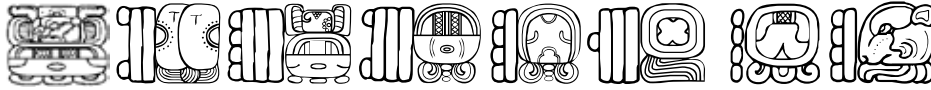




IMS Explorer

Our Explorer of the Month has spent decades as a Ruinhunter, and has trekked alongside many famous archaeologists, but who is it?

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



July 21, 2010 • Maya Long Count: 12.19.17.9.16 • 4 K'ib 9 Xul • G7

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Oldest Mesoamerican Tomb Uncovered in Chiapas

Archaeologists in southern Mexico announced in May of this year that they have discovered a 2,700-year-old tomb of a dignitary inside a pyramid that may be the oldest such burial documented in Mesoamerica.

The tomb held a man aged around 50, who was buried with jade collars, pyrite and obsidian artifacts and ceramic vessels. Archaeologist Emiliano Gallaga said the tomb dates to between 500 and 700 BCE.

Old bones: It took archaeologists 32 hours to document and remove the remains of the principal occupant of a tomb found at Chiapa de Corzo.

Courtesy of Bruce R. Bachand/National Geographic.

While excavating one of southern Mexico's ancient cities in May, a Brigham Young University-led archaeology team discovered what they believe to be the oldest tomb ever found in a Mesoamerican pyramid. Also discovered was a vast trove of pre-Columbian artifacts associated with funeral rituals of the indigenous



The new findings, he added, suggest that the E group – so strongly associated with the Maya and other Mesoamerican cultures – could actually be a Zoque invention.

civilizations that occupied Mexico and Central America centuries ago.

The 2,700-year-old tomb was found atop a mysterious structure hidden in a terraced mound and contained two adorned corpses of high-ranking members from Olmec society or its Zoque descendants, according to project director Bruce Bachand, an archaeologist with BYU's New World Archaeological Foundation (NWAf).

"There were 4,000 to 5,000 ornaments, mostly jade, associated with these two people. They also wore pearls, iron pyrite and amber. Red pigment covered their bodies head to toe," he said. Accompanying those bodies were the unadorned skeletons of two young people, one a toddler, likely interred into the crypt as sacrificial offerings.

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With its long, terraced platform, the pyramid that housed the tomb presages the classic Maya "E group" layout, named after Group E at the Uaxactún site in Guatemala, Bachand said. Aligned with the sunrise on solstices and equinoxes, E groups appear to have astrological significance. "So this isn't just any old pyramid," he said. "It appears to be one of the earliest E groups in all of Mesoamerica. That's why we are investigating it."

VOLUME 39, ISSUE 7

July 2010

ISSN: 1524-9387

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IMS Presentation 8 pm, July 21:



"The Maya Burners"

with
Victoria R. Bricker

Tulane University and the
University of Florida



Jim Reed,
Editor

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Maya Ruinhunters Have Dreams, Too

by Lee Jones

Only two temples near an aguada seem to be at Tukmul.



I started to title this article "Tukmul, Pearl of Quintana Roo", but editor Jim Reed would have deleted it. Quintana Roo, the step-child state of Peninsula Yucatán has always taken a back seat to icon sites in the state of Yucatán – Chichén Itzá, Uxmal, Ek Balam, etc., but Tukmul cannot be considered the "pearl" of Quintana

Roo, with Kohunlich, Dzibanché, the many Río Bec sites, Muyil and Cobá. Yes, IMS Explorers – Cobá is in Quintana Roo.

You're probably wondering what, and where, is Tukmul. Glad you asked. This ruinhunter has always wanted to not only "discover" a site, but name it. At the age of seventy-one, I've done it. Not easy.

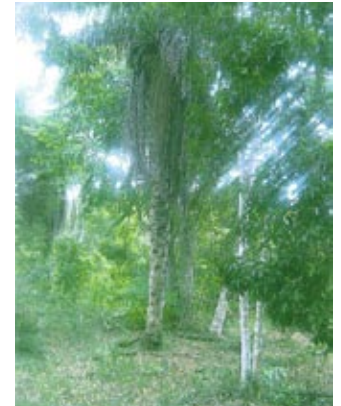
My friend, the premier Maya explorer of the 70s, Eric Von Euw, admits that he discovered unknown sites and tried to name them after places that would describe them – such as nearby *aguadas*, *ranchos*, *ejidos*, etc. I have visited over two hundred fifty sites, but try as I might, I couldn't name one. Either an explorer beat me there, locals had already named them, or they were on a well-known *rancho* or *ejido*.

I thought I did – in 2003. I had accompanied the German scholar, Stephan Merk, on foot, along with my son, David, deep, very deep, into the bush east of the pueblo of Chunhuaymil on the eastern side of the state of Campeche. Out of water and out of energy, we wandered onto a site by surprise that had everything – tall buildings, a long, how long we didn't find out then, platform, etc. Fatigue dictated that we leave before more than a cursory exploration, as we had a two kilometer plus walk back to the truck. On the walk back I told Stephan that I wanted to name the site "Maha" – get it? – No Water. Merk was not impressed. He knew that Abel Morales of the Universidad Autonoma de Campeche had visited it in 1979 and named it Sabana Piletas, after a nearby savannah. This site was later celebrated on the front page of Issue I, Vol. 38, of the Institute of Maya Studies Explorer newsletter. So – the ruinhunter continues to "hunt", and continues to age.

The great explorer of another era, Teobert Maler, in a very human moment (it's trendy not to consider Maler as human), in 1905, wrote "wandering about from one year's end to another in these



The area is typical "Yucatán ugly" – stones, scrub brush, thin topsoil, but with about 70 cohune palms present.



inaccessible wildernesses in search of remnants of bygone civilizations, denying myself all of the joys of life, subjected to strenuous labor, many dangers and the daily annoyances, all this constitutes a kind of immolation."

Maler wrote this near the end of a very strenuous and successful twenty-one month search of Maya monuments, from February, 1904, through October, 1905. He visited, and photographed the sites of Tikal, Yaxha, Altar De Sacrificios, Seibal, Cancuen, and many others – traveling mostly in canoes and on mules.

This ruinhunter pales by comparison – no inconveniences or strenuous labor, and the only annoyance is if the Pemex Station is temporarily out of ice. Leaving my wife to rest at Akumal, the resort twenty miles north of Tulum, the Maya speaking guide of Akumal, Hilario Hiler, and I, traveled to Felipe Carillio Puerto to sleep in an air-conditioned (kind of) hotel next to the market. Best thing was that a flock of pigeons lived right outside my window and serenaded me all night.

Next morning, our usual breakfast at the market and a *cochinita pibil* sandwich to go, we set out toward the neglected area of Quintana Roo – the grid between Felipe Carillio Puerto west to Polyuc, south to Chacchoben, east to Los Limones, and back to Felipe.

This is not an article on Maya architecture, but it appears that the ancient Maya engineers in that area seemed content to build tall temples and few palaces and ball courts,

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Who is it?

This month's featured Explorer is none other than our good friend Lee Jones. Lee possesses an insatiable passion

for the Maya and each year visits the Yucatán Peninsula with other famous Explorers like Eric Von Euw, Karl Herbert Mayer and Stephen Merk. Author of many "Ruinhunter" articles for the *IMS Explorer*, see his latest field report at right.



Oldest Mesoamerican Tomb

continued from page 1

Since 1954, the NWF has been studying Chiapa de Corzo, one of the most important archaeological sites in Mesoamerica because of its role in the Formative period in pre-Columbian civilizations, according to former foundation director John Clark, a BYU professor of anthropology. A likely trade center, it occupies a region bordering the Olmec heartland and Maya territory in the highlands to the south and east.

Clark and colleagues began investigating the new site in 2008 because it had yet to be explored, particularly the plaza around the promising feature known as Mound 11, according to their report on the earlier dig.

While much work remains to be done cataloguing and examining thousands of newly discovered artifacts and analyzing data, Bachand said the find could help piece together the complicated history of Chiapa de Corzo, believed to have been occupied by various cultures for 3,000 years.

"It began in 1200 BCE gradually, but in 800 BCE, they started building big structures. We found one in the core of this pyramid," Bachand said. Based on pottery styles, the archaeologists have dated the tomb to 700 BCE. But even more intriguing, according to Bachand, is the presence of a clay structure inside the pyramid that is a century or two older. The tomb was found at the top of that.

Bachand hopes the discovery sheds light on when and how

*Archaeologist
Lynne Lowe and
two workers unearth
a skeleton from the
2,700-year-old tomb.*



*Jade jewels were
found inside the mouth
of the tomb's main
occupant, (far right)
an elite individual
thought to have been a
middle-aged male.
The mouth bone, along
with the rest of the
body, was coated in a
sacred red pigment.*



Photographs courtesy Bruce R. Bachand.

the Zoque culture emerged from the Olmec, one of the earliest Mesoamerican civilizations. The Olmecs flourished in southern Mexico between 1500 and 400 BCE, and laid the foundations for later civilizations such as the Aztec, Zapotec and Maya.

They are known for the colossal stone heads and monumental sculpture they left behind and are believed to have initiated pre-Columbian traditions of human sacrifice, ball sport, writing and pyramid building. The extent to which the Olmec influenced the civilizations that followed remains the subject of scholarly debate, which the Chiapa discovery may help advance.

The new discovery "shows nice evidence of trade coming in, the jade and green obsidian. It shows this place is well-connected," said Richard Paine, a University of Utah associate professor of anthropology not involved with

the Chiapa project. "You see that the direction of influence runs up and down altitude," Paine said. "It makes sense to trade up and down altitude because that's where you find different products."

In the heyday of the Olmec, the Chiapa site centered on what would have been a busy plaza. Digging under the plaza in 2008, Bachand's team discovered a cache of stone axes and a corpse, likely a human offering.

"The axes were apparently produced only to be deposited, not to be used for cutting trees. It's just used for offering. This pit held over 100 axes," Bachand said. The axes were a clue that this place was extremely important to the Olmecs.

Source: Most text from an original article by Brian Maffly for the *The Salt Lake Tribune* released 5/21/10 at www.sltrib.com. Also see an article by John Noble Wilford for the *New York Times* released 5/17/10 at www.nytimes.com. Images courtesy of <http://news.nationalgeographic.com>

Aztec Earth Goddess in Exhibition

The largest known monolith of Aztec earth goddess Tlaltecuhltli went on show for the first time in June in Mexico City, the National Institute of Anthropology and History has said.

The colossal stone was found during renovations almost four years ago on a house near the Templo Mayor, the most famous Aztec temple in the heart of the Mexican capital, an INAH statement said.

Weighing 12 metric tons and measuring 4.19 meters (13.7 feet) by 3.62 meters (11.8 feet), the monolith is "the only Mexican

sculptural piece that conserves its original colors," the statement said. Tlaltecuhltli is represented as an ochre-colored female figure with curly hair, a stream of blood spouting from her mouth and her arms reaching upward, it said. With the help of modern cranes and some 20 specialists spent more than 30 hours moving the monolith to the nearby Templo Mayor museum.

The piece is the star in an exhibition on Aztec emperor Moctezuma II, that opened in mid-June.



Source: From a news release at <http://news.yahoo.com>. Photo issued by the Mexican National Institute of Anthropology Submitted by Scott Allen.





Uxul: A Southern Campeche Archaeological Project

by Antonio Benavides C. – INAH Campeche

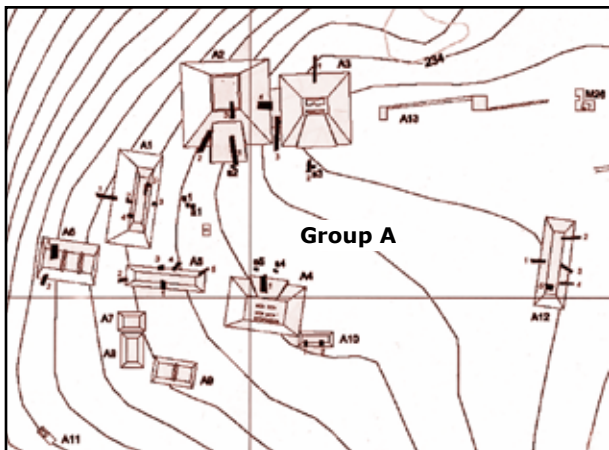
Uxul's toponymic title.

The ancient city of Uxul is located 32 km southwest of Calakmul, at the southwestern section of the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve, just 4 km north of the east-west Mexico-Guatemala border.

The discovery and first report of Uxul dates back to 1934, when members of the third Carnegie Institution of Washington expedition found the site and named it that way because it was the last site visited during that field season. In Yucatec Maya *uxul* means "its final, its end." Publication of the data collected at Uxul and at many other southern Campeche and Quintana Roo sites appeared in 1943 authored by Karl Ruppert and John Denison.

After that visit, the jungle covered once again the acropolis and the other 25 buildings then reported. Some people entered Uxul during the 1940s or 1950s to extract gum (chicle) from the sapodilla trees. Different glass bottles from those years have been found at several places. Later, during the 1970s, wood exploitation arrived to southern Campeche and the Uxul territory was included.

Unfortunately, the spare time of the wood workers was invested in heavy looting operations that affected many buildings. Trenches and pits were open in most of the big constructions, destroying different sections (stairways, temples, walls, etc.), contexts and substructures; looting tombs,



Detail from the Uxul topographic map after the 2009 field season featuring Group A (with looting trenches dark-colored).

Uxul as part of Calakmul's hypothetical economic and political network (from Marcus 1973).

throwing away skeletal remains, breaking monochrome vessels and apparently only saving polychrome ceramics, jade and shell ornaments.

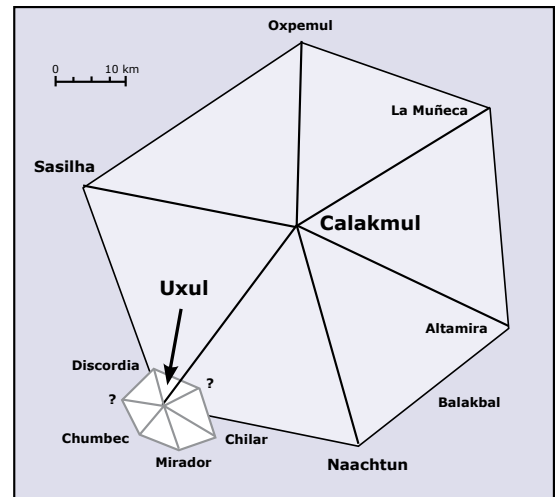
After such a sad episode a green cover grew again on the Maya ruins and Chronos played his role. Uxul was then lost again for several decades and relocated in 2005 by Ivan Sprajc (Slovene Sciences Academy) and his field team.

During 2006, archaeologists from the Bonn University in Germany, and INAH surveyed the site and agreed to prepare a research program in order to obtain a more detailed map of the settlement, document the epigraphy, understand the chronological sequence, restore the damages caused by looting and consolidate the still-standing architecture.

The Uxul archaeological project is directed by Nikolai Grube and the field director is Iken Paap; the author is co-director. Several doctoral candidates, students and volunteers from different countries including Germany and Mexico participate.

Workers are from the Constitución, Cumpich, Muna and Pablo Garcia agricultural communities. Funds are provided by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG).

The 2007 field season at Uxul was basically devoted to prepare a topographic map of the Maya vestiges and their landscape. Soon it was clear that the settlement is more complex and extended than previously reported. Architectonic compounds were designated with letters (A to R until 2009 in one square kilometer) and most of the monumental groups are surrounded by quarries. Only one acropolis has been



East side of Structure A2 during restoration.

located (Group E) and there is only one ballcourt (at Group C).

The 2009 season also began extensive excavations at Group M, located at the highest and central section of the settlement. An unexpected nice surprise from the principal plaza was more than 1200 obsidian blades and fragments reported.

The 2010 field season continued excavations there, at different contexts finding figurine fragments, more obsidian artifacts and also the first in-situ burial at the site.

Other interesting finds among the surveys and topographic activities are two causeways; one linking groups A and M, the other going from Group D (containing several big buildings) to an *aguada* located at the easternmost section of the surveyed zone (Group R). The lengths of both *sacbeob* are 150 and 200 meters, respectively, with each about 20 meters in width, traversing sloping terrain.

Water was basically obtained from rains that were caught in two

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Northern side of Structure A4. The first steps of the original stairway were restored after refilling the central looting trench.



Southern side of Structure A4's temple. All images courtesy of Antonio Benavides C.



Western side of Structure A2 being restored during 2010. Stela 2 is in front of it.

Uxul *continued from page 4*

aguadas located at the east and west sides of the settlement. The western *aguada* is 100 meters per side and had possibly a 4-meter depth. The eastern *aguada* is 90 meters per side and has almost the same deepness.

Excavations in the *aguadas* revealed the Maya first placed a layer of plain sherds taken from dishes and pots (mostly Late Classic) on the bottom, forming a kind of mosaic, but with little spaces among them. On top of that layer there were many rounded and soft lime stones. The upper level had an almost one meter layer of mud. Obviously, ceramic fragments and lime stones could not prevent water infiltration, so several mud samples were taken for pollen and chronology analysis. On the other hand, some *chultuns* have been located but they seem to have been mostly used to store perishables, not for water.

Uxul's environment has some low hills (less than 40 meters high) on top of which the monumental complexes were constructed. They always used the local limestone, but in this case, easily-degradable limestone. After so many centuries, some stelae show the erosion and disintegration of stone, a feature also affecting the masonry walls of many buildings that have lost their plaster covering. A total of 19 stelae and 7 altars (or their fragments), have been located and registered, up through the 2009 field season.

The ceramic materials recovered until now reveal a long sequence of human settlement beginning during the Late PreClassic period, growing along the Early Classic, with its peak in the Late Classic and Terminal Classic periods, but there was also activity during PostClassic times. Dates inscribed

on some of the reported stelae cover a shorter span, from the end of the Early Classic (ca. 590) to the beginning of the VIIIth century.

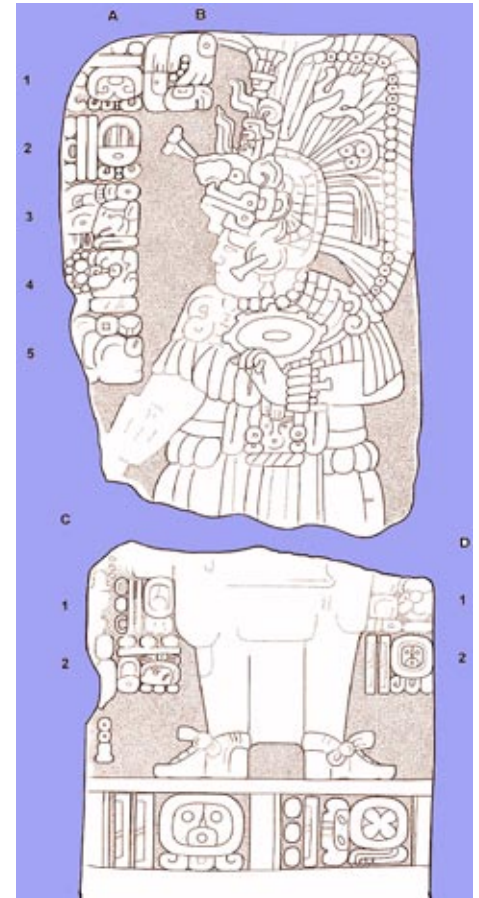
But architectonic remains also speak of many generations living and working hard to make Uxul a relevant Maya city. An interesting fact is that the Uxul glyphs register a toponymic title for the city, not an emblem glyph. This fact surely reflects Calakmul's political hegemony during that time.

Restoration works began at Group A, documenting the looting cavities and the exposed different data as walls, substructures, stucco floors and cists. Ceramics, lithics, bone fragments and marine shells are also being collected and sent for analysis. Sara Dzul, Julia Bach and Karin Hildebrandt are in charge of the materials laboratory.

Stone refilling takes place after documentation of each looting trench or pit. Then masons seal the entrance leaving 5 cm inset of the original exterior wall, so future researchers will know exactly where the looting hole was located. During 2010, seven buildings of Group A's 14 structures were intervened.

Structure A1 is a two room palace located on the western side of the plaza. Damages to four sections were documented and repaired. Structure A2 is the highest one of the group (21m) and two of its three looting trenches were successfully sealed. Nevertheless, a trench located on its upper southern section destroyed the temple's foundation and repairing the damages will have to wait for a season with more workers.

Structures A5, A6 and A10 were probably also used as elite residences. Their ransacked spaces were registered and masonry sealed. A3 and A4 are also pyramids crowned by temples. Their looting holes and stability problems were



Uxul's Stela 3 (drawing by Nikolai Grube).

also solved during 2010. Interesting data obtained from Group A was the registration of two kinds of cists: vaulted and slab-covered boxes. Ceramic materials recovered suggest Early Classic and Late Classic times. A clearly well-planned architectonic compound, Group A is aligned to the four world directions. It is just 200 meters south from Uxul's western *aguada*, on top of a leveled space opened to the east and with slopes on the other sides, where several quarries have been registered.

Documentation of Uxul's Group B architectonic vestiges

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Maya Ruinhunters Have Dreams, Too

by Lee Jones

continued from page 2

at least in the early Classic period.

On our way to find Tixmul (we visited Lagartera last year) we casually stopped at a little intersection west of Uhmay at the junction of the road to Noh Cah. We asked the lady, again our custom, if there were "casas de piedras de los viejos". She surprised us by saying "yes", and directed us to the rancho her husband, Gabriel, was developing. Gabriel, not happy to see us, thought that we were associated with INAH, but relented and showed us the mounds, only a kilometer walk from our vehicle. Gabriel was planting cedar trees (Spanish cedar – *cedro amargo* in Spanish, a commercial tree of the area).

The site consisted of two mounds, one completely robbed of its stone, I suppose, to build the road to Noh Cah. The other, harder to get a truck near to, has survived. At present, it is approximately ten meters high, badly fallen. No signs of palaces, platform house mounds, etc. It resembles the tall mounds at nearby sites, such as Los Límones, Tixmul, Chacchoben, and Ramonal.

There were three *aguadas* at the site (Gabriel called them "cenotes"), one had coffee colored water in it, in February, 2010. The land was typical "Yucatán ugly" – stones, scrub brush, thin topsoil. So, why would these ancient people erect two temples in this spot? I suppose the *aguadas* gave them fairly reliable fresh water supply.

While searching for other structures (not found), we noticed the two largest mamey trees I have ever seen. Also, old, very old, bitter



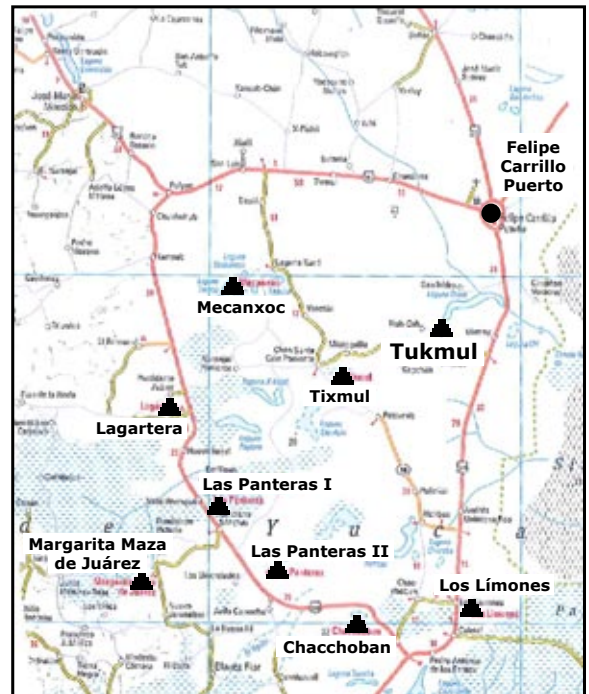
Ruinhunter and IMS Explorer of the Month Lee Jones poses with Gabriel, the rancho from near Uhmay. With a review of the map at right, it seems there could be many more sites out there in the wilderness.

orange trees and the most cohune palm trees I've encountered this side of Kohunlich. I always thought this variety of palm to be a Belize and Petén tree and, other than at Kohunlich, had not noticed any in Quintana Roo. There must have been seventy scattered about this site, possibly planted around 1900, along with the mamey and bitter orange trees.

I asked Gabriel the name of the site. No name; the name of the *aguadas, ejido, rancho* – no name. Actually, the site is in an area of disagreement between three *ejidos*.

The Yucatán Mayan name for cohune palm is "tuk" and mound is "mul". So, I christened the site "Tukmul". Gabriel liked that. I e-mailed INAH in Chetumal, giving a description on the site as well as GPS points: N 19°24' 18.80", W 88° 87' 17.90", suggesting, if it is not known, the name of Tukmul. INAH acknowledged my e-mail, and I never heard from them again. So, I take that as a "yes, Tukmul is acceptable"!

So – Tukmul, semi-precious stone of Quintana Roo.



Look at the map (above) – large area, new roads, few sites. Might be another "Tukmul" hidden out there – or a Calakmul! Ruinhunters can dream, too!

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Thank you Lee Jones for keeping our IMS Explorer readers aware of your adventures!

Uxul by Antonio Benavides C.

continued from page 4

and problems were also begun but only four looting trenches were partially refilled and closed. Other architectonic complexes have also looting trenches so this labor will continue during the next seasons.

The ancient Maya settlement today called Uxul now has new sounds and voices. Little by little, it is awakening from a several-century long

dream; but fortunately some fragments of its old history are fitting into place.

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Thanks to archaeologist Antonio Benavides C. of INAH – Campeche for this informative report and images.

Institute of Maya Studies Line-up of Presentations!

July 14, 2010: IMS Explorer Session:

"The Maya Sites of Altun Ha (in Belize) and Kohunlich (in Southern Quintana Roo, Mexico)"

with Past IMS President **Larry S. Marks**



Altun Ha, the most extensively excavated Maya site in Belize, was most active during the Classic Period. It was a vital trade center that linked the Caribbean shores with other Maya centers in the interior. The ceremonial precinct consists of two main plazas with some thirteen temple and residential structures. Protoclassic grave goods, particularly a distinctive green obsidian and the ceramics present at Altun Ha reflect the far reaching influence of Teotihuacan.

Kohunlich (*X-làabch'é'en* in Modern Mayan) is a large archaeological site where most of the structures were built in the Early Classic period from about 250 to 600 CE. The Spanish name does not actually derive from Mayan but from the English Cohune Ridge where cohune palm grew. The city was elaborately planned and engineered, with raised platforms and pyramids, citadels, courtyards and plazas surrounded with palace platforms, all laid out to channel drainage into a system of cisterns and an enormous reservoir to collect rainwater.



The Temple of the Masks was built in honor of the sun god.

July 21: IMS Presentation:

"The Maya Burners"

with **Victoria R. Bricker**

The term "Burner" appears in several Maya Books of Chilam Balam, written during the Colonial period, notably the ones from the towns of Ixil, Kaua, Mani, and Tizimin in the state of Yucatán.

It refers to a set of rituals described in part by Bishop Diego de Landa in his *Relación de las Cosas de Yucatán*, as well as by Alfonso Villa Rojas when he carried out fieldwork in east-central Quintana Roo during the first part of the last century. For scheduling these

rituals, the 260-day Tzolkin was quartered, and each quarter was further subdivided into three intervals of 20 days and one interval of 5 days. The rituals in each quarter followed the following sequence: (1) taking the fire, (2) lighting the fire, (3) letting the fire run, and (4) quenching the fire.

Evidence in the Dresden Codex suggests that the Burner rituals were being performed as early as the tenth century CE and that the coefficients of the days with which they were associated advanced by one at thirteen-year intervals, resulting in a 169-year cycle.

Victoria R. Bricker is an Emeritus Professor of Anthropology at Tulane University, where she was on the faculty from 1969 through 2005; at the University of Florida, she is Courtesy Professor of Anthropology and Research Associate of the Florida Museum of Natural History. See her whole bio on the IMS website under the July Programs tab.



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Volume 39: Issue 7 • July 2010

IMS Explorer

Newsletter of the
Institute of Maya Studies

3280 South Miami Avenue
Miami, FL 33129

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New website address:
www.instituteofmayastudies.org

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Coming up next month:

Karl Herbert Mayer of *Mexicon*, Austrian Bureau, reports on restoration efforts at the little-known site of **Sac Nicte** in the Yucatán. The façade decoration



Photo by Robert Sittler.

on Structure 18 represents an exceptional and important example of the Puuc Colonnade style in the Northern Maya Lowlands.

Editor Jim Reed reports on the recent successfully completed endeavor that facilitated taking 13 Maya Daykeepers from Guatemala to the site of **Izapa** (inside Mexico).

The group was welcomed as "distinguished visitors" by the Mayor of Tapachula. You'll learn how much of an important and unprecedented event it was!

Upcoming Events at the IMS:

No IMS Board Meeting this month!
Next board meeting: August 4, 2010

July 14, 8 pm: *IMS Explorer Session*
"Sites Seen: Altun Ha and Kohunlich" – A former President of the IMS, **Larry S. Marks**, takes us on a journey to two very important Maya sites in Belize.

July 21, 8 pm: *IMS Presentation*
"The Maya Burners" – with **Victoria Bricker**, an Emeritus Professor of Anthropology at Tulane University.

August 11, 8 pm: *IMS Explorer Session*
"Indigenous Writing in the Americas: History, Ritual, Maps and Myths" – with **Arthur Dunkelman**, another IMS President of the past, and currently curator of the Kislak Foundation in Miami, FL.

August 18, 8 pm: *IMS Presentation*
"1,500 Years of Maya Literature; From Classic Texts to Chol Folktales" – with **Nick Hopkins, Ph.D.** Nick is an expert in Maya hieroglyphs and has taught workshops for many years on Maya inscriptions.

Upcoming Events and Announcements:

Through July 18: *Museum Exhibition*
"Fiery Pool: The Maya and the Mythic Sea" – Over 90 works, many never before seen, offer exciting new insights into Maya culture that focus on the sea as a defining feature of the spiritual realm and the inspiration for the finest works of art. The exhibition is scheduled to travel to the Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth, Texas, and the Saint Louis Art Museum. At the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA. Get more info at: www.pem.org

July 19–21: Seminar
"Maya Calendars, Mathematics, and the 2012 Craze" – A three-day seminar with Edwin Barnhart and Christopher Powell at the UT at Austin. Info at: www.mayaexploration.org

September 25: *Symposium*
"Under Cover of Darkness: The Meaning of Night in Ancient Mesoamerica" – Theme of the 17th annual symposium of The Pre-Columbian Society of Washington, DC. At the U.S. Navy Memorial and Naval Heritage Center, Washington, DC. More info available at: www.pcswdc.org

Sept. 30–Oct. 3: *Conference*
"Fourth Annual Maya at The Playa Conference"
– This year's conference will take place at the same venues in Flagler Beach, FL. Get more info at: http://mayaattheplaya.com/M@P_2009/Home.html

Through October 30: *Museum Exhibition*
"Jaguar Spots: Ancient Mesoamerican Art from the Lowe Art Museum" – Exhibition of art from the Olmec, Maya and Aztec, curated by Dr. Traci Ardren, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Director of Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Miami. Dr. Matthew Looer will speak on textile imagery in the art of Costa Rica on September 23rd, and Dr. Gabrielle Vail will speak on hieroglyphic inscriptions in the exhibition on October 28th. The full color, bilingual catalog is available by contacting the Museum Store at 305-284-6988 or via e-mail, Istassun@miami.edu. At the Lowe Art Museum, Coral Gables, FL. Info at: http://www6.miami.edu/lowe/calendar_events.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