

INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Newsletter

Hal C. Ball, Editor

Vol. 4

No. 11

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(November 12, 1975)



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FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING:

The fourth annual meeting of the Institute of Maya Studies will be held in the Museum of Science auditorium on Wednesday, the 19th, at 8:00 p.m. A review of IMS activities during the past year will be presented by the Director, and reports will be read by the secretary, treasurer and the chairpersons of the Institute's committees and special departments. Following this, there will be an election of new members to the Board of Directors, and at the conclusion of the meeting there will be a "coffee and cake" social in the museum's refreshment area. Be sure and plan to attend this special annual meeting...

IMS LIBRARIAN, REGINALD KENNEDY, PASSES AWAY:

We regret to announce the death of Reginald T. Kennedy who passed away at his home in Kendall, Florida, on October 24th. Mr. Kennedy served as librarian for the Institute of Maya Studies for over two years, and until recently, was also chairman of the library committee. He was a graduate of Fordham University in New York City and worked there prior to moving to Miami in 1953, where he was first employed as writer and editor for the Coral Gables Times. He will be sincerely missed by his many friends in the IMS...

MAYA ARTIFACT COLLECTION CONFISCATED:

A Florida man, who dug up a number of Maya artifacts in Belize about a year ago and took them out of the country illegally, has recently had the entire collection confiscated. The value of the collection is estimated at more than \$25,000 and includes various polychrome bowls and vases, large "eccentric" flints, obsidian knives and other miscellaneous objects. All of the artifacts are of the Maya culture and are reported to date to between A. D. 200 and 800. According to U. S. Customs investigator, Richard L. Trindle of Jacksonville, the collector no longer lives in Florida, and it is now up to the Belize government to determine what happens to the collection...

74TH ANNUAL MEETING---AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION:

The 1975 Annual Meeting of the AAA will be held in San Francisco, Cal., on December 2-6 at the Fairmont Hotel. This year's President-elect is Walter Goldschmidt and the 1975 Program Editor is Shirley Gorerstein...





Mr. Wm. Lawrence Tabor
Mr. Clarence Q. Jones, Jr.
Mr. Robert E. Kohler
Mr. Richard D. Wagner

Ms. Jane E. Phass
Mr. George R. Hays
Mr. Charles E. Allen
Ms. Jody Kay

NEW CHAIRMAN FOR LIBRARY COMMITTEE:

The new chairman (I can't get used to "chairperson") of the Library Committee is Miss Ellen Jacobs, who was appointed when the former chairman, Reginald Kennedy, resigned last month because of ill health. Miss Jacobs is a professor at Florida International University and also a member of the IMS board of directors. Anyone interested in serving on the library committee may contact her by phone (444-3309) or by letter in care of the museum...

NA-BOLOM EXPANDS FACILITIES:

During the past few months, additional alterations and constructions have been taking place at "Na-Bolom" in San Cristobal de Las Casas, in Chiapas, Mexico, and one project of special interest is the completion of a new photographic darkroom. The well-known Frans Blom's Library has also been expanded and will now include a section on ethnology. Other changes have been made in the main part of the house so as to better accommodate visiting students and friends doing research at Na-Bolom's Center of Scientific Studies...

"ONE MORE TIME" THE INDIANS GET "TAKEN":

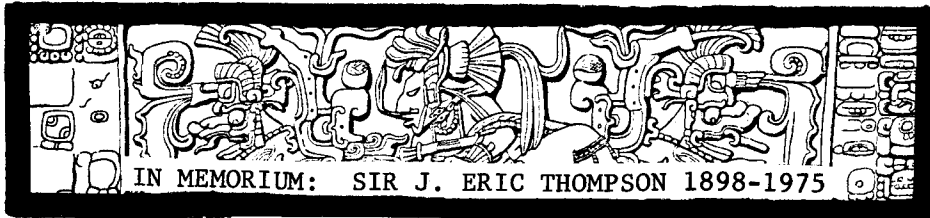
According to recent communications sent from U. S. Government agencies to Indian Health Centers, they are now required to accept and deliver services to Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees on a "repayment" basis. This is a poor arrangement for the American Indian because red tape and a multitude of forms either holds up payment for a considerable time or the funds don't get to the Indian Health Centers at all. In the meantime, funds and care can be exhausted for the Indians in order to provide for President Ford's "protegees." Thus, because the Indians are not in a position to exert political or economic pressure, they are victimized "one more time." (The Interamerican, V.22:4.)...

THE ESCUINTLA HOARDS: TEOTIHUACAN ART IN GUATEMALA:

The Foundation for Latin American Anthropological Research (F.L.A.A.R.) has now released its second number of the volume 1 PROGRESS REPORTS. This one is entitled The Escuintla Hoards, and it is similar in size (8½ X 11) and format as the first issue, The Pre-Columbian Ball Game. It contains more than 125 line drawings and black-and-white photographs, and the illustrations on the front and back covers are in full color. (\$8.00 U. S.)...

NOTE: The computer is a great invention. There are just as many mistakes as ever, but they are nobody's fault...





NEW BOOK ON BOTANICAL ETHNOGRAPHY OF MAYAN-SPEAKING PEOPLE IN CHIAPAS, MEX.:

Entitled "Principles of Tzeltal Plant Classification," a new book is now available from Academic Press which presents a detailed study of the botanical ethnography of the Mayan-speaking people in the highlands of Chiapas, Mexico. The book is divided into two sections and represents a significant contribution to the understanding of preliterate man's classification of his environment. The authors are: Brent Berlin, Dennis Breedlove and Peter Haven...

THE PREHISTORY OF THE TEHUACAN VALLEY---VOLUME V:

The fifth volume of the distinguished Prehistory of the Tehuacan Valley series has now been published and may be obtained from the University of Texas Press in Austin. The title of this latest volume is "Excavations and Reconnaissance," and it is a synthesis to which all the previous volumes have been gradually leading. An introduction puts into perspective the purpose, problems, basic concepts, and methods of research used in all of the Tehuacan investigations, and the book's eight chapters include a report on the archaeological reconnaissance of the more than 1,000 occupations in the 12,000-year sequence involved. Published for the Robert S. Peabody Foundation, Andover...

RE: "RANDOM SAMPLING" IN ARCHAEOLOGY:

The controversial subject of "random sampling" as reported by Dr. E. B. Jelks, is now available from the Jett Publishing Co., Box 412, Normal, Illinois 61761. The 27-page booklet is entitled The Use and Misuse of Random Sampling in Archaeology and sells for \$1.25 per copy, postpaid...

ATLAS OF ANCIENT ARCHAEOLOGY:

A new Atlas of Ancient Archaeology edited by Jacquetta Hawkes has now been published by the McGraw-Hill Book Company. The Atlas encompasses the prehistoric background of early civilizations in both time and space and gives ample coverage to both Mesoamerica and South America. It was prepared by 22 of the world's leading archaeological experts and presents a vast range of information on a geographical, instead of the usual historical, basis. The book consists of 272 pages (8½ X 11) and numerous illustrations. \$19.50...

TWO MORE PAPERBACKS AVAILABLE FROM OKLAHOMA PRESS:

Sylvanus G. Morley and the World of the Ancient Maya---R. Brunhouse \$4.50
Book of the Gods and Rites and the Ancient Calendar---Diego Duran, \$5.95

DID THE OLMECS INVENT THE FIRST COMPASS?:

A multidisciplinary analysis by John B. Carlson of a hematite artifact found at San Lorenzo, in Vera Cruz, Mexico, indicates that the Olmecs may have discovered and used the geomagnetic lodestone compass earlier than 1,000 B. C. If the analysis proved to be correct, this would pre-date the Chinese discovery of the compass by more than a millennium.

The artifact was found in situ by Paula H. Krotser during an excavation project conducted by Yale University at the Early Formative site of San Lorenzo and is designated as M-160. It is a small rectangular bar of hematite which has a trapezoidal cross section and a hemicylindrical groove that runs the full length of the object. The mineral, which is hard and brittle, is also highly polished and is a fragment of a larger piece broken off in ancient times. It is 34 mm. long, 9 mm. wide and 4 mm. thick. It was first suggested that it might be part of a compass by Michael M. Coe, who, in 1967, tested the possibility by placing the object on top of a piece of cork mat in a plastic bowl full of water. During this test it was found that the artifact consistently oriented itself to the same direction, which was slightly west of magnetic north. After this first test, no further investigations were carried out until 1973, when Carlson began his study of the unique artifact. From his experiments since then, he now suggests that there should be serious consideration that it was manufactured as a zeroth-order compass, and possibly a first-order compass. (For detailed information, see Science V. 189 No. 4205)...

NEWSLETTER

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TIME VALUE