

INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Newsletter



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Hal C. Ball, Editor
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THIRD ANNUAL MEETING

The third annual meeting of the Institute of Maya Studies will be held in the Museum of Science auditorium on Wednesday the 20th at 8:00 p.m. A resume of the activities of IMS during 1974 will be presented by the Director, and in addition there will be reports from the secretary, the treasurer and the chairman of our various committees and special departments. There will also be an election of new members for the Board of Directors.

The program for the evening will be presented by University of Miami Professor Ellen Jacobs, who will give an illustrated lecture on "Pre-Columbian Lapidary, Ceramics and Metal Working Techniques". Miss Jacobs is also a member of the IMS Board of Directors and recently gave a talk to our archaeology section on the subject of Maya art. Don't miss her lecture on ceramics!..

SPECIAL MEETING HELD TO COMMEMORATE NEW IMS PUBLICATION SERIES:

On September the 30th a special meeting was held in the Museum of Science auditorium to commemorate the publication of the first number of the new IMS series entitled CONTRIBUTIONS TO MESOAMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGY. This first monograph was written by Stanley H. Boggs on the subject of "Salvadoran Varieties of Wheeled Figurines", and during the meeting he gave an interesting illustrated talk on two of the archaeological sites where wheeled figurines were found in El Salvador: Cihuatan and Quelepa. Ing. Ricardo Dutriz, Consulate General for El Salvador in Miami, was also a guest of honor, and it was largely through his efforts and Miss Alicia M. Bosch of Lanica Airlines, that air passage was arranged for Boggs to attend this special meeting. We are extremely grateful to both Miss Bosch and Mr. Dutriz for their cooperation, and on behalf of the entire membership we extend our sincere thanks. Complimentary copies of the Boggs' monograph were given to IMS members at our October meeting, and copies are now for sale either directly through the Institute, or at the bookstore in the Museum of Science. Price: \$3.00...





Mrs. Amelia Alexander
Mrs. Triana Barry
Dr. Peter Harrison
Mr. Robert Hoffman

Mrs. Shirley Knox
Mrs. Hilda Kotler
Mr. Joshua Rosenfeld
Mr. Jim Swagerty

DR. ANDREWS APPOINTED AS NEW DIRECTOR FOR M.A.R.I.:

Dr. E. Wyllys Andrews, V, of the Department of Anthropology at Northern Illinois, and an honorary member of IMS, has been appointed Director of the Middle American Research Institute and Associate Professor of Anthropology at Tulane University, effective July 1, 1975. He will succeed Dr. Robert Wauchope, who retires on June 30th after 33 years as Director of the Institute.

For the past two years Dr. Andrews, 31, has been on leave of absence from NIU to direct the Middle American Research Institute's program of research on the Yucatan Peninsula. Living in Merida, he supervised the laboratory study and preparation of final reports by 12 members of the National Geographic-Tulane University field staff. Besides Mexico, Dr. Andrews has done archaeological work in El Salvador, Guatemala and the United States, and after graduating cum laude from Harvard in 1964, he later received his Ph.D. at Tulane University. We wish him good fortune and success in his new position...

NEW EVIDENCE OF EARLY MAN IN NORTH AMERICA:

At a recent news conference at the University of Connecticut, anthropology professor Dr. William Laughlin announced the finding of what he believes is direct evidence that the first Americans came from Siberia. This was in the form of several tool blades unearthed on the Aleutian Island of Anangula which matched similar implements previously discovered in Siberia. The artifacts are believed to be 9,000 years old and indications are that one village had been inhabited as far back as 8,700 B.C.! The finding of whalebone fishing hooks also gave credence to the theory that the early Aleuts were good fishermen. The Anangula expedition, under the direction of Dr. Laughlin, worked together with a Soviet team that was sponsored by the Soviet Academy of Sciences...

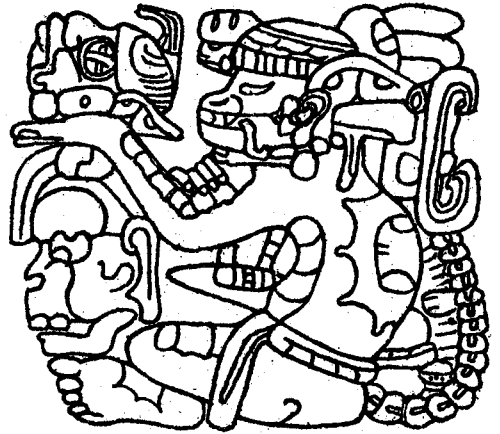
COLLECTION "ETUDES MESOAMERICAINES":

The MISSION ARCHEOLOGIQUE ET ETHNOLOGIQUE FRANCAISE AU MEXIQUE is a relatively new center that is doing multidisciplinary scientific research in Mexico and in the six republics of Central America. The first publication was in 1972, "Lienzos De Chiepetlan", which was an ethnohistorical study of six pictographic manuscripts on cloth that were discovered in a small village in the state of Guerrero. The latest in "Archeologie De Los Naranjos, Honduras", and future publications include works on such subjects as Tamaulipas, the Jicaques Indians, Panama archaeology and the Olmecs. (For more information, write Centro Interamericano De Los Libros Academicos, Sullivan No. 31 bis, Mexico 4 D.F., Mexico)...



AN UNUSUAL MAYA "KIN" NUMBER FROM YAXCHILAN:

Included in the Initial Series inscription on the sculptured stone lintel from Yaxchilan, referred to as No. 48, is a representation of 16 kins that is most unusual. This was first brought to the attention of Mayanists by Sylvanus Morley in Vol. II, page 370, of The Inscriptions of Peten, where he wrote: "The next glyph-block, C3-D4, records 16 kins, but in a way duplicated nowhere else in the Corpus Inscriptionum Mayarum, a truly unique case". However, when viewing this interesting carved stone, which is now in the National Museum of Anthropology in Mexico City, apparently few persons are aware of the importance of the unusual recording of the 16 kins portion of the Initial Series date on this particular lintel from Yaxchilan. This short description by your editor, therefore, is written as a reminder of how the numeral 16 was determined by Morley.

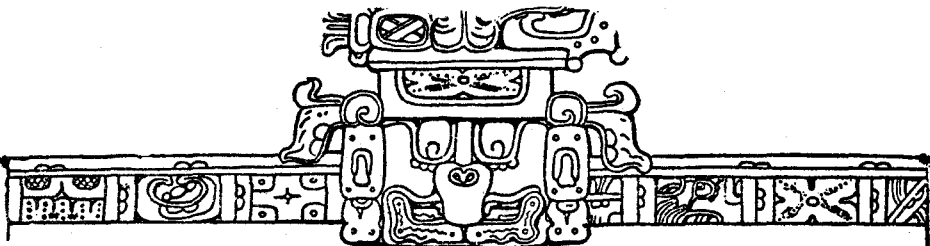


From Lintel 48---Yaxchilan

As you examine the accompanying illustration, you will notice a life-like monkey with a long upturned tail, which is the Maya full figure glyph that represents the kin, or day. Notice next the death's head or skull that is resting partly on the monkey's left knee and right foot. This is the well known head variant for 10. Above the skull the monkey holds a human head in the palm of his hand, and the tiny axe engraved in the eye is the distinguishing feature for the number 6. By combining these two head variant numerals we thus arrive at the number 16--a variation of normal practice that has been found nowhere else except at Yaxchilan!..

NEW MAP AND ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS OF YAXHA:

Information was received in October that The Foundation for Latin American Anthropological Research has completed its five year project of surveying and mapping the Maya site of Yaxha. This work has included more than 500 structures and was carried out under the project's director, Nicholas M. Hellmuth. In addition to regular maps, the staff architect, Frank Ducote, has also prepared a series of isometric drawings that depict Yaxha as it is believed to have appeared about A.D. 850. (For publication information, write: F.L.A.A.R., A/P 1838, Guatemala City, Guatemala C.A.)...



ARCHAEOLOGY NEWS FROM EL SALVADOR:

A. The first season of the Cerron Grande Program has now been completed and archaeological investigation of the sites along the Lempa River area that will be flooded by the construction of a new dam has been suspended until January of 1975. This year's work consisted primarily of (1) a general reconnaissance from the air and on the ground of the area above the dam that will eventually be covered by water, and (2) excavation projects at Hda. Colima and Hda. Santa Barbara. Digging at Colima was done by Richard Crane of Tulane University, who excavated numerous bones, ceramic vessels and other miscellaneous artifacts. Pottery of both the Salua and Copador styles has been found by Crane, and also a few poorly preserved carved vessels that are believed to have been made from local clay. Investigations in the upper part of the Lempa River Valley also revealed new information pertaining to early settlement patterns and the general size and construction of houses once located there...

B. A new archaeological project was begun at the site of Cihuatan on August 26th, and excavations are now being conducted along the west wall of the main plaza and a small ball court that appears to have no end zones and apparently was unpaved. Drains leading out of the plaza have been found that were made of clay pipes, and although in a broken condition, they were still in their original position. Large incensarios having a Tlaloc decorative motif were also unearthed, and as work continues a field lab and storehouse for artifacts will be built...

NEWSLETTER

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