

EXPLORER

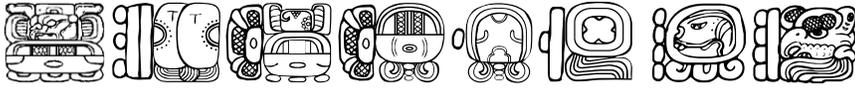
Institute of Maya Studies

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January 16, 2013 • Maya Long Count: 13.0.0.1.6 • 4 Kimi 9 Muwan • G8

Royal Tomb of K'utz Chman Uncovered at Tak'alik Ab'aj

This is the extraordinary grave of an ancient king credited with laying the foundations for the Maya civilization more than 2,000 years ago, which has been discovered by archaeologists in Guatemala.

Researchers said they uncovered the grave of King K'utz Chman, a priest who is believed to have reigned around 700 BCE, at the Tak'alik Ab'aj dig in Retalhuleu, in the south-west of the country. Packed with jade jewels and other artifacts, it is the oldest royal Maya burial ground ever found.

"He was the big chief," site co-director archaeologist Miguel Orrego said. "The ruler who bridged the gaps between Olmec (pre-Maya) and Maya cultures and initiated the slow transition to Maya rule."

Historians believe he was the first leader to introduce elements that would



Site co-director of archaeology Miguel Orrego says carbon-dating indicates the tomb was built between 700 and 400 BCE. Images courtesy of Tak'alik Ab'aj Archaeological Project.

"The richness of the artifacts tells us he was an important and powerful religious leader. He was very likely the person who began to make the changes in the system and transition into the Maya world."

– Christa Schieber, Site Co-Director

define Maya culture, such as building pyramids instead of square structures and carving sculptures that profiled royal families.



Extraordinary artifacts: Jade beads (right) and a jade figure (far right) found in the royal tomb.

Guatemala is studded with ruins from the ancient Maya civilization, which thrived between 250 and 800 CE and extended from modern day Honduras to central Mexico. The Olmec Empire began to fade around 400 BCE while Maya grew in number and wrested control of trade routes.

Inside the grave, the team found glistening jade jewels including a necklace with a pendant carved in the shape of a vulture's head, a symbol that represented power and high economic status and that was given to respected elder men.

Researchers found the grave in June, 2012, but it has taken until now for experts to verify it belonged to K'utz Chman.

Although no human remains were found at the site, the carbon dated artifacts suggest that the king

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IMS Presentation: January 16, 8 pm



"The Mirador Basin: The Cultural and Natural Legacy in the Cradle of the Maya Civilization"

with
Dr. Richard Hansen

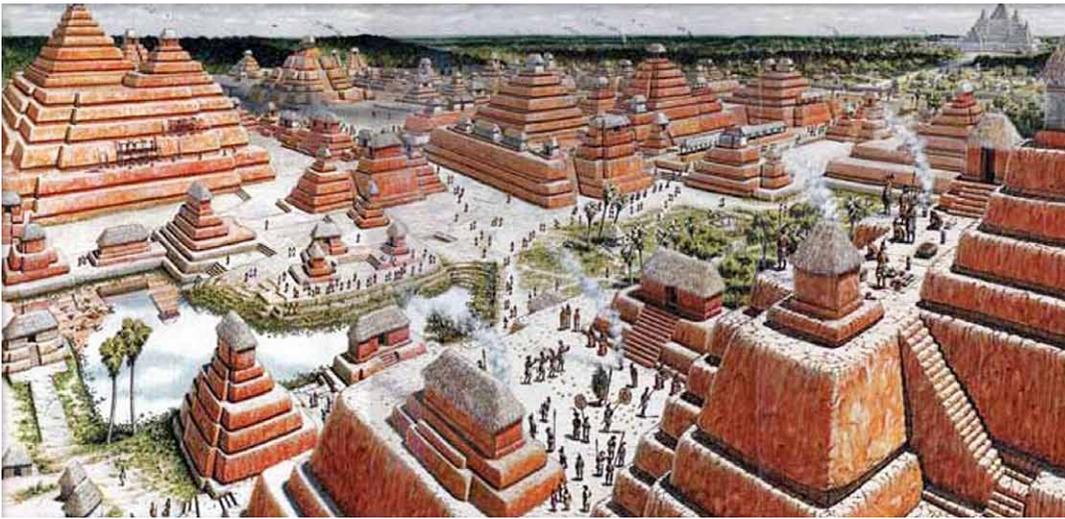
was buried between 770 to 510 BCE. ▲

Source: From an article released 10/4/12 at: <http://www.sci-news.com>
Submitted by Mike Ruggeri, Scott Allen and Carlos Corado.



Jim Reed,
Editor

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Artist's composite rendition of El Mirador, 300 BCE–150 CE. Courtesy of National Geographic.

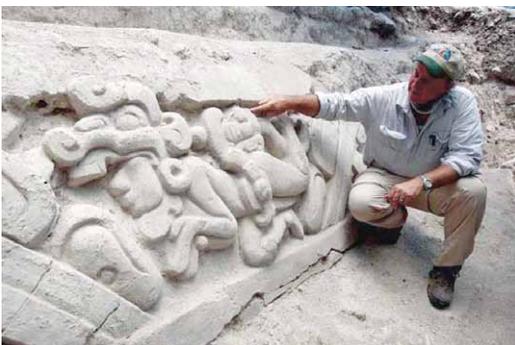
El Mirador: Protecting the Past for the Future

Threatened by years of abuse and neglect, the Mirador Basin needs help and it needs it now ...

The 400-year sliver of history between the biblical Old and New Testaments, sometimes erroneously called the “silent years”; packed Planet Earth with progress. Alexander the Great studied at the feet of Aristotle and, zealous to unite the world under Greek culture, conquered his way east and then south through Palestine to found Alexandria in Egypt before his death at age 33 in 323 CE. Meanwhile, Persian culture was spreading, and the Roman Empire was revving up.

On the other side of the world, the ancient Maya were doing urban development with monuments and buildings more than 200 feet high sporting ornately carved façades.

They studied science like the Greeks, built pyramids on a par with the Egyptians and roads like the Romans, to last 1,000 years. They moved construction materials and a rich economy of corn, squash, beans and cacao over a network of causeways



Dr. Richard Hansen points out details on the frieze of the “Hero Twins” discovered at El Mirador.

Courtesy of Rosendo Morales.

within 820 square miles now known as the Mirador Basin. “They were an agricultural superpower,” says Dr. Richard Hansen.

As an archaeology student in 1978, Hansen was invited by Catholic University of Washington and Brigham Young University to join investigations for the next five years at the metropolis of El Mirador in the Mirador Basin, (about 50 miles north of Tikal and 1,000 years older). Hansen then proceeded to study the area for more than 30 years now.

“We’ve mapped and excavated 51 cities that were home to perhaps a million Maya in the basin, with the largest known Maya structures in size and scale.” A small sample of script, found chiseled in stone, may represent the earliest writing of the Maya world.

“We’re training for tourism,” he says, referring to educational projects underway in adjacent communities that include ecology, health, literacy, reforestation, artisans and financial management.

“Locals already work together with the Mirador Basin Project teams. Development via tourist infrastructure would provide jobs and diffuse economic resources to population sectors while protecting the ecological integrity of the tropical forest and supporting scientific study and preservation of archaeological sites,” Hansen added.

“This is the last gasp,” says Hansen. “If we fail, we lose the whole basin. I want to preserve it for the future.” Dr. Richard

Note: The results of the 2013 election to the IMS Board of Directors and the various committee chairs will be presented in the February issue.



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Hansen will be at the IMS on Wednesday, January 16. See program announcement on page 7.

Source: From an article published in Guatemala’s *REVUE Magazine*, June 2010.

Tomb of Maya Warrior Queen K'abel Discovered in El Peru-Wak'a

Archaeologists in Guatemala have discovered the tomb of Lady K'abel, a seventh-century Maya Holy Snake Lord considered one of the great queens of Classic Maya civilization.

The tomb was discovered during excavations of the royal Maya city of El Peru-Wak'a in northwestern Petén, Guatemala, by a team of archaeologists led by Washington University in St. Louis' David Freidel, co-director of the expedition.

A small, carved alabaster jar found in the burial chamber caused the archaeologists to conclude the tomb was that of Lady K'abel.

The white jar is carved as a conch shell, with a head and arm of an aged woman emerging from the opening. The depiction of the woman, mature with a lined face and a strand of hair in front of her ear, and four glyphs carved into the jar, point to the jar as belonging to K'abel.

Based on this and other evidence, including ceramic vessels found in the tomb and *stelae* (large stone slabs) carvings on the outside, the tomb is likely that of K'abel, says Freidel, Ph.D., professor of anthropology in Arts & Sciences.

Freidel says the discovery is significant not only because the tomb is that of a notable historical figure in Maya history, but also



Left: Drawing of the glyphs by Stanley Guenter. The glyphs appear on the back and lid of the carved alabaster vessel (center) found in the tomb of Lady K'abel, courtesy of David Freidel and Juan Carlos Pérez. Right: David Freidel in the video covering the discovery of the tomb on the Washington University of St. Louis site at: <https://news.wustl.edu/news/Pages/24167.aspx>

because the newly uncovered tomb is a rare situation in which Maya archaeological and historical records meet.

"The Classic Maya civilization is the only 'classical' archaeological field in the New World – in the sense that like archaeology in ancient Egypt, Greece, Mesopotamia or China, there is both an archaeological material record and an historical record based on texts and images," said Freidel.

"The precise nature of the text and image information on the white stone jar and its tomb context constitute a remarkable and rare conjunction of these two kinds of records in the Maya area."

The discovery of the tomb of the great queen was "serendipitous, to put it mildly," commented Freidel.

The team at El Peru-Wak'a has focused on uncovering and studying "ritually-charged" features such as shrines, altars and dedicatory offerings rather than on locating burial locations of particular individuals. "In retrospect, it makes a lot of sense that the people of Wak'a buried her in this particularly prominent place in their city," Freidel noted.

Olivia Navarro-Farr, Ph.D., assistant

professor of anthropology at the College of Wooster in Ohio, originally began excavating the locale while still a doctoral student of Freidel's. Continuing to investigate this area this past season was of major interest to both Navarro-Farr and Freidel because it had been the location of a temple that received much reverence and ritual attention for generations after the fall of the dynasty at El Peru.

With the discovery, archaeologists now understand the likely reason why the temple was so revered: K'abel was buried there. K'abel, considered the greatest ruler of the Late Classic period, ruled with her husband, K'inich Bahlam, for at least 20 years (672-692 CE). She was the military governor of the Wak'a kingdom for her family, the imperial house of the Snake King, and she carried the title "Kaloomte" translated to "Supreme Warrior," higher in authority than her husband, the king.

The El Peru-Wak'a project is sponsored by the Foundation for the Cultural and Natural Patrimony of Guatemala (PACUNAM). The project was originally funded by the Jerome E. Glick Foundation of St. Louis and has received support from the Alphawood Foundation, the National Geographic Society, the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of the Interior, in addition to private benefactors.

Source: From an article released 10/4/12 at: <http://www.sci-news.com>
Submitted by Mike Ruggeri, Scott Allen and Carlos Corado.



Left: El Peru Stela 33, portraying Maya King K'inich Bahlam II, currently in the collection of the Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, TX. Right: El Peru Stela 34, portraying Maya Queen Lady K'abel, currently in the collection of the Cleveland Museum of Art. Courtesy of David Freidel and Juan Carlos Pérez.



INAH Archaeologists Find Maya Ceramics and Mural Paintings in Three Underwater (or Semi-Dry) Caves in Mexico

Underwater archaeologists of Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH – Conaculta), recently explored three spaces, all abundant with Maya culture materials: two semi-dry caves in Campeche and a cenote in Yucatán. The cenote stands out since it contains a particularly stylish ceramic that is calculated to have been elaborated about 2,300 years ago. This is unique in its type since it's the only one that has been found in a cenote.

To Helena Barba Meinecke, responsible for all the underwater archaeology of the Yucatán peninsula, the detailed registry of the caves and the cenote, as well as the archaeological elements found in them, confirm the speculation that these places were used for rituals in the pre-Hispanic era.

Cenote of San Manuel

The distinct characteristics of the pieces, located in the cenote San Miguel, make them stand out among the other discoveries. Access to this 65.61 feet (20 meter) deep body of water, is by rappelling down through the town's main well.

The divers could not be in the water longer than 20 minutes, which is why a change of divers was required. At least six hours of meticulous planning was needed to retrieve two Maya pots (see below), possibly dating back to 200–300 CE (during the Early Classic period). The cenote has an entry of about a meter in diameter.



Vessel with representation of a face with diadem; in the cenote of San Manuel. Photo: Helena Barba, INAH-SAS.

One of the pots is globe-shaped and has a braided handle. It contains an anthropomorphic face and a phytomorphic body. The other pot shows a Maya face with a diadem detailed in a red and blue pigment.

“Up until now, there had not been such stylish ceramic elements found in the peninsula's underwater spaces, nor had they found ceramic elements as well preserved as these. They are unique materials that could have been stolen if we had not extracted them”, said Helena Barba Meinecke, expert of the Underwater Archaeology Section (SAS) of INAH.

Huachabi Cave

The explorations of the Underwater Archaeology Atlas project, carried out during the first half of November 2012, continued in the semi-dry cave of Huachabi, Campeche, where the findings were of no less importance.

This cave – with more than 1640.41 feet (500 meters) in length at its widest part, also has two slopes – is found inside the Miramar archaeological site, still unexplored in the Chenes region. Inside the cave, which one must rappel 65.61 feet (20 meters) to get through, there are nearly 50 spaces with offerings of distinct proportions.

Carbon samples were taken to estimate the approximate dates while archaeologist Eunice Uc (researcher of the INAH Center – Yucatán), works on defining the ceramic types to provide an appropriate timeline; the context of the ceramic elements has been preliminarily supposed to date back to the Classic Maya period (600–900 CE).

Aktun Aam Cave

The cave was baptized as Aktun Aam because of the great quantity of violinist spiders (also known as the “brown recluse” – *Loxosceles laeta*)



Huachabi Cave: Next to these materials, fragments of mural paintings were detected in different chambers of the cave. The small symmetry between their designs (anthropomorphic, as well as representations of vegetables and insects that inhabit the subterranean environment), and the fact that they were elaborated with red clay (taken from inside the cave), could mean these were older than the rest of the elements found. Photo: Helena Barba, INAH-SAS.

Ceramics in the interior of the cenote cave located at Aktun Aam. Photo: Helena Barba, INAH-SAS.



found in its depths. The cave is also located in

Campeche and it's accessed by rappelling down at a 15° angle. It is possible that initiation or purification ceremonies were performed in the cave given the disposition of the objects that were discovered. Also, materials strewn around the cave suggest the objects were elaborated inside the cave.

Archaeologist Barba Meinecke explained that in each branch of the cavern, many decorated black-colored pots (above) were visible. They also found *metates* (stone blocks used for grinding), that were intentionally broken, but were made of the same limestone found within the cave. 🏔️

Source: From an article released 12/8/2012 from INAH at: www.artdaily.com. Translated by Cristina Pérez Ayala, submitted by Scott Allen. Original, with more images, at: <http://archaeologynews-network.blogspot.com/2012/11/2/maya-ceramics-and-mural-paintings-found.html#>. UN5R_I6ENTA

When Money Grew on Trees – The Story of Cacao by Mark F. Cheney

As long as perhaps 3,500 years ago, there was a group of people who discovered a special tree that produced a fruit with a delicious sweet pulp. The seeds of the fruit, however, were bitter and could only be used as food for animals. That is until somehow, someone made the unlikely discovery that if left to rot, or ferment, and then dried, the seeds became more flavorful. If they were roasted (perhaps, first done by mistake) and then ground and used for a beverage, they were actually delicious to the taste! This may be the early evolution of the drink and food that we know today as chocolate.

These early people lived along the eastern slopes of the Andes Mountains of what is now Ecuador, the archaeological site of Santa Ana-La Florida, the former habitat of the Chinchipe culture. Inside several stone and ceramic vessels, both domestic and ceremonial, residues of many foods, but more particularly ancient traces of starch granules of *Theobroma Cacao* and *Herrania spp.*, aka *cacáo de monte*, were found by chemical analysis prior to carbon-dating said substances.

Furthermore, seashells found throughout the Chinchipe Basin provide evidence of trade between the Chinchipe and peoples along the Pacific Coast, especially the Valdivian population. It is speculated that cacao fruit, seeds and plants must

have been traded with tribes in the eventual growing centers of cacao, the high rain forests of Central America, in exchange for shells including the conchs, prized by Andean tribes to be used as trumpets, and still in use today in native rituals.

The most likely first recipients of cacao products in Mesoamerica were the Mokaya, who dwelt on the Pacific Coast of Chiapas, Mexico. In 2008, sherds of pottery from Xoconochco (now Soconusco) tested positive for *theobromine*, a chemical compound found in cacao, and dated to 1900–1800 BCE.

The next group discovered to have used and cultivated cacao, even more extensively, were the ancient Olmec, as we call them, and as they were later named by the Aztecs in the Nahuatl language, *Olmeca* meaning “rubber people”; no doubt named for the rubber ball they used in their games. The reason it is believed that the Olmec were prominent users of cacao is found in its very name, pronounced *kakawa*, a word derived from the Mixe-Zoquean language spoken by the Olmec. A group of pottery vessels found at San Lorenzo and El Manati, Mexico, also tested positive for *theobromine*, the major indicator of cacao, and dated to 1800–1600 BCE.

It was the Maya, however, who raised the preparation and consumption of cacao to a fine art.

Chocolá became the epicenter of the prime cultivation zone of southern Mesoamerica – the humid and elevated Pacific Slope, which still produces quality cacao today. Chocolá is a Pre-Classic Southern Maya site, developed roughly between 1000 BCE to 200 CE. It lies in the southern Maya area, thought by scholars to have been critical in the development of the Classic Maya civilization, and a melting place of Olmec, Maya, and other contemporary



Through early selection techniques that would now be considered horticulturally phenomenal, early Mesoamericanists developed varieties of cacao plants to produce exceptional flavors, different colored pods, and diverse other traits.

cultures. From 1000 BCE to the present, traces of cacao have continued to be found in Belize, Honduras and El Salvador, as well.

One amazing find is an entire cacao tree preserved in the Pompeii-like, volcanic ash-covered ruins of Joya de Cerén in El Salvador, that dates to 590 BCE, the oldest known sample of this prized cultigen.

Clear evidence that the Maya counted their riches in cacao beans is found in the murals at Bonampak, Chiapas, Mexico, where among the tribute goods depicted, and the only one important enough to merit a written label in the mural, epigrapher David Stuart translated the Mayan glyph *jo'pik kakaw* as “5 units of *kakaw*”. With each unit understood to equal 8,000, 5 units made 40,000 cacao beans.

The Maya used cacao beans for a refreshing beverage, flavored and frothy and usually cool, but they also used it to flavor other foods, particularly their maize gruel known as *kakawal'ul* or “chocolaty *atole*” (we would consider this a forerunner of cocoa puffs!). They flavored their drinks with, among other things, flower blossoms, fruit juices, chile peppers and notably, the beans of an orchid pod well known to us today as vanilla.

Naturally, they fermented some of these drinks into an alcoholic beverage, a cacao flavored pulque. This information is being found more and more elaborated upon

continued on page 6



General Overview of Pre-Classic Maya Trade Routes. The early spread of cacao and jade led the way for the spread of early calendar keeping in the Mesoamerican area. Image by Jim Reed, to be included in his March 20, 2013, presentation at the IMS. Be there!

When Money Grew on Trees – The Story of Cacao by Mark F. Cheney

continued from page 5

in the ongoing translation of glyphic and pictorial decorations on pottery being brought to light in various digs throughout Mesoamerica.

There were also religious associations between cacao beverages and blood in the rituals of the Maya, and later the Aztecs, who colored it a deep red using achiote blossoms to further the similarity. It is possible, considering the shapes of some of the vessels found, that the Maya may have used the alcoholic version in ritual enemas, as well.

In Pre-Columbian America, the use of cacao, as money and as trade goods, ranged far into North



America, as has been shown by testing of pottery in ancient Puebla and Hopi sites, however, it was not until the Aztecs began using the wondrous substance of cacao that it reached its zenith as “food for the gods”.

Only the elite Aztecan ruling and warrior classes were allowed to drink or eat of foods with cacao in them, although of course, the merchants and others who traded for these tasty morsels, called *cacahuatl*, must have tasted them occasionally, as they could afford to, and behind closed doors.

The cacao fruit is called a mazorca. The usual size of a mazorca is around 11.8 in (30 cm) long and 3.9 in (10 cm) wide. The average weight is 1 lb (450 g). The color usually ranges from reddish to green, but this will change to yellow or orange as the fruit matures. Each mazorca contains 20 to 40 beans enveloped in a sticky, white pulp. The cacao tree is described by botanists as “cauliflorous”, meaning that the flowers and fruits grow directly from the trunk. Although an individual tree can produce 10,000 blossoms each year, only about 40 mazorcas will result. Those 40 fruits will ultimately produce 4.4 lbs (2 kg) of chocolate. 🌳

Burials and Cinnabar Processing Center Uncovered at Las Ranas Site

INAH archaeologists have uncovered two burials at the site of Las Ranas in Queretaro dated at 1000 CE. The burials were in a temple that had a sunken patio on top (right).

With the remains were found grey obsidian knives, Pacific shells,



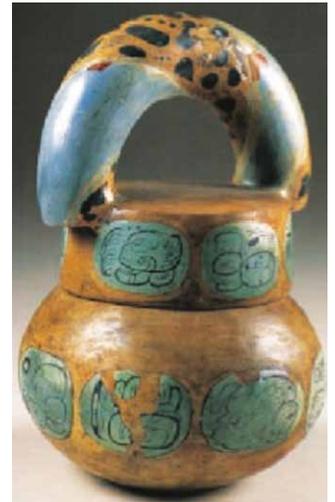
According to the site manager, the burial was located in a layer of sediment, corresponding to the second stage of use of the temple, dating that goes back to 900–1100 CE, hence both skeletons can be dated to that time (INAH).

a whistle and a ring.

The Ranas site was strategically located for controlling the trade in cinnabar. Cinnabar from the site has been found at Teotihuacan, Monte Alban, Palenque and Tikal. The temple area being uncovered was used for grinding and packaging cinnabar. Sixty tools for processing cinnabar have also been found there. The temple complex was constructed in stages from 400–1200 CE.

As part of the excavation work in what has been determined to be a residential area, researchers uncovered five structures, including two houses, one with altar; the temple building where the burials were discovered; and a structure nicknamed “Hammers”– because it was within that structure that they uncovered 60 tools: hammers, chisels and adzes, made of basalt, ignimbrite, serpentine, rhyolite, and tuff. It was

Maya vase, Río Azul Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography, Guatemala City. The inscription on this amazing vessel with a rare screw top lid states that it was a “drinking utensil” (uch’ib) for two kinds of cacao – “witik” and “koxmul” (the meaning of these terms remains unclear). The residue analysis confirmed that the vessel contained cacao. The ka-ka-wa glyph is shown on the left side of the pot lid.



The modern name “chocolate” may have originated from *chokola’j*, meaning “drink cacao together”; or from the Mayan term for hot chocolate (or hot water), *chakau haa*, as suggested by the Coes. It seems just as likely to me that it was named after a place where it became so prominent, the Pre-Classic Maya city of Chocolá.



Las Ranas (which means The Frogs) is located near the town of San Joaquin Queretaro, in the Sierra Gorda Mountains of the State of Queretaro, Mexico (INAH).

a workshop for grinding metals. They also found large fragments of *metates* and miniature vessels that were used to package the cinnabar. 🌳

Source: From an INAH article originally released in Spanish, posted 7/16/2012 at: www.inah.gob.mx
Submitted by Mike Ruggeri.

Institute of Maya Studies Line-up of Presentations!

January 9, 2013: IMS Explorer Session:

“Getting to Know the Maya” with Dr. Anne Stewart

This introduction to the course is designed to answer questions. Why do we study the Maya? What do we know about the beginning of the Maya? Just when did early man reach the New World and when and where did they become Maya? How do we know what we think we know about the Maya?



After looking at everything from spear points and obsidian blades to DNA studies and the lithographs of Frederick Catherwood in his *Views of Ancient Monuments in Central America Chiapas and Yucatán*, we hope to have some of the answers.

A cutaway illustration shows the “entombed” temple Rosalila. Protected by a layer of ancient stucco and sheltered from the elements below what archaeologists call Structure 16, Rosalila is among the best preserved of all Maya structures and the only completely preserved building in Copan.



The Maya culture flourished and continues to exist in a region of Mexico and Central America often referred to as Mesoamerica.

January 16: IMS Presentation:

“The Mirador Basin: The Cultural and Natural Legacy in the Cradle of the Maya Civilization” with Dr. Richard Hansen

The multi-disciplinary approach of investigation has provided new justification for the conservation and responsible development of the area, and suggests that investigation, conservation, and social development has to progress simultaneously to be effective agents for the long-term preservation of endangered and important cultural and natural heritage sites.

In 2003, Dr. Richard D. Hansen, a Senior Scientist from Idaho State University, initiated major investigation, stabilization, and conservation programs at El Mirador with a multi-disciplinary approach,

including staff and technical personnel from 52 universities and research institutions from throughout the world. By August 2008, the team had published 168 scientific papers and 474 technical reports as well as documentary films.



A jade artifact with carved hieroglyphs uncovered at El Mirador. Both images courtesy of: www.smithsonianmag.com



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

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Editor's Corner: A Little Something Extra for Our Online Subscribers!

My Adventure to Guatemala for Oxla'jun Bak'tun:

Visiting the Mayalands in December 2012 had been one of my desires for many years now. I planned on avoiding crowds, groups, large Maya sites and "official" ceremonies. Instead, I went for nine days with a long-time American friend to visit a family of long-time Guatemalan friends. We enjoyed



13.0.0.0.0: On Winter Solstice, the New Sun rose above the waves of the Pacific Ocean, in Puerto San José, Escuintla.



Later that same day, we visited my favorite Maya village, Santiago Atitlán.

a very memorable visit.

Once at the airport, we were picked up by the family and driven to their houses on the Pacific Coast. We headed out early the next morning, driving seven hours to the Petén. On the way, we stopped at the site of **Quirigua**. We later hooked up with Santiago Billy at his hotel on Lake Petén Itzá for three wonderful days and nights.

Although we were only a few miles from Tikal, we opted to see **Yaxhá** (where they filmed *Survivor Guatemala*). Now they have built a nice new museum.

When we got stuck in the mud on our way to Nakum in Santiago Billy's Land Rover 4x4, he carried a pick, a shovel, a machete and a chain saw. We got out in only 1-1/2 hours!

The third day that we were with Santiago, we tried in vain to get to the site of **Nakum**. Nobody has been back there for six months; the road is impassable. We hiked 4 km in and then out to see the site of **Dos Posas**. Later, we explored around the site of **Holtún**.

We then drove back to Puerto San José, where we ate great home-cooked seafood in a warm atmosphere of family camaraderie for the next 3-1/2 days. We witnessed the New Sun rising over the ocean, and since the world didn't end after all ... we headed off to Santiago Atitlán for the day.

The Maya (and Guatemala) continue to hold a very special place in my heart; I was able to return renewed and refreshed.



All photos by the Editor. See you on March 20 at the IMS.



Why hasn't anyone warned me of all the changes around the island city of Flores? It looks like a mix of Key West and Cancun. Two new modern malls and a Burger King right at the entrance to the access causeway. "Mayamall 2012 – a new place for a new era" ... are they kidding me ?!

Upcoming Events at the IMS:

January 9, 2013 • 8 pm: *IMS Explorer Session* **"Getting to Know the Maya"** – with **Dr. Anne Stewart**. The IMS is initiating an eight-month series of classes about the Maya. Learn what you don't know about our favorite ancient culture.

January 16 • 8 pm: *IMS Program* **"The Mirador Basin: The Cultural and Natural Legacy in the Cradle of Maya Civilization"** – Social and political centralization in the Middle and Late Preclassic periods led to the first true state-level society in the Western Hemisphere, with site director **Dr. Richard Hansen**, from Idaho State University.

February 13 • 8 pm: *IMS Explorer Session* **"Feeding the Masses"** – The ancient Maya devised a variety of successful and unique agricultural techniques to provide sustainable food sources for their ever-increasing populations. **Ray Stewart** shares the details to enlighten us all.

February 20 • 8 pm: *IMS Program* **"Otzmal"** with **Dr. Clifford T. Brown**.

Upcoming Events and Announcements:

Through January 13: *Museum Exhibit* **"Maya 2012: Lords of Time"** – The exhibition features over 100 remarkable objects, including artifacts recently excavated from Copan. At the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Philadelphia, PA. Get additional info at: www.penn.museum/upcoming-exhibits/995-maya-2012-lords-of-time.html

January 15–19: *2013 Maya Meetings* **"The Art of Maya Architecture: Cosmology and Dynasty in the Built Environment"** – The 2013 Maya Meetings will explore new ideas about the art and meaning of ancient Maya architectural decoration and design. At the University of Texas of Austin, TX. Visit: www.utmesoamerica.org/maya/2013-maya-meetings

Through February 17: *Museum Exhibit* **"Dacning Into Dreams: Maya Vase Painting of the Ik' Kingdom"** – The exhibit offers an intimate glimpse into a world rich

with courtly intrigue, portrayed on exquisitely painted eighth-century chocolate drinking cups from a Maya center located in the Petén region of Guatemala. At the Princeton University Art Museum, Princeton, NJ. Additional info at: <http://artmuseum.princeton.edu/art/exhibitions/1384>

Feb. 22-24, 2013: *Tulane Symposium* **"Kaanal: The Snake Kingdom of the Classic Maya"** – The Tenth Annual Tulane Maya Symposium and Workshops will explore one of the largest ancient Maya political entities – the kingdom of Dzibanche and Calakmul. The Hieroglyph Forum and the Workshops will focus on newly discovered texts from La Corona and elsewhere. Keynote speaker will be Dr. Peter Mathews of La Trobe University. Also featured will be M.A.R.I.'s new exhibit, "Faces of the Maya" at the Latin American Library. See the speakers and program at: <http://mari.tulane.edu/TMS/program.html>



EXPLORER

Please note that all articles and news items for the **IMS Explorer** must be submitted to the Newsletter Editor by the first Wednesday of the month.
E-mail news items and images to: mayaman@bellsouth.net