

INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Newsletter



CIB

Hal C. Ball, Editor

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(July 10, 1974)



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JULY MEETING NOTICE:

Place: Museum of Science

Date: July 17, 1974

Time: 8:00 p.m.

IMS SPECIAL RESEARCH SECTIONS:

With the addition of a new Cultural Diffusion section, the Institute of Maya Studies now has five principle research sections which are listed below for your information.

Archaeology

Hal C. Ball, Chairman

Architecture

Len Shafer, Chairman

Cultural Diffusion

Al Rosenberg, Chairman

Hieroglyphics

Charles Lacombe, Chairman

Photography and Visual Aids

Eugene Dynner, Chairman

At a Board of Directors meeting in June, Al Rosenberg was appointed as Chairman of the new Cultural Diffusion section and plans are now being made for an initial meeting for discussion and further investigation on this controversial subject as it relates to the civilization of the Maya.

The archaeology section held its regular bi-monthly meeting at the Museum on June 27th when the topic for the evening was "The Art of the Ancient Maya". A particularly interesting part of the program was presented by Anne Sheldon, whose subject was "Jaina Figurines"...

For those having a special interest in the study of hieroglyphics, Charles Lacombe, Chairman of this section, has extended an invitation to IMS members to audit the summer course he is teaching at FIU on "Research in Maya Civilization". The class meets each Saturday during the summer months between 8:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. in room DM 163 at the University. Phase I of the course will include learning to work with the tools of Maya hieroglyphic research, using the inscriptions and codices as source material, the use of solar and sacred calendar counting charts, recognition of scribal errors, and how to reconstruct partially recovered almanacs and dates...





Mrs. Mathew Stirling
 Mr. and Mrs. Bill Loy
 Mr. and Mrs. Nick Muccino

MUSEUM TO BEGIN NEW TOURS:

The Museum of Science will begin a new series of tours to Central America and Mexico beginning in August of this year and continuing through April of 1975. These will include archaeological tours to Mexico and Guatemala, and in addition there will be special photography tours, general survey tours and a "Guatemala Trek", which will take members to the crater of the Pacaya volcano (8,344 feet), and also that of Zunil and Agua (12,393 feet). The tours range in length of time from one to two weeks and the costs of some are as low as \$385.00----including air fare from Miami, land transportation, documents, hotels, meals etc. Contact the Museum for more details...

GUATEMALAN NOBEL PRIZE WINNER DIES:

Guatemalan writer, poet and politician Miguel Angel Asturias, winner of the 1967 Nobel Prize for literature, died in a Madrid hospital last month at the age of 74. Sr. Asturias, who was partly of Maya ancestry, also won the Soviet Lennin Peace Prize in 1966. He was particularly interested in the plight of the large Maya Indian population in Guatemala and throughout his work his major theme was the exploitation of these people by wealthy monopolies...

SPECIAL PRE-COLUMBIAN ART EXHIBIT IN MUSEUM OF SAN SALVADOR:

A special exhibit of pre-Columbian art covering a period of some 3,000 years in El Salvador is now open to the public in San Salvador's Museo Nacional. Entitled "Panorama Cultural Pre-Columbino", the exhibit has pottery, figurines and stone objects that date back to the Preclassic Period of ca. 1,500 B.C. Of particular interest are two wheeled figurines, one of which was found by Chief Archaeologist Stanley Boggs at the site of Cihuatán.

"THE PLUNDERED PAST":

For all persons interested in the story of the illegal international traffic in the works of art of the Maya and other early civilizations, Karl E. Meyer's book The Plundered Past is highly recommended. It is the first book-length survey of illicit trade in antiquities that has been written, and reveals interesting information relative to museums, dealers, tomb-robbers, police and scholars. Not simply an expose, the book also includes many pages of photographs, a full appendix and the first comprehensive bibliography on the subject. (Atheneum, New York)...

ARCHAEOLOGY BOOK NOT AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE FROM IMS LIBRARY:

An excellent basic book on archaeology entitled ARCHAEOLOGY: THE WAYS AND MEANS TO PREHISTORIC MAN is now available from the IMS library at a cost of \$3.00...

MAYA ARCHAEOLOGYTHE UAYMIL SURVEY PROJECT:

The Uaymil Survey Project is now completing its third and final season of field operations in the Maya region of southwestern Quintana Roo, Mexico. The survey, which permits exploration and mapping of 20,000 square km in the southern part of the territory of Quintana Roo, is under the auspices of The Royal Ontario Museum of Canada, and the Director for the entire project has been Peter Harrison. Fifteen new sites have been visited and recorded so far this season and Harrison is now convinced that this part of the Maya area was once heavily occupied, both in the Classic and Post-Classic Periods. All of the sites are being mapped and two of the larger ones have been given the names of Uomul and El Pozito. In addition, a ceramic study is converting hundreds of pounds of sherds into coded data that can be utilized in a computer-aided analysis of the complete pottery collection. A final report on the project is expected in 1975...

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT DZIBILNOCAC:

The latest number (33) of the series, Papers of the New World Archaeological Foundation, has just recently been published and consists of a report by Fred W. Nelson, Jr. entitled "Archaeological Investigations at Dzibilnocac, Campeche, Mexico". The paper gives a detailed description of the Maya site of Dzibilnocac, which is located in the Municipality of Hopelchen, and also presents an analysis of the architectural style as it relates to the Chenes area. (142 pages, 107 figures---available from the Director of Libraries, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah 84601, \$5.00.)...

QUINTANA ROO MURAL PROJECT:

During the third season of the Quintana Roo Mural Project, the recording of extant Tulum murals was completed and archaeological investigations were continued at the site of Tancah. Work was also continued in the recording of the carved stela and rock carvings in the Tancah Cenote cave and excavations in front of structure C-44 (Temple of the Murals) revealed floors and platforms that dated back to Formative, or Preclassic periods. A cache including objects of jade was also found, and a preliminary report of the 1974 season's accomplishments is being prepared by the Director, Arthur G. Miller...



NEW BOOK ON BRITISH HONDURAS (BELIZE) ARCHAEOLOGY:

A well documented progress report and general review of Maya archaeology in British Honduras has just been published by Katunob under the title of The Archaeology of British Honduras. It was written by Don Stephen Rice, and is number 6 in Katunob's "Occasional Publications in Mesoamerican Anthropology" series. The book is basically a synthesis, rather than a complete original work, and contains a great deal of data based on published field notes, site reports and the author's personal notes on the environment and antiquities of the country. Information is also included relative to the range of indigenous occupations in the area, and of the cultural process and dynamics of the Maya which are manifest in ecological considerations, settlement patterns, trade relations and socio-political institutions. Interesting reading...

THE UAXACTUN PROJECT:

According to Educational Expeditions International, the Uaxactun Project, under the direction of Edwin Shook, will be completed by July 27th. The prime objective was "to restore a Maya pyramid in the Peten forest of Guatemala", and we look forward to a progress report by the next issue of the Newsletter...



NEWSLETTER

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