mitchell donated a collection of over 50 publications of various books, journals and scientific reports relative to Meso-american archaeology. Included in the collection were such books as "Animals in pre-Columbian Art", "People of the Serpent" and "La Selva de Lacandones". The entire membership sincerely thanks Miss Mitchell for this interesting contribution to their library, and the IMS bookplate to be placed in each individual publication will acknowledge her as the donor...

MRS. POTAMKIN SUBMITS RESIGNATION:

It is with regret that we announce the resignation of Mrs. Paula Potamkin as Librarian, and wish to express our thanks and gratitude for the wonderful work she accomplished while serving as chairman of the Library Committee. In the interim before a new librarian is selected, Mr. Reginald Kennedy will serve as temporary chairman of the committee and may be reached by telephone by calling 251-0581...

NEW MEMBERS:

Two new members joined the IMS at the close of our June meeting and we wish to cordially welcome Mr. Elvin W. Erickson and Miss Candy Dyer to our group of "Mayanists"...

NEW COURSE AT FIU ON THE MAYA CIVILIZATION:

On June 22nd, the Department of Anthropology of Florida International University began evening classes on a new summer course on THE MAYA CIVILIZATION. Designated as ANT - 429, the course is divided into two principle divisions: "The Culture", and "The Intellectual Achievements", each of which will consist of ten 2½ hour periods. The instructor for the classes is Charles Lacombe, who has asked three of our members to participate as guest speakers for short talks on specific topics relative to the culture and history of the civilization of the ancient Maya...

NARANJO STELA 24 NOW IN MUSEUM:

The long awaited arrival from Guatemala of Naranjo Stela 24 took place on June 14th, when the Classic Period Maya stone monument was delivered to the Museum of Science for future exhibit in the new "pre-Columbian Room". Assisting Mr. Lewis Dorn, Museum Administrator, with the unpacking and assembling of the broken stela for photographing, were IMS members Ball, Cordevez, Lacombe and Rosenberg. Work is progressing on the construction of a suitable glass case so that the 7½ foot sculptured stone can be placed in an upright position for viewing from three sides. For those interested in the Dedicatory Date, it has been deciphered as January 26, A.D. 702, or as recorded in the Maya dating method: 9.13.10.0.0 7 Ahau 3 Cumhu. (Goodman-Thompson correlation, -Spinden 260 years earlier.) For further information, see "The Inscriptions of Peten", Volume II, pages 73-78...



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TOP PORTION OF NARANJO STELA NO. 24 (GUATEMALA)

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NOTES ON MAYA RESEARCH AND DISCOVERY:

RIO BEC ECOLOGICAL PROJECT:

The first years' work of the RIO BEC ECOLOGICAL PROJECT has now been completed, and it has been determined that from A.D. 650 to 900 there was an extremely dense population in the Rio Bec zone which was sustained by intensive agriculture. IMS members Jack Eaton and Joseph Ball participated in the season's work, and with others of the project staff have found agricultural terraces and soil traps on almost every hill examined. Field boundary walls were also discovered and four of the aguadas that were located were lined at the bottom with stones. Of particular interest was the finding of a Mamon pottery complex that dated to around 550 B.C. If sufficient funding is obtained, the project will continue for two more years and a concentrated study will be made of the ecological change and culture history of this important part of the Maya lowlands...

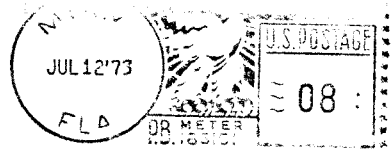
NEW MURALS DISCOVERED AT TANCAH:

During the second season of the QUINTANA ROO MURAL PROJECT, Dr. Arthur Miller, director, discovered fragments of three murals in a two room building at Tancah that he refers to only as "Structure X". (Hopefully to mislead would be looters.) One of the three figures identified on the mural within the west room of the structure, is in a running position facing south, and the other two are seated. In the hand of the running figure is a comb shaped object and on the body are two square glyphs, one of which is clearly an Ahau sign. Associated with one of the seated figures, which is believed to be the Maize diety, is a Kan glyph, and Dr. Miller is of the opinion that the costumes, ear plugs, etc. are very similar to those depicted in the Maya CODEX TRO-CORTESIANUS. He therefore suggests that because of the closely related style and iconography to the Codex, that it may have had considerable influence on the east coast of the Yucatan peninsula in Post Classic times, and may have originally come from somewhere in Quintana Roo. Research is expected to continue next year under the auspices of Yale University and the National Geographic Society...

NEWSLETTER

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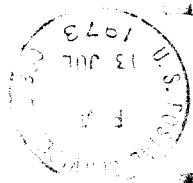
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