

INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

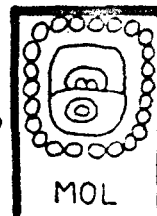
Newsletter



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MEETING NOTICE:

Our regular monthly meeting for September will be held in the main auditorium of the Museum of Science on Wednesday the 19th at 8:00 p.m., at which time a program will be presented by Maya archaeologist Jack Eaton on "Archaeological Investigations in the Rio Bec Region." Mr. Eaton is well acquainted with this particular part of the Maya area and has explored much of the region on foot. He is credited with the discovery of a number of previously unrecorded ruins in Campeche and Quintana Roo, and at the site of Porto Rico found one of the few round structures that are known to exist within the Maya area. In 1968-69 he conducted an 800 km field survey of the coast of Yucatan from Ciudad de Carmen, Campeche, to Isla La Blanca, Quintana Roo, and was also responsible for the excellent excavation and partial restoration of the interesting site of Chicanna. His latest work was in the vicinity of Xpuhil, in southeastern Campeche, where he served as Field Director for the "Rio Bec Ecological Project" during the first five months of 1973. Be sure to attend this September meeting and through Mr. Eaton's illustrated lecture share in the experiences, discoveries and occasional frustrations of an archaeologist at work in the Lowland Maya Area of Mexico....

NEW MEMBERS:

The members of the Institute of Maya Studies extend a cordial welcome to the following persons who joined IMS during August:

Ms. Gertrude Davidson, Coral Gables, Fla.

Ms. Maxine Reinhard, Miami, Fla.

Mr. Paul Schoeller, North Miami Beach, Fla.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER:

Please check the expiration date on your membership cards and mail your renewal dues promptly so that you will not miss any issues of the "Newsletter" or the "Museum"....

(Stop complaining, OUR civilization is "recyclable"!!)

ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION MEETING:

There will be a meeting of the IMS Archaeology Section at the Museum of Science in classroom "A" on Wednesday, September 26 at 8:00 p.m. The original topic for discussion was to be "Dating Methods in Archaeology", but as we may have a special guest speaker, this may be postponed until the next meeting....

NEW MUSEUM DIRECTOR BEGINS DUTIES:

On September 1st, Mr. William E. Scheele began his official duties as the new director of the Miami Museum of Science, and on behalf of the membership of IMS we welcome Mr. Scheele and his family to the Miami area and hope they enjoy living in "the land of sunshine". Prior to coming to Miami Mr. Scheele was the director of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History for 23 years, was formerly Executive Director of the Worldlife Fund and has also served as president of the Association of Science Museum directors. Besides his regular museum work, Mr. Scheele plans a major expansion and renovation of the museum, improving interior displays and making an appeal to private collectors for the acquisition of new exhibits...

BRITISH MUSEUM PUBLICATIONS ON THE MAYA:

According to information received in a recent letter from Mr. Tom Govier, member of the Conservation Section of the British Museum, the following books on the Maya are presently available through the museum book store:

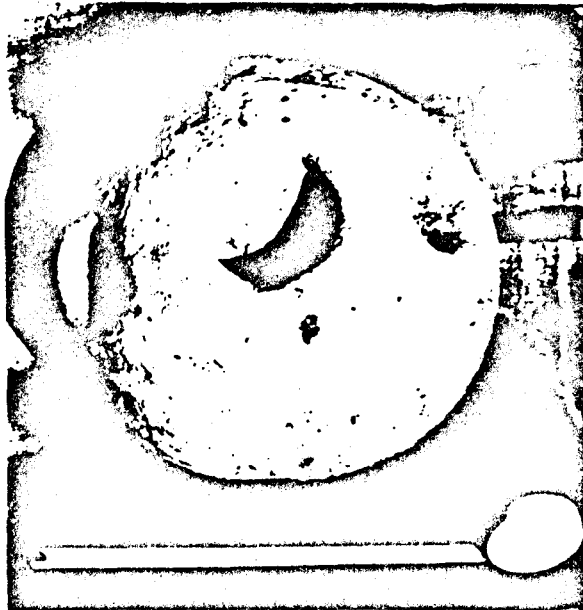
Maya Jades, Adrian Digby	40P
Maya Hieroglyphics Without Tears, J. E. Thompson	80P
Lubaantun, Norman Hammond	80P
Maya Sculpture and Pottery, British Museum	60P

IZAPA SCULPTURE:

The most recent publication of the New World Archaeological Foundation of Brigham Young University, is Part 1 of Paper No. 30, which is on the subject of the stone sculpture found at the site of Izapa, near Tapachula, Mexico. The first part is basically an album, and with the exception of a three page introduction, consists entirely of full page photographs of the principal stelae and altars that were created at the site in the Late Preclassic and Protoclassic times (ca. 300 B.C. to A.D. 250). The art style is considered as quite distinctive and is recognized as a pre-Maya culture marker, usually referred to as "Izapan". The style is characterized by complicated composite motifs depicting both natural and supernatural forms which portray various symbolical meanings, and some of the carvings are believed to represent an early stage in the development of Classic Maya hieroglyphic writing....

AN UNUSUAL MAYA(?) STONE OBJECT:

After returning from a trip to the Maya sites of Sierra de Agua and San Jose in north central Belize, (formerly British Honduras), to where they had left their airplane at the logging camp of Hill Bank, Hal and Alberta Ball had an opportunity to examine and photograph the unusual stone object that appears in the picture at the right. They were informed by the Forest Manager of the camp that the stone had been found by a mahogany cutter near the ruins of Hoyuk, a small Maya site a few miles northeast of the abandoned village of Gallon Jug. The object is a spherical shaped piece of hard limestone that has a diameter of



approximately 8 inches, and of particular interest are the three circular openings that have been made in what appears to be the top of the stone. The diameter of these is a little over two inches, and they were cut into the stone in such a manner that the openings are all connected to each other. However, the use or function of the object had not as yet been determined, and if it is of Maya origin it is indeed a unique and unusual discovery. What is your opinion?

NOTES ON MAYA RESEARCH AND DISCOVERYTHE UAYMIL SURVEY PROJECT/ROM:

The second year of the Uaymil Survey Project of southwestern Quintana Roo, Mexico, has now been completed, and according to director, Dr. Peter Harrison, was highly successful. The survey was first begun in January of 1972, and is being conducted within a Concession of 20,000 square km in the southwestern part of the territory of Quintana Roo that was granted to The Royal Ontario Museum by the Instituto Nacional de Antropologia e Historia of Mexico. The agreement permits exploration and mapping of the designated area, and during the first season 55 sites were located. Although some were small, all but two were unrecorded, and at Chichmul, west of the town of Petcacab, a high mound measuring 43 meters was found. A few badly eroded stone stelae and altars have also been discovered, but only one was inscribed with a discernable hieroglyphic text.

The second season's work in 1973 was centered around the ejido (farming community) of Valle Hermosa, and although not as many sites were recorded as in the previous year, 10 interesting mortuary type structures were found that may represent a distinctive characteristic of southwest Quintana Roo Maya architecture. These were located at five different sites, and Dr. Harrison believes that they were designed to serve no other function than that of a burial chamber, some of which still contain the remains of skeletal material and various types of broken pottery vessels. The ceramic study of the project is being made by Dr. Robert E. Fry of Purdue University, and at the conclusion of the 1974 season both he and Dr. Harrison are expected to publish reports on the three year survey....(Courtesy, The Royal Ontario Museum).

"I know that you believe you understand what you think I said, but I am not sure that what you read is not what I meant."

(Carl Compton, The Interamerican)

NEWSLETTER

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