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"Birth of the Maya" with Marta Barber



Jim Reed,
Editor

Mesoamericans Savored Chocolate Before 1,000 BC

Chocolate drinks – probably fermented ones – were popular far earlier than thought, says team of researchers.

By **Kathleen Maclay**, Media Relations,
University of California, Berkeley

Mesoamerican menus featured fermented cacao beverages at least as early as 1,100 BC – some 500 years earlier than previously documented anywhere – according to new research published in the latest issue of the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

"The findings of this study take us near the time of the probable initial use of cacao in Mesoamerica," they write about cacao's introduction to the region of Central America and southern Mexico that was home to Olmec, Maya and Aztec civilizations. A previous investigation confirmed the consumption of cacao at 600 BC in Belize.

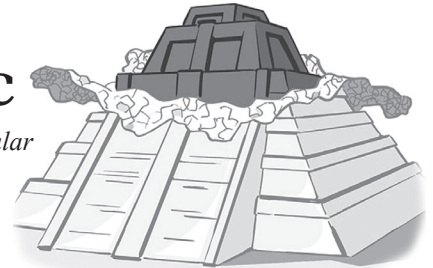
While pre-Columbian texts and preserved depictions document the importance of cacao in Mesoamerican society in the millennium before the Spanish invaded, scientists have had to apply other means to reconstruct the earlier history of cacao, the botanical source of chocolate,

which is produced from the seeds of the rainforest's *Theobroma cacao* tree.

This team conducted a chemical analysis of residues extracted from 13 pottery fragments from bowls, jars and bottles retrieved from different groups of buildings in two widely separated excavation areas in the small but wealthy village of Puerto Escondido in northern Honduras's fertile



This drawing shows a Barraca brown burnished type bottle from an unidentified site in northern Honduras that corresponds to a type produced between 1,400 and 1,100 BC at Puerto Escondido. (Courtesy of Yolanda Tovar.)



The paper, "Chemical and archaeological evidence from the earliest cacao beverages," summarizes the landmark research of anthropologists Rosemary Joyce of the University of California, Berkeley, and John S. Henderson an anthropology professor of Cornell University, as well as of Gretchen R. Hall, a research associate with the Museum Applied Science Center for Archaeology at the University of Pennsylvania Museum, W. Jeffrey Hurst of the Hershey Foods Technical Center in Philadelphia, and Patrick E. McGovern, a senior research scientist and adjunct associate professor of anthropology at the Museum Applied Science Center for Archaeology.



This Bodega burnished type bottle from an unidentified site in northern Honduras corresponds to a type produced between 900 and 200 B.C. at Puerto Escondido. (Courtesy of John S. Henderson.)

lower Rio Ulúa Valley. The valley has been documented as a major zone of cacao cultivation in the 16th century.

The residues, similar to the tea stains on a cup, were retrieved by
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Update to the Taino site discovery first reported last month:

Puerto Rico Site Opens Window into Taino Culture

An Atlanta-area archaeology firm working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has uncovered the outlines of a very large Taino ball court and ceremonial site, complete with human graves, trash mounds, building imprints and a few carved petroglyphs that are among the most intricate and detailed ever discovered in the region.

The 2008 IMS Directors and Officers will be announced in the February issue, here are the **2007 IMS Directors and Officers:**

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Elsa Jiménez, a public affairs officer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, points to one of the most interesting carvings.



A row of standing stones. The site will now be protected, and is considered one of the finest found of the Taino culture.

“Suddenly it went from a very good site to an extraordinary site,” said Chris Espenshade, who led a team of archaeologists and workers at the dig this past summer and fall. “Part of what makes it extraordinary is that we have everything here, the midden (refuse) mound, the *batey* (ceremonial site), the house patterns, the burials and the rock art.”

“This is a premium site,” said Aida Belén Rivera, an archaeologist with the Puerto Rican Office of Historical Conservation. “It’s a piece of flat land next to the river, a lovely site. In my opinion it’s too large and too important to have served just the immediate area. It could’ve been regional in scope. It’s intriguing.”

The Taino Indians were part of the Arawak people who settled the Caribbean, most likely venturing from the northern coast of South America, their canoes carried by ocean currents onto the string of islands that curve like an arc through the tropical sea.

Several indigenous villages have been uncovered on Puerto Rico and other islands, but the recent find by the banks of the Portugues River appears to be one of the most extensive ever unearthed.

The discovery came about because of the river’s eons-old pattern of flooding. First, after the site’s Taino originators died out, the river covered over the remains of their lives, protecting the artifacts from looters and farmers who might have dug out the stones to clear the area for cultivation.

Then, 30 years ago, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposed a dam on the river to control the floods which periodically wreaked havoc on the string of small villages leading down the river to nearby Ponce, a large city on Puerto Rico’s south coast. Archaeologists first found a few artifacts in the 1970s, but the size and importance of the site wasn’t known until this fall, when the flood control project finally near construction. Espenshade’s team worked through the summer, but only in the past few months unearthed enough to determine the major scope of the site.

“It’s a once-in-a-lifetime find,” said David McCullough, a Corps archaeologist from the agency’s Jacksonville office, who said preliminary estimates show the site dates to around 600 AD. “The petroglyph carvings are outstanding, with various human-looking faces and bodies. Another remarkable thing is the site is so well preserved. It was covered by the river’s flooding and wasn’t looted or cleared for farming.”

The project has not been without controversy. After its importance became known, some Puerto

Rican archaeologists complained that the early excavation work was done too hastily and without enough care, and that local experts were not kept informed.

Responding to the concerns, Corps officials re-designed their flood control project, moving a disposal area originally planned for the site to another location. They also agreed to turn the land over to the Puerto Rican government, and have committed to return all artifacts to the island after the completion of a report on the archaeological significance of what’s been found so far.

Meanwhile, the site will be reburied to protect what is there, and armed guards have been posted to protect the artifacts from looters. “This will be a site for future archaeologists and the government of Puerto Rico to decide what to do with,” said Elsa Jiménez, the Corps spokeswoman in Puerto Rico. “It’s a great challenge and a wonderful opportunity for research.”

Photos courtesy of and article by Mike Williams/Cox Newspapers, from two sources: www.ajc.com (12/26/07) and at www.statesman.com (12/30/07).

Mesoamericans Savored Chocolate Before 1,000 BC

continued from page 1

boiling or heating the fired-clay pottery fragments in either distilled water, methane/methanol or chloroform/methanol, and then filtering the residues. The pieces, discovered in deposits that showed signs of domestic activity beginning before 1,500 BC, represented various vessel forms whose styles, shapes and decorations indicated their likely use for serving and drinking cacao beverages on special occasions, the researchers said.

Altogether, 10 of the 11 samples that tested positive for cacao came from either the Ocotillo Phase (1,400 to 1,100 BC) or Chotepe Phase (1,100 to 900 BC). The Ocotillo Phase pottery is closely related to vessels from the Pacific Coast regions of El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico, indicating Puerto Escondido's close connections and social ties with distant neighbors, the researchers said.

They concluded that the serving of cacao drinks in Puerto Escondido reflected the community's participation in far-flung networks of exchange that



“strongly suggests the later crystallization and spread of an Olmec style did not involve a wave of one-way cultural influence emanating from the Gulf Coast region.”

“They may have thought that they were cultivating cacao,” Joyce said about the people of Puerto Escondido. “But cacao was cultivating them.”

Moving back the earliest known date of cacao usage by 500 years, Joyce said, “vastly changes the models of how we think about cacao cultivation.”

It also offers a delicious twist for modern chocolate lovers who think of chocolate as a solid rather than as a fermented drink, she said. It also serves up a new example of how archaeology can stand contemporary knowledge on its head, she added.

Condensed from an indepth article with images at: www.berkeley.edu/news

See page 7 for January program details.



Teach them the basics of the Maya ... but take no captives!

Note the dates below and bring your friends.

Maya 101

The Institute of Maya Studies begins a new educational series: a set of four lectures covering the basics of the Maya – the most advanced early civilization of the Americas. *Don't miss it!*

January 16: Birth of the Maya

January 23: Maya Architecture: Building Construction and Site Planing

February 27: Gods and Religion

April 23: Visual and Writing Art

Learning is fun!

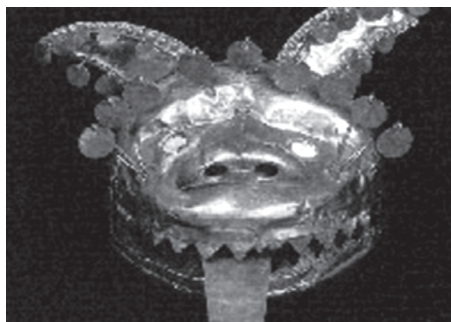
Missing Peruvian Pre-Inka Gold Items Found in Treasure-filled Hideout

Spain's Interior Ministry reported that police had found a treasure-filled chamber containing thousands of items including missing gold artifacts from Peru's glittering pre-Inka past and possibly from museums elsewhere.

Museums around the world have been alerted to check their collections for missing art, after police investigators specialized in tracking down historical objects uncovered a privately owned reinforced chamber containing 1,800 items in the northwestern city of Galicia.

The discovery followed a tip-off from Peru, warning Spanish authorities it suspected items that went missing following a 1997 pre-Inka exhibition were being held illegally in Spain, the ministry said in a statement.

The artefacts had been last exhibited in 1997, in Santiago de Compostela. The curator of the exhibit, a Costa Rican man who is now wanted in Peru, has since disappeared, police said. A spokesman refused to name the curator, who they



suspect first hid the treasure then fled the country.

According to Spain's newspaper *El Pais*, the exhibition that brought the treasure to Spain was organized by the Galician regional government. The 1992 Nobel peace prize winner Rigoberta Menchú had attended the opening ceremony. The curator had told government officials that the 1,800 pieces belonged to his private collection of pre-Colombian art, which he valued at \$100M. Officials became suspicious, however, when he tried to sell the collection after the show for \$26M.

After an archaeologist warned officials that some pieces could have been plundered, the curator fled.

Peruvian authorities had lost track of the priceless pieces as well as of the exhibition's organizer. Following the find, Spanish police photographed the items, and 31 were identified as belonging to Moche Lords of Sipán tombs, archaeological constructions dating back 4,000 years.

Once verified, 31 pieces were returned to Peruvian Ambassador José Luis Pérez Sanchez-Cerro, embassy spokesman Augusto Cabrera said. Twenty-one of those pieces were gold, including four masks and one ceremonial costume made from gold plates.

Police have circulated photographs of the remaining items in the hideout to museums around the world to ascertain if any were suspected missing from their collections. The country also seeks to recover a further 200 pieces from other sites. Officials in El Salvador and Argentina have formally requested the return of their artefacts.

Condensed by the editor from two reports at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk> and <http://newsfromrussia.com>.



The 2007 IMS Adventure to the Mayalands

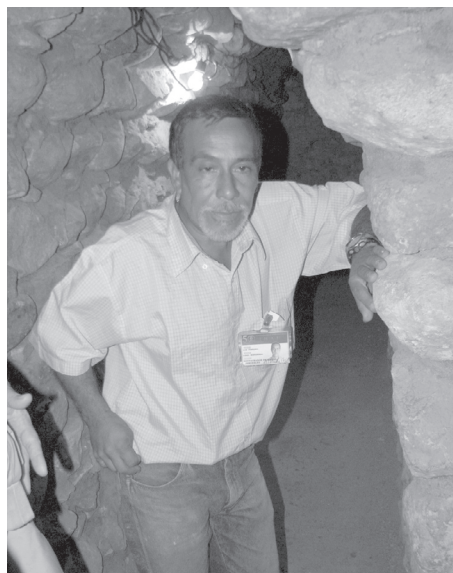
by Marta Barber

Since our return, we've settled down from our annual trip to the Maya world just in time for the holidays and for a wonderful program by Jim Reed, IMS newsletter editor, on the understanding the Maya Long Count end date of Dec. 21, 2012. But in early November 2007, 18 members of the IMS traveled from Guatemala City to Copán and back in a weeklong adventure that allowed us to calmly explore the sites of Kaminaljuyú, Quiriguá, El Puente and Copán.

In tow were an architect, two building engineers and professionals from all facets of life who made our trip unforgettable. "I never thought our trips could improve," said George Fery, president of Escrap USA, the company that has been donating computers to the IMS so that in turn, our organization can donate them to archaeological projects. "But this trip has done the impossible: it got better." This was the sentiment from newcomer Theo Morales, who with wife Katherine, repeated over and over, how "the trip exceeded our expectations."

We started at Kaminaljuyú, (read Joaquín [Jack] Rodríguez's evaluation on the construction method of that Preclassic site at right), where we were able to go down into the tunnels and view first hand the talud-tablero buildings built there. Kaminaljuyú was a good prelude to what was to come.

Our first and last nights in Guatemala were spent at Posada Belén and Museum, a lovely Guatemalan home converted into an inn. We had the place for ourselves and were greeted by the owners, Rene and Francesca Sanchinelli, as if we were family. We had dinner and

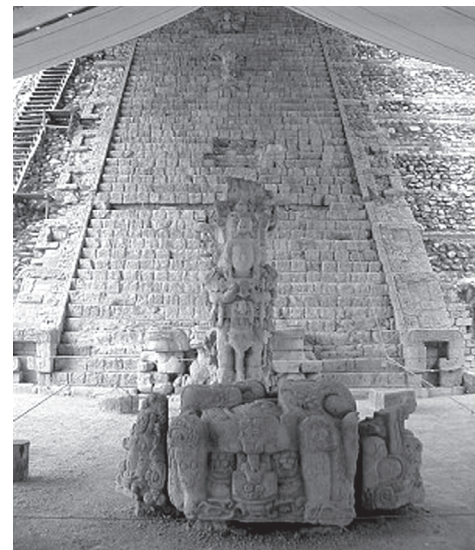


Fernando López of Copán leads our intrepid IMS group through the tunnels under the Hieroglyphic Stairway.

a few pitchers of sangria there, and since the temperature had dipped into the 50s°F, the combination was greatly appreciated.

From Kaminaljuyú we left for Quiriguá, the beautiful Classic site by the Motagua River. As all people that have traveled there know, this is United Fruit territory and to get to the site you cross endless rows of banana plantations. But "crossing" took on a new meaning when we tried to enter the site and a bar, the kind found at railroad crossings, had been lowered. Then dozens of banana bunches, each hooked to an aerial rail, crossed the road. We got off the bus to watch this earthy show. The sky was solid blue, banana plants went as far as the eye could see, a nice breeze cooled the air, and in between, the creaky sound of airborne bananas crossing the road. Indeed, nothing could get better than this.

After spending the night at the delightful Hotel Longarone in the Río Hondo area, we started our morning ready for our trip to Copán. "We'll be there in one hour," said Ray Stewart who had done the trip a couple of months earlier. "It'll be closer to two," said Eric, our driver. What neither Ray nor Eric could foresee was that there had been a rock slide that would delay our trip three hours. No sooner had we made the turn toward Honduras from Chiquimula, then we noticed a long queue of trucks, buses



Stela M in front of the Hieroglyphic Stairway – under which the IMS adventurers were allowed to enter and explore the excavation tunnels.

and passenger cars stopped along the road. Then came the news about the rock slide. With no other roads to make a detour, we had to patiently wait for the road to be cleaned.

It was quite an experience to see the work being done by the Guatemalan road officials. Four bulldozers, in perfect sync, diligently moved rocks, sand and boulders out of the way. In less than three hours, we were able to get on our way. Kudos for a job well done.

We finally arrived in Copán where we headed for Posada Real Maya, where we would stay for three nights. The hotel up in the hills offered the perfect antidote to the warm days spent at the site, which also included a visit to El Puente. There, José Armando Ortiz, Subregional Head of IHAH, took us around and inside the tunnels to see the different levels of construction. It was a wonderful trip where the travelers from the IMS were the biggest winners.

Who is Buried in Structure 10L26?

Members of the IMS traveling recently to Copán were privileged to enter the continuous excavations taking place under the most famous of Copán's buildings, Structure 10L26, the one with the Hieroglyphic Stairway. Fernando López, who has worked with William L. Fash and Harvard University for many years and is in charge of the crew and many of the logistics involved with such an immense project, took us inside the pyramid where important personages of the Copán dynasty are buried. We walked many levels –

Motmot, Papagayo and Mascarones – and saw the location where Stela 63 and the Motmot floor marker (both pieces now in the Sculpture Museum) were found.

But López's most startling revelation was upon entering the tomb with sarcophagus we had known as the tomb of Yax K'uk Mo', the founder of the Copán dynasty. This was not an easy task as the space is very tight and it drops a few feet from the higher level. López confirmed that the bones in that tomb do not belong to Yax K'uk Mo',

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Construction at Kaminaljuyú

by Joaquín J. Rodríguez III, P.E. SECB

The old Maya site of Kaminaljuyú is located in the Guatemalan Highlands in the northwest suburbs of Guatemala City. The site has been inhabited since the early Preclassic (the Arevalo phase) about 1,100 BCE, but the earliest construction dates from about 800 BCE.

It has been well publicized that a lot of the architectural style of Kaminaljuyú was borrowed from Teotihuacán. The talud-tablero style is ubiquitous. But while the style may be Teotihuacano, the construction is not. All the passageways are corbelled Maya arches.

The older Teotihuacán construction – as in the Temples of the Sun and the Moon – are built of mud blocks, later



IMS adventurers got to see first hand the various constructions methods visible in the in the site's main archaeological excavation area. Note the *pedrin* visible behind the outer plaster. Photos courtesy of George And Audrey DeLange. They've got great coverage of many Maya sites at: <http://www.delange.org>.

surfaced in cut stone. The intermediate construction, such as the Temple of Quetzalcoatl, has a core of cellular chambers of stone walls, dirt filled, all dressed in stone with the stone tablero construction superimposed on the talud. Later construction, as the Temple of the Quetzalpapalotl, is all dressed stone. The tablero was built by cantilevering stone blocks tenoned into the talud, with the rest of the tablero on top. Notice that the main corpus of the Temples of the Sun and the Moon have no tableros. Only their ancillary approach temples that were added later, have them.

The construction at Kaminaljuyú on the other hand is totally different. It is built as a solid mass of "*pedrin*." This is a local description of a material composed of volcanic gravel rich in pumice (hence the name), local clay and volcanic ash. This dense mass can



Construction at Kaminaljuyú is moulded from a solid mass of *pedrin* – a local description of a material composed of volcanic gravel rich in pumice, local clay and volcanic ash.

be shaped to form taluds and tableros. A thin layer of flat stones, locally known as *lajas*, probably slate, are stuck into the *pedrin* to start the overhanging talud shape. This mass of *pedrin* is then covered in plaster and probably painted. No dressed or otherwise stone masonry is used in the process.

This land is all of very recent volcanic origins. As the Cocos Plate (a sub-fragment of the Pacific Plate) slides (subducts) under the Central American Plate, molten magma from the heat of the impact and friction rises through cracks in the overlying terrain and spew forth as the myriad volcanos of the area. Four active volcanos can be easily seen from the site.

It stands to reason that local materials would be used in construction. In addition to ash, volcanos blow out a larger granular material known as *lapilli* (from the Latin for little stones). This stuff, resembling popcorn in appearance and density, is mostly pumice. Huge quantities fell on Pompeii and Akrotiri in Santorini. This *lapilli* is, I'm sure, a main source of the *pedrin*.

In addition to pumice, though, another foamed rock of slightly heavier consistency and darker color called *scoria* is also blown out. This gravel of *scoria* and scoraceous basalt (that's less foamed, dark heavier stuff) is evident everywhere in the Highlands.

The iron rich basalts would weather, erode and redeposit into clays and some of these would be re-baked by volcanic magmas into slate. All this local material explains the Highlands construction: stylistically influenced by Teotihuacán but of purely local technology. This is somewhat different than the Lowland Maya construction with which we are perhaps more familiar.

Structure 10L26

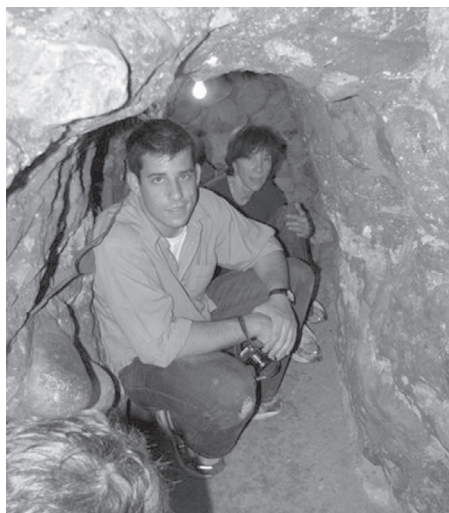
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but instead to the man who ruled Copán before the establishment of the dynasty. According to the glyphs, Yax K'uk Mo' came to Copán from elsewhere and within three days became a ruler and the founder of the dynasty. His burial, right under that of his wife (who probably became Ruler 2) was burned as a sign of resurrection.

López assured us that what has been published about Yax K'uk Mo's tomb is incorrect. He went on to read the hieroglyphic step in situ that talks of Yax K'uk Mo's wife as being Ruler 2.

The mystery of the early rulers of Copán deepens!

The two photos in this IMS article by Katherine Morales.



Lynn Hausmann and David Rodriguez make their way to the burial chamber of the Copán ruler who preceded Yax K'uk Mo'.

Extremely Rare Maya “Death Vase” Excavated In-Situ

Condensed from a recent report by Blake de Pastino on the internet for National Geographic News, this dig was sponsored by the National Geographic Society.

An extremely rare and intricately carved “death vase” has been discovered in the 1,400-year-old grave of an elite figure from the Maya world, scientists say. The vase is the first of its kind to be found in modern times, and its contents are opening a window onto ancient rituals of ancestor worship that included food offerings, chocolate enemas, and hallucinations induced by vomiting, experts say.

Archaeologists discovered the vase along with parts of a human skeleton while excavating a small “palace” in northwestern Honduras in 2005. Soil samples taken from in and around the vessel were found to contain pollen from corn, cacao, and false ipecac, a plant that causes severe nausea when eaten.

These traces suggest the vase may have been used in ancient rites the Maya practiced to produce trancelike states through intense physical purging, said Christian Wells, an anthropologist at the University of South Florida who led the excavation.

“The way to have contact, to communicate, with ancestors is to have visions,” Wells said of the Maya rituals.



The vase was discovered in Honduras by a team of archaeologists from the University of South Florida. The vase is carved with sculpted scrolls, overlapping tiles meant to resemble serpent scales, and handles fashioned into the shape of bats’ heads. Photos by Karla Davis-Salazar.

“And you have a vision either by cutting yourself and bloodletting – which there’s really no evidence for in this case – or by having some very powerful chocolate enema, or by drinking your brains out and throwing up.

“We think this beverage [in the vase] may have contained ipecac, which would have made the person who’s drinking it throw up – a lot. Then, by throwing up a lot, they could’ve had visions that would have allowed them to talk with the ancestors.”

Wells’ team believes that the white marble vase contained a corn-based gruel laced with the stomach-churning herb. Cacao, from which chocolate is made, may have been added for flavor.

The new findings could help solve the long-standing mystery of what

purpose the ornamental vessels, called Ulúa-style vases, served.

Although the archaeologists may have uncovered the vase’s purpose, they are still perplexed by where they found it – beneath a pyramid-like palace they discovered in a small, remote settlement in Honduras’ Palmarejo Valley.

The team suspects that the person buried beneath the palace was of historic importance to local residents, likely an ancestor figure whose death marked the end of an era. The palace was built over the grave very soon after the burial took place, around AD 650, Wells said.

Condensed from a much longer article by Blake de Pastino at: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2007/12/071203-maya-vase.html>. Also see Christina Luke’s FAMS report entitled “Ulúa-Style Marble Vase Project: Dissemination of Results” at: <http://www.famsi.org/reports/02081/index.html>.

The Institute of Maya Studies supports our friends at:

The 2008 Maya Meetings

The 32nd Maya Meetings at the University of Texas at Austin will feature lectures and workshops on the latest advances in Maya archaeology, iconography, and hieroglyphic decipherment. This year’s theme: **Copán Archaeology and History: New Finds and New Research.**

One highlight of the 2008 Maya Meetings will be a detailed presentation of the very latest progress in reconstructing and deciphering the great Hieroglyphic Stairway and its associated sculptures.

Keynote Speaker will be distinguished Mayanist **Michael Coe**, Prof. Emeritus, Yale University, on Feb. 29.

Specialized Workshops: Feb. 25–28:

- Introduction to Maya Hieroglyphs.
 - Intermediate Maya Hieroglyphs
 - Northern Yucatán Inscriptions, Books of the Chilam Balam.

- Los Jeroglifos Mayas: Niveles de Principiante e Intermedio.
- Advanced Problems in Maya Linguistics.
- The Iconography of Maya Painted Vases, led by Justin Kerr.
- Introduction to Maya Textiles.

The Research Symposium, March 1–2: features the participation of a variety of experts, including: Ricardo Agurcia Fasquelle, Marcello Canuto, Barbara Fash, William Fash, Stephen Houston, Allan Maca, Simon Martin, Jorge Ramos García, David Stuart, and Karl Taube.

See the full 2008 Maya Meeting schedule at: www.utmaya.org/schedule.html.

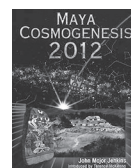
COPAN ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY



UT AUSTIN MAYA MEETINGS 2008
UTMAYA.ORG

Editor’s Corner:

Since the November IMS program entitled “Understanding 2012,” many have been asking how they can acquire additional research materials.



Essential resources are *Maya Cosmogenesis 2012* and *Galactic Alignment* by John Major Jenkins. He also has a new 3-CD audio set entitled “Unlocking the Secrets of 2012”.



Best to contact John directly and use PayPal at: www.alignment2012.com. Order now as he’s offering a discount for IMS members.



If you missed it, get a nice DVD of the “Understanding 2012” program directly from Jim Reed. Call 404-680-1644 or email: mayaman@bellsouth.net

Here too, a donation goes to the Institute of Maya Studies.

Institute of Maya Studies' Lineup of Presentations!



Mural depicting the birth of the Maya as arising from corn, Government Palace staircase, Merida, Mexico.

Maya 101

Who are the Maya and where did they come from? What distinguishes them from the Aztec or the Inka? Here we begin a four-part educational series intended to initiate the novice and serve as a refresher course for the more knowledgeable. Art, architecture, lifestyles, religion and writing will be discussed in the future lectures. This month, we will examine their historic period, from their origins to their decline, and learn to distinguish the culture from all others. *Don't miss it!*

January 16: "Birth of the Maya" with Marta Barber

While not the earliest of the great Mesoamerican civilizations, the Maya are generally considered the most brilliant of all the Classic groups. The basis of their culture was agriculture. It was a way of life for the majority of the people who harvested a variety of crops, the most important being maize (corn). Linked with this process, social organization became increasingly hierarchical, with increasing differentiations of wealth and status.

January 23: "Maya Architecture: Building Construction and Site Planning"

with Joaquín J. Rodríguez III, P.E., SCBE and Rick Slazyk, AIA, NCARB

Settlements in civic centers show a repeated pattern of arrangement of residences, pyramidal structures, and temples around courts or plazas, with buildings made of cut stone masonry, sculptured and stuccoed decorations, corbel-vault stone roofs, and paved plazas.

A temple at Yaxhá, showing Petén re-entrant corners and veneer construction.



The Institute Maya Studies • All meetings are Wednesdays • 8-9:30 PM • Miami Science Museum • 3280 South Miami Avenue
Small donations requested from non-members • Inquire about IMS Membership benefits • Maya Hotline: 305-235-1192 • <http://mayastudies.org>

Note: This is the last month we're offering this special price to IMS newsletter subscribers!

Special Institute of Maya Studies Publications Sale!

In previous years, the Institute of Maya Studies has published many respected journals and publications. For a limited time, you can now get all 4 for the price of only \$10 (plus shipping and handling). Order your set now!

- Contribution to Mesoamerican Anthropology, Pub. No. 1: "Salvadorian Varieties of Wheeled Figurines" by Stanley Boggs, 33 pages.
- Contribution to Mesoamerican Anthropology, Pub. No. 2: "Astronomical Identities of Mesoamerican Gods" by David H. Kelly, 54 pages.
- **IMS Journal, Vol. 1, No. 1**, Pub. No. 3: includes "The Fox in the Andes" by Elizabeth P. Benson
- **IMS Journal, Vol. 1, No. 2**, Pub. No. 4: includes articles by George Andrews, Mary Preuss and Carol Damian

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Upcoming Events at IMS:

January 9, 2008: *IMS Board Meeting*
All IMS members are welcome. Note it is the second Wednesday of the month!

We begin a four-part educational series nicknamed **Maya 101**, intended to initiate the novice and serve as a refresher course for the more knowledgeable.

January 16: *IMS General Meeting*
“Birth of the Maya” – Part 1, we will examine their historic period, from their origins to their decline, and learn to distinguish the culture from all others, with **Marta Barber**. *Don't miss it!*

January 23: *Part 2 of Maya 101*
“Maya Architecture: Building Construction and Site Planning” – Get the basics from this dynamic duo of professional architects. Rick Slazyk, AIA, NCARB, will discuss the various architectural styles and site plans of the Maya, and Joaquín J. Rodríguez III, P.E. SCBE, will cover Maya site alignments and building technology.

Upcoming Events and Announcements:

January 17–19: *Symposium*
“Movement, Connectivity, and Landscape Change” – Theme of the 20th Anniversary Southwest Symposium to be held at Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ. Get more info at: www.public.asu.edu/~ndwilso1

February 15–17: *Symposium*
“Sacred Cenotes, Hidden Caverns: Rituals, Beliefs, and Everyday Life Relating to Caves and Cenotes Among the Maya” – Theme of the Fifth Annual Tulane Maya Symposium sponsored by the Stone Center for Latin American Studies, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA. Keynote lecture by Dr. George Stuart. Anthony Aveni will present a workshop entitled: Caves, Cenotes, Cosmology, and Calculations. Other lectures by James E. Brady, Markus Eberl, Marc Zender, Judith M. Maxwell, Vera Tiesler & Andrea Cucina. Get more info at: <http://stonecenter.tulane.edu>

February 25–March 2:
“Copán Archaeology and History: New Finds and New Research” – Theme of the XXXII Maya Meetings of the University of Texas at Austin. Specialized workshops will run from Monday, February 25 to Thursday, February 28 (4 days). The Symposium runs from Friday, February 29, to Sunday, March 2. The amount of inscribed materials at Copán is truly astounding, suggesting that in some way the inhabitants of this ancient kingdom were particularly interested in literate culture and iconography. See announcement on page 6. Get more info at: www.utmaya.org

February 28–March 2: *Conference*
38th Annual Meeting of the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference – to be held in Ocean City, MD. Get more info at: www.maacmidatlanticarchaeology.org/conference.htm



Please note that all articles and news items for the IMS newsletter must be submitted to the Newsletter Editor by the second Wednesday of the month. E-mail articles, photos or news items to mayaman@bellsouth.net or forward by postal mail to: Jim Reed, 219 13th Street NE, Atlanta, GA 30309



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Call the Maya Hotline
at 305-235-1192
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IMS General Meeting January 16

First installment of a new IMS
4-part educational series entitled:

Maya 101

“Birth of the Maya”
with **Marta Barber**