

INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Newsletter



MANIK



YAX

Hal C. Ball, Editor

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(October 9, 1974)

MEETING NOTICE:

The October meeting of the Institute of Maya Studies will be held in the Museum of Science auditorium on Wednesday the 16th at 8:00 p.m. The program for the evening will be presented by Charles Lacombe, whose topic will be "Pre-Columbian Music." Also, as announced in September, at the conclusion of the meeting, all paid-up members who would like a copy of the IMS publication SALVADORAN VARIETIES OF WHEELED FIGURINES, may obtain one by registering with Beverly Little or Alberta Ball.

RECENTLY ACQUIRED BOOKS FOR IMS LIBRARY:

Estudios De Cultura Maya (Vol. VIII) - Universidad Nacional Mex.
The Conquest of Yucatan ----- Frans Blom
A History of Ancient Mexico ----- Bernardino de Sahagun
Mexico: A History of Art ----- Bradley Smith

LIBRARY COMMITTEE:

The new IMS library committee as of October 1st, consists of the following members:

Reginald Kennedy, Chairman
Hal C. Ball
Nancy Benton

Mitza Block
Louis Hochen
Isora Travieso

HISPANIC WEEK:

Joining in the city-wide celebration of Hispanic Week, October 7-12, the Museum of Science will devote the entire Gallery D to the display of Spanish paintings, art objects and furniture. Open free to the public during regular Museum hours...

TITLE CORRECTION TO "MUSEUM" MAGAZINE ARTICLE:

For the information of those persons who have read Hal Ball's article in the September issue of the MUSEUM magazine, please note that the correct title is "Flying Over the Land of the Ancient Maya." Why the original title was completely changed without the author's knowledge or consent has not as yet been explained...



Charles E. Allen
Marcia Ann Herrin
Dan C. Meyer

William Orchard
Margaret Reheis
Rodney D. Shoaff

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICANISTS MEETING:

The XLI International Congress of Americanists meeting was held during the week of September 2-7 and participants attending represented 41 different countries. During the four special sessions on the Maya, 26 papers were read, each of which was followed by a ten-minute period of questions and informal discussion. Besides the United States, these sessions included members from 10 other countries, all of whom presented interesting and informative papers on some phase of the Maya civilization. There were also numerous symposia that included Maya topics. The entire "Programa de Trabajo" was held in the National Museum of Anthropology, but Mexico, as host country, also provided interested members with complimentary tickets to the opera, musical concerts, and the Folklore Ballet. In addition, there was a cocktail party at Chapultepec Castle on Saturday afternoon and an all-day trip to the archaeological zone of Teotenango on Sunday. All of this, and the opportunity to talk with old friends made for a very busy week...

RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOKS ON MESOAMERICA:

Studies of Ancient Tollan: A report on the University of Missouri Tula Archaeological Project, including data on excavations, artifacts and ethno-history of the site of Tula in Hidalgo, Mexico. 220 pages, 59 figures, 21 tables. 1974. \$9.27. (U. of Missouri Museum of Anthropology, 100 Swallow, Columbia, Mo. 65201.)...

Primera Mesa Redonda De Palenque: A series of articles contributed by those who attended the Primera Mesa Redonda De Palenque during December 14-22, 1973, at Palenque. (A Conference on the Art, Iconography, and Dynastic History at the Maya site of Palenque.) In 2 volumes. 175 pages, 150 illustrations, and fold-outs in each volume. \$15.00. (Robert Louis Stevenson School, Pebble Beach, Cal. 93953.)...

SIXTH ANNUAL MUSEUM SHOWCASE:

On Saturday and Sunday, October 26 and 27, the Museum of Science in Miami will hold its sixth annual "Showcase Exhibit." Each of the sixteen affiliates of the Museum will have an individual booth to display a multitude of scientific dimensions that range from archaeology to astronomy. The hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. The admission is \$1.00 for adults and \$.25 for children, and includes a free planetarium show and a chance on an hourly raffle...



"EXPLORING THE SACRED WELL":

For those interested in the "sacred well" of Chichen Itza, there is a well-documented account in the latest issue of AMERICAS, (Vol. 26, No. 8), which describes the four attempts to recover the hundreds of Maya artifacts located beneath the murky waters there. The author, Miguel Guzman Peredo, begins the article by telling of how, in 1894, Edward H. Thompson bought the land on which the cenote is located for the sum of 200 pesos! Thompson's first dredging operation in 1904 is then described, as are the Mexican Frogman's Club expedition in 1954, the National Institute of Anthropology project in 1960-61, and the final exploration of the well in September of 1967. (For detailed information on the 1967 expedition, see THE WELL OF SACRIFICE, by Donald Ediger.)...

"EL GRAN XALISCO" EXHIBIT IN AJIJIC, MEXICO:

The new museum in Ajijic, in the Mexican state of Jalisco, is now featuring a display of archaeological material depicting over 2,000 years of cultural evolution of the Indians of West Mexico. Although no great architectural remains have been found in this region, it is famous for the richness of its pre-Columbian ceramic art and nearly 400 different pieces are on exhibit in the new museum (Ajijic is about an hour drive south of Guadalajara)...

NEW INFORMATION ON ANCIENT ECUADOR:

According to University of Illinois archaeologist, Donald W. Lathrap, recent diggings have revealed a completely new chapter in the prehistory of Ecuador. Lathrap reports that excavations unearthed pottery of excellent quality and evidence of a large house was found that is tentatively dated as 23 B.C. This and other information indicates that the prehistoric Indians here were not simply fishermen and shellfish collectors, but settled farmers living in communities of more than 1,000 inhabitants. The site investigated was near Guayaquil and believed to have been occupied by the Valdivia Indians as far back as 5,000 years ago...

FORMER MIAMIAN RECEIVES GUATEMALA'S ORDER OF THE QUETZAL:

Mrs. Stella Cheesman, former Miami resident and Guatemalan Consul General here for 7 years, recently received her country's highest award that can be bestowed upon a civilian--the order of the Quetzal. Mrs. Cheesman has been in foreign service for 20 years and in addition to her official duties, she has always had a special interest in the Maya Indians of Guatemala. She is leaving Houston, Texas, her most recent assignment, to accept a position as Ambassador of Guatemala in Bogota, Colombia. Your editor and other of Mrs. Cheesman's friends in Miami take this opportunity to offer congratulations and wish her good fortune in her new assignment in Colombia...



THE LAMANAI EXPEDITION, 1974:

The first season's work at the Maya site of Lamanai was completed on the 26th of July and the camp will be closed until excavations begin again in January of next year. Formerly referred to as Indian Church, Lamanai is located on the western margin of a large lagoon of the New River of central Belize. The project is being sponsored by the Royal Ontario Museum of Toronto, Canada, and is under the supervision of field director, Dr. David Pendergast.

The initial excavations this year were in the campsite area, and within the core of the first small mound that was dug, a burial was discovered. This was found in an early construction that was well beneath a later period building and the excavation proved to be quite complicated. This was principally because the body was found in a seated position within a huge Mayapan censer over 55 cm. high. The base of the giant censer was surrounded by a great mass of fragments that represented about 15 or more vessels, and a second burial in the same mound yielded almost a hundred shell beads and 4 more vessels. Other minor excavations were also made during this first season, and Stanley Loten, with the aid of 5 students, began a preliminary mapping of the site...(See IMS Newsletter Vol. III, No. 4)...



NEWSLETTER

**Institute of Maya Studies
Museum of Science
3280 South Miami Avenue
Miami, Florida 33129**

