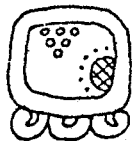


INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Newsletter



CAUAC

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(December 5, 1973)



KANKIN

SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE:

Because of a special program planned for this month, the time and place for our regular December meeting has been changed, and will now be held in the Brockway Lecture Hall of the Otto Richter Library at the University of Miami on Wednesday the 12th, at 8:00 p.m. At this time we will be privileged to have as our guest speaker, Mr. Giles Healy, who will present a film and illustrated lecture on "The Maya through the Ages"...

Mr. Healy, as you may recall, was the first person, other than the Lacandon Indians of the area, who had the good fortune to see the now famous murals that completely cover the inside walls of a three room stone building at the Maya site of Bonampak...This was in 1946 when Mr. Healy was engaged in making a film on the Maya for the United Fruit Company, and at the time was visiting the Lacandon Indians that live along the banks of the Cedro River in Chiapas, Mexico...One of the Lacandons, with whom he had become particularly friendly, one day led him through the forest to see the magnif-

icent murals at Bonampak, and realizing that the scenes depicted would greatly increase our knowledge of the lay life of the ancient Maya, he immediately reported the discovery to the appropriate authorities in Mexico City and the Carnegie Institution in Washington D.C...

For the details of this interesting discovery, come and hear the personal account of Mr. Healy at the University of Miami on December 12th...

Scene from room 2, Bonampak
Chiapas, Mexico



BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 1973-74:

At the annual IMS meeting in November, there were four new members elected to the Board of Directors...These were: Elizabeth Beardmore, Ellen Jacobs, Len Shafer and Sebastian Trujillo...In addition, there were also four that were re-elected: Nevitt Bartow, Eugene Dynner, Elayne Kaplan and Al Rosenberg, and as per our By-Laws, six remained on the Board as carry-overs from the previous year...(Julius Blustein, Allan Kaplan, Charles Lacombe, Beverly Little, Robert Little and Albert Weintraub.)

The Board of Directors will have their next meeting on December 5th, at which time the officers for the coming year will be elected...

NEW MEMBERS:

We welcome the following new members who joined IMS during the month of November...All are from the Miami area except Mr. Hill, who resides in Augusta, Georgia...

Patricia McKevitt	Edith Landowne
Mr. and Mrs. Sam N. Rundell	Kenneth Hill
Ms. Kathleen Johnson	Mrs. Audrey Bell
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Gunn	Lee Bell
Mr. Sol Harris, Jr.	

ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION MEETING:

There will be a meeting of the IMS archaeology section at the Museum of Science on Monday, December 17th at 8:00 p.m...The particular room to be used will be announced at the December 12th meeting and the topic for the evening will be "Dating Methods in Archaeology"...Visitors are welcome...

MAYA COLOR SLIDE COLLECTION:

Beginning in January we will start a special collection of 35mm color slides that will be kept on file in our IMS library...All members interested in contributing to this new project may obtain further information from our photography section chairman, Eugene Dynner...

BELIZE ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ANTIQUITIES ORDINANCE:

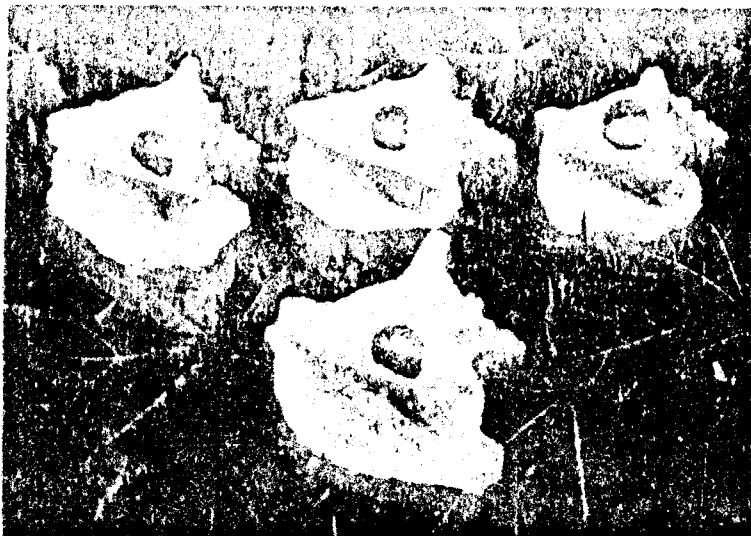
For those who desire information on the current laws relative to "Ancient Monuments and Antiquities" in Belize, a re-print of the entire ordinance has been published in the latest issue of KATUNOB, volume VIII, number 2. (pp 95 - 103)...As in Mexico, the laws and penalties pertaining to the acquisition, possession, registration, sale, export, etc., of Maya artifacts are very explicit, and it behooves all members to have a thorough understanding of these when visiting any of the many archaeological sites located throughout the country...

NOTES ON MAYA ARCHAEOLOGYUNUSUAL MAYA SHELLS FROM BELIZE:

While investigating a small group of Maya mounds a short distance south of the logging camp of Hill Bank, located in the central region of Belize, (formerly British Honduras), the editor and his wife discovered four "conch" shells that appear to have been cut in a somewhat unusual manner...This was in June of 1967, and personal research since that time has revealed that only two other similarly cut shells have been reported found within the Maya area...Both of these were found subsequent to those from the Hill Bank site, one by the English archaeologist Norman Hammond, while working at Lubaantun, and the other by David Pendergast during excavations at Altun Ha...These sites are also in Belize, and have been know about for some time...

The four Hill Bank shells were discovered partially exposed near the center of a low mound in which there was an abundance of miscellaneous potsherds, broken flint implements and fragments of obsidian blades...Commonly referred to as the "conch", the shells are of the Strombus Gigas family, a well known shellfish that is still used for food in many parts of the Caribbean area...The curious aspect of these particular shells, however, is the circular shaped holes that have been cut in the same relative position in the front of each one...The diameter of these ranges from 4.5cm to 4.7cm and the edges feel smooth to the touch and appear to have a slight bevel... If they are contemporary with the pottery within the mound, they would date back to the Late Classic Period, (ca. A. D. 750-800), but their use or function has not yet been definitely established...At present, however, the possibilities have been narrowed down to two...First, that the holes are the result of a round disc that was cut out for the use as a pendant or some other type of ornament, or second, that the shells were cut in this manner for "ceremonial purposes".

What is your opinion?



Maya shells from Hill Bank,
Belize, Central America

EXCAVATIONS BEGIN AT COBA:

During the latter part of November, excavations were begun at the large Maya site of Coba, which is located in the Territory of Quintana Roo approximately 65 miles east-southeast of Chichen Itza...The director of the project is Arql. Norberto Gonzalez, who is also the new INAH centro coordinator for Yucatan, Campeche and Quintana Roo...

Coba is an extensive site that has the distinguishing feature of being in the presence of a series of lakes---a rare occurrence in Yucatan---and first mention of it was contained in John L. Stephens "Incidents of Travel in Yucatan"...The first archaeologist to visit the site however, was Teobert Maler who made a trip to Coba in August of 1891...After a visit to the ruins by Dr. Thomas Gann in February of 1926, the Carnegie Institution became interested in the site and sent expeditions there for preliminary study and mapping...(See C.I. publication No. 424, March, 1932)...

From information received at New Orleans, the archaeological work at Coba is expected to be a long range project, and will include a considerable amount of restoration... The site can presently be reached by road from Tulum...



NEWSLETTER

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