

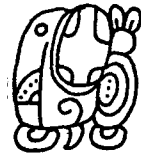
# INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

## Newsletter



CHICCHAN



KAYAB

Hal C. Ball, Editor

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(March 10, 1976)

### MEETING NOTICE:

The March meeting of the Institute will be held in the Museum of Science Auditorium on Wednesday, the 17th, at 8:00 p.m. An unusual and especially interesting program will be presented by Miami sculptor, Robert Stoetzer, whose subject will be "The Restoration of a Maya Jade Funerary Mask." His talk will be fully illustrated with color slides and he will explain how, after more than three years of work on what he terms as "a 3-dimensional jigsaw puzzle," he was finally able to restore a mosaic jade mask from what was originally described as a bag of "pebbles" weighing less than one pound. After carefully inspecting and sorting the contents of the bag, however, he was able to identify 165 pieces of jade of various size, shape and color; 7 pieces of brilliant red shell, 4 pieces of mother-of-pearl, and 2 pieces of very clear obsidian. All of these were eventually assembled to produce an exquisite Maya funerary mask, and although many of you may have read an account of this in The Miami Herald, you now have an opportunity to see and hear how the work was actually accomplished. Be sure to attend...

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVES NEW CODE OF ETHICS:

At the Institute's Board of Directors meeting on February 4th, the following Code of Ethics was adopted and will subsequently be printed on the reverse side of all IMS membership cards. "Members of The Institute of Maya Studies shall not use the name of the organization, nor its membership card for any exhibit, promotion or other type of activity or enterprise for the purpose of personal profit or in an attempt to circumvent the laws of this or any other country"...

### IMS MEMBERSHIP YEAR BOOK TO BE PUBLISHED:

The Board of Directors has recently authorized the membership committee to make up a much needed "Year Book," listing the names of all members together with their address and telephone number. However, if you do not want your address or telephone number to appear in the booklet, please contact Beverly Little, Secretary, as soon as possible. As we hope to have these "Year Books" printed by April 15th, please don't delay...

### A CORDIAL WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

Alicia M. Ferrer, Marion Nobil, and R. F. "Harry" Riggs...

THE GUATEMALA RELIEF PROJECT:

In cooperation with the Museum of Science, 19 members of The Institute of Maya Studies worked for "The Guatemala Relief Project" which began the day after the country's tragic earthquake and continued until 5:30 p.m. on February 11th. The purpose of the project was to provide an immediate collection and distribution point for donations of food, clothing, blankets, tents, medical supplies, etc., so that they could be air-lifted to Guatemala at the earliest possible time. The museum library was used as headquarters for the project and a section of the adjoining parking lot was set up for the receiving, re-packing and loading of the many donations brought in from all parts of the Miami area. The response was most gratifying, and in six days we transported 1,561 cartons to Aviatega Airlines for air shipment to Guatemala City. Only appropriate items and clean clothes were re-packed, and after each carton was sealed, it was clearly marked in Spanish as to its specific contents. We are sincerely grateful to all the donors and volunteers who helped make the project a success, and special thanks are extended to Mrs. Saralee Weintraub, who served as Coordinator...

RECENT PUBLICATIONS ON THE MAYA FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI'S MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY: (104 Swallow Hall, Columbia, Missouri 65201)

A Fragment of an Early K'ekchi' Vocabulary. Ray A. Freeze  
(Vol. 1 of STUDIES IN MAYAN LINGUISTICS. 45 pages, \$2.00.)

Ethnicity in Southern Belize, the Kechi and Mopan. Michael C. Howard  
(No. 21 in the MUSEUM BRIEFS series. iii + 19 pages, \$1.15)

LATIN AMERICANISTS:

A new directory of North and South American anthropologists with latin American and Caribbean specialties is now in preparation by the AAA. Besides established professionals, advanced graduate students will also be included, and qualified persons wishing forms should write George Ann Potter at the Executive Office of AAA in Washington, D. C....

ANOTHER UNDERGROUND OVEN FOUND IN EL SALVADOR:

While conducting archaeological investigations in the vicinity of Colima, in the northern part of the Department of Cuscatlán, Richard Crane has discovered another underground "oven" similar to those found in El Salvador at Valle San Juan. (See IMS Newsletter Vol. 4, No. 3.) According to Crane, the oven is almost certainly Preclassic, and Archaeomagnetic samples of the fired clay will be taken in an effort to establish a time period by this method of dating. To date, the only other unusual bell-shaped objects of this type have been found in the Usulután area, and it will be interesting to see if the date of this one near Colima is in accord with the earlier ones from Valle San Juan that have been dated to ca. A.D. 45...

AND DON'T FORGET---Inflation hasn't ruined everything; a dime can still be used as a screwdriver!...

THE MAYA SITE OF EL REY ON CANCUN ISLAND, QUINTANA ROO, MEXICO:

Although during the past year there has been a great deal of publicity relative to the new deluxe hotels and beach resorts being built on the island of Cancun, there has been very little attention given to the archaeological work being done at the south end of the island at the Maya site of "El Rey." However, excavations were begun here under the supervision of Noberto Gonzalez in June of 1975 and will continue through the current year, although the ruins will not be open to the general



Temple of El Rey

public until a later date. The broken remains of the carved stone figure originally found in front of the Temple of El Rey, for which the site was named, seems to have "disappeared" some time ago, but the western room of the two chamber structure is still intact and retains the only example of a Maya vaulted arch found at the ruins. The eastern room of the temple has three stone altars (or seats?) and the facade of the building has traces of maroon, red and blue paint still visible under the upper molding. The four principal structures and adjoining platforms have now been excavated and work will continue in 1976 on some of the smaller outlying mounds...

"INVESTIGATIONS OF AGRONOMIC POTENTIALS IN BAJO DE SANTA FE, GUATEMALA":

A field project funded by the National Geographic Society to investigate what may be intensively cultivated raised platforms in Bajo de Santa Fe to the east of Tikal, Guatemala, is scheduled to begin research of the area on March 12th. The project will be under the supervision of Mr. Bruce H. Dahlin and Dr. Alfred H. Siemens, who will first make an aerial reconnaissance of the area and then enter the bajos and map as representative a portion of the fields as possible in the time allotted for the project. The object, of course, is to confirm that the Classic Maya subsistence included the use of raised field cultivation in seasonal swamps and bajos, such as Santa Fe. Dahlin believes that the linear patterns seen in aerial photographs appear to be similar to the "raised fields" that he has studied in northern Belize while working with Dr. Dennis Puleston on the Rio Hondo Project, and that verification of this hypothesis may change the established concept of Classic Maya subsistence. The findings of the preliminary investigation will be reported to the National Geographic Society, and if warranted, a proposal for more intensive work will be submitted for continuation of the project...

THE PAMPA GRANDE SITE OF PERU:

After a survey of the lower portion of the Lambayeque Valley of northern Peru in 1971, archaeologists of The Royal Ontario Museum of Toronto, Canada,

selected the pre-Inca site of Pampa Grande for extended research and investigation. Now, in the latest issue of ROTUNDA, (vol. 8, no. 4) Dr. Kent C. Day, Director of the project, reports on the excavations at the site during the past 3 years and tells of finding complex arrangements of platforms, ramps, and large truncated pyramids built of sun-dried bricks. One of the largest pyramids near the center of the site (200 meters long, 150 meters wide, and 30 meters high) is surrounded by a walled enclosure nearly half a kilometer square. Groups of contemporary structures are spread over more than a four square kilometer area and the universal surface distribution of ceramics are dated about A.D. 800-1000, or the end of the Mochica period. One group of structures outside of the pyramidal enclosures consists of about 100 square meters of small square or rectangular rooms that were built of field stone and laid in mud mortar. Work will continue at Pampa Grande in 1976, and will include a study of the irrigation system, the location and contents of burials, the variation in architectural layout, the diversity of structure shape and size and distribution of artifacts...

U. S. CUSTOMS REGULATIONS ON THE IMPORTING OF PRE-COLUMBIAN ARTIFACTS:

For your information, we are enclosing with this Newsletter a copy of the present U. S. regulations pertaining to the importing of Pre-columbian artifacts. We hope you find this both interesting and informative...

**NEWSLETTER**

**Institute of Maya Studies  
 Museum of Science  
 3280 South Miami Avenue  
 Miami, Florida 33129**

TIME VALUE

