

# INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

## Newsletter



LAMAT

Hal C. Ball, Editor

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ZOTZ

### JUNE MEETING NOTICE:

The regular monthly meeting of the Institute will be held in the Museum of Science Auditorium on Wednesday, the 19th at 8:00 p.m. Len Schafer will present the program "Riddles of Mayan Architecture." Len is an experienced engineer and architect and his interest in Mayan architecture should provide for an interesting program.

### ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION MEETING:

The June meeting of the Archaeology Section will be held in classroom "A" in the Museum of Science building on Thursday the 27th at 8:00 p.m. The topic for the evening will be "The Art of the Ancient Maya"...

### NEW ADDITIONS TO IMS LIBRARY:

People of the Serpent

Ancient Cities and Modern Tribes

Pre-Columbian Art

The Civilization of Ancient Mexico

Aztecs of Mexico

Edward H. Thompson

Thomas Gann

Francesco Abbate

Lewis Spence

George C. Vaillant

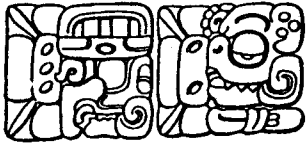
### THE MAYA CAME LATE!

Although the Maya inhabitants of pre-Hispanic Mesoamerica are sometimes referred to as "ancient," their culture was actually "late" in comparison to the really early people of America who settled along the Old Crow River in Canada. Evidence of this has been found in the form of a caribou bone (tibia), which had clearly been carved by a sharp stone implement. The bone, which had well fashioned notches cut into one end, was probably used for cleaning hides, and when analyzed by the radiocarbon dating technique, was found to be between 25,000 and 32,000 years old! (Smithsonian report)...

### RE: ANCIENT CORN:

The oldest sign of domesticated corn was found well outside of the Maya area in a Tehuacan cave referred to as Coxcatlan, and is believed to be 5,600 years old...





The controversial Maya "upside down" glyphs in normal position.  
Tun head variant, left.  
Uinal head variant, right.

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EARLY MAN IN THE MAYA LOWLANDS:

In a recent report by Dennis Puleston of Minnesota University, evidence is presented that indicates the possible presence of a pre-ceramic occupation within the Maya Lowland region of Northern Belize. The site from where the evidence was obtained is located about 8½ km. west of the town of Orange Walk and covers an area of approximately one square kilometer. A large quantity of stone tools were discovered at the site, most of which were in the form of crude scrapers, flint planers and knives. There were no projectile points, blades or ground stone tools found, and a preliminary examination of the area did not reveal the remains of any type of pottery. During excavations of one part of the site, what appeared to be a floor and hearth were uncovered, and Puleston plans further study of material obtained from test pits prior to announcing a tentative date for the site...

NEW BOOK ON MAYA STONEMWORK:

A new book by Edward Ranney, entitled Stonework of the Maya, is now available from the University of New Mexico Press in Albuquerque. The publication is basically a photographic study of ancient Maya architecture and sculpture, and focuses on the major lowland sites most frequently visited today. Each section is accompanied by a text that provides up-to-date archaeological information on the sites, and a large format camera has been used to present the stonework as clearly as possible and to achieve the rich tones and images that are characteristic of the landscape tradition in photography. (75 photographic plates, 8 x 10, \$15.00.)

REPRINTS ON MESOAMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY AND LATIN AMERICA:

Blaine Ethridge--Books, is now offering a select number of reprints of various books on Mesoamerican archaeology and Latin America that have not previously been available. If interested, write for their catalog: 13977 Penrod Street, Detroit, Michigan 48223...

MESOAMERICAN WRITING SYSTEMS:

Dumbarton Oaks Center for Pre-Columbian Studies has just announced the publication of Mesoamerican Writing Systems, a record of a conference held at Dumbarton Oaks on October 30 and 31, 1971, under the chairmanship of Floyd G. Lounsbury. The book contains 266 pages, 114 illustrations, and 13 tables. (\$10.00, postpaid, 1703 - 32 Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20007)...





AERIAL VIEW OF THE MOUNDS OF "MIRAFLORES," EL SALVADOR

NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE IN EL SALVADOR:

On May 24th, your editor and Stanley Boggs, Chief Archaeologist for El Salvador, investigated a large group of mounds on the south coast of the Department of Sonsonate that they had previously discovered from the air the latter part of January. The site is located approximately 16 km. southeast of the seaport town of Acajutla, and only 1 km. inland from the Pacific Coast. It is comprised of two principle groups of mounds, the largest of which contains at least 35 that can be identified. The site is situated in a large open field that is presently being cultivated for cotton, and recent plowing has revealed broken pottery, obsidian blade fragments and a few stone tools. Thought at first to be a Pre-Classic site similar to those on the south coastal plain of Guatemala, Boggs now believes that it very well could have been a two-period site, and has tentative plans for a formal archaeological investigation of the mounds during the coming year...

JADE CACHE FOUND AT NOHMUL:

During excavations in April at the Maya site of Nohmul, in northern Belize, a jade cache was discovered beneath the center of the floor of Mound 109. The cache consisted of seven jade objects that were within a bowl identified as of the Chicanel Period. Four of the objects were figurine heads, two were ear flares, and one was a bead, and the cache was the first of this type found since archaeological investigation was begun here by the staff of the Corozal Project. (The project is jointly sponsored by the British Museum and Cambridge University, and a copy of the first season's report of 1974 may be obtained by sending \$6.00 U. S. to Centre of Latin American Studies, West Road, Cambridge, England.)...



SAA ANNUAL MEETING:

The 39th annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology was held at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D. C. on May 2, 3 and 4. Approximately 1,000 persons attended this year's meeting, which consisted of 26 Symposiums, 11 General Sessions, 3 Rap Sessions, and 2 meetings each on Research Reports and Contributed Papers. A number of papers were read on Maya archaeology and ethnology by SAA members from all over the U. S., and your editor had an opportunity to present a short slide program on "An Aerial Survey of the Maya Area." Next year's meeting will be held in Montreal, Canada. Why not plan to attend?...

TAKE YOUR CAR TO YUCATAN:

The Commodore Cruise Line, Ltd., is now operating regular service between Miami and Puerto Morelos, Quintana Roo, and besides passenger accomodations, offers transportation of all vehicles "from a bicycle to a bus." Thus, you can now ship your own car to this port in the northeastern part of the Yucatan peninsula and have the convenience of driving from that point to many of the old Maya sites that are located throughout this interesting region of Mexico...

WORDS OF GOOD CHEER:

A rare book is one that comes back after you've loaned it out!

**NEWSLETTER**

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