INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES
NEWSLETTER

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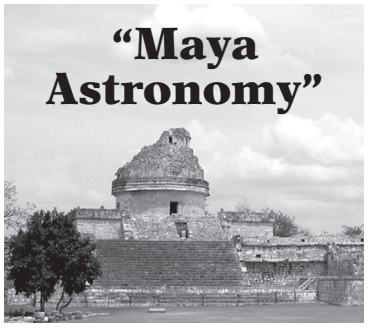
Inside this issue:

IMS General Meeting
February 20



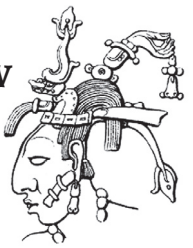
Caracol Observatory, Chichén Itzá

with Dr. James R. Webb

Jim Reed, Editor

The recently restored funerary mask of King Pakal II is quite lifelike.
Photo: Alma Rodríguez/El Universal.

INAH Presents New Reconstruction of the Jade Mask of Palenque's K´inich Janaab´ Pakal



It has been 20 years (one Katun) that the site of Palenque has been acknowledged as a World Heritage of Mankind site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). To help celebrate, a team of specialists from Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) has restored the funerary mask of the face of Maya King Pakal II (603–683 AD), whose tomb is located in the Temple of the Inscriptions at the archaeological site of Palenque, in Chiapas, Mexico. His tomb was originally discovered in 1952 by Mexican archaeologist Alberto Ruz Lhuillier.

The interdisciplinary group at the institute worked for two years with the mask, which consists of a 200-piece mosaic of precious jadite. The goal of the restoration was to "present a new face of King Pakal, with traits different from what the whole world has known for over 50 years," explained Laura Filloy Nadal, project coordinator.

A lot of study on the mask was done beforehand. Mexico's National School of Conservation, Restoration and Museography is where various INAH experts submitted their research papers and investigations conducted on the mask, which is displayed in the "Maya Hall" of the National Museum of Anthropology.

The new look of King Pakal II. According to the specialists, the new mask conforms to true human dimensions, just as if it were a portrait.
Photo: Courtesy of the Associated Press.

Manuel del Castillo Negrete says: "After two years of work and multiple investigations, we not only obtained information on the mineral composition that makes up the mask, but we were also able to identify the pieces that make up the eyes, which are produced in obsidian and shell from Guatemala."

continued on page 3

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A Note from the President of the IMS

We celebrated the 36th anniversary of the foundation of the Institute of Maya Studies on Dec. 12 with our Annual Meeting and a birthday party at our home at the Miami Science Museum. It's good to know that the organization is still growing strong.

A visit to the Classic Maya site of Copán in Honduras was on the itinerary of two different adventures made to the Mayalands by IMS members in 2007.

This past year we completed the arduous job of bringing back to the museum the collection of books that for years formed our library and that we were forced to move to individual members' homes for safeguarding. Now, the books are back where they belong and soon the library will be open for the use of all members.

Two projects spearheaded by former president Joaquín (Jack) Rodriguez are moving forward. Publication of a paper on the use of wooden lintels in the Maya world is going through revision by esteemed Mayanist Dr. Edward Kurjack, who has devoted so much time in improving the paper. (D. Clarke Wernecke's notations have also been invaluable.) Publication is planned for the spring.

A project to determine the contents of the mortar used by the Maya in different locations is also moving forward. IMS has established a special Research Fund to finance the costly tests, and donations are beginning to come in from members far and near to help in this endeavor.

The Museum of Science already has plans to move to the former Miami Bayfront Park in what will become Museum Park. And we are happy to report that IMS will continue to be part of this place of learning for so many South Floridians.

Thanks to George Fery, president of E-Scrap, we have continued to donate computers to our friends working at different archaeological sites. A shipment has just arrived in Copán. Not only does George donate this equipment to the IMS so that in turn we can send it out to the field, but he also gets AmeriJet to donate the transportation.

Members continue to conduct trips to Mesoamerica that result in donations to the IMS. Donations this year profited from two trips: one conducted by newsletter editor Jim Reed, and the other by some of our board members.

What will the future bring? The IMS may be an organization dedicated to the study of the distant past, but it certainly wants to belong to the 21st century when it comes to technology. We will be moving forward with improving our website (*http://mayastudies.org*) as it applies to membership registration or to renew your subscription to our monthly newsletter. Our webmaster Frank May (*frmayii@gmail.com*) has done a terrific job in keeping it updated.

Stay tuned. We'd love to hear from you! Send comments to either Frank or Jim (*mayaman@bellsouth.net*). We also invite you to submit articles and images about pertinent subjects related to Mesoamerican studies. Have a great 2008!

Marta Barber

Guatemala to Open Park at El Mirador

Guatemala intends to create a tourist park at the ancient Maya city of El Mirador, the country's president stated on Monday, Jan. 14. 2008.

Recently elected Guatemalan President Álvaro Colom said the park would give tourists access to the El Mirador archeological site, which contains hundreds of structures that have been reclaimed by the Petén jungle in the north of the country, and that is home to one of the world's largest pyramids.

"Among the structures is the world's most massive pyramid and possibly even beats the Egyptians' by around a meter," Colom said.

The El Mirador site is currently accessible only by helicopter or a two-day hike through the jungle. Colom said the site was about three times the size of the country's famous Tikal site, which remains a major draw for foreign tourists.

The massive La Danta pyramid, 79 m tall, covers a very large surface at its base of 6.5 by 3.5 football fields!

Colom, who announced the plans for the park in his inauguration speech, said the park would promote development in the region, which in later years has been overrun by poachers and drug smugglers.

continued on page 3

Reconstruction of King Pakal's Jade Mask

continued from page 1

Also, he continued, we found organic materials that were used to assemble the mask, such as stucco and a pigment called cinnabar. "In the original manufacturing of the mask, the ancient artists worked together and had an impressive technical knowledge in the Late Classic."

Laura Filloy Nadal explained that the work on the mask of Pakal marks a milestone in restoration studies in Mexico and is a imputus for further analysis and conservation of other pieces that can be found in the Maya collections of various INAH regional centers and museums."

In the future, researchers will also restore the funerary regalia of King Pakal II, that consists of earrings, necklaces and rings, among other objects of shell, obsidian and jadite. "And after we get permission from INAH to initiate this project, we will apply the same rigorous methodology used in the restoration the mask," added Nadal.

Meanwhile back at the site of Palenque

In Palenque, without a doubt, one of the largest attractions has always been Pakal's tomb located deep within the Temple of Inscriptions. But since 2004, the tomb remains off limits to the public as a precautionary measure to prevent deterioration of this great Maya legacy.

To fill the gap, INAH has created a faithful replica of the tomb of King Pakal

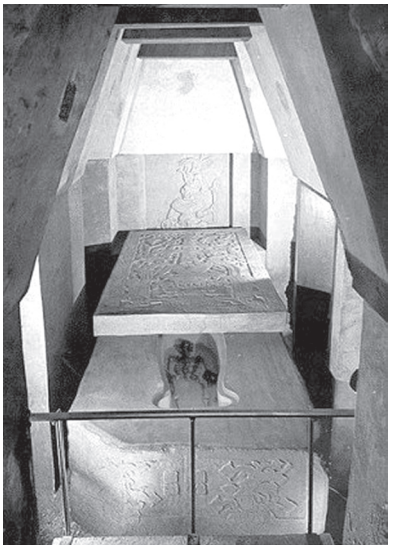
Compare the new image of Pakal's funerary mask on page 1 with this previous version that the world has known for more than 50 years.

in a new courtroom attached to the site museum of Palenque. Here, visitors can appreciate an exact replica of the funeral chamber, which has dimensions of 7 m long, by 3.75 m wide and 6.50 m high, and the sarcophagus 3 m long, by 2.10 m wide and 1.10 m high.

A key component of the exhibit is the exact replica of the Pakal's sarcophagus cover, that measures 3.80 m long, by 2.20 m wide, with a thickness of 25 cm. The slab, carved in bas-relief, presents the image of Pakal as he rises up out of the Underworld and travels toward the sacred ceiba tree or axis mundi in the Maya worldview.

Unlike an original visit to the tomb, that could only be observed through a steel-bar doorway after climbing up atop, then down within the Temple of the Inscriptions, this exhibit allows visitors to more fully appreciate each aspect of the total characteristics of the funerary tomb. Mirrors and transparent material allow museum goers to see into the interior and to assess all the elements that make up the reliefs of the funeral chamber and sarcophagus cover.

Also, on the translucent walls are reproduced the images of the nine



The new display allows visitors to view the funerary ensemble from various angles. Photo courtesy of George and Audrey DeLange.

characters from the Underworld and ancestors of Pakal that are depicted on the interior walls of the original chamber. The engineering, architecture and design of the replica is based on research completed over more than five decades.

Previously, visitors to the museum represented only 20 percent of the nearly 500 thousand people who come annually to the see the entire archeological site.

Emiliano Gallaga, director of the INAH-Chiapas, has declared that "with the new attraction of the replica of Pakal's royal tomb, we hope to increase the flow of visitors to the museum. An added incentive is that the public can now enter the museum with the same ticket used for admission to the site."

Source: Condensed by the editor from two sources: *www.jornada.unam.mx* and *www.public.asu.edu*.

Guatemala

cont. from page 2

As an interesting side note, Guatemala's new President, Álvaro Colom, wants his country to be a model of social democracy with a "Mayan face" and says he will regularly meet with a group of spiritual leaders, known as the Mayan Elders National Council. This, he hopes, will strengthen national unity in a country long divided by enormous social and racial differences.

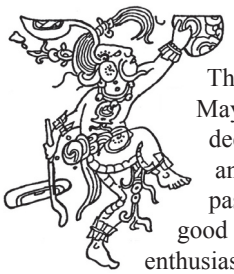
Colom does not belong to any of the 23 Maya ethnic groups who make up more than 40% of the population, but he has been ordained a Maya priest, and drew much of his electoral support from the rural areas where poverty among

Don Alejandro Cirilo Pérez Oxlaj is a 13th-generation Quiché Maya High Priest.

indigenous groups is deep-rooted.

The council is headed by Don Alejandro Cirilo Pérez Oxlaj, who instructed the new president in traditional daykeeping. Don Alejandro is said to have represented indigenous Maya at Colom's inauguration on Jan. 14, 2008.

Source: Condensed by the editor from two articles at: *www.reuters.com* and *http://news.bbc.co.uk*.

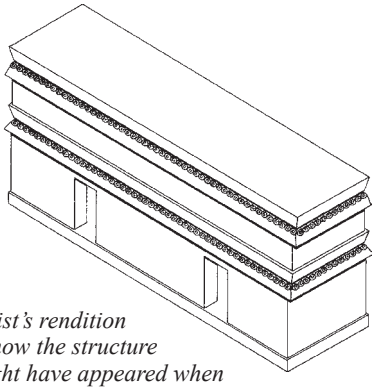


In Memoriam:

The Institute of Maya Studies is deeply saddened and mourns the passing of our good friend and IMS enthusiast Victor Wiggert. Through the years, together with his wife Beth, Vic has given many interesting programs for the IMS, always filled with beautiful photos of their adventures, and he has been the main part of the team that has been proofreading this newsletter. His friendship, wit, humor and great hugs will be sorely missed.

Chundsinab: Recent Restoration of Group 4

By Antonio Benavides C., INAH Campeche



Artist's rendition of how the structure might have appeared when originally designed.

Group 4 structure as it appeared in September 2007, before its subsequent cleaning and restoration.

August and September of 2007 were busy months spent at a tiny Puuc building located in northeastern Campeche. Originally a two-room construction, today only one room survives and it is a very good example of Classic Puuc architecture with a blend of Colonnette and Mosaic features (ca. 750 AD).

Chundsinab is the name first reported by Teobert Maler at the end of the XIXth century for a group of ruins located east of Hacienda Yaxché (today the little town of San Antonio Yaxché). It is located almost 2 km northwest of the building in question here (Maler 1997: 52; Merk 2003; Benavides and Merk 2007). The larger site has at least four architectural groups, most of them completely collapsed or in very bad condition.

The structure reported here was not known by Maler. It was built on top of a rock elevation 7 m high and at least 11 steps originally led up to it. The only entrances are on its southern side. A GPS reading at this part of the site gave the coordinates as 20º 06.877′ North and 89º 40.557′ West.

After clearing the underbrush, excavations began on the southern side of the building. This helped to locate and separate fallen pieces of the facade. Excavating the debris we found a little terrace 140 cm wide and 30 cm high in front of the facade. Then came consolidation of sections still in place (changing mortar when necessary), the restitution of fallen blocks and the building of scaffolds in order to continue working on the upper sections.

The medial moulding and the upper moulding have three elements, and are practically the same for each. The central section is formed by circles depicting "half moon" or "double U" motifs. Decoration was the same on the three sides still in situ. Those "stone nails" with the "half moon" motifs vary from 23 to 35 cm long; their diameter is 15 to 16 cm and the motifs are bas-relief carved, 2 cm wide.

Some of the "stone nails" elements with the "half-moon" motives from the moulding design.

Completed building at Chundsinab, Group 4, after consolidation and restoration.

Comparisons with similar but not identical elements show us that the Chundsinab items are variations of specific blocks cut for mouldings of other Puuc-style buildings. A quick review of Polloc's monumental contribution led us to find similar items at Labna's buildings 11, S1 and S2 (Pollock 1980: 39–50); at Uxmal's Group 22 (Idem: 219) or at the "Birds House" of the same site (Idem: 237–238). Other similar examples can be found at the site of Bobil and at the annex palace of Chunhuhub.

During the cleaning and consolidation operations we also found that the ancient masons coated the crude masonry around the roof with plaster, specially covering the upper sections of the outside walls, and after that they placed the veneer blocks. It seems their intention was to waterproof the structure. Believe it or not, it is still visible after more than thirteen centuries!

The roof of the Chundsinab Group 4 building was home to several trees: chelem (*Agave angustifolia*), chacah (*Bursera simaruba*), sabakché (*Exostema caribaeum*), saknakché (*Colubrina greggii*) and tsalam (*Lysiloma latisiliquum*). All the trees were cut down and their roots extricated from the rubble. The hard or wide ones were diesel soaked. The debris was then removed and a new roof was placed on, covering around 22 m^2.

Inside the room, at both sides of the entrance, we registered curtain-holders; small notches on the wall veneer stones that were used to hang textile or leather items in order to control light entrance. We also registered small square ventilation holes on three sides of the room.

The restored building is not alone, several domestic platforms can be found in the surroundings, most of them defined by big stone blocks that still conserve foundations of domestic constructions.

Consolidation and restoration works at Chundsinab 4 were part of INAH´s MANZANA project (Maintenance to Archaeological Zones Not Open to the Public) during 2007, comparable to similar labors developed at Sabana Piletas, another Maya site recently discovered in northeastern Campeche. I would like to thank archaeologist Sara Novelo for her participation and the efficient laborers from Cumpich and San Antonio Yaxché working with us during the field season.

References:

2007, Benavides C., Antonio and Stephan Merk, "Tras las Huellas de Maler en Chundsinab, Dzancab y Yaxché-Xlabpak" in *Mexicon*, XXIX (5): 124–130. Möckmühl.

2003, Merk, Stephan, "Unreported Buildings at the Maya ruins of Balché, Campeche, México" in *Mexicon,* XXV (5): 117–118.

Ancient Yucatán Soils Point to Maya Market, and Market Economy

The findings, archaeologists say, are some of the first strong evidence that the ancient Maya civilization, at least in places and at certain times, had a market economy similar in some respects to societies today. The conventional view has been that food and other goods in Maya cities were distributed through taxation and tributes controlled by the ruling class.

In what only looks like an open, rock splattered field, a researcher gathers soil samples at Chunchucmil, on the Yucatán peninsula, Mexico

One important question concerning ancient Chunchucmil is how such a large population could have survived in one of the poorest areas for agriculture. According to bone isotope studies conducted by Pakbeh Regional Economy Project member Geni Mansell, the diet of the ancient inhabitants may have been more diversified than in other areas of the Maya region. When compared with skeletal remains from other parts of Yucatán, Belize and the southern Maya lowlands, human remains from Chunchucmil indicate that their diet included significantly less corn (maize, the staple crop for most communities in the Maya area). Access to the more ecologically diverse wetlands and coastal resources, as well as access to inter-regional trade routes and a centralized marketplace, may have been critical to ancient subsistence at Chunchucmil.

Coaxing answers from 1500-year-old clues hidden in soil clumps, Brigham Young University environmental scientists identified a marketplace in the ancient Maya city of Chunchucmil, calling into question archaeologists' widely held belief that people of the era relied on rulers to tax and re-distribute goods, rather than trading them with one another.

Bird's-eye view of the market area in the site center of Chunchucmil. Photo courtesy of Bruce Dahlin.

As reported in the December issue of *Latin American Antiquity*, BYU professor of environmental science Richard Terry and his student team confirmed the location of a suspected marketplace, giving Maya studies powerful new evidence for understanding the advanced civilization's economy.

Terry's specialty is analyzing soil from archaeological sites to find chemical traces that indicate what took place there. Such creative detective work is particularly useful in tropical areas, where 90 percent of inhabitants' possessions were made from organic material that has since decomposed.

"Looking at soil residues promises to open up the investigation of ancient Maya economic systems for the first time," said Bruce Dahlin, lead author on the new study and archaeologist with Shepherd University. "It's the first way of confirming that an area that looks like a marketplace, is a marketplace."

In trying to determine if the Maya of the Classic era (about AD 300 to 900) had a market economy, scientists had found large, open areas within settlements of the period, but no indications of the areas' purposes. Terry's soil analysis revealed outlines of use clearly consistent with a modern-day open-air market in the region.

"These methods reveal intricate patterns of human behavior in what would ordinarily be invisible – the chemical residues left by trading, marketing, farming, and habitation," said Stephen Houston, a Maya scholar at Brown University not associated with the study. "[Terry] is at the forefront of developing and applying these methods in the New World."

Dahlin explained that he and other Maya archaeologists had recognized that many Maya cities appeared to have held more people than the regions' agricultural capacities could have supported. For years, researchers sought evidence of sophisticated farming or irrigation techniques to explain this.

The idea of a market economy that facilitated the importing of food and other goods wasn't taken seriously, in part due to the difficulty in distinguishing most archaeologists' belief that the Maya elite had a tax and tribute system, and effectively paid their underlings for loyalty by passing goods down the social ladder. But proof of the existence of a market would certainly prove a market economy, and that's exactly what they found at Chunchucmil.

The researchers believe further geochemical studies at other sites, such as the large settlements of Tikal and Chichén Itzá, will reveal how far the market economy may have spread. Terry and his students are also analyzing other chemicals left in soil to pinpoint ancient workshops and religious sites, and are studying carbon isotopes in the soil to locate the ancient corn fields.

Timothy Beach of Georgetown University is also a coauthor on the new paper. The research was funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Geographic Society, Howard University and BYU. The Instituto Nacional de Antropología y Historia de México (INAH) gave its permission for the work at Chunchucmil.

Source: Most text from an original story at *http://deseretnews.com*. Image at top and additional comments from an article by John Noble Wilford at *www.nytimes.com*. Also, check out what David R. Dixson is doing to update info about research at Chunchucmil by searching for it by name on *http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page*

What first may seem unrelated to the Maya we love to study, this recent news collaborates their predictions of increased solar activity around 2012.

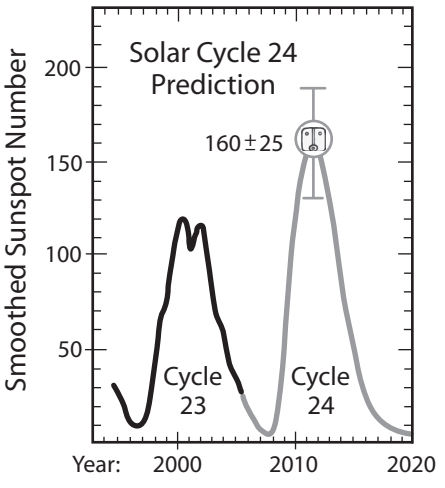
Earth-sized Sunspot Signals Start of New Solar Cycle

While the nation was focused on earthly matters during the first week of January, astronomers snapped to attention when a sunspot about the size of Earth appeared on our old Sun, 93 million miles away.

For scientists, the sunspot was something of the equivalent of a solar New Year's Eve, heralding the end of Solar Cycle 23 and the advent of Solar Cycle 24. More to the point, the new 11-year solar cycle will build to fresh risks of sunspots that could wreak havoc on Earth by interfering with the global positioning satellites that control cell phones, bank ATM systems, some cable television and Internet systems, and even farmers' precision combine systems.

Sunspots are jokingly blamed for a lot of things, but in reality the satellites that govern much of our communications systems can be damaged by the photons released from a sunspot that can hurtle toward Earth. Military and commercial airlines' communication systems also are linked to satellites.

Solar cycle 24, due to peak in 2011 and 2012 "looks like its going to be one of the most intense cycles since record-keeping began almost 400 years ago," says solar physicist David Hathaway of the Marshall Space Flight Center.



Hathaway and Wilson's prediction for the amplitude of Solar Cycle 24 is 160±25.

Astronomers have been counting sunspots since the days of Galileo, watching solar activity rise and fall every 11 years. Curiously, four of the five biggest cycles on record have come in the past 50 years. "Cycle 24 should fit right into that pattern," says Hathaway.

He and colleague Robert Wilson have created a forecast that is based on historical records of sunspot activity (bottom left).

Hathaway explains: "When a gust of solar wind hits Earth's magnetic field, the impact causes the magnetic field to shake. If it shakes hard enough, we call it a geomagnetic storm." In the extreme, these storms cause power outages and make compass needles swing in the wrong direction. Auroras are a beautiful side-effect.

Hathaway and Wilson looked at records of geomagnetic activity stretching back almost 150 years and noticed something useful: "The amount of geomagnetic activity now tells us what the solar cycle is going to be like 6 to 8 years in the future," says Hathaway.

Sunspots can also cause surges in electric power grid systems. Under a worst-case scenario, enough transformers could be damaged during a peak electricity demand period to leave regions in the dark for weeks. Sunspots can also bombard defenseless manned space vehicles, subjecting astronauts to radiation sickness.

"Some sunspots are pretty benign and don't have much effect on Earth, but others are more malignant and can cause serious problems because we are so dependent now on electronics," said Douglas Biesecker, lead researcher at the federal government's Space Weather Prediction Center in Boulder, CO.

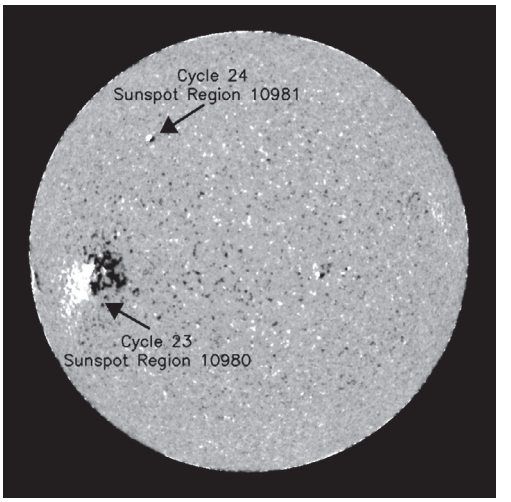
At the very worst, Biesecker said, the new Solar Cycle 24 will build to either a conventional solar flare or the mother of all solar flares, a coronal mass ejection. Photons from such phenomenon can bombard the Earth. "A solar flare gives no warning at all," Biesecker said. "A coronal mass ejection can give up to three or four days' warning."

"The trouble is that each year we become more dependent on electronics, and increasingly our electronics are directed from space satellites that are vulnerable to sunspots," Biesecker said.

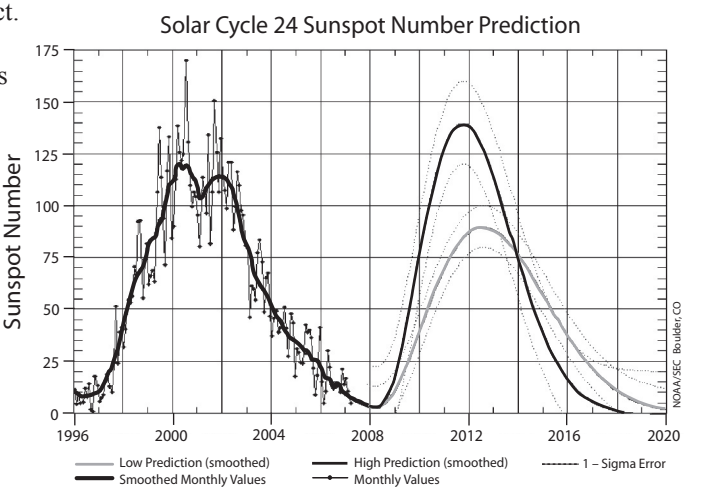
He said scientists predict that the current cycle will reach its peak of risk in 2011 and 2012, but he warned that damaging sunspots can happen at any time.

The first official sunspot belonging to new Solar Cycle 24 is shown in the northeast quadrant of the Sun. The large sunspot region just south of the equator is part of the waning Solar Cycle 23.

Image courtesy of National Solar Observatory, Mauna Loa, Hawaii.



The new sunspot, identified as #10,981, is the latest visible spot to appear since the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) began numbering them on January 5, 1972. Its high-latitude location at 27 degrees North, and its negative polarity leading to the right in the Northern Hemisphere are clear-cut signs of a new solar cycle, according to NOAA experts. The first active regions and sunspots of a new solar cycle can emerge at high latitudes while those from the previous cycle continue to form closer to the equator.



The official Solar Cycle 24 prediction. This graph shows a simple interpolation from 1996 to January, 2008, then predictions through 2020.

Courtesy of Douglas Biesecker, Chair of the Solar Cycle 24 Prediction Panel, NOAA.

Source: Condensed from numerous sources including: *www.sec.noaa.gov*, *www.desmoinesregister.com*, *http://science.nasa.gov*, and *www.solarcycle24.com*. Initially submitted by Richard Soles.

Institute of Maya Studies' Line-up of Presentations!

Note: Beginning in February, our Travel, Art & Archaeology meeting will now be held on the second Wednesday of the month. The General Meeting will remain on the third Wednesday of the month.

We continue our four-part educational series nicknamed **Maya 101**:

February 13: Travel, Art & Archaeology: Maya 101, Part 3:

"Maya Writing and Art: The Art of Communication"

with Ray Stewart

The Maya writing system was a combination of phonetic symbols and logograms. It is the only writing system of the Pre-Columbian New World which is known to completely represent the spoken language of its community.

Maya stucco glyphs diplayed in the museum at Palenque.

The Yucatec Maya word for ''writing'' is *dzib*. With the prefix *ah* – as in *ah dzib* – the meaning becomes ''writer-painter'' or the person, role, or function of a scribe. Artists were also known by other terms – *ah chuen* and *ah its'at* – that designated specific types and specialties of scribal artists and priests.

Maya art takes many forms, from tiny pieces of carved obsidian to gigantic pyramids and stelae. The dominance of the Maya religion can be seen through all of these art forms; most objects have a spiritual or religious purpose.

February 20: IMS General Meeting:

"Maya Astronomy" with Dr. James R. Webb

In this program, Dr. Webb will briefly introduce Maya culture, concentrating on why astronomy was important to ancient cultures in general. We will discuss Maya mathematics (base 20 instead of base 10), and then Maya Astronomy as deciphered from the Maya codices. We will explore the celestial objects that were important to the Maya, their symbols for the various objects, and their cosmology. Finally, we mention their architecture which seems to be heavily influenced by astronomy in some cases.

Dr. James R. Webb is a Professor of Physics and Director of the SARA Observatory, at Florida International University, Miami, FL.

The Dresden Codex contains the highest concentration of astronomical phenomena observations and calculations of any of the surviving texts (it appears that the data in this codex is primarily or exclusively of an astronomical nature). Examination and analysis of this codex reveals that Venus was the most important astronomical object to the Maya, even more important to them than the sun.

Page 9 of the Dresden Codex

March 12: Travel, Art & Archaeology: Maya 101, Part 4:
"Maya Gods and Religion" with Marta Barber

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Upcoming Events at IMS:

February 6, 2008: *IMS Board Meeting*
All IMS members are welcome to attend.

Note: Beginning in February, our Travel, Art & Archaeology meeting will now be held on the second Wednesday of the month. The General Meeting will remain on the third Wednesday of the month. We continue a four-part educational series nicknamed **Maya 101**:

February 13: *Travel, Art & Archaeology*
Part 3 of Maya 101:
"Maya Writing and Art: The Art of Communication" – The Maya glyphic writing system is the only one known to completely represent the spoken language of its community. **Ray Stewart** will communicate the whole story.

February 20: *IMS General Meeting*
"Maya Astronomy" – Get an overview of Maya culture with a focus on why astronomy was so important, with **Dr. James R. Webb**, Professor of Physics and Director of the SARA Observatory.

Upcoming Events and Announcements:

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, Feb. 25 through Thursday, Feb. 28. The Symposium runs from Friday, Feb. 29, through Sunday, March 2. The amount of inscribed materials at Copán is truly astounding. 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*

March 12: *Travel, Art & Archaeology*
Part 4 of Maya 101:
"Maya Gods and Religion" with Marta Barber at the Institute of Maya Studies.

April 11–13: *Conference*
"The Future of the Maya World" – Theme of the 26th Annual Maya Weekend of the Pre-Columbian Society at the University of Pennsylvania Museum. Get more info at: *www.museum.upenn.edu*

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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Caracol Observatory, Mayapán

February 20:
IMS General Meeting:

"Maya Astronomy"

with

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