

# INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

## Newsletter

Hal C. Ball, Editor



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### MEETING NOTICE:

The Institute will hold its regular monthly meeting in the Museum of Science Auditorium on June 18th at 8:00 p.m. A program will be presented by one of our members at the conclusion of the business meeting...

### NEW DIRECTOR FOR MIAMI'S MUSEUM OF SCIENCE:

The new Director for Miami's Museum of Science is Mr. Don J. Starkey, who came to Miami from Forth Worth, Texas, where he had served as Assistant Director for that city's Museum of Science and History. At our IMS meeting in May, Mr. Starkey gave a short talk on his future plans for the Museum and discussed the progress of the Maya Gallery and Plaza, which is scheduled to be completed and open to the public by early Fall...

### SOCIEDAD MEXICANA DE ANTROPOLOGIA MEETING:

The 14th Round Table Meeting of the Sociedad Mexicana De Antropologia will be held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras from the 22nd to the 28th of June. This will be a joint meeting with the National Autonomus University of Honduras, and the main theme will be "The Mesoamerican Frontiers"...

### RECENT ARTICLES THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS:

1. "The Transpacific Origin of Mesoamerican Civilization" (Meggers)  
American Anthropologist, Vol. 77 No. 1
2. "The Cave underneath the Pyramid of the Sun at Teotihuacan" (Heyden)  
American Antiquity, Vol. 40 No. 2
3. "Mystery of the Ancient Nazca Lines" (McIntyre)  
National Geographic, Vol. 147 No. 5
4. "Tollan: The Toltec Capitol" (Diehl and Benfer)  
Archaeology, Vol. 26 No. 2
5. "The Inca Trail" (Cormier) Americas, Vol. 27 No. 3

### NSF CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY:

The National Science Foundation, which has invested in excess of seven billion dollars in support of research, celebrates it's 25th year in 1975...



PAPERS ON THE MAYA PRESENTED AT DALLAS SAA MEETING:

During the annual 3 day meeting of The Society for American Archaeology in Dallas, Texas on May 7-9, the following papers on the Maya were read by the authors. "Definition of Space in Maya Painting", (Quirarte); "The Maya Jade Trade", (Hammond); "The Cyclical Rise and Fall of Maya Lithic Trade Spheres", (Rovner); "Obsidian Sources in the Maya Area", (Anderson and Sidrys); "Intensive Agriculture in Southern Quintana Roo, Mexico", (Harrison); "The Pre-columbian Ball Game of Guatemala Maya", (Hellmuth); "The Introductory Glyph: Olmec and Maya", (Baker); "The Corazal Project", (Pring); and "A Second Round Structure from Northern Belize", (Sidrys)...

RE: RE-PUBLICATION OF THE KAMINALJUYU REPORT:

The Pennsylvania State University is presently considering the republication of Excavations at Kaminaljuyu, Guatemala, by Alfred V. Kidder, Jesse D. Jennings and Edwin M. Shook (originally Carnegie Publication No. 561). This is a monograph that has long been recognized as a classic work in Mesoamerican archaeology and if re-published would coincide with forthcoming publications on recent excavations at Kaminaljuyu. However, as re-publication depends on the amount of potential interest in the KJ report, the Editorial Director, John Pickering, would appreciate hearing from those who might be interested in purchasing a re-issue. His address is: Penn State University Press, 215 Wagner Building, University Park, Pennsylvania 16802...

FIRST PHASE OF THE YUCATAN SALT PROJECT COMPLETED:

Information has been received from Jack Eaton, Director of "The Yucatan Salt Project", that the first phase of the project has been completed and that a preliminary report is planned for publication in late 1975. This first season of investigation and mapping was in the vicinity of the small coastal village of San cristanto, where evidence has revealed the former existence of ancient salt beds and storage platforms. The project is under the auspices of the University of Texas at San Antonio, and one of the principal objectives is to verify the importance of salt in the rise of the Maya civilization from the Formative to the Classic Period...

NEW BOOK ON THE PRESENT DAY MAYA IN YUCATAN:

Just released by the University of Chicago Press, is a new book which deals with the social changes resulting from the industrialization in the Maya town of Ticul, Mexico. Entitled "Winds of Tomorrow", it was written by Richard A. Thompson, who views the change in the town not as static, but as a pattern which permits clues to what the past means to the future...

ARCHAEOASTRONOMY IN PRE-COLUMBIAN AMERICA"

This is a relatively new book that consists of a series of papers written by leading specialists who explore the newly developed interdisciplinary field of archaeoastronomy. It is published by the University of Texas Press. 6x9 inches, 400 pages. Price: \$15.95...

SPECIAL EXHIBITION ON ANCIENT ECUADOR NOW OPEN AT CHICAGO'S FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY:

A major exhibition of over 600 objects revealing the art and life of the first settled peoples on the coast of Ecuador is now open to the public at the Field Museum in Chicago. Entitled "Ancient Ecuador: Culture, Clay and Creativity, 3000-300 B.C." the exhibition will remain at the Field Museum until Aug. 5, when it will then travel to New York, Minneapolis, Urbana, and Kansas City, and finally be shown in the Ecuadorian cities of Quito and Guayaquil.

The exhibit is of particular interest because it presents the earliest known ceramics in the Western Hemisphere, (3,100 B.C.), and none of the material has ever been shown to the public in Ecuador or elsewhere. The collection consists of a great variety of objects, and some of the effigy vessels depict plants and animals so carefully, that botanists and some of the zoologists of the Museum, have been able in most cases to determine the genus and often the species of the fruits, vegetables, mammals, birds, fish and reptiles shown. The exhibit includes interesting examples of early whistling bottles, and a Valdivia period jar with a pie-crust rim is reported to be more than 5,000 years old! Because the exhibition demonstrates that intensive farming, permanent villages and ceramics were at least 1,000 years older than in Peru or Mexico, this new information seems to call for basic revisions of the accepted theories of the origins of New World Civilizations. ( A large catalogue is available from the Museum for \$5.95. Photograph courtesy of Dr. Donald Collier.)...



Painted figurine of a standing woman of the Chorrera Period. (Ca. 800 B. C.) Ht. 32 cm.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF EL SALVADOR'S LAKE CUSCACHAPA:

An underwater archaeological project in Lake Cuscachapa is now being conducted by the British Sub-Aqua Club of El Salvador. The Director and advisor of the project is Gordon Dean, and all material recovered will be turned over for study and examination to the country's chief archaeologist, Stanley Boggs. Since Lake Cuscachapa is in the well known Chalchuapa archaeological zone, it seems likely that an interesting variety of artifacts may be found that will possibly add to the knowledge of the pre-Columbian people that once occupied this part of Central America.

NOTE ON MAYA RELIGION:

"Although the Maya of today have been taught to worship in the creed of Christ, they have in reality made Christianity a religion to suit their own particular temperament and tradition"...

NEW QUICHEAN CHRONICLES FROM HIGHLAND GUATEMALA:

At the annual SAA meeting in May, Robert M. Carmack presented a report on the recent discovery of several 16th century chronicles written in the Quiche language, one of which was the original of the "Title of the Lords of Totonicapan". The method by which the document was found and it's relationship to the present day social setting in highland Guatemala was described and it's significance for Quichean studies was also discussed. Other 16th century Quichean chronicles were reviewed and several slides were shown to illustrate the pictorials found in the documents...

"THE AZTECS AND THEIR MEDICINE":

The Association for the Advancement of Mexican-Americans of Houston, Texas, has recently produced a special film documentary entitled "The Aztecs and Their Medicine: A Chicano Legacy". The film traces the use of medicinal herbs by the Aztecs pre-Columbian times to the present day Chicanos, and Luis Cano, executive director, is of the opinion that "the documentary illustrates that medical practices by some of the pre-Hispanic cultures of Mexico were possibly 1,000 years ahead of those of the Europeans". The film was first aired byKTRK-TV and received a special citation for outstanding reporting on problems of the disadvantaged...



NEWSLETTER

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