

INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Newsletter



CHUEN

Hal C. Ball, Editor

Vol. 4

No. 10

12.18.2.4.11. 13 Chuen 19 Chen

(October 8, 1975)



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SPECIAL OCTOBER MEETING NOTICE:

Please note that due to the initial opening and dedication of the Museum's new "Plaza Maya" gallery on the same date as our regularly scheduled meeting for October, this month's meeting has now been postponed until Wednesday, the 29th. The time and place remain the same (8:00 p.m. in the museum auditorium) and the program for the evening will be presented by Hal Ball, whose topic will be "The Archaeology of El Salvador"...

RECENT ACQUISITIONS FOR IMS LIBRARY:

1. Maya Architecture---George O. Totten (Donated by Carl J. Begemann)
2. A Preliminary Study of the Ruins of Xcaret, Quintana Roo, Mexico---E. Wyllys Andrews IV & Anthony P. Andrews (Donated by A. P. Andrews)
3. Archaeological Explorations in El Peten, Guatemala---Ian Graham
4. The Last of the Incas---Edward Hyams and George Ordish
5. Indian Art in America---Frederick J. Dockstader
6. Old Mexico and Her Lost Provinces---William H. Bishop
7. Sixth Annual Report (1888) Smithsonian Institution Bureau of Ethnology

MIAMI MUSEUM HAS MAXIMUM ENROLLMENT IN FIRST SERIES ON MAYA CIVILIZATION:

This year, for the first time, the Museum of Science in Miami included in their curriculum of adult class education, a course on the Maya civilization; and according to information received by your editor, the registrations exceeded the maximum class limit of 30 students. This should be of particular interest to members of the Institute of Maya Studies, as all of the instructors are members of IMS that are considered knowledgeable in a special field of Maya culture, and were chosen by the board of directors to present lectures in this new series being conducted by the museum. Congratulations to the entire membership of IMS for their part in the increased interest of all South Floridians in the intriguing civilization of the ancient Mayas...

UNION INTERNATIONALE DES SCIENCES PREHISTORIQUES ET PREOTHISTORIQUES ANNOUNCES 1976 IX CONGRESS:

Planning more than a full year in advance, the Union Internationale Des Sciences has mailed out invitations announcing that its IX Congress will be held in Nice, France, on September 13th to the 18th, 1976. Registration cards and summaries of papers to be read should be sent to the Secretary of the Congress before December 1st, 1975...

SEVENTH ANNUAL MUSEUM SHOWCASE EXHIBIT:

This year, the Museum of Science will hold its seventh annual "Showcase Exhibit" on Saturday and Sunday, October the 25th and 26th. As is the usual custom, each of the Museum's affiliates will have an individual booth to display such things as shells, snakes, artifacts, rare fruits and plants, gems, rocks, and exotic fish. The admission fee, which includes a free planetarium show, is only \$1.00 for adults and .25 for children. Be sure to tell your friends about this interesting and unusual scientific exhibit that ranges from archaeology to astronomy, and help support your museum by your own personal attendance. The exhibit will be open on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on Sunday from 12:00 noon until 6:00 p.m....(Y'all come.)

NEW FACSIMILE OF MEXICAN CODEX PUBLISHED:

An exact facsimile of the Codex Vindobonensis Mexicanus has now been re-issued by Akademische Druck und Verlagsanstalt of Graz, Austria. This newest re-issue of the codex is printed by an offset process that produces a much better simulation of the original than the two previous editions. It is on a deerskin vellum, and it is reported that the color is suprisingly fresh, bright, and beautiful. The codex is one of two native manuscripts that were sent to Emperor Charles V by Hernando Cortes in the early part of the 16th century, and it is considered of great value. Therefore, as it can only be examined by special permission, scholars wishing to study the codex are now afforded the opportunity of having authentic facsimiles available...

FIVE CONVICTED IN MEXICAN ARTIFACT THEFT:

In a case involving stolen artifacts from the Mexican areas of Jalisco, southern Veracruz and Campeche, a federal court in San Antonio, Texas, recently convicted 5 U. S. citizens on charges of conspiracy to receive stolen property in interstate commerce and interstate transportation of stolen property. The stolen property included pottery vessels, clay figurines, and modeled stucco heads, and the FBI and Mexican authorities placed the value of the artifacts at more than \$1,000,000. Authentication was made by R. E. W. Adams and Thomas R. Hester (San Antonio, Texas), and the case is of particular interest because it is viewed as possibly setting a precedent involving the theft of artifacts other than large stone sculpture from Mesoamerica. (As do many other anthropological and archaeological organizations, the IMS deplores the international traffic in illegally exported antiquities.)...

FEDERAL LAW FOR SALVAGE ARCHAEOLOGY:

Under a law passed by the United States Congress in 1974, any federal agency may now spend its own funds to preserve scientific, historical, or archaeological resources threatened by one of its own projects. Known as the Archaeological Conservation Act, this law is now in effect and should open up tremendous opportunities for cooperation between archaeologists and the federal government...

MUSEUM'S NEW 'PLAZA MAYA' TO OPEN OCTOBER 16TH:

Following a special dedication ceremony on the evening of October 15th, the Museum of Science will officially open its new "Plaza Maya" to the public on Thursday, the 16th. With the aid of a generous grant from the Pan American Bank of Miami, the room has been completely renovated and now has beautiful murals on the east and west walls. These depict Maya pyramids and temples, sculptured stones, and some of the scenes from the famous wall paintings at Bonampak, Mexico. Over the doorway, on the north side, there is a large colored map of Mexico and Central America that indicates the areas once occupied by the principal pre-Columbian cultures and shows the location of some of their "cities." New exhibit cases have also been added, and a special lighting arrangement has been installed in the room. The most important feature, however, is the exquisite Maya stela from Naranjo. Referred to as No. 24, this intricately carved stone monument is on temporary loan to the Museum by the Guatemalan government and records a Maya glyphic dedicatory date of 9.13.10.0. 0. 7 Ahau 3 Cumhu, or January 26th A. D. 702...



MAYA STELA NO. 24
(NARANJO, GUATEMALA)

PROLONGED DROUGHT KILLING XICAQUES INDIANS OF HONDURAS:

The severe drought, which has been affecting Honduras for the past few months, is causing extreme hardship for the Xicaques Indian tribes in the central part of the country, and already more than 60 deaths have been confirmed. There is very little food for many of the Indian families and adequate drinking water is also a problem. The consensus of opinion is that much of the present problem is a direct outgrowth of Hurricane Fifi, which wrecked crops and caused floods forcing abandonment of many fields formerly used for agriculture. This, followed by a persistent drought, has especially affected the Xicaques, and unfortunately the emergency is predicted to last until mid 1976...

PETITION SPONSORED TO SAVE TEMPLE MOUND ON KEY LARGO, FLORIDA:

The Archaeology Society of the Museum of Science of Miami is sponsoring a petition to save a temple mound on Key Largo that is believed to be the only one of its type still existing in South Florida. The mound is of the same ceremonial type built by the Calusas of Southwest Florida. It is made up of rocks and is approximately 100 feet long, 40 feet wide, and about 12 feet high. Pottery types from a collection of an adjoining village indicate the last occupation to have been about 1100 A. D., although considerably damaged by pothunters during the past 10-15 years, members of the Archaeology Society believe it is still of significant importance and worth saving...

RADIOCARBON DATING OF "POT BELLY" STATUARY IN EL SALVADOR:

In a report by Stanley H. Boggs and Holly H. Cadwell, charcoal that was found under an unmoved "pot belly" statue on the Finca Santa Letecia, near Apaneca, El Salvador, has now been dated through radiocarbon analysis and indicates that the large stone was positioned as early as 600 B. C. This interesting old stone was first found by the owner of the finca, Ricardo Valdivieso, in 1965 and excavation revealed that it appeared similar to the "pot belly" figures discovered at the site of Monte Alto in southern Guatemala. Although the stone has now been moved to the finca house, indications at the time of discovery were that the figure was then in its original implacement. It was not until 1969, however, that funding from the Werner-Gren Foundation permitted preliminary examination of the area, and excavations were begun in the pit beneath where the figure was originally located. Fill was removed in 12 cm. levels to a depth of 3 and 6/10 meters, and all was found to be artificial. During the course of investigation it was also determined that the stone figure had been placed on one of five terraces, each measuring 4 to 5 meters in height. Charcoal collected during the digging of the pit was later given to the University of Miami for radiocarbon analysis in October of 1974. The samples were thoroughly cleaned and counted using a chemical conversion to benzene, and the following dates were obtained: Test #1 (0-12 cm. level), 561 ± 150 B. C.; and Test #3 (24-36 cm. level), 620 ± 150 B. C. (Information by courtesy of Holly H. Cadwell.)...

NEWSLETTER

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TIME VALUE