

INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Newsletter



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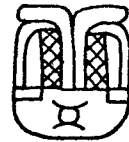
Hal C. Ball, Editor

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(February 15, 1978)



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MEETING NOTICE:

The Institute's February meeting will be held in the Museum of Science auditorium at 8:00 P.M. on Wednesday the 15th. The program for the evening will be presented by Dr. Edward Carroll, who will show an especially interesting series of slides on "The Indian Festival at Coban, Guatemala"...

DR. LEE A. PARSONS TO BE GUEST OF HONOR AT SPECIAL IMS DINNER AND LECTURE:

A special Dinner and Lecture will be held by the Institute at the Marriott Hotel on Sunday night, February 26. Our guest speaker for the evening will be Dr. Lee A. Parsons, Curator of Precolumbian and Primitive Art at the St. Louis Art Museum. Dr. Parson's topic will be: "Post-Olmec Stone Sculpture in Southern Mesoamerica", a subject on which he has written several articles and books. This promises to be an especially interesting and informative evening and we suggest that you mail your reservations in early. The cost is \$12.50 per person for IMS members and \$15.00 for guests. Cocktails will be served (cash bar) at 7:00 P.M. and dinner at 8:00 P.M. All other pertinent information, including Dr. Parson's background in Mesoamerican archaeology, will be found in the brochures that have been mailed to all Institute of Maya Studies members...

IMS MEMBERS FORM NEW TRAVEL SECTION:

A new IMS Travel Section was formed in December of 1977 and on January 11th an organizational meeting was held at the Museum of Science. Twenty-two members attended and a decision was made to have regular meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 8:00 P.M. The chairperson of the group is Fay Hochen, who will be assisted by Nina Meyer and Gerald Wolfson, and the program for the February 8th meeting will be presented by Sid Hollander.

ANCIENT MAYA AND PRECOLUMBIAN DANCES:

A small group of our members are doing research for a program on ancient Maya and Precolumbian dances and would like photographs of ceramic vessels, murals, and stelae that show specific dance positions. For more information contact either Leila Wittenberg or Joan Lévi...

NEW MEMBERS: We wish to extend a sincere welcome to the 21 new members who have recently joined the Institute. A list of their names and addresses will be posted on the February IMS Bulletin Board...

THIRD MESA REDONDA MEETING TO BE HELD IN PALENQUE DURING JUNE:

The Tercera Mesa Redonda de Palenque will be held in Palenque from Sunday, June 11 through Saturday, June 17. The theme of the conference will be: "Art, Hieroglyphs and Historic Approaches of the Late Classic Maya", and as in the past, this year's Mesa Redonda was organized by Merle Greene Robertson. The summarizing Chairman will be Richard E.W. Adams, Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, the U. of Texas at San Antonio. In addition, Giles Healy, discoverer of the murals of Bonampak, will be a special guest at the conference. (Pre-Columbian Art Research Center, Na Chan-Bahlum, Apartado 22, Palenque, Chiapas, Mexico)...

ANDEAN FOLK ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION OPENING AT THE U. OF FLORIDA GALLERY:

A special exhibition of Andean Folk Arts and Crafts will open at the University Gallery in Gainesville on February 26 and continue until April 30. The exhibition will include examples of over 250 items of indigenous folk arts collected in Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, and Columbia. A mini-conference associated with the exhibition will be held on Monday, February 27, at which time four experts in Latin American folk art will present papers...

ARCHAEOASTRONOMY BULLETIN:

John B. Carlson and Ray A. Williamson of the University of Maryland have published their first issue of a new bulletin on archaeoastronomy. Although this new Archaeoastronomy Bulletin is intended to be free, the writers are suggesting a \$3.00 per year donation for the bulletin, which will be distributed 3 or 4 times a year. If interested, write to ARCHAEOASTRONOMY BULLETIN, c/o John B. Carlson, U. of Maryland, College Park, Md. 20742...

IZAPA SCULPTURE: (N.W.A.F. PAPER NO. 30, PART 2):

This is the important second part of the New World Archaeological Foundation's publication number 30 on Izapa Sculpture, and although listed as Part 2: Text, the 360 page monograph contains 245 figures and 26 tables. The author is V. Garth Norman, who describes and analyzes in great detail the various sculptured stones found at the site of Izapa. In the opinion of the Editor, a copy of this volume and its companion Part 1, should be in the library of all scholars interested in Mesoamerica. Sold only as a set, the cost is \$25.00. (N.W.A.F., Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah 84602)...

THE SEA IN THE PRE-COLUMBIAN WORLD:

The Center for Pre-Columbian Studies at Dumbarton Oaks has announced the publication of The Sea in the Pre-Columbian World, a record of conference held on October 26th and 27th, 1974 under the chairmanship of Donald W. Lathrap. The volume was edited by Elizabeth P. Benson and contains 188 pages, 47 illustrations and 3 tables. \$15.00, postpaid. Make checks to: "Dumbarton Oaks", 1703 32nd Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 20007...



THE RUINS OF ECAB:

During the middle of January, the writer, Tony Andrews, Antonio Benavides and two guides made a four day trip to the ruins of Ecab, an abandoned Maya site in the remote northeast part of Quintana Roo, Mexico. Although the site is easily identified from the air by the old abandoned colonial church north of the ruins, it is presently only accessible by boat through a shallow lagoon entered from the Gulf by a narrow inlet called "Boac Iglesias".

There are very little visible architectural remains of the ruins of Ecab, which was first sighted by the Spanish Captain, Cordoba, in 1517, but the large church nearby and the curate's residence are still in a reasonably good state of preservation. These were thoroughly mapped and photographed by the three man team and will be included in a forthcoming publication on Ecab, as will be a history of the site, an analysis of the artifacts and ceramics and other general information relative to what, in 1527, Francisco Motejo described as..."an important Maya trading center"...

EFFECTS OF ANCIENT VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS IN EL SALVADOR BEING STUDIED:

A research project under the direction of Payson D. Sheets, of the University of Colorado, is now being conducted in El Salvador for the purpose of further investigating the effects of ancient volcanic eruptions on the agricultural Maya, and to trace the means used by the Maya to recover from such disasters. Recent research by Sheets indicates that numerous Preclassic Maya settlements have been buried by volcanic ash, but it has not as yet been determined if these ash deposits are from isolated eruptions, or from portions of a massive, complex eruption dating to about A.D. 200-300. Because of past eruptions, however, it seems apparent that abandonment of some of the areas of central and western El Salvador was necessary, but the degree is unknown and also the number of migrants. It is also not known if a remnant population was able to remain in such an area following a major disaster, and it is hoped that the 1978 investigation will reveal evidence to answer some of these perplexing questions...

THE UNIVERSIDAD DEL VALLE DE GUATEMALA:

This is a small private, non-sectarian university directed by Alfredo Mendez-Dominguez (Ph.D. Chicago), which provides courses at the graduate and undergraduate level to Central American students. The Facultad de Ciencias Sociales is now expanding its library for research and teaching and is requesting contributions of books, journals, etc. The Facultad also welcomes fieldworkers to participate in seminars held at the university so that they may share their findings. (A/P 82, Guatemala City, C.A.)...

THE ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY OF PRE-COLUMBIAN MIDDLE AMERICA:

This is a new annotated bibliography compiled by Aubryn Kendall that lists English-language books and periodical articles on the Pre-Columbian art and archaeology of Mexico and Central America. 324 pp. (6 x 9). Published by G. K. Hall & Co., 70 Lincoln St., Boston, Mass. 02111. \$25.00...



THE EL MECO PROJECT:

From July through October of last year, the Centro Regional del Sureste (INAH) conducted investigations at the site of El Meco, located just opposite of Isla Mujeres on the northeast coast of Quintana Roo, Mexico. The purpose of the project was to map the site and delineate the boundaries of the archaeological zone. Salvage work was also carried out, and several structures were partially consolidated. In particular, several sections of the main pyramid, which is in danger of collapsing were reinforced. This crumbling stone structure, sometimes referred to as El Castillo, is the largest of its kind of the northeast coast of the peninsula.

The archaeological team included Patricio Davila, Peter Schmidt, Fernando Robles, Tony Andrews and Rocio Gonzalez de Werner. The analysis of the ceramics, by Robles, confirmed the Late Postclassic date for the construction of most of the architecture; however, a substantial amount of Early Postclassic remains also indicate an earlier settlement during that period. In summary, it appears that El Meco was an important coastal community during the last five centuries prior to the Spanish conquest. Also, it undoubtedly served as a port of embarkation for the island of Isla Mujeres, and was a major node in the coastal trade routes around the northeast coast of the Yucatan peninsula. (Courtesy of Tony Andrews---Merida, Mexico)...



NEWSLETTER

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TIME VALUE

