

INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

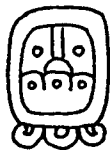
Newsletter

Hal C. Ball, Editor

Vol. 6

No. 8

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(August 10, 1977)



AKBAL



YAXKIN

MEETING NOTICE:

The August meeting of the Institute is scheduled to be held in the Museum of Science auditorium on Wednesday the 17th at 8:00 P.M. The program for the evening will be on "Impressions of the International Symposium on Maya Art, Archaeology and Hieroglyphic Writing", and will be presented by IMS members who attended the symposium in Guatemala City...

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

The Board of Directors will hold its September meeting in the Museum library at 8:00 P.M. on Wednesday the 7th...

ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION TO RESUME MEETINGS IN SEPTEMBER:

Beginning on September 28 at 8:00 P.M., the IMS Archaeology Section will resume monthly meetings at the Museum of Science in classroom "C". The study of Maya architecture will continue and papers at this meeting will be presented by Ellen Jacobs, Joan Levi and Anne Sheldon. New members are welcome and additional information may be obtained by contacting the chairman by phone (758-2418) or by letter to the Museum...

LIBRARY TO BE OPEN AT NIGHT ON SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH:

In addition to the regular scheduled hours now in effect, the IMS library will now be open from 8:00 to 9:30 P.M. on the second Tuesday of each month...

NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE ARRANGED WITH INSTITUTUM CANARIUM:

An agreement for an exchange of the Bulletin des Institutum Canarium for the Institute of Maya Studies monthly Newsletter has recently been completed by your editor and a copy of the latest issue may be seen in the Institute library. The I.C. Bulletin is published in Hallein, Austria and it usually consists of approximately 30 pages, including numerous articles and illustrations on Mesoamerica. (Written in German)...

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Copies are still available of the Institute's publication No. 1 of the Contributions To Mesoamerican Anthropology series, which is a monograph by Stanley H. Boggs entitled "Salvadoran Varieties of Wheeled Figurines".



Mr. Ralph Abraham	Santa Cruz, California
Mrs. Eileen Epaves	Miami, Florida
Mr. Harvey Smith Jr.	San Antonio, Texas
Mr. Michael Snyder	Guanaunto, Mexico

IMS TO SPONSOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN HONDURAS:

At the July meeting of the IMS board of directors it was announced by Hal Ball, chairman of the archaeology section, that he has concluded a preliminary agreement with the Instituto Hondureño de Antropología e Historia and archaeologist Howard Earnest Jr., whereas the IMS will sponsor a limited archaeological survey in the Comayagua Valley of Honduras. The project will be in direct cooperation with I.H.A.H., with Earnest serving as field director, and Lic. Vito Veliz of Honduras working with him when time permits. Earnest is a Harvard graduate who has been doing archaeological work in El Salvador for the past three years, particularly in the upper valley of the Lempa River, where he has investigated sites ranging in time from the Formative to the Postclassic. The project is scheduled to begin on or about the first of November, and members will be kept informed of any new developments in forthcoming issues of the Newsletter...

COMPUTER PROJECT TO PROVIDE DATA ON MAYA DATES FROM 3113 B.C. TO A.D. 2500:

Computer programmer Tom Preston is working with the IMS Hieroglyphic Research Section to produce a computerized master file of 2 million lines, correlating the Maya calendars (Long Count and Calendar Round), Julian Day Numbers, and the Gregorian Calendar with planetary, lunar and solar cycles. When completed the file will provide this data for any day from 3113 B.C. to A.D. 2500, using the JDN constant of 584,283 (Goodman-Martinez Hernandez-Thompson correlation). Members working with Preston would like to know if others are involved in a similar project, and section chairman, Charles Lacombe, would appreciate correspondence with anyone interested in the subject.

DICCIONARIO DE SAN SAN FRANCISCO (YUCATAN):

This is an enlarged edition of the Maya dictionary of the convent San Francisco. It consists of two parts (Maya-Spanish and Spanish-Maya) in one volume and is available from Akademische Druck- u. Verlagsanstalt in Graz, Austria. 788 pp., 4 plates, size: 17 x 24 cm, cloth. oS 1.600...

RECENT PUBLICATIONS ON MESOAMERICA:

<u>Prehistoric Mesoamerica</u>	Richard E.W. Adams	Little, Brown & Co.
<u>La Ceramica Arqueologica De Mesoamerica (Revised)</u>	Eduardo Noguera	U. N. A. Mexico
<u>The Archaeology of Quelepa Chinkultic</u>		M. A. R. I. Milwaukee Museum

THE NEW TREND: Car manufacturers are working on the ultimate economy car. You don't drive it, it just sits in the driveway and impresses the neighbors.

THE STELAE AT NIM LI PUNIT:

While in Belize the latter part of June, the editor and his wife had an opportunity to visit Nim Li Punit, a small Maya site discovered last year in the Toledo District north of Punta Gorda. Although there are very little architectural remains visible at the site, it is of particular interest because of the 25 stelae that were found in the main plaza. Several of the stelae are broken, which may account for the difference in the total number that have been reported by persons who have visited the site, and the size ranges from about six feet to thirty-one feet. Unlike stelae in most other parts of the Maya area, the ones at Nim Li Punit are of a greenish-brown sandstone. Six of the stelae are carved and have Initial Series dates, the earliest being 9.14.10.0.0. The long 31 foot stela (#14) is carved with a standing figure on the front of the stone and bears an inscription of 9.18.0.0.0, 10 Ahau 8 Zac. This date seems to be in error, however, and some observers believe it should be 9.18.10.0.0., as according to the Thompson correlation, a 9.18.0.0.0 I.S. would be followed by 11 Ahau 18 Mac. Oddly enough, all of the other carved stelae except #14 are broken and because of its excellent condition there is speculation as to whether it was ever actually erected. It is also surprising that a small site like Nim Li Punit has such a large number of stelae, while nearby Lubaantun has none...



Carved stela,
Nim Li Punit

SANTA MARIA - A POSTCLASSIC SITE IN WESTERN EL SALVADOR:

As mentioned in previous issues of the Newsletter during the past two years, the decision of the government of El Salvador to construct a new hydro-electric dam across the Lempa River in the vicinity of Cerron Grande, brought about considerable archaeological activity in the area that would be flooded after the dam was completed. Thus, during an early survey of the river valley, several new sites were found, one of which was on the Hda. Santa Maria, which was excavated by Wm. Fowler Jr. of the U. of Calgary.

The Santa Maria site is located approximately 40 km NNE of the city of San Salvador on the south side of a tributary of the Lempa River called the Rio Tamulasco. The ruins cover the entire south Tamulasco flood plain and a conservative estimate of the nuclear area is 5 square km, of which 3.6 have been mapped. The ceremonial center consists of three discrete mound groups, and in the "C" group there is a ballcourt associated with a large pyramid in the same pattern that occurs at Cihuatlan.

Excavations have revealed that much of the actual construction was identical to that of Cihuatlan, which was of uncut boulders and squared talpuja blocks bound with mud mortar. Structure #1, which was completely excavated, was found to have stairs on the north, south and west sides, all of which were framed by stone balustrades. Only the foundation of

the temple building at the summit of A-1 was found, but something else of particular interest was noted at the top of the structure. This was the discovery of several huge chunks of fired bajareque that were in the accumulated debris of the temple building. As similar material was later found in all other structures at the site, Fowler believes it must have been destroyed by fire, and the probable reason for its abandonment. (Forthcoming C-14 analysis of a charred beam should indicate the approximate date).

Fowler is of the opinion that the cultural affiliation is definitely Pipil in terms of the artifact chronology, and believes the site is obviously Early Postclassic. He notes that there is no difference between ceramics of Santa Maria and Cihuatlan, and that evidence of trade-ware include Tohil Pulmabate, Nicoya Polychrome and Cajete Polychrome (similar to "Mixteca-Puebla"). He also records the finding of the broken remains of two large hourglass-shaped, spiked braziers, and the fragments of life-size ceramic sculpture like the Tazumal Xipe effigy statue. Another interesting aspect of the site is the evidence of an obsidian industry in one of the fields to the north, and it seems likely that obsidian tool production may have been part of the economic base of Santa Maria. Fowler suggests that the possible source of the obsidian could have been at the Volcan Guazapa, 20 km southwest, and he intends to investigate this when he returns to El Salvador in September of this year...

NEWSLETTER

Institute of Maya Studies TIME VALUE

Museum of Science

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