

INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Newsletter

Hal C. Ball, Editor

Vol. 5

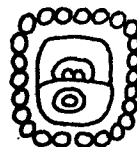
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(September 8, 1976)



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MEETING NOTICE:

The September meeting of the Institute will be held in the Museum of Science auditorium at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday the 15th. Following a short business meeting there will be a report and open forum discussion on the Mesoamerican Archaeology Symposium in Cambridge, England, and the XLII International Congress of the Americas meeting in Paris, France. (Please remember to wear your IMS name pins, and if you have not obtained one, see Mrs. Fay Hochen in the library prior to meeting time.)...

ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION MEETING:

There will be a meeting of the IMS Archaeology Section in Museum Classroom "C" on Wednesday the 22nd at 8:00 p.m. A program will be presented by Hal Ball on "Excavations at the Maya Site of Lamanai," after which plans will be announced relative to the meetings to be held during the 1976-77 winter season. All members are invited to attend...

IMS ARCHAEOLOGY TOUR:

The third in a series of archaeology tours under the auspices of the Institute will depart from Miami on October 19th and return on the 26th. The tour will feature visits to archaeological sites in the vicinity of Mexico City and Oaxaca. The Tour Director is Len Schafer: Ft. L. 792-4713...

DUMBARTON OAKS ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN OCTOBER:

A conference with the theme "Mesoamerican Sites and World Views" will be held at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington D. C. on October 16-17. It will be chaired by Geoffrey Bushnell and papers will be presented by John Carlson, Horst Hartung, Doris Hayden, Linda Schele, Evon Vogt and Rudolph van Zantwijk. A report on the papers read will be in a forthcoming issue...

HARVARD UNIVERSITY RETURNS MAYA JADE ARTIFACTS TO MEXICO:

Harvard University has announced that it has now returned to Mexico a valuable collection of Maya jade objects from the cenote at Chichen Itza that were acquired from Edward H. Thompson between 1910 and 1917. The jades were presented to Mexican President Luis Echeverria Alvarez by Harvard president Derek C. Bok and Peabody Museum director Stephen Williams and will eventually be on exhibit in The Museum of Anthropology in Mexico City...

DR. PETER HARRISON CHANGES INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION TO M.A.R.I.:

Dr. Peter D. Harrison, formerly associated with the Tikal Project in Guatemala, and more recently in charge of survey operations in southern Quintana Roo, has recently changed institutional affiliation and his current status is now Research Associate with the Middle American Research Institute of Tulane University. Until this year he was Associate Professor with Trent University (Canada) and a Research Associate of the Royal Ontario Museum of Toronto, and he plans to continue this associateship until he becomes a resident of the American Southwest in the near future...

MONTE ALTO PROJECT TO BE COMPLETED IN 1976:

According to a 1975 Progress Report received from the Museum of Science, completion of the Monte Alto Project is anticipated during 1976. The site is located near La Democracia, in Escuintla, Guatemala, and the project was begun in 1968 under the auspices of the Peabody Museum of Harvard and the National Geographic Society. However, after excavations were completed, sponsorship of the project was taken over by the Museum of Science of Miami in November of 1971. The Director is Edwin M. Shook, and during the past five years most of the work has been confined to the project laboratory in Antigua, where the ceramic analysis is now being finished. Because of our members' early interest, and their recommendation of the project to the Museum, we especially look forward to its successful completion, and subsequently the publication of an archaeological report on the site...

COPIES OF EARLY PAPERS ON THE MAYA DONATED TO IMS LIBRARY:

We wish to express our sincere thanks to Mr. Peter Tompkins for his donation to our library of Xerox copies of six papers on the Maya calendar and codices. (Contact librarian for titles, authors, dates, etc.)...

"EL PROBLEMA OLMECA":

A relatively new book on the Olmec civilization is now available from the Instituto de Antropologia of the Universidad Veracruz. (Apartado #191, Jalapa, Veracruz, Mexico.) The author, Professor Jose Luis Melgarejo Vivanco, is founder of the Veracruz Anthropological Institute and in his book he uses a great quantity of varied material and difficult to obtain published investigations, as well as field studies from nearly inaccessible regions. Contents: 320 pp., 105 illustrations, 29 chapters and 16 pages of bibliography. \$8.00 (U. S.) or \$100.00 (N. M.)...

ANALES---1968-1975:

The latest issue of the El Salvador publication ANALES has now been released and contains four articles on archaeology written by Stanley Boggs, Richard Crane and Wolfgang Haberland. This particular issue consists of 100 pages, including many photographs, maps and line drawings. It is one of the publications of the Ministerio De Educacion, but is compiled and edited with the cooperation of Administracion Del Patrimonio Cultural and the Museo Nacional "David J. Guzman" of San Salvador. This issue covers the period from 1968 to 1975 (Nos. 42-48) and all articles are in Spanish...

"GOLD FOR THE GODS":

Beginning on September the 28th and continuing until November 21st, the Royal Ontario Museum of Toronto, Canada will present a fascinating exhibit of pre-Inca and Inca gold artifacts from the Museo Oro del Peru in Lima. The exhibit is appropriately entitled "Gold for the Gods," and is one of the richest and rarest ever to be presented in Canada. Gold objects of a great variety of shapes and forms will be on display in the museum and these will include ear ornaments, ceremonial knives, masks, necklaces and numerous small ornate gold replicas of ancient Peruvians, birds, animals and butterflies. The exhibit will span more than fifteen hundred years, that are not only rich in gold, but in the history of the mysterious people of the Mochica, Naza, Chimu and Inca cultures. If it is not possible for you to attend the exhibit in person, perhaps you would like to "see" it through a special descriptive catalogue, which features both color and black-and-white photographs, plus extensive essays on the land and people of Peru. Write: ROM, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M5S2C, and include check for \$6.00 made out to GOLD FOR THE GODS...



Gold and Turquoise Ceremonial Knife:
Chimu A.D. 1200 — 1470

THE ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM COMPLETES THIRD YEAR OF EXCAVATIONS AT LAMANAI:

On July 15th, The Royal Ontario Museum of Toronto, Canada, completed its third year of archaeological investigations at the Maya site of Lamanai, and since the last report on the project in the June issue of the IMS NEWSLETTER, the final mapping of the site has been completed and there have been a number of new discoveries. In addition, continued excavations of the larger mounds indicate that they may have been built during the Late Classic Period, rather than the Postclassic, as originally surmised from earlier investigations. Most of the work during the past three months has concentrated on the 70 foot high terraced pyramid referred to as "Lip," but excavations were also conducted along the west side of the mound called "Buil," where only a few days before the close of the 1976 season another stela was found. Farther to the south of the site, digging continued in the mounds that are included in the church group, and in two of the mounds southwest of the old church ruins, the skeletal remains of 63 bodies were uncovered.

As excavations of "Lip" continued during the past few months, enough architectural information was obtained so that archaeologists were able to establish that the earlier of the two period construction had been an eight terraced pyramid that was built atop of a large raised platform. It was determined that the corners of the terraces had been rounded and that the original stone facing had been covered with plaster and painted. It was not until late in the season, however, that a major part of the outer structure was found with the facing intact. This was a lower wall that was

on the north side of the pyramid, and which, when cleared, was found to have a stone mask on either side of the remains of the central stairway. Both of the masks are of about the same dimensions, $4\frac{1}{2}$ m. wide and 2 m. high, and there is evidence that they were at one time plastered and painted red. At the very top of the "Lip" pyramid, one of five caches uncovered in the structure produced an unprecedented 576 small obsidian cores! These ranged in length from $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $6\frac{1}{2}$ cm. and all were either black or dark gray. There were also a few broken obsidian blades with the cores, and within the same cache were two well polished square ear ornaments, a jade pendant and two other small objects of jade. Nine burials have been found in the core and under the stairway of the structure, and a report on the artifacts that are associated with these and the other four caches will be in a forthcoming issue of the NEWSLETTER...

THREE NEW EXHIBITIONS AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM IN HONDURAS:

The new National Museum of Honduras now has three special exhibitions that may be viewed by the public. These are: (1) Archaeology, (2) Ethnology, and (3) Copan. In addition, there is an interesting exhibition on the life of Dr. Jesus Aguilar Paz, a famous explorer, doctor and teacher of Honduras. The new museum building was originally part of the estate "Villa Roy," and presents a palace-like design of Italian architecture. It was donated by the ex-first lady of the nation, Doña Laura Vigil de Lozano...

NEWSLETTER

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TIME VALUE

