

INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Newsletter



MULUK

Hal C. Ball, Editor

Vol. 6

No. 3

12.18.3.12.9. 11 Muluc 12 Kayab

(March 9, 1977)



KAYAB

MEETING NOTICE:

The March meeting of the Institute will be held in the Museum of Science Auditorium on Wednesday, the 16th at 8:00 p.m., at which time the program for the evening will be announced by the president...

RE: THE IMS RESEARCH LIBRARY:

One of the privileges of membership in the Institute of Maya Studies is the use of our library, which contains not only books, journals, and various other publications on the Maya, but also numerous interesting volumes on other Mesoamerican cultures such as the Aztec, Olmec, and Toltec. We therefore suggest that all members make frequent use of the opportunity to obtain books from this ever-growing library at the Museum of Science...

THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL CONFERENCE--1977:

The 1977 Florida Anthropological Conference will be held on Saturday, March the 19th at Tampa, Florida. Contact Irving Eyster for details...

ORIGINS OF RELIGIOUS ART AND ICONOGRAPHY IN PRE-CLASSIC MESOAMERICA:

This is a new book published by the University of California Latin American Center in Los Angeles, that contains a series of articles presented by prominent scholars of Mesoamerican archaeology at an International symposium held at UCLA in February, 1973. The articles cover the emergence of sophisticated aesthetic-iconographic traditions where the major pre-Columbian civilizations flourished, and includes information on the early cultures of Olmec, Izapan, Lowland Maya, Zapotec, and Teotihuacan. (\$18.50)...

KATUNOB, VOLUME IX, NUMBER 1:

The latest issue of Prof. George E. Fay's news journal, KATUNOB, has just been received and this first number of volume IX contains almost 100 pages of various research notices, reports, papers, and information on new books relative to the Maya and Mesoamerica. This is a very interesting publication, and although it is still somewhat behind schedule, Fay plans to catch up in 1977 by completing two volumes. However, he is in need of new research reports and other material, so if you have anything you think he might be interested in, send it along. (Museum of Anthropology, Univ. of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado 80639)...

NEW DISCOVERIES AT ABAJ TAKALIK:

Only a short time after archaeologists began their second season of work at the Guatemalan site of Abaj Takalik, more new stone stelae and altars were discovered, and as digging among the mounds continues it is quite possible that others will be found. Even at the time the writer visited the site on February 14th, over 100 stone monuments of various size and shape had been recorded since the project began in 1976, and of these, more than 25 were carved. Some of the stones are quite large, and one stela, No. 17, is estimated to weigh between 30 and 35 thousand pounds.

The project is being sponsored by the National Geographic Society, plus a few donations from private individuals, and the directors are John A. Graham and Robert F. Heizer, both anthropologists from the University of California at Berkeley. The site, which is located a few miles northwest of Retalhuleu, has been known about for some time, but came into prominence last year when it was discovered that there were both Olmec and Maya stelae there that were situated very close to each other. Most of the stones, however, are believed to be Maya and of the Early to Middle Classic period, although Graham estimates some may date back to as far as 800 to 1000 B.C. Caches near some of the monuments have produced miscellaneous ceramic objects and other artifacts, but to date, no burials have been found. Some of the carvings are still in good condition and clearly portray human figures, animals, and glyphic inscriptions. Two large unrecorded mounds, located from the air north of the site with Graham and Heizer, may prove to be a new group or an extension of the ruins, and after these have been investigated, the results will be published in a forthcoming Newsletter...

RUINS OF OLD VILLAGE FOUND NEAR SOUTH COAST OF GUATEMALA:

Excavations on the finca of Sr. Oscar Gonzalez in the Department of Iztapa have revealed the remains of a small settlement or village that is believed to date back at least 1000 years. The recently completed project (for 1977) was under the auspices of the University of Missouri and "Earth-watch" of Massachusetts and included a group of 20 who worked under direct supervision of archaeologists Gary Walters and Miles Gilbert, both from the Department of Anthropology at Missouri. The site has been given the name of Mi Cielo, and the most concentrated group of mounds seem to be located near a small stream about a mile north of the coastal town of Iztapa. Several test pits and trenches were dug in the mounds, and in addition to intact pottery objects and other artifacts that were found, quite a number of burials were discovered. Walters believes that the site may have once been occupied by people of either the Maya or Pipil culture, but says that this can not be accurately determined until there has been a thorough analysis of the material recovered during excavations...

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

"The only things that evolve by themselves in an organization are disorder, friction and malperformance." Peter Drucker...



they may possibly be the remains of an elite residential sector of Copan that dates back to the Early Classic Period. The project is planned to continue during most of the dry season and a brief summary of this year's work will be presented in a later issue of the Newsletter...

SALVAGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT INITIATED IN THE SULA VALLEY OF HONDURAS:

During the first week of February, a salvage archaeological project under the direction of Howard Lynn was begun in the San Pedro region of the Sula valley of Honduras. The purpose of the project is to attempt to evaluate the archaeological significance of the pre-Columbian mounds in the valley before they are completely destroyed by machinery being used to level fields for agricultural use and the construction of new roads. Lynn's principal work will be digging test pits and trenches into the mounds, but he also plans to make sketch maps of the sites and fully record all ceramic objects and other artifacts that he finds. A preliminary report of the project is scheduled for the end of 1977...

THE ANTIQUITIES MARKET:

This is the name of a publication which is a regular feature of the Journal of Field Archaeology. Its aim is to provide just what is stated in the subtitle: news and commentary on the illicit traffic in antiquities. (A copy of the latest issue may be seen in the IMS library)...

NEWSLETTER

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

