

INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Newsletter



IMIX



KAYAB

Hal C. Ball, Editor

Vol. 4

No. 3

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(March 12, 1975)

MARCH MEETING NOTICE:

The regular monthly meeting of the Institute will be held in the Museum of Science auditorium on Wednesday, March 19, at 8:00 p.m. The program for the evening will be presented by University of Miami Professor Dr. John E. Hall, who will give an illustrated lecture on the subject of "Cultural Diffusion: Old World and New World Problems." Dr. Hall is a well known marine archaeologist and we look forward to an interesting and informative program on the controversial subject of "cultural diffusion"...

ARCHITECTURAL RESEARCH SECTION MEETING:

The March meeting of the IMS Architectural Research Section will be held in Ft. Lauderdale on Monday, the 24th. Attending members will continue the study and discussion of "Architectural Similarity in Pre-Columbian Peoples." For more information, phone 522-2177 or 792-4713...

SPECIAL IMS BULLETIN BOARD:

As a supplement to the monthly IMS Newsletter, the editor will now post additional items of interest on a special bulletin board that will be located at the entrance of the museum auditorium at each regular meeting. Those members who wish to exhibit such things as photographs, reports, etc., should contact Hal Ball prior to the meeting night...

NEW DONATIONS TO IMS LIBRARY:

The Institute wishes to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the following two members who recently donated books to our library:

Mr. Heriberto Casares: Tomo I & II, "Monografia Del Departamento de El Peten."

Dr. John Rousseau: Xerox copies of the three principal Maya condices.

SUPPORT YOUR MUSEUM:

As an inducement for more people to join the Museum of Science, Walter Etling, Chairman of the Board of Governors, has announced that during this year, members of the Museum affiliates may join by paying only \$5.00! Considering the many benefits the Museum offers, this is a real "bargain" and we earnestly suggest that all IMS members "support your museum" in 1975...



Mr. Ray McDonald

Mrs. C. J. Newby

Miss Mary Mitchell

Mr. Julio Zangroniz

NEW BOOKS ON THE MAYA:

"A Guide To Ancient Maya Ruins"...Bruce Hunter...Oklahoma Press

"Ceremonial Centers of the Maya"...Craven, Bullard & Kampen...UOF Press

"Maya Cities"...George Andrews...Oklahoma Press

"Jades From the Cenote of Sacrifice, Chichen Itza, Yucatan"... Tatiana Proskouriakoff...Peabody Museum

JAINA FIGURINES ARTICLE IN MUSEUM OF SCIENCE MAGAZINE:

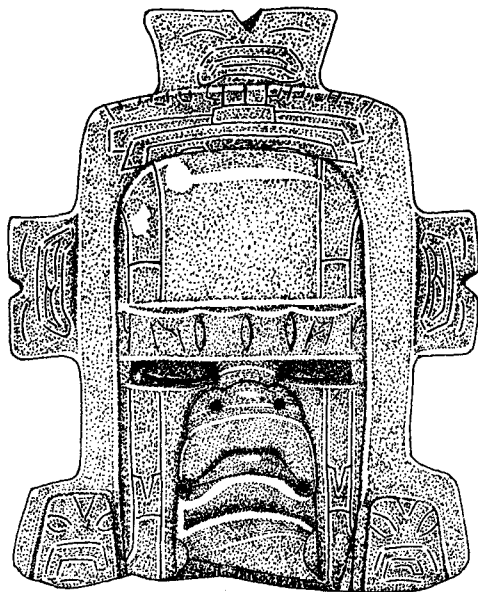
An article by IMS member Jack Eaton on Jaina figurines was published in the February issue of MUSEUM magazine and contains interesting data on the unique life-like clay figures of humans and animals that have been discovered in the Maya cemetery on the Yucatecan island of Jaina. (Copies of the magazine may be obtained from the Museum of Science bookstore.)...

"UNDERGROUND OVENS" IN EL SALVADOR DATED TO FIRST CENTURY A.D.:

Information has been received from Stanley Boggs, Chief Archaeologist for the government of El Salvador, that recent archaeomagnetic dating for three of the "underground ovens" found at Valle San Juan has been established as being within the Preclassic Period of the first century A.D. This is a confirmation of a C14 date of A.D. 45 for the unusual bell-shaped constructions referred to as "ovens." These were initially discovered in 1966. The first, of more than a dozen of these that were found on the Valle San Juan cotton plantation, was at a depth of 5 M. below the present surface and near the bottom of a gully locally called Quebrada Tronconera. Investigation proved that all were clearly intrusive into sterile soil, and their man-made character was shown by their carefully formed outlines, symmetrical shapes, and the marks of digging sticks used in their excavation. Two forms were discovered: a tall bell or bottle shape, and a smaller, vertically cylindrical type. The maximum diameter was near the base, and usually 1.75 - 2 M. The walls and floors show the effect of considerable interior heating and have an orange or reddish color which contrasts markedly with that of the surrounding clay. Resting on the floor of several of the well preserved finds of bell form was a loose layer of burned, flattish stones which may have served to support whatever was baked. Between the individual stones was a large amount of charcoal, samples of which were used for C14 dating. The size of the ovens are unusual for this part of southern Mesoamerica, and Boggs accounts for their being found so far below the present surface to the possibility that earthquakes accompanying eruptions of nearby volcanoes, dammed streams which were later released and caused heavy flooding of the area...

AN UNUSUAL OLMEC JADE PENDANT FROM THE ISLAND OF COZUMEL:

During excavations of "The Cozumel Archaeological Project" in 1973, a particularly interesting carved jade pendant was found at the island's Maya ceremonial-administrative site of San Gervasio. The pendant was discovered in a tomb located in front of the remains of a structure on top of one of the small platforms in Group VI. It measures 6.8 x 5.5 cm. and has a unique form which consists of a large head carved in relief and surrounded by a corona with 3 notched and 2 unnotched appendages. Faces are etched into all five of the appendages, and the elements of a sky band motif on the corona over the top of the head forms another stylized face. The special drilling-carving technique and the faces with their snarling were-jaguar mouths, slit eyes, and cleft heads are definite hallmarks of the Olmec art style. (Other jades executed in this pure style have been dated to the Middle Preclassic---ca. 800-400 B.C.). The small crypt in which the pendant was discovered was sealed in the fill of a support platform approximately 80 cm. below the floor level. Two individuals had been interred in the grave, along with sherds from several vessels, a few shell and jade beads, two incised shell discs and the pendant. The ceramic material from the crypt is a bit unusual, as pieces of 3 vessels tentatively date to 3 different times of manufacture: Tzakol 3, Tepeu 1 and Tepeu 2. The jade pendant was deposited in Late Classic context however, and regardless of the reason for this dissonant mixture, it is significant that Olmec jades were in circulation in the Maya area during the Late Classic. (Courtesy of William L. Rathje)...

OLMEC JADE FROM COZUMELSECOND YEAR OF EXCAVATIONS BEGIN AT MAYA SITE OF LAMANAI:

After being somewhat delayed by an unusually long rainy season, initial excavations for 1975 were begun at the Maya site of Lamanai on January 28th. This is the second year of work of a proposed seven year archaeological project under the auspices of The Royal Ontario Museum of Toronto. The Field Director is Dr. David M. Pendergast, Curator for the museum and well known for his work at Altun Ha. Plans for this year's work involve excavations and exploratory trenching in a group of mounds located at the south end of the site and very near two of the mounds dug in 1974 in which 12 burials were discovered. (See IMS Newsletter Vol. 3, No. 10). Mapping of the site will continue later in the season and eventually will include about 4 square km...

GUATEMALAN ENVOY GABRIEL CORDOVEZ DIES:

Gabriel J. Cordovez, an attache at the Guatemalan Consulate in Miami, and honorary member of The Institute of Maya Studies, died at a son's home on February 8th. Mr. Cordovez was 74 and had lived in Miami for over 27 years. He had an avid interest in the civilization of the ancient Maya and was active in The Institute of Maya Studies since it was first organized in 1971. Working in conjunction with the Guatemalan government and members of the IMS, he was largely responsible for negotiating an agreement whereby the Museum of Science in Miami was granted an extended loan of two Classic Period Maya carved stone stelae. These were #24 from Naranjo and #3 from Piedras Negras, which are presently in the Museum's new Maya Gallery. Members of the Museum and the Institute are especially grateful for his part in obtaining these exquisite representations of Maya stone sculpture, and also for his enthusiastic help in promoting anything pertaining to his favorite subject--the ancient Maya. Mr. Cordovez will be sincerely missed by his many friends in the Miami area...

DR. IGNACIO BERNAL TO SPEAK AT ST. LOUIS ART MUSEUM:

On Tuesday, March 11th, The Archaeological Institute of America will sponsor a lecture at the St. Louis Art Museum by Dr. Ignacio Bernal, well known Director of Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology...

NEWSLETTER

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