



# IMS EXPLORER

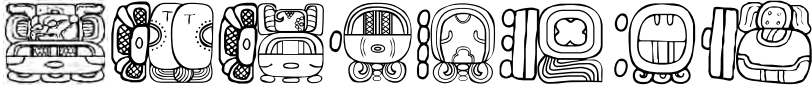
Institute of Maya Studies

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## A Noble Effort to Fight Malnutrition in Guatemala

Vanderbilt University professor Ted Fischer founded Mani+ in 2008 to address the problem of chronic malnutrition in Guatemala. Fischer got the idea for this project after traveling to Mozambique, where he saw a privately owned French company sell malnutrition packets to the locals.

“It’s crazy that they make these in France, who probably has the highest labor costs in the world, and that they sell these in Mozambique, where peanuts are grown,” Fischer said. “Nobody has ever cured malnutrition just by handing out food. It is part of a vicious cycle that just perpetuates itself and, therefore, there has to be some economic growth to bring them out of poverty.”

Pursuing a solution through economic development, Fischer decided

*The World Bank estimates that over \$300 million a year is lost in productivity in Guatemala because of chronic malnutrition.*



that he would create a similar product to combat malnutrition but ensure that the product’s inputs would be bought from farmers who live in areas affected by malnutrition. The packets essentially contain a fortified peanut paste with peanut butter, powdered milk, sugar, vegetable oil and a customized vitamin-mineral mix that specifically addresses Guatemalan nutritional needs.

Fischer described the paste as a “ready-to-use product that the kids eat like a Go-Gurt.” Guatemalan children eat one packet of the paste per day for 12-18 months, and it gives them an extra boost that provides all the micronutrients they need for growth. With a 35-cent production cost, \$127 a year can pull a child out of malnutrition.

### Background

Guatemala currently has the third highest rate of chronic malnutrition in the world. More



A study was conducted by Vanderbilt University and the Fundación contra el Hambre (FH) to gauge the acceptability and use of the Mani+ RUSF in the community of Paapa, Alta Verapaz, Guatemala. They enrolled 43 children from 6 to 24 months of age (and their mothers), who were covered by existing FH programs. The study consisted of 8 weeks of direct intervention (February-April 2013). The average age of mothers was 28 years and 100% were native Q'eqchi' Mayan speakers. Educational materials and focus groups were presented in Q'eqchi'.



**Jim Reed,**  
Editor

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### IMS Presentation: March 19, 8 pm



### In Gar We Trust:

Fish Imagery in Ancient Maya Kingship and Cosmology

with **Dr. Kevin J. Johnston**

than 49% of Guatemalan children under 5 suffer from chronic malnutrition (ENSMI), and that figure exceeds 65% for children in rural areas (UNICEF).

Chronic malnutrition causes stunting, lower income as adults, and

*continued on page 4*



## Archaeology in South Florida: 2,000-year-old Skeleton Unearthed in Davie, FL

She rested in peace for about 2,000 years until utility crews came shortly before Christmas to install a new waterline on Pine Island Road in Davie, FL.

That's when the fully intact skeleton of what is believed to be a Tequesta Indian woman was found – perhaps the best-preserved remains of an ancient human uncovered in the past 40 years, authorities noted.

“It's either Tequesta or the member of a people that predates the Tequesta,” said Bob Carr, of the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy in Davie. “It's unusually well preserved, considering it's been under a highway with thousands and thousands of cars going over it every day.”

The woman, about 5 feet tall and about 20 to 30 years old, will now be analyzed by state and local archaeological authorities and then reburied in a secret location, with Seminole and Miccosukee Indians conducting the ceremony.



Miami, FL: Archaeologist Mike Grady, with the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, works on excavating a site where the conservancy found evidence that at one time, more than 1,000 years ago, a Tequesta Indian village stood on the site which would have been at the mouth of the Miami River. The excavation is expected to wrap up this summer. (Photo taken 5/10/13 by Joe Raedle/Getty Images)



*Digging Deep: All Florida construction sites must be surveyed to ensure no historical objects are destroyed. (Archaeological and Historical Conservancy)*



*A recreation of village life along the Miami River from a video about the Pine Island skeleton at: [www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/10/tequesta-skeleton\\_n\\_4572659.html#slide=3309410](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/10/tequesta-skeleton_n_4572659.html#slide=3309410)*

No artifacts were found with the skeleton, and it had no distinguishing marks to indicate how she died. “There’s nothing in the bones to indicate trauma,” Carr said.

The discovery began as crews were about to start installing a waterline on the east side of Pine Island Road near the Forest Ridge subdivision, between Griffin Road and State Road 84.

After the skeleton was unearthed, Seminole and Miccosukee Indian officials requested the discovery remain quiet until they gave the okay, and insisted no photos be taken of it.

“This is fairly standard protocol,” said Gary Bitner, whose public relations firm represents the Seminole Tribe of Florida. “It’s done with an obvious respect for the remains.”

“There was no carbon 14 dating or DNA testing, as the Florida tribes don’t want any physical destruction of the bones,” noted Carr.

In 2002, Carr discovered the foundation of a Tequesta Indian home estimated to be 1,000 years old in downtown Miami. Four more were found nearby last year.

He and other archaeologists also have found Tequesta artifacts in Parkland in 2008, a major Tequesta settlement,



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dating back to 800 CE, along Fort Lauderdale’s New River in 2009; and bones up to 3,000 years old, believed to be those of members of the Jeaga tribe, along State Road A1A in Delray Beach in 2012. 🏠

Source: From an article by Ken Kaye released 1/9/14 at: <http://articles.sun-sentinel.com>. Newspaper clipping submitted initially via snailmail by Peggy Reed (the editor’s mother!).

## Stone Figure at Dumbarton Oaks Has Intriguing Back Story – and Ties to Indiana Jones

by John Kelly, Washington Post

There are some movie scenes I will watch over and over again, no matter how many times I've seen them. They stimulate my amygdalae, the regions of the brain that control memory and emotion.

The opening of "Raiders of the Lost Ark" is one such scene. I find myself sieving imaginary sand through my fingers, cinching a leather sandbag tight, then snatching a rictus-faced golden idol from atop a booby-trapped platform in one deft move, à la Dr. Indiana Jones.

I asked Miriam Doutriaux if she ever copies that move. After all, as a curator at the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection in Georgetown, Washington, DC, she handles the real thing, the actual sculpture on which the idol in the Steven Spielberg movie is based. She laughed.

The sculpture – officially, if controversially (more on that later),

*This is a stone carving of Tlazolteotl, an Aztec figure shown giving birth, that is in the collection of Dumbarton Oaks.*  
Courtesy of Dumbarton Oaks.

known as Tlazolteotl, an Aztec goddess – was the subject of a very cool exhibit at Dumbarton Oaks. Sadly, the exhibition closed on March 2.

Even though the real one – or "real" one (more on that later) – is carved from pale, greenish stone, not made of gold, you could recognize it immediately when you saw it leering from its protective transparent case. It's a female figure sitting back on her haunches, seemingly in pain, certainly consumed by effort. Her expression is understandable, for popping out from between her legs are the head and forearms of the baby she's giving birth to.

In Aztec culture, Tlazolteotl was the patron of midwives and adulterers. She's known as "the filth eater." She's depicted in Aztec



drawings with a mouth stained black from the sins she's consumed.

E.-T. Hamy, the French anthropologist who in 1899 wrote the first scholarly article about the piece, called it "absolutely unique in the history of Mexican art." He'd first seen it in a Paris antique store. It was later bought by French obstetrician and collector Alban Ribemont-Dessaignes. Many collectors of pre-Columbian art desired the sculpture. For some, it became something of a Holy Grail, to use another Indiana Jones metaphor. Robert Woods Bliss, the diplomat who founded Dumbarton Oaks, was able to acquire the birthing figure in 1947.

As early as the 1960s, questions were raised about the Tlazolteotl figure. "Aztec deities were always represented with some kind of marker of who they were," Miriam explained. "In particular, Tlazolteotl herself, when depicted naked, always has a headdress. Or she always has ear flares and a nose ornament."

The Dumbarton Oaks figure has none of those. And when the museum scrutinized the surface with a scanning electron microscope, it learned that incisions in the stone were likely made with modern rotary tools. They're far too uniform and precise to have been made with Aztec hand tools.

The question now is whether it was completely fabricated in the 19th century or whether it is a pre-Columbian piece that some French dealer reworked "to make it more appealing to potential buyers," Miriam said. Sad, but true. 🗿

Source: Condensed from an article by John Kelly, released 1/13/2014 at: [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com). Submitted 1/15/2014 by Keith Merwin on the IMS facebook page.

## Peru Has a New Love Affair with Its Hairless Dogs

Each day, Munay and Kuny wander through the Huaca Pucllana ruins in Lima. They act like a lot of dogs. They roll in the dirt. They walk wherever they want, even through an excavation. They pee on stuff. Then around noon, they head over to the fancy on-site restaurant, where the cooks have set aside food for them. Usually, it's chicken, lightly seasoned and sautéed.

Munay and Kuny are Peruvian hairless dogs; the breed has been declared part of Peru's cultural patrimony. That's why these dogs live here and get treated so well.

These hairless dogs have been in Peru for thousands of years. But just a few decades ago, they were in danger of dying out. Then a local breeder launched a campaign that made them popular again.



*Peruvian Hairless dogs Josh (L) and Jala stand at the Huaca Pucllana archeological site in Lima.*  
(Courtesy of Reuters/Pilar Olivares)

Munay and Kuny aren't exactly noble-looking representatives of this breed. Today, they're covered in dirt; and they have almost no hair, other than the scraggly Mohawks that make them look like aging punk rockers.

The fact that the dogs are popular now is largely because of dog expert named Ermanno Maniero. He spent years working to get them recognized as a breed.

*continued on page 4*





## A Noble Effort to Fight Malnutrition in Guatemala

continued from page 1

hinders intellectual growth. As a result, almost half of children in Guatemala have been left behind, physically and cognitively, before they are 5 years old. This poses not only a grave public health issue, but also a major obstacle for the country's development.

Conventional wisdom long held that Maya peoples were genetically shorter than Europeans. Studies of immigrant children have recently proven this to be false (see photos above right; B. Bogin et al. 2002).

### A Group Effort

Having visited the country multiple times, Fischer has firsthand knowledge of the immensity of the chronic malnutrition Guatemala is facing. "Nothing is sadder than seeing kids suffer," Fischer said. "However, it is nice to see that we are having a huge impact and how grateful the families are for us doing something."

Numerous Vanderbilt students actively participate in the project. Students from the School of Medicine, Owen Graduate School of Management and Peabody College assist the development of Mani+.

Support for the project extends beyond Vanderbilt into Nashville. The Shalom Foundation, led by Country Music Association CEO Steve Moore, largely funds Mani+. Fischer stresses that anyone can help the project out and that it



**Mani+**



L) Nine-year-old Guatemalan children born in Guatemala compared to R) Nine-year-old Guatemalan children born in the U.S.

Source: ABC News.

Expanding beyond the peanut-based products the organization currently manufactures, Mani+ is in the final stages of creating a fortified sesame butter nutrition packet. Sesame, like the peanut, is grown in Guatemala. This provides a sustainable ingredient option



as well as a flavor to which the local people are accustomed.

"really is a group effort."

Now authorized to sell the nutrition packets, Mani+ does not directly sell to Guatemalans but rather to charitable organizations which then distribute the products to local people. This distribution benefits Guatemalans by allowing peer-to-peer selling among Guatemalan women. The peer-to-peer selling keeps revenue from the product with the Guatemalans. "It provides income for the women who are selling the packets," Fischer said. "It empowers them."

In addition to providing Guatemalans with nutritional packets, Mani+ is also educating local women on how to engage in long-term planning for family

nutrition. Since many women in the country are illiterate, they are taught nutritional information through cards with images of different foods found in typical Guatemalan kitchens.

### Donate to MANI+

Mani+ has developed an innovative and locally produced complementary food that can prevent malnutrition and help provide a brighter future for these children. But they depend on the financial support of donors like you. They are an efficient and lean organization that makes your donations go as far as possible. If you have any questions regarding donating to Mani+, you can contact them at [info@maniplus.org](mailto:info@maniplus.org)

Ted (Edward) Fischer has worked in Guatemala for more than 25 years, and he has written or edited several books, including *Cultural Logics and Global Economies: Maya Identity in Thought and Practice* and *Broccoli and Desire: Global Connections and Maya Struggles in Postwar Guatemala*. His popular video series "Peoples and Cultures of the World" was produced by the Teaching Company, and he has been featured on *BigThink.com* and in articles in the *New York Times*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, and other media outlets. 🌱

Sources: Intro text posted by Collier Bowling on Vanderbilt University's student news source at: [www.insidevandy.com](http://www.insidevandy.com). Other texts and images courtesy of Ted Fischer. Check out: [www.maniplus.org](http://www.maniplus.org) and [www.tedfischer.org](http://www.tedfischer.org). Submitted by Chris Crawford.

## Peru Has a New Love Affair with Its Hairless Dogs

continued from page 3

Maniero, who was born in Italy, says he first saw the hairless dogs as a kid, during road trips around Peru with his parents.

Maniero visited a Peruvian museum where he saw the dogs depicted on ceramics and realized that they'd been around for centuries.

Today, many Peruvians believe that hairless dogs have magical properties; that hugging

A Peruvian hairless dog at Alfredo Janneau's kennel in Lima. Courtesy of Annie Murphy.



or tucking in with them at night can relieve asthma and assorted pains. Even Maniero says it's a good idea to snuggle up with one if you're sick.

"They don't get fleas, they don't have allergy issues, and above all, they don't bark."

Source: From an article by Annie Murphy, released 1/2/2014 at: [www.pri.org](http://www.pri.org)



Today's Maya are yearning to regain their history and culture by learning the glyphs and calendars of their ancestors and spreading the knowledge in their own communities. . . and you can help!

## Congress of Maya Epigraphers

### Our goal: Mayas teaching Mayas

In May, 2014, the state of Chiapas, Mexico, and MAM (Mayas for Ancient Mayan) are cosponsoring a week-long, all-Maya conference with workshops, classes, lectures, and site visits for 110 Maya participants, including two teams of Maya teachers. Mayas will come from three countries, Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize, to participate and take what they learn home to their own indigenous communities to spread and instill that knowledge among the Maya-speaking population.

### A Message from Bruce Love, President of MAM

I live in Juniper Hills, CA, and spend three months a year working with our Maya colleagues in Southern Mexico and Central America. I have a Ph.D. in Anthropology from UCLA and have 40 years of field experience among the Maya of Mexico, Belize, and Guatemala. MAM is a tax-deductible charitable



organization dedicated to bringing the glyphs and ancient calendar back to the Maya people. Our website is <http://discovermam.org>. Check us out!

As someone who can read the glyphs, I am now dedicating my life, working with MAM and our Maya colleagues, to bring that knowledge back to the Maya people, descendants of the Classic Maya civilization that built the pyramids and wrote in sacred hieroglyphic writing.

### Glyph Workshops for the Maya

Linda Schele pioneered efforts in the 1980s to bring knowledge of the glyphs to the Mayas, but with Linda's passing, those efforts lagged. Today, our organization, MAM, working directly with indigenous groups and local institutions in Maya communities, is spearheading efforts to return knowledge of the glyphs to the Maya people.

In addition to the two events highlighted in the photos (above, right), in 2011, we gave cash grants and digital projectors to support local workshops. In 2013, we gave 9 cash grants and 2 more digital projectors in support of local grass-roots efforts by the Mayas themselves.

This year, we embark on our largest undertaking yet, the Second International Congress of Maya Epigraphers, co-sponsored by MAM and three local institutions in Ocosingo, Chiapas.

### Your Donations Make a Major Difference

We need your support to help raise funds for a week of classes and workshops for 110 participants (students



In 2010, MAM co-sponsored a two-day workshop for Mayas in Antigua, Guatemala, that brought 70 participants from all over the country.



Crisanto Kumul, Maya epigrapher (second from right) and members of his team at the 2012 Congress of Maya Epigraphers that MAM co-sponsored in Valladolid, Yucatan.

and teachers). Your contributions will make this congress possible, providing transportation and meals, charter buses, vans, teaching materials and workbooks. There are various donation levels, and some include "perks," like beautifully-designed MAM T-shirts (featuring Linda Schele's copyrighted drawing from the Temple of the Cross), a signed copy of my latest book (*Maya Shamanism Today*), or your birth date in Maya calendar glyphs, hand-painted and signed by a Maya artist.

We don't expect you to donate because of the value of the perks. We hope you will donate because you "get it," just how deeply important this movement of Maya epigraphy really is for the Maya. The perks are just tokens of our gratitude and ways for you to remember this historic event. 🏛️

Help us make this revival happen. Before March 6, see the video and donate at: [www.indiegogo.com/projects/maya-revival](http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/maya-revival). After March 6, you can donate via PayPal at <http://discovermam.org>.



Romelia Mo' (left) and Iyaxel Cojti, Maya epigraphers. View the video at: [www.indiegogo.com/projects/maya-revival](http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/maya-revival)



Another scene from the video: Linda Schele, Nikolai Grube and Federico Fahsen leading a glyph workshop for Maya students at the site of Iximche, Guatemala.



Editor's note: There's been a lot of activity on the Maya airwaves going on recently concerning Maya murals. The Maya Research Program announced the excavation of murals at the site of Tulix Mul in Belize; the Government of Guatemala released a series of artistic renderings of the frescoes uncovered at the site of Chilonche in the Peten; Karl Herbert Mayer has been uploading every article about murals in the Maya region that he's been a part of in the past 20 years to the scholarly academia.edu site; and, Dr. Anne Stewart will present a program about Maya sites with murals at the IMS on July 9. It's all very exciting... read on!

## Maya Murals Coming to Light, and Canvas

### Tulix Mul

Known as Tulix Mul (right), it appears at first blush as a mound-like island of jumbled trees and bushes jutting out of a landscape that has been otherwise cleared by local ranchers for their cattle ranch operations. It is a curious protrusion, but only because this site holds special value to archaeologists and other researchers.

Investigators are racing against the clock and other elements to excavate, study, and preserve the site. It is an Early Classic (200-600 CE) Maya site in northwestern Belize that contains evidence of at least two standing vaulted rooms.

As a relatively recent discovery, archaeologists, under the auspices of the Maya Research Program (MRP) led by Dr. Ed Barnhart, and the University of Texas at Tyler, have been excavating at the site since 2012. It has been identified as a shrine group approximately 1 km. from Nojol Nah, another severely endangered Maya center where they have been excavating.

Discovery of a plastered vaulted room was news enough; but, by far the biggest prize was found beneath the plaster (above right). Through time, small fragments had exfoliated from the plaster, revealing underlying evidence of a polychrome, fine-line mural. The mural style appears generally similar to that found by other archaeologists at San Bartolo in Guatemala. Like San Bartolo, there are only a handful of other known Maya murals found in Mesoamerica. Aside from their artistic beauty, each has provided significant new information about Maya art, religious concepts, trade and interaction.

The Tulix Mul mural may prove to be equally informative, especially as site investigators suspect that there is a real likelihood that the other, still unexcavated vaulted room, will also contain a mural.



Above: View of Tulix Mul from the south. Courtesy of the Maya Research Program.



Right: View into one of the vaulted rooms at Tulix Mul, now excavated, containing a mural (currently still mostly plastered over by the ancients). Courtesy of the Maya Research Program.

Source: Check out the complete article released 1/12/2014 at: <http://popular-archaeology.com>. Look for 2014 excavation updates from Dr. Ed Barnhart on the Maya Research Program website.



Renderings of the murals within Room 10, Structure 3, at Chacmultun, by artist Martine Fettweis. Source: Images included in a chapter by Karl Herbert Mayer in the publication *Antike Welt*, 1990.

### Chacmultun

During the past Katun, Karl Herbert Mayer of Mexican Austrian Bureau, has contributed many articles to the corpus of Maya studies, that report on murals in the Maya region. He has been diligently sharing them on academia.edu for all to review. Favorites of the editor, from the source mentioned above, are the two images above of renderings of murals at the site of Chacmultun in the Yucatan. Compare these to this rendering recently released by Guatemalan authorities (at right), of Maya murals brought to light at the site of Chilonche in the Peten.

Editor's note: For our b&w print subscribers, the mural exploration ends here; for our color-version Explorer subscribers, see additional detailed images of the murals of Chilonche on page 8. 🏠





## Institute of Maya Studies Line-up of Presentations!

March 12, 2014: Ancient Maya Cities Series Presentation:

### Copan and Its Recorded History: What Do the Hieroglyphs Reveal?

with **Marta Barber**

Copan, together with Palenque, is probably the site that has contributed the most to the decipherment of Maya hieroglyphic writing. Epigraphers tell us that the scribes of Copan knew how to manipulate the language in ways other major sites didn't. Just from the precision of the carvings, it's not hard to conclude that they took their writing seriously.

By Frederick  
Catherwood.

Stela A portrays  
Copan's 13th ruler, Waxaklajun Ub'aah K'awiil (18 Rabbit), carrying a two-headed centipede bar that is symbolically giving birth to sun deities.



Altar Q: The founder of the dynasty, Yax Kuk Mo', is pictured passing the emblem of office to the last king of Copan, Yax Pasah.

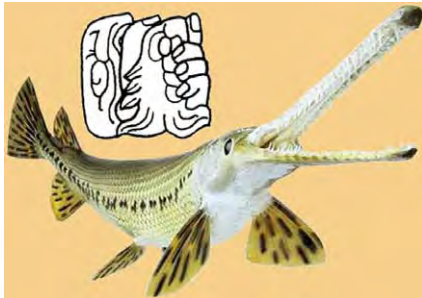
It is not the writing, but the legacy of Copan's 16+ rulers that will be the focus of Marta's talk. What they left behind is magnificent. The story is not over yet; with the recent discoveries at El Rastrojon, another chapter is being revealed.

### March 19: IMS Presentation:

### In Gar We Trust: Fish Imagery in Ancient Maya Kingship and Cosmology

with **Dr. Kevin J. Johnston**

Foundation for Anthropological Research and Environmental Studies (FARES)



The Classic "fish-in-hand" glyph, from the Tablet of the Cross, Palenque, superimposed over a Giant Alligator Gar (*Atractosteus spatula*). (Image assembled by the editor.)

In Classic Maya iconography, following his death and prior to his rebirth out of a turtle shell, the young Maize God is carried through the Underworld in the belly of a creature that has often been misidentified as a "feathered serpent."

In fact, this supernatural creature is the *pejelagarto*, or "alligator fish," otherwise known as the giant freshwater gar. Glyphs identify the creature as the "guardian" of corn, and it safely carries the latter through the Water House, the liquid realm of darkness, death, and danger. Following their deaths Maya kings, too, travelled through the Underworld Jonah-like in the belly of this great fish. As inscriptions reveal, both Preclassic and Classic royalty erected temples to honor this creature and its role as maize protector.



Mythological Fish with cartouche of the Maize God. Kerr #K3713.\*

\*Check out Justin Kerr's complete Maya Vase Database at: <http://research.mayavase.com/kerrmaya.html>

All meetings are 8 pm • Institute of Maya Studies • Miami Science Museum

## New Membership and Renewal Application

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New  Renewal

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Century: \$100

Member: \$50

Membership in the IMS includes attending two lectures a month; a year's subscription to our downloadable monthly **IMS Explorer** newsletter; and access to all features on our website: past newsletters, videos of IMS lectures, upcoming program announcements, IMS photo archives, and more!



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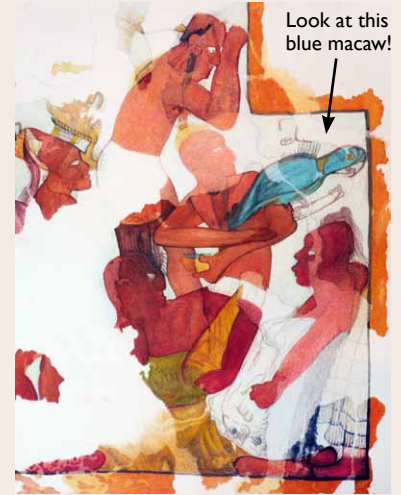
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## Dramatic Details of Maya Murals at Chilonche

A team of archaeologists from the University of Valencia, Spain, and the University of San Carlos of Guatemala have discovered the first known Maya fresco, a mural painted on wet plaster, near the archaeological site of La Blanca in northern Guatemala, close to the border with Belize. All the other extant wall paintings done by the Maya were created using a dry paint technique. These frescoes date to the eighth century CE, the Late Classic period, when they were painted on the walls of Room 6 within a palace structure in Chilonche. The room was sealed in antiquity, leaving the murals in exceptionally good condition, while those in other rooms of the palace have faded to near nothingness.



“It’s an extraordinary discovery because of the information it provides, both historically and because of the pictorial technique; and from an artistic point of view, they are exceptional. There are three aspects (to this find): the history, the pictorial technique and the artistic excellence. Plus, the great plasticity of the figures, the colors and also for the good state of conservation; all very good for a site in tropical conditions”; said Cristina Vidal, (Scientific Director of the archaeological project).

Source: Text in English from [www.thehistoryblog.com](http://www.thehistoryblog.com). Submitted by Karl Herbert Mayer via personal e-mail and Marta Barber via the IMS facebook page.

## Upcoming Events at the IMS:

March 12 • 8 pm: *Ancient Maya Cities Series Presentation: Copan and Its Recorded History* – with our very own, beloved **Marta Barber**.

March 19 • 8 pm: *IMS Presentation: In Gar We Trust: Fish Imagery in Ancient Maya Kingship and Cosmology* – with **Dr. Kevin J. Johnston**, of the Foundation for Anthropological Research and Environmental Studies (FARES).

April 9 • 8 pm: *Ancient Maya Cities Series: Tikal: A Style All Its Own* – with IMS President **Rick Slazyk**. We’ll examine the design elements associated with the architectural style of Tikal and explore the evolution of building groups of the North Acropolis.

April 16 • 8 pm: *IMS Presentation: On the Trail of the Snake Kings: Archaeology and Epigraphy in the Mirador Basin* – with **Stanley Guenter**, affiliated with Idaho State University and FARES.

## Upcoming Events and Announcements:

March 20-23: *Tulane Maya Symposium On the Maya Trail: Ancient Travelers, Epic Voyages* – The Middle American Research Institute and Far Horizons are proud to present the 11th Annual Tulane Maya Symposium and Workshop. Keynote speaker will be **Dr. Karl Taube** of the University of California, Riverside. At Tulane University and the New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, LA. Register now at: <http://mari.tulane.edu/TMS/index.html>

April 11, 7:30 pm: *MSM Lecture Agriculture, Forest Management, and the Demise of the Classic Maya City of Tikal* – Theme of a Maya Society of Minnesota Lecture by David Lentz, Executive Director and Professor, University of Cincinnati Center for Field Studies. At the Northrop Auditorium, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. Get more info at: <http://sites.hamline.edu/mayasociety>

April 23-27: *79th Annual SAA Meeting Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting* –

To take place at the Austin Convention Center, Austin, TX. There is a wealth of field trips this year! The deadline for advance registration is March 20, 2014. Visit <http://bit.ly/SAAReg>

June 6-8: *Archaeoastronomy Conference Charting a Formal Methodology for Cultural Astronomy Research* – Theme of the Society for Cultural Astronomy in the American Southwest Conference on Archaeoastronomy of the American Southwest. At the Arizona State University School of Earth and Space Exploration, Tempe, AZ. Additional info at: <http://sfcaotas.wildapricot.org/2014conference>

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



## 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](mailto:mayaman@bellsouth.net)