



IMS Explorer

Who is the man in charge of excavations and research into the early Maya at El Mirador?

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



December 9, 2009 • Maya Long Count: 12.19.16.16.12 • 1 'Eb 10 Mak • G8

An affiliate of the Miami Science Museum

"Quiche" on 2012 Movie Menu Tastes Old, Bitter

By Dr. Robert K. Sitler

Director of the Latin American Studies Program at Stetson University in DeLand

Roland Emmerich's *2012* refers ominously to the calendar of the "Quiche Maya," mispronouncing the name of the "K'iche'" (key-chay) people, such that it sounds instead like an exotic new item on a brunch menu rather than the largest of some 30 contemporary Maya ethnic groups. This error adds unintended levity to the film's caricature of the Maya that falsely implies that ancient prophecies from their millennial culture foretold the end of the world in 2012.

The movie's uninformed approach inadvertently reinforces a centuries-long tradition of misrepresenting the original inhabitants of Middle America.

The film *2012*'s flawed depiction of their world is innocent relative to that of Mel Gibson's 2006 *Apocalypto*, a visually engrossing film that unfortunately reiterated prior racist portrayals of Maya as barbaric savages by generations of oppressive Hispanic elites in Guatemala and Mexico. For nearly 500 years, clerics, novelists and politicians have inaccurately described Maya according to their own narrowly limited understanding of indigenous ways, almost always to the detriment of the Maya.

Maya culture, like those of other millennial world cultures, has its unique genius. Maya astronomical accomplishments reveal remarkably advanced insight into celestial movements and sophisticated mathematics. They developed a brilliantly abstract artistic tradition and wrote in esthetically pleasing hieroglyphs. Maya built intricately carved temples



2012, released Nov. 13, 2009 is very popular worldwide. Also treat yourself to a visit to Sony's supporting Website at www.whowillsurvive2012.com. Courtesy of 2009 Sony Pictures Digital Inc.

shaped like terraced limestone waterfalls and developed a profound and genuine respect for their sacred grain, corn, the revered basis for human life.

Today's Maya raise their babies with extraordinary nurturing, weave uncommonly tight community bonds, revere their elders and ancestors, and live with experientially derived respect for the natural world.

Even so, the perception of Maya by outsiders has often been shaped by violent racism or arrogant paternalism, both based upon profound ignorance of indigenous sensibilities. A non-intentional form of such insensitivity appears in a brief scene in *2012* showing bodies strewn on the ground at an ancient ruins site in what resembles a Maya-style Jonestown group suicide. While few of today's Maya would recognize the cult suicide reference, some older Maya from the Guatemalan highlands would immediately recall in horror the very real scenes of scattered Maya bodies on the ground after the massacre of tens of thousands of civilians by government troops in the late 70s and early 80s. These wounds are still fresh but the pattern of abuse from foreigners is hundreds of years old.

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IMS Annual Business Meeting and December Birthday Party: December 9



**You're all invited!
Plan to attend!**



**Jim Reed,
Editor**

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IMS 2009 Synopsis: Adiós 2009, Hello 2010!

By IMS President Marta Barber

What a ride '09 has been! Our newsletter changed its name to reflect a more modern organization. Our Website has added new features and is much improved. Our research team continues to move forward. Our meetings are filled with extraordinary excitement and information. Our organization has entered the digital world!

2009 IMS Board of Directors:

Marta Barber

President
siliobarber@bellsouth.net

Joaquín J. Rodríguez III, P.E.

Vice President/
Director of Research
rod44@comcast.net
954-786-8084

Beth Wiggert

Treasurer/Subscription List
beth2vic@earthlink.net

Diana Phillips

Secretary/Public Relations
dianamark@juno.com

Ann S. Dickhaus

305-665-5175

Peter Flanagan

Research Fund Committee
786-246-5918

Ellen Jacobs

305-444-3309

Patricia Manfredi

Hospitality
pmanfred2003@yahoo.com

Steve Mellard

Website Committee/
Program Co-Chair
stevenmellard@cs.com

Juan L. Riera

Program Co-Chair
juanr377@gmail.com

Rick Slazyk

arcwerks@bellsouth.net

Beth Wein

Hospitality

Lister Witherspoon IV, J.D.

Membership Chair
305-541-0558

Frank May

Webmaster
frm@frmay.com

Jim Reed

Newsletter Editor
mayaman@bellsouth.net
404-680-1644



On the Cover:

Dr. Richard Hansen is Director of Archaeology at the magnificent site of El Mirador. The discovery of

Pre-Classic murals was one recent important find. Now see what he's come up with, at right.

How did we do it? We've had a progressive Board of Directors that continues to put all efforts in pushing the Institute of Maya Studies into new and often uncharted terrain. Not everything reached the levels we had planned, but we certainly have made great strides.

Our monthly publication is now called *IMS Explorer*. The new masthead, designed by the editor, is truly appealing and almost a conversation piece by itself. (The mystery photo and the map of the Americas always draw attention.) Better still, we are beginning to get many

The Last Stand at El Mirador

One of Guatemala's greatest ancient Maya cities may have died out in a bloody battle atop a huge pyramid between a royal family and invaders from hundreds of miles away, archaeologists say.

Researchers are carrying out DNA tests on blood samples from hundreds of spear tips and arrowheads dug up with bone fragments and smashed pottery at the summit of El Tigre pyramid in the Maya city of El Mirador, buried beneath jungle vegetation 5 miles (8 km) from Guatemala's border with Mexico.

Many of the excavated blades are made of obsidian which the archaeologists have traced to a source hundreds of miles away in the Mexican highlands. They believe the spears belonged to warriors from Teotihuacan, an ancient civilization near Mexico City and an ally of Tikal, which was an enemy city of El Mirador.

"We've found over 200 of the obsidian tips alone, as well as flint ones, indicating there was a tremendous battle," said excavation leader Richard Hansen, a senior scientist in Idaho State University's anthropology department who is pushing the pyramid battle theory.

"It looks like this was the final point of defense for a small group of inhabitants," he added. Hansen's team believes a group of some 200 people, thought to be the last remnants of the royal family, stayed in the ruined metropolis until they were attacked by warriors from Teotihuacan.

Hansen's archaeologists found graffiti they believe was left by Teotihuacan

subscribers and members to **Go Green** and get to receive the *IMS Explorer* digitally. The best thing is reading it in full color. They are stunning! Please consider *Going Green*!

The Website now makes paying for membership an easy procedure. Using the PayPal sign allows everyone to send their money electronically saving checks, stamps and envelopes. It's the way most organizations are doing it now and we certainly wanted to join the bandwagon.

As we embark on a new year, we have great ideas for the future. We will tell you as they come to fruition.

One special request to all readers is to send us articles you want to see running in *IMS Explorer*. We'd love to hear about your travels and events that you may have attended, including conferences.

In the meantime, have a wonderful holiday and an even better 2010.



The partially uncovered Maya temple atop El Tigre pyramid as seen at El Mirador, located in the Petén jungle, Guatemala, August 25, 2009.



Workers sift through pottery shards amassed during the excavations on top of El Tigre.

fighters who smashed up carved Maya monoliths and left crudely etched skull drawings, known as Tlalocs, on the rock as proof of their victory.

"The Tlaloc is the war god image of the highland Mexicans, and we found it crudely pecked on these monuments, suggesting that perhaps a hostile event had taken place here," Hansen said.

Source: From a Reuters report by Sarah Grainger published 9/3/09 at: <http://in.reuters.com>. Submitted by Mike Ruggeri.

"Quiche" on 2012 Movie Menu Tastes Old, Bitter

By Dr. Robert K. Sitler

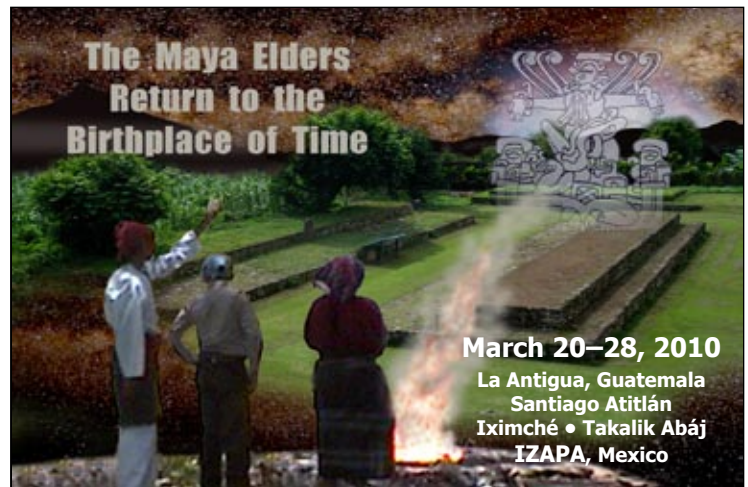
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When Spain first invaded Maya lands in the 1500s, Christian priests explicitly depicted Maya spiritual practices as works of the devil. Diego de Landa, Bishop of Mérida, went so far as to torture the Maya under his care to locate more of their sacred texts and burn them in inquisitional fires so as to rid his realm of their demonic contents.

Early regional literature from Guatemala and Mexico included cartoonish, highly romanticized depictions of the Maya as well as ugly generalizations of them as violent alcoholics. Later works of fiction by esteemed writers such as the Nobel Prize-winning Guatemalan Miguel Angel Asturias and the much-admired Mexican Rosario Castellanos wrote novels that, while attempting to promote better treatment of their Maya compatriots, severely maligned the Maya's nature-based spirituality as a product of brutish ignorance and psychological damage in unloving Maya family environments.

Misrepresentation of Maya ways has now reached new extremes in the 2012 phenomenon, the rapidly growing social movement surrounding the Dec. 21, 2012, date on the Maya Long Count calendar. There are already millions of references to this much-anticipated date on-line that complement a quickly expanding library of books on the topic. Even though most of these materials claim the Maya as their primary source; in fact, extremely little in the 2012 phenomenon has any substantive basis in the diverse cultural traditions of the some 8 million Maya living today.

The stunning computer-generated apocalyptic images of the richly entertaining 2012 movie will no doubt draw even greater public interest in this extraordinary date in a way that may already exceed



What is the next logical step to help make sure 2012 unfolds the way it should?

Let's take a group of Guatemalan Maya Spiritual Elders to the site of Izapa. From the informative images depicted on intricately carved stelae to the three plazas that are aligned to Centers of Creation, let them experience all there is to see and learn at the site. Some researchers believe both the sacred Tzolkin and the Long Count Calendars that each happen to turn over on 12/21/2012 were initiated in the area around Izapa. Let the modern Maya do ceremony and ritual for themselves. Allow them to speak with a new voice and to share a more unified vision towards 2012.

You can be a part of it too ... and help make it happen!

**Rigoberto Itzep Chanchavac • Robert K. Sitler
John Major Jenkins • Mary Lou Ridinger
• Georgeann Johnson ... and the cast is growing!**

Contact Jim Reed • mayaman@bellsouth.net • 404-680-1644

the dimensions of the earlier Y2K phenomenon. Unfortunately, the film only adds to the confusing amalgam of misinformation concerning the date's significance.

Robert K. Sitler is director of the Latin American Studies Program at Stetson University in DeLand, FL. You can check out recent online videos with Sitler at www.mayacalendar2012.com and

Feliz Navidad 1492

By Pat Manfredi

On Christmas Eve of 1492 Cristobal Colon's flagship, the Santa Maria, ran onto a coral reef just off the north coast of what today is Haiti. His crew was unable to free the *caravela*, so it was decided to abandon it. Columbus engaged the assistance of the local cacique Guacanagari whose village was a few miles inland from the wreck. The indigenous people helped unload the *Santa María* and then dismantled her boards and carried them ashore in their canoes.

Christopher Columbus recorded that Guacanagari gave him two of his largest *bohios* (houses). On December 26, Columbus declared the name of his small settlement

Puerto de la Navidad (Christmas Harbor) to commemorate the day he had escaped the perils of the sea and had reached the safety of land. He also wanted to make the beginnings of a "fort" with this name as the first Spanish establishment in this strange New World.

Admiral Columbus was anxious to return to Spain as soon as possible to report to Queen Isabel and King Fernando and to solicit more funds, ships, men and supplies. He instructed the 39 men he was leaving in Hispaniola (the name he gave to the island) to construct the fort with the remains of the *Santa María* and to trade with the natives and make friends with them.

In January, 1493, the Admiral set sail for Spain in the *Niña*, the second *caravela* in the original fleet of three. After several set-backs

the ship finally reached Spain; Christopher consulted with his "Catholic Monarchs", acquired permission for another voyage and soon set his course for another adventure across the Atlantic Ocean.

Alas! Unfortunately when Columbus came back to Navidad in November, 1493, there was no *Feliz Navidad!* The fort had been burned and all his men were dead.

Columbus moved on, sailing along the southern coast of Cuba, Jamaica and Hispaniola leaving La Navidad forgotten for centuries.

Archaeological efforts to find the first Spanish settlement in the New World had been fruitless, so were discontinued until the 1970s and 1980s. Finally, a team from Florida State Museum led by Dr. Kathleen Deagan was successful!

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Program Recap for 2009 • Our 38th Year for the IMS!

Offering educative public programs about Maya and pre-Columbian studies.

January 14:

"Fruits of the Maya"

with Chris B. Rollins.

January 28:

"By the River and Into the Jungle: Unraveling the Secrets of Piedras Negras – the City of Black Stones"

with Marta Barber.

February 11:

"Maya Astronomy: Hidden Cycles in the Madrid Codex"

with Steve Mellard.

February 18:

"Analysis and Investigation of Maya Lintels"

with Joaquín J. Rodríguez III, PE, SECB.

March 11:

"21st-Century Archaeology"

with Ray Stewart.

March 18:

"Chocolate: Food of the Gods"

with Dr. Anne Stewart.

April 8:

"A Study in Maya Architecture: The Usumacinta River Basin"

with Rick Slazyk A.I.A., NCARB.

April 15:

"Recent Archaeology in Belize and Tikal" and an "Understanding 2012 Update"

with Jim Reed.

May 13:

"In Search of Ancient Maya Cities"

with Larry S. Marks.

May 20:

"Maya Creation Mythology: A Post-classic Perspective"

with Dr. Gabrielle Vail.

June 10:

"Palenque Inscriptions"

with A. Katherine Morales.

June 17:

"Piles of Stone and Places of the Dead – Uncovering a Wari Mortuary Complex in Cuzco, Peru"

with Dr. Mary Glowacki.



Royal Bench from the site of Piedras Negras.

July 8:

"Understanding Maya Glyphs for Beginners"

with Joaquín J. Rodríguez III, PE, SECB.

July 15:

"Zodiacal Beasts of the Pre-Columbian Maya"

with Harvey M. Bricker and Victoria R. Bricker.

August 12:

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

with Michele Williams, Ph.D., RPA.

August 19:

"Interpreting the Art of Chichén Itzá"

with Dr. Edward J. Kurjack.

September 9:

"Incidents of Travel: In Chiapas"

with George J. Fery.

September 16:

"Cloth and Shell Ornament Production as Economic Intensification in the Area Surrounding Chichén Itzá"

with Dr. Traci Ardren.

October 14:

"Intro to Archaeoastronomy and the Astronomical Correlation of K'awil"

with A. Katherine Morales.

October 21:

"Radical Reform in the Maya Worldview at Mayapán, Mexico's Last Maya Capital"

with Susan Milbrath, Ph.D.

November 11:

"Calakmul: The Power of the Snake Kingdom"

with Marta Barber.

November 18:

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

with Steve Mellard.

IMS Lecture Series Summary for October 2009:

By Beth Wein and Steven Mellard

Welcome to our continuing series of IMS program summaries.

On October 14, the Explorer session featured IMS member A. Katherine Morales, who presented a program entitled **"Introduction to Archaeoastronomy and the Astronomical Correlation of K'awil"**. Morales presented a basic intro to astronomy which laid the groundwork for her hypothesis on God K, K'awil, a god associated with ancestor worship.

K'awil has been identified with GII of the Palenque Triad. K'awil is linked to ancestors, and ancestors reside in Xibalba, located in a part of the Milky Way. K'awil is also associated with Jupiter and/or Saturn. Katherine theorizes that when these planets are in retrograde they are "staying behind" allowing the Maya to communicate through K'awil to their ancestors once the planets continue their travels through the night sky and cross the Milky Way. This was indeed a very interesting program.

On October 21, the IMS guest speaker was Dr. Susan Milbrath. Her presentation was entitled **"Radical Reform in the Maya Worldview at Mayapán, Mexico's Last Maya Capital"**. She is a highly regarded Maya scholar, being an expert in Maya architecture, astronomy and religious ritual, as well as author of numerous articles and books including the essential *Star Gods of the Maya*. Dr. Milbrath received her PhD from Columbia University and is currently curator of Latin American Art and Archaeology at the Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Gainesville, FL.

Mayapán, located in the Yucatán peninsula, was the religious, commercial and political capital of the Maya lowlands during the Postclassic period from about 1250–1300 CE until its downfall in the mid 1400s. The first excavations at Mayapán were conducted in the 1950s under the direction of the Carnegie Institute. Their work revealed an architecturally dense area containing over 60,000 structures packed into a four square kilometer space. Four thousand of these structures have been mapped. The population is estimated to have been 20,000 individuals. The city contained seven roofed gates which acted as control points for travel and trade.

Two walls were discovered, one about 9 km in circumference, and

another which encircled the central ceremonial complex. Ceremonial caches were discovered concentrated around the walled ceremonial precinct. The central plaza was found to have been repaved 13 times, each repaving representing a Katun cycle. A full cycle of 13 Katuns is equivalent to 256 years, indicating the period of time that Mayapán acted as the capital city.

Other cities such as Cobá and Tulum were under the commercial sphere of influence of Mayapán as documented by the Spanish chronicles. It was found that Mayapán was occupied much earlier than thought, dating back to 1050 CE. It is believed that the Itzá Maya moved their capital from Chichén Itzá to Mayapán around 1150–1200 CE.

Mayapán was the scene of different and conflicting worldviews between two cultural groups, the Xiu and the Cocom. Xiu religious traditions were centered around cenotes and Chac rituals, and their main ceremonial complex was located around the Cenote Ch'en Mul. Their architectural style reflected their Puuc heritage and it appears that when building their ceremonial complex they salvaged large Chac masks from older Puuc sites and incorporated them into the Hall of Chac Masks. The Xiu were associated with a stela cult, the earliest dating to 1185 CE.

The Cocom presented a more cosmopolitan worldview. Their religious heritage was connected with the central Mexican cult of Kuk'ulkan and the Feathered Serpent. They continued the earlier widespread commercial traditions of Chichén Itzá, which introduced foreign concepts and ideas in ceramic styles, religious thought and new weapons technology, like the bow and arrow.

There was a rivalry in architecture. Both groups adopted a revival of their heritage. As stated, the Xiu built the Puuc style Hall of Masks ceremonial complex. The Cocom constructed a replica of El Castillo over an earlier structure, as well as a copy of the observatory, the Caracol. The pyramid was constructed around 1300 CE, has a total of 250 steps, and rose nine levels high, while the pyramid at Chichén has 364 steps. Both

This photo of Mayapán by Susan Milbrath.



Structures at Mayapán include a circular observatory and a four-sided pyramid of Kuk'ulkan (El Castillo), just like at Chichén Itzá. Researchers have only recently determined that the "serpent effect" happens here on the Solstices, not on the Equinoxes.

have four radiating staircases. The Equinoxes were celebrated at Chichén and the Solstices at Mayapán.

This clash of worldviews led eventually to the Xiu being relegated to a lesser position, and ultimately to a Xiu massacre in 1380 CE, with some of the survivors leaving under duress. The stela platform was destroyed. Recently, an excavation in the plaza area has revealed numerous battered skeletons possibly tied to this event.

The Cocom broadened their worldview through their trade contacts, becoming less centered on their Itzá heritage and more inclined to accept outside influences. They invited foreign mercenaries, traders and artists to live in the city. Two waves of foreign influence are evident in murals incorporating Mixteca-Puebla stylistic elements. One may have been spread via trade along the east coast of Yucatán from centers such as Tulum. Another wave came more directly from Central Mexico or Oaxaca.

Towards the end of Mayapán's history, Aztec elements were introduced into architectural sculpture and murals. Eight large sun discs have been found that possibly relate to Venus. An Aztec Earth Monster appears on a restored mural, and large quantities of the famous Maya Blue produced at Mayapán were incorporated into Aztec murals in their capital reflecting increased bilateral contacts.

The Xiu put an end to all this by their revolt and near complete extermination of the Cocom polity during the 8th Katun (1441–1461 CE), a full Katun cycle (256 years) after the founding of Mayapán. They re-erected their broken stela and re-established their religious cult practices. The site was abandoned within 40 years.

This was an exciting presentation and the IMS is pleased to announce that Dr. Milbrath will be back again for an IMS program in 2010. See you there!

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"Quiche" on 2012 Movie Menu Tastes Old, Bitter by Dr. Robert K. Sitler; IMS 2209 Synopsis by IMS President Marta Barber: The Last Stand at El Mirador; Feliz Navidad 1492 by Pat Manfredi; Program Recap for 2009 – Our 38th Year for the IMS!; IMS Lecture Series Summary for October 2009 by Beth Wein and Steve Mellard; Index for Volume 38, 2009.

Institute of Maya Studies' Seasonal Affair!

You're Invited!

Fellowship • Food • Fun

Plan to Attend!

IMS Annual Business Meeting and December Birthday Party!



Preparations are under way! Inspired by the wonderful murals discovered at Calakmul that give us a glimpse into the everyday lives of the ancient Maya as they make preparations for a feast!

Officially dubbed the Annual Members Meeting, members seldom think of it as that. Think holiday fellowship, food and fun! Think bargain books and other desirable items. Think Happy Birthday to the IMS.

The IMS has been together for 38 years!

As established in the bylaws, the event takes place on the second Wednesday of December, in this case **December 9**. We combine our anniversary party with a short business meeting, a few short committee reports and the announcement of the new board members elected that evening to the 2010 Board of Directors.

If you haven't mailed in your ballot yet, you can even bring it to the event.

Also, there's our Book Sale – bring some, buy some!

Feel free to wear your favorite get-up! ... a chance to wear your huipil and jade.

The Institute of Maya Studies' Seasonal Affair • Wednesday, **December 9** • Have a drink and a piece of cake too!

8-9:30 PM • Miami Science Museum • 3280 South Miami Avenue, across from Vizcaya

Inquire about IMS Membership benefits • Maya Hotline: 305-235-1192 • <http://instituteofmayastudies.org>

Understanding 2012 is back in Miami by popular demand!

The Miami Museum of Science is coordinating a special event with its theme centered around 2012.

Saturday, December 5

Multimedia Lecture:

Understanding 2012: Reality Revealed

Seen the movie? Heard the rumors? Now get the facts! Maya scholar **Jim Reed** presents an overview of the accomplishments of the ancient Maya and the story behind 2012 in

Is there any hope for Miami?



Artist's depiction of Winter Solstice sunrise over Miami Beach.

a fun, engaging format. Don't miss this opportunity to hear what Maya scholars and the modern Maya people have to say about 2012. Presented by the Institute of Maya Studies. Bring your family and friends ... showtimes at 1 pm and 4 pm.

Feliz Navidad 1492

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After several seasons of excavating in the 1980s, they discovered over a dozen key European artifacts. Sherds of both Spanish pottery and glass from the 15th century, plus bones and teeth of a pig and a rat, animals nonexistent in the Americas before the advent of the Spaniards.

Recently a cruise line and the Haitian government have been discussing a reconstructed Navidad and port nearby in order to attract cruise ships and tourists to help the Haitian economy. If this dream comes true, then maybe it would bring a *FELIZ NAVIDAD* to a Navidad replica, but not in 2009!

Thanks to Pat Manfredi for this timely article!

Help the IMS by Going Green! Indicate that you want the color version of the IMS Explorer sent by e-mail!

Institute of Maya Studies

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IMS Explorer

Newsletter of the
Institute of Maya Studies

3280 South Miami Avenue
Miami, FL 33129

Call the Maya Hotline
at 305-235-1192

New website address:

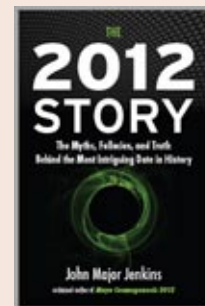
www.instituteofmayastudies.org

Coming up in our January issue:

The month of November marked 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.

And in our February issue:

Dr. Anthony Aveni, America's top archaeoastronomer, also has a new book out about 2012. Interestingly, they both make numerous references to each other's work and somewhat different points of view.



Thanks for helping the IMS "Go Green"!

Upcoming Events at the IMS:

December 2, 2009: **IMS Board Meeting**
All IMS members are welcome to attend.

December 5: *Science Museum Event*
"Understanding 2012: Reality Revealed" – Seen the movie? Heard the rumors? **Jim Reed** is back in Miami on behalf of the IMS at the request of the Miami Science Museum. Get a quick overview of the accomplishments of the ancient Maya and the whole story behind understanding 2012. Two shows: 1 & 4 pm

December 9: *Its the second Wednesday!*
"IMS Annual Business Meeting and December Birthday Party" – Join with us as we celebrate 38 years together! We're planning food, fun and fellowship. There will be a book sale – bring some, buy some – and share some cake and a drink or two. The party follows our official annual business meeting that includes a few short reports on the state of the organization, a tally of the votes, and official announcement of the newly elected IMS Board members for 2010. Please plan on attending!

January 6, 2010: **IMS Board Meeting**
All IMS members are welcome to attend.

Upcoming Events and Announcements:

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

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 more than 180 pieces that offer 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

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>

February 26-28, 2010:
"Great River Cities of the Ancient Maya" – The ancient lowland Maya civilization of Mexico and Central America is often celebrated for its achievements in an environment unique for its lack of rivers. Nevertheless many major lowland Maya cities were indeed located along important rivers such as the Usumacinta, Pasión, Belize, Motagua, among others. These "River Cities" provided the rest of the Maya lowlands access to the resource-rich highlands to the south, as well as contact with to both the Caribbean and Gulf coasts. At the Middle American Research Institute and the Stone Center for Latin American Studies at Tulane University, New Orleans, LA. Keynote speaker: David Freidel. Presenters and workshopers include: Robert J. Sharer, Arthur A. Demarest, Marc Zender, Marcus Eberl, Takeshi Inomata and our good friends Jason Yaeger, M. Kathryn Brown, Gabrielle Vail and Christine Hernandez. More info at: www.tulane.edu/~mari/MayaSymposium2010.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 or forward by postal mail to: Jim Reed, 936 Greenwood Ave NE, Apt. 8, Atlanta, GA 30306