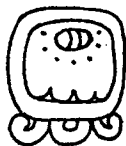


INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Newsletter



IMIX

Hal C. Ball, Editor

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PAX

MEETING NOTICE:

The February meeting of the Institute will be held in the Museum of Science Auditorium on Wednesday, the 16th, at 8:00 p.m. Our program for the evening will be presented by the chairman of the Hieroglyphics Research Section, Charles Lacombe, on the subject of "The Ten Commandments of the Maya: A Moral Appraisal."...

ARCHAEOLOGY AND HIEROGLYPHIC SECTION MEETINGS:

Beginning in February, and continuing until further notice, the IMS Archaeology Section will meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month, and the Hieroglyphic Section will meet on the third Monday of each month. The meetings will be held in the Museum of Science and will start at 8:00 p.m....

RE: JANUARY NEWSLETTER:

Although the January Newsletter was printed and ready for mailing on the 6th of the month, due to an apparent misunderstanding with the Museum, it was not taken to the Post Office until the 27th! "Sorry about that."...

OBSERVATIONS AND STUDIES IN THE RUINS OF PALENQUE:

Translated into English for the first time, a limited edition of Eduard Seler's 1915 Observations and Studies in the Ruins of Palenque, is now available from the Robert Louis Stevenson School in Pebble Beach, Cal. 93953. (\$35.00 until Feb. 15, \$48.00 afterwards, plus \$1.00 mailing fee.) The translation into English was done by Gisela Morgner and the editing by George Kubler and John Bartman of Yale University. The book is hardbound, contains 162 pages and 152 illustrations...

A STUDY IN MAYA ART AND HISTORY: THE MAT SYMBOL:

This book, first published in 1976, is now available in paperback from The Museum of the American Indian in New York City. (Broadway at 155 St., 10032.) The author is Francis Robicsek, who wrote Copan: Home of the Mayan Gods, and in the book he presents the results of his investigation into the origin of the royal title of the ancient Mayas and the study of the artistic and iconographic significance of the woven mat-symbol that is associated with it. 358 pages, 307 figures in black and white, and 88 plates in color. \$15.00 paperback, \$22.00 hard cover, plus \$.75 postage...



Mrs. Darlene Brown	Mr. & Mrs. Randall Crawford
Mr. Robert Warren	Mr. & Mrs. Wm. M. Warner
Ms. Regina L. Jarvis	Mr. Joseph V. Gambino, Jr.
Mr. R. D. Jones, III	Mr. Arthur J. Engelbrecht

AN ANALYSIS OF DATED MAYA MONUMENTS TO FIND ASTRONOMICAL INSCRIPTIONS:

The result of a program to use statistical methods to prove or reject the astronomical character of dates on Maya monuments has recently been presented in a paper by the Director, Manfred Kudlek, who concludes that the majority of the monuments do not deal with astronomical facts. The information obtained for this conclusion was from a program that involved an analysis of a total of 1301 dates that were written on 582 monuments from 80 different Maya sites. These 1301 dates do not include those from the codices, and of the 751 no-hotun dates, 618 different ones were used for the statistical analysis and punched on cards. The basic assumption in the analyzing of the 618 different no-hotun dates was that a uniform calendar had been used throughout all of the Maya area, and also during the entire era of the inscriptions. Eight separate astronomical periods were considered (synodical month, tropical years, etc.), and these were divided into assigned intervals of time (days) that were big enough to rule out the variations of the individual periods. For each period a chi-2 test was imposed and the result substantiated the hypothesis that the majority of the dates had been distributed randomly with respect to lunar and planetary periods, which is not what one would expect if most of them were of an astronomical character. (Copy of complete paper in IMS Library)...

ROCK ART OF THE CAVES OF YUCATAN:

In a preliminary survey of rock art in Yucatan caves in March of 1976, Matthias Strecker visited ten caves in which he found petroglyphs or rock paintings. After obtaining a permit from INAH he made sketches and photographs of numerous petroglyphs and paintings that had not previously been recorded. These are included in his "Estudio del arte rupestre en cuevas de Yucatan. Informe preliminar," which also contains an annotated bibliography. He reports seeing rock art of many different types, such as a writhing serpent in the Cenote Tecoh, a half-naked human figure with bound arms in Actun Ch'on, a stylized animal (monkey) at the cave of X'maax, and two abstract petroglyphs at the Humacab entrance of Actun Loltun. In addition to the "Informe preliminar" publication, Strecker is also preparing an article on the Actun Loltun paintings, which he has informed the writer will be published in Mexico's Boletin INAH. (See IMS Bulletin Board for "Summary.")...

NATIONAL ANTIQUITIES LAWS:

For members who would like to learn the details of antiquities laws in various countries, the UNESCO-ICOM Documentation Center, 1 rue Liollis, 75015, Paris, has a file of national legislations on the protection of cultural heritage. These are available on microfilm for cost and postage...

ARCHAEOLOGISTS INVESTIGATE OLD MAYA
SITE OF ECAB:

During November of 1976, archaeologists under the auspices of the Instituto Nacional de Antropología E Historia, continued their investigation of Maya in Quintana Roo and visited the remote site of Ecab. The Director of the project is Noberto Gonzalez Crespo, of the Centro Regional Sureste of INAH, and he was assisted in the investigation of Ecab by Anthony Andrews, Antonio Benavides, and Fernando Robles. A fifth, and important member of the team, was helicopter pilot Alfonso Llanes. The general location of the ruins of Ecab have been known about for some time, as

an old colonial church built near the site is not only visible from the air, but also from across the lagoon to the north. Because of its inaccessibility in the northeast corner of the Yucatan peninsula, however, there seems to be no record of any archaeologists having visited the site since Thomas Gann and Sylvanus Morley were there in 1924. In his book, In An Unknown Land, Gann described the church, but made little mention of the Ecab ruins, which according to an initial sighting by Cordoba in 1517, was "a large town standing back about two leagues from the coast." At this time the Spanish named it "Gran Cairo," and later, in 1527, an expedition led by Francisco Montejo spent two months there, describing it as "an important Maya trading center."

On March 22, 1973, the writer had occasion to make a reconnaissance flight over the north coast of Yucatan, and with his wife, and Tony and Will Andrews, located and made aerial photographs of the old church at Boca Iglesias. Since then, there has been continued interest and further reconnaissance of the area, culminating in the INAH expedition to the site in 1976. Although Andrews reports that he found the archaeological site of Ecab to be "disappointingly small," the church itself is in good condition, and nearby, the previously unreported curate's residence was discovered. However, only one of the three stone temples mentioned in the literature by Bernal Diaz was found, and it is believed that the stone from these and other old Maya structures was used in construction of the church. A surface collection of artifacts included several manos, metates, old Spanish bottles and broken pottery, all of which were either Late Postclassic or Early Colonial. The location of Ecab has now been confirmed, and other trips to the site will be made during 1977 to map the ruins and obtain further information about the surrounding area...



ABANDONED CHURCH NEAR RUINS OF ECAB

UCLA PROJECT INVESTIGATES SECONDARY CENTERS BETWEEN COPAN AND QUIRIGUA:

A project under the auspices of the UCLA Latin American Center and INAH of Honduras is beginning its third season of investigating the secondary Maya centers between Copan and Quirigua. The Director of the project is Gary W. Pahl, who began work in the region in 1975 at La Canteada. The impetus for research in this part of Honduras, however, originally came from David Kelly, who discovered that hieroglyphic texts revealed the ruling dynasties of Copan and Quirigua were related in their history. Based on this initial hieroglyphic information, Pahl assumed that the numerous secondary centers situated between Copan and Quirigua, should fit into the scheme of their social, political, and economic relationship; and investigations will continue in an effort to substantiate this theory. To date, a preliminary map of La Canteada has been made, and besides good samples of ceramics, obsidian, floral, and fuunal, over 100 sections of Copan-style sculptured frieze have been recovered...

CULTURAL CONTINUITY IN MESOAMERICA:

Scheduled for release by the Aldine Publishing Co. in February, this book is a series of papers that are reported to present a variety of important new data on early man in the New World. It is edited by David L. Browman and contains 460 pages. (Book No. 90057, \$24.50)...



NEWSLETTER

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TIME VALUE

