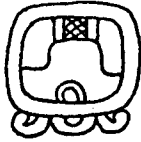


# INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

## Newsletter



CIB

Hal C. Ball, Editor

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(January 1, 1976)



KANKIN

===== **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** =====  


The editor and officers of the Institute of Maya Studies would like to take this opportunity to extend to all of its members and friends, best wishes for a "Happy New Year" in 1976. As we have in the past, we will endeavor to continue the presentation of interesting and informative programs relative to the Maya and Mesoamerica, and through our monthly Newsletter keep you informed of other activities of the Institute and any additional newsworthy items that are believed to be of interest to members.

### MEETING NOTICE:

The regular monthly meeting of the Institute will be held in the Museum of Science auditorium on Wednesday, the 21st, at 8:00 p.m. Activities for the new year will be discussed and a color slide program will be presented on "Ceremonial Centers of the Ancient Maya"...

### IMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTS OFFICERS FOR 1976:

At the annual meeting of the IMS Board of Directors on December 3, the following members were elected to serve during 1976: Robert B. Little, president, Hal C. Ball, vice president, Beverly Little, secretary, Irving Eyster, treasurer, and Charles Lacombe, Director of Research and Education.

After the election of officers, Ellen Jacobs was appointed as parliamentarian, minor amendments and additions to the by-laws were approved, and several matters pertaining to the Institute's organization were discussed...

### TOUR TO MAYA SITES IN YUCATAN PLANNED FOR MEMBERS DURING 1976:

Tentative plans have been made for the Institute's second tour to the Maya area, this one to sites located on the Yucatan peninsula. The exact date will be announced later and more information may be obtained from Len Schafer. 1-522-2177 (Ft. Lauderdale)...



Mr. Edward Cooke

Mrs. Beverly Rivera

Mr. & Mrs. Raphael Levi Mr. Charles Goldstein

IMS MEMBER COMPLETES 20TH YEAR OF FLYING TO THE MAYA AREA:

In December of 1975, Hal Ball completed his 20th successive year of flying from Miami to various parts of Mexico and Central America in quest of additional knowledge on the civilization of the ancient Maya. His first trip was in 1956, when he and Bill Rich of West Palm Beach flew to the Yucatan peninsula in a single engine Piper Tripacer. Since then he has made 95 other flights, and all except 7 have been in small privately owned airplanes. To date he has landed at 109 different places in Mexico and Central America, and is credited with flying the first twin engine plane into the small 500 meter airfield at the Maya site of Bonampak. The majority of his trips have been made in his Piper Apache, "El Quetzal," and in recent years he has had an opportunity to discover previously unrecorded ruins in Belize, Guatemala and El Salvador. His wife has accompanied him on many of the flights and their next one is planned for late January...

"THE MAYA, CHILDREN OF TIME" (NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC---DECEMBER, 1975):

After more than 2 years of preparation and research, National Geographic has presented in the magazine's December issue a very interesting and detailed account of the Maya civilization. There are actually four different articles in the magazine that deal with various aspects of the Maya, and besides numerous color photographs and a portfolio of paintings of Tikal by Peter Spier, there are two beautiful fold-outs. One of these is a reproduction of part of the Dresden Codex, and the other is a superb view of the Main Plaza area at Tikal. Howard LaFay writes a glowing account of the accomplishments in art, architecture, astronomy, and mathematics of the ancient Mayas, George Stuart reports on the progress in unlocking the mystery of the hieroglyphics, and William Coe recounts the 14-year struggle of archaeologists to lay bare the jungle-shrouded metropolis of the great ceremonial center of Tikal. Don't miss this special issue on the Maya...

"MIDDLE AMERICA: A CULTURE HISTORY OF HEARTLAND AND FRONTIERS":

This is a new book scheduled to be published in January of 1976 which examines the cultural history of Mexico and Central America from early man to the present within a general anthropological perspective. 367 pp., \$11.50. Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey 07632...

"ARCHAEOLOGY AS A CAREER":

A new pamphlet on archaeology as a career is now in the editing process and will soon be issued by the AAA. It was written by George Stuart and will replace that of Row's, which is now somewhat outdated...

NOTES ON MAYA JADE

Because many of our members have recently expressed special interest in Maya jade, the following notes have been compiled by the editor and are presented here as general information on the subject.



1. The principal variety of jade found in the Maya area is known commercially as jadite, which is essentially a silicate of soda and aluminum.
2. It has a hardness of 7 on the Mohs scale and a specific gravity of 3.30.
3. Only one major source of Maya jade is known at this time. This is near the top of a mountain just north of San Agustin Acasaguastlan, Guatemala.
4. Many archaeologists believe that the majority of small Maya jade pieces found were from water-worn pebbles from the bottoms of rivers.
5. The color of Maya jade varies considerably, and examples have been found that range from dark green to apple green, and from light blue-green through all shades of gray and white.
6. Maya jade differs from Chinese in appearance mainly because it is not as translucent and is much more mottled.
7. The largest piece of uncarved Maya jade was discovered under the stairway of a pyramidal structure at Kaminaljuyu. It weighed over 200 pounds and its appearance indicated that it had already had several small pieces sawed from one side.
8. The largest carved jade object from the Maya area was found at the site of San Jeronimo, Guatemala. This was of a figure sitting cross legged that measured 10½ inches in height and weighed 12½ pounds.
9. The largest and most exquisite "in the round" carved jade is from the Maya site of Altun Ha and represents the head of Kinich Ahau---the Maya Sun God. It weighs a little over nine pounds.
10. The earliest date recorded on a Maya jade is on the Leyden Plate, which bears a hieroglyphic inscription equivalent to A.D. 320 (Thompson cor.)
11. The greatest amount of jade found in a single Maya burial was in the tomb of The Temple of the Inscriptions at Palenque. In addition to a jade mask consisting of over 200 tiny pieces, there were numerous necklaces, rings, pendants and many other articles of personal adornment.
12. When the cenote at Chichen Itza was dredged, 3,700 complete or restorable objects of jade were recovered, plus over 15,000 fragments.
13. The Maya often used jade as decorative fillings in human teeth and sometimes placed a small piece in the mouth of a deceased relative to assure good fortune in the "after life."
14. Jade was considered as the most valuable of all objects to the Maya, who believed it represented green corn---which was their basic food.

WEST CHESTER STATE COLLEGE HOLDS FIRST SEMINAR ON THE MAYA CIVILIZATION:

During November of 1975, The Anthropology Club of West Chester State College in Pennsylvania held its first seminar on the Maya civilization. The featured guest speaker was Professor Linda Schele, whose topic was "Rites of Kingship at Palenque, Mexico." Following Professor Schele's lecture, there was an informal discussion on "Palenque-Tikal Relations During the Late Classic Period: Pacal of Palenque and Ruler A of Tikal," with Dr. Christopher Jones from the University of Pennsylvania serving as moderator. Other papers contributed were "Middle Classic Population Dynamics and the Late Classic Maya," "Revitalization in the Maya Area," and "Maya Settlement in the Upper Belize Valley: Another Look." The advisor to the Anthropology Club is Dr. Marshall Becker, who described the seminar as the "first gathering of solely Mayanists scholars ever held at West Chester."...

EXCAVATIONS CONTINUE IN THE LEMPA RIVER VALLEY OF EL SALVADOR:

During the latter part of 1975, members of the Cerron Grande Archaeological Salvage Project continued explorations in the portion of the Lempa River Valley that will be flooded when a new hydroelectric dam is completed in the next year or so. Howard Earnest of Harvard Univ., while excavating a site under a thick layer of alluvial sediment, came across a series of ridges and furrows which undoubtedly once served as part of a water control system. Below the furrows he found 6 trash pits and 3 burials, which yielded several offerings of ceramics and jade. (More information to follow)...

NEWSLETTER

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TIME VALUE

