



# IMS Explorer

With a lifetime of achievements she is one of the top five in Maya studies ... but who is she?

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



November 18, 2009 • Maya Long Count: 12.19.16.15.11 • 6 Chuwen 9 Keh • G5 An affiliate of the Miami Science Museum

## The "Museo Miraflores" in Kaminaljuyu, Guatemala City

By **Karl Herbert Mayer**

Mexicon, Austrian Bureau

There are three major museums in Guatemala City, Guatemala, that feature archaeological and ethnological objects in their collections. The largest museum is the Museo Nacional de Arqueología y Etnología; a highly important museum is the Museo Popol Vuh of the Universidad Francisco Marroquín, and the third museum is the new "Museo Miraflores", administrated by the Miraflores Foundation.

The Museo Miraflores is located in the southern section of the large, ancient Maya city of Kaminaljuyu, and the exact address is 7 Calle 21-55, in Zona 11 of Guatemala City. The museum is a modern structure (Fig. 1) and displays approximately 500 archaeological artifacts in a space of 1.200 m<sup>2</sup>. The building was inaugurated on October 26, 2002, and is open from Tuesday through Sunday, from 9 am to 7 pm. In the vicinity of the museum are three Pre-Columbian grass-covered earthen mounds, among them the high Mound B-V-3.

At the entrance to the museum is a replica of one of the hydraulic canals that existed in the large urban center



1) The new Museo Miraflores, at Kaminaljuyu. All photos by Karl Herbert Mayer, 2009.

of Kaminaljuyu since 600 BC and inside the museum is a model of the structures of the ancient city, placed sunken in the floor and covered by glass.

There is a permanent exposition in its main hall of various archaeological objects, predominantly originating from Kaminaljuyu, and also there is a changing temporary exposition of Maya costumes and textiles from the Highland regions of Guatemala, native handicrafts, and contemporary art, composed of paintings and sculpture. Photography in the museum is prohibited.

Among the archaeological materials on view are ceramic vessels and pottery figurines, small human clay heads, obsidian and stone tools, obsidian arrow heads, and plain stone celts, as well as small and large stone sculptures.

A large number of the objects that definitely originated in Kaminaljuyu were formerly housed in the Museo Nacional de Arqueología y Etnología, and later transferred to the Museo Miraflores, particularly several stelae, altars and stone figures.

Important examples of the carved stone monuments, are, for example, Kaminaljuyu Stela 21 (Fig. 2), a Late Pre-Classic fragment from the Late Arenal Phase, representing the profile head and upper torso with one arm of a human figure and two glyph blocks in the left-hand part of the top. This stela

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2) Kaminaljuyu Stela 21.

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**"An Introduction to the Venus Table in the Dresden Codex"**  
with **Steve Mellard**



**Jim Reed,**  
Editor

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## IMS Lecture Series Summary for September 2009:

By Beth Wein and Steven Mellard

Welcome to our continuing series of IMS speaker summaries. On September 12, the IMS Explorer session featured long-time IMS member and expert photographer **George Fery** with a travelog entitled "Incidents of Travel in Chiapas". This excellent photo presentation highlighted last year's group trip of IMS members to the Mayalands, and covered the sites

visited: Palenque, Yaxchilán, Bonampak and Toniná in Chiapas, Mexico, and Piedras Negras in Guatemala. The images were professionally assembled with a light background of traditional music. The program was very entertaining and brought back some great memories.

It also introduced the sites visited to others who were not able to participate.

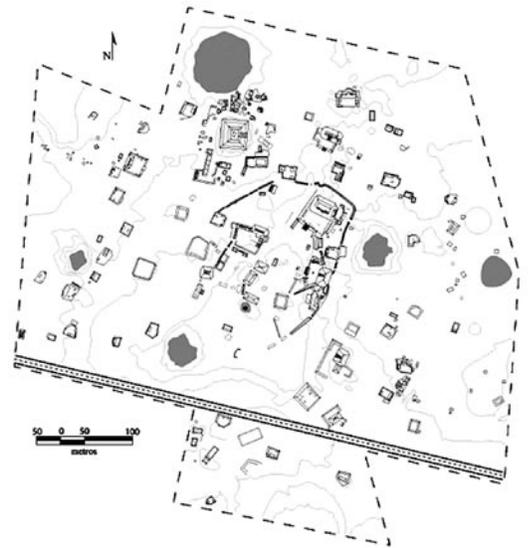
Our next IMS group trip will be in January, 2010, and will focus on the Río Bec area and include the important yet understudied site of Calakmul. Please note that on November 11, Calakmul is the topic of this month's IMS Explorer Session with Marta Barber.

On September 19, the IMS guest speaker was **Dr. Traci Ardren**. She received her Ph.D. from Yale and is currently an Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Miami.

Ardren's current project and the topic of her lecture takes place at the Maya site of Xuenkal, where she has spent the past five field seasons. Her lecture was entitled "Cloth and Shell Ornament Production as Economic Intensification in the Area surrounding Chichén Itzá". The site is located northeast of Chichén and west of Ek Balam. She has written two papers on her findings: one on weaving and the associated tools uncovered, and the other regarding shell ornament production. Her findings, focusing on the location and quantity of these artifacts, have helped her to postulate certain theories regarding the economic, political and social status of the city, and its relationship to Chichén.

Chichén Itzá itself was reaching its peak in 900-1000 CE, while the rest of the Maya world outside of the Yucatán was experiencing a decline. Economics seem to have been the driving force behind the growth and importance of Chichén and its satellite towns during this period.

Xuenkal, as with many other areas, is understudied as to its wealth of historical, environmental and geologically rich zones. This area in particular is known for its large fertile sinkholes known as *rejolladas*. These deep sinkholes contain rich soil deposits and are less prone to temperature extremes as compared to normal surface conditions. Cacao, an extremely important commodity, as well as other fruits, were grown within the *rejolladas*. Xuenkal is surrounded by three of these large sinkholes.



Site plan of Xuenkal. Courtesy of Kam Manahan.

Xuenkal is positioned midway on a trade route connecting Chichén with the Maya port of Isla de Cerritos. Salt, cacao, honey and cloth were the main trade items produced in the region. Isla de Cerritos had the second largest salt works in the Maya area. A submerged wall that was once used as a connection to the mainland has been uncovered there. Large amounts of honey and beeswax were also produced in the Yucatán.

Xuenkal's early architecture is laid out in a somewhat traditional manner. The main pyramid, with a fresh water cenote nearby, is thought to be nearly as large as the Temple of Kuk'ulcan at Chichén. There is a Late Classic wall surrounding the central area indicating instability during this time. In the Terminal Period, a new architectural style began to appear. These were large square platforms haphazardly constructed throughout the site, about 3 feet in height and up to 120 feet per side. These platforms contain what might be considered palace structures, and are surrounded by residential dwellings, which is where Dr. Ardren believes that certain trade goods were produced. Located next to the platform walls are numerous middens that were excavated.

What Ardren has found has been very useful in attaining a window into the daily activities at Xuenkal, and to the very nature of the city itself. Her excavations have taken place at a specific platform known as Structure 129. What she found were high concentrations of bone, tools, partially completed shell ornaments and weaving implements.

The high concentration of weaving implements found at Structure 129 has led Ardren to theorize that these domestic workshops produced a vast quantity of cloth. *continued on page 6*

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#### On the Cover:

At the recent *Maya at the Playa* conference in Flagler Beach, FL, Dr. Merle Greene Robertson receives the event's first-ever Lifetime of Achievement Award. See a partial report on page 6.





3) Kaminaljuyu Altar 1.

## "Museo Miraflores"

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section is 40 cm high, 70 cm wide, and 12.5 cm thick (Parsons 1986: 129, Fig. 157).

Another important monument is Kaminaljuyu Altar 1 (Fig. 3), a fragmentary, four-legged Late Pre-Classic monument, found in the Finca Arevalo section of Kaminaljuyu, near Mound C-II-14, portraying two confronting seated human figures, separated by a vertically arranged textual image. The fragment is 91 cm high, 110 cm wide, and 22 cm thick (Proskouriakoff 1950: Fig. 109,c; Miles 1965: 253, Fig. 12,a; Greene et al. 1972: 384-385, Pl. 182; Parsons 1986: Fig. 153).

Kaminaljuyu Altar 3 (Fig. 4) is a Pre-Classic monument, dated to the Early Miraflores Phase, and was discovered between Mounds D-III-6 and D-III-14. It represents a plain toad, is 23 cm high, 73 cm long, and 52 cm wide (Parsons 1986: 130, Fig. 130). There are several of such giant toad sculptures found at Kaminaljuyu.

In regard to smaller stone sculptures is a unique example of the so-called "mushroom stones" complex, originating from Kaminaljuyu (Fig. 5). Mushroom stones have a wide distribution in Mesoamerica, from Oaxaca and Chiapas in Mexico, from many sites in the Highlands and the Pacific piedmont of Guatemala, and down south to El Salvador (Mayer 1977; Ohi and Torres 1994). This particular mushroom stone is 36.9 cm high and 16.2 cm wide, of coarse-grained, grey volcanic stone, and was excavated in the undisturbed Tomb 1 of Mound E-III-3 at Kaminaljuyu (Shook and Kidder 1952: 112, Fig. 78f). It dates to the Miraflores Phase, Verbena Subphase of the Late Pre-Classic, ca. 300 BC to 200 AD. It represents a zoomorphic figure, a feline, probably a jaguar,



4) Kaminaljuyu Altar 3.

5) Mushroom Stone from Kaminaljuyu.

standing on a tripod. The shaft of the sculpture is embellished with rhomboid incisions and shows two handles, a feature not found on any of the hundreds of known mushroom stones. This interesting example, one of the most beautiful of its kind, is a very famous one and has been exhibited in various countries of the world (Bolz-Augenstein 1966: 89, No. 4; Lehmann and Lehmann 1968:30-31, No. 51; Eggebrecht et al. 1993: 315, No. 21).

Various types of ceramic vessels from different times and locations are displayed in glass cases (Fig. 6).

During a visit in March of 2009, I observed several polychrome ceramic plates and vases which are unprovenanced and definitely not from the ancient city of Kaminaljuyu. These pottery specimens are very problematical and most of them are obviously in the Late Classic style of the Maya Lowlands, but evidently falsifications of recent manufacture. According to the opinions of many experts, the ceramics may be old, but the polychrome designs and glyphs are either heavily repainted or even painted on plain pottery some years ago. The hieroglyphic texts are meaningless. These objects were on loan from the Guatemalan organization Fundación La Ruta Maya. In an edifice, dedicated to the archaeology of Kaminaljuyu, these spurious objects should be removed, because they do not belong in the collections of such an excellent museum.

Since my visit, an annex to the museum has been inaugurated, consisting of a Maya-style vaulted tunnel connecting the museum with a shopping area. In this tunnel,



6) Various ceramic objects on exhibit. All photos by Karl Herbert Mayer, 2009.

display cases are set in the walls, as well as in adjacent rooms. Artifacts and replicas are on exhibit, including objects furnished by La Ruta Maya Foundation. In another large room is a model of a tomb uncovered at Kaminaljuyu.

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# Samabaj: The Underwater Island Site in Lake Atitlán, Guatemala

It all started back in the early 1990s when amateur Guatemalan scuba diver Roberto Samayoa discovered a submerged site, which is now called Samabaj, just off the lake's south coast, not far from Santiago Atitlán. Now, in formal investigative dives, house foundations, a smooth stela and numerous ceramics are being mapped deep below the present lake level. It appears that the village was once situated on a small island, and then the lake level rose dramatically.

## By Mark F. Cheney

Laden with a murky history from two millennia ago, the small village of Samabaj, named after one of its discoverers, Robert Samayoa (Sama + baj from *abaj*, meaning "stone" in K'iche Mayan), lies under 50 to 90 feet of water near the city of Santiago Atitlán on the south shore of Lake Atitlán in the Guatemala highlands (see aerial view).

In 1997 I was privileged to peer down through the clear water of Lake Atitlán from the deck of a small boatload of passengers bound to Santiago Atitlán and see some of the structures on the bottom of the lake, shrouded with sediment that is mostly ancient volcanic ash.

I am not sure now whether I was looking at Samabaj or another underwater site, Chiutinamit, which has been dated to the late pre-Classic period (600 BCE to 250 CE), and was discovered by local fishermen. The discovery of Samabaj has been claimed by more than one person, but it seems that some of them merely re-discovered the site.

Over the past decade, a number of different organizations have come to support research at the site; some are large and well known, others are smaller



A diver removes an artifact from the lakebed. Courtesy of Alvaro Martinez.

and more obscure. Among the benefactors are: the Ford Foundation Company Awards for the Environment, attempting to preserve the fragile ecology of this beautiful lake during excavation; the Nicole Reinhart Foundation (California), dedicated to improving public access to cultural archaeological treasures; the Fundación Albenga para Preservación del Patrimonio Cultural Subacuático (Albenga Foundation for the Preservation of the Underwater Cultural Heritage) based in Argentina, part of the "Pro Mare" international organization for



An underwater image of a stela, an amazing in situ standing stone.

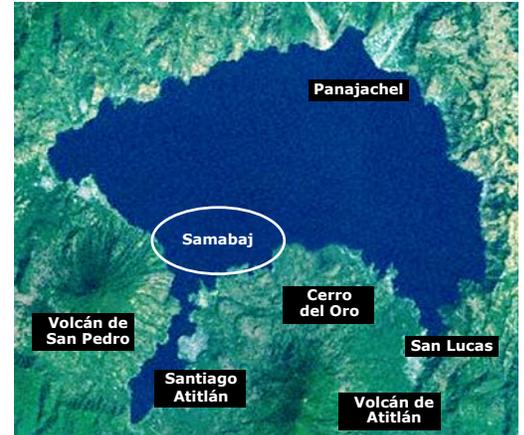


An artist's rendering of Samabaj in its heyday. These images are

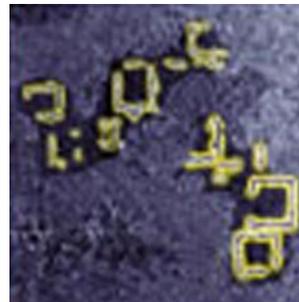
courtesy of Sonia Medrano, from her recent presentation at the Museo Popul Vuh.



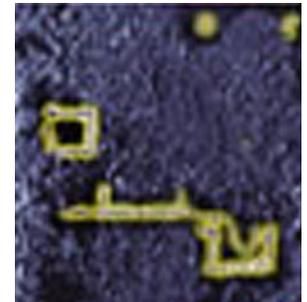
A view across Lake Atitlán from the scenic overlook on the road that heads down to Panajachel from Sololá. Ellipse indicates the area of the lake under investigation.



Satellite image showing Lake Atitlán and major points of reference. Courtesy of Google Maps.



Low-resolution, but enhanced sonar images of structural remains at Samabaj. Courtesy of Sonia Medrano.



artifacts brought up from the lake bottom including a few large ceramic vessels are on display for public viewing in a small museum, the Museo Lacustre Atitlán (Lake Museum of Atitlán), housed in the Hotel Posada de Don Rodrigo in nearby Panajachel.

The IDAEH Project archaeologist, Sonia Medrano, and Eric Ponciano, the Director of Cultural Heritage, have pushed for more research to determine the extent and origins of the ruins. The Revolutionary Armed Forces Officers' Club has been involved in the evaluation phase of the archaeological survey, providing

continued on next page



A diver removes a tripod pot. Artifacts lying in the ash: overturned ceramic vessel; inverted bowl and pitcher. Courtesy of Alvaro Martínez.

continued from previous page

equipment and divers to assist and accompany the archaeologists on the dive sites.

The site was first registered in Sololá by Samayoa as an official archaeological site in 1999. The exact coordinates are now being kept private to deter any looting, but a planimetric archaeological survey has established at least three groups of structures on the site.

Group I is defined by a basement structure for someone of importance. The walls are laid out with well-hewn stones in a clearly geometric or rectangular shape. Group II contains eight different structures, that are mostly well-defined, but remain to be measured. Perhaps this is a residential area.

Group III includes a large edifice about 30 feet by 76 feet, which once had a stairway along the side. In front of the building a smooth basaltic stela stands by a large flat altar. This structure appears to have been the administrative center for the community, which may indicate that it was a "cacical" society, a chiefdom, or one run by a "cacique" or chief.

Since Samabaj was once an island community surrounded by volcanoes (with a stream running through its central core), researchers were particularly desirous of discovering what caused the site to become submerged. Since the structures are so well preserved and they were not badly overturned by the original upwelling or surge of the rising water, it seems that the water level rose in a very short period of time.

Another matter of importance being looked at is how the cultural transition between the Pre-Classical social structure and the Classical society in the Maya Highlands developed. These questions were brought up by diver Roberto



Cut stones form part of a wall of a structure. Courtesy of Sonia Medrano.

Samayoa along with fellow site discoverer, archaeologist Henry Benítez at the XIII Simposio de Investigaciones Arqueológicas of 1999 in Guatemala, in their paper entitled "2000 Samabaj and the Underwater Archaeology of Lake Atitlán." More recently, on Sept. 24, 2009, archaeologist Sonia Medrano discussed the ongoing research of Samabaj during her presentation at the Popul Vuh Museum of Francisco Marroquín University.

The underwater island village of Samabaj is part of the history of this picturesque area of Guatemala, and is the first underwater site to be investigated in this country covered with ancient ruins, including the nearby above-ground sites of Chukumuk and Cerro de Oro (Hill of Gold). Lake Atitlán, at least one of the candidates for the most beautiful lake in the world, is set in the midst of volcanoes, the larger ones being Atitlán, Tolimán and San Pedro. With a geologic setting along the tectonic plates below the Sierra Madre mountain range, the terrain has changed much over the time since the earth was first formed, and many more such underwater sites will no doubt be found.

It is said that other ruins lie under the waters of another lake in Guatemala, Lake Amatitlán, that is located near the Pacaya volcano, outside Guatemala City. Perhaps this could be the subject of a future article as soon as the site is officially recognized and exploration is undertaken.

## Tomb of Young Noble Uncovered in Peru

Two thousand years ago, a young man was buried in the royal mausoleum next to a huge and brightly decorated Moche pyramid, now known as the Huaca Rajada, at the site of Sipán. Studies conducted on this recent discovery have determined his age at time of death to be just 21, making him the youngest Moche noble yet found.

Based on the objects found in the tomb (designated as Tomb 15) – two ceramic containers, two owl-shaped ceramic items and a gold mask of a owl – the team is led to the conclusion that he served religious functions.

Many site archaeologists extrapolate from the position of the corpse that a "main burial" of

*"The fine pottery in the tomb, like this ceramic owl, shows that it is a foundational tomb, a tomb from the beginnings of the Moche dynasty.*

*Courtesy of Dante Piaggio/El Comercio, Peru.*



an older and more important ruler could be found nearby. Dead Moche rulers were always followed into the afterlife by many of the court, sacrificed for this purpose. Could a much older "Lord of Sipán" soon make headlines around the world?

Source: Condensed from an article released 10/28 at: <http://enperublog.com>. Submitted by Mike Ruggeri.

## Editor's Corner:

### Maya at the Playa: A Memorable Experience for All!

The Third Annual Maya at the Playa Conference that took place Oct. 1-4, 2009, in Flagler Beach, FL, was truly an enjoyable and educational event. Organized by American Foreign Academic Research and sponsored in part by the Archaeological Institute of America, the entertaining



Dr. Merle Greene Robertson received the first-ever Lifetime Achievement Award from Conference Director Matt Saunders. She also delivered a key note speech that left us all in awe of her unique personality and numerous and varied achievements. The award itself is a beautiful design by stained glass artist, Michael Zimmerman. Photo by Scott Allen.

You can still check out the presenters and their lecture abstracts at: [mayaattheplaya.com](http://mayaattheplaya.com)

conference really did deliver the goods: workshops, lectures, discussions and performances that were led by an international group of Maya specialists known for the quality of their research and their commitment to public education and outreach.

Many of the presenters were from various projects centered around ongoing research and excavations in Belize. These included Dr. Jaime Awe, Director of the Belize Institute of Archaeology. Dr. Awe gifted your IMS editor with a download of all of the proceedings from the past five Belize Archaeology Symposiums – a true treasure trove of the best and most recent research coming out of Belize – a great source for future IMS articles!



A major highlight for the editor was attending a workshop about the Pre-Classical murals at San Bartolo by their discoverer, William Saturno. Displayed on three tables were giant full-color reproductions by artist Heather Hurst. Photo by Scott Allen.



Dr. Merle Greene Robertson (front, left) relaxed with key IMS members, President Marta Barber, Scott Allen, Joaquín J. Rodríguez (second row), Beverley West and Rick Slazyk. Photo by Scott Allen.



Photo by Ray Stewart.

The Saturday night main event featured a very moving discourse by Dr. Merle Greene Robertson that showed many delightful and fun photos of her lifetime of achievements. Afterwards, famous Belizian flutist Pablo Collado serenaded us with his melodic Maya melodies (and your IMS editor and friend Moses Hudon got to play percussion behind him). In all, it was a great event ...

Be sure to attend next year's symposium!

## IMS Lecture Series Summary continued: Xuenkal with Dr. Traci Ardren

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Weaving was and still is a major part of the Maya women's domestic lifestyle. Weaving guilds were predominate in the Late Classic era. Women often created the crafts and weaving along with other daily-living tasks. When Xuenkal was expected to produce a certain number of goods and textiles as tribute, it was the job of the women of the town to produce those goods. It had to be of a certain high standard to appease a god. Talk about your multi-tasking: Maya women had to do it all!

The tools of the trade were handed down from mother to daughter. These skills were taught to girls at an early age, and can still be found in many areas even today.

Cloth was a very perishable item, therefore a very important trade item. Most of the weaving was produced using a native cotton, which

is found in abundance in this region. The only remaining indicator to show us how the Maya produced cotton are the many spindle whorls recovered during excavations. A spindle whorl is what stretches the fibers into thread as they are being spun and holds the yarn-like material while being woven into the finished product.

Ardren explained that there are three major types of spindle whorls. They are: zoomorphic (birds and frogs), geometric (crosses, designs) and floral-themed. They uncovered a total of 19 spindle whorls at the study area. The bird whorls, she stated, were often used to depict Quetzalcoatl, the patron god of weaving.

Over 400 shell artifacts were excavated, some showing notches that were used as tools. Others were worked to some degree of completion as an ornament, with 5% recovered in the final stage of production.

What is most interesting, and this is a very recent discovery, is that some of the shells are native only to the Pacific. So, how far flung were the trade contacts of the Maya?

The political situation at Xuenkal is a bit harder to determine. It is thought that the city was under the influence of Chichén, and that muot of the trade items produced there were intended as tribute goods. It was at this time that the role of ritual was being emphasized over the role of royal lineage, as foreign influence was being felt throughout the Yucatán.

Dr. Ardren concluded her lecture by stating her study showed that by the Terminal Period, 900-1180 CE, craft production intensified to meet a growing demand for tribute goods, with most production occurring in a domestic environment with the burden of production falling upon the women.

## Institute of Maya Studies Line-up of Presentations!

### November 11, 2009: IMS Explorer Session (Classroom-style): "Calakmul: The Power of the Snake Kingdom" with Marta Barber

Discovered by biologist Cyrus Lundell of the Mexical Exploitation Chicle Company on December 29, 1931, the find was reported to Sylvanus Morley, then working in Chichén Itzá, in 1932. Lundell named the site Calakmul, to mean the City of Two Adjacent Pyramids (*Ca* = two; *lak* = adjacent and *mul* = mound or pyramid).



Structure II is larger than it appears.

Calakmul administered a large domain, with its emblem glyph of the head of a snake amply found around the site. The Snake Polity saw its peak in the Classic period during which time it became a rival of Tikal. Several wars were conducted between these two great super powers. One of the largest Maya cities, so far more than 6,750 structures have been identified. Calakmul is also home to the biggest Maya pyramid, Structure II, at 55 meters high.

Located in the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve, the largest tropical forest reserve in Mexico, Calakmul is a treasure trove of Maya history. The site extends over 10 square miles in the middle of the reserve's 1.8 million acres of forests in the State of Campeche.



Stela 51 on display at the National Museum of Anthropology in Mexico City.

### November 18: IMS Presentation (in the Museum Auditorium):

### "An Introduction to the Venus Table in the Dresden Codex"

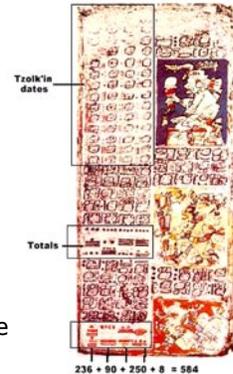
with **Steve Mellard**



The Venus Table comprises pages 24-29 of the codex.

Researchers believe that the Dresden Codex was compiled in the post-Classic period, probably after 1200 CE, but Venus was important in Maya myth and astronomy much earlier. The sun and Venus were adopted as symbols of royal authority by the hierarchical states that

took shape in the pre-Classical period. The Dresden Codex contains a Venus table that permits the prediction of first appearance of the planet as morning star and as evening star over a period of 104 years. The primary function of the Venus table appears to have been to fix the dates of rituals associated with the apparitions of Venus and supply auguries for these dates. **Steve Mellard** will explain the major components of the table and how it was used, identifying the Venus gods and reading some of the glyphs.



236 + 80 + 250 + 8 = 564  
Courtesy of Michael John Finley.

**The Institute Maya Studies** • All meetings are Wednesdays • 8-9:30 PM • Miami Science Museum  
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## IMS Explorer

Newsletter of the  
Institute of Maya Studies

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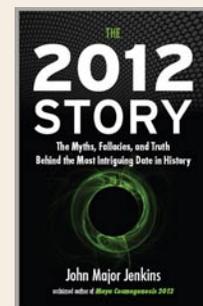
New website address:

[www.instituteofmayastudies.org](http://www.instituteofmayastudies.org)

### Coming up next month:

The month of November marks the release of John Major Jenkin's new book entitled *The 2012 Story*. Your editor got his hands on an advance copy (for reasons to be explained later) and will attempt an unbiased review.

Sorry, we'll have to wait a little while longer to present an article by Mark Cheney on the *Panti Medicine Trail at Rosita Arvigo's Ixchel Farms in Belize*. Mark is the author of our article about *Samabaj* in this November issue.



**Thanks for helping the IMS "Go Green"!**

### Upcoming Events at the IMS:

November 4, 2009: **IMS Board Meeting**  
All IMS members are welcome to attend.

November 11: *IMS Explorer Session*  
**"Calakmul: The Power of the Snake Kingdom"** – with our own **Marta Barber**. From the very time of its discovery in 1931, Calakmul's size and the number of its monuments indicated its importance, and more recent advances in our understanding have revealed that it was one of the most significant and powerful of Maya polities. During the Late Classic, in the sixth and seventh centuries CE, it outshone even its mighty rival Tikal. At this time the rulers of Calakmul bore the emblem glyph of the *Kaan* ("Snake") kingdom.

November 18: *IMS Explorer Session*  
**"An Introduction to the Venus Table in the Dresden Codex"** – The primary function of the Venus table appears to have been to fix the dates of rituals associated with the apparitions of Venus and supply auguries for these dates. **Steve Mellard** will explain the major components of the table and how it was used, identifying the Venus gods and reading some of the glyphs.

### Upcoming Events and Announcements:

November 12: *Lecture*  
**"Searching for Bimini: Florida and Caribbean Contact"** – The tiny Bimini islands, situated forty miles off the coast of Florida, have untold stories of contact with tribes in Florida and the Caribbean. Come hear noted South Florida archaeologist **Bob Carr** present his findings. The Archaeological Society of Southern Florida meets at 7 pm in the Deering Estate Auditorium, at the Deering Estate in Cutler, 16701 S.W. 72 Avenue, Miami, FL.

November 9–14: *Conference*  
**"Maya Political Relations and Strategies"** – Theme of the 14th European Maya Conference in Cracow, Poland. The conference will be preceded by a three-day Maya hieroglyphic workshop. Get more info at: [www.wayeb.org/conferencesevents/emc\\_now.php](http://www.wayeb.org/conferencesevents/emc_now.php)

Through December 18: *Museum Exhibit*  
**"Art of Sky, Art of Earth: Maya Cosmic Imagery"** – Theme of a Maya pottery exhibit at the Wake Forest University Museum of Anthropology, in Winston-Salem, NC. More info available at: [www.wfu.edu/moa](http://www.wfu.edu/moa)

Through December 31:  
Museum Exhibit  
**"Aztec to Zapotec: Selections From the Ancient Americas Collection"** – Theme of an art exhibit at the Orlando Museum of Art, Orlando, FL. Featuring a rare glimpse into the life and culture of numerous civilizations from the North, Central and South American regions including the Aztec, Maya, Moche, Nasca, Inca and Zapotec. Get more info at: [www.omart.org/exhibitions/aztec-zapotec](http://www.omart.org/exhibitions/aztec-zapotec)

January 8–9, 2010: Symposium  
**"Building Transnational Archaeologies"** – Theme of the 11th Southwest Symposium to take place at Centro INAH Sonora, Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico. More info available at: <http://sw-symposium.binghamton.edu/inglespagina/introd.htm>

Ongoing: Museum Exhibit  
**"Art of the Ancient Americas"** – Theme of an ongoing art exhibit at the Lowe Art Museum, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL. Get more info at: [www.miami.edu/lowe/art\\_ancient\\_americas.htm](http://www.miami.edu/lowe/art_ancient_americas.htm)



## 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](mailto:mayaman@bellsouth.net) or forward by postal mail to: Jim Reed, 936 Greenwood Ave NE, Apt. 8, Atlanta, GA 30306