

INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Newsletter



AKBAL

Hal C. Ball, Editor

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MEETING NOTICE:

The October meeting of IMS will be held in the auditorium of The Museum of Science on Wednesday, the 17th, at 8:00 p.m. The program for the evening will be presented by Dr. Allan Kaplan, Associate Director of the Institute and also chairman of the Art and Ceramics section. Dr. Kaplan's topic will be "A Basic Chronology of Mesoamerican Civilizations", and with the aid of maps and color slides he will trace the history of the major pre-Columbian cultures of Mesoamerica through their unique art styles of pottery and sculptured stone. This promises to be a particularly interesting program, as Dr. Kaplan has indicated that he will present information in a non-technical manner that will enable those attending to acquire a fundamental knowledge of the chronology of the pre-Hispanic people of Mexico and Central America, from the mysterious Olmecs to the hostile Aztecs....

ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION NEWS:

At their September meeting in The Museum of Science on Wednesday, the 26th, the members of the archaeology section of IMS had as their guest speaker, Mr. Jack Eaton, who presented an illustrated lecture on "The Discovery and Excavation of Chicanna." The ruins of Chicanna are located in southeastern Campeche, Mexico, and during the course of his program, Mr. Eaton showed numerous color slides that were taken during different stages of excavation of the site. Also discussed, was the interesting aspect of Chicanna having stone structures representative of both the Rio Bec and Chenes style architecture.

The next meeting of the archaeology section is planned for November, when the subject for discussion will be "Dating Methods in Archaeology." The exact time and date will be announced in the next NEWSLETTER, and any members interested in joining this group of IMS may obtain additional information from the chairman, Hal C. Ball. (Telephone: 758-2418)

ADDITIONAL BOOKS DONATED TO IMS LIBRARY:

Sincere thanks are extended to Dr. David M. Pendergast, Associate Curator of the Archaeology department of the Royal Ontario Museum of Toronto, for his donation to our library of the following three books:

"Late Classic Finds at Baking Pot, British Honduras"

William and Mary R. Bullard Jr.

"Stratigraphic Excavations at San Estevan, Northern B. H."

William R. Bullard Jr.

"Palenque: The Walker-Caddy Expedition to the Ancient Maya City, 1839-1840"

David M. Pendergast

MAYA LONG COUNT DATING OF NEWSLETTERS:

In answer to inquiries regarding Maya dates used in the NEWSLETTER that are equivalent to the publication dates, the basis for these calculations has been from information received from Dr. Linton Satterthwaite of the University of Pennsylvania Museum, who, in response to a letter from the editor, provided a Maya Long Count equivalent to a particular date requested during 1972. Thus, with this information at hand, any date since the one provided by Dr. Satterthwaite can be calculated to correspond to that of the present, by simply using a continuation of the Maya calendar system...For general information purposes, Dr. Satterthwaite advises that he uses the "Modified Thompson 2" correlation, which places the Maya base 584,283 days after the Julian Day base....

ANNUAL MUSEUM SHOWCASE EXHIBIT:

On October 13th, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and October 14th, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., the 16 affiliates of The Museum of Science will present the fifth annual "Museum Showcase".... As in past years, there will be interesting exhibits and demonstrations for all age groups, and the IMS will have special displays set up in the new pre-Columbian Room. (Gallery D)... The admission charge to the Museum, (the only one of the year), is \$1.00 for adults and 25¢ for children, and all proceeds are donated to The Museum of Science for continuation of it's many activities....

MAYA CIVILIZATION COURSE AT FIU:

On September 25th, the Department of Anthropology of Florida International University, began a new course on the Maya Civilization....The instructor is Mr. Charles Lacombe, Director of IMS, and the course, which is scheduled for 23 periods, includes subjects such as architecture, hieroglyphics, mathematics, and fundamental information on the Maya calendar....

NEW EL SALVADOR ANTHROPOLOGY SERIES:

The first number of a new anthropology series called "Coleccion Antropologia" has recently been published under the direction of El Salvador's Ministerio De Educacion. The title of this first number is "Flautas Precolombinas Procedentes de Quelepa, El Salvador", and it was written by E. Wyllys Andrews V, who was engaged in excavations at the site of Quelepa in 1967-1969. The archaeological zone of Quelepa is located about eight kilometers to the northwest of the town of San Miguel, in eastern El Salvador, and according to the architectural and ceramic sequence had a continual occupation from about 300 B.C. to A.D. 900, when it appears the site was abandoned. Andrews' paper, however deals primarily with the description of an unusual type of flute that is reported to have been found near the site's southern boundary and offers comparisons of this to other styles of flutes discovered in the Vera Cruz region of Mexico....

NOTES ON MAYA ARCHAEOLOGYFIRST VOLUME OF ALTUN HA REPORT NEARING COMPLETION:

While visiting with Dr. David Pendergast during the latter part of September, it was learned that most of the first part of the five volume report on the excavations at the Maya site of Altun Ha has now been completed, and is expected to go to the editors in December. According to Dr. Pendergast, Director of the Altun Ha Project, progress on the complete report is proceeding well, and all of the pottery and the greater part of the artifact drawings have now been completed. In addition, all of the architectural drawings are complete except those of a few small buildings, and the entire collection of pottery and miscellaneous artifacts have been restored and photographed.

Altun Ha, as you will recall, is located in the northeast region of Belize near the settlement of Rockstone Pond, and one of the highlights of the excavation of the site, was when a tomb discovered in the Temple of the Masonary Altars was found to contain an exquisite 9½ pound carved jade head representing the Maya sun god, Kinich Ahau....

RADIOCARBON DATING OF SELECTED SITES IN THE MAYA LOWLAND AREA:

The results of radiocarbon dating of wood and shell samples provided by your editor for laboratory analysis by University of Miami students, Stuart Ruben and Rany Beers, has now been received and indicates the following data:

UM laboratory No. 122: Fragment of crossbeam from the Maya site of San Jose, Belize. (Wood).

Apparent age, 1010 ± BP.....940 AD

UM laboratory No. 123: Shell tool from site of Arrecife,
on Cozumel Island, Quintana, Roo, Mexico. (Shell).
Apparent age, 1620 \pm 60BP.....330 AD
UM laboratory No. 124: Portion of lintel from Kinal, in
northeastern Guatemala. (Wood).
Apparent age, 1320 \pm 73 BP.....630 AD

NOTE: To the writer's knowledge, this is the first information from this method of dating that has been recorded for these three particular Maya sites.

NEW MAP OF MAYA SITES IN EASTERN QUINTANA ROO, MEXICO:

During the past summer while making a survey of Maya sites along the east coast of Quintana Roo, Mr. Tony Andrews made a new archaeological map of the area between Playa del Carmen and Tulum. The map indicates the geographic location of 22 different Maya sites, all of which are relatively near to the Caribbean and are of the Tulum Post Classic style of architecture. More than half of these can be seen and identified from the air, and because of the thick mantle of trees and vines in this part of Quintana Roo, there are possibly others that have not as yet been discovered. The map was made by Andrews in conjunction with his preparation of a report on the Maya site of Xcaret....

NEWSLETTER
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