



IMS Explorer

Our Explorer of the Month is a famous Maya man from Quintana Roo who recently passed. He was loved and respected by all who knew him – and he starred in the 1975 movie Chac.

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



January 18, 2012 • Maya Long Count: 12.19.19.1.2 • 4 'Ik' 10 Muwan • G4

An affiliate of the Miami Science Museum

Dedicatory Cache Excavated at Teotihuacan's Temple of the Sun

Archaeologists announced on December 13, 2011, that they dug to the very core of Mexico's tallest pyramid and found what may be the original ceremonial offering placed on the site of the Pyramid of the Sun before construction began. The offerings found at the base of the pyramid include a green serpentine stone mask so delicately carved and detailed that archaeologists believe it may have been a portrait. The find also includes 11 ceremonial clay pots dedicated to a rain god similar to Tlaloc, who was still worshipped in the area 1,500 years later, according to a statement by the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH).

The offerings, including bones of an eagle, rabbits, as well as feline and canine animals that haven't been identified yet, were laid on a sort of rubble base where the temple was erected about 50 CE.

"We know that it was deposited as part of a consecration ritual for the construction of the Pyramid of the Sun," said INAH archaeologist Enrique Pérez Cortés.

Experts followed an old tunnel dug through the pyramid by researchers in the 1930s that narrowly missed the center, and then dug small extensions and exploratory shafts off it. What they found points to the earliest days of the still largely mysterious Teotihuacan culture.

The remains of three structures that predate the pyramid were found buried at the base. Archaeologists have known that the ceremonial significance of the site, perhaps as a "link" to the underworld, predates the



Archaeologists discovered a couple of beautiful offerings, one of which may have been placed to consecrate the start of construction on the Temple of the Sun.



The INAH investigators made the discoveries during excavations that started in 2008 and recently ended in 2011.

pyramids. They also found seven burials, some of them infant remains.

Susan Gillespie, an associate professor of anthropology at the University of Florida who was not involved in the project, called the find "exciting and important, although I would not say it was unexpected" given that dedicatory offerings were commonly placed in Mesoamerican pyramids.

"It is exciting that what looks like the original foundation dedicatory cache for what was to become the largest (in height) pyramid in Mexico (and one of the largest in the world) has finally been found, after much concerted efforts looking for it," Gillespie wrote in an email.

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VOLUME 41, ISSUE 1

January 2012

ISSN: 1524-9387

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January 18, 8 pm



The workers and artisans created artificial sacred mountains to get their 'divine' rulers closer to the realm of their ancestors and gods.

"The Meaning of a Maya City"

with
Dr. Ed Kurjack



**Jim Reed,
Editor**

The *IMS Explorer* newsletter is published 12 times a year by The Institute of Maya Studies, Inc. 3280 South Miami Avenue, Miami, Florida 33129. The Institute is a non-profit corporation. The newsletter is available to IMS members and by subscription. See Membership Application on page 7. ©2012 I.M.S. Inc.



New Year Address / New Website Launch

My fellow members, the IMS board, newsletter editor and webmaster would like to wish you and your families a very Happy New Year. I personally want to thank everyone for their time, effort and support in making the Institute and its service better for all our members.

This time of year is usually reflective so as we look back at the recent year and our progress, it excites me to tell you where we're going this year.

Starting in January 2012, the Institute's website will take on a new look. We have re-designed the site so it is easier for you to use and for us to update. As part of this plan, we purchased the domain www.instituteofmayastudies.com for development while we maintained the existing site at www.instituteofmayastudies.org.

Now that the new site is available you can access it at either address. On the public side of the site, you will find information on the Institute and information on research going on throughout Mesoamerica. The public will get a glimpse of our *Explorer* via reprints of articles such as the "Pioneers of Maya Archaeology" collection, some Book Reviews and other selected articles. New Features will include "In the Field" where current archaeologists will update us on their work and "Where in the Maya World are we?" Figure out where the picture is from and this month you could win one of Steve Radzi's Mundo Maya maps! "News from the Maya World" will provide information on recent visits made by our members and others.

We will work to provide information on upcoming IMS presentations and others events of interest where ever they occur.

For members, the "Members Only" area will provide access to the current issue of the *Explorer* and back issues. Currently, we have all the issues from 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011. We plan on having older issues available as we can get them scanned. PDF files listing all the books currently in the IMS Library are available to download. We have started to create galleries of the many photographs taken over the years by IMS members as they visited sites. In the near future, we will be video-taping IMS presentations and having them available on the site.

So, take a look at the new site and keep coming back to see the new things we are adding! You will be able to purchase or renew your membership or *Explorer* newsletter subscription on the new site as well as pay with a credit card or through your *Paypal* account. Memberships that originate or are renewed on the site will receive email notices to remind you when it is time to renew and also submit a renewal automatically unless you cancel.

Important information about logging into the new site: If you had a login on www.instituteofmayastudies.org and the email address is working, you should get an email with your login information. If you do not get an email, or if your email has changed, or you did not have an email address associated with your old login, please send an email to webmaster@instituteofmayastudies.com and we will set up your new login.

Our goals for the New Year will be a continued effort on:

- Offering the best newsletter out there on the Maya – past and present.
- Providing a fresh, current and exciting website to visit often.
- Making our library system available to all members.
- Continuously adding to our photo galleries, showcasing members' photos from across the Maya world – from the early 70s through today.
- Archiving our newsletter issues. This is especially nice for members who may want to keep a personal archive and for any new member to go back and peruse through older issues.
- Accomplishing the video taping of our presentations and making them available on the site for all our members around the world.
- Maintaining our presence at National Maya-related symposiums.
- Sponsoring workshops with leading individuals in their fields.

We will continue to work hard to provide great service for our members and top-notch programming for the public.

Once again, I thank you for your past support and look forward to your continued support in helping us accomplish our goals. Have a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2012 ... It's finally here!

Rick Slazyk
Executive Vice-President
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New IMS Board members for 2012:

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We'll list the complete roster of 2012 new officers and committee directors in the February *Explorer*.



IMS Explorer of the Month: **Don Pablo Canche Balam**

While working on the film *Chac*, Don Pablo was

given the nickname, *Yum Chac* by his friends. It is the name of one of the Maya rain gods. He also helped Richard Luxton write *The Mystery of the Mayan Hieroglyphs: The Vision of Ancient Tradition*. An article about his very interesting life by Hilario Hiller will appear in the February *Explorer*.



Mexico Acknowledges Second Ancient Maya Reference to 2012

Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) is downplaying theories that the ancient Maya predicted the world would be ending in 2012, but it did acknowledge that the date exists on a fragment on the carved or molded face of a brick at a southern Mexican site of Comalcalco.

Experts previously had cited only one surviving reference to the date in Mayan glyphs, which is the stone tablet from Tortuguero site in the Gulf coast state of Tabasco known as Tortuguero Monument 6 (see December 2011 IMS Explorer, Vol. 40, Issue 12). However, INAH has announced that this inscription is another apparent reference to the 4 Ahaw 3 Kankin date.

A spokesman for the institute said the fragment inscription had been discovered years ago and has been subject to thorough study. The "Comalcalco Brick," as the second fragment is known, has been discussed by experts in some online forums. Many still doubt that it is a definite reference to Dec. 21, 2012.

Referring to the Past or Future?

"Some have proposed it as another reference to 2012, but I remain rather unconvinced," noted David Stuart, a specialist in Mayan epigraphy at the University of Texas at Austin and author of the recently released book *The Order of Days*.

Stuart said the date inscribed on the brick "is a Calendar Round, a combination of a day and month position that will repeat every 52 years."

The brick date does coincide with the end of the 13th Baktun; Baktuns were roughly 394-year periods, and 13 was a significant, sacred number for the Maya. The Maya Long Count calendar begins



Comalcalco is both a modern-day city located about 45 miles (60 km) northwest of Villahermosa in the Mexican state of Tabasco and a Pre-Columbian Maya archaeological site. The literal English translation of "Comalcalco" is "In the house of the comals". A comal is a pan used to prepare tortillas.

The site of Comalcalco is notable for two characteristics. First, it is the westernmost known Maya settlement. Second, and due to a dearth of locally available limestone (the primary material used in Maya architectural construction), the city's buildings were made from fired-clay bricks held together with mortar made from oyster shells. The use of bricks at Comalcalco was unique among Maya sites, and many of them are decorated with iconography and/or hieroglyphs. Important architectural features include the northern plaza (top left) and two pyramids, the Gran Acropolis and the Acropolis Este.



in 3114 BCE, and the 13th Baktun ends on the winter solstice in 2012, 12/21/2012 to be exact, according to modern K'iché, Cakchiquel and Tut'zujhil Maya day counts.

But the date on the brick could also correspond to similar dates in the past, Stuart said. "There's no reason it couldn't be also a date in ancient times, describing some important historical event in the Classic period. In fact, the third glyph on the brick seems to read as the verb *huli*, 'he/she/it arrives,'" Stuart wrote. "There's no future tense marking (unlike the Tortuguero phrase), which in my mind points more to the Comalcalco date being more historical than prophetic."

Both inscriptions – the Tortuguero tablet and the Comalcalco brick – were probably



An interesting, yet odd fact about the Comalcalco bricks is that the molded or inscribed faces of the bricks were probably laid facing inward or covered with stucco, suggesting they were not meant to be seen.

carved about 1,300 years ago, and both are cryptic in some ways.

Further Explanation

The Tortuguero stone tablet apparently refers to an event that is due to occur in 2012, but a crack in the stone makes the final passage almost illegible.

The Tortuguero inscription describes something that is supposed to occur in 2012 involving Bolon Yokte K'uh, a mysterious Maya god associated with both war and creation (see November 2011 IMS Explorer, Vol. 40, Issue 11). However, erosion and a crack in the stone make the end of the passage almost illegible, though some read the last eroded glyphs as perhaps saying, "He will descend from the sky."

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Archaeologists working to restore the site discovered that many of the bricks had inscriptions on them. Dislodged bricks, and those removed for resetting as part of the restoration process, often bore mysterious symbols or inscriptions. In some cases, the brick makers' fingerprints were still clearly visible.



The Archaeological Museum on Santa Bárbara Island, Petén

by Karl Herbert Mayer
Mexicon, Austrian Bureau

The little island of Islote Santa Bárbara is one of several islands in the extensive Lake Petén Itzá, close to Flores, the capital of the Department of Petén, Guatemala (Fig. 1). The island is locally also known as "Radio Petén", because it was the previous home of a local radio station, whose high antennae are still there. Archaeological work on Santa Bárbara, conducted in 1977 (Chase and Rice 1985:195-196), evidenced that several mounds and platforms from Postclassic times remain on the small island that is only ca. 250 x 110 metres in size.

In 2003, a privately-owned archaeological collection was inaugurated on the island and officially named Museo Arqueológico Santa Bárbara. It can be visited by boat and is open to the public daily from 9 am to 5 pm; the entrance fee is presently Q10 (in Guatemalan Quetzales).

The small museum displays fragments of stone monuments of unknown provenance (Grube and Martin 2004: 69; Mayer 2004), a portion of Stela 2 from Tamarindito (Mayer 2008), an incised capstone from Caracol, Belize, and a large number of unprovenanced, archaeological artifacts made of limestone, greenstone, flintstone, onyx, obsidian, shell, bone, and clay, dating from Late Preclassic to Postclassic times (Fig. 2).

The lithic objects include various manos and metates, bark beaters, little axes, knives, arrow and lance heads, jade ornaments, ear flares, and figurines. The ceramic objects encompass numerous spindle whorls, figurines, musical instruments, and a series



Fig. 1: *The Islote Santa Bárbara – KHM, 2008.*

of vessels in the form of miniature flasks, censers, large jars, plates, bowls, and cylindrical vessels. Since its opening the museum has acquired from time to time objects, which are on exhibit or are still stored in boxes.

Exhibit Highlights

Among the most interesting of the exhibited objects is a complete limestone panel depicting in bas-relief two standing anthropomorphic figures facing each other, probably dating, on stylistic and iconographic grounds, to Late Preclassic or Early Classic times (Fig. 3), several



Fig. 4: *Human skull and inlaid teeth in front – KHM, 2008.*



Fig. 5: *Onyx bowl with lithic artifact in front – KHM, 2011.*



Fig. 6: *Ceramic vessel with deity head – KHM, 2011.*



Fig. 2: *View of the main room of the museum – KHM, 2008.*



Fig. 3: *Limestone panel representing two human figures. 52 cm high, 65 cm wide, 13 cm thick – KHM, 2009.*

human teeth embellished with pyrite and jadeite inlays (Fig. 4), a small bone tube engraved with two glyph blocks (Mayer 2009), and a complete onyx bowl (Fig. 5). There are two hollow so-called pottery mushroom stands on display, possibly originating from the Río de la Pasión region, dating to the Middle Preclassic, ca. 800-500 BC.

Other interesting specimens include a fragmentary pottery censer (Fig. 6) and a tall effigy censer stand (Fig. 7); the latter has been identified by Joseph W. Ball (written communication, 2010) as an example of Miseria Appliqué, a type common in the Western Belize Valley and also at Caracol, and it is most similar to an example on display in the museum at Cahal Pech, Belize. Chronologically it dates either to the Late Classic or Terminal Classic, somewhere between AD 780 and 860. The head probably depicts the Jaguar God of the Underworld.

There are several bichrome and polychrome Late Classic vases on exhibit, some of them bearing inscriptions: however a few of them are pseudo-glyphic texts, which occur also on various ceramic

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The Archaeological Museum on Santa Bárbara Island, Petén

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bowls. One of the vases, inscribed and depicting a God K profile head, has already been published (Mayer 2002:96, Fig. 7), another one (Fig. 8), represents an inverted L-shaped inscription consisting of six glyph blocks and two standing personages, one holding vertically a lance and wearing a headgear with a human skull, the other one has a large jaguar head in front and another jaguar head in the headdress. Unfortunately, large sections of the scene are severely eroded. The text is pseudo-glyphic.

A ceramic bowl, reportedly from San Miguel Tayasal, a site close to Santa Bárbara and Flores, acquired by the museum in 2010, has recently been investigated by Sven Gronemeyer (2010). This bowl has a greyish-buff colored slip, a rim band in dark red, and depicts four elegantly red painted hieroglyphic blocks, one of them

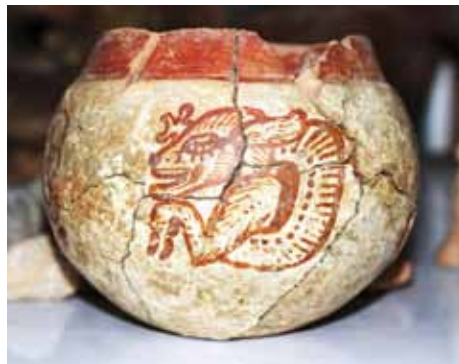


Fig. 9: Bowl with four painted hieroglyphic blocks. 17 cm high, 15 cm in diameter – KHM, 2011.

illustrating a realistic deer (Fig. 9). Another ceramic bowl, broken and missing parts, bears a red painted horizontal legible inscription, encircling the top (Fig. 10).

For the generous permission to take photographs between 2004 and 2011 and to publish them, I thank Magdalena de Colmenares and Luís Mariano Colmenares of the museum.

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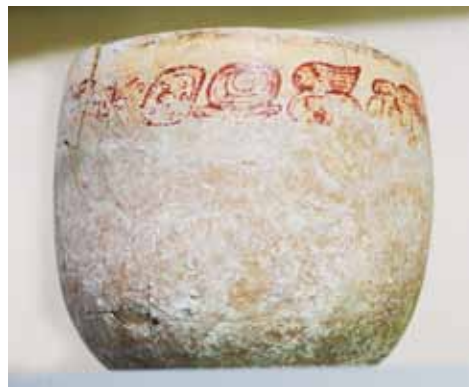


Fig. 10: Bowl with painted inscription – KHM, 2009.



Fig. 7: Flanged censer stand with deity head, 38 cm high, 32 cm wide – KHM, 2008.



Fig. 8: Cylindrical vessel with human figures and glyphs – KHM, 2009.

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All photos by Karl Herbert Mayer. 🗿

In Memoriam: Larry S. Marks

by **Marta Barber**

Our friend Larry Marks died on November 6. Larry had battled prostate cancer for years. Though his bald head and puffy face would reveal the struggles he was going through, you would never know it when he met us on Wednesdays for our lectures. Larry would never complain nor even hint at his bout with the deadly disease. He was 70. He's survived by his wife Gloria, 7 children and multiple grandchildren.

A University of Florida graduate, Larry served as president of IMS for two consecutive years. During that time, the IMS was having a problem with the newsletter, our

Larry on a sunny day in the Mayalands.

monthly publication. Larry then recruited Jim Reed, our present editor, who had recently moved to Atlanta. Larry made the case that being away from our home base wouldn't stop Jim from doing his job. Time has proved Larry right.

Larry loved the Maya world and traveled there often. On one occasion, and in his limited Spanish, he asked folks at Uxmal what was down the road from the actual site. They told him there were some ruins there. Off Larry went, and he found a building with beautiful rounded corners. No matter how many people he asked, no one could give



him the name of the place. We, at the IMS, called it the *Larry Site*. We last saw Larry on October 19, 2011, when Jim was giving a lecture and receiving a Fellowship award. He looked tired but gave us hugs. Larry had his usual smile on his face. The IMS will miss him. 🗿

Dedicatory Cache from the Temple of the Sun

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Gillespie said the find gives a better picture of the continuity of religious practices during Teotihuacan's long history. Some of the same themes found in the offering are repeated in ancient murals painted on the city's walls centuries later.

George Cowgill, an anthropologist at Arizona State University, called the find "pretty important" and suggested the Tlaloc offerings may thicken

the debate about whether the pyramid was linked to the sun, the underworld or Tlaloc, who was also considered a war god.

"The discovery of the remains of seven humans suggests that they were probably sacrificial victims, along with several species of fierce animals," Cowgill wrote.

The city was founded nearly 2,500 years ago and came to have a dominant influence in architecture, trade and cultural in large swaths of ancient Mexico. But the identity of its rulers remains a mystery, and the city was abandoned by the time the Aztecs arrived in the area in the 1300s and gave it the name Teotihuacan, which means "the place where men become gods."



The complete cache offering consisted of artifacts of obsidian and broken pieces of ceramic vases. Besides the bones of various animals, three small human figurines of green stone were encountered that appear they could be the portraits of real persons.

Source: From an article by Mark Stevenson (Associated Press), released 12/13/2011 at: www.sacbee.com. Photos courtesy of www.inah.gob.mx. Submitted by Mike Ruggeri.

Second Ancient Maya Reference to 2012

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INAH has long said rumors of a world-ending or world-changing event in late December 2012 are a Westernized misinterpretation of Maya calendars.

The institute repeated that "Western messianic thought has twisted the cosmovision of ancient civilizations like the Maya." INAH experts say the Maya saw time as a series of cycles that began and ended with regularity, but with nothing apocalyptic at the end of a given cycle.

This Western-most Maya City Is Interesting for Many Reasons

Only when you get close do you realize that Comalcalco is very different to other Maya sites.

Neil Steede, an archaeologist working on the site, studied almost 5,000 bricks, and photographed the inscriptions he found on about 1,500 of them. Most of the symbols or inscriptions have been interpreted as masons' signs. The really curious thing is that these marks turn out to be virtually identical to the masons' marks used by the Romans, half a world away. Steede was led to the astonishing conclusion that, "The illustrated bricks of Comalcalco are pieces to a grand puzzle, whose completed, final image may reveal a Roman-Christian presence in the Americas a thousand years before the arrival of Columbus."

Evidence from the inscribed bricks shows that when the site was at its peak,

during Classic times, it was a close ally of (or possibly controlled by) the powerful Maya leaders residing at Palenque. Artifacts found at Comalcalco suggest additional links to Maya sites as far away as Tikal (in Guatemala).

Visitors today do not see the site as it looked in Maya times. The Chontal Maya who built Comalcalco covered the exterior surfaces of all the bricks with stucco; remnants of the original stucco can still be seen in some places. Then, for further decoration, they carved ornate reliefs into the stucco, so the site would have been far more colorful than it appears now.

Researchers Clyde Winters and Neil Steede explored the iconography of the symbols carved in Comalcalco bricks in some detail. Winters, an expert on Olmec script, which pre-dates the rise of the Maya, quickly recognized that one particular brick (T1 452 R16) was very special, since it had both Olmec and Maya script side by side. Winters translated the Olmec script, and Steede worked on the Maya script, independently, before comparing notes. Their work showed that the two scripts told the same tale. The left hand side was essentially



Detail in tomb of K'uhul Ajau, "The Holy Man of Comalcalco".

Detail of a hieroglyphic panel.



Many of the original stucco friezes remain intact at Comalcalco. These often intimate images provide insights into the aesthetic of the culture that made them. It is interesting to compare the forms, lines, and composition of these carvings across sites in the Mundo Maya.

a translation of the right hand side; the brick was bilingual!

Sources: Condensed by the editor from various web articles including: www.mexconnect.com; www.redorbit.com and <http://news.yahoo.com>. Submitted by Georgeann Johnson and Scott Allen.

January 11, 2012: IMS Explorer Session:
"The Golden Age of the Maya"

with **Marta Barber**



Artistic rendering of the Main Acropolis of Copán during its heyday.

Though the civilization lasted for approximately 2,000 years, the truly glory days of the Maya were condensed to less than 500 years. What led them to such heights? No other Mesoamerican people can claim the wealth of knowledge and triumphs the Maya reached at their peak. We review the history as we know it by taking a good look at the rise and subsequent fall of this magnificent civilization.



Exquisite Maya stela featuring Queen Ix Mutal Ahaw, 761 CE.

Marta Barber is a retired journalist and now dedicates her time to her granddaughters and preparing lectures for the IMS.

January 18: IMS Presentation:

"The Meaning of a Maya City"

with **Dr. Ed Kurjack**

Although the first cities must have served various purposes, scholars characterize incipient urbanism by emphasizing certain functions. Their arguments reflect distinct views of society, both ancient and modern. Some insist the first central places were built around religious shrines to form ceremonial centers. Others tell us that defense was a prime motivation; they expect to find forts at the core of early population concentrations. Various American scholars emphasize the role of commerce in city formation; they look for markets in the archaeological



Rick, Jack, Ed and Ruben, Dzibilchaltún, 2008.

record. Various sociologists suggest that

early cities facilitated population control by the ruling elite.

In light of such arguments, what was the nature of a Maya city?

Dr. Edward Kurjack is Professor Emeritus at Western Illinois University. He just returned from Ecuador where he was invited to lecture on his knowledge of the elements of Maya cities. Professor Kurjack's list of accomplishments are many. In 2010, our members Jack Rodríguez, a construction engineer, and Rick Slazyk, an architect, collaborated with Dr. Kurjack and INAH archaeologist Ruben Maldonado on a study of Dzibilchaltún, the intriguing city north of Merida. This study was presented at a conference in Mérida.



Artistic rendering of the beautiful "Red City of the West", Palenque.

All meetings are 8 pm • Institute of Maya Studies • Miami Science Museum • Maya Hotline: 305-279-8110

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Coming up next month:

A Tribute to a Great Maya Man: Don Pablo Canche Balam

A well-known Maya man from Quintana Roo and the Yucatán traveled the high road to Xibalba last November. Our new spokesman from the field, **Hilario Hiler**, has penned a special personal memoir of



Don Pablo, early on, with his family.

Don Pablo Canche Balam. Rather than give away too many of the specifics, here is a short excerpt:

"I first met Don Pablo when he was a boy 16 or 17 years old. On nights with little or no moon, he would walk the sandy beach north of Dzib' Aktún holding just a candle. Entering the sea, no deeper than up to his knees, he would get conch, just by picking them up. He'd catch lobster on the move by spearing them with a wooden spear that he had hardened in a fire. Of course during our sea-hunting days, we'd also eat turtle eggs – they were so plentiful back then. He liked them parboiled with butter, orange juice, chili, and hot hand-made tortillas that his wife Orfila always made for each meal.

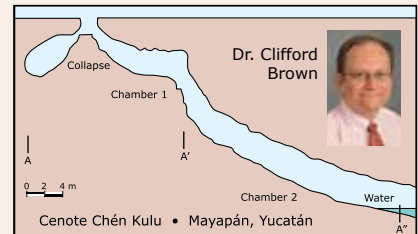
"Don Pablo was the man who showed author Michel Peissel a stone head that he had found in his corn field. Don Pablo said that he used to feed the

idol, which means he respected and took care of it, perhaps lighting candles for it at special times. This is what they do in the local Maya church; they *feed* the Tulum cross and the Saints."

Mapping the Cenotes and Caves of Mayapán with Dr. Clifford T. Brown

At the IMS on March 21, Dr. Brown will present a program entitled "Wealth, Equality, and Trade at Mayapán". For his dissertation, going for his Ph.D. at Tulane, Brown directed archaeological excavations at Mayapán, the

Late Postclassic capital city of northern Yucatán. When editor Jim Reed expressed a particular interest in Brown's research and work in the cenotes and caves, the two conspired to release a new article for *Explorer* readers. As portals to the supernatural realm that creates and animates the universe, caves have always been held sacred by the peoples of Mesoamerica. The study of what went on in caves is on the cutting edge of scientific investigation into indigenous ritual and belief.



Section drawing based on Fig. 15.6 from Brown's Chapter 15 in the book entitled "In the Maw of the Earth Monster: Mesoamerican Ritual Cave Use" featuring his work in cenotes and caves.

Upcoming Events at the IMS:

January 11, 8 pm: *IMS Explorer Session*
"The Golden Age of the Maya" – Maya cities reached their highest state of development during the Classic period (c. 250 to 900 CE). **Marta Barber** reviews the rise and subsequent fall of this wondrous civilization.

January 18, 8 pm: *IMS Presentation*
"The Meaning of a Maya City" – The material splendor of the Maya culture is appreciated in the architecture and ornamentation of their cities. These city-states were the center of power for the king-priests who administered the obedience, the tribute and the manpower of the people who believed in them. **Dr. Edward Kurjack**, Professor emeritus at Western Illinois University, explains what scholars debate: *what was the nature of a Maya city?*

February 8, 8 pm: *IMS Explorer Session*
"Digging Deeper in the Dry Tortugas" – Explore Fort Jefferson with **Michelle Williams, Ph.D.**

February 15, 8 pm: *IMS Presentation*
"Long Distance Trade and Identity Maintenance at Early Classic Chunchucmil" – with **Traci Ardren, Ph.D.**

Upcoming Events and Announcements:

February 20, 2012: *AIA Society Event*
"Underwater Maya: Discovery, Mapping, and Excavating in a Peat Bog Below the Sea Floor, Belize" – Heather McKillop, Ph.D., will summarize the discovery and mapping of some 4000 wooden posts between 2005 and 2009, as well as the ongoing field research excavating "Ancient Maya Wooden Architecture and the Salt Industry." In Santa Fe, NM. Get more info at: <http://www.archaeological.org/events/5622>

February 24–26: *Symposium*
"In the Time of the Maya" – Theme of the Annual Tulane Maya Symposium and Workshops. To celebrate the nature of Maya society throughout this long period, the symposium presenters will conduct a "baktun count" to recount the full history of Maya society from the time of mythical creation up to the present day. The 2012 symposium promises to be a memorable weekend spent exploring and discussing an intriguing and important anthropological topic. To be held at Tulane University's Uptown Campus in New Orleans, LA. For additional info visit: <http://mari.tulane.edu/TMS/index.html>

2012 Maya Meetings

March 12–14: *Workshops*

March 15: *Symposium*

"Beyond the Glyphs: Ancient Maya

Inscriptions as Literature"

– Theme of the 2012 Maya Meetings that will take place at Casa Herrera, UT-Austin's academic and conference center for Mesoamerican studies in Antigua, Guatemala. Registration now open. Get more info at: www.utmeso-america.org/news/2012-maya-meetings

March 20, 2012: *Lecture*

"The End of Time: The Maya Mystery of 2012"

– A part of the Royal Ontario Museum Maya Lecture Series with Dr. Anthony Aveni. In his latest book of the same name, award-winning astronomer and Maya researcher Anthony Aveni explores various theories concerning December 21, 2012. He explains their origins and measures them objectively against evidence unearthed by Maya archaeologists, iconographers and epigraphers. At the Royal Ontario Museum, Ottawa, Canada. Visit: www.rom.on.ca/programs/lectures

