



IMS Explorer

Karl Herbert Mayer
and friend at Tantah (?)

A monthly newsletter published by the **Institute of Maya Studies**



July 15, 2009 • Maya Long Count: 12.19.16.9.5 • 10 Chik'chan 3 Xul • G5

An affiliate of the Miami Science Museum

The Maya Site of Tantah, Campeche

by **Karl Herbert Mayer**

Mexicon, Austrian Bureau

Tantah is a minor archaeological site in the Puuc Zone of the northeastern part of the Mexican State of Campeche. The region around Tantah was densely settled in Pre-Columbian times and is characterized by an abundance of ancient Maya settlements. Other well-known sites in this area are Itzimte, Xnucbec, Xtacumbilxunan, Tzum, Xculcacab, Yaxhachen, Balche, Yaxche-Xlabpak, Kom, Kiuc and Dzula.

On July 4, 1889, the Austrian explorer and photographer Teobert Maler visited two masonry structures at an archaeological site in Campeche which he baptized Tantah. He described both buildings, took notes, measurements and two photographs of the main structure, which he named the "Principal Palace with a Colonnade Frieze" (Maler 1902:218, Abb. 15; Maler 1997:198-199, Pls. 201, 202).

Maler explains the etymology of the toponym **tan-tah** as follows: "surrounded by the plant *tah*". This Yukatek Maya name is correctly translated, because *tan* means



Figure 2: Compare Maler's 1889 image with this recent photo of Karl's. The northeastern portion of the north facade of Structure I, by Karl Herbert Mayer, 2009.

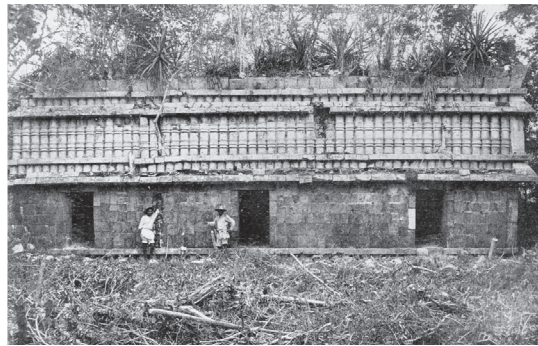


Figure 1: Colonnade decorations on Structure I, Tantah, Campeche, as seen from the north. Photo: Teobert Maler, from Maler 1902:218, Abb. 15.

"in the middle of" (Barrera Vásquez 1980: 770), and *tah* is a two-to-three meter high herb, namely *Viguiera dentata* and *Viguiera helianthoides* (Roys 1976: 281-282; Barrera et al. 1976: 143).

Maler reached the site on horseback from the town of Bolonchén, accompanied by three men. He first passed close by the large ruins of Itzimte, then he proceeded in a northerly direction and after about two *leguas* (corresponding to about eight kilometers or around two hours) he arrived at the site. He discovered two buildings, which he described as palaces. Besides the photographs he took (Figure 1), he drafted a ground plan and a section of the first palace, here tentatively named Structure I (Maler 1997:198, Figs. 10-1, 10-2) and made a rough sketch plan of the second palace, situated about one kilometer distant from the first structure (Maler 1997: 199, Fig. 10-3).

This second palace was embellished with frieze decorations like the first one, but was so severely destroyed that he did not take any photographs. The second palace, here provisionally designated as Structure II, is located in a savanna, within rubble mounds.

Maler described the first or principal palace, Structure I, situated
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VOLUME 38, ISSUE 7

July 2009

ISSN: 1524-9387

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Jim Reed,
Editor

The *IMS Explorer* newsletter is published 12 times a year by The Institute of Maya Studies, Inc. 3280 South Miami Avenue, Miami, Florida 33129. The Institute is a non-profit corporation. The newsletter is available to IMS members and by subscription. See Membership Application on page 7. ©2009 I.M.S. Inc.



Archaeology in Florida:

Florida Spring Offers Unique Step Into the Prehistoric Past

After snacking on tree leaves and a long drink from the local watering hole, a trio of mastodon lay in the shade of a nearby wax myrtle tree – a fragrantly spicy bayberry smell emanating from the leaves they had crushed beneath them on a hot Florida day 10,000 years ago.

Thanks to extraordinarily preserved clues from Florida's prehistoric past that lay hidden in the University of Miami's unusual spring-turned-sinkhole, Rosenstiel School underwater archaeologists are able to put together a picture like this and many others to understand the habitat and activity that occurred during Paleoindian times at **Little Salt Spring** in Florida's Sarasota county.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the site provides unparalleled evidence of human activity in Florida from thousands of years ago. And the sinkhole's shape has helped create a one-of-a-kind, wet-site archaeology field school that links visitors with America's prehistoric past.

The Underwater Archaeological Site

The 240 foot deep, hourglass-shaped spring is fed from an underground source that has no dissolved oxygen in the water. Consequently, bacteria cannot grow and decompose wood and other organic materials, offering unique artifact preservation. Among the literally hundreds of items unearthed, Rosenstiel School researchers have found a sharpened wooden stake that dates back over 12,000 years – the second oldest artifact ever uncovered in the southeast United States. The most important artifact recovered so far is a well-preserved portion of a non-returning oak boomerang. It is similar to those found in northern Australia and is not like those used by American Indian groups. The artifact may be the oldest of this type of boomerang known in the world. It is the first found in the Western Hemisphere.

Some Sinkhole History

Gifted to the University in 1982, Little Salt Spring was first discovered as an archaeological site in the late 1950s. Subsequent archaeological explorations took place in the 1970s, yielding artifacts that date to more than 12,000 years ago. The University has been excavating the site since 1992, conducting an interdisciplinary field school for its undergraduate and graduate students. Meticulous technique and very minimal funding have limited excavation progress



Little Salt Sink Spring is about 16 miles south and east of Venice and 2 miles northeast of Warm Mineral Springs. Take U.S. Hwy 41 to the Myakka River. Turn north on a paved road 3 miles east of the Myakka River bridge (0.15 miles west of bridge over the Big Slough). Photo courtesy of www.floridacaves.com.



Remains found at Little Salt Spring come from the earliest known period of human activity in the Western Hemisphere. Photo courtesy of www.rsmas.miami.edu.



Earlier this year, students working in the sinkhole found the remains of a gourd that probably was used as a canteen by an ancient hunter about 8,000 or 9,000 years ago. Photo courtesy John Gifford/NGN.

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On the Cover:
IMS Explorer image of the month:
Our feature article writer Karl Herbert Mayer on location at the site of Tantah. While clearing some brush to take a few photos, he found a nice friend (?).

Tantah. While clearing some brush to take a few photos, he found a nice friend (?).

to what can only be accomplished in an annual two-week field class.

"This is a warehouse of environmental, natural, historical and archaeological remains in a very, very well preserved environment," said Roger Smith, Florida's state underwater archaeologist. "That's why it's a world-class site. I would call it a portal back into time."

Source: Condensed by the editor from two sources: The Rosenstiel School website at: www.rsmas.miami.edu and an article by Willie Drye for National Geographic News released 2/23/09 at: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com>.



The Masonry Vaults of Palenque

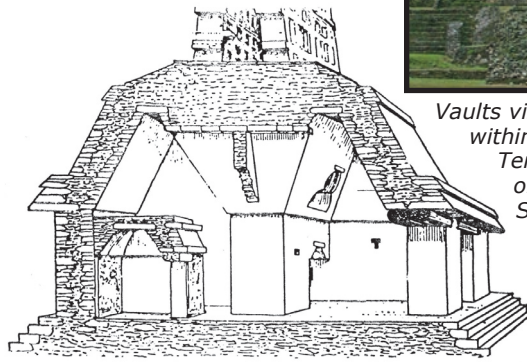
by Joaquín J. Rodríguez III P.E., SECB

Not far from the left bank of the Usumacinta River, where the Highlands of Chiapas descend to the Tabasco plains, stands the ancient city of Palenque. Named in Spanish for a wood palisade (*palos*), *Bak* (bone) in the original Maya, Palenque exhibits some of the most original architecture and building technology of the Maya world. Built on a narrow ledge half way up an escarpment, it was probably sited here due to the abundance of water coming down from the hills.

Recent excavations suggest that early Palenque was initially two separate villages that would get together for ceremonies around the present ballcourt area. When the villages merged, this area became the main plaza, and here the typical Palencano architecture flourished. Recent ceramic sequencing shows the ballcourt itself to be the oldest construction in this area of the city.

The materials themselves were the typical limestone masonry set in lime mortar with tropical wood lintels for the major spans. The shapes and construction, however, took a turn to the innovative. While the most obvious features, the ornate roofcombs and mansards, can be seen on the North Group, other less obvious details require further investigation.

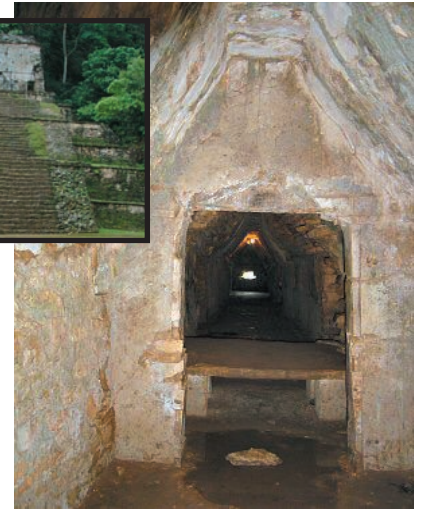
This mansard shape is a significant back slope of 15-to-20 degrees of the upper zone, which emulates in stone the sloping roofs of wood construction. In addition to its distinctive looks, it also reduces the amount of material (and labor) used in its construction. The North Group utilized the standard simple parallel, corbelled vaults with wood lintels over the exterior and interior doorways between vaults. Built ca. 600 CE, this complex is very "Palencano" in appearance. This common Maya construction technique can be followed through the Temple of the Count to the northwest of the ballcourt. Corbel vaults utilize sufficient mass weight above the exterior walls and pilasters to counterbalance the overturning of the projecting (corbel) half-vault mass as it is being erected. Particularly with the Palencano mansard roof



Mansards and masonry vaults of numerous types are visible in this cross-section view of the Temple of the Cross.



Vaults visible within the Temple of the Skull.



Deep down within the Palace complex, we see a stone bench and beautifully crafted corbel arch underground passageways.

reduced weight, this restricts the vault span to narrow aisles.

Beginning with the Palace complex, circa 612 CE, construction begins to utilize freely the cross-vault concept. This involves smaller vaulted masonry perpendicular to the main parallel vaults over the passages between them in lieu of lintels. This again reduces the mass of the vault and, of course, saves the lintel altogether. While not unique to Palenque (some examples are evident at Toniná, Yaxchilán and Bonampak) or to the Palace, (some examples can be seen at Los Murciélagos), it is here that it blossoms. These cross vaults in the Palace are small and the aisles continue to be narrow.

The Temple of the Skull (Temple 12) introduces a further development. The main central passage between the front and rear parallel vaults is accomplished with a large cross vault. This vault is lifted to the level of the parallel vaults and intersects them at a groin. This concept, called a groined vault, creates a large 3D space, free of lintels or supports. Secondary openings in the central spine wall continue to have stone lintels.

Another innovation takes place at the Temple of the Inscriptions, ca. 684 CE. The large central passageway is again spanned by a groined cross-vault, but the counterbalance mass weight is insufficient to fully stabilize the half vault. Calculations from the vault research at the IMS show that the vaults of the Temple of the Inscriptions rely on top compression against the other

half vault for stability. In other words, they are behaving as true arches. Albeit only a small compressive force is required to stabilize the vaults, which are close to being self-stable. The reaction to this compression results in a kick-out at the spring point, which is effectively stabilized by the weight of the massive pilasters acting as buttresses.

What follows by 692 CE is the magnificent Cross Group. Here it all comes together. The large mansard roofs of the Palencano style span wider isles with huge groined-cross vaults for their main passageways and smaller crossed vaults for secondary interior openings. The larger span vaults require larger compressive forces at the crown causing larger kick-outs which are again balanced by the weight of the pilasters. The pilasters themselves are thinner but fully sufficient, indicating possibly a better understanding of stability requirements.

The short time frame from Temple XII to the Cross Group (about 50 years) begs a question: Were these the results of one man (a great Maya architect), or at least a Palenque mason "school" (one master mason and a couple of follow-through apprentices)?

For whatever it's worth, we only find this groined vault technology used one other place. Years later, and miles apart, when the annex to the House of the Shells, in "Old" Chichén is built, the intersecting vaults are not headed off by a lintel, but integrated into each other with a beautiful groined vault.



The Maya Site of Tantah, Campeche

by Karl Herbert Mayer

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on a natural elevation, having an L-shaped ground plan; however the shorter part of the L was already collapsed. The standing part contains four rooms in a row, of which three were in a rather good condition, whereas half of the western-most room was entirely collapsed. He was impressed with the main facade and its splendid colonnette decoration which he praised as "one of the most beautiful of its kind in the whole of Yucatán".

Maler provided a detailed description of the north facade of Structure I, and added that the western lateral side and the south facade, also show friezes with colonnettes, but executed in a simpler form. He also mentioned the shape of the vaults and noted that there were capstones with remains of red paintings. In front of Structure I, in the middle of the court, he noted what was probably a typical Puuc columnar altar, a plain and conical sculpture. To the west of the standing structure, he observed a shapeless mound of rubble, possibly the fallen vestiges of one or two rooms.

After the discovery, the site obviously fell into oblivion for many decades.

Tantah in Published Literature

Alberto Ruz Lhuillier (1945: 46; Figs. XIX, VI, 8, VI, 25) dedicates one page to a description of Tantah, repeating more or less Maler's article of 1902, reproduces the Maler photograph of Structure I, and adds two line drawings showing details of the moldings. Ignacio Marquina (1951:738) briefly and simply refers to the achievements of Maler at Tantah. Florencia Müller (1960:47) placed Tantah on an archaeological

map of Campeche. She refers to the site as "Tantah or Tantha" and informs us that it is situated in the municipality of Hopelchén. She places the ruins chronologically to the Late Classic period and points out that it has colonnettes, half-columns, and "*mascarones sobre puerta y ángulos*", but such masks do not exist.

In his monumental volume on the Puuc architecture and archaeology Harry Pollock (1980: 557) gives a brief description of the site although he did not visit the site himself. He places the ruins "approximately 10 kilometers north of Bolonchenticul and 6 or 7 km north of Itzimte". Pollock refers to the article published by Maler in 1902, and erroneously illustrates his text with a photograph of a building he assumed was at Tantah, which in fact is a structure at the site of Tohcok, near the town of Hopelchén, Campeche.

Later, Tantah appears in the literature essentially only by the photograph by Maler (1902, p. 218, Abb. 15) of Structure I (Gendrop 1983:173, Fig. 124,e; Herrmann 1992:189, Pl. 107).

In March, 1983, Edward Kurjack rediscovered Tantah. Kurjack (written communication, May 2009) recalls it was difficult to locate the site. He described the approximate location from Maler's 1902 article to Pedro Pacheco Dzul from the Mexican Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH). Several days later Pacheco found a guide and they were successful in locating Tantah.

On March 22, 1983 the site's geographical coordinates, taken with a GPS receiver, were determined. The UTM coordinates measured



Photo by Karl Herbert Mayer, 2009.

are 16Q E218.94068 N2220.1192 kilometers.

One year later, in 1984, George F. Andrews of the University of Oregon in Eugene, visited Tantah, accompanied by his wife and assistant Geraldine D. Andrews. Structure I was investigated, documented and photographed and some drawings were prepared (Andrews 1985:6; 1995: 50, 162). The data obtained during his 1984 architectural survey of Tantah encompass six pages of description, three drawings, and more than four photographs (Andrews n.d.); unfortunately all this detailed important information remains unpublished until today. Andrews did not visit Structure II, a building that it seems no one has seen again since Maler's times.

Andrews (1995: 43-53) defined within the different Puuc architectural styles the "Colonnette Style" and stated: "I have chosen the term "Colonnette" style as an appropriate way of describing those Puuc buildings whose exterior decoration is confined solely to the use of several varieties of half-round columnar forms" (Andrews 1995:43). In his extensive list of sites and structures with Colonnette style architecture he includes also Tantah Structure I (Palace) and refers to Maler's article of 1902 and his own field work of 1984.

In 1991, Stephan Merk of Augsburg, Germany, visited Tantah, guided by Pedro Pacheco Dzul, and took notes and photographs of Structure I.

Hanns J. Prem, University of Bonn (Maler 1997:295) gives a brief description of Tantah with the pertinent references and states as the geographical coordinates the following data: 20° 03' 32" N, 89° 41' 13" W. Prem (written communication, May 2009) did not visit the site himself and obtained the coordinates from Edward Kurjack.



Left: Figure 4: The northwestern corner of Structure I. Right: Figure 5: Structure I, rear (south) elevation. Both photos by Karl Herbert Mayer, 2009.

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Left: Figure 6: Detail of the upper section of the south facade. Center: Figure 7: Detail of vault and wall in a room of Structure I. Right: Figure 8: A view of the interior of the northwestern room, Room 1. Photos by Karl Herbert Mayer, 2009.

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Mexican Team Visits Tantah

The fact that Tantah has obviously not been visited frequently (in fact evidently only by Maler, Kurjack, Andrews and Merk), and as the present condition of Structure I was not known (and only its north facade had been illustrated and never the western lateral wall nor the decorated rear facade) caused a Mexican team to revisit this site in 2009, 120 years after its discovery.

On February 25, 2009, Stephan Merk, Dorothea Graf, and Karl Herbert Mayer of the Mexican staff, together with Lee Jones, of Natchez, Mississippi, accompanied and guided by Pedro Pacheco Dzul and Antonio Uc, both residents of Bolonchén de Rejón, reached Structure I, took numerous photographs and some measurements of this impressive Puuc Colonnette style building, which was almost in the same and good condition as Maler encountered it more than a century ago (Figure 1).

The precise geographical coordinates were determined with a hand-held GPS navigator, that gave the following readings: latitude 20° 03.60' North, longitude 89° 41.28' West. This reading places Tantah 9.4 kilometers northeast (47°) of Bolonchén, as the parrot flies.

The stay at the site lasted only one-and-a-half hours. In order to secure better photographs, the completely overgrown ruin was slightly cleared; part of the dense vegetation was removed with machetes and herbs and bushes growing on the roof of the structure were cut.

The surviving standing architecture of Structure I stands on top of a steep natural elevation and represents a typical example of the distinct Classic Puuc Colonnette style.

George Andrews (1986: 42-57) mentions and lists more than 70 buildings at 44 sites in the Puuc Zone, exhibiting this architectural style, including also Tantah. Andrews later described an amplified corpus, and registered 154 buildings at 74 different archaeological sites (Andrews 1995: 46-53).

Masonry buildings in this particular style and elaborate columnar decoration are commonly and tentatively dated from the Late Classic to Terminal Classic periods, approximately 830-950 A.D.

The presently standing west wing of Structure I has an east-west axis and faces north. The front of the building shows a base molding with a continuous row of short, split colonnettes. The vertical lower walls are plain. The upper molding represents an elegant facade design, consisting of two rows of low half columns which enclose a row of large two-banded colonnettes (Figures 1-3).

The small west side of the building exhibits the same facade details as the front wall. The two corners are embellished with large inset three-quarter round columns formed of several drums (Figure 4).

The decoration of the rear facade differs from the front facade. Here the medial and the upper molding only show three instead of four members. The medial molding's central member consists of short colonnettes, framed on top and bottom by a protruding row of well-cut stones. The upper molding shows apron-type upper and lower members and in the center a row of flat and plain stone elements (Figures 5, 6).

Three Rooms in Good Condition

The west wing is approximately 20 m long and has four rooms, numbered provisionally here from the west to the east, 1 to 4. Presently, of the

four rooms, only Rooms 1, 2, and 3 are in a rather good condition. Room 4 is totally collapsed and originally joined the north wing. All preserved rooms show simple, rectangular doorways with a similar width of 0.96-0.98 m, and doorjamb composed of several large slabs, and stone lintels.

Room 1, the chamber in the west, is partially collapsed and sections of the walls and vaults of the west section are destroyed. The interior of this room measures 4.80 m x 3.44 m. The doorway has a width of 0.98 m. The door jambs have three pairs of cordholders.

The adjoining Room 2 has on its jambs also three pairs of cordholders and measures 4.80 m x 3.40 m. Room 3 shows broken sections on the frontal northeast portion and has a doorway leading to the collapsed Room 4. Of the remaining frontal doorway there are three pairs of cordholders east of the entrance and one pair of cordholders on the west side.

The Rooms 2 and 3 in the middle of the building are intact and well preserved (Figure 7), and the walls and vaults are complete. Room 1 is partially collapsed, but the eastern section of the interior is in good condition (Figure 8).

The destroyed north wing contained Rooms 5, 6, and 7.

The remains of red painted capstones, mentioned by Maler, could not be detected, although a careful inspection of the remaining ceilings was made. A search for wall paintings and ancient graffiti was also in vain. The round altar observed by Maler was not found. No chultuns were observed.

A hasty search for other buildings, including Structure II, (which was supposedly in the vicinity of Structure I), was negative.

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Biographical Sketches of Our July 15 Speakers

Harvey M. Bricker

Harvey M. Bricker is Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at Tulane University; at the University of Florida, he is Courtesy Professor of Anthropology and Research Associate of the Florida Museum of Natural History. He is a former Chairman of the Tulane Department of Anthropology and a former Director of the Tulane University Center for Archaeology. He received his A.B. in history from Hamilton College (1962) and his M.A. (1963) and Ph.D. (1973) in anthropology from Harvard University. His early research was in French Palaeolithic archaeology. He was associated for many years with the excavation and analysis of the Abri Pataud site, and he directed the excavation of the site of Les Tambourets. He is the co-author of *Excavation of the Abri Pataud, Les Eyzies (Dordogne), the Périgordian VI (Level 3) Assemblage* (1984), a co-editor of *Hunting and Animal Exploitation in the Later Palaeolithic and Mesolithic of Eurasia* (1993), and the editor of *Le Paléolithique supérieur de l'abri Pataud (Dordogne): les fouilles de H. L. Movius Jr.* (1995).

Since the early 1980s he has been collaborating with Victoria R. Bricker in an ongoing program of research on Maya archaeoastronomy, a program that has resulted in numerous articles and book chapters. A book co-authored with Victoria Bricker, *Astronomy in the Maya Codices*, will be published soon by the American Philosophical Society. Bricker was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1985 "for contributions to paleoarchaeology in France and to the archaeoastronomy of the Maya", and in 1987 he was named "Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques" by the government of France "pour services rendus à la culture française".

Victoria R. Bricker

Victoria R. Bricker is an Emeritus Professor of Anthropology at Tulane University, where she was on the faculty from 1969 through 2005, and a Courtesy Professor of Anthropology at the University of Florida. She graduated from Stanford University in 1962 with a major in Philosophy and received her M.A. (1963) and Ph.D. (1968) in Anthropology

from Harvard University. She is the author of eight books (*Ritual Humor in Highland Chiapas*, 1973; *The Indian Christ, the Indian King: The Historical Substrate of Maya Myth and Ritual*, 1981; *A Grammar of Mayan Hieroglyphs*, 1986; *A Morpheme Concordance of the Book of Chilam Balam of Tizimin*, 1990; *A Morpheme Concordance of the Book of Chilam Balam of Chumayel*, 1990; *Papers on the Madrid Codex* [with Gabrielle Vail], 1997; *A Dictionary of the Maya Language as Spoken in Hocabá, Yucatán* [with Eleuterio Po'ot Yah and Ofelia Dzul de Po'ot], 1998; *An Encounter of Two Worlds: The Book of Chilam Balam of Kaua* [with Helga-Maria Miram], (2002) and eighty articles on Maya ethnology, ethnohistory, linguistics, literature, epigraphy, archaeoastronomy, and folklore. She has served as Book Review Editor of the *American Anthropologist* (1971-1973), Editor of the *American Ethnologist* (1973-1976), and General Editor of the *Supplement to the Handbook of Middle American Indians* (1977-2007). She was a John Simon Guggenheim Fellow in 1982 and was awarded a three-year grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1990. She was elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences in 1991 and to the American Philosophical Society in 2002.

The Maya Site of Tantah, Campeche

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The Puuc site of Tantah, dating probably to the end of the 9th century AD, is considered as very small in terms of size, and therefore has been identified as a Rank 6 site, corresponding to a very small settlement, within the archaeological Puuc Zone of western Yucatán and northern Campeche (Andrews 1995: 222, 227).

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July 8: IMS Explorer Session (Classroom-style):

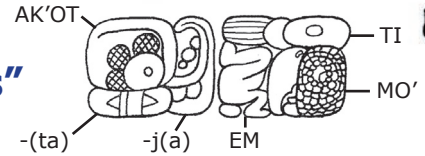
"Understanding Maya Glyphs for Beginners"

with **Joaquín J. Rodríguez III, P.E., SECB**

Numerous features distinguish the Maya from other cultures of ancient Mesoamerica, but one that has attracted explorers, scholars and enthusiasts for centuries is Maya hieroglyphic writing. The calligraphic style and pictorial complexity of Maya glyphs are like no other writing system.

While the decipherment of Maya hieroglyphs has been advancing rapidly in the past few decades, differing opinions of whether or not Maya writing was either a number of simple word-pictures or a sophisticated phonetic system stifled decipherment for years. Indeed, it was only in the mid-twentieth century following a breakthrough by Mayanist Tatiana Proskouriakoff that epigraphers (or glyphic experts) could finally agree that Maya Hieroglyphic Writing was a fully functional system based on phonetic signs.

Check out *How to Read Maya Hieroglyphs* by John Montgomery; and his Maya Drawing Collection at: www.famsi.org



"Dance" : AK'OT-(ta)-j(a) TI EM MO'

July 15: IMS Presentation (in the Museum Auditorium):

"Zodiacal Beasts of the Pre-Columbian Maya"

with **Harvey M. Bricker and Victoria R. Bricker**



Detail of page 24, Paris Codex, with a Scorpion at top center left.

The Paris Codex, one of the few surviving hieroglyphic books of the Pre-Columbian Maya, contains an almanac that has long been interpreted as a representation

of a Maya zodiac. It divides the year into 13 28-day periods, and these periods are associated in some way with 13 animals, mostly non-human, that have been seen as zodiacal symbols comparable to the bull, the ram, the twins, and so on, of our own zodiac (both sets include a scorpion, for example). There have been very divergent interpretations of how the symbols of a Maya zodiac should be related to the annual calendar.

"Twenty years ago, we proposed, based on our study of the Paris Codex almanac, that what was important were pairs of zodiacal constellations – the one that was rising and the one that was setting just before Sunrise during a given 28-day period. A few years later we presented what seemed to be strong confirmatory evidence for this model based on a previously little-studied inscription at the Terminal Classic site of Uxmal in Yucatán, Mexico. More recently, we have returned to the zodiacal almanac in the Paris Codex, applying knowledge not available two decades ago to the study of this almanac's hieroglyphic captions. The results of this new research confirm and extend our previous understandings, and they explain explicit references in the almanac to a 168-day distance that had been the subject of earlier controversy."

See Harvey and Victoria's biographical sketches on opposite page.

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Volume 38: Issue 7 • July 2009


IMS Explorer

Newsletter of the
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**July 15:
IMS Presentation:**
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Page 23 of the Paris Codex.

Upcoming Events at the IMS:

July 1: IMS Board Meeting

All IMS members are welcome to attend.

July 8: IMS Explorer Session

**"Understanding Maya Glyphs for
Beginners"**

– Now that we are able to read numbers, dates, place or city emblems, and a few nouns and verbs, a new window has been opened on the ancient Maya. Join our own **Joaquín J. Rodríguez III** as he explains how the Maya glyphs combine syllables, symbols, emblems, and ideas in what is basically a complex phonetic system, but one with which you can have a lot of fun becoming more familiar.

July 15: IMS Presentation (in the Auditorium)

"Zodiacal Beasts of the

Pre-Columbian Maya" – **Harvey and Victoria Bricker** present the results of new research concerning previously controversial interpretations of a Maya zodiac that appears in the Paris Codex, one of the few surviving hieroglyphic books of the Pre-Columbian Maya. The Brickers apply knowledge not available two decades ago to the study of this almanac's hieroglyphic captions and have some new insights to share.

Upcoming Events and Announcements:

July 18: Museum Exhibit

**"Chichén Itzá and Tula, Hidalgo:
Tales of Two Cities"**

– Theme of an illustrated presentation at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology, El Paso, TX. This program is held in conjunction with the temporary exhibit **Temple of the Warriors: Rebuilding a Maya Monument**. Get more info at: www.elpasotexas.gov/arch_museum/events.asp

July 19–24: ICA Congress

**"The Peoples of the Americas:
Change and Continuity"**

– Theme of the 53rd International Congress of Americanists (ICA) to be held in the Centro Histórico in Mexico City. Get more info at: www.53ica.com

August 12: IMS Explorer Session

**"Medicines: They're Not Just
for Breakfast Anymore!"**

– Theme of our August IMS Explorer Session by Michele Williams, PhD, RPA, Director and Terrestrial Archaeologist for the Southeastern Region of Florida Public Archaeology network.

Through December 31: Museum Exhibit

"Aztec to Zapotec: Selections

**from the Ancient
Americas Collection"**

– Theme of an Orlando Museum of Art Exhibit in Orlando, FL. Representing a time period of more than 3,000 years, the exhibition features more than 180 works drawn from the OMA's Art of the Ancient Americas Collection. Giving a rare glimpse into the life and culture of numerous civilizations including the Aztec, Maya, Moche, Nasca, Inca and Zapotec, with significant ancient works of gold, silver, jade, shell, ceramic and wood. Get more info at: www.omart.org/exhibitions/aztec-zapotec

Through December 31: Museum Exhibit

**"Fragile Memories: Images of
Archaeology and Community at
Copán, 1891–1900"**

– A photo-essay featuring the best visual records of early Peabody expeditions chosen from their recently completed two-year project to digitize over 10,000 19th-century glass-plate negatives, especially from the museum's expeditions to Copán. Peabody Museum of Archaeology, Cambridge, MA. Get more info at: www.peabody.harvard.edu



IMS Explorer

Please note that all articles and news items for the *IMS Explorer* 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