

# INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

## Newsletter



MEN

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Hal C. Ball, Editor

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### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The editor and officers of The Institute of Maya Studies would like to take this opportunity to extend to all of it's members and friends, best wishes for a **HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR...** During 1974 we will endeavor to continue the presentation of interesting and informative programs relative to the Maya and Mesoamerica, and through our monthly **NEWSLETTER** keep you informed of other activities of the Institute and any additional newsworthy items that are believed to be of interest to members...

BIEN VIAJES --- 1974

#### JANUARY MEETING NOTICE:

The first regular IMS monthly meeting of 1974 will be held on Wednesday, the 16th, at 8:00 p.m. in the auditorium of The Museum of Science. At the conclusion of the business meeting at 8:30 p.m., an illustrated lecture will be presented by Dr. Robert Lawson, who has chosen for his subject, "Peru and It's Early Inhabitants". During his lecture Dr. Lawson will also comment on the comparisons of the early cultures in Peru to those of Mesoamerica, particularly to that of the Maya.

#### NEW OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 1974:

Congratulations to the following members who were elected to serve as officers of The Institute of Maya Studies for 1974: Charles Lacombe, Director; Allan Kaplan, Associate Director; Beverly Little, Secretary; and Robert Little, Treasurer. All four are previous office holders and we look forward to their capable leadership in conducting the Institute's business and other activities during the year of 1974...

#### STELA 24 READY FOR UNVEILING:

Stela 24, from the Maya site of Naranjo, has now been completely reassembled at The Museum of Science and will be unveiled and placed on public display on January 30th. (See MUSEUM, January 1974.)...

MAYA SYMPOSIUM: JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 1:

As previously announced in the November NEWSLETTER, The Institute of Maya Studies and The Museum of Science are jointly sponsoring a two evening SYMPOSIUM on "THE RISE AND FALL OF THE MAYA CULTURE, AND IT'S PRESENT DAY PARALLELS". The panel will consist of Dr. Michael D. Coe, Moderator, Dr. Munro S. Edmonson, Dr. Hugh Popenoe and Mr. Edwin M. Shook. Tickets, which include admission for both nights, are \$15.00, tax deductible, and IMS members and students will be given a 50% discount. The SYMPOSIUM will be held in The Museum of Science auditorium at 7:45 p.m. and a separate brochure with subscription form is being mailed to all members. This promises to be an excellent program---plan to attend...

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SECTION MEETING ON "DATING":

The IMS archaeological section held it's December meeting on Monday, the 17th, at which time the topic for the evening was "Dating Methods in Archaeology". The meeting was opened by the chairman, Hal C. Ball, who presented a brief introductory program of color slides and commentaries relative to the scientific methods of dating used in Mesoamerican archaeology. This was followed by a short discussion by the attending members on the general subject of archaeological dating, after which, papers or short talks were presented by the following participants: Bob Little, on Radiocarbon dating; Henry Peterson, on Obsidian hydration dating; Edward Johnson, on Potassium Argon dating; and Alberta Ball, on Thermoluminescent dating of pottery, (Paper by Mary Mitchell, now temporarily residing in Guatemala.)

The next meeting of the archaeology section will be held in February, when the topic for discussion will be "The Significance of Pottery in Mesoamerican Archaeology". (Date and time to be announced in February Newsletter.)...

LIBRARY NEWS:

Beginning on January 12th, the IMS library will be open to members each Saturday afternoon between 2 and 5 p.m. At present it is located on the south side of the Museum of Science library room, and our librarian, Mr. Reginald Kennedy, will be in attendance to assist members in selecting books for research and study.

All of the books have now been divided into two classifications:

(1) books that may be used only within the library room, and (2) those that may be issued to members on a loan basis. Please bring your IMS membership card for identification and take time to familiarize yourself with the new rules posted adjacent to the bookshelves...

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(Old Maya proverb say, "An archaeologist's career lies in ruins")



NOTES ON MAYA ARCHAEOLOGY



NEW MAYA PROJECT TO BEGIN IN BELIZE:

Information has recently been received that a new archaeological project is scheduled to begin this month at a Maya site located in Central Belize. Funds for the first two years work at the site were approved by the Canada Council in September, and the project will be under the auspices of The Royal Ontario Museum of Toronto, Canada. The director is Dr. David Pendergast, who has already obtained the necessary government permit for excavations, and is in Belize City at this time making final preparations for setting up a camp at the site. However, at his request, the name and exact location of the ruins will not be announced at this time, as he prefers to be established in his camp before this information is made public. (More on this in a forthcoming Newsletter.)...

PRIMERA MESA REDONDA DE PALENQUE:

The first conference for the study of the Art and Iconography of Palenque was held from December 14th through the 22nd, with the Palenque home, (Na Kan-Balam), of Merle Greene Robertson serving as headquarters. A number of papers were read and work planned for the coming year, when a second conference is proposed for another MESA REDONDA DE PALANQUE. Thirty two participants were invited to this first meeting and included representatives from the Universities of Mexico, Yale, Princeton, Tulane, Brigham Young, Texas, Illinois, Tennessee, Florida, Alabama, Columbia and Calgary. In addition, there were four participants from Palenque, and others from National Geographic, Dumbarton Oaks, and the Robert Louis Stevenson School. Most of those attending are well known in the field of Mesoamerican archaeology and anthropology and we look forward to having the opportunity of reading some of their papers as soon as they become available...

WORK TO CONTINUE AT NOHMUL:

A second season of archaeological field work has been planned by Dr. Norman Hammond, of The University of Cambridge, for the Maya site of Nohmul. This is an old ceremonial center in Belize that lies between the Rio Hondo and New River and consists of a large number of mounds of varying size. Judging from the pottery recovered from the ruins in 1973, the site was first occupied in the Late Preclassic Period and was evidently inhabited by the Maya to at least the end of the Classic, or Florescent Period. It is expected that trenching and excavation of some

of the larger pyramidal mounds will reveal additional information relative to the early people who once lived in the area...

ARTICLES ON THE MAYA IN "KATUNOB" (VOLUME VIII, NUMBER 2):

1. "PLAZA PLANS AT QUIRIGUA" ...This is an interesting paper by M. Joseph Becker, Department of Sociology-Anthropology, West Chester State College, in which the author discusses the possible correlation between certain plaza plans and the occupational specializations of the resident inhabiting groups of particular building configurations. A comparison is made of the Quirigua plazas and those that were investigated at Tikal, and speculation is suggested pertaining to the possibility that special class or status differences may have had some bearing on the type of occupants living within an individual plaza arrangement...

2. "PROTOHISTORIC PUTUN (MAYA) TRADE PATTERNS" ...The content of this paper is primarily a report by Joseph Ball and Irwin Rovner on the re-examination of the material found in two graves excavated at Atasta, in Campeche, Mexico by Heinrich Berlin. They present a detailed description of a number of archaeologically derived inferences which pertain to the Putun Maya behavior and trade during the Protohistoric Period. (Ca A.D. 1450 - 1500)...

NEWSLETTER

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