

INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Newsletter



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Hal C. Ball, Editor
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MEETING NOTICE:

The February meeting of the Institute will be held on Wednesday, the 20th, in the Museum of Science auditorium at 8:00 p.m. An interesting program on Mexico is scheduled for the evening, after which there will be an informal "get together" for coffee in the Museum's refreshment area. As always, guests are most welcome, and may obtain information from any of our members as to our future activities and objectives...

ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION MEETING:

The regular bi-monthly meeting of the IMS Archaeology Section will be held on February 28th at 8:00 p.m. in classroom "C" of the Museum of Science Building. As mentioned in a previous NEWSLETTER, the topic for this month will be "The Significance of Pottery in Mesoamerican Archaeology", and six reports are scheduled to be presented by regular members of the archaeology section. Visitors are also welcome if members of IMS...

PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICE COMMITTEE:

At a meeting of the Photographic Service Committee on February 2nd, the following preliminary procedures were adopted for the handling of slides and prints that are to be placed on file in the IMS library.

1. As of this date members are asked to donate surplus or duplicate slides or prints, or leave original material for duplication by the committee.
2. An editorial sub-committee will screen all material for quality and relevance.
3. All slides and prints will be filed by (a) area, (b) site name, (c) structure number, etc., and will be appropriately indexed.

NOTE: The Committee Chairman, Eugene Dynner, encourages all IMS members to participate in the project, either as donors, lenders, or editors and requests you contact him for further information...



The Committee also decided to proceed with a previous proposal of presenting a program at a regular monthly meeting which will feature the photography of Maya sculpture in stone, stucco, or pottery. (Scheduled for April)...

LIBRARY NEWS:

Librarian Reginald Kennedy has announced that Edward Johnson has accepted the appointment to serve as a fourth member of the Library Committee. Also, we now have extra copies of Wm. Jack Hranicky's book on ARCHAEOLOGY: THE WAYS AND MEANS TO PREHISTORIC MAN for sale, so any members interested with (ca.) \$3.00, contact the librarian or chairman of the archaeology section.

Although the Museum has informed us that the library room will not be available for the remainder of the month, we think you will be interested in looking over the following list of books that have recently been acquired for your study and research.

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| 1. Maya Hieroglyphs Without Tears | 7. The British and the Maya |
| 2. Apreciacion De La Cultura Maya | 8. Lubaantun 1926-1970 |
| 3. The Two Crosses of Todos Santos | 9. Izapa Sculpture |
| 4. No Stone Unturned | 10. Mosquito Coast |
| 5. Lost Worlds | 11. Southward Ho |
| 6. Maya Sculpture and Pottery
from Mexico | 12. Observations on the Emergence of
Civilization in Mesoamerica |

NEW HOSPITALITY CHAIRMAN FOR 1974:

The new chairman of our 1974 Hospitality Committee is Miss Kierstin James, who will take over the duties performed so well by Elizabeth Beardmore, whom we wish to sincerely thank for providing the excellent "coffee social" after our regular monthly meetings during the past year. As the new chairman requests one or two assistants at each meeting, please cooperate when you are "volunteered" for this work.

Incidentally, Miss James is presently a stewardess for Eastern Air Lines, so you may now look forward to having your "coffee, tea, or milk" served with the grace and charm of a hostess that you usually encounter only in flight on the airlines!

RE: THE MAYA SYMPOSIUM:

Our recent two evening Symposium at the Museum on THE RISE AND FALL OF THE MAYA CULTURE was deemed a great success by all who attended and gave us some real "food for thought" for making comparisons of some of the problems we have today with those encountered by the ancient Maya some 1,200 years ago. Sincere thanks to Elayne Kaplan for serving as Program Chairman and arranging for such an interesting panel of speakers...



NEW MEMBERS:

A cordial welcome is extended to the following new members who joined The Institute of Maya Studies in January.

Mr. Gordon Vickery

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Kupchik

Mrs. Bettilu Killian

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Johnston

Mr. Howard McMillan

BELIZE SITE OF CERROS TO BE EXCAVATED:

Mr. Ray Sidrys, a graduate student of UCLA, has recently departed for Belize to start excavations at the Maya site of Cerros. This is located on the southeastern side of Chetumal Bay across from the town of Corozal and there are still sections of standing stone walls visible in some parts of the ruins. A few of the structures on the north side extend very close to the water and considerable erosive damage has been done by high wave action. When visited in 1966 there was an abundance of surface potsherds around the site and fragments of a highly decorative incensario were found atop the high pyramid-temple at the west side of the ruins. After completing this season's digging at Cerros, Sidrys will conduct an investigation of the obsidian sources throughout Central America, and endeavor to more thoroughly establish the old obsidian trade routes used by the Maya...

NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS TO BEGIN IN EL SALVADOR:

On a recent trip to El Salvador, it was learned from Stanley Boggs, the new Chief Archaeologist for the country, that a new 2 month excavation project is scheduled to begin in February at the site of Casa Blanca. This is in the western part of El Salvador in the Chalchuapa region, and preliminary excavations conducted at the site under the direction of Robert Sharer, indicate that this part of Salvador may have been inhabited as early as 500-300 B. C. After completion of the work at Casa Blanca, Boggs will conduct a second 2 month project at what is believed to be a very early cemetery in the vicinity of the Pipil culture site of San Andres. Later, during the summer months of June, July, and August, El Salvador's Department of Archaeology has planned a student excavation program in which different groups of students from selected colleges and universities of the United States will be permitted to participate in archaeological "digging" at the site of Cihuatán. This will be under the direct supervision of archaeologist Boggs, or one of his assistants, and all artifacts recovered will remain the property of El Salvador. There will also be exploratory excavations and reconnaissance in the middle Lempa river valley, which will be flooded in the near future when a new dam at Cerron Gannde is completed, so all indications are that 1974 will be an active year in El Salvadorian archaeology...



INVESTIGATIONS IN THE POPTUN AREA OF GUATEMALA:

On or about the 15th of February, Dick Adams and Pat Culbert will begin exploratory work in the Poptun area of southeastern Peten, Guatemala. Although there are some old Maya sites that have been reported in the vicinity of Poptun, there has to date been very little scientific investigation or excavation there, and it is hoped that this year's preliminary project will continue in 1975. Information received from Dr. Adams indicates that the initial work this season will consist primarily of examining and recording early Maya ridged fields, agricultural terraces, ancient farmsteads and the topographic features of this part of Guatemala.

NEW FILM TO BE PRODUCED ON THE CLASSIC MAYA COLLAPSE:

During late February, a film making project will begin in Peten, Guatemala, concerning the Classic Maya Collapse and its parallel to a situation on the Florida Keys. The film is being financed by The Edison Corporation of southern California, and apparently will be a documentary that will include information and speculation similar to that presented at our recent IMS Symposium in Miami.,

NEWSLETTER

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