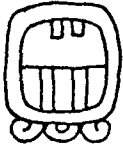


INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES

OF THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Newsletter



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MEETING NOTICES:

The regular monthly meeting of the Institute will be held in the Museum of Science auditorium at 8:00 P.M. on Wednesday the 13th. Our special guest for the evening will be Dr. Susan M. Pelizza, who will present a program on "The Celestial Serpent".

There will be a meeting of the IMS Travel Section at the home of Lewis and Nina Meyer on December the 5th, at 8:00 P.M. A slide program on Peru will be presented by John Gunn, and all members are welcome...

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED TO IMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

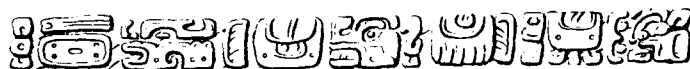
At the Institute's Annual Meeting on November 15th, the following members were elected to serve on the board of directors for a term of 3 years. Beverly Little, Robert Kohler, Karyn Kaplan, Samuel Grossman, Irving Eyster, and Julius Blustein...

LIBRARY NEWS:

The Institute's Library Committee has announced that effective in January of 1979, orders taken for the purchase of books for members will be mailed to the publishers on the first day of each month. The persons ordering such books will be notified when they are received and it is necessary for them to pick up and pay for them within a reasonable length of time or they will be sold to others and lose their privilege of ordering future books through the library. Check with the Librarian for new hours for 1979..

FESTIVE DINNER DANCE TO COMMEMORATE PLAZA MAYA GALLERY:

In celebration of the completion of the first five-year phase of the Plaza Maya Gallery, a special Festive Dinner Dance has been planned for Friday December 8 at the Museum of Science. The Dinner will be honoring Pan American Bancshares Inc., whose generous grant made possible the construction of the Plaza Maya Gallery, and also paying tribute to Guatemala and El Salvador for their contributions. The outdoor patio adjoining the Gallery will have its premiere opening and will feature a permanent exhibit of a large model of Palace 1D from Tazumal, El Salvador, plus several actual-size reproductions of Pre-Columbian carved stones from the country.



MAYA CARVED ALTAR MOVED FROM CARACOL TO BELMOPAN:

A large carved stone altar, which was discovered at the Maya site of Caracol by the late Dr. Linton Satterthwaite in the early 1950's, has recently been unearthed and moved to the Belize capitol at Belmopan. It had been deliberately buried some 25 years ago by University of Pennsylvania archaeologists in an effort to keep it hidden from looters and its location was determined from old notes and records compiled by the present Archaeological Commissioner, Elizabeth Graham. The huge stone was airlifted out of the jungle by an R.A.F. helicopter and is estimated to weigh 1,300 kilograms, or about 2,800 pounds.

The Caracol site is located in the Vaca Plateau of the Maya Mountains of southern Belize and was discovered in 1938 by mahogany cutters and A.H. Anderson, who at the time was a District Commissioner. It apparently was a large ceremonial center and has at least five principal courts. There are several palace and temple structures, a ball court and three groups of small mounds in the near-by hills. Fifty-two different stone monuments have been discovered midst the ruins, including 22 stelae, 19 altars and 11 others that are unclassified.

Of particular interest at Caracol, are the 14 large glyph altars, and it is one of these that was removed to Belmopan. All of the altars had been carved with a giant Ahau glyph associated with a bar-dot date that was recorded in the Maya "short count" style. The earliest of these that the archaeologists have been able to recognize, is one that is equivalent to the Gregorian date of A.D. 534. However, the editor was not able to determine from the photograph that appeared with the article about the altar in THE NEW BELIZE, what the bar-dot combination was above the large Ahau glyph.

Funds are now being sought for extensive excavation at Caracol, and it is hoped that work may be started sometime in 1979...

XNAHEB AHSE ENEL:

Although the ruins of Xnaheb Ahse Enel were discovered some two years ago, nothing was published on the site until an article appeared in the August issue of the Belize magazine BRUKDOWN. It was written by Jamie Awe, who tells of finding the ruins while on a hunting trip in the vicinity of Nim Li Punit. This, at the time, was a newly discovered Maya ruin in the Toledo District north of Punta Gorda, where Awe had been sent to supervise the clearing of the site's mounds and stelae. As was his custom while he was there, he spent Sunday afternoons hunting, and on this particular day he decided to explore an unfamiliar trail that led into the bush from the Southern Highway. It was not until he left the trail to follow a gibnut, however, that he suddenly and quite unexpectedly came across the new ruins. Near the center of the overgrown plaza he had accidently stumbled into, he found 3 stelae, one of which was carved, and not far from these he climbed to the top of a high mound that gave him a view of the Caribbean Sea, almost ten miles away. A quick reconnaissance of the immediate area indicated that the ruins were the remains of a small ceremonial center and he

continued exploring the site and looking for additional stelae until dusk. He then returned to his camp at Nim Li and a few days later had an opportunity to report his discovery to the Archaeological Commissioner in Belmopan.

Two months after Awe's initial discovery of the site, he returned for a short visit and to show the ruins to the late Dennis Puleston and two of his friends. Since that time, no work was done at the site until this season, when a member of the Cuello Project made a latex mold of the carved stelae and a test pit and partial survey was made by a group from the U. of Texas (Austin). From preliminary investigations, it appears that the architecture and building material are similar to that of nearby Nim Li Punit and Lubaantun, and very possibly contemporaneous with the Nim Li Punit ruins. Oh yes, the name? The three words, Xnaheb Ahse Enel, are Kekchi Maya for "the place of laughter", a name that seemed appropriate to Awe because of an amusing incident that occurred on his second visit to the site...

THIRD WORKSHOP ON MAYA HIEROGLYPHS TO BE HELD IN 1979:

The Institute of Latin American Studies at the University of Texas in Austin, has announced that because of the success of the two prior Workshops on Maya hieroglyphs, the Institute will sponsor a third Workshop in March of 1979. The dates and precise format will be announced in the fall and further information may be obtained by writing Dr. Nancy Troike, C/o ILAS, The University of Texas, Austin, Texas 78712...

NEW CATALOGUE ON YUCATAN CAVES AND ROCK ART TO BE PUBLISHED:

Matthias Strecker, of the University of Hamburg, Germany, has compiled a new catalogue on the caves and rock art of the Yucatan peninsula and it is expected to be published early next year. The catalogue will be divided into two parts, the first including a list of "Sitios del Arte Rupestre en la peninsula de Yucatan" and "Cuesas de la peninsula de Yucatan", and the second a Bibliographia.

Strecker began his investigation of the caves and rock art in the Yucatan peninsula in March of 1976, and discovered several new rock carvings and paintings during that year. He has continued his research since then and recorded much new data on the subject. His catalogue will contain information on the caves and rock art of the entire Yucatan peninsula, including sites in the Mexican states of Yucatan, Campeche and Quintana Roo, plus others located in Belize. The publication will be in Spanish and an announcement will be made when it is available for purchase...

CODEX VINDOBONENSIS MEXICANUS I - A COMMENTARY:

The Institute for Mesoamerican Studies has announced the publication of the first book in English on the Mixtec Pictorial Codex Vienna. The author is Jill Leslie Furst and it consists of 366 pp., 15 plates, 103 ills., 50 tables, Bibliography and Index. \$10.10 postpaid. Order from: IMS, State U. of New York at Albany, Albany, N.Y. 12222...



PRE-COLUMBIAN ART SESSION PLANNED FOR CAA MEETING:

A Pre-Columbian Art Session chaired by Elizabeth P. Benson, Center for Pre-Columbian Studies at Dumbarton Oaks has been scheduled for the 1979 annual meeting of the College Art Association. The meeting will be held in Washington, D.C. on January 31-February 3, and will include several different art history sessions...

F.L.A.A.R. ISSUES NEW GUIDEBOOK TO MAYA ARCHAEOLOGY:

In November the Foundation for Latin American Anthropological Research released Nicholas Hemmuth's new Guidebook to Maya Archaeology. The book describes and gives supplementary information on 25 Maya sites located in various parts of Central America, with special emphasis on Tikal and Copan. 8½ x 11 inches, 214 pp. Numerous maps, line drawings and black and white photographs. \$25.00. F.L.A.A.R., 5 Conway Lane, St. Louis, Mo. 63124...

PAPERS ON MAYAN LINGUISTICS:

This is a publication on Mayan linguistics that contains 12 papers on history and structure and 7 on languages, or language groups. It was edited by Nora C. England, and language or language groups noted in the book include Yucatec, Quichean, Ixil, Kekchi, Tojolabab1, Mam, Cakchiquel and Tzeltal. v plus 310 pages. 1978. \$10.50. Museum of Anthropology, U. of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri 65211...



NEWSLETTER

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