

INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Newsletter

Hal C. Ball, Editor

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(June 21, 1978)



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JUNE MEETING NOTICES:

The regular monthly meeting of the Institute will be held in the Museum of Science auditorium on Wednesday the 21st at 8:00 P.M. The IMS Travel Section's meeting will be held at 8:00 P.M. on Wednesday the 14th in Room 7116 of the Ponce de Leon Jr. High Community School. (5801 Augusto Ave., Coral Gables). A program will be presented by Norman Le Fevre on an IMS trip made to the Maya sites of Copan, Quirigua, Xunantunich and Altun Ha. The Art Section meeting is scheduled for Tuesday the 27th, and the location will be announced at the regular monthly meeting in June. Meetings of the Archaeological Section will not be held during the summer months of June, July and August, but will begin again in September, and information on the Hieroglyphic Section may be obtained from the chairman, Charles Lacombe...

SPECIAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE MAYA SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER:

On October 19, 20, and 21, the Institute of Maya Studies will present a special symposium on the Maya in the auditorium of the Museum of Science. The three sessions of the symposium will be held in the evening at 8:00 P.M. and the participants will be Richard E.W. Adams, Elizabeth Benson, Michael Coe, Norman Hammond, David Kelly and George Stuart, all of whom are well known authorities on the Maya and Mesoamerica. There will be three lectures for each of the first two nights, and the information will be all new material that has not previously been presented to the public and never before published. On the third night, all six of the guest speakers will participate in a Moderated Panel Discussion, which will be followed by a "Pageant of the Ancient Maya", consisting of dances and celebrations of the Maya performed by the Quetzal Dance Ensemble. The evening will end with a Champagne Reception, which will provide an opportunity for members and guests to become acquainted with the speakers. Further information regarding tickets and other details of the symposium may be obtained by contacting the Program Chairperson, Karyn Kaplin, at 538-5837...

COROZAL PROJECT CONTINUING IN BELIZE:

A recent grant from the National Geographic Society, plus continued financial backing by other organizations and universities, has enabled the Corozal Project to begin a new three year program in Belize. The Director is Norman Hammond, who has set up a new field camp near Orange Walk...

THE SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY MEETING: 1978:

The forty-third Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology was held in Tuscon, Arizona on May 4-6 and was attended by some 1,500 persons. There were several symposia and general sessions of interest to Mayanists and seven members of the IMS registered at the meeting, including the Editor, who read a paper on "Archaeological Investigations at Lamanai, Belize". The 1979 meeting will be held during May in Vancouver, Canada...

MAYAN WORKSHOP ON LINGUISTICS TO BE HELD IN GUATEMALA IN JULY:

The third Mayan Workshop under the auspices of the Department of Linguistics of the University of Oregon, will be held at the Centro San Benito in Coba, Alta Verapaz, Guatemala - July 3 through 7. The organizer of this year's Workshop is Sandra Pinkerton, and papers will be presented on such topics as 1) "Mayan Grammar: Prospect and Retrospect", 2) "The Current State of Mayan Comparative Phonology", and 3) "The Tojolabal-Mata Texts and Dictionary Project". For more information and/or registration forms, write to: Steve Stewart, Calle de los Pasos #18, Antigua, Guatemala, C.A...

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST FROM BELIZE:

Two publications are presently available from Belize that often contain interesting articles pertaining to Maya archaeology and ethnology. The most popular one is Belizean Studies, which is issued six times a year and usually consists of about 35 pages, including several line drawings and photographs. The subscription price is \$5.00 (U.S.) per year. A second publication is The Journal of Belizean Affairs, which is usually issued twice a year and sells for \$1.50 (U.S.) per individual copy. The latest of this series is a special issue on "The Rio Hondo Project: An Investigation of the Maya of Northern Belize". Other papers and articles on the Maya are also at times included in the Occasional Papers series; No. 4 describing the excavations at Hokeb-Ha. Subscriptions and correspondence should be sent to: Richard Buhler, S.J., St. John's College, Belize City, Belize CA.

MONOGRAPH SERIES ON KAMINALJUYU:

A new monograph series on the important archaeological site of Kaminaljuyu, Guatemala, has been undertaken by the Pennsylvania State University Press, and has been inaugurated by the reprinting of the classic Excavations at Kaminaljuyu, Guatemala, by Kidder, Jennings, and Shook. (\$20.00) Also available is Teotihuacan and Kaminaljuyu: A Study in Culture Contact, edited by W. T. Sanders and J. W. Michels (\$12.95). Two others in the series are scheduled for release ca. July of this year, one on Settlement Pattern Excavations at Kaminaljuyu, Guatemala and the other on The Ceramics of Kaminaljuyu. Both contain 480 pages, numerous illustrations and are listed at \$12.95 each. P.S.U. Press, 215 Wagner Bldg., University Park, Pa. 16802...

THE AZTEC AND MAYA PAPERMAKERS:

The republication of this book by Victor W. von Hagen is now available from Hacker Art Books, Inc. The price is \$20.00 until June 30, 1978...



PRE-HISPANIC MEXICAN STAMP DESIGNS:

A new and revised edition of Frederick V. Field's interesting book on Pre-Hispanic Mexican Stamp Designs is now available from Dover Publications, Inc. in New York City. The book is divided into 16 different categories, including serpents, monkeys, birds, flowers, personages, geometric patterns and various other forms. In addition to the text, which describes each of the classifications of the clay stamps, there are over 600 illustrations that show designs as they were depicted by native artists from the Olmec period through that of the Aztecs. Almost all of the illustrations have been reproduced from actual impressions made from the original designs and are from stamps that were either flat, with a handle on the opposite side, or of a cylindrical shape that was rolled to produce the design. Although there are still a large number of stamp designs

for which there is no explanation, all of them are of particular interest to artists and craftsmen of today, and they are often used in the decoration of ceramics, leather, metal, textiles and other materials. (xiv - 208 pp., 602 illustrations, map, bibliography. 8 3/8 x 11 1/4 paperbound. \$4.00)...

RADAR MAPPING IN GUATEMALA TO AID IN LOCATING MAYA RUINS:

The second mission of using highly sophisticated radar mapping for locating and recording Maya archaeological sites in northern Guatemala has now been completed, and the processing and interpreting of the collected data is being done at a laboratory in California. The project was first organized in September of 1977, when Walter E. Brown (NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory) and Bruce H. Dahlin (Catholic University) made arrangements with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for the funding and use of a specially equipped Convair CV-990 to fly a remote sensing mission over Peten, Guatemala. Subsequently, the first flight was made in October of 1977 and the results were encouraging enough for a second mission to be planned for April of 1978. Besides Dahlin, the three other original members of the project are: Richard E. W. Adams (U. of Texas at San Antonio), T. Patrick Culbert (U. of Arizona) and Barbara Stark (Arizona State U.). Adams, however, was the only one of the four who found it convenient to accompany the crew on the second flight in April, which was under the direction of Mission Chief Louis C. Haughney. Dr. Brown (NASA) was also on the second mission, as was Colonel Rene Aguiluz, Director of the Geographic Institute in Guatemala City. The flight was made over the Departments of Peten and Alta Verapaz at an altitude of 24,000 feet.

The primary remote sensing instrumentation in the especially equipped airplane, is a highly advanced, synthetic aperture, side-looking airborne



Fig. 1 - Toltec stamp.

radar (SLAR) which has the potential for punching through the dense forest canopy to image cultural features directly below. It is thus able to "see" features that are not apparent in regular aerial photography and also has the advantage of being able to penetrate clouds and other bad weather formations that block ordinary photographic work. The exact location of the radar mapping is recorded by computers, thus enabling archaeologists to investigate possible ruins on the ground with a minimum of time spent in searching through the jungle for them. The results of the second mission should be known in another month and when available will be published in a forthcoming issue of the Newsletter...

4,000 YEAR OLD PETROGLYPHS FOUND IN PERU:

A large number of petroglyphs have been found in the desert of Quirigua north of Truji-lo that are reported to be some 4,000 years old. They are relatively well preserved and depict anthropomorphic figures, animals, plants, and various geometric designs. Fragments of pottery recovered near the petroglyphs have been dated to prior to the Mochica culture of Peru, and some of the carved figures have been said to remind one of those found in the Sacred Valley of the Obelisks of Kenete. The petroglyphs were discovered by Luis Alejandro Torres, who also found the remains of approximately 4 kms of an old Inca road that leads to a rocky pass now called "Sendero del Sol".



NEWSLETTER

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TIME VALUE

