

INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Newsletter



AHAU



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Hal C. Ball, Editor

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(June 8, 1977)

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, June 15. The program for the evening will relate to the Maya sites visited by IMS members who participated in the Institute's tour to Mexico in May...

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SECTION MEETINGS DISCONTINUED FOR SUMMER:

Meetings of the IMS Archaeological Section will not be held during the summer months of June, July and August, but will begin again in September...

FIRST IMS TOUR OF 1977 FEATURES ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN YUCATAN:

A small group of members departed Miami, Florida on May 19 on the first IMS sponsored tour of this year. The tour lasted 12 days and included visits to Cancun, Tulum, Coba, Chichen Itza, Uxmal, Sayil, Labna, Kabah, Palenque and La Venta Park. Tour organizer was Edward Cooke...

CERAMICA DE CULTURA MAYA---NO. 9:

We are pleased to announce that the informative journal, Ceramica de Cultura Maya, has now resumed publication and a copy of No. 9 (134 pp, 16 ill.) may be obtained by sending a check made payable to Ceramica de Cultura Maya, for \$4.00. Mail to: Miss Muriel Kirkpatrick, Gladfelter Hall, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa. 19122. The journal, which was originally a newsletter, was started by the late Jame C. Gifford as a means of ready and rapid communication among Maya archaeologists working on ceramics, and especially those using the type-variety system. Mrs. Carol A. Gifford is now Editor of the journal, Miss Muriel Kirkpatrick Production Editor, and Drs. Richard E. W. Adams and Robert J. Sharer are serving as Advisors...

CEDAM TO HOLD TENTH ANNUAL MEETING DURING JULY:

The CEDAM International (Conservation, Education, Diving, Archaeology, Museum) will hold its tenth annual meeting at the Club Akumal Caribe in Quintana Roo, Mexico on July 5-8, 1977. The four day meeting will include two lectures of special interest to Mayanists: the first, by Gertrude Duby Blom, whose subject will be "The Lacandon Indian"; and the second by Chuck Ennis, who will speak on "The Classic Chiapas Mayan Centers." Although the meeting is for members only, anyone wishing to join may obtain an application from the IMS Editor...



Gerald Wolfson
David B. Landis
Santee Lewin
Fred Walker
Judy Griffin

Mr. and Mrs. A. Larocgue
S. C. & R. L. Duckworth
Thomas Economu
Col. Richard C. Harris
Christopher Feehan

GUATEMALA'S NATIONAL MUSEUM TO BE RE-OPENED:

According to reports received from Guatemala, alterations and repairs on the country's National Museum were scheduled for completion by the end of May and by now should have been turned over by Obras Publicas to the museum's staff for exhibit preparation. The first project that was planned was to take out the temporary archaeological exhibit that had been in the National Palace and set it up in the museum from where it was removed when the roof of the building collapsed a few years ago. There are already 20 stone stelae ready for exhibit in the Rotunda, and after lighting of these has been completed, special hours for night viewing will be established. An entrance fee will be charged, but there will be at least one free day (probably Sunday), and the museum will be open every day of the week except Monday...

THE "OMETEOTL" WORKSHOP AT CEMANAHUAC, MEXICO:

This summer workshop, called the "Ometeotl" (god/goddess of movement and duality), is designed to better understand the indigenous cultures of Mexico and their relation to our own daily lives. Probably best described as a CREATIVE STUDY OF ANCIENT MEXICO, the classes will be held at Cemanahuac Educational Community in Cuernavaca, Mexico, and are scheduled from July 1 to August 15 at 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Tuition: \$350.00 (U.S.). (See "Editor's Bulletin Board" for more detailed information)...

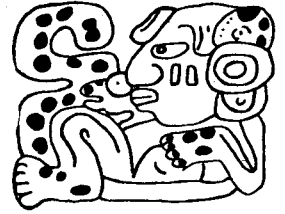
THE DUESSELDORF INSTITUT FUER AMERIKANISCHE VOELKERKUNDE:

This institute, founded in Germany in 1930 by Willi Michels, is probably best known in the United States for its bimonthly publication ETHNOLOGIA AMERICANA, which has been issued since 1964. It contains news on American archaeology, ethnology, book reviews, scientific articles, and comments and exhibition. The institute was formed in 1930, and since that time the staff has been collecting all available ethnological material relating to the Americas. Then, in 1968, they began a joint project with the University's Institute of Medical History, to establish a card file system which documents "unbound" ethnological and medical publications, many from companies that do not distribute these commercially. The present director of the institute is Helmut Krumbach, Merowingerstrasse 12, D-400 Duesseldorf, Germany. Subscription cost of the ETHNOLOGIA AMERICANA publication is DM 12.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Editor would like to take this opportunity to express his sincere thanks to Sam Block, Hector Cebrian and Samuel Grossman, who are presently serving as a committee of 3 to help in the translation of newspaper articles and other publications from Spanish to English. Are there any volunteers for German or French?...

NEW TOMB DISCOVERED AT TIKAL:

A new tomb has recently been discovered at the well known Maya site of Tikal in northern Guatemala. It was found in a large rectangular mound that had a stela on the top, and is one of the mounds within the small group located at the far end of the airstrip. This is the third tomb known to have been in this particular mound, but unfortunately the other two were sacked and dug by looters before archaeologists working with the Tikal "Rescue Operation" had an opportunity to excavate this part of the site. It was dug under the supervision of Miguel Orrego, who first noticed that it was cut sideways into the bedrock, rather than the usual roofed-over pit. The tomb contained a single male skeleton, oriented N - S with the head towards the north and with the hands crossed on the chest. In addition to the pair of jade earplugs and uncarved jade pendant near the skeletal remains, there were also 9 ceramic vessels, 7 at the head and 2 at the feet. One of these was a typical Teotihuacan style slab-legged cylinder tripod with cover, which was similar to others recovered in the central part of the site during earlier excavations. This type of ceramic vessel is representative of the Early Classic Period at Tikal, and places the date of the tomb at ca. 450 A.D. (Information courtesy of Vivian Morales of Guatemala City)...

NEW INVESTIGATIONS TO BEGIN AT CIHUATÁN, EL SALVADOR:

A three month study of the settlement area of Cihuatán, a terminal Classic-early Postclassic ceremonial center, will begin early in June. The project is led by Dr. Karen Olsen Bruhns of San Francisco State University and is designed to complement the Museo Nacional's project of excavation and restoration in the Western Ceremonial Center. Bruhns and students from San Francisco State have previously mapped the habitation area adjacent to the Western Ceremonial Center and began mapping the Eastern Ceremonial Center in January of this year. The current project will include a continuation of the mapping of the habitation area, which is of considerable size, the making of a topographic map of the Eastern Ceremonial Center and the adjacent elite residential areas, and excavations of several areas of domestic use...

"REMOTE SENSING IN MESOAMERICA":

This year at the annual meeting of the SAA in New Orleans, a new category of symposia was added to the four day program---that of "Remote Sensing in Mesoamerica." The symposium was divided into two parts, during which time 12 papers were read and numerous slides were shown pertaining to the use of remote sensing in the location and analysis of archaeological data in Mesoamerica. Discussions following the symposium indicated that with the relatively recent development of more sophisticated sensors---ERTS, Landsat, Side-looking radar, etc.,---there will now be a decided increase in the use of remote sensing in much of the Mesoamerican area...

SCHOLARLY: Does education pay? Of course it does. If you can write your name, you don't have to pay cash...

ON THE LOOTING ON MAYA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN GUATEMALA:

A recent article in Guatemala's Prensa Libre newspaper, again brings to the attention of the public the continued illegal looting of many of the country's Maya archaeological sites---particularly those in the Department of Petén. Although it is well known to most interested persons that many of the most important remains of the Maya civilization are located in this part of Guatemala, with the exception of a very few, such as Tikal, they remain unguarded and are continually being robbed of their sculptured stone monuments and other valuable artifacts. Often, it seems, the vandals seem to operate with impunity, and visitors are astounded to see the destruction that has taken place at some of the sites.

According to Prensa Libre, "It is proven that the art of our ancestors is more appreciated in foreign lands than by Guatemalans, as some of the local collectors actually organize and finance the looters." Also, "it is apparent that a great part of our archaeological treasures have been exported with very little attempt to stop the illegal practice, especially in the Petén where one constantly sees excavations of tombs and destroyed buildings, with only fragments left of what were at one time impressive stone monuments." The paper, therefore, advocates a better safe-guarding of the country's cultural patrimony, and makes a strong plea for additional funds to increase the protection of more of Guatemala's Maya archaeological sites..

NEWSLETTER

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