

INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Newsletter



MEN

Hal C. Ball, Editor

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(July 13, 1977)



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MEETING NOTICE:

The July meeting of the Institute will be held in the Museum of Science Auditorium on Wednesday the 20th, at 8:00 p.m. A program will be presented by Robert B. Little on "Maya Architecture in the Rio Bec Area of Yucatan"...

NEW MEMBERS:

A cordial welcome is extended to the following new members: Norma G. Boyd, Catherine Head, Lee Halpern, Arthur Waltz and Thomas and Sara Flood...

IMS HIEROGLYPHIC RESEARCH SECTION TO CONTINUE MEETINGS THROUGH THE SUMMER:

Charles Lacombe, Director of the IMS Hieroglyphic Research Section, has announced that his group will continue meetings through the summer and welcome new members at any time. Meetings are held at 8:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in the Museum of Science Library...

A REMINDER ABOUT THE IMS LIBRARY:

Besides the use of the numerous books, journals, magazines, etc. that are presently available to IMS members in the Institute's library, we would like to remind you of the additional service of having books ordered by our librarian Mitza Desic Block, many of which may be obtained at discounts up to 20%. Why not take this opportunity to add to your personal library, and save money at the same time?...

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Manuscripts are welcome for review for publication in the Institute's Contributions to Mesoamerican Anthropology series, and should be mailed to: Hal C. Ball, Editor IMS, Museum of Science, 3280 S. Miami Ave. Miami, 33129.

ANTHROPOLOGY CLUB OF WEST CHESTER STATE COLLEGE TO SPONSOR MAYA SYMPOSIUM:

We have recently been informed by Dr. Marshall Becker, professor of anthropology at West Chester State College in Pennsylvania, that the college's Archaeology Club will sponsor a symposium on the ancient Maya on October 21-22, 1977. The symposium will be held at the new facilities at "Welkinweir," and persons interested in presenting a brief paper (15 minutes) followed by 15 minutes of discussion time, are requested to contact Becker as soon as possible. (Dept. of Anthropology, W/C State College, West Chester, Pa. 19380)

A NEW MAYA CORRELATION NUMBER: 615,824:

In the abstract of a paper that was originally intended to be presented at the International Maya Symposium in Guatemala June 25 - July 2, 1977, Dr. D. Justin Schove suggests the use of 615,824 as a constant to be added to the Maya Day Number to give the Julian Day Number, and hence the A.D. date. This is considerably different than the generally accepted modified Goodman-Martinez-Thompson constant of 584,283, but it does fit lunar, solar and planetary dates at positions that conform to the criteria listed in David H. Kelley's book Deciphering the Maya Script. (A copy of the complete abstract will be placed on the IMS Editor's Bulletin Board and further information may be obtained by writing the author at St. David's College, 29 South Eden Park Road, Beckenham, Kent, England)...

FOUR EXQUISITE JADE MOSAIC PIECES RETURNED TO GUATEMALA:

Four valuable jade mosaic archaeological pieces from Tikal have now been returned to Guatemala after having been permitted out of the country temporarily for study and restoration at the University Museum in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They were presented to the Guatemalan Minister of Education, Lic. Guillermo Putzeys Alvarez, by Drs. Robert Sharer and David Sedat, and will now be placed on exhibit in the National Museum in Guatemala City. Two of the artifacts are cylinder type vases that are approximately 24 cm. high and which have nicely fitted covers. Both of these have small heads attached to the top, one with several glyphic elements and the other adorned with a high hair-do, earrings and a necklace. The third object is a jade mosaic mask that has a headdress in the shape of a bird which is believed to represent a parrot, and the last is a male figurine that measures 17.3 cm and which is partly made up of tiny shells and hematite...

"A FACE FROM THE PAST":

In the latest issue of the Royal Ontario Museum's magazine, Rotunda, (Vol. 10, No. 1) Field Director David Pendergast writes in his article "A Face From the Past," of the discovery of an intricate jade mosaic mask at the Maya site of Lamanai. The mask was found in April of 1976 during the excavation of a stair on the north side of the terraced pyramid referred to as "Lip," and a short account of the discovery was published in the IMS Newsletter last October. This new article by Pendergast, however, presents detailed information on the mask from the time when the first few pieces of jade were uncovered, until it was completely exposed, solidified with wax and cloth strips, and removed to the camp laboratory. The mask, which was found in an upside down position, is made up of nearly 100 separate pieces of jade, and fortunately was excavated almost intact. In addition to a complete description of the mask, the author also comments on two similar masks that have been found in other parts of the Maya area. (For a copy of the magazine send \$1.50 to ROM, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2C6)...

MAYA ARCHAEOLOGY ON STAMPS:

Although Maya archaeological topics have been used on postage stamps since 1921, it has only been during the last decade that there has been any appreciable increase in this type of illustration on stamps printed in the countries within the Maya area. Guatemala was the first country to issue a stamp depicting Maya archaeology, which was one that pictured a stela at the ruins of Quirigua. This was a blue and orange stamp that cost \$1.50, and since then (1921) all of the other countries in the Maya area have issued some type of stamps associated with Maya archaeology. These have been of various sizes, denominations, and color combinations; and seemingly for the benefit of philatelists, there have been several overprints. A few of the more interesting subjects that have been depicted on the stamps have been: murals, codices, polychrome pottery, sculptured stones and finely carved jade objects. (Courtesy of Ed Garrison)..

ALFRED M. TOZZER'S "A MAYA GRAMMAR" NOW AVAILABLE:

This is a practical and useful English-language grammar that was written by Alfred M. Tozzer, a Harvard anthropologist who was one of the three greatest American scholars in the area of Maya culture. 301 pp., \$4.00. Publications, Inc., 180 Varick St., New York, N. Y. 10014...

"CERAMICS FROM THE MOTUL":

This is a paper that is concerned with the first phase of a methodological scheme utilizing the direct historical approach in analyzing Maya archaeological pottery of the middle and late Postclassic or Ethnohistoric period. The strategy involves the collating of 16th Century Yucatec Maya ceramic terms with the pottery depicted in the codices and from contemporary archaeological collections, and this first in a series of three papers on the subject, presents terms from the Motul Dictionary. (See; Katunob, IX/2)..

FORTHCOMING BOOKS ON THE MAYA:

(1) The Origins of the Maya Civilization, Richard E. W. Adams, University of New Mexico Press, (2) The Mysterious Maya, George E. Stuart and Gene S. Stuart, National Geographic, and (3) Maya Architecture of the Central Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico, David F. Potter, MARI, Tulane University...

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Children are a great comfort in your old age ---- and they help you reach it faster too!..

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR THE STUDY OF PRE-COLUMBIAN CULTURES OF THE LESSOR ANTILLIES: 7th Annual Meeting, Hotel Tamanaco, Caracas, Venezuela, July 11-16. Chairperson Iraida Vargas, Apartado 59029, Caracas 104, Ven...

NSF ANTHROPOLOGY PROGRAM FUNDING TO BE INCREASED IN 1978:

It has been announced by Program Director Nancie Gonzalez, that the National Science Foundation's funding of the Anthropology Program will be increased in 1978 to an estimated \$5.6 million. This is \$1.5 more than the funding in 1977 and the first significant increase in the past 10 years.

THREE NEW BOOKS PUBLISHED BY INSTITUTE OF MESOAMERICAN STUDIES:

Three new books in Maya studies have been announced by the Institute For Mesoamerican Studies located at the State University of New York at Albany. (1) Basic Quiche Grammar, by James L. Mondloch; (2) Archaeology and Ethno-history of the Central Quiche, edited by Dwight Wallace and Robert Carmack; and (3) Bibliography of Mayan Languages and Linguistics, compiled by Lyle Cambell. (Prices and more information may be obtained from the Editor)...

RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY THE MIDDLE AMERICAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE (TULANE):

No. 42	The Archaeology of Quelepa	E. Wyllys Andrews V
No. 43	The Archaeological Ceramics of Becan	Joseph W. Ball
M-13	Guide to the Exhibit Gallery of MARI	Marjorie S. Zengel

NEWSLETTER

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