

# INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

## Newsletter



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Hal C. Ball, Editor

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(October 13, 1976)



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### MEETING NOTICE:

The regular monthly meeting of the Institute of Maya Studies will be held in the Museum of Science auditorium at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October the 20th. We are privileged to have as our speaker for the evening, Mr. Norman Scott, who will present an illustrated lecture on "The Sacrificial Well at Chichen Itza, Yucatan." The lecture will deal with the first major modern archaeological expedition to the Sacrificial Well at Chichen, which was conducted for the National Geographic Society in 1960-61, and a subsequent expedition in 1967-68, which was in cooperation with CEDAM International, and under the auspices of the Institute of Anthropology and History of Mexico. Be sure to attend this interesting program on the Maya...

### ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION MEETING:

The October meeting of the IMS Archaeology Section will be held in Museum Classroom "C" on Wednesday the 27th at 8:00 p.m. The subject for this month's session will be "Archaeological Research in the Maya Area"...

### HIEROGLYPHIC SECTION MEETING:

The second of a new series of meetings of the IMS Hieroglyphic Section will be held in the Museum in October. Contact chairman for time and date...

### MEMBER APPOINTED TO NEW POSITION:

Jack Eaton has recently been appointed to the position of "Faculty Associate" of the University of Texas at San Antonio...

### GEOTHERMIC ENERGY IN LATIN AMERICA:

An "International Symposium About Geothermic Energy in Latin America" will be held in Guatemala October 18-23. Contact Shirley Knox for details...

### MIXCO VIEJO EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE BEING REPAIRED:

Repair and reconstruction work has now begun on the Highland Maya site of Mixco Viejo, which was badly damaged by the severe earthquake that took place in Guatemala on February 4th of this year. The project is under the supervision of architect Marcelino Gonzalez Cano and Sr. Jose Luis Quevedo, who with the aid of ten workmen are slowly restoring the broken stairways, walls and stone terraces of the temples, ball courts and other structures at the site. As they are working on a limited budget, donations to this special reconstruction project are most welcome.



Dr. Bernard & Ethel Tumarkin	Mr. Burt Kleinman
Ms. Holly Huntington	Mr. Artemis Gregory
Ms. Deborah I. Popenoe	Mr. John A. Klasing
Ms. Millicent Asher	

RECENT PUBLICATIONS ON THE MAYA:

A Study in Maya Art and History: The Mat Symbol---Francis Robicsek  
Mounds 9 & 10 at Mirador, Chiapas, Mexico---Pierre Agrinier  
Prehistoric Pottery Analysis and the Ceramics of Barton Ramie---James C. Gifford

"LAS MONJAS":

A new book will soon be available from the University of Oklahoma Press entitled: LAS MONJAS: A MAJOR PRE-MEXICAN ARCHITECTURAL COMPLEX AT CHICHEN ITZA. Considered one of the most important buildings in Maya culture at Chichen, Las Monjas is an impressive complex with the longest and by far the most continuous period of structural and artistic development at the site. It was written by John J. Bolles, the last of the excavators and explorers to serve under Sylvanus G. Morley, and John H. Jennings. 350 pages, 181 illustrations, 16 maps, plans, and diagrams. (\$27.50 until November)...

"SOURCES OF STONES USED IN PREHISTORIC MESOAMERICAN SITES":

Ballena Press has announced that "Sources of Stones Used in Prehistoric Sites" will be the first number of a new program of reprinting certain publications issued by the Department of Anthropology of the University of California at Berkeley, which have long been out of print. This first number is now available and contains six different papers. It consists of 103 pp., including plates, figures, maps, references and bibliography. The price is \$4.95. (Ballena Press, P. O. Box 711, Ramona Cal. 92065)...

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF NORTH AMERICA:

This recently published book on North American archaeology gives a detailed portrait of the American Indians as seen through their cultural contribution and varied lifestyles. All regions in North America are explored and the book contains 195 illustrations. The Viking Press, \$18.95...

EARLY MAN IN FLORIDA:

Continued underwater explorations of the Florida Little Salt Spring archaeological site have revealed new evidence relating to the antiquity of man in southern Florida. Skeletal remains of an estimated 30 people who lived near the spring have now been dated to 5,000 years ago, and bones have also been found of a wide variety of animals, including bison and now extinct species like the giant ground sloth, the mastadon, and a large land tortoise. In addition, stone and wooden tools used by the early people that lived here established man's presence in the area nearly 10,000 years ago...



MAYA BURIALS AT EL REY:

An interesting aspect of the excavations at the site of El Rey, located near the southern end of Cancun Island, are the various burials that have been found there. In one of the rectangular platforms (9A) ten separate burials were discovered, and many others have been uncovered in nearby mounds to the south and west. All of the skulls that were found in the burials in 9A appear to have been artificially deformed, and each one has a small hole in the center of the forehead. Jade beads had originally been placed in the mouths of some of the heads, but comparatively little pottery was found with the individual burials. Excavation of 9A also produced some obsidian cores, an altar near the center of the mound, and the remains of a fireplace at the northwest corner of the structure. According to the Director, Noberto Gonzalez, this seems to indicate that the mound at one time was the substructure for a large "family house" serving a number of occupants. Although some of the potsherds found at the site date back to Classic times, the architecture is Post Classic and of the Tulum style. (See N/L #5-3)...

Burial at El ReyJADE MASK FOUND AT MAYA SITE OF LAMANAI:

In April of 1976, a jade mask was found at Lamanai in the core masonry of the terraced pyramid referred to as "Lip." It was discovered in a portion of the stairway just below the two room temple near the top of the structure, and there was nothing else in the cache except the mask. It was in an upside-down position when found, and after thorough cleaning of the back and sides, it was solidified with wax, and the Director, David Pendergast, was able to remove the intricate mask to the camp lab almost intact.

The mask is 14½ cm. wide, 20 ½ cm. high, and composed of almost 100 separate pieces of jade, the largest measuring 4½ cm. With the exception of three of the pieces, all of the jade is of a light green color and appears fairly well polished. Both lips protrude slightly and six tiny teeth have been fashioned from two pieces of white shell. The nose is quite prominent and extends out from the rest of the face 3 cm. The whites of the eyes are formed with curved pieces of shell and the pupils are represented by small discs of black obsidian. Width of the eyes is 3½ cm. It is believed that the mask originally had a wooden backing, but there were no remains of this. Complete restoration of the mask will probably be made in 1977 and more information will be published in a forthcoming NEWSLETTER...

EARLY DOMESTICATED COTTON IN PERU:

Because of the extremely arid Pacific dessert in Peru, conditions are optimum for archaeological preservation there and an analysis of cotton remains from the Peruvian coastal site of Huaca Prieta by S. G. Stephens, indicates dates circa 2500 to 750 B.C. It is believed that prior to 2500 B.C., when man pursued a hunting-gathering economy, cordage and fabrics were made from wild plants, and garments in use were probably made of hide. The archaeological materials analyzed consisted of boll parts, seeds and fibers, and although they are not the earliest recorded for the New World in chronological terms, they do appear to represent the earliest stages in cotton domestication yet reported. (Dates determined from stratigraphy and C-14)...

XERORADIOGRAPHY: A NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOOL:

Sol Heineman, M. D. of El Paso, Texas, has developed a new technique which uses an aluminum plate covered with vitreous selenium as a photo conductor that allows processing production of an image that can be transferred to a paper base for storage purposes. This new method is useful in detecting fakes as well as showing manufacturing techniques which could not otherwise be known without destroying the object, and in addition, the Xeroradiograph gives a clearer definition and better penetration than conventional X-Ray. (The Interamerican)...

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NEWSLETTER

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TIME VALUE

