

INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Newsletter



MULUK

Hal C. Ball, Editor

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MEETING NOTICE:

The September meeting of the Institute will be held in the Museum of Science auditorium at 8:00 P.M. on Wednesday the 20th. Our special guest for the evening will be Mr. Bill Sporer, President of the International Explorers Club and well known traveler and adventurer. Mr. Sporer will present a two part program; the first consisting of a lecture and slide presentation on his hot air balloon flight over the Andes, and the second, a showing of the ABC network film on the "Discovery of the Lost White City," including interesting aspects of the Chorotega culture of Mesoamerica...

"NEW HORIZONS IN THE MAYA WORLD":

Ticket sales for the Institute's October symposium, "New Horizons in the Maya World", are scheduled to close on September 15th and we urge all members to attend and support the IMS by making your reservations as soon as possible. This symposium promises to be the most important activity the Institute has ever undertaken, and as you know from the previously enclosed literature, will feature lectures by seven outstanding authorities in the field of Maya and Mesoamerican studies. Why not send in your check today?

ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION MEETING:

There will be a meeting of the IMS Archaeology Section in the Museum's Plaza Maya at 8:00 P.M. on Wednesday September 27th. The topic for the evening will be "Pre-Columbian Murals of Mesoamerica", and a slide program, with emphasis on Bonampak, will be presented by Hal Ball...

TRAVEL SECTION MEETING:

The next meeting of the Travel Section will be held in the Ponce de Leon Community Center on Wednesday September 13 at 8:00 P.M. A program will be presented by Sedge Duckworth on a trip he made with Nick Hellmuth to the Maya sites of Quirigua, Yaxha, Nakum, Topoxte, Xunantunich and Uaxactun...

A CORRECTION RE: THE EL SALVADOR "MARIMBA FIESTA" TOUR:

Please be advised that the travel leaflet on the "Marimba Fiesta" tour that the Mailing Committee sent with the August issue of the Newsletter, was incorrect in referring to El Salvador's National Museum as a Mayan Archaeological Museum. Sorry if this was misleading...

THE MESOAMERICAN PILOTS ASSOCIATION:

A Mesoamerican Pilots Association was recently organized in Palenque and the first Newsletter was mailed in July. The founding members of the newly formed organization are: Robert C. Aldrich, Claude F. Baudez, Wm. M. Ferguson, Robert S. Moore, Jr., John Q. Royce, David M. Schele, Nancy P. Torike and Hal C. Ball. More information in a forthcoming IMS Newsletter...

MEXICO TODAY:

A symposium entitled MEXICO TODAY will open in Washington, D.C. on September 29 and is reported to be the largest and most comprehensive presentation of contemporary Mexico ever to be organized in the U.S. In addition to the symposium there will also be a variety of other activities, including numerous art exhibitions, film showings, folk music and dance performances. The sponsor is Meridian House International of Washington, D.C.

TWO BOOKS ON THE TZELTAL INDIANS OF TENEJAPA (CHIAPAS, MEXICO):

1. Love in the Armpit: Tzeltal Tales of Love, Murder and Cannibalism
iii plus 27 pages, 2 figures, 1977. \$1.40
2. Tzeltal Tales of Demons and Monsters. iii plus 40 pages, 2 figs.,
1978. \$2.00.

Both written by Brian Stross and presented in Tzeltal and English. From Museum of Anthropology, 104 Swallow Hall, Columbia, Missouri, 65201...

WORK CONTINUES DURING SUMMER AT THREE EL SALVADOR SITES:

Stanley Boggs, A/C of El Salvador, reports that archaeological investigations have continued through the summer at San Andres, Cihuatan and Chapernalito. At San Andres, where Richard Crane is directing the work, about 2/3 of the South Plaza has now been excavated, and recent digging has revealed strange looking low post-occupation platforms. On top of some of these were the remains of ceramic vessels that possibly date to the Post-classic Period, and a thorough analysis of these will be made in the National Museum in San Salvador at a later date. Trenching has also continued in Str. 7 and new burials and caches have been uncovered, but nothing so far to compare with the beautiful Maya type scepter flint that was discovered last year. (See IMS N/L Vol. 6, No. 10). Some restoration is also being done at the site, and minor repairing of some of the structures that were excavated when the site was first investigated some years ago.

Two groups are working at Cihuatan, one under the supervision of Karen Bruhns and the other William Fowler. Bruhns' project is in the habitation zone, where an environmental study is being made in conjunction with an investigation of the subsidiary centers. Fowler has been devoting most of his time to cleaning off Cihuatan's Strs. P-1, P-2 and the North Ball Court, where very peculiar plans for superstructures have been found.

The shell mounds at Chapernalito still are producing great quantities of pottery, much of it polychrome, and also an appreciable amount of faunal remains. Because of the importance of the Chapernalito material, a house has been rented at nearby La Union to serve as staff residence and store room...

THE FACADES AND MASKS OF CERROS:

As archaeological investigations continued during the fifth season at the Maya site of Cerros, in northern Belize, the facades of Structure 5C-2nd were completely exposed and found to represent definite directional symbolism. Thus, according to David A. Freidel, Director of the project, the west facades contrast with the eastern ones, and the upper (northern) facades contrast with the lower (southern) ones. Also of special interest, was that the glyphs uncovered on two of the facades appear to resemble some described by Michael Coe on an Izapan style were-jaguar, and on the cheek of the lower east mask was a beautiful large Kin glyph. Another new discovery this year was that an isolated 10 m. high pyramid within the settlement zone had well preserved stucco decorations and masks in a style that is currently unique, but iconographically tied into the aforementioned Structure 5C-2nd. The best preserved of these masks is a realistic jaguar that resembles the Zegache vase in Oaxaca, and the second mask, which is not yet completely exposed, looks like a manatee or duck-billed character.

Besides the exposure of the facades and masks at Cerros this year, other investigations revealed a canal perimeter around the core of the dispersed settlement that appeared to be part of an elaborate fresh water management system on the peninsula (but not a defensible barrier). In addition, two sacbes were found that connected fairly substantial household compounds, and much new information was obtained on architectural variability in the household compounds within the dispersed settlement part of the site. All of the matrix excavated this year was floated, and Freidel reports that there was a good preservation of maize and other plants, all dating to the Early Preclassic Period. He also believes that he has now established direct ceramic ties to the peculiar Chicanel assemblages found only in the middens near the salt sources on the northwest coast of Yucatan...

MESOAMERICAN COMMUNICATION ROUTES AND CULTURAL CONTACTS:

This is the latest publication (No. 40) of Brigham Young University's Papers of The New World Archaeological Foundation series. It was edited by Thomas A. Lee, Jr. and Carlos Navarrete, and consists primarily of a collection of papers presented at a symposium on the subject of "Routes of Communication and Cultural Contact in Mesoamerica". The symposium was held at the 40th International Congress of Americanists in Rome in 1972, and the papers cover several different aspects of the contacts made between the principal cultures of Mesoamerica, with particular emphasis on trade relations and routes of travel. 265 pp., numerous figures, maps and references...

SOCIAL PROCESS IN MAYA PREHISTORY:

Compiled in honor of the late mayanist, Sir Eric Thompson, this book consists of 25 essays written by leading scholars in the field of Maya studies. Edited by Norman Hammond, the papers cover a wide range of topics, including social and economic aspects, artistic and intellectual achievements, sculpture and painting. 622 pp. Academic Press, \$54.75...

TWO IMPORTANT STUDIES ON THE MAYA CIVILIZATION REPRINTED BY DOVER:

Dover Publications, Inc., 180 Varick Street, New York, N.Y. 10014, has announced the reprinting of Friar Diego de Landa's book called Yucatan Before and After the Conquest, and An Outline Dictionary of Maya Glyphs. The Landa book is being published for the first time in English, and will include the geography and natural history of Yucatan, an account of the Conquest, and various Maya subjects such as religion, customs, commerce, food and clothing. It was translated by William Gates, who added several appendixes which add to and document Landa's work. \$3.00.

An Outline Dictionary of Maya Glyphs was originally published in Baltimore in 1931 in an edition of only 207 copies, and today is considered a very rare book. It was written by William Gates, one of the early pioneers in Mayan linguistics, who used as a groundwork for deciphering the codices, a tabulation of all character variants in an attempt to interrelate the meanings with Maya culture. Although much new material has been uncovered since the book was written, it is still an important and useful source of information for research. \$3.50...

NEW BOOK ON MONTE ALBAN PUBLISHED BY ACADEMIC PRESS:

Monte Alban: Settlement Patterns at the Ancient Zapotec Capital, is a new book by Richard E. Blanton that presents the results of the first phase of the Valley of Oaxaca Settlement Pattern Project. 480 pp., \$24.50...

NEWSLETTER

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