



IMS EXPLORER

Institute of Maya Studies

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December 11, 2013 • Maya Ceremonial Era Long Count: 0.0.0.17.15 • 8 Men 13 Mak • G4

Uncovering an Ancient Maya Tomb Is All in a Day's Work

One of the highlights of this year's Maya at the Playa Conference was the 2013 Davidson Day field season update. Conference coordinator Mat Saunders introduced a five-man team of students which has participated in this year's dig at the Maya site of Cahal Pech, in the Cayo District, Belize.

The Belize Valley Archaeological Reconnaissance Project/American Foreign Academic Research Operations (BVAR/AFAR) is working on its eighth consecutive season as a joint project at the site. Dr. Jaime Awe, the director of the Belize Institute of Archaeology, and Mat Saunders, director of AFAR, co-direct the project.

This year, the students released their findings that involved excavating structure B6/7 in Plaza B in order to expose the terminal phase architecture.



For the past few years, a handful of accomplished students in Mat Saunderson's class at Davidson Day have had the opportunity to travel to Belize and work alongside some of archaeology's most well-known archaeologists. Each of the young men presented a report. Photo: Jim Reed.



Artwork by M. Thomas showing the view of Structures B6-7 on the north side of Plaza B before excavation.

Source: Some text and images supplied in a blog post by Lindsay Ruebens at: <http://lobsyongachievers.blogspot.com>

At the same time, they were witness to the continued discovery of burials and wonderful artifacts within Structure B1-5 West by the older college students and members of Jaime Awe's team (left).

Last summer's June trip led to an interesting discovery – a royal tomb that was home to three prominent Maya figureheads. "In my 11 or 12 years working in Belize, I've never seen anything like it," said Saunders.

During the day, students would come together for mini sessions to discuss their findings and also learn new material that would help them better understand artifacts, like learning to read common hieroglyphics.



Dr. Jaime Awe believes there are additional burials below the stair block of Structure B as that was a common place for royalty to be buried in Maya pyramids.

December 11, 8 pm

IMS Annual Business Meeting and December Birthday Party

When they weren't brushing away soil or moving heavy capstones, the Davidson Day students visited with students at Succotz Primary School. There, they would exchange stories about daily

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Jim Reed,
Editor

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In the October 2013 issue of the *IMS Explorer* (Volume 42, Issue 10), author Karl Herbert Mayer described the lintels that Teobert Maler encountered during his visit to El Chicozapote in 1897. The four surviving lintels were obviously in fair condition, but one in particular was partially damaged. The lintels caught the eye of our Director of Research Joaquín Rodríguez, and below he offers his comments based on his visual observations.



Fig. 1: Chicozapote, Structure I, 1897, front (from Maler 1971, Pl. 2). Arrow points to displaced lintel.

Revisiting the Lintels of Structure I at El Chicozapote

By Joaquín J. Rodríguez III PE, SECB

The main culprits of deterioration of any abandoned structure are the effects of environment over time. Lime plaster shrinks and cracks admitting acidic rainwater, which dissolves the lime mortar and limestone masonry, to the core. Plant roots growing in the cracks expand, enlarging cracks and prying the elements apart. These effects eventually turn all masonry to rubble. (By the way, these happen to be the same agents that cause karst in natural limestone, geological formations caused by the dissolution of soluble bedrock.)

The photos and plans left by Maler allow us to make a partial analysis of the structure. Although full vault dimensions are absent, which prohibits load calculations for rigorous analysis, we can infer many elements from his dimensions and further photogrammetry.

The openings in the older portion are small (0.7 meters, about 28 inches). The damage to Lintel I, which was found in pieces, was **not** from working stresses from the weight of the structure above. This is evident since Lintel 2, which was found in place over a similar opening, was undamaged. Lintels 3 and 4, also found undamaged, span a larger opening. Still, at about 1.4 m (approx. 4.6 ft), that is not a very large opening for a stone lintel of about 9-to-10 inches in depth and 31 inches in width.

Although we can't determine the exact type or quality of the stone, approximate calculations show stresses in the order of 150 to 200 psi (pounds per square inch) of tension, which is very reasonable for most stones. With a vault width of around 2.4 m (8 ft), the weight of the vault would not be excessive.

Lintels 3 and 4 have a support seat of about 38 cm (14-to-15 in.) on the jams, too short to figure as a fixed-end lintel. Whereas, the north end of Lintel 4 embeds about 70 cm (approx. 28 in.) into the 80 cm-wide walls, which would

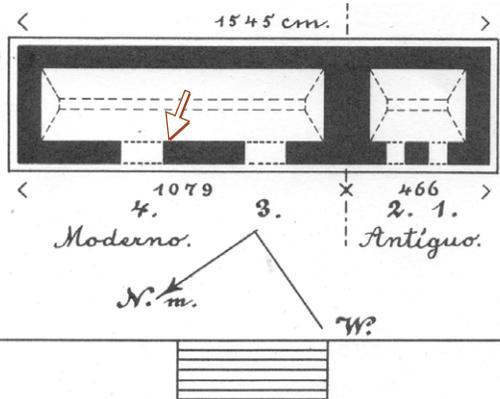


Fig. 2: Structure I, plan by Maler (from Maler 1971, Map 3). Both figures originally submitted by Karl Herbert Mayer.

give it fixity on one end making it slightly more rigid. The generally conservative design of all the proportions is surely the reason why the building and its carved lintels were found in fair condition.

On the other hand, rotation of the end support on the south jam of Lintel 4, as portrayed in Maler's photograph, could be an indication of lateral displacement. Other masonry wall cracks in the photos and displacement of the jams in the older building tend to confirm this. This is possibly due to damage from earthquake lateral loads. The middle Usumacinta basin is of moderate seismic activity. Ground acceleration of approximately 2g is expected in the life of a structure. These forces probably damaged the building somewhat where the other agents of deterioration finished the job. 🏠

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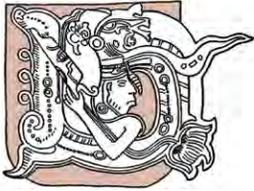
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A special nod of appreciation to the IMS Board of Directors

The 2013 IMS Board of Directors deserves special recognition for all of their ongoing efforts to make things better for our IMS members and for the public. Thanks to outgoing program chair Pat Manfredi for all of the great speakers she has arranged over the years, as well as for "manning" the IMS table at all of our meetings and events. Webmaster Keith Merwin is doing an excellent job with our IMS website, and Gerry Wolfson continues to announce our programs in the media. Our new program director Marta Barber has planned a fantastic lineup of speakers for 2014, and Anne Stewart has finalized plans for an Ancient Maya Cities Lecture Series. To President Eric (Rick) Slazyk, a heartfelt "Thank you"! 🏠



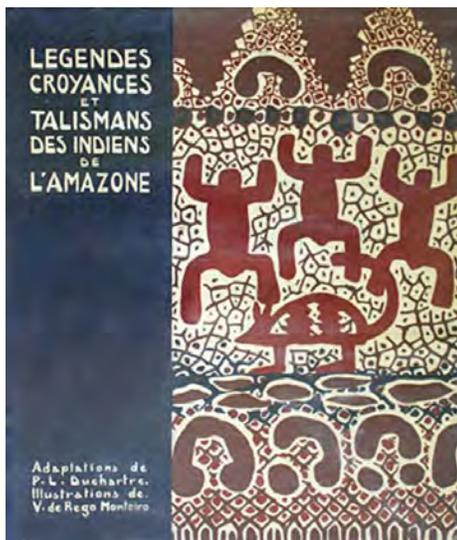
Pioneers in Maya Epigraphy: Epigraphic Contribution of Pierre Louis DuChartre, Prolific Author By Mark F. Cheney

As an inveterate bibliophile and a wannabe epigrapher, I was immediately hooked upon looking through the first chapter of a book I could read only slightly. The book was in French, but the charts were easy to interpret. *Legendes Croyances et Talismans des Indiens de L'Amazone* included a four-page epigraphic chart comparing glyphic symbols from four language groups, in "Français: Bresil Marajo, Mexique, Chine, and Egypte".

The book was published in 1923, a limited edition in French of only 500 copies; this was copy no. 451 according to the stamped number on the reverse of the title page. Later, I would learn that it was also published in Portuguese.

I discovered by going online, that the author, P.L. DuChartre, aka Pierre Louis DuChartre, was a 19th century French author with an unusual interest in many things. By contacting the Academy of Science in Paris, I found a biography of Pierre DuChartre, botanist.

Unfortunately, after purchasing a copy of this bio, I was sorry to learn that it was of Pierre Etienne Simon DuChartre, who had died in 1894, the year Pierre Louis DuChartre



Legendes Croyances et Talismans des Indiens de L'Amazone. Adaptations by P.L. DuChartre, illustrations by Vicente de Rego Monteiro. Paris, Tolmer, 1923.

Photo taken from the book The Rape of Europa: The Fate of Europe's Treasures in the Third Reich and the Second World War by Lynn H. Nicholas, 1995. DuChartre is the person on the far right, and is shown here with a group of people involved in retrieving works of art stolen by the Nazis in WWII. As far as I could find, this is the only photograph of him on the internet.



was born. Perhaps this was his grandfather or father, but I have been unable to confirm this as a fact.

P.L. was probably most famous for having written *La Commedie Italienne*, which is an illustrated history of the beginnings, growth and influence of the *commedia dell'arte*, and describes its improvisations, scenarios, acting troupes, and origins, and which is still widely referred to in drama studies today.

His interests lie mostly in the arts. In all DuChartre wrote at least 118 published works in nine different languages on topics ranging from ancient weaponry to folk art, but as far as I can tell only this one contained any epigraphic information.

Nevertheless, the four pages of compared symbols are very interesting, especially considering that various connections (glyphic, genetic, imagery, etc.) have occasionally been made of the Africans (Egyptians) and the Chinese to the Olmec people of Mexico. Nine of the 42 symbols shown are comparable in all four cultures in the charts, and five more of them correlate the Mexican symbols with those of two of the other cultures.

I have read that the glyphs on the famous La Venta celts of the Olmec have been compared to characters from the Shang Dynasty in China (approx. 1600-1046 BCE), so none of this is too surprising. See www.ancient-wisdom.co.uk/olmecs.htm.

I wonder though whether DuChartre's early comparative chart has been considered by later epigraphers, since it was found in such an esoteric volume. The book, *Legendes*, is most famous because

of the arte nouveaux illustrations of Vicente de Rego Monteiro, which accompany the chapters describing various legends of the Amazonian indigenous peoples. (Translation from French to English in the four charts reproduced on page 5 is mine, assisted by PROMT-online).

The Marajoara were a Precolumbian people on the Island of Marajo, Brazil, who left evidences of an advanced culture, including writing on their pottery and funerary urns.

I tried to contact Dr. Denise Schaan (Univ. of Pittsburgh) by email, since she was the chief archaeologist at the site of Marajo on the island of the same name, to ask about these symbol charts, but have not yet received a response. She may also be unaware of them, but the comparisons fly in the face of current beliefs about the origin of the Marajoara culture.

As quoted from her website, "The American archaeologists Betty Meggers and Clifford Evans were the first to carry out a scientific study of Marajoara society. In the 1950s, impressed with the highly elaborate ceramics, and the monumentality of the mounds, they suggested that the Marajoara people had migrated from the Andes, since they did not believe that social complexity could emerge in a tropical forest environment.

However, today, some scholars believe that the Marajoara culture originated locally, emerging from a process of cultural change that occurred within communities who inhabited the area since 3,500 years ago." See www.marajoara.com/amaz_prehistory.html.

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Program Recap for 2013 • Our 42nd Year for the IMS!

Offering educative public programs on Mesoamerican studies with a focus on the Maya.

January 9:

Getting to Know the Maya
with Dr. Anne Stewart

January 16:

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

February 13:

Feeding the Masses with Ray Stewart

February 20:

Otzmal with Dr. Clifford T. Brown

March 13:

Engineering and Building Construction
with Director of Research Joaquín J. Rodríguez III, P.E.

March 20:

Cacao and Jade: The Diffusion of the Calendars Along Pre-Classic Maya Trade Routes with IMS Explorer Editor Jim Reed

April 10:

Overview of Maya Architecture with
IMS President Rick Slazyk, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP

April 17:

Illustrating Maya Sites of Central America: Scientific Rendering versus Artistic Interpretation with artist Steve Radzi

May 8:

Archaeology 101 with Janet Miess

May 15:

Climate, Environment and the Ancient Maya: The Story from Lake Sediment Archives with Mark Brenner

June 12:

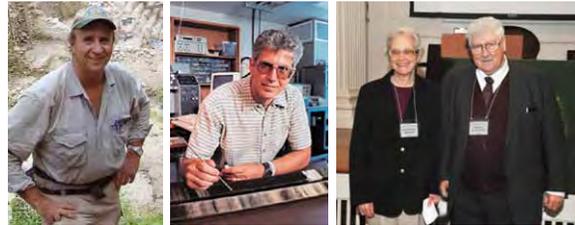
Understanding the Maya Calendars
with Dr. Anne Stewart

June 19:

Pyramids, Palaces, Temples and Tombs: An Architect's Comparison of the Ancient Buildings in Mesoamerica with
IMS President Rick Slazyk, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP

July 10:

The Wajshikib' B'atz' (8 B'atz') Ceremonies: Initiating the Sacred Tzolk'in 260-Day Calendar
with George F. Fery



Richard Hansen, Mark Brenner, Victoria & Harvey Bricker

July 17:

Maya Astronomy Through 13 Centuries (not Baktuns!) with Harvey M. Bricker and Victoria R. Bricker

August 14:

Maya Hieroglyphs: Gateway to History, Part I with Marta Barber

August 21:

Between Sea and Sky: Trade, Movement, and Urbanism in Ancient Oaxaca, Mexico with Sarah "Stacy" B. Barber

September 11:

Maya Hieroglyphics: Gateway to History, Part II with Marta Barber

September 18:

General Review of the Uxul Project and Some Chenes Region Vessels
with Antonio Benavides C., INAH Campeche

October 9:

Adventures in the Peten: Climbing La Danta with IMS President, Rick Slazyk, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP

October 16:

Exploring the Lowland Maya Heartland at Yaxnohcah, Campeche, Mexico,
with Debra S. Walker

November 13:

Ponce de León 'Discovers' La Florida
as portrayed by historian Robert Dawson

November 20:

Life While Working at Remote Maya Sites: Time Spent with the Holmul Archaeological Project
with IMS Webmaster Keith Merwin

December 11:

IMS Annual Business Meeting and December Birthday Party





Epigraphic Contribution of Pierre Louis DuChartre

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Pierre Louis DuChartre was a French Commandant after World War II and was charged with assisting the Commission de Recuperation at the Munich Collection Point in finding and retrieving European works of art stolen by the Nazis during the occupation, and the only photograph of him I have been able to discover is in the book *The Rape of Europa* by Lynn H. Nicholas (see page 3).

Comparison of Symbolic Characters

(It's fun to compare DuChartre's interpretations from 1923 to what we know now)

	Brazil, Marajo	Mexico, Maya	Chinese	Egyptian	
1	Nose and arch of the eye brows. Life eternal, Omnipotence, (Egypt)				
2	Governor, Commander (Mexico)				
3	The leader, the king				
4	Supreme, value (valued), divine (or divinity)				
5	Reunion of four (Venus) Coming? Arriving? from different regions, to a given point				
6	The sky, symbolic view (Mexico)				
7	See, know, perspicacity (Egypt)				
8	Variant of the preceding symbol (7)				
9	Crustacean? Spider? Intended to show something				
10	Club. Symbol of God (Egypt)				
11	Symbol of divine power?				
12	A feather? Justice. Truth. Peace (Mexico). Grass? Gramineaceous				
13	Grace or charm (China)				
14	Reptile or spider. Patience duration or time, plurality (China, Egypt)				
15	Instrument of ropes? Time and duration (China, Egypt)				
16	Separation of the day and night (China)				
17	Calm idea (China, Egypt)				
18	Idea of tranquility (China)				

Symbols in the chart below are reproduced from four pages in the book. Text translated by Mark F. Cheney.

	Brazil, Marajo	Mexico, Maya	Chinese	Egyptian	
19	Intimate union. Unite. Abyss of perfection (China).				
20	Alliance of 2 nations or of 2 cities?				
21	Peace or alliance (Mexico, Egypt)				
22	Abutting Habitations? Alliance of 2 nations?				
23	Symbol for funeral vases Quetzal (America). "Cobra" (the Uraeus-Egypt)				
24	Dwelling of the birds of night? Idea of fear? Concept of night. (Egypt)				
25	Birds? Symbol of the star or sunshine?				
26	Saurian (reptilian)? The east and the west (Egypt).				
27	The four cardinal points.				
28	Or the forces of the nature?				
29	Boundary of an expanse of water? Lagoon or lake.				
30	Running or agitated water. Extli (Aztec Nahuatl), meaning the blood (Mexico).				
31	On the road?				
32	To clear or break up a difficult place/terrain.				
33	A hill, sign reverses, a tomb or vase (Mexico). A man (Egypt).				
34	Mountainous place. Direct neighbor (China, Egypt).				
35	Mountain chain reflected in water?				
36	Sacred monument or underground dwelling? Ant?				
37	Is this head similar to 37??				
38	Dwelling? Seems like head (China, Egypt).				
39	Dwelling on pilings?				
40	Leaf. Symbol of the undergrowth (China, Egypt).				





Ian Graham and Lee Jones; Jaguar at Kiuc; Jaime Awe in tomb; Santiago Billy and Jim Reed; Yaxchilan by Steve Radzi; Blue Jade at Tak'alik Ab'aj

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Institute of Maya Studies' Anniversary Affair!

IMS Annual Business Meeting and December Birthday Party – December 11



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

The IMS has now been together for 43 years!

As established in the bylaws, the event takes place on the second Wednesday of December, in this case December 11. We combine our anniversary party with a short business meeting, a few short committee reports and the announcement of the new board members elected that evening to the 2014 Board of Directors.

If you haven't e-mailed or snail-mailed your ballot in yet, you can even hand-deliver it to the event. **Also, there's our Book Sale – bring some, buy some!**



The IMS Annual Affair • Wednesday, December 11 • Have a drink and a piece of cake too!

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

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



Uncovering an Ancient Maya Tomb Is All in a Day's Work *continued from page 1*

life in the United States and in Belize. The group plans to continue their work in Belize each summer, expanding their trip from two weeks to a full month. In April, they will also host the Maya at the Lago Conference, which is a four-day event that features lectures and workshops on topics centered around Maya.

L) Justin and Barbara Kerr received this year's lifetime achievement award for their years of service to the Maya community. C) While the editor unknowingly was sitting in his seat, Francisco Estrada-Belli reacted cool and calm right before presenting his team's latest findings from Holmul and Cival. R) Mark Van Stone explained his lecture materials closeup while Justin attempted a text message. Photos by Jim Reed. Consider attending Maya at the Lago in the spring: April 10-13, 2014

Meet Mat in person!

January 15, 8 pm at the IMS

Youths and Ancients: Pre-collegiate Research in the Maya World

with C. Mathew Saunders – American Foreign Academic Research & Davidson Day School

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City, State, Zip: _____

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Phone: _____

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- Patron: \$150
- Century: \$100
- Member: \$40



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Students Participate in Costa Rican Archaeology Dig

An archaeological field study trip, led by Dr. Scott Palumbo, a College of Lake County (Chicago, IL), anthropology instructor, recently took 15 students to Bolas, Costa Rica, an area considered one of the most important Precolumbian sites in southern Central America. The group, which included nine CLC students and six others from St. Augustine, FL-based Flagler College, was in the country from May 20 to June 18, 2013.

The trip was significant for several reasons, according to Palumbo. "We're the first project in Costa Rica to consult with an indigenous group (the Cabagra tribe)," he said. Initially, Palumbo said the local population was suspicious of the dig team because the area has a history of graves being looted for their golden ornaments. "The dead are considered sacred, and we had to sign a document promising that we wouldn't dig graves," he explained.

*A student from the CLC-Flagler College archaeology dig with one of the "spheres" they discovered in Costa Rica.
Courtesy of College of Lake County Public Relations.*

The group unearthed pottery fragments and other artifacts belonging to the native Chibchan people and encountered large stone spheres, some up to five feet in diameter, which were carved between 250 BCE and 1500 CE.

The venture, known as an "archaeological field school," provided practical, hands-on experience for the students, some of whom are archaeology majors. During the dig, students were looking for artifacts that might indicate if different social classes inhabited the site, according to Palumbo. The group also looked at debris from the manufacture of stone tools. Palumbo said that based on the artifacts found, the tentative conclusion is that social differences were not highly pronounced at the site.



Palumbo will send a 60-page report, complete with photos and maps, to the Costa Rican national museum along with the unearthed pottery and stone tools. 📌

Source: From an online article released 8/2/2013 at www.chicagotribune.com

Upcoming Events at the IMS:

December 11, 8 pm: *IMS Annual Affair*
IMS Annual Business Meeting and Anniversary Get-Together
– Join with us as we celebrate 43 years together! We're planning food, fellowship and fun. A mix of business and pleasure. It's free for all members, please attend!

January 8, 8 pm:
Ancient Maya Cities Series Presentation:
Behind the Scenes at Chichen Itza with Ray Stewart. There's more to Chichen Itza than the Castillo pyramid and the famous ballcourt. We will unravel some of the secrets that have awed many archaeologists for almost 100 years.

January 15, 8 pm: *IMS Presentation:*
Youths and Ancients: Pre-collegiate Research in the Maya World with C. Mathew Saunders – *American Foreign Academic Research & Davidson Day School*. This lecture will summarize the research of AFAR at the site of Cahal Pech, focusing on significant discoveries made in the last three seasons.

Upcoming Events and Announcements:

January 7-11: *The 2014 Maya Meetings*
Tikal and Its Neighbors – Theme of the 2014 Maya Meetings Symposium to take place at Casa Herrera in Antigua, Guatemala. For the first time in over a decade, the 2014 Maya Meetings will focus on the archaeology and history of Tikal, Guatemala – long renowned as one of the great kingdoms of ancient Maya civilization. The conference and workshops will feature new research on various fronts, revealing changes in our conception of Tikal as a city, as a court, and as a community. Also, be a part of a tour with David Stuart to Tikal. Register soon at: www.utmesoamerica.org/maya

Through Jan. 5, 2014: *Museum Exhibit*
50 Years of Pre-Columbian Art at Dumbarton Oaks
– Select artworks on loan from U.S. and international museums join the permanent collection in the Philip Johnson Pavilion. At the Dumbarton Oaks Museum, Washington D.C. at www.doaks.org/museum

Through Sept. 8, 2014:
Museum Exhibit
Objects of Belief from the Vatican: Art of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas – Theme of an exhibit at the deYoung Museum of Fine Arts, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA. The rarely seen holdings of the Vatican that represent artistic achievements by indigenous cultures from Asia, Oceania, Africa, and the Americas. Info at: <http://deyoung.famsf.org/deyoung/exhibitions>

Editor's Tip: *Online all the time*
"Mesoamerica and Ancient America Lectures, Conferences and Exhibits"
– Mike Ruggeri maintains the most comprehensive list available of upcoming events. Be sure to bookmark his site at this tiny URL: <http://bit.ly/11aKJzE>

Visit the IMS facebook page under the group Institute of Maya Studies
– Share your Maya site photos with us!



IMS EXPLORER

Join in the **Explorer-ation!** Scholar or not, we welcome submissions from IMS members. Share what interests you with others. All articles and news items for the **IMS Explorer** should be forwarded to the newsletter editor at: mayaman@bellsouth.net

2014 IMS Explorer Session
Lecture Series

Ancient Maya Cities

When the City is the State

Though the Maya occupied an extensive territory covering all of the Yucatan Peninsula from slightly east of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec to western Honduras and El Salvador and from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean, this extraordinary ancient civilization was never considered an empire. There was never a centralized government nor was there a city that became the seat of rulership for the whole territory. Instead, impressive urban centers dotted the land of the Maya, each with its own appearance and powerful leader.

In this 8-month lecture series, to take place every second Wednesday of the month in 2014 at 8 pm at the Miami Science Museum, IMS members will try to bring to life the secrets that gave each city its uniqueness, whether it's their architecture, their art or their warring history.



January 8
Behind the Scenes at Chichen Itza
by Ray Stewart



February 12:
Palenque and Its Tombs
by George Fery

March 12:
Copan and Its Recorded History
by Marta Barber



April 9:
Tikal, A Style All Its Own
by Rick Slazyk



May 14:
Calakmul: A Walking Tour
by Janet Miess



June 11:
Uxmal: Architecture and Engineering
by Rick Slazyk and Joaquín J. Rodríguez III

July 9:
Ancient Maya Cities with Mural Paintings
by Dr. Anne Stewart



August 13:
Tulum and Coastal Cities
by Ray Stewart



Thank you Anne Stewart!

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