

# INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

## Newsletter



AHAU

Hal C. Ball, Editor

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### JULY MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT:

DATE: Wednesday, July 16

TIME: 8:00 p.m.

PLACE: Museum of Science Auditorium

ADDRESS: 3280 South Miami Avenue

### CARVED STONES FOUND AT LEPENSKI VIR REPORTED TO BE THE FIRST MONUMENTAL SCULPTURES IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND:

During excavations at the site of Lepenski Vir, located on the Yugoslav side of the Danube River, 20 heads carved out of red sandstone were discovered that possibly may date back more than 7,000 years! These were all found behind stone hearths within the remains of the trapezoidal shaped houses at the site and one was almost two feet tall. The strange appearing carved stones have odd fishlike features, with goggle eyes and a gaping mouth, but there is also evidence of a nose, and the eyes are in the front of the head so that archaeologists believe that the carvings undoubtedly represent humans. Perhaps they were of ancestral figures guarding the hearth, but whatever they were, so far as anyone can tell today they were the first pieces of monumental sculpture ever made on earth...

### NEW DIRECTOR ASSUMES DUTIES AT MIDDLE AMERICAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE:

On July 1st, Dr. E. Wyllys Andres V took over as director of The Middle American Research Institute of Tulane University. He will succeed Dr. Robert Wauchope who retired on June 30 after 33 years as director of the Institute. Dr. Andrews attended Lyceum Alphinum Zuoz in Switzerland and Lawrenceville School in New Jersey, and later graduated cum laude from Harvard College in 1964. Besides participating in archaeological investigations in the United States, he has worked in Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador and during the past year has been serving as professor of anthropology at Northern Illinois University in De Kalb. We wish him every success...

### DR. WILSON POPENOE: 1892 - 1975

Dr. Wilson Popenoe, 83, founder and first president of the Pan-American School in Honduras, died in Antigua, Guatemala, on June 20th. He had spent most of his life in Central America, where he was an authority on tropical horticulture, and his many friends included numerous Maya archaeologists...





Mr. Richard C. Williams

Mr. Larry Locke

Mrs. Shirley C. Wheeler

Ms. Gail Wilhelms

#### HOUSTON MAN AIDS NEEDY MAYAS:

Ray Cryer, a Houston man who has been devoting much of his time and money in helping the Mayas in the isolated Yucatecan village of Yaxachen, has become so popular with the natives there that they look on him as a "god." Cryer has made about a dozen trips to the village and besides medicine and other needed goods, he has provided the Mayas there with a gasoline water pump and helped them build a road out of the jungle. He admittedly lives a spartan existence at his home in Houston, and donates much of his salary to the project. Commenting on being treated as a "god," Cryer says that "at times it is very difficult, as the Mayas often follow me everywhere---even to the bathroom"...

#### DESCRIPTIVE PAMPHLET PUBLISHED BY GUATEMALAN LINGUISTIC PROJECT:

For those interested in the ongoing activities, objectives and future publications of The Proyecto Linguistico Francisco Marroquin (PLFM), a pamphlet is now available from the Director, Tony Jackson. Address: Apartado 237, Antigua, Guatemala, CA. The pamphlet gives details relative to the organization serving as a permanent national technical resource center in the Mayan and other minority languages of Guatemala. It also outlines plans for providing a forum for qualified speakers of Mayan so that they may contribute and influence decisions which concern policies and activities in their own communities. Centers are located in Antigua and Huehuetenango...

#### CASA GRANDES: A FALLEN TRADING CENTER OF THE CHICHIMECA:

The Northland Press of Flagstaff, Arizona has announced the publication of what it terms "the most significant archaeological investigation of the last century": Casa Grandes: A Fallen Trading Center of the Chichimeca. This monumental report is on one of the Western Hemisphere's most fertile archaeological territories and will be published in 8 volumes. The first three volumes are now available as a set for \$75.00 and contain 1,200 pages, more than 780 photographs, 190 pages of notes, numerous maps and an extensive bibliography. The books are printed in two colors throughout...

#### SPANISH MISSIONS ALONG THE RIO GRANDE:

The new Center for Archaeological Research at the University of Texas at San Antonio has announced plans for a large project that will investigate a group of missions along the Rio Grande that were founded in 1699. This was the area of the first Congregaciones of Coahuiltecan Indians from south Texas and Coahuila, and it is expected that good historical and Pre-historic material will be found in and around the mission ruins. Thomas R. Hester will serve as Field Director and his assistant will be Jack Eaton...



LAS VICTORIAS MONUMENT IN EL SALVADOR TO BE MOVED TO TAZUMAL MUSEUM:Bas relief carvings on Las Victorias stone

Plans have been made in El Salvador to move the huge Las Victorias stone boulder from its present position in a coffee finca near Chalchuapa, to the Museum of Archaeology located at the ruins of Tazumal. The large irregular shaped boulder was first found in 1942, and has remained "in situ" in the coffee finca since that time. It is decorated on each of four relatively flat surfaces with incised human figures, three of which are portrayed standing or walking, and one in a seated position (see illustration above). The stone stands approximately 6½ feet high and is of a hard grain variety of volcanic basalt. The carvings are of particular interest because of certain similarities with figures on stone monuments at La Venta, Mexico, and appear to have been sculptured in the art style of the Olmecs. No definite date has been announced for moving the stone, but it is expected to be in the near future and its new location will afford easy access for those who wish to examine and photograph this interesting stone of El Salvador...

TWO HEADED STONE STATUE FOUND IN COLOMBIA:

Archaeologists in Colombia, South America, have discovered an ancient two headed stone statue that is reported to be the first one of its kind found in the Americas. The stone is more than three feet high and is carved in the image of a human figure with two separate heads on the shoulders. The unusual figure has the arms folded across the breast and wears a skirt-like garment that reaches down to the knees. It was found near Aguabonita, in the southwestern region of Colombia, and it is believed that the two heads are probably significant of a sort dual relationship, such as good and evil or a god and a natural phenomenon. It has been described as dating back to prehistoric times and the president's publicity relations office has called it "one of the most important finds of Colombian archaeologists"...



NEW YUCATEC MAYA DICTIONARY BEING COMPILED:

A dictionary of Yucatec Maya is in the process of being compiled by Alfredo Barrera-Vasquez with the intent of producing a linguistic tool that is accurate, comprehensive and up-to-date. Funds are being provided by the sisal industry of Mexico (Cordemex) and the target date for the completion of research is January of 1976. For more information, write to Alfredo Barrera-Vasquez, Apartado Postal 304, Merida, Yucatan, Mexico...

FIRST PERIODICAL PUBLISHED IN THE QUECHUA LANGUAGE:

The first national periodical written entirely in the Indian language, Quechua, which was made an official language of Peru along with Spanish on May 27, has published its first issue in Lima. The weekly newspaper is called "Cronicalan Revolucion Rimaynipa" and consists of eight standard size pages. The first issue included articles on national and international news.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The Editor would like to take this opportunity to remind all members and other readers of the IMS Newsletter, that contributions of appropriate news items are always welcome and will be carefully considered for publication in forthcoming issues...



**NEWSLETTER**

**Institute of Maya Studies  
Museum of Science  
3280 South Miami Avenue  
Miami, Florida 33129**

