

INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Newsletter



IX

Hal C. Ball, Editor
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SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING:

The Institute of Maya Studies will hold its Sixth Annual Meeting in the Museum of Science auditorium on Wednesday, November 16th, at 8:00 p.m. There will be a review of the Institute's activities during the past year by the president, and special reports by the chairpersons of the organization's different sections and committees. The results of the election for 6 new members of the Board of Directors will be announced and all attending members will have an opportunity to ask questions relative to any of the Institute's future plans and activities. Light refreshments will be served following the meeting and all members are requested to attend...

ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION MEETING:

The November meeting of the IMS Archaeology Section will be held in the Museum of Science classroom "C" at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 9th. The study and discussion of "Stone Sculpture of the Maya" will continue and all members of the Institute are invited to attend...

BOOKS DONATED TO IMS LIBRARY BY EL SALVADOR MUSEUM "DAVID J. GUZMAN":

While on a visit to El Salvador by the editor during August, Sr. Roberto Huezo, Director del Patrimonio Cultural, presented him with several recent publications that were donated by the Museo Nacional to the IMS library. These included Nos. 4 through 12 of the Coleccion Antropologia e Historia, Nos. 5 through 10 of El Xipe and No. 51 of the Anales. We are sincerely grateful to Sr. Huezo for these additions to our growing library...

"QUICHE CONQUEST":

This is a new book on the Quiche-Maya that is to be released by the University of New Mexico Press in December, 1977. The author describes the Quiche conquest of the Guatemalan Highlands and the settlement remains of each conquered ethnic group before and after Quiche domination. The book is also of archaeological interest as it provides the first descriptions and illustrations of many of the Postclassic sites in Highland Guatemala. It was written by John W. Fox of Baylor University and contains 289 pages, 10 maps, and 43 figures. Cloth, 6 x 9, \$10.00...

THE VOLADORES OF EL TAJIN PERFORM AT FLORIDA STATE MUSEUM:

To commemorate the opening of a new major exhibition at the Florida State Museum entitled "Organisms, Environments and Cultures," Dr. S. Jeffrey K. Wilkerson and other staff members arranged for the Voladores of El Tajin to perform some of their traditional Totonac dances. The most impressive, of course is what is sometimes called "The Flying Pole Dance" and this was first performed in the courtyard east of the museum on October 15. It was indeed a spectacular performance to watch and a rare privilege for visitors to see, as this was only the second time the Voladores have been in the United States to present their ritualistic dances. (Illustrations and detailed information on the Totonac Voladores may be seen on the IMS Bulletin Board at our November meeting.)

DEPARTMENT OF NEW WORLD ARCHAEOLOGY ESTABLISHED AT CANADA'S ROM:

During the first part of October a Department of New World Archaeology was established at The Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, Canada. The department will be divided into two sections: (1) The Latin American Section, and (2) The Ontario Section, and the chairman will be Peter Storck, who will be assisted by archaeologists Kent C. Day, Walter A. Kenyon and David M. Pendergast. For more information write: ROM, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2C6...

FIRST SEASON OF SALVAGE ARCHAEOLOGY IN HONDURAS SULA VALLEY COMPLETED:

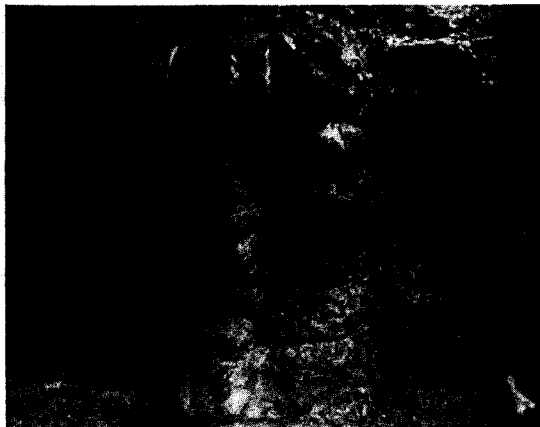
Howard W. Lynn has recently returned to his home in Mesa, Arizona after conducting six months of salvage archaeological investigation for Honduras in the Sula Valley. He was able to test nine sites between Travesia and Lima which he considers to be associated with the Highland Maya complex and reports collecting several excellent carbon samples, which he believes will give him firm dating on Ulua polychrome, bichrome and bold geometric. If funds are available for a second season of work he will return in 1978...

THE COPAN MAPPING PROJECT:

The mapping project of the Maya site of Copan, Honduras, which was first started in 1970, was continued this year by architects Hasso Hohmann and Annegret Vogrin of Graz, Austria. They began the project because they felt the existing maps of Copan were not appropriate for research concerning the architectural and spatial concepts evident in the shape and positioning of single buildings and building groupings. Their early surveys of the site were with geodetic instruments, but this year with the aid of stereo-photogrammetrical equipment it was possible to judge size and shape of unexcavated structures far better. They also mapped tunnels dug by the Carnegie Institution Expedition, and made a photogrammetrical survey of the cross section of the well known "Acropolis" that was eroded on the east side by the Copan River. Present plans are for the maps and research papers to be published by Akademische Druck und Verlagsanstalt in Graz, Austria, and they should be available by the end of 1977...

EXCAVATION OF EARLY MAYA PYRAMID AT CERROS REVEALS LARGE STUCCO MASK:

Excavations during the fourth season (1977) of the Cerros Project in northern Belize have uncovered a large well preserved stucco mask on the facade of a pyramid designated as 5C-2. The pyramid was found underlying a rather deteriorated later structure (5C-1) and has a single out-set stairway on the south side. Exposure of the southwestern wall flanking the stairway revealed a Late Preclassic stucco facade painted in red, black, pink, and orange/yellow on cream, and it was here that the grotesque mask was discovered.



The mask is over 2 m. high and flanked by elaborate ear-plug assemblages and what appears to be a swirling bird. The iconography of the facade shows strong affinities with highland Maya Izapan art, but the mask itself looks like the "great-grandfather" of a mask on Structure 5D-44-2 (Early Classic) at Tikal. The director of the Cerros Project, David A. Freidel of S.M.U., is of the opinion that the total composition is clearly on a direct line to such architectural decoration as seen at the Maya site of Kohunlich, Mexico and believes that this is the first well preserved Late Preclassic architectural decoration (with massive mask) to come to light in the lowlands since the discovery of E-VII sub at Uaxactun in 1927. He presumes that the rest of the 5C-2 structure is also carefully buried and plans to clear and consolidate the pyramid during the Spring of 1978. (NOTE: This 4th season of S.M.U.'s expedition to Cerros was the first phase of an NSF funded investigation of the site which was aimed at disconfirming the hypothesis of Late Preclassic abandonment of Cerros, identification of the community's Late Preclassic organization, and fuller documentation of the monumental architecture at the ruins.)...

"MAYA ARCHITECTURE OF THE CENTRAL YUCATAN PENINSULA, MEXICO":

Now available from the Middle American Research Institute of Tulane University, is publication #44, a monograph by David F. Potter on the Maya architecture of Central Yucatan. It is one of a series of reports on the 1969-1971 National Geographic Society-Tulane University Program of Research in the Rio Bec area of Campeche, Mexico. The project was under the direction of the late E. Wyllys Andrews IV, a well known Mayanist who had perviously conducted archaeological investigations throughout the Yucatan peninsula. The monograph deals primarily with the architecture of Becan and Chicanna, but also presents information on several of the smaller and lesser known sites that are located within the area designated as the Rio Bec. 118 pages, 79 figures, 2 tables. \$10.00. (M.A.R.I., Tulane Univer.)...

MAYANIST MERLE GREENE ROBERTSON AND HUSBAND NOW RESIDING IN PALENQUE:

In order for Merle Greene Robertson to devote full time to her work at Palenque as Research Associate of Tulane University's Middle American Research Institute, she and husband Bob have moved permanently to Mexico with the status of immigrante. Bob has retired from Robert Louis Stevenson School as Dean Emeritus, and during the past few months they have done considerable building at their home, Na Chan-Bahlum, in Palenque, where they have opened and are directing the Pre-Columbian Art Research Center. A large new air conditioned and de-humidified library now contains all of Merle's books, slides and photographs, and complete facilities for drawing and working have also been added. In addition, a six foot square daylight screen has been installed in the Research center along with projectors for both 35 mm and 2½ X 2½ slides. (The Postal address for both the Robertsons and the Pre-Columbian Art Center is Apartado Postal 22, Palenque, Chiapas, Mexico.)...

AAA TO HOLD 76TH ANNUAL MEETING IN HOUSTON, TEXAS:

The 76th annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association will be held at the Hyatt Regency and Sheraton Hotels in Houston, Texas on November 29 - December 3, 1977. A copy of the Preliminary Program for the meeting will be placed on the Editor's Bulletin Board at our Nov. meeting...



NEWSLETTER

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TIME VALUE

