

INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Newsletter



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Hal C. Ball, Editor
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(December 11, 1974)

DECEMBER MEETING NOTICE:

The last regular meeting of the Institute in 1974 will be held in the Museum of Science Auditorium on Wednesday, December 18, at 8:00 p.m. The program for the evening will be presented by Mr. Jack Eaton of Merida, Mexico, whose topic will be "The Civilization of the Maya in Yucatan." This will be Mr. Eaton's second appearance as a guest speaker for IMS, as he previously presented a very interesting illustrated talk in September of 1973 on "Archaeological Investigations in the Rio Bec Region." Jack is well known to many of our members and for the past six years has been doing archaeological work in Yucatan, Campeche and Quintana Roo, and thus has first hand knowledge of many of the Maya ruins in this part of Mesoamerica. His talk will be supplemented by numerous color slides and we feel confident that this will be a program of special interest to all members and their guests. Remember the date: Wednesday, December the 18th...

IMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 1974-75:

With the election of four new members at the Annual Meeting in November, the Board of Directors for 1974-75 consists of the following: Three year terms: Hal C. Ball, John H. Gunn, Louis L. Hochen and Robert B. Little. Two year terms: Ellen Jacobs, Elayne Kaplan, Albert Rosenberg and Len Shafer. One year terms: Elizabeth Beardmore, Julius Blustein, Allan Kaplan, Charles Lacombe, Beverly Little and Nathan B. Rood. Officers for the coming year will be elected at the Board's meeting in December...

ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION MEETING:

A meeting of the IMS Archaeology Section will be held in the Museum of Science building on December 16, at 8:00 p.m. The topic for the evening will be "The Art of the Ancient Maya"...

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

"Those civilizations that fail to learn from history are condemned to repeat it"...





Mrs. Braxton Thompson	Mr. John L. Keller
Mrs. Sharyn Vanhorn	Mr. Austin Needham
Miss Priscilla McCutcheon	Dr. E. W. Swarthout
Mr. and Mrs. Ted Crail	

NEW BOOKS DONATED TO IMS LIBRARY:

Two new books have recently been donated to our library; one is entitled Hurricanes of the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions: 1492-1800, and was presented as a gift by Dr. Henry Field. The second book was given to the library by Mr. Charles Allen and is an account of Sylvanus G. Morley and the World of the Ancient Mayas. We offer our sincere thanks to Dr. Field and Mr. Allen for their generous contribution to our growing library...

MAYA ORIGINS CONFERENCE:

A seminar on The Origins of the Maya Civilization was held in Santa Fe, New Mexico from October 14th to the 18th with R. E. W. Adams serving as Chairman and Gordon Willey as Moderator. It was reported to be a "most productive and congenial series of meetings" and the participants spent a great deal of time discussing the Rise of the Maya civilization, which seems to be much more complex than the Fall. It was determined that population growth was evidently a strong element in the initial phases, at which point competition took over as another strong factor, and in the Central Peten area, it seems that the people achieved a kind of social organizational/ideological jump on the others. This may have eventually led to a population concentration around some sites and at least a population buildup in other areas. This and other interesting aspects of the Maya Rise will be thoroughly discussed in a book that will subsequently be published by the University of New Mexico Press...

"GUATEMALA, MAYA AND MODERN":

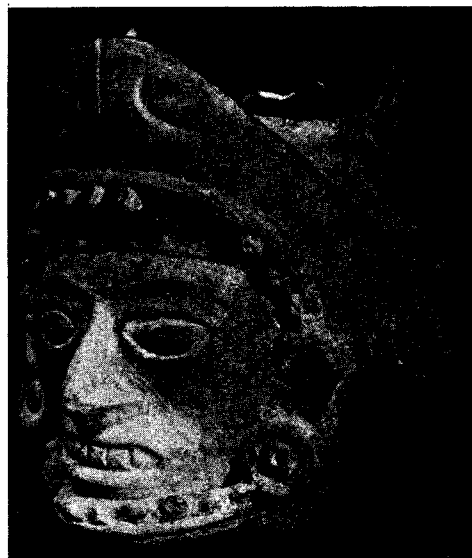
As a reminder to those who have not as yet had an opportunity to read it, there is a very informative article on the Maya of Guatemala in the November issue of National Geographic. The author, Louis de la Haba, describes in detail the two different faces of the interesting land of Guatemala: one, Indian and fiercely traditional, and the other, contemporary and swiftly changing. Photographs are by Joseph J. Scherschel...

OLD MAYA BOOK USED AS BASIS FOR LOS ANGELES BALLET:

Popol Vuh, the sacred book of the ancient Quiche Maya, has now been given a modern reincarnation in dance and music. This is in the form of a new Los Angeles ballet that uses for its theme the Popol Vuh's account of the old Quiche cosmogony, mythology, tradition and history. The choreographer who created the ballet is Valentina Oumansky, and the music, which was written by Elisabeth Waldo, is played on ancient Maya instruments dating back possibly 2,000 years...

A UNIQUE CERAMIC VESSEL FROM EL SALVADOR:

One of the most unusual and unique ceramic pieces in the private collection of a friend residing in El Salvador, is the vessel seen in the photograph at the right. It was found in the Department of Ahuachapan near Barra de Santiago and depicts a human head within the large gaping mouth of a shark. The vessel is 17 cm. high, 20 cm. long and 14 cm. wide. The human face is a cream-buff color and the remainder of the bowl(?) is a faded purple that most likely was painted after firing. Although it is very possible that the vessel may be from the Pipil culture, this has not as yet been accurately determined. It is the opinion of the owner, however, that it is highly suggestive of the Vera Cruz style and probably dates to the Post Classic Period...

ARE THE MONTE ALBAN DANZANTES JADE PIAQUES REALLY FAKES?

In a "Letter to the Editor" of Archaeology magazine, John F. Scott of Cornell University expresses the opinion that the two pieces illustrated in an article entitled "Danzantes Engraved on Two Jade Plaques," are not authentic, but cleverly prepared fakes. Scott states that "jade carvings from the Pre-classic Period are especially rare, except for obviously Olmec works, which are too early for the Danzantes." He also believes that stylistically the plaques are wrong because Danzantes do not appear in frames and that the figures themselves are too precise and modeled. In addition, he disagrees with the suggestion that the design on the bottom of Plaque B is Glyph J, and concludes that both pieces are fakes that were probably produced at the end of the last century...

MAN IN MEXICO 100,000 YEARS AGO?

According to a recent scientific report made to the Vertebrate Paleontological Society of America, fossil remains found in Baja California indicate that primitive man may have reached North America as long ago as 100,000 years! Although searchers have found no human fossils, they have discovered what appear to be stone tools in layers of earth 50,000 years old or more, and believe that some of the beds will eventually turn up solid evidence of man much earlier than this...

"Maya chronology probably began with some hypothetical event, rather than an actual historical occurrence"...Morley, 1935...

NEW BOOKS ON PRE-COLUMBIAN ARCHAEOLOGY AND RESEARCH

Mesoamerican Archaeology: New Approaches - Edited by Norman Hammond.

The proceedings of a Symposium on Mesoamerican Archaeology held by the University of Cambridge Centre of Latin American Studies during August of 1972. 474 pp. The University of Texas Press, \$15.00...

The Peoples and Cultures of Peru - By Luis G. Lumbreras.

A comprehensive survey of the peoples and cultures of the Andean area extending from 21,000 B.C. to A.D. 1532. 256 pp., 372 maps, drawings and halftones. The Smithsonian Press, \$15.00...

The Shaft Tomb Figures of West Mexico - By Hasso von Winning.

A competent and concise reference book dealing primarily with the artifacts found in the burial structures of Western Mexico that are referred to as shaft tombs. 183 pp., 355 figures. Southwest Museum Paper No. 24. \$12.50...

Human Decapitation in Ancient Mesoamerica - By Christopher Moser.

72 pp., 68 illustrations, 3 tables. Dumbarton Oaks, \$3.00...

Arrowheads and Projectile Points - By G. E. Van Buren.

A new and unique approach to the classification of projectile points of Early Man in North America. 240 pp., 50 photographs, 31 figures. 30 tables. Arrowhead Publishing Company, \$12.00...



NEWSLETTER

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