

INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Newsletter



IX



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Hal C. Ball, Editor

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(December 10, 1975)

MEETING NOTICE:

The December meeting of the Institute of Maya Studies will be held in the Museum of Science Auditorium on Wednesday, the 17th, at 8:00 p.m. The elected officers for 1976 will be introduced and there will be a program presented by Bob Little on "Palenque and Its Significance as a Maya Ceremonial Center"...

IMS MEMBERS ELECT SIX TO SERVE ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

At the Institute's annual meeting on November 19th, the Director announced that the following persons had been elected to serve on the Board of Directors: Sam Block, Irving Eyster, Charles Lacombe, Beverly Little, Fay Hochen and John Keller. The first four will serve for a term of 3 years and the other two for 1 year. Eight other members remain on the Board from a previous election, and as per the by-laws, officers for the coming year will be elected at the next Board of Directors meeting in December...

MIAMI MUSEUM PRESENTS FIRST PLANETARIUM SHOW ON THE MAYA CIVILIZATION:

In mid-October the Space Transit Planetarium at the Miami Museum of Science opened a new show entitled "Maya, Sun of the Dead," and it is believed that this was the first presentation of this type to be shown anywhere in the United States. Termed "brilliant, but brutal" by the Miami Herald, Director Jack Horkheimer was quoted as saying it is probably the finest intellectual work that he has ever done. Although there is some controversy on the emphasis placed on "the daily human sacrifices by Maya priests," the improper pronunciation of certain Mayan words (Uaxactun, etc.), and crediting the Maya with some of the achievements of the Olmec and Aztec cultures, the show in itself is very entertaining and well worth a visit to the Planetarium. (For more information, phone the Museum: 854-4242)...

The following extra copies of books are for sale through our library:

AN INTRODUCTION TO MAYA HIEROGLYPHICS

PURSUIT OF THE ANCIENT MAYA

MAYA HIEROGLYPHIC WRITING

NOT FOREVER ON EARTH

THE WAYS AND MEANS TO ARCHAEOLOGY

MORLEY

BRUNHOUSE

THOMPSON

GORENSTEIN

HRANKY AND KERBY

THE HAPSBURG AND THE MAYA:

At the Honduras Commercial Exposition, a metate from Uluá was exhibited in the archaeological salon that was assigned to the Classic Maya culture dated between 600 and 900 A.D. It is very nicely carved on all sides, and the beautiful carved low relief on the bottom is quite unusual, as it consists entirely of the Hapsburg Arms! This startling phenomenon should be of special interest to trans-Atlantic contact friends and scholars of European history. Could the Hapsburg dynasty actually have originated with the Maya??? (Hombre y Cultura, University of Panama)...

THE SEARCH FOR ATLANTIS---ONE MORE TIME:

A new search for the legendary "Lost City" of Atlantis is now being conducted by none other than the famous French explorer, Jacques Cousteau. For his search, Cousteau will use an 18-man crew and the electronically equipped ship Calypso, and will concentrate his underwater filming and research around the Greek island of Santorin (Thira), and its sunken volcanic crater. Although Cousteau claims that he is not convinced "that such a glorified citadel as rumored existed," he believes that "to search for it is every civilized man's dream," and during the next year he will be making frequent use of his specially equipped saucer-shaped bathysphere, which can go to a depth of 1,100 feet and communicate with the mother ship by telephone...

BRAZIL'S XAVANTE INDIANS RETURNING TO THE LAND OF THEIR GRANDFATHERS:

The primitive Xavante Indians of Brazil, who were forced to leave their ancestral lands along the banks of the Kuluene River in the Mato Grosso in 1934, are now reclaiming the land under the terms of the new National Indian Foundation. This provides a guarantee of the Indian's right to return to his natural habitat, and about 300 have already returned and are demanding that the one thousand white settlers there move out...

THE BOBBS-MERRILL REPRINT SERIES IN ANTHROPOLOGY:

The latest Bobbs-Merrill catalog of the "Reprint Series in Anthropology" lists more than 400 separate articles, many of which are on subjects pertaining to Mesoamerica. All are facsimile reproductions of scholarly articles from leading journals, including full publication data and the original pagination. They have been reprinted in an 8½" x 11" format designed to fit a standard two or three ring binder. Prices range from \$.40 to \$1.20. For copy of catalog, write: B/M Co., Indianapolis, Ind. 46268...

NEW NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN DICTIONARY NOW AVAILABLE:

A two-volume reference guide entitled Dictionary of Indians of North America, and written by former Britannica editors, has now been published by the Scholarly Press. It contains c. 155 pp., hundreds of illustrations, charts, maps, diagrams, and biographical portraits. Price: \$85.00...

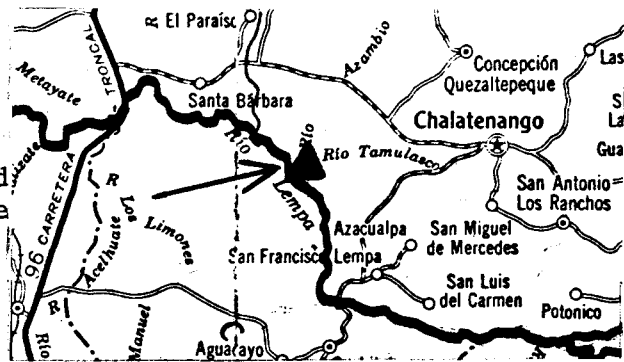
PRECLASSIC ROUND STRUCTURE DISCOVERED
IN EL SALVADOR:

During recent excavations conducted by members of the Cerron Grande Archaeological Salvage Project in El Salvador, William Fowler has discovered the remains of an early round structure that he dates to the Pre-classic Period. The structure was found by Fowler at a site that is known locally as "Los Flores," which is located on the first riverine terrace north of the Lempa River about $1\frac{1}{2}$ kms. downstream from its confluence with the Rio Grande.

The site is in the middle of a sugar cane field and through a series of pits and trenches it was determined that the largest of the three principal mounds was round and of Pre-classic origin. Most of the area is covered with a layer of volcanic ash and it is believed that an eruption brought about the end of the occupation of Los Flores and also the nearby site to the northwest known as Rio Grande. Fowler is also of the opinion that the Los Flores site was the ceremonial center for all the Late Pre-classic villages in the region of the Middle Lempa Valley.

The finding of a Pre-classic round structure in El Salvador is of particular interest because it is the first one of this early period that has been reported in the country. (One other round structure was found in El Salvador at Chalchuapa, but it was Postclassic in date.) The dimensions of the Los Flores structure are 6 m. of present height and 40 m. in diameter, and it is only a few centuries later in date than the only other round structure known in Mesoamerica at this time level---that of Cuicuilco, in central Mexico.

This is the second season of the Cerron Grande Project and the investigations by Fowler and his two colleagues, Howard Earnest of Harvard Univ. and Richard Crane of Tulane Univ., are being done under the auspices of the Museo Nacional "David J. Guzman." The project this year was generously funded by the Banco Central de Reserva, and continued archaeological work in the 125 square km. that will be flooded by the Cerron Grande hydroelectric dam is planned for 1976...



Location of Los Flores

"ART, ICONOGRAPHY, & DYNASTIC HISTORY OF PALENQUE: PART 3":

The Pre-Columbian Art Research Department of the Robert Louis Stevenson School has announced a pre-publication offer of Part 3 of "The Art, Iconography, & Dynastic History of Palenque." The book is a series of articles by 16 contributing authors who attended the Segunda Mesa Redonda de Palenque in December of 1974. It contains 285 pages, 200 illustrations and is firm paperbound. The price until December 15 is \$16.00, postpaid. Make check payable to Pre-Columbian Art Research, R.L.S. School, Pebble Beach, Cal., 93953...

COLLECTIVE WEDDINGS--AS OLD AS THE INCAS IN PERU:

An unusual, but somewhat unromantic ceremony among the Incas of South America, was a "collective" wedding that was performed each year for bachelors who were 24 years of age and young maidens who were 18 years of age. Individual marriages were usually discouraged among the Incas because of the time, effort and expense of such ceremonies, and in addition, collective weddings gave the Inca government maximum control of its people and their productivity. (Also, the surplus of bachelors and old maids was wisely solved.) So, out went notices saying that all eligible bachelors and maidens were to meet at the main plaza of each town on a specified day to participate in a wedding ceremony. Not all individual choice was forfeited, however, as many of the young lovers arranged to stand opposite each other prior to the ceremony so that they would have an opportunity to marry one another by the attending Inca priest. Of course, those unfortunate young people who had not made a choice, were placed facing each other---and hoping for the best. As no resident of one town could marry a resident of another town, and the newlyweds were not allowed to move without special permission, the government was able to keep accurate records on all of the inhabitants, and thus minimize the loss of workers moving from place to place. So, it seems that romance and economics were well organized and controlled for all of the "Children of the Sun." (Courtesy of Mrs. Pauline Potamkin, Miami Beach)...

NEWSLETTER

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TIME VALUE

