



INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES NEWSLETTER

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IMS General Meeting August 20:

"Spanish Gold: Too Much of a Good Thing?"

with Juan L. Riera



**Jim Reed,
Editor**

Maize May Have Been Domesticated in Mexico as Early as 10,000 Years Ago

The ancestors of maize (corn) originally grew wild in Mexico and were radically different from the plant that is now one of the most important crops in the world. While the evidence is clear that maize was first domesticated in Mexico, the time and location of the earliest domestication and dispersal events are still in dispute.

Now, in addition to more traditional macrobotanical and archeological remains, scientists are using new genetic and microbotanical techniques to distinguish domesticated maize from its wild relatives as well as to identify ancient sites of maize agriculture. These new analyses suggest that maize may have been domesticated in Mexico as early as 10,000 years ago.

Dr. John Jones, of the Department of Anthropology, Washington State University, Pullman, and his colleagues, Mary Pohl and Kevin Pope, have evaluated multiple lines of evidence, including paleobotanical remains such as pollen, phytoliths, and starch grains, as well as genetic analyses, to reconstruct the early history of maize agriculture. Dr. Jones presented this work at a symposium on Maize Biology at the annual meeting of the American Society of Plant Biologists in Mérida, Mexico on June 28, 2008.

While macrobotanical remains such as maize kernels, cobs, and leaves have been found in dry mountain caves, such remains are not preserved in more humid lowland areas, so the conclusions based on such remains are fragmentary. Much smaller parts of the maize plant, like cellular silica deposits, called phytoliths, and pollen and starch grains, are preserved under both humid and dry conditions. These lines of evidence, along with genetic



Various unusually colored and shaped maize from Latin America. Photo by Keith Weller, courtesy of USDA/ Agricultural Research Service.

and archeological data, are being used to trace the history of agriculture to its origins around the world.

Jones and his co-workers analyzed the sediments from San Andrés, in the state of Tabasco on the Mexican Gulf Coast. Analysis of area sediments revealed phytoliths of domesticated varieties of maize as well as those of agricultural weeds. These data, along with evidence of burning, suggested that agriculturalists were active in that part of the Yucatán Peninsula around 7,000 years ago.

Numerous methods are being used by paleobotanists, plant scientists and archaeologists like Jones and his colleagues, to reconstruct the rich history of maize domestication and evolution. Preservation of ancient varieties and knowledge of their genetic and adaptive histories are of paramount importance as farmers around the world cope with changes in soil, temperature, and water availability and struggle to maintain a food supply for growing populations.

Source: Condensed from materials provided by American Society of Plant Biologists, via www.eurekalert.org.



Ancient Site Uncovered on the Shores of Lake Titicaca

Archaeologists have found a site at Copacabana, Bolivia, that spans Tiwanaku to Inka culture, and surprisingly there are artifacts from the 1000 BCE Yayamama culture.

Archeologists have begun digging at an ancient ceremonial site in eastern Bolivia

to piece together the rites and daily life of cultures dating as far back as 3,000 years ago.

Locals stumbled upon the remains while clearing the ground to build a new market in the picturesque town of Copacabana, a tourist hotspot on the shores of Lake Titicaca.

Many of the unearthed tombs, textiles, clay pots and jewelry belonged to the well-documented Tiwanaku and Inka cultures that populated the area hundreds of years ago.

But some relics go back as far as 3,000 years, when a little-known Yayamama religious tradition is thought to have flourished in the Andes.

“They carved sculptures [in stone] with a man on one side and a woman on the other,” said archeologist Sergio Chavez, who works for Central Michigan University.

The sculptures, which also feature two-headed snakes and geometric shapes, are still revered by local indigenous groups.

The Yayamama built a series of small temples by the lake, each two hours by foot from the other, Chavez said.

Wearing an Indiana Jones-style fedora hat, Chavez said he will study the stratified remains, the better to understand how different Andean cultures evolved.

“Starting from the oldest period, we have the Yayamama. And gradually we have ... the Tiwanaku some 1,000 years ago, the Inka, the colonial period, the hacienda era, [and] the republic,” said Chavez, a Peruvian, sitting amid dozens of fragmented clay objects in his shack-like field lab.

Outside, a group of Aymara Indians whom Chavez trained, cleared the earth around tombstones and large clay pots in search of small artifacts.

“There’s a lot to be proud of in here, and we have to find our identity in these things. To understand the present and plan for the future, we have to look at the past,” he said.

But the U.S.-trained archeologist said not everyone in Copacabana, near the border



People watch as archeologists work at the ancient ceremonial site in downtown Copacabana.



A piece of ceramic from the Tiwanaku culture is part of the archeological find.



A researcher shows a piece of dental material and workers unearth another piece of ceramic from the Tiwanaku culture.



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with Peru, is as excited about the past as he is. Locals are determined to finish the construction of the market they started in June, and Chavez said he feels rushed.

“We’ve had to work really hard to show the architecture, the remains, so people realize that they have a huge cultural value,” he said.

Source: From an original article by David Mercado, Reuters, published July 10, 2008, on the online edition of *The Vancouver Sun*, at: www.canada.com. All images courtesy of David Mercado. Submitted by Mike Ruggeri.



Check out our IMS Web site.

Get knowledgeable about 2012!

Thanks to our webmaster Frank May, the Institute of Maya Studies now maintains an area of our web site devoted to **Understanding 2012**.

Feel free to post your own comments or questions. Updated periodically, check out our 2012 link at:

<http://mayastudies.org>



Pre-Columbian Sounds

Recreating the sound of Aztec “Whistles of Death”

Scientists were fascinated by the ghostly find: a human skeleton buried in an Aztec temple with a clay, skull-shaped whistle in each bony hand.

But no one blew into the noisemakers for nearly 15 years. When someone finally did, the shrill, windy screech made the spine tingle. If death had a sound, this was it.

Roberto Velazquez believes the Aztecs played this mournful wail from the so-called Whistles of Death before they were sacrificed to the gods.

The 66-year-old mechanical engineer has devoted his career to recreating the sounds of his pre-Columbian ancestors, producing hundreds of replicas of whistles, flutes and wind instruments unearthed from sites in Mexico.

For years, many archaeologists who uncovered ancient noisemakers dismissed them as toys. Museums relegated them to warehouses. But while most studies and exhibits of ancient cultures focus on how they looked, Velazquez said the noisemakers provide a rare glimpse into how they sounded.

“We’ve been looking at our ancient culture as if they were deaf and mute,” he said. “But I think all of this is tied closely to what they did, how they thought.”

Velazquez is part of a growing field of study that includes archaeologists, musicians and historians. Medical doctors are interested too, believing the Aztecs may have used sound to treat illnesses.

Noisemakers made of clay, turkey feathers, sugar cane, frog skins and other natural materials were an integral part of pre-Columbian life, found at nearly every Maya site.

The Aztecs sounded the low, foghorn hum of conch shells at the start of ceremonies and possibly during wars to communicate strategies. Hunters likely used animal-shaped ocarinas to produce throaty grunts that lured deer.

The modern-day archaeologists who came up with the term Whistles of Death believe they were meant to help the deceased journey into the underworld, while tribes are said to have emitted terrifying sounds to fend off enemies, much like high-tech crowd-control devices available today.

This is not one of the whistles mentioned in the article, but is comparable. This is an Aztec/Mixtec drum in the form of a skull with a whistle in the mouth. The reverse has an image of Mictlantecuhtli painted in red. The images are courtesy of Justin Kerr and available to view in color on page 5 of

Kerr’s “A Pre-Columbian Portfolio” link on the FAMSI site at: <http://research.famsi.org>



Experts also believe pre-Columbian tribes used some of the instruments to send the human brain into a dream state and treat certain illnesses. The ancient whistles could guide research into how rhythmic sounds alter heart rates and states of consciousness.

Among Velazquez’s replicas are those that emit a strange cacophony so strong that their frequency nears the maximum range of human hearing.

Chronicles by Spanish priests from the 1500s described the Aztec and Maya sounds as sad and doleful, although these may have been only what was played in their presence.

“My experience is that at least some pre-Hispanic sounds are more destructive than positive, others are highly trance-evocative,” said Arnd Adje Both, an expert in pre-Hispanic music archaeology who was the first to blow the Whistles of Death found in the Aztec skeleton’s hands. “Surely, sounds were used in all kind of cults, such as sacrificial ones, but also in healing ceremonies.”

Sounds still play an important role in Mexican society. A cow bell announces the arrival of the garbage truck outside Mexico City homes. A trilling, tuneless flute heralds the knife sharpener’s arrival. A whistle emitting cat meows says the lottery ticket seller is here.

But pre-Columbian instruments often end up in a warehouse, Velazquez said, “and I’m talking about museums around the world doing this, not just here.”

That’s changing, said Tomas Barrientos, director of the archaeology department at Del Valle University of Guatemala.

“Ten years ago, nothing was known about this,” he said. “But with the opening up of museum collections and people’s private collections, it’s an area of research that is growing in importance.”

Velazquez meticulously researches each noisemaker before replicating it. He travels across Mexico to examine newly unearthed wind instruments, some dating back to 400 BC and shaped like animals or deities. He studies reliefs and scans 500-year-old Spanish chronicles.

But making replicas is only part of the work. Then he has to figure out how to play them. He’ll blow into some holes and plug others, or press the instrument to his lips and flutter his tongue. Sometimes he puts the noisemaker inside his mouth and blows, fluctuating the air from his lungs.

He experimented with one frog-shaped whistle for a year before discovering its inner croak.

Renowned archaeologist Paul Healy, who made an important discovery of Maya instruments in Belize in the 1980s, said many of the originals still work.

“A couple of these instruments we found were broken, which was great because we could actually see the construction of them, the actual technology of building a sound chamber out of paper-thin clay,” he said.

Still, their exact sounds will likely remain a mystery.

“When you blow into them, you still can get notes from them, so you could figure out what the range was,” Healy said. “But what we don’t have is sheet music to give us a more accurate picture of what it sounded like.”

Hear the Chilling Sounds

Simply chilling. You can hear the recreated sounds of Aztec whistles at: www.cnn.com/2008/TECH/science/06/30/pre-columbiansounds.ap/index.html

Source: From an original report by the Associated Press released on the *International Herald Tribune* Web site, the global edition of the *New York Times* at: www.ihf.com. Submitted by Scott Allen.



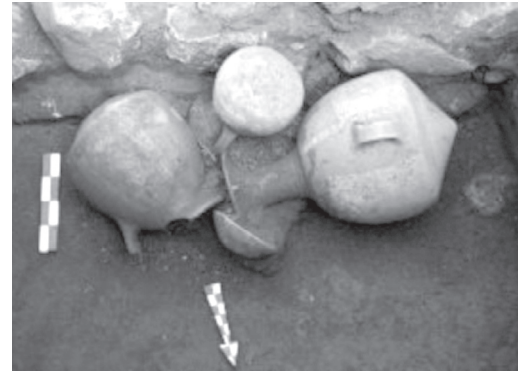
Ceremonial Vestiges Discovered in the Site of Killarumiyoc, Peru

Experts of Peru's National Institute of Culture (INC) discovered ceramic remains buried one meter deep, in the third terrace of the Killarumiyoc archaeological site, in the district of Ancahuasi, province of Anta, in the northeast of Cusco.

The cache is believed to be a ceremonial offering composed of four fine decorated vessels, among them an *aribalo* (pitcher) with red, bright red and ivory coloring. These "objects are only used in

ritual spaces", indicated Carlos Arriola, a resident archaeologist working at the site. "Usually, these objects are found inside places such as vaulted niches, ceremonial altars or ceremonial contexts. This discovery is atypical", he stated, we've never discovered a similar cache in a terraced area.

Source: From an article released by the Peruvian news agency Andina at: www.andina.com.



Ceremonial objects buried one meter deep in the third terrace of the Killarumiyoc archaeological site. Photo courtesy of: Andina Inc.

5,000-year-old Anthropomorphic Figures Found in Vichama, Peru

In June 2008, a team of archaeologists led by Dr. Ruth Shady discovered a number of anthropomorphic figures believed to be some five thousand years old near the district of Vegueta in the province of Huarura on the coast north of Lima, Peru.

The relics were unearthed in the archeological site of Vichama, or "hidden city", a place that belongs to the same civilization as Caral and which is located 159 km north of Lima.

Caral is considered the oldest city of the Americas dated to about 5,000 years old.

The figures represent a woman nursing and a person of high social status. It was reported that Carbon 14 dating will soon determine how old these relics are.

This discovery occurs almost a year after the start of archaeological works on this site headed by Dr. Ruth Shady.

These objects, along with others found at the site, will be exhibited at the Communitarian Museum of Vegueta.



One of the figurines uncovered in Vichama shows a headless woman nursing a child.

4,500-year-old Mummies Uncovered in Chile

Eight perfectly preserved mummies, believed to be some 4,500 year old, were found in late June 2008 by workers engaged in a restoration project in the northern part of Chile.

"These mummies date back to between 2,000 BC and 5,000 BC," archaeologist Calogero Santoro said.

The mummies are remains of individuals belonging to the Chinchorro culture, which was one of the first to practice mummification, and the perfect condition in which the mummies were found is indicative of their advanced techniques.

Three of the eight skeletons have been kept on the site in the Morro de Arica site for visitors to see while the other five were taken to Tarapaca University in northern Chile, where other mummies found in previous years are preserved.

Morro de Arica is known for its mummies. Several

hundred of them, some as old as 7,000 years, were discovered in 1983.

In 2005, University of Tarapaca archaeologists found 50 Chinchorro mummies, dating back to 4,000 BC, during the demolition of a house.

The unusually large number of mummies found in the sector indicate that one of the oldest Chinchorro cemeteries may have been located there. The Chinchorros are presumed to have died out or migrated in the first century AD.

The mummies found in northern Chile date back even earlier than the ones discovered in Egypt, making them some of the world's oldest mummies.

The Council of National Monuments of Chile seeks to have the mummies declared as archaeological patrimony of humanity by the UNESCO.

Source: From an original report by Spain's EFE news agency at: <http://sify.com>



Ongoing excavations at the site of Vichama.



A well-preserved woven straw basket. Images courtesy of Andina/Difusión.

Source: From an article released by the Peruvian news agency Andina at: www.andina.com. Submitted by Scott Allen.



Ancient “Human Sacrifices” Uncovered in Bandurria, Peru

Three possible human sacrifice victims have been found at a 4,000-year-old archaeological site in Peru, an archaeologist says.

The apparently mutilated, partial skeletons (see photos) could overturn the peaceful reputation of the Pre-Ceramic period (3,000 BC to 1,800 BC) in the Andes mountains – a time generally seen as free of ritualized killing and warfare.

Outside experts caution, however, that such claims remain unproven.

Alejandro Chu Barrera, who led the dig, said: “We found two pairs of legs – probably young females around their 20s – and the decapitated body of a young male in his 20s.”

“They appear to have been ritually killed,” he said.

Chu directs the Archaeological Project of Bandurria at the 133-acre (54-hectare) site 90 miles (140 km) outside of present-day Lima. The team discovered the human offerings while excavating one of the circular plazas found at Bandurria.

“We don’t know if the bodies were torn apart postmortem or premortem,” he said.

Human Sacrifice?

Chu said the find is significant, because “many researchers have characterized the Pre-Ceramic period as very peaceful, with no evidence of the kind of violence that was seen during the [later] Moche [AD 100 to 800] time of human sacrifices and mutilations.”

The newly discovered remains were left by people who were part of “a Pre-Ceramic society that had no exact name,” Chu said.

The bones were found beneath 31 inches (80 centimeters) of sand. “There was no evidence of disturbances caused by later occupations,” Chu noted.

Media reports have claimed that Bandurria is the oldest settlement of its kind in the Americas, though an even older urban site was announced in February.)

It is one of some 30 Pre-Ceramic sites located in the North Central coast, which Chu collectively referred to as “the cradle of Andean Civilization.”

Tom Pozorski, an archaeologist at the University of Texas-Pan American described the find by Chu’s team as



Pyramid 1 at Bandurria, above the sunken circular plaza.



Objects of bone and shell found at Bandurria.

“an interesting discovery worthy of publication.”

Chu said that, while Bandurria has yielded human remains in the past, this is the first time they show signs of ritualistic killing.

Winifred Creamer, an anthropologist at Northern Illinois University, said:

“The find of individuals, evidently sacrifice victims, at Bandurria is significant, because there is not currently evidence of human sacrifice or warfare during the Pre-Ceramic [period].”

Creamer said the new discovery is “provocative” but added that the remains “are stimulating, rather than definitive, in suggesting the presence of sacrifice.”

A Tantalizing Find

Sloan Williams, a physical anthropologist at the University of Illinois at Chicago, said, “While the findings are tantalizing, assuming that they are evidence of human sacrifice is premature.”

“Ritual violence is only one of the possible explanations,” she noted. Another may be secondary burial practices, which may explain the condition of the remains, Williams added. To determine what happened, both the site and the bones must be studied further, she said.



The process of restoration within the 4,000-year-old sunken circular plaza.



A decapitated skeleton – from a male who apparently died in his 20s. Experts may prove these and nearby bones show signs of human sacrifice, which could suggest that Andean peoples of the period were not as peaceful as generally thought.



After revealing this skeleton, researchers noted its strange pose, with the knees brought up to the waist and the hands brought up to the face. Photos courtesy of Alejandro Chu.

Tulane University anthropologist John Verano described Chu’s find as “interesting.” But he added that theories about dismemberment should remain preliminary, pending an analysis of the femurs and neck vertebrae of the headless body.

“One needs to prove by cut marks or other physical evidence that a body was dismembered [before death],” he said. “Even then, theoretically, one could be dealing with sacrifice, execution, murder, or any of a number of human behaviors.”

Shelia Pozorski, also an anthropologist at Texas-Pan American, said, “Bandurria is a truly incredible site, regardless of how the human remains come to be interpreted.”

Source: From an original article by Kelly Hearn available at: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com>. Submitted by Scott Allen.

Funerary Offering and Metal Objects Uncovered in Sacsayhuamán, Peru

Experts of Cusco's National Institute of Culture (INC) discovered a funerary offering with metal objects in the so-called Temple of the Moon, located at the archeological site of Sacsayhuamán.

The director of the archeological park, Washington Camacho, said that after research excavations, a metallic yellow bracelet was found. A technical analysis will determine if this object is made of gold.

In addition, they discovered a knife or *Champi* made from an alloy of diverse metals, laminated silver and cultural

material of ceramics. The objects may be part of an offering related to the funerary Inka ceremony, indicated by five individuals whose remains were found 15 days ago.

There's another hypothesis which says objects can belong to an important personage of the place whose remains are still not found, said the researcher.

The objects' discovery took place in late June at the archeological excavation unit in the south of the Moon's Temple.

Source: From an article released by the Peruvian news agency Andina at: www.andina.com. Submitted by Mike Ruggeri.



Funerary offering and metal objects discovered in Sacsayhuamán.
Photo courtesy of Fernando Zora-Carvajal.

Students Dig Through History Thousands of Miles from Home

Eurika Pen's first trip out of the U.S. took her about 1,000 miles from home and more than 1,000 years back in time.

The sophomore, from Matanzas High School in Flagler Beach, Florida, spent part of her summer vacation in June digging in the dirt at Cahal Pech, an ancient Maya site in Belize.

From 6 am to 4 pm, Eurika and eight other students – split into two groups – huddled over two dig units in the plaza near a Maya building dated between 800 to 1200 AD.

The painstaking excavation using trowels and toothbrushes yielded Eurika and her group few artifacts, while the second group uncovered figurines and other relics.

"We thought we found something on the first day ... but it was just a flat piece of plaster," she said.

On the last day, Eurika's group did make a big find – steps to a building, she said. But the lack of treasures didn't take away from the experience.

"I didn't know what to expect, but I knew it would be fun," she said.

This is the third summer students from Flagler Palm Coast and Matanzas high schools have traveled to the Central American country along with Matanzas teacher Mat Saunders to participate in the Belize Valley Archaeological Reconnaissance Project. Past trips

involved the group working on sites already under

excavation. But this summer, the Flagler group was assigned a site of its own and found a completely "intact and just pristine" temple, Saunders said.

The temple – which dates back to between 1000 and 600 BC – is adorned with hand-carved stucco masks. Artifacts found near the site included ceramics, bone and stone tools. The temple sits near a bigger structure that may have once housed artisans, Saunders said.

The Maya believed everything – inanimate objects included – possessed souls and probably buried the temple once it had fulfilled its purpose, Saunders said. "They would do ritualistic terminations and build over things," he said.

It's not clear what the underground building was used for, but that will be revealed slowly over the next few years, Saunders said. "It's likely the building's discovery could net the group some

national exposure in the months to come," he added.

"This is really a significant find," Saunders said. "This is definitely the most exciting thing I've ever been involved with."

Former Flagler Palm Coast student Amber Tetley accompanied Saunders to Belize last summer and in 2006.

Tetley, who will study archaeology at University of Central Florida this fall, said she's learned something new about the Maya with each visit to Cahal Pech.

"It's a great work experience," she said. "You can make connections to the way (the Maya) lived then to the way we live now."

Saunders said he plans to take another group to the site next June to continue excavating the temple. Finding the temple was a coup, but the real discovery is yet to be uncovered, he said.

Source: Condensed from an original article by Kenya Woodard for the *Flagler News Tribune* journal online, at: www.news-journalonline.com

Jade Necklaces Stolen from Lubantuun

The visitors center at the Maya site of Lubantuun in the Toledo District of Belize was burglarized during the first weekend in July 2008, and a thief or thieves stole two jade necklaces. The robbery occurred sometime between Saturday evening and Sunday morning, when access to

the center was gained by prying open the burglar bars and damaging the glass case where the necklaces were displayed.

According to Dr. Jaime Awe, the Director of the Institute of Archaeology, the pieces are from Maya antiquity but they are not among the prized pieces. That is because they are what are called of "provenance unknown", meaning that they are not dated and have not been linked to any particular Maya site or era.

Source: From an original press release at: <http://7newsbelize.com>

Institute of Maya Studies' Line-up of Presentations!

August 13: Travel, Art & Archaeology • Ray Stewart

“A Tale of Two Cities: Yaxchilán and Bonampak”



Impressive roof-comb on Structure 33 at Yaxchilán.



The central plaza at Bonampak has many tall carved stelae.

Yaxchilán, which means “Green Stones” in Maya, is an ancient Maya archaeological site in the Mexican state of Chiapas. It is built on a bend on the banks of the Río Usumacinta. The area was inhabited around 350 BC, but it did not reach its peak until around 700 AD when it became one of the most powerful Maya cities of the time. Yaxchilán is known for its exquisite stelae and lintels, which tell the city’s complete history.

Bonampak, which means “Painted Wall” in Maya, is located approximately 30 km (20 miles) south of the larger site of Yaxchilán, under which Bonampak was a dependency, and the border with Guatemala. While the site is not overly impressive in terms of spatial or architectural size, it is well-known for a number of murals, most especially those located within Structure 1 (The Temple of the Murals, at right).

The construction of the site’s structures dates to the Early Classic period (ca. AD 580 to 800).

Ray Stewart is your guide to intrigue.



A stela displayed with mirrors at Yaxchilán.



August 20: IMS General Meeting:

“Spanish Gold: Too Much of a Good Thing?”

with Juan L. Riera



Maya gold recovered from the Sacred Cenote at Chichén Itzá.

Gold in the Americas was a prized material for objects of adornment. It was also valued for its religious symbolism. For the Inka and other peoples of the Andean region of South America, gold was the “sweat of the sun,” the most sacred of all deities.

But it was gold’s value as money that drove European exploration and colonization of the New World. Massive collections of plundered New World gold objects and ornaments were melted down for coinage, increasing the money supply in the Old World.

Mr. Rivera’s presentation will focus on a brief overview of Spanish treasure laws, numismatics (the study of coins and medals), the effects of

Spanish treasure on Europe, and its long lasting effects to this day in the United States. He will also be giving an overview of places in Florida where Spanish treasure can be viewed and will be bringing in props to show Spanish colonial coins, books, postcards, etc. There is so much to learn about gold; plan on being there!



Spanish gold bullion. Image courtesy of the Jay I. Kislak Collection.

**The Institute Maya Studies • All meetings are Wednesdays • 8-9:30 PM • Miami Science Museum
3280 South Miami Avenue, across from Vizcaya • \$6 donation requested from non-members
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Upcoming Events at the IMS:

August 6: *IMS Board Meeting*

All IMS members are welcome to attend.

August 13: *Travel, Art & Archaeology*

“A Tale of Two Cities: Yaxchilán and Bonampak” – Yaxchilán and Bonampak are two ancient Maya sites in the Mexican state of Chiapas, near the border with Guatemala. The area was inhabited around 350 BC, but it did not reach its peak until 700 AD when Yaxchilán was one of the most powerful Maya cities of the time. Ray Stewart takes on a tour of sites the IMS group will visit in November.

August 20: *IMS General Meeting*

“Spanish Gold: Too Much of a Good Thing?” – An overview of Spanish treasure laws, numismatics (the study of coins and medals), the effects of Spanish treasure on Europe, and its long lasting effects to this day in the United States, with Juan L. Rivera. He will be bringing in props to show Spanish colonial coins, books, postcards, etc. Be there!

Upcoming Events and Announcements:

August 14–16: *Symposium*

“First Biannual Symposium on Teaching Indigenous Languages of Latin America (STILLA-2008)” –

Sponsored by the Minority Languages and Cultures Program (ML&CP), The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) of Indiana University. At Indiana University, Bloomington, IN. Get more info at: www.iub.edu

September 13: *Symposium*

“Power and Politics in the Late Aztec Period” – Theme of this symposium by the Pre-Columbian Society of Washington, D.C. Location to be announced. Get more info at: www.pcswdc.org

October 11–12: *Symposium*

“Recordkeeping in Pre-Columbian Mesoamerica and the Andean Region” – A Pre-Columbian Symposium at Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, D.C. The symposium is intended to gain critical and comparative insights into the types

of sign, script, and notational systems devised by indigenous Americans for the purposes of recording and conveying knowledge and information. Speakers

include: Elizabeth Boone (Tulane Univ.), Oswaldo Chinchilla (Museo Popol Vuh), Stephen Houston (Brown Univ.), Alfonso Lacadena (Universidad Complutense de Madrid), David Stuart (Univ. of Texas at Austin), Karl Taube (Univ. of California, Riverside), Javier Urcid (Brandeis Univ.) and Gary Urton (Harvard Univ.). Get more info at: <http://pre-columbian@doaks.org>

October 18: *Symposium*

“Mesoamerican Mythologies” – Theme of symposium of the New World Archaeology Council (NWAC) at the Beckman Center of the National Academies of Sciences and Engineering. Big names here too! Get more info at: <http://mesoamericanmythologies.info>



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 news items and images to mayaman@bellsouth.net or forward by postal mail to: Jim Reed, 936 Greenwood Ave NE, Apt.8, Atlanta, GA 30306



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August 20: IMS General Meeting:

“Spanish Gold: Too Much of a Good Thing?”

with **Juan L. Riera**

A hurricane off the coast of Florida in July 1715 ravaged 11 Spanish ships as they attempted to return gold to Spain.