

INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Newsletter

Hal C. Ball, Editor

Vol. 4

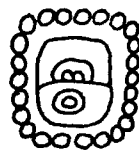
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(September 10, 1975)



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MEETING NOTICE:

The next meeting will be September 20 at 8:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Museum of Science, 3280 South Miami Avenue. Mr. Charles Lacombe will present an interesting lecture on the Maya entitled "Death of an Affluent Society."...

IMS MEMBERS TO CONDUCT LECTURE SERIES ON THE MAYA CIVILIZATION:

This Fall the Museum of Science Adult Class Series will present for the first time a course on the Maya Civilization. It will begin on September 22, and will consist of 6 classes to be held on Monday nights between 8:00 and 10:00 p.m. Registration fee: \$20.00. It will be presented by the following IMS members: Allan Kaplan (Introduction), Hal Ball (Archaeology), Len Schafer (Architecture), Elayne Kaplan and Ellen Jacobs (Art & Ceramics), Charles Lacombe (Math & Calendars) and Al Rosenberg (Cultural Diffusion)...

HIEROGLYPHIC SECTION STUDIES MADRID CODEX:

For the past nine months members of the hieroglyphic section of IMS have been studying pages 12-18 of the Madrid Codex and now believe that they have developed an analytic technique that not only reveals the subject matter of these pages, but also provides researchers with a new and distinctively Maya key to deciphering almanacs in other codices. Basically, the technique is the application of graphics to an interpretation of special tables, and the spokesman for the group, Charles Lacombe, claims that the columns of days in the explanatory section indicate that they form repetitive geometric patterns when applied to the same day in the tables. In regard to certain patterns, the group states that the appearances and conjunctions of Venus can be recognized, and that the information is the same as in the Dresden Codex on pages 46-50, but it has been permuted. (More to appear in November MUSEUM Magazine.)...

NEW IMS BOARD MEMBER:

Effective as of August 1st, Rodney D. Shoaff will be serving on the Board of Directors in place of retiring member Julius Blustein. We offer our sincere thanks to Julius, who has devoted a great deal of time and effort to Institute activities during the past three years...



MIAMI SCULPTOR RESTORES MAYA JADE MASK:

After more than three years of working on what he terms "a 3-dimensional jigsaw puzzle," sculptor Bob Stoetzer of South Miami has restored a mosaic jade mask from what was originally described as a bag of "pebbles" that weighed less than one pound. These were the broken remains of a mask that was found by a friend within the second level of a temple at an unnamed site "somewhere in the Maya area." In the bag were 165 pieces of jade of various sizes, shapes and hues, 7 pieces of brilliant red shell, 4 pieces of mother of pearl, and 2 pieces of almost perfectly clear obsidian. Stoetzer began his work by using photographs of the famous jade mask from Palenque for clues, and after many months of human intuition, logic, and diligent homework finally completed the restoration this past Spring. According to Stoetzer, the mask has been inspected by two well known Maya experts, who complimented him on the remarkable work of restoration and compared it to that done by major museums. (For more information, see The Miami Herald, July 27, 1975)...

NEW MAYA GLYPHS DETECTED ON STELA IN ST. LOUIS ART MUSEUM:

A study of an unusual round Maya stela in the St. Louis, Missouri Art Museum by Florence Liman and Marshall Durin has revealed the existence of 4 previous unnoted glyph groups and an unpublished glyph for the 4th month, Zotz. The stela, which is 57 cm. high and distinguished by its uncommon shape, has 16 glyph blocks. The inscription begins with a classic Initial Series date of 9.14.3.8.4 2 Kan 17 Zotz, which according to the Goodman-Thompson correlation, is April 30, A.D. 715. (For details and a discussion of the new glyphs, see volume 40, number 3 of American Antiquity.)...

A CONVERSION COMPUTER PROGRAM FOR LOWLAND MAYA LONG COUNT DATES:

A FORTRAN computer program has now been devised by C. M. Krowne which provides for Gregorian equivalents for Lowland Maya Long Count dates, and vice versa. Its conversion potential ranges from A.D. 100 forward, and additional segments can also be made to extend backward. The program is in the FORTRAN IV language based on the IBM Systems Reference Library, and requires that each LC date be punched on a separate card that has a field of 512. (American Antiquity, vol. 40, no. 3--Sidrys, Krowne, and Nicholson.)...

MAYA FIGURINES STOLEN FROM MUSEUM IN ITALY:

Thieves using their own keys entered The Museum of the Americas in Genoa, Italy and stole 11 very valuable Maya figurines. Described in Italy as "statuettes," the police in Genoa believe that the fact that nothing else was taken indicates that the thieves probably acted on commission...

OKLAHOMA PRESS ANNOUNCES TWO NEW PAPERBACKS ON YUCATAN:

The Indian Background of Colonial Yucatan---(Ralph L. Roys, \$4.95)
The Hill Caves of Yucatan---(Henry C. Mercer, \$4.50)

CLAY DRAINAGE PIPES AT DAINZU:

After reading in an IMS Newsletter about the clay drainage tubes recently found in El Salvador at the site of Cihuatan, Larry and Fay Hochen submitted this photograph of similar objects that they saw at the ruins of Dainzu (Mexico). As the use of clay tubes or pipes for the drainage of plazas etc. seems to have been somewhat limited by the inhabitants of Mesoamerica prior to the Conquest, we welcome additional information on this interesting subject...



MORE EVIDENCE OF EARLY MAN IN NORTH AMERICA:

As archaeologists continue excavations at the Koster site near Kampsville, Illinois, additional evidence is being found that establishes the existence of Early Man in this part of North America as far back as 8,000 B.C. The Director of the project is Dr. Stuart Struever, professor of Anthropology at Northwestern University, who believes that the Archaic Indians that once inhabited the villages on the Koster site are direct descendants of Paleo-Indian man, the original discoverer of the New World from Northeast Asia 13,000 to 26,000 years ago. The site was first discovered in 1968 by Harlon Helton, and is an unusual state of preservation because after each prehistoric community abandoned the area, fine windblown dust eroded from the encircling limestone cliffs and blanketed each successive layer of human habitation with a thin protective mantle. Every underlying cultural stratum was, therefore, protected against intrusion from subsequent occupants and the dig is thus a fossilized layer cake of 13 or 14 horizons deep. Tens of thousands of artifacts have already been excavated and objects such as galena, copper, obsidian and conch shells, indicate trade with other Indians from areas that include two-thirds of present-day continental United States. Much new information has been discovered relative to early community life at Koster and Dr. Struever states that "Prehistoric hunter-gatherers actually had more leisure time than modern industrial man, but they don't seem to have elaborated their culture to any extent." Archaeological investigation of the Koster area is planned to continue through 1975 seeking more clues and evidence of the life and habits of Early Man in this part of North America...

RECENT PUBLICATION ON "NEW WORLD ARCHAEOLOGY":

A book which contains a series of 32 articles from the Scientific American that reports on major archaeological finds in the New World, the variety of theoretical approaches that have been developed to interpret them, and the day-to-day routine of the archaeologists. (W. H. Freeman and Co., \$6.95)...

ANCIENT BURIALS FOUND ON MEXICAN INSTITUTE CAMPUS:

While making excavations for the installation of an underground water tank on the campus of Instituto Allende, of San Miguel of Allende in Guanajuato, Mexico, the workmen unexpectedly found a number of human bones, skulls, and a variety of miscellaneous artifacts. After the initial discovery of the burials, officials of the Instituto Nacional De Antropologia E Historia in Mexico City were notified, and after an inspection of the area the site was cordoned off for supervised archaeological investigation. Digging was then continued under professional guidance and additional skulls and human bones have been discovered. Preliminary analysis of the skeletal material indicates that it is all of the pre-Hispanic period, with some dating back to almost 1,500 B.C.! The school has announced that they plan to continue exploration until they have unearthed as much as the limits of their property will permit...

A HISTORY OF AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY:

This book, which was written by Gordon R. Willey and Jeremy A. Sabloff, has been described as "the first book-length history of American archaeology written by professional archaeologists." It contains 252 pages and 124 illustrations, and traces the intellectual trends of the discipline from 1942 to the present. (W. H. Freeman and Co., hardcover \$8.46, softcover \$5.50)...

NEWSLETTER

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TIME VALUE

