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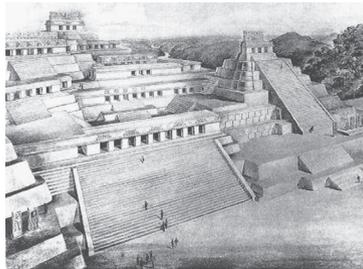
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the City of Black Stones”**
with *Marta Barber*



**Jim Reed,
Editor**

The Most Extensive Maya Inscription Yet Reported on the Yucatán Peninsula Is Uncovered

Hieroglyphics on Sabana Piletas Staircase Partially Deciphered

More than 130 hieroglyphics, most of them still legible, inscribed on the Sabana Piletas staircase, located in northeast Campeche, comprise the most extensive reported Maya inscription on the Yucatán Peninsula. According to recent studies, rulers could have used the Glyphs Building staircase to celebrate sacrificial rituals.

According to archaeologists Antonio Benavides Castillo and Sara Novelo Osorno, from Mexico’s National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) Center in Campeche, the text is exceptional due to its extension and preservation state.

As part of the Not-Open to Public Archaeological Zones Maintenance project (MANZANA), several constructions at Sabana Piletas – occupied from 600 to 1000 AD – have been consolidated between 2007 and 2008, among them, the Glyphs Building staircase, due to its historical importance.



Detail. Antonio notes that this is the largest glyphic inscription in the Puuc region, with more glyphs than those found at Xcalumkin or Uxmal.



INAH archaeologist Antonio Benavides Castillo, forwarded this personal photo of some of the glyphic panels while he supervised their excavation.

The eastern staircase of the Glyphs Building has ten steps and the inscriptions are on the first and fourth step levels. There are 34 panels, each with 4 hieroglyphs, totalling 136. Each panel was adorned with triangles that evoked serpent designs.

Epigraphists Nikolai Grube, of the University of Bonn, Germany, and Carlos Pallan Gayol, a member of the INAH Maya Glyphic and Iconography Group (AGIMAYA), made some preliminary deciphering, which allowed for a general understanding of the structure of the staircase.

Deciphering revealed that the date inscribed in the first eight glyphs of both steps corresponds with December 18th or 25th of 858 AD. In accord with another epigraphist’s interpretation, Dr. David Stuart of the University of Texas at Austin, the date would be equivalent to 864 AD.

For Benavides Castillo and Novelo Osorno, this confirms that Sabana Piletas participated in the political panorama of the western Yucatán Peninsula during 9th century, during the Late Classic period.

Another important discovery is a glyph (*kikel*) with the phonetic meaning translated

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A New Year and New Plans for the IMS

We finished 2008 with a bang: a fun party that not only complied with our 501(c) 3 requirements as a non-profit organization but that also brought together people with a passion for the Maya. It's been a year that had its ups and downs, but mostly it accomplished big goals.

Note: The results of Board member designations and positions for 2009 will be announced in our February issue.

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The downs were few: We received a letter to the editor of our Newsletter complaining about articles published and the letter of resignation to the Board of two hardworking and beloved members.

Jim Reed is the editor of the Newsletter and few Maya lovers are as committed to bringing to our monthly publication the best in news and information as Jim. Not all of us may agree with what our Newsletter publishes month after month, but that's the nature of a publication. Have we always agreed with findings by *National Geographic* or *Archaeology* magazines?

The truth is, we welcome rebuttals. As a retired journalist, I encourage readers to send us articles that may disagree with the Newsletter. The Newsletter will publish any article that presents another angle as long as it is written well with the intentions of arguing the opposite side of an issue.

The Board was sorry to receive the resignation letters of two of the IMS' most admired and loved members: Dr. Anne and Ray Stewart. For decades, the Stewarts were dedicated to the IMS with the commitment that few have. They have served in many capacities, including presidents, with the latest as chairs to the Program committees. But it was time for them to relieve themselves of the endless duties. The Stewarts will continue to lecture and, of course, will always be available for us to pick their brains about the Maya.

The ups have been many. Our Research Committee, headed by past-president Joaquín (Jack) Rodríguez, continues to move forward. The IMS is about to publish Jack's findings on lintel beams in Maya construction. Drs. Edward Kurjack and D. Clarke Wernecke have been working with Jack on the project. Jack, Kurjack, Ruben Maldonado and our "in-house" architect, Rick Slazyk, of Arcwerks, Inc. in South Florida, took their measuring tapes and analytical eyes to Dzibilchaltún and are ready to put down some numbers on the House of the Seven Dolls and other buildings on the site. Soon they will publish a complete analysis on materials and stress in our Newsletter.

George Fery, president of E-Scrap USA and a longtime member of IMS, once again donated technological equipment that we were able to send to the Copán Project. Most



Our 2008 IMS Maya adventure included a visit to the site of Piedras Negras on the shores of the Usumacinta River in the Petén department of Guatemala. Ceramics analysis shows the site was occupied from the mid-7th century BC to 850 AD. Above: Stucco mask and a fallen stela in front of Structure K5. Image courtesy of Bill Lieberman.

national archaeological institutions working on sites in Mesoamerica have no funds to update their computer equipment. The IMS has been able to send these site projects some equipment with which they can better perform their research.

As the year ended, a group of members went on the trek we have now organized for five years. The trip was another winner. Not only we were able to visit incredible sites, but were able to see them through the eyes of archaeologists and their continuous work at those sites.

So, we are ready for the new year. We want to start a group of small workshops to be held on our Art and Archaeology days. We want to bring back the Travel get-togethers. As we want to continue to improve our website. Our Research committee will move forward with more solid information about Maya construction. And we'll continue to offer great lectures.

I am proud of what we've accomplished and of the people that have helped in keeping our organization one of the best at what we do. Thank you all for your membership. Please invite a friend, a relative to join. If you have comments of any kind, please send them to us.

Let's have a wonderful 2009.

Marta Barber

Maya glyph expert Dr. David Stuart, of the University of Texas at Austin, created this interesting glyphic interpretation of the name of a modern man affiliated



o-ba-ma-a

with change. Check out Dave's posts on "The Daily Glyph" at: www.gomaya.com/glyph



Space and Population in Palenque at the End of the Late Classic*

By Archaeologist Benito Jesús Venegas Durán of the Maya Archaeological Site of Palenque

Without doubt, the site of Palenque shows many of the cultural characteristics, such as architecture, sculpture, iconography and cosmivision, that define Late Classic Maya culture, as identified with the governing class and which reflect the refinement and sophistication realized during such period. Yet, during that period, there are aspects of the population in many Maya sites that we don't fully understand. Such is the case with Palenque, where once the city's splendor began to diminish, so did its population, as we will try to prove here.

The City at It's Peak

During several decades, Palenque has been known by researchers and scholars as the center of an important dynasty that held political and economic control of the Chiapas northeastern lowlands. Its architects and renowned artists left imprint of the activities of such rulers in the beautiful and finely written tablets and the dedication of expertly engineered buildings.

Many scholars have connected the growth of Palenque with the name of only one ruler: K'inich Janahb' Pakal II (615–683 AD).

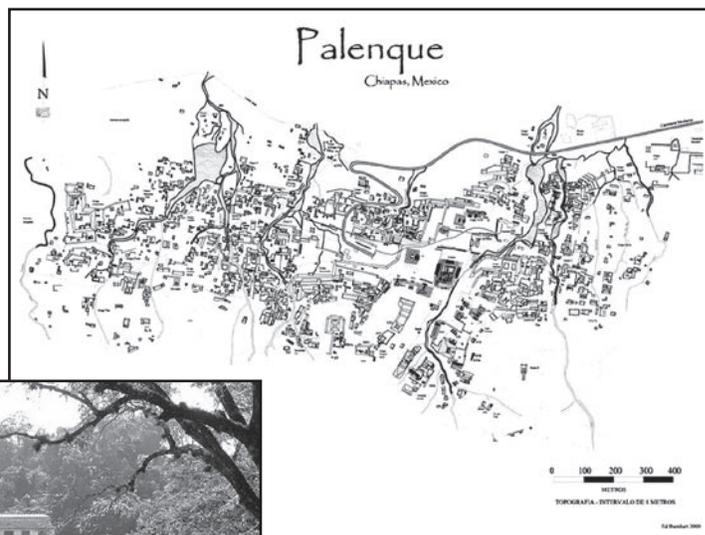
Robert Rands writes: "The rise of Palenque during Pakal's reign is well documented in the architecture and sculpture of the city," (Rands, 2003). Other authors point out that Palenque was just a small village or hammock without a considerable population or area of occupation big enough to be considered the kind of political center that it was during the reign of K'inich Janahb' Pakal II (Bishop, 1994; Rands, 2003; Schele, 1974; Schele and Freidel, 1990).

The life of the ruler Pakal II is framed during the Otolum ceramic phase. This ceramic phase should be well represented in the architectural constructions, renovations and additions made in the older parts of the city.

Yet, this is far from the evidence found during the excavations conducted by the Proyecto de Crecimiento Urbano (PCU) (Project of Urban Growth) and directed by the archaeologist Roberto López Bravo. During two field seasons, PCU opened exploratory pits in almost the totality of the old city in order to establish a chronology of the architectural center by recuperating its ceramic material. This work has proposed a timeline of the growth of the city. We are now concentrating in the occupation of Palenque during its Late Classic. It is during the Murciélagos and Balunte ceramic phases (700–810 AD) that Palenque's population and territorial expansion reach their peak. The city's control reaches such far away places as La Mar or Anayte (Martin and Grube, 2000).

K'an B'alam II dies in 702 AD and is succeeded by his brother K'inich K'an Joy Chitam II who, as well as his predecessor, wishes to leave his own mark in the city. It is Joy Chitam II who enlarges the Palace, builds Houses A–D and commissions the Palace Tablet, which shows him receiving the power from his parents, though both had died many years before.

Palenque suffers a reversal of fortune when Joy Chitam II is captured by the ruler K'inich B'aaknal Chaak of Toniná in 711 AD. There is still some question whether he was sacrificed



**Presented by the author at the Seventh International Maya Congress that took place in the city of Mérida, Yucatán, on July 8–14, 2007 and organized by UNAM's Institute of Philological Research and the Center of Maya Studies. (UNAM is the National Autonomous University of Mexico.)*

or returned to Palenque (Martin and Grube, 2000). Undoubtedly, the ruler's capture left a great vacuum in the city.

Not until 10 years later, when K'inich Ahkal Mo' Naab' III takes the throne in 721 AD, that Palenque begins a period of construction. The Acropolis South sees new construction with a new style of artistic pieces commissioned: Tablet of the Throne of Temple XXI and the Tablet of the Assistants from Temple XIX. These two tablets narrate a ceremony that took place in 736 AD in honor of the 721 AD accession to the throne of K'inich Ahkal Mo' Naab' III when Palenque returns to its position of power as regional capital.

The Tablet of the Slaves gives us information on the expansion of the city. It writes of the war campaigns taken by Chak Sutz' and Yahaw K'ahk' of Palenque. "The monument registers the victorious wars to the East (723–725 AD), when Palenque conquered K'ihna' a city dependent of Piedras Negras (Bernal Romero Venegas Durán, 2005).

Palenque reaches its peak during the ceramic phases of Murciélagos and Balunte (700–810 AD) as proven by the elevated quantity of ceramic materials of these two phases found by the PCU.

These ceramic materials provide us with the necessary elements to determine a large growth of population taking place during this ceramic cycle. This has been proven in 92 percent

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Space and Population in Palenque at the End of the Late Classic

By Archaeologist Benito Jesús Venegas Durán of the Maya Archaeological Site of Palenque

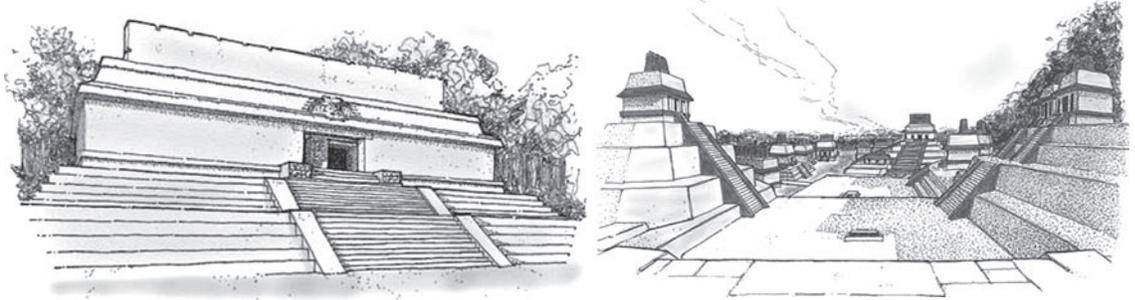
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of the exploration pits opened by PCU. No other period in the city's history shows such evidence. The following ceramic phase, Huipale, represents the decline of the population of the old city and its reoccupation by groups of the Gulf of Mexico and the Tabasco plains (López Bravo and Venegas Durán, 2006).

The majority of the burials located by the PCU has been dated to this period and corroborated by the offerings found in the burials. Some of these burials show those characteristics of the burial patterns found in Palenque. For example, a skull has the typical deformation used by the Maya as well as teeth mutilations. During the excavations, we found a great amount of fragments of small figurines and seldom were they found complete. Those samples in better condition reflect the beliefs, customs and characteristics of the population of Palenque. These figurines are of deities, "nahuales," (images of animal-spirits or other shamanistic images), dwarfs, warriors and animals of daily life. Also found were the molds to make these figurines, which indicates that the distribution and manufacture of these artifacts were handled from the inner city (López Bravo and Venegas Durán, 2006.) It is fairly apparent that these figurines were not considered objects only intended for the reigning class as they are found in all of the architectural complexes worked by PCU.

It is also interesting to note that among the miscellaneous objects found were ceramic fragments containing hieroglyphic inscriptions and which were once part of vases. These examples were found in Pit 16 by the Picota Group. One had the glyph "u-lu, ul" or *atole*, in a cartouche, which makes us think that the vase to which it belonged was used to consume this drink. The other fragment apparently belonging to the same vase shows the name of K'an Joy Chitam along the glyph for B'akab'.

These vase glyphs may allude to the second son of Pakal II, K'an Joy Chitam, whom we know from the inscriptions to have been born in 664 AD and acceded to the throne in 702 AD.



Left: Temple XIX, as it stood twelve centuries ago. The façade and front stairway collapsed over the course of time. They are currently under reconstruction. Right, what Palenque looked like from the terrace of Temple XIX. The original shows red coloring that was probably used to make the most important buildings stand out. Renderings courtesy of Jim Ballay.

Because of the location of these fragments, it has not been possible to establish a relationship that this ruler could have had with this architectural complex where the fragments were found.

In actuality, there are few examples of Palenque ceramics decorated with glyph inscriptions. Those that we have come from living quarters in the periphery of the main architectural complex (such as the Murciélagos from where the Initial Series Vase comes from, or from Group IV, where a fragment showing the glyph for "B'akab' comes from.) The absence of ceramics with glyph inscriptions from the Palace, the assumed living quarters of the dynasty, and from rulers' burials suggest that the dynastic line did not make much use of vases. It is possible that the dynasty produced these vases to be given as gifts to the heads of these architectural complexes and maybe only done in a specific period of the Palenque history (8th Century). All ceramic vases with glyphs found so far belong to this period (López Bravo, et al, 2003).

Other artifacts found during the excavations have been a tortoise shell, possibly remains of a food product; a fragment of a manati bone, used for a musical instrument; a fossil shark's tooth; bones sharpened to be used as tools; and a few small bone spatulas finished as human fingers (from the Murciélagos-Balunte complexes) and which are instruments used by scribes and painters as seen in vases and codices. These spatulas have been extensively found in many sites including Oxkintok in the Yucatán (Schmidt, 2004).

The Abandonment of the City

Palenque suffered a dramatic decline in population and occupied area during the ceramic phase of Huipale (810–900 AD).

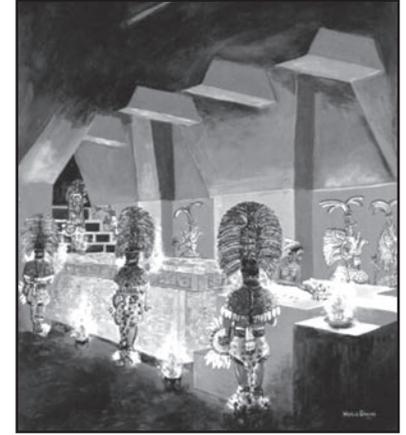
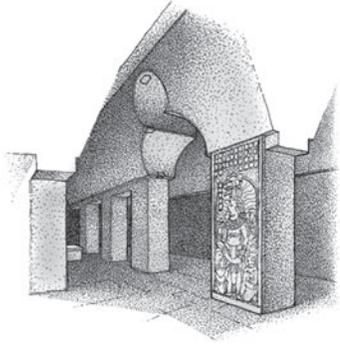


Buried for twelve centuries, a ruler (left), a priest (center) and Maya dignitaries appear carved on panels of a platform that served as a throne in Temple XIX. Photos courtesy of José A. Granados.



Space and Population in Palenque at the End of the Late Classic

By Archaeologist Benito Jesús Venegas Durán of the Maya Archaeological Site of Palenque



Left: Inside Palenque's Temple XIX, according to rendering artist Jim Ballay. Middle: A majestic stucco figure surrounded by elaborate glyphs was found attached to the central pilaster. Right: The burial of Kinich Janahb' Pakal II.

Rendering courtesy of Merle Greene Robertson.

Only 36 percent of the conducted surveys contain ceramics from this period in contrast with the 92 percent found in the previous ceramic period. The occupied area drops to several focal points outside the main architectural complex and most concentrated in the area of the Motiepa River. Dynastic activities and hieroglyphic inscriptions have ceased and monumental architectural buildings have stopped. Definitely, this is the time of the decline of the city.

Huipale also shows the occupation of the city by foreigners, as described by historian Guillermo Bernal in his thesis on the inscriptions of Temple XXI. We learn that the abandonment of the city, the same as in all Maya capitals of the Classic period, takes place gradually with small population groups remaining in dispersed areas. A few buildings of the South Acropolis, specifically Temples XIX and XXI, had remains of offerings. These buildings show deliberate divisions of the interior of buildings including using broken parts of tablets as walls. For example, fragment of the Tablet of the Warriors was found in the dividing wall of Temple XXI but this tablet was originally located in Temple XVII, barely 50 meters away (Bernal Romero, 2006).

Because of the accumulated evidence obtained by the PCU, we know with certainty that the last areas of the city to be abandoned were the architectural complexes of Picota, Escondido, Nauyaka, Xinil Pa', Retiro de Moises, Encantado, J, Campamento and a part of Bosque Azul. These last dwellers of the city were perhaps the ones who caused so much destruction in the central nucleus of the site.

Undoubtedly, the population decreased dramatically. The majority of the archaeological complexes show a desolating landscape, whereas the previous period left large amount of utilitarian vessels, such as plates, cups, *ollas*, bowls and even fragments of portable incense burners. During Huipale, the amount of ceramics was reduced to a few *ollas* and bowls.

The decorative elements and the materials used for decorations also change dramatically during this period. An example of this can be seen in the effigy vase found in Group C by archaeologist Roberto López Bravo during the excavations of the 1990s. This artifact made of plumbate ware and shaped in the form of a *batracian*, a frog-like animal, was found in Structure 2 of this group, indicating the introduction of foreign shapes and materials.

Conclusions

The final results of the two excavations seasons and the season of material analyses of the materials make us reflect on the interpretations that are better known about Palenque, especially about its hieroglyphic inscriptions and its architecture.

For example, thanks to the advances in building methods of research, we can locate the original area of occupation. Not that which includes the West section of the city, but that which was found in the earliest construction development in the civic and ceremonial center and its adjacent areas. It is now also possible to determine the area occupied during the decline and end of its population. This has led us to focus in more specific investigations.

The materials collected by PCU give us more details about the studies of the Terminal Classic, a period of growth in which Palenque reaches its apogee and its subsequent abandonment. The distribution of materials suggests occupation of higher ground and its steep topography modified by artificial terraces and levels filled with massive rubble, a project carried on by the governing dynasty in efforts to continue its expansion of living areas to accommodate its growing population. This expansion of the use of its peripheral space indicates the growing power of Palenque in the region as smaller sites were abandoned in order to fall under Palenque's aegis.

This unbridled growing process slows down at the beginning of the Eighth Century, when the dynasty engages in conflicts. Yet, Palenque comes out the winner in some of those conflicts against the allies of Piedras Negras thanks to the wars led by Chak Suutz' and Yahaw K'ahk. Life in the urban area appears to continue in a normal fashion.

A similar series of events takes place in Piedras Negras. During that site's Chacalhaaz ceramic phase (780–820 AD) the urban population grows rapidly. Yet, during the next ceramic phase, Kumch (825–900 AD), a dramatic abandonment of the city occurs. Excavations carried on in Piedras Negras have associated 118 structures and buildings with a high level of activity during the Chacalhaaz phase, while only 27 structures show activity during the Kumche phase (Nelson, 2006).

Data from the city and its region suggest a complex situation linked directly with the gradual abandonment of the city of groups that deemed it prudent to leave and settle in underpopulated areas near the Usumacinta River.

Construction in Chiapas and Up the Usumacinta

By Joaquín J. Rodríguez III PE, SECB

This year's IMS expedition up the Usumacinta River (the present border between the State of Chiapas, Mexico on the west and the Department of Petén, Guatemala, on the east) was, among other things, intended to sample construction techniques and architectural details on both sides of the border. Prior research had found significant differences in construction technology between those of Petén and Chiapas. We hoped by visiting Palenque's newest excavations, as well as neighboring Toniná, Yaxchilán, Bonampak, and across the river to Piedras Negras, that we could determine temporal regional limits to these techniques.

Petén construction primarily utilizes embedded wood lintels for their larger openings as seen among the large carved

lintels of Tikal. Embedding a beam about 1/3 of its span at each support produces a rigid fixed-end condition that absorbs from 50–66 percent of the flexural effort required to carry the load, thus permitting much thinner wood members to span over longer openings. This permitted wider open doorways while requiring smaller trees to be tilled.

The builders of Palenque solved this problem a different way. While some of the older buildings in Palenque used the simple post-and-beam construction (the Templo Olvidado in the West Group, as well as the older North Group including the Temple of the Count), we begin to see some changes in the Palace structure, where a more ingenious solution was utilized.

The exterior walls (with lighter loads) were still spanned by simple beams, but the openings in the central, double-loaded walls were bridged by cross vaults of groined construction. This is the same methodology as the famous Gothic vaults of European Medieval construction. These cross vaults represent a huge breakthrough in masonry construction. We see these huge groined vaults in the temple of the Inscriptions, Temple 11, the Cross Group, and it is probable in Temple XIX, though the roof has collapsed.

We wanted to establish these differences on our recent trip. We expected to find cross vaults west of the Usumacinta and embedded lintels to the East, but reality is never that simple. We found small cross vaults as expected at all the sites we visited, but these were not the large groined vaults of the Cross Group. Surprisingly, we found one



An example of a corbelled vault doorway atop the main acropolis at Piedras Negras. Photo by Katherine Morales.

well-preserved fixed-end lintel up on one of the terraces of Toniná, in what is known as the Temple of Agriculture. This lintel was at an interior room similar to the symbolic “sweat baths” of the Palenque Cross Group. Mostly we found small openings spanned by stone lintels such as the famous carved lintels of Yaxchilán. (A fixed-end lintel reported and shown in past photographs at Piedras Negras has recently collapsed and been removed, so it could not be verified.)

In Piedras Negras, we found something we had not seen before: small, exterior doorways spanned by small cross vaults. The use was not frequent, but at least one building at each site had these small corbeled vaults at the front openings. In Palenque, we found one such building at the Murciélagos group.



Exposed corbelled arches with groined vaults and stone lintels over doorways within the Palace structure at Palenque.



Corbelled arch and stone lintels over doorways within a structure at Yaxchilán.

Most Extensive Maya Inscriptions

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as “ball”. It seems to refer to the rubber ball used in the ritual ball game. Another inscription (*pitzil-na*) alludes specifically to the ball game, meaning this could be a “sacrificial staircase”.

It is known that the Maya's greatest rulers celebrated sacred ball games at staircases, where they recreated the “Underworld of Xibalba”.

● “Evidence of a fine blue stucco covering – a color

that frequently appeared in rituals and sacrifices – supports this theory. The presence of two monolithic phalluses, located near the Glyphs Building, reinforces this hypothesis. It is possible that a ball game court existed in Sabana Piletas, but we still have to verify it”, concluded archaeologists Benavides Castillo and Novelo Osorno.

Source: Article posted 12/10/08 on the INAH Website at: <http://dti.inah.gob.mx>. Submitted by Mike Ruggeri.

2012 is Controversial!

The Institute of Maya Studies maintains an area of our web site devoted to **Understanding 2012**. Researchers Mark Van Stone and Robert Sitler will be submitting articles to be published in the IMS newsletter in the coming months. The IMS looks forward to sharing the insights of all investigators who are just now making their voices heard.

Four years to go! Discover your own perspective. Check out our 2012 link at: <http://mayastudies.org>

Institute of Maya Studies' Line-up of Presentations!

January 14: IMS Meeting (Classroom-style):

"Fruits of the Maya"

with Chris B. Rollins Director of the Fruit & Spice Park

in Homestead Redland and founder of Tropical Fruit Growers of South Florida, Inc.

Every Maya household had its own kitchen garden in which vegetables and fruit trees were raised, and fruit groves were scattered near settlements as well. Papaya, avocado, custard apple, sapodilla, guava, cacao, and the breadnut tree were all cultivated, but many kinds of wild fruits were also eaten. When not eaten plain, fruits were often made into intoxicating beverages used in ceremonies and rituals.



Jocote Marañón,
Anacardium occidentale (Cashew)



Chris Rollins in Belize holding two fine examples of Soursop, *Annona muricata*

January 21: Tribal Arts Society Meeting

Note: On the third Wednesday of this month, many of our IMS members will attend this special presentation:

"The Iconography of the Monumental Stone Sculpture at Tiwanaku, Bolivia"

with **Constantino Manuel Torres, PhD.**

7:30 PM at the Lowe Art Museum, University of Miami, 1301 Stanford Drive, Coral Gables

January 28: IMS Meeting (in the Museum Auditorium):

"By the River and Into the Jungle:

Unraveling the Secrets of Piedras Negras – the City of Black Stones"

with **Marta Barber**



Throne 1, from the site of Piedras Negras, National Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Guatemala City.

Photo by Rick Slazyk, AIA, NCARB

More than a century after it was first reported by travelers to the world of the Maya, the site of Piedras Negras, on the Guatemala side of the Usumacinta River, continues to be an enigma to archaeologists and Mayanists in general. The large site remains covered by the dense jungle despite intense work by the University of Pennsylvania in the 1930s, directed by Linton Satherthwaite, and more recently by Stephen Houston of Brigham Young University and Hector Escobedo of the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala.

Despite their work, Piedras Negras is mostly associated with Tatiana Proskouriakoff, the Russian-American scholar whose drawings and plan of the site still are considered essential to the study of the place. Piedras Negras stands preeminent among Maya cities in artistic sculpture. Its carved stelae, apparently erected every five years, is the most complete in the Maya region. Get an in-depth report by **Marta Barber** on the site recently visited by IMS members to try to comprehend why it is so important and why it still remains so mysterious.

The Institute Maya Studies • All meetings are Wednesdays • 8-9:30 PM • Miami Science Museum
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Institute of Maya Studies

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or Newsletter Only Subscription Form:

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Upcoming Events at the IMS:

January 7: *IMS Board Meeting*
All IMS members are welcome to attend.

January 14: *IMS Meeting: Classroom-style*
“Fruits of the Maya” – Every Maya household had its own kitchen garden in which vegetables and fruit trees were raised, and fruit groves were scattered near settlements as well. Get the whole story and a sample tasting from **Chris B. Rollins**, Director of South Florida’s Fruit & Spice Park and founder of Tropical Fruit Growers of South Florida, Inc.

January 28: *IMS Meeting: Museum Auditorium*
“By the River and Into the Jungle: Unraveling the Secrets of Piedras Negras – the City of Black Stones” – The site of Piedras Negras on the Guatemala side of the Usumacinta River continues to be an enigma to archaeologists and Mayanists in general. Just returned from a recent visit to the site, **Marta Barber** shares what was seen, experienced and absorbed!

Upcoming Events and Announcements:

January 17–18: *Symposium*
“3rd Braunstein Symposium on Mesoamerican Figurines” – The UNLV Marjorie Barrick Museum and Braunstein Foundation are pleased to announce the 3rd Braunstein Symposium on Mesoamerican Figurines. It is hoped that the symposium will be a lasting tradition to discuss and discover selected topics related to ancient Mesoamerican figurines. The symposium is to take place at the UNLV Marjorie Barrick Museum in Las Vegas, NV. Get more info at: <http://hrcweb.nevada.edu/museum>

February 6–8, 2009: *Symposium*
“Maya Calendars and Creation” – Theme of the Sixth Annual Maya Symposium and Workshops at Tulane University, New Orleans, LA. The 2009 symposium promises to be a memorable weekend spent exploring and discussing Maya creation mythology, divination and prophecy, and calendar systems.

Lecturers include Harvey and Victoria Bricker, William and Barbara Fash, and Dennis and Barbara Tedlock. Keynote speaker Dr. Anthony Aveni will discuss his perspective on 2012. Get more info at: <http://stonecenter.tulane.edu/MayaSymposium>

February 23 – March 1, 2009 *Symposium*
“The 2009 Maya Meetings” – Theme: Calakmul, epigraphy, archaeology and new research. At the University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX. Get more info at: www.utmesoamerica.org/news.php

Through April 19, 2009: *Museum Exhibit*
“The Aztec World” – Theme of a new exhibit at The Field Museum of Chicago in Chicago, IL. With hundreds of spectacular artifacts and works of art, assembled together for the first time, you can journey into the everyday lives of an ancient culture. Get more info at: www.fieldmuseum.org



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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Call the Maya Hotline
at 305-235-1192
<http://mayastudies.org>



January 28: IMS Meeting:
“By the River and Into the Jungle: Unraveling the Secrets of Piedras Negras – the City of Black Stones”
with **Marta Barber**

Stela 3, Piedras Negras