

INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

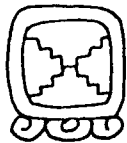
Newsletter

Hal C. Ball, Editor

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MEETING NOTICE:

In lieu of the Institute's regularly scheduled meeting this month, a special 3 day symposium, "New Horizons in the Maya World", will be presented on October 19-21. Tickets are still available for the symposium, and members are again reminded of this excellent opportunity to hear lectures by seven well known authorities on Maya and Mesoamerican studies. For more information, contact Karyn Kaplan, 866-0542, or the Editor, 758-2418...

IMS SECTION MEETINGS:

Hieroglyphics: Oct. 6, Rm. 10002, Ponce Jr. High Community Center.

Archaeology: Oct. 25, Plaza Maya, Museum of Science.

Travel: Nov. 8, Rm. 1107, Ponce Jr. High Community Center.

(Note: All meetings begin promptly at 8:00 P.M....)

MEMBERS DONATE ADDITIONAL BOOKS TO LIBRARY:

We wish to acknowledge with thanks the donation of books to our library by Robert Moore, Larry Hochen and Hal Ball...

IMS MEMBER NAMED AS ASSISTANT ARCHAEOLOGIST FOR DADE COUNTY:

Irving Eyster, long time member of the IMS and president of the Museum's Archaeological Society, has recently been appointed to the position of Assistant Archaeologist for Dade County. Congratulations and "good digging".

MIAMI TRAVEL AGENCY OFFERS IMS MEMBERS "TOUR TO PERU":

A nine day "Tour of Peru" has been offered to members of IMS and is scheduled to include visits to Machu Piccu, Pachacamac, Sacsahuaman, Nasca and Lima museums. Contact CIA Travel Agency, Inc., telephone (305) 232-2111.

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE APPOINTS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Dr. David J. Frantz has been appointed as the Museum of Science's new Executive Director, and was introduced to members of the Board of Trustees at a luncheon meeting on September 18th. Dr. Frantz was formerly the Director of the International Space Hall of Fame in Alamogordo, New Mexico, and has also served as Director at the Adler Planetarium in Chicago and the Detroit Science Center. We welcome Dr. Frantz and his family to Miami and the Museum, and wish him success in his new position...



EXCAVATIONS AT CIHUATAN, EL SALVADOR - 1978:

The second season of excavations in the residential zone of Cihuatán, a large Early Postclassic site in Central El Salvador, was completed under the direction of Karen Olsen Bruhns, San Francisco State University. Attention this season was focused on the area to the west of the Western Ceremonial Center. The probable location of the main market of Cihuatán, on a broad terrace immediately outside the western wall of the Ceremonial Center, was identified, and a large structure, P-16, associated with the market was completely excavated. It was found to have been partly residential but also to have contained a large obsidian workshop, apparently specializing in the manufacture of wood working tools.

Three domestic structures in the western residential zone were also excavated, as were the patio areas and secondary structures associated with them. The house cluster, located along a large boulder terrace, was found to have been suddenly destroyed by fire, and large numbers of whole vessels had been smashed in place on the floor of the houses and the kitchen structures by the collapsing walls and roofs. A second, smaller, obsidian workshop was found in one of the houses along with an unusually large number of spindle whorls. Two carbon samples associated with the destruction of the houses were recovered and radiocarbon determinations will be run by the Universidad Nacional de El Salvador. Bruhns believes that excavations in both the residential zones and in the Western Ceremonial Center indicate that Cihuatán was only occupied for a relatively short period, and she hopes that further work on the site will help delineate the terminal Classic and the very Early Postclassic events on the southern frontier of Mesoamerica...

UNA GUIA GENEALOGICO-HISTORICA DE LATINAMERICA:

This book is reported to be the first publication of its kind printed especially for the Spanish-Portuguese peoples of the Americas. The author is Lyman De Platt, and the book consists of a comprehensive guide to research procedures and records of Latin America. It is divided into two major parts, the first section dealing with procedures for doing and recording research, and the second a presentation of a country-by-country analysis, giving a brief history of each one and listing its major archives. Tables, index, 308 pp. \$6.95. Acoma Books, P.O. Box 4, Ramona, Cal. 92065...

MIXTEC CODICES WORKSHOP TO BE HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS (AUSTIN):

A Workshop on Mixtec Codices will be held at the University of Texas in Austin during the week of November 6-10. The Workshop will present a series of non-technical lectures pertaining to various aspects of the Mixtec codices and discuss some of the problems that have been encountered...

"PERU'S GOLDEN TREASURES":

A special collection of pre-Columbian gold from the Museo del Oro in Bogota will be on exhibit in the New Orleans Museum of Art from January 14 to April 15, 1979. The collection consists of 222 gold artifacts, covers a span of 2,000 years and reveals the art of five different cultures...

ROM COMPLETES FIFTH SEASON AT LAMANAI:

The Royal Ontario Museum of Toronto, Canada, has now completed its fifth season of archaeological investigations at the Maya site of Lamanai and will begin the sixth season in January of 1979. Work this year consisted principally of continued excavations of the pyramidal structures referred to as Lag and Fut, and the two mounds that comprise the small ball court in the plaza south of Lag. There was also a deep trench dug into the Lip pyramid in order to better clarify some of the features encountered in 1977 and look for earlier structures that might have been buried during later construction.

Considerable progress was made this season in the excavation of the imposing 33 meter high pyramid called Lag (Str. N9-43). Most of the work was concentrated on the upper part, where a narrow central stairway and flanking terraces were found that led to a small floor at the top. On both sides of the stairway, fragmentary elements of two stucco masks were uncovered, but because of their poor condition what they depicted cannot yet be determined. Facing inward towards the central section are the remains of two small temples, a somewhat unusual arrangement for this type of Maya architecture. Very little of the eastern temple was found, but enough of the western one was intact to determine the size and construction of the small chambered building and the terraced platform which supported it. An abundance of potsherds and restorable Postclassic bowls were found at the base of the pyramid, but some of the ceramic material uncovered at the top dated back to the Preclassic Period.

While excavations were proceeding at Lag, work was also being done on the Fut pyramid, a complex structure near the northern boundary of the site. Stairways and temples on the west side of the pyramid indicated at least two major construction phases, and some architectural features were still well preserved. An interesting note on the two room building that was built on top of the earlier structures, was that the wall between the two rooms was 120 cm. thick, but the width of the rear room was only 32 cm.! Near the last part of the season, a large grey mask was exposed at the southwest corner of Fut. It was found in good condition and made up of well carved stones that had been covered with a relatively thin coating of plaster.

Excavation of the only ball court at Lamanai revealed that it was of the open-end type and comparatively small, with the width of the playing area measuring only about 3 meters. In the center was a large flat circular marker stone having a diameter of 1½ m. (More on Lamanai in later issues)...



Small adorno from Lamanai.

THE 1978 MICIELO PROJECT IN SOUTHERN GUATEMALA:

This project, which was mentioned in the January 1978 issue of the IMS NEWSLETTER, was designed principally to verify and strengthen the information gained from previously excavated material which had been lost in a laboratory fire at the University of Missouri (Columbia). This year's excavations were successful in verifying a sequence of occupation from the Middle Preclassic through the Late Classic Periods, and at the bottom of Unit W, ceramic artifacts were uncovered that are believed to date back to the Early Preclassic.

Crews working in the elite residential area of the site continued to recover poorly preserved human remains with elaborate funerary offerings. These offered direct evidence of the existence of trade routes reaching from the south coast of Guatemala to the Quiche highlands, the Chama-Peten lowlands, the Middle Motagua Valley, the Valley of Guatemala and into southwestern Honduras and El Salvador. A well preserved burial in Unit Z proved to be of an older woman (over 55), who had been extremely arthritic, and also suffering from a tuberculosis-like disease which is believed to be responsible for several strange holes in her skull.

The project was under the direction of Gary Walters, and besides work at Micielo, the Guatemalan south coast sites of Obero, Madre Viejo, Nancintle and Chiquihuistlan were surveyed, mapped and surface collections obtained. (Information courtesy of Lawrence H. Feldman)...

NEWSLETTER

Institute of Maya Studies

Museum of Science

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