

INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Newsletter



CABAN

Hal C. Ball, Editor
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MEETING NOTICE:

The March meeting of the Institute will be held on Wednesday the 20th, in The Museum of Science auditorium at 8:00 p.m., at which time we will have as our guest speaker, Dr. Henry Field, who will present a program on "The Adventures of an Archaeologist". Dr. Field has been an explorer-anthropologist for many years and has published a series of monographs, several hundred articles, and also a number of books, one of the most popular of which is The Track of Man. He obtained much of his education at Eton and Oxford, but also studied at Heidelberg and Harvard, and was Curator of Physical Anthropology at the Field Museum of Natural History from 1926 until 1941. Since then he has worked in Mexico, Africa, Europe and the Near East. As Dr. Field is an honorary member of The Institute of Maya Studies and on the Board of Trustees of The Museum of Science, he is well known to many of our members, and we look forward to having this opportunity to hear some of the highlights of his interesting life-long search for Prehistoric Man...

ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION MEETING:

The IMS Archaeology Section's next meeting will be held in April at The Museum of Science, the exact date to be announced in the next NEWSLETTER. The topic for the evening will be "The Architecture of the Ancient Maya", and several short reports and papers will be presented by the attending members. Anyone interested in participating may obtain more information from the chairman, Hal C. Ball...

NEW MEMBERS:

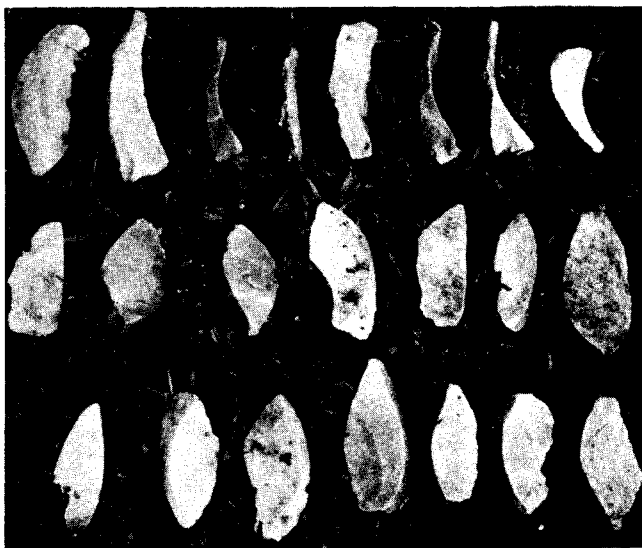
A cordial welcome is extended to Mrs. Adrene M. Franks and Ms. Mae A. Van Bezooen, who became members of IMS in February...

NEW BOOKS ADDED TO IMS LIBRARY:

1. South of Yesterday, Gregory Mason.
2. Guide Book to Ruins of Quirigua, Sylvanus Morley.
3. The Maya Scribe and His World, Michael Coe.

MAYA FLINT WORKSHOP IN BELIZE:

While visiting Central America in January, your editor and his wife had an opportunity to accompany Dr. and Mrs. David Pendergast, of The Royal Ontario Museum, to an old Maya site a few miles north of Belize City that consists of two groups of mounds separated by a large pond. Most of the 12 mounds examined were low and impressive, with only one having any cut facing stones visible on the surface. The site is of considerable interest, however, because of the large quantity of broken flint fragments that completely cover one of the mounds at the north side of Group I. Preliminary examination revealed



that these extended to a depth of at least 12 inches, and represent the remains of some type of tools, ornaments, or "eccentrics" that apparently were manufactured here. The flint pieces varied in size, color and form, and were mixed with irregular shaped fragments of white and gray chert. Also, it was of particular interest to note that many of the discarded flint pieces were in a rather uniform curvilinear shape, indicating that they may have resulted from some special type of objects that were made here. Although the site has never been scientifically excavated, it has been known about locally for some time, and may be what Thomas Gann referred to as "New Boston", in an article written by him for Liverpool University in 1911...

DEVELOPMENT OF THE OLD MAYA ISLAND OF CANCUN:

The Mexican government is now proceeding actively in its development of the beautiful coral-sand island of Cancun, located just off of the northeast coast of Quintana Roo, Mexico. In the past at least two Maya sites have been reported on the island, but because of its rather isolated location, it has remained uninhabited for many years. Now, however, the Mexican government has constructed a new road to the island, is completing an international airport nearby and plans to invest many millions of pesos in the development of the area. The first of a number of luxury "resort type" hotels is now open, and it is estimated that in the future upwards to a million tourists will visit the island each year. Maya, Maya, what a change in old Cancun!!!

(The chonographic record of the Maya is so accurate that an Initial Series date can not recur until after a lapse of 374,440 years!...Morley)



NEW PROJECT PROPOSED FOR NAKUM, GUATEMALA:

Nicholas Hellmuth, Director of The Foundation for Latin American Anthropological Research, (F.L.A.A.R.), has announced a proposal for a salvage recording expedition in April of this year to the Late Classic Maya site of Nakum. This is an impressive group of pyramidal structures and palaces that was first discovered in 1906 by Count Maurice de Perigny, who named it Nakcun. The initial mapping was done by R. E. Merwin in 1910 for the Peabody Museum of Harvard University, and the first scientific report was written by Alfred M. Tozzer in the Museum's Memoirs series in 1913. (Vol. V, No. 3). Hellmuth reports having made new measurements and sketch notes for the entire northern half of the site in June of 1973, at which time 17 previously unrecorded structures and one carved stone stela were discovered. If sufficient funds become available, Hellmuth plans to re-map the southern half of the ruins this year, and continue his research on why Nakum was built on the relatively flat riverside plain, rather than on the hills that ring the immediate area, as were such other Peten sites at Tikal, Uaxactun, Yaxha, etc. As illegal looting is destroying many of the buildings, Hellmuth would also like to arrange for two guards to protect the ruins on a yearly basis. Anyone interested in the project may obtain further information by writing Director Hellmuth at: 7 Piso, Edificio Horizontal; 4a Avenida 8 - 72; Zona 1; Guatemala City, C. A...

NEWSLETTER

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