

INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Newsletter

Hal C. Ball, Editor

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(January 1, 1975)



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===== **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** =====


The editor and officers of the Institute of Maya Studies would like to take this opportunity to extend to all of its members and friends, best wishes for a "Happy New Year" in 1975. As we have in the past, we will endeavor to continue the presentation of interesting and informative programs relative to the Maya and Mesoamerica, and through our monthly Newsletter keep you informed of other activities of the Institute and any additional newsworthy items that are believed to be of interest to members.

JANUARY MEETING NOTICE:

The regular monthly meeting of the Institute will be held in the Museum of Science Auditorium on Wednesday, the 15th, at 8:00 p.m....

ARCHITECTURAL RESEARCH SECTION MEETING:

The IMS Architectural Research Section will hold a meeting in Fort Lauderdale on January 20th at 7:30 p.m. The topic for the evening will be "Architectural Diffusion Throughout the Americas." Further information may be obtained by contacting the Chairman, Lew Shafer, by telephone. Office: 792-4713; home: 522-2177. (Ft. Lauderdale)...

IMS OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 1975:

At a Board of Directors meeting held on December 4th, the following members were elected as officers for 1975: Director, Charles Lacombe; Associate Director, Hal C. Ball; Secretary, Beverly Little; and Treasurer, Robert B. Little...

THE OLMEC ROCK CARVING AT PIJIJAPAN, CHIAPAS, MEXICO:

The latest number (35) in the series of Papers of the New World Archaeological Foundation, has now been published and may be obtained by sending \$2.00 to the Director of Libraries of Brigham Young U. (Provo, Utah 84602)...

NEW ADDITIONS TO IMS LIBRARY:

Teotenango, Informe De Exploraciones Arqueologicas--Roman Pina Chan
The Civilization of the Ancient Mayas--Alberto Ruz Lhuillier
Mexico (Life World Library)--William W. Johnson
Studies in Ancient Mesoamerica--John Graham, Editor
Studies in the Archaeology of Mexico and Guatemala--John Graham, Editor

SOUND FILMSTRIP ON THE MAYA:

The Reading Laboratory, Inc., in cooperation with the Archaeological Institute of America, has announced that a new filmstrip entitled "The Civilization of the Ancient Maya and Its Collapse," is now available either through direct purchase or on a 30-day approval basis. This is one of a new series on "Archaeological Perspectives of Man," and in addition to the filmstrip, there is a cassette that has recorded commentaries relative to the pictures. The interpretive explanation of the Maya filmstrip is by Richard E. W. Adams of the University of Texas at San Antonio, who provides a provocative overview of the Maya civilization during the Late Classic Period and a careful examination of its collapse 200 years before the arrival of Columbus. Dr. Adams also emphasizes Maya architecture, social and political organization and the relation between the Maya and their environment. (For use in Upper High School and Introductory College Curricula.)...

ATTENTION "DIFFUSIONISTS":

For those who are skeptical of the theory of duplicate independent invention, a new book has just been published that sets forth "evidence" that America's first civilization was the Olmec, which was the result of two voyages in the late 2nd millennium B.C.: one across the Atlantic, and the other across the Pacific. The title of the book is Ancient Egyptians and Chinese in America, and the author, R. A. Jairazbhoy, has previously written other books tracing what he believes to be links between early civilizations. This is "a new book on an old idea," but your editor is still not convinced that "America received nearly all major aspects of civilization from the Old World." What's your opinion? (George Prior Publishers, London. L3.50)...

ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE SEA:

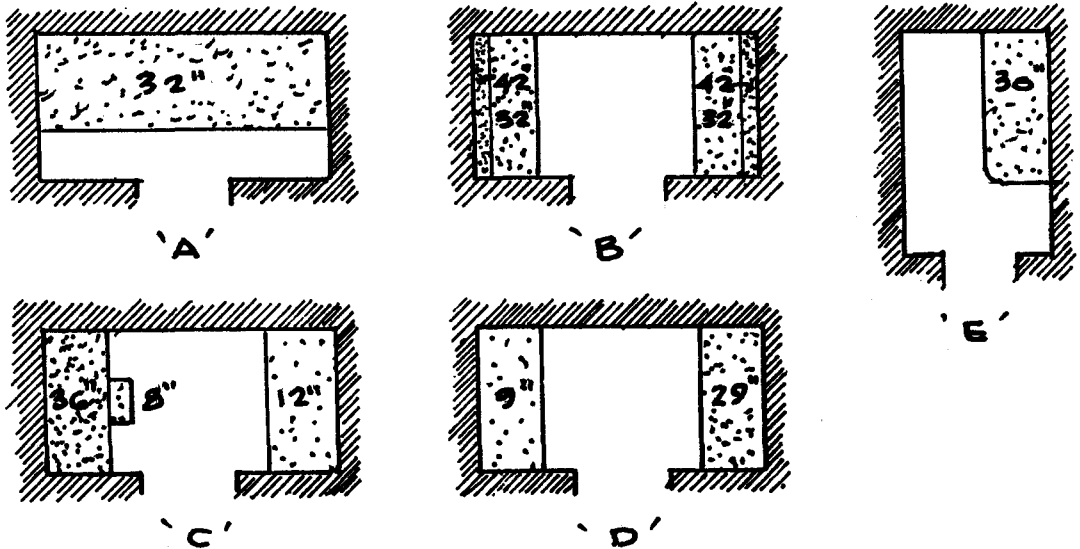
The Scientific Exploration and Archaeological Society, Inc. (S.E.A.S.), is a relatively new organization with headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia that is currently conducting a program "to test the validity of the hypothesis that extensive sea-borne commerce was carried on between the American continents and other continents of our world during the bronze and early iron ages." Members plan to search for the location of probable surface and submerged trade and harbor sites of this period that are believed to be in the vicinity of the east coast of Yucatan, the Dominican Republic and possibly the Canary Islands. The function of the expeditions will be to locate and survey only, and no actual excavations are planned at this time...

NEW WOMAN GOVERNOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF GUATEMALA:

The well known writer and journalist, Blanca Luz Molina, recently took office as Governor of the Department of Guatemala. She is the first woman to fill a post of similar importance since 1541, when Beatriz de la Cueva became ruler of the Kingdom of Guatemala. We wish her success in 1975...

THE PALACE OF THE GROOVES AT TIKAL:

During the past three years archaeological work has been conducted by the Instituto de Antropologia e Historia de Guatemala, in the complex of structures at Tikal referred to as Group G. The principal building in this group is The Palace of the Grooves, and one of the interesting aspects of its excavation has been the variation of the size and arrangement of the stone benches that have been uncovered within the numerous rooms of the old structure. These range in height from about 9 inches, (fig. 'D'), to as much as 36 inches, (fig. 'C'), and one room has a rather unusual pair of "double benches," (fig. 'B'). Some of the rooms have benches that are of different height, such as those in fig. 'D', one has a single large bench that covers almost the entire floor area, (fig. 'A'), and another one of the rooms has one that is built against the wall on just one side, (fig. 'E'). The highest bench, (fig. 'C'), has a small step in front of it and all were covered with a thick layer of typical Maya limestone-plaster. (Measurements of the benches are approximate. Drawings by Roland "Sonny" Saye)...



BENCH ARRANGEMENTS-PRINCIPLE PALACE
BUILDING - GROUP "G" TIKAL, GUATEMALA

"ASOCIACION TIKAL" PLANS TEXTILE MUSEUM:

The Textile Committee of the "Asociacion Tikal" has recently announced tentative plans for the construction of a special textile museum to be located in Guatemala City. Because the colorful textiles of Guatemala are known to have developed from a unique cultural heritage of the ancient Maya, few other "New World" countries can boast of weaving skills which date back to such an early period. At present over 200 different tribal costumes have been identified and each village has its own distinctive symbol and design woven into the material. Unfortunately, the machine age is threatening this centuries-old skill, and many of the old textiles are fast disappearing, so to properly preserve and exhibit private collections, a special museum for this purpose seems essential. (Donations are tax-deductable.)...

COSTA RICA TO BUILD MUSEUM IN CRATER OF VOLCANO:

The difficult task of constructing a museum in the crater of a volcano is being undertaken by the government of Costa Rica. The new museum will be made of cement and built into one side of the volcano Poás, which is located within the National Park of the same name. The project was originally prepared by Organization of the American States specialists, and the architect in charge will be Agustin Hernández Navarro...

NEWSLETTER

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