



With a career of more than 40 years dedicated to archaeology and anthropology, our Explorer of the Month is also president of Mayas for Ancient Mayan (MAM), who is he?

IMS Explorer

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The Maler Ruins of Vena Revisited

by **Stephan Merk**
Mexican Staff Member

The German-Austrian explorer Teobert Maler (1842-1917) dedicated several years of his life to discover, describe, and photograph ancient Maya ruins in the Yucatán. Between 1886 and 1894, he inspected the northern part of the peninsula, that is, the Mexican states of Yucatán, Campeche and Quintana Roo. Afterwards, he concentrated on the southern areas of the Maya world, mainly in Chiapas and Guatemala.

Maler was the first one, after John Lloyd Stephens and Frederic Catherwood, who seriously searched for ruins in the northern Yucatán. He discovered and revisited around 100 sites in the Puuc and Chenes areas. His dream, to publish an atlas with photos and descriptions of his findings, never came true. Maler's manuscript, entitled *Península Yucatán*, was edited by Hanns J. Prem and printed in 1997, 80 years after the explorer's death. He finished his systematical search in that part of Mexico in June 1894, and the last Maya ruins Maler explored was the ancient Puuc-style site of Vena.

Vena is a rarely visited place, most likely because of its remote location in the woods, its closeness to the border between the Mexican states of Yucatán and Campeche, and the bad state of preservation of its buildings. The Spanish word "vena" means "vein", but it is not known how the site originally got its name. To my knowledge, Hanns J. Prem (University of Bonn) is the only person besides Maler who ever reported about Vena. Prem visited the ruins in 1989 as part of his preparation for editing Maler's manuscript *Península Yucatán*. Nicholas P. Dunning in his book *Lords of the Hills* (1992) mentions Vena,

Fig. 1:
Vena,
Main
Palace;
one of
the rooms
on the
eastern
side.



but he only refers to information provided by Prem.

Maler's notes about Vena fill one-and-a-half pages in the *Península Yucatán*, but only half of the text is dedicated to the architecture of the site. The explorer describes two partly-standing buildings in detail, the Main Palace (*Hauptpalast*) and the Palace of the Colonnets (*Halbsäulchenpalast*); the only photograph depicted shows the front side of the latter structure. In his commentary in the *Península Yucatán*, Prem corrects some directions given by Maler. The early explorer had wrongly proposed the direction from Bolonchen, where he started his search, to Vena as being southeast – in fact the site is situated northeast.

At the time of his visit, Prem inspected the Main Palace and was able to identify a collapsed structure as the former Palace of the Colonnets. He also noticed a group of pyramids and a building on a hill (Structure 3), which Maler did not report. Prem created a rough sketch of the site and a preliminary floor plan of Structure 1, the Main Palace.

Because of the relatively scarce information available, an international team consisting of Dan Griffin, Ken Jones and myself decided to revisit Vena. Equipped with the drawings and some additional information that Hanns Prem had kindly provided me with, I had

continued on page 3

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Inside this issue:

Newly Discovered	2
Mayan Text Cites 2012 as End of a Calendar Cycle – Not the End of the World	
The Maler Ruins of Vena Revisited, by Stephan Merk, <i>continued</i>	3,5
Construction at El Tajín, by Joaquín Rodríguez III PE, SECB	4,6
Outstanding Maya Murals Revealed at Xultun	5,6
August Lineup of IMS Presentations and Membership Application	7
Upcoming Events	8

IMS Presentation:

August 15, 8 pm



"Maya Codices and the Books of Chilam Balam: Spanning the 'Conquest'"

with Dr. Bruce Love



Jim Reed,
Editor

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Newly Discovered Mayan Text Cites 2012 as End of a Calendar Cycle – Not the End of the World

Inscription doesn't refer to doomsday, but to long-term stability

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David Stuart, professor of art history at The University of Texas at Austin, has deciphered the second known reference in Maya culture to the so-called "end date" of December 21, 2012. Stuart says the reference does not predict the end of time but rather, was intended to promote continuity during a time of crisis.

Stuart worked with Marcello Canuto, director of Tulane's Middle American Research Institute and Tomás Barrientos of the Universidad del Valle Guatemala, who together serve as co-directors of the excavation.

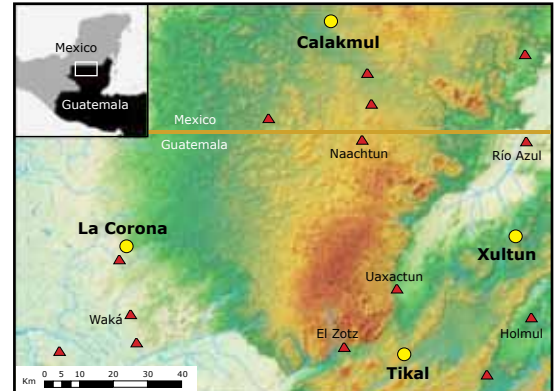
The findings are the latest from Stuart's more than 15 years of exploration and documentation of a Maya site located in northwest Guatemala, that he has named La Corona ("The Crown").

This spring, he served as lead epigrapher on an international team of archaeologists to decipher hieroglyphs that were carved on stone blocks that were part of a staircase at La Corona. The staircase records 200 years of La Corona's political history, its allies and its enemies, and it is the longest text ever discovered in Guatemala. On one of the blocks, Stuart recognized the end date among its 56 carved glyphs.

"The monument commemorated a royal visit to La Corona in AD 696 by the most powerful Maya ruler of that time, a few months after his defeat by a long-standing rival in AD 695," said Stuart. "Thought by scholars to have been killed in that battle, this ruler was visiting allies and allaying their fears after his defeat. It was a time of great political turmoil in the Maya region, and this king felt compelled to allude to a larger cycle of time that happens to end in 2012."

So rather than prophesy, the 2012 reference served to place this king's troubled reign and accomplishments into a larger cosmological framework. It is only the second reference to the end date in the entire corpus of ancient Maya writing.

The only other reference to the 2012 date in ancient Maya inscriptions is Monument 6 from Tortuguero, Mexico. "What this text shows us is that in times of crisis, the ancient Maya used their calendar to promote continuity and stability rather than predict apocalypse," says Canuto.



La Corona, located in northwestern Petén jungles of Guatemala, for many decades has been known as the enigmatic "Site Q," the source of many looted sculptures whose whereabouts had remained a mystery until its rediscovery only fifteen years ago.

For the past five years, Marcello A. Canuto (far right) and Tomás Barrientos Q. (above left) have directed the La Corona Regional Archaeological Project (PRALC) which has been investigating



this intriguing Classic Maya city and its jungle environs. Together with David Stuart (front), the trio examine the recently revealed glyph blocks on Hieroglyphic Stairway 2 (HS2) at La Corona.



Left) The stone block from HS2 at La Corona with its 56 glyphs, and its detail (right) reveal the 4 Ajaw 3 K'ank'in "end date" for the current cycle turn-over of the Maya calendar (by David Stuart).



IMS Explorer of the Month: Dr. Bruce Love

"A people without history is like a tree without roots,"

goes the Maya saying. This is precisely what epigraphy signifies for the Maya people. Dr. Bruce Love helps bring Maya workshops to the Maya through the organization MAM. He will be speaking at the IMS on August 15. See program announcement on page 7.

Sources: Text: From a post by Paola Bueché, Senior Program Coordinator, Mesoamerica Center, Austin, TX (6/28/2012). For more information on this discovery visit: www.utmesoamerica.org and www.utexas.edu/know/2012/06/28/la-corona. The photos, released on many websites and blogs, are courtesy of Tulane University. Map by Marcello A. Canuto. Check out David Stuart's blog report at: <http://decipherment.wordpress.com>

The Maler Ruins of Vena Revisited

by Stephan Merk

continued from page 1

already tried to reach the site by following Maler's route before, without success. Other attempts in 2009 (together with Dorothea Graf, Lee Jones and Karl Herbert Mayer) had also failed because we were not able to find a guide in Yaxhachen.

In 1894, Maler had started from the modern town of Bolonchen in northern Campeche and went east. He passed the former Rancho San Antonio (which actually was a hacienda, abandoned most likely in the 1870s during the time of the Caste War) and from there, in around one-hour-walking-distance, reached Vena.

On February 1, 2011, Griffin, Jones and I, initiated our search for Vena in the modern town of Yaxhachen in southern Yucatán, as did Hanns J. Prem in 1989. Together with a local guide and a machetero, we drove almost eight kilometers (km) on dirt and partly rocky roads, in a west-southwest direction, until we reached a savannah. We walked across this savannah towards the north into the ruins.

The area around Vena is characterized by medium-sized valleys between hills of varying height. The ruins are situated in the middle of one of these valleys, partly located on small natural elevations. The various buildings that will be described, lie west (Structure 3) and east (Structures 1 and 2) of a path that heads north for approximately five km until it reaches the abandoned Rancho Chimai.

Maler's Main Palace (Structure 1) is a complex building in the northern part of the site. It is mostly destroyed and has a general north-south axis. The remains of eight rooms are visible, but Structure 1 once consisted of more chambers, perhaps up to 15 in total. The building's layout is unclear.

According to Maler, the Main Palace sits on a platform, which had rooms incorporated on its western side; almost nothing remains of these chambers. The Palace itself consists of a double line of rooms, one behind the other, on its western front side, and a single row of rooms on the back side in the east. From



Fig. 2: Vena, Main Palace; façade stone with cross-motif.

the front row of the main western side of Structure 1 only one room is partly visible; all the others are completely destroyed or covered with debris. Three of the back rooms, which were connected to the front rooms by doorways, are preserved to some degree. These are all between 510 and 550 centimeters (cm) long, and almost three meters (m) wide. Parts of the doorjambes are in situ. The southernmost visible one of these back rooms shows traces of light blue color on its inner walls. There could have been a staircase more or less in the central part of the western line of rooms, but this is just a guess, given that the area now is only a pile of debris.

Some of the rooms on the rear of the eastern side of Structure 1 are partially preserved (**Fig. 1**, pg. 1), especially the approximately 8-meter-long central chamber which is protected by a flying staircase leading to the roof of the building. Most likely, this platform on top never supported a second structure.

In the debris of the Main Palace, façade stones with a variety of designs, some of them featuring a cross (**Fig. 2**), were found, as well as banded parts of large columns. Stonework and decorated façade stones indicate a Late Classic Puuc style for Structure 1; most likely the Palace was built in the Mosaic sub-style, which means that it was erected around the second half of the 9th Century. GPS readings are 20°02.237'N, 89°37.215'W.

The next structure is described for the first time here; it was not mentioned by Maler and it is not on Prem's sketch of the site. This Structure 2 lies up to 300 m east-southeast of Maler's Main Palace (Structure 1) and it consists of two rooms in a line, with an east-west axis. These chambers look towards



Fig. 3: Vena, Structure 2; back wall.

the north. The western room is almost completely destroyed; from the eastern room only a good portion of its back wall, as well as a small part of the eastern side wall, are still standing (**Fig. 3**).

The base moulding of the back wall is covered with debris, but most likely has the same design as the middle and the upper moulding. Most of the veneer stones, that covered the lower register of the back wall, have fallen; the ones still in situ are of medium size and are regularly laid. The three-member medial moulding shows an apron-type lower line of stones with a continuous row of short colonnettes on top. The uppermost member of this moulding consists of a protruding horizontal line of flat rectangular stones.

The upper register of the façade shows large parts of plain stones, alternating with sets of three large banded half-columns. Only the lower two members of the upper moulding have survived; they are of the same design as the lower two members of the medial moulding. The eastern room of the building is 490 cm long (measured inside). Because of its façade decoration, it can be estimated that Structure 2 was built in the Late Classic Puuc style. This building is situated only several meters north of a huge and high platform; GPS readings are 20°02.150'N, 89°37.031'W.

We were not able to relocate the fallen Palace of the Colonnettes that Maler described and photographed (**Fig. 4**, pg. 5). Hanns Prem revisited the very few remains of this two-room building in 1989. A small part of the façade, fallen down in one piece, allowed him to identify these remnants as the former Palace of the Colonnettes. According to Prem it is located south of the Main Palace.

continued on page 5



Construction at El Tajín

By Joaquín J. Rodríguez III PE, SECB

El Tajín is a well-known archaeological site in the State of Veracruz, Mexico, northeast of Mexico City. Located east of the Sierra Madre Oriental and only about 50 miles inland from the Gulf of Mexico, it sits where the foothills drop to the fertile coastal plain close to the mountain watershed. The site is prone to seasonal hurricanes off the Gulf as well as seismic activity originating in the nearby mountains.

Here, according to Archaeologist José García Peyon of INAH, the Huastec built the city starting about 100 BC. Its settlement continued to about 1,200 AD. (It was initially thought that the Totonac had initiated the settlement but the latest opinion is that it was started by the Huastec with the Totonac arriving later, although debate on the issue still persists.) The main construction started about 300 AD. Most of the structures that you see today date to about 600 AD.

Recent research reported by UNESCO states that there was only one phase of occupation lasting to 1,200 AD. Its peak dates from the abandonment of the great center at Teotihuacan, and is contemporary with other settlements such as Tula, on the central plateau, and Xochicalco.

El Tajín is mostly famous for its architectural features, such as niches and flying cornices. Its best known structure is the iconic Pyramid of the Niches (Structure 1). Its first construction stage, that was started around 300 AD, was devoid of its characteristic niches. The second stage of construction incorporating the niche design was added around 600 AD.

On a recent visit to El Tajín, the IMS team noticed several unexpected details:



Fig. 3: Traces of the lime plaster used to finish the outer casing stones can still be seen where exposed.



A: The core of the pyramid is built of ungrouted (no mortar) boulders and cobbles (**Fig. 1**). This is evident throughout the site. Generally, this loose interior fill is igneous material of volcanic origin. Most of the utilized material metamorphosed in the tectonic mountain building processes that raised the Sierra Madre. It consists of andesitic gneiss, obviously of river stones brought down from the mountains. Other basalt and andesite boulders were included, probably of the same origin (**Fig. 2**).

The exterior casing is of well-dressed limestone ashlar blocks laid dry (no mortar) in fine even courses. An applied finish of lime plaster is still evident in certain places (**Fig. 3**). This exterior casing of limestone, probably of coastal origin (coral fossils were found in the stone), accounts for all the detailed exterior work. We verified this by chemically testing the rocks. Archeologist Victor Rivera Grijalba believes that the stones may have been laid in a local "yellow" mud that eventually washed away through water infiltration after the plaster cracked.

All niches and cornices are made of pre-cut and shaped, dry-laid masonry pieces, precisely assembled to produce the desired detail. The jigsaw-puzzle assembly style is reminiscent of the Chac masks of the Codz-Poop building at Kabah, in the Puuc area of Yucatán (**Fig. 4**).

The decision to build in dry masonry is puzzling; as it is obvious the builders were using lime cement plaster for the finishes. This would just as readily produce lime mortar, as was broadly used by the Maya of the same period. The result is that many of the features, such as stairways and "alfardas" are settling



Fig. 4: Cornices and niches are almost Puuc-like in construction. All photos on this page by Joaquín J. Rodríguez, 2011.

Fig. 1: The core of Structure 1 is filled with loose stones.



Fig. 2: River stones brought down from the mountains can be seen utilized as fill in many areas of the structure.

badly. Where partial collapses have exposed older construction phases, the earlier phases show they were also built of dry igneous rubble with a dry limestone casing. Rivera Grijalba postulates that it was the washing away of the yellow mud fill that allowed the shifting and settling of the rock core.

B: It was also observed that the Pyramid of the Niches does not have straight sides (**Fig. 5**, pg. 6). The sides of all tiers arc outward in plan. These bows seem too even to result from internal pressure, plus all architectural features follow this line undamaged. All four sides appear to have been laid out with this outward curve intentionally. Even the side with the staircase can be noticed in profile to have this bow on each side of the stairs. No reconstruction or models show this observation.

This deformation was noted and measured by Rivera Grijalba in 1976 when he assumed it to be the result of internal pressures caused, as mentioned above, by the slumping of the yellow mud and subsequent shifting of the boulder fill. This is indeed possible, and suggested by the plan shape of the deformation. But it is hard to imagine this large deformation near the base (where the ground would have provided horizontal restraint) for this amount of lateral movement not to damage

continued on page 6

Outstanding Maya Murals



Revealed at Xultun

Never-before-seen artwork – the first to be found on walls of a Maya house – adorn the dwelling in the ruined city of Xultun. The figure at left is one of three men on the house's west wall who are painted in black and wear identical costumes. Excavation and preservation of the site were supported by the National Geographic Society. Photo by Tyrone Turner, caption information provided by NGS, ©2012 National Geographic. Xultun's location is on the Maya map, page 2.

"Archaeologists led by William Saturno of Boston University recently announced the discovery of early ninth-century murals and associated astronomical tables in a residential structure at Xultun, Guatemala. The announcement was made at a press conference arranged by

National Geographic, which funded the research, and coincided with the publication of preliminary results in *Science* (Saturno et al. 2012), that was followed by additional coverage in *National Geographic's* June issue. A model of interdisciplinary collaboration, the *Science* authors

include Saturno (who directed the research), epigrapher David Stuart, astronomer Anthony Aveni, and archaeologist Franco Rossi.

"Noteworthy news coverage has included detailed reports by John Wilford in *The New York Times*,
continued on page 6

The Maler Ruins of Vena Revisited

by Stephan Merk

continued from page 3

Structure 3 crowns the artificially leveled top of a hill that is approximately 15 m in height, on the west side of the path and southwest of the Main Palace. It is not mentioned by Maler but is listed on Prem's map. This two-room building is almost completely destroyed. It has a southeast-northwest axis and the entrances used to look northeast, facing a plaza. Directly northwest of Structure 3, is a small platform.

In the debris of Structure 3, fallen in one piece, part of the upper façade can also be found, just as in the case of the Palace of Colonnets. It shows two vertical lines, one after the other, with trapezoids (**Fig. 5**). Originally, there was a third line of these trapezoid stones, but it came down at some point. This arrangement was framed left and right with plain stones.

Directly on top starts the apron-type lower member of what was probably once a three-member upper moulding, that had short



Fig. 4: Vena, Palace of the Colonnets. Photo: Teobert Maler, from Maler 1997, Abb. 204.



Fig. 5: Vena, part of the façade of Structure 3. Figures 1-3 and 5 by Stephan Merk, (2011).

colonnets and plain stones in the center; one of the colonnettes

is still in situ. Because Hanns Prem had already sketched this decoration in 1989, we could positively identify the building as his Structure 3.

Maler mentioned a "wide main plaza surrounded by main temples on all four sides". These enormous constructions, north of the Main Palace, reach a length of around 100 m and a height of six or seven m. It is likely that these are former buildings which have entirely collapsed. The briefness of our visit did not allow a closer inspection of these structures. 🏰

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Outstanding Maya Murals Revealed at Xultun

continued from page 5

Erik Vance in the *National Geographic Daily News*, Carolyn Johnson in the *Boston Globe*, and Brian Vastag in the *Washington Post*. These reporters were all either present at the press conference or took the time to interview the *Science* authors or other Mayanists, with Erik Vance in the enviable position of reporting directly from Xultun.

“Unfortunately, as so often when news stories are boiled down to a few hundred words, must compete for headlines on the open market, and are able to pilfer previous reports for out-of-context quotes, some outlets have mistakenly reported the find as “the earliest Maya calendar” or have strained to make it appear relevant to 2012, which any story on the Maya apparently must address for at least the next (five) months. Such treatment would be unfortunate for any find, but it is doubly so for the Xultun discoveries, which provide exciting new glimpses



Counts of Days illustration by William Saturno and David Stuart. Courtesy of National Geographic; from: www.usatoday.com



Three of the four walls of the structure are remarkably well preserved. By Heather Hurst, courtesy of the journal *Science*; from: www.bbc.co.uk/news

into the astronomical knowledge and calendrical practice of the Classic Maya.”

A Focus on Heather Hurst

Skidmore College archaeology professor and artist Heather Hurst, has played a key role in artistically recording this major discovery.

Archaeologist Franco Rossi originally discovered the murals while investigating a looter’s trench that led into Structure 10K-2. After its discovery, the investigating team was directed by William Saturno. It all appears to be a work space for the town’s scribe (above). The structure is adorned with figure paintings on its walls and ceiling (see color renderings above right).

One wall contains hundreds of painted and scrawled numbers – many of which are calculations relating to the Maya calendar, including cycles of the moon, Mars and Venus (at left). The team believes the small room was part of a house that may have served as the “computation center,” in which



The figural murals of Structure 10K-2. Paintings by Heather Hurst, courtesy of: <http://saratogian.com>

scribes kept notes about their observations of the cosmos.

As part of the initial research, Hurst, an archaeologist, project illustrator and assistant professor of anthropology at Skidmore, painted brilliant, exacting reproductions of the mural that were released by The National Geographic Society. One is in the original article published about the discovery in the May 11 issue of *Science*.

Sources: Texts: from the Mesoweb Report by Marc Zender and Joel Skidmore at: www.mesoweb.com/reports/Xultun.html; and <http://saratogian.com>. Original web releases on: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com> and www.sciencedaily.com. Images: from an article by Dan Vergano, *USA Today*, at: www.usatoday.com.

Construction at El Tajín

continued from page 4

more than it is. It is also difficult to understand how all evidence of this material would have disappeared.

Upon our return, an examination of photo-shots on Google Earth revealed that several other pyramids on the site also exhibit these same bowed sides. These include Structures 12 and 16 and to a lesser degree the back of Structure 5. It is not, however, present in all structures; as is the case with Structures 3 and 23, that are similarly built.

It would be interesting to know of any further

research that would answer many of the questions left after our visit to this beautiful site.

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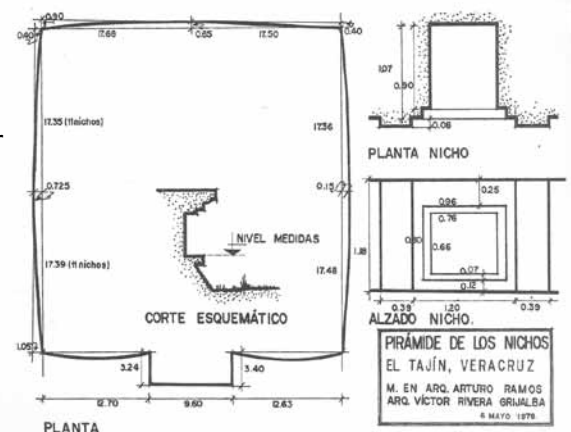


Fig. 5: Structural plan of the base level walls of the Pyramid of the Niches (Structure 1) showing the tiers arc outward. Courtesy of INAH.

Institute of Maya Studies Line-up of Presentations!

August 8, 2012: IMS Explorer Session:

"Archaeology and Chicle: A Sticky Combination"

with Dr. Anne Stewart



Chicle has been chewed by the people of the Americas for the past two thousand years. In Aztec society, the manner and place in which gum was chewed defined whether you were a prostitute, married or unmarried, or even a homosexual. Many previously unknown archaeological sites owe the discovery to *chicleros* (the men who gather chicle). The ancient Maya used the wood of the chicozapote tree for lintels and durable surfaces on which to carve hieroglyphic inscriptions. The story of when, by whom and how this sticky substance came to the United States is full of twists and turns.



"The chicle chewer,"
Book X, Florentine Codex.
Aztec women created chewing gum by mixing bitumen (an aromatic tar), chicle, and axin (a greasy oil from crushed insects).

Copyright © Macduff Everton 2012. *Maya chiclero making cuts in the bark of a zapote tree to capture the resin, chicle, used as the base for chewing gum. Chicleros can only work during the rainy season*



Enjoy sampling

the only American-made, real natural chicle gum, courtesy of Verve Inc., maker of Glee Chewing Gum!

and must shift locations each season so that the zapotes have at least 4-5 years rest between each tapping.

Check out Macduff's latest book about the Maya at: www.utexas.edu/utpress/books/evemod.html

August 15: IMS Presentation:

"Maya Codices and the Books of Chilam Balam: Spanning the 'Conquest'"

with Dr. Bruce Love

Our August Explorer of the Month



Examples of glyphs translated into the Spanish alphabet of the Colonial Period.

When the Spaniards arrived in Yucatán, Maya priests were in possession of hundreds, if not thousands, of codices or painted hieroglyphic books. From these only three, or possibly four, have survived.

But the codices also survived by other means, by changing shape and reappearing on colonial paper written in the Spanish alphabet of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. These books are known collectively as the Books of Chilam Balam. This presentation will examine continuities from the pre-Hispanic past to the Colonial era and beyond, into contemporary ceremonies practiced in Mayan-speaking communities in Guatemala and Mexico.

Dr. Love has been traveling and doing fieldwork in Mesoamerica since the 1970s. He received his doctorate from UCLA in 1986 and is the author of numerous books and articles on ancient Maya writing, colonial Maya literature, and contemporary Maya religion and ritual. His fieldwork continues in Guatemala, Belize and Mexico. In addition to his archaeology and anthropology, he is president of a non-profit organization (MAM) that supports teaching the hieroglyphs and calendar to the living Maya throughout the region. Explore: <http://discovermam.org>

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Coming up next month:

Izapa Update: 13.0.0.0 on the Horizon

Lots of important events are taking place at Izapa this year, spurring local and International interest in the pre-Maya site that many researchers believe lies within the area where the sacred Tzolk'in and the Long Count calendars were conceived.

As I compose this notice, a group of IMS members is on a Maya adventure to visit the site (in the first week of August). But in the days around the Summer solstice, The Maya Conservancy sponsored a major 13.0.0.0.0 symposium in Tapachula, with Maya scholars Garth Norman, John Major Jenkins and Mark Van Stone; a group of Maya representatives from Zunil; and other local Izapa experts. They also created and donated carved replicas of Izapa Stelae 11 and 25 to INAH.

John was able to locate a new, government-built, local "staging area" for 12/21/12 celebrations named "Parque de Cacao" that lies only 1 km from the Group F ballcourt. It features a giant, stylized, rubber-bound ball superimposed over a goal ring. Does the term "alignment theory" come to mind? It should. Make no doubt about it ... Mexico is definitely thinking ahead in the game!



Logo used in the June 2012 Izapa Roundtable held at the planetarium in Tapachula, Mexico.

Pioneers in Archaeology: Count Maurice de Perigny

The Maya site of Nakum was discovered in 1905 by the French Count Maurice de Perigny. He returned to Nakum during his next expedition in 1910 – the same year as Alfred M. Tozzer and Raymond E. Merwin. Raymond's grand-nephew and IMS webmaster **Keith Merwin** submits an informative account of the Count.



Artifacts from the Jonuta Museum, Tabasco, Mexico

Maya scholar **Karl Herbert Mayer** visited the archaeological museum in Jonuta and took photos of many of the Olmec and Maya artifacts on display. Representing trade with Palenque and other sites along the Gulf coast as well as the highlands of Guatemala, most pieces are unprovenanced and have never been published before.



Who was Waterlily Jaguar?

Writer **Janice Van Cleve** reveals some interesting insights into the life of the 7th ruler of the Copán dynasty. Recent interpretations of his name glyphs that read *balam-ne-na* or Balam Nehn, suggest his English name should be Jaguar Mirror. *Stela E, Copán.*



Upcoming Events at the IMS:

August 8, 8 pm: *IMS Explorer Session*
"Archaeology and Chicle: A Sticky Combination" – The story of when, by whom and how this sticky substance came to the U.S. is full of twists and turns. IMS board member and former President **Dr. Anne Stewart** shares its true history.

August 15, 8 pm: *IMS Program*
"Maya Codices and the Books of the Chilam Balam: Spanning the Spanish 'Conquest'" – with renowned epigrapher, translator, and modern Maya specialist **Dr. Bruce Love**.

Sept. 12, 8 pm: *IMS Explorer Session*
"The Olmecs and Their Magnificent Masterpieces" – Whether sculpted in basalt, clay, greenstone or jade, the subject of Olmec art could range from human portraits to animals and exaggerated mythical creatures, with **Batia Cohen, Ph.D.**

September 19, 8 pm: *IMS Program*
"A Visit to Nakum" – IMS webmaster **Keith Merwin** takes us on a journey to the Petén jungles of Guatemala to see this remote Maya site that his uncle Raymond E. Merwin visited in 1909-10.

Upcoming Events and Announcements:

September 27-30: *M@TP Conference*
"Maya At The Playa" – the Sixth Annual conference sponsored by American Foreign Academic Research and The Archaeological Institute of America (AIA). This year, the achievements of Ian Graham and the Corpus of Maya Hieroglyphic Inscriptions will be honored. Although Ian will not be able to attend, members of the Maya Corpus Project will be gathering at M@TP to celebrate Ian's accomplishments and share their experiences with the attendees. Ian will be represented by Barbara Fash, Peter Mathews, David Stuart and Marc Zender. Get the lowdown at: www.mayaattheplaya.com/Maya_at_the_Playa/Home.html

October 5-6: *Symposium*
"The Measure and Meaning of Time in the Americas" – theme of the Dumbarton Oaks 2012 Symposium, organized by Anthony F. Aveni. At the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library, Washington, D.C. For additional info, visit the Events link on: www.doaks.org

Through Nov. 4: *Art Exhibition*
"Verdant Earth and Teeming Seas: The Natural World in Ancient American Art" –

This exhibition highlights the Harn Museum of Art's collection of ceramic figures and vessels, stone sculptures, jade ornaments, and textiles from diverse cultures of Ancient America including, Mesoamerica, Central America, and the Andes. At the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, Gainesville, FL. Get info at: www.harn.ufl.edu/exhibitions

December 9-15: *WAYEB Conference*
"How We Know What We Think We Know About the Maya" – Theme of the 17th European Maya Conference, Helsinki, Finland. Get more info at: www.wayeb.org/conferencesevents/emc_nowsymposium.php

Through Jan. 13: Museum Exhibition
"MAYA 2012: Lords of Time" – The exhibition features over 100 remarkable objects, including artifacts recently excavated from Copán. At the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Philadelphia, PA. Info at: www.penn.museum/upcoming-exhibits/995-maya-2012-lords-of-time.html

