



IMS EXPLORER

Institute of Maya Studies

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

An affiliate of the Miami Science Museum

Maya enthusiasts providing public education for 43 years

Volume 43
Issue 7
July 2014
ISSN: 1524-9387



Inside this issue:

Treasures of the Maya Spirit	2
In Memoriam: Remembering George (cont. from pg. 1)	3,4,6
An Early Puuc Building with a Rare Broken Molding in Tunkuyi, Campeche, by Stephan Merk	5,6
July IMS Programs; Membership Application	7
The King's Maidens (of Tak'alik Ab'aj); Shaman Petroglyphs Recorded in Veracruz; Upcoming Events	8

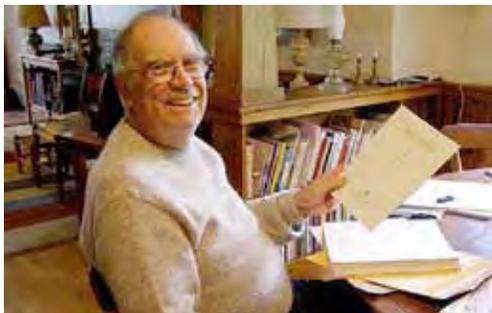


July 16, 2014 • Maya Ceremonial Era Long Count: 0.0.1.10.12 • 4 'Eb 5 Xul • G5

In Memoriam: George Edwin Stuart III 1935-2014

Those involved with the world of Maya Studies mourn the passing of our good friend and mentor. George entered the road to Xibalba before us on June 11, at his home in Barnardville, NC. He was 79 years old.

What follows is memorial with the words and images of George's presence on the internet, from Warren Wilson College, National Geographic, mesoweb.com, his research center's websites and the memories and words of support and condolence shared by way of social media, on George's facebook page and the special page created by his wife, Melinda Stuart, on the Caring Bridge website. For at least four months, Melinda has been graciously posting the most wonderful photos and images of George, that recount and help us to remember George at his best. Thank you, Melinda.



George in September 2013, thrilled with delivery of the final, no. 60, issue of Research Reports on Ancient Maya Writing, his 30-year publication program heralding the discoveries of others, mostly, in the field of Maya studies.

Posted by Melinda to George's facebook page.

From the Warren Wilson College website

At: www.warren-wilson.edu/~arch/maya

George E. Stuart was a member of the Board of Trustees at Warren Wilson College. He was the president of the Center for Maya Research, a not-for-profit organization which he founded in 1984 to promote and direct research related to archaeology, art and culture of the Maya. He was also editor of the Center's journal, *Research Reports on Ancient Maya Writing*, a series devoted to current progress in the decipherment of the hieroglyphic writing system used by the Maya before the Spanish conquests of the sixteenth century.

Stuart had a BS in geology from the University of South Carolina (1956), a MA and PhD in anthropology, respectively, from George

George following breakfast with the chancellor (as a Distinguished Alum!) during the University Day celebration at the University of North Carolina. October 12, 2012.

Posted by Melinda to George's facebook page.

Washington University (1970) and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1975). Between 1952 and 1958, Stuart participated in field excavations at the archaeological sites of Mulberry, South Carolina, and Etowah, Georgia. Since 1958, he worked at various



IMS Presentation: July 16, 8 pm



A film by National Geographic

Maya ruins in Yucatan and Quintana Roo, Mexico, including Dzibilchaltun, Balankanche and Coba, where he helped supervise the mapping of the sites.

Stuart taught at George Washington University, Duke University, Catholic University. He began working at National Geographic Society in 1960,

continued on page 3



**Jim Reed,
Editor**

©2014 I.M.S. Inc. The *IMS Explorer* newsletter is published 12 times a year by The Institute of Maya Studies, Inc. The Institute is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Membership and renewal application on page 7. As a member you receive the monthly newsletter and personal access to the Member's Only pages on our website. Access IMS program videos, photo archives, past issues and more. **Get your password by contacting our Webmaster at: keith@merwin.com**

Treasures of the Maya Spirit

Mayanists had a rare opportunity to view a selection of exceptional artworks slated for the future Museo Maya de America in Guatemala City (see *IMS Explorer*, Vol. 43, Issue 4, April, 2014). The exhibition featured more than 200 extraordinary examples of Maya art from the Preclassic and Classic periods (2000 BCE–900 CE). The collection was exhibited January 15–19, 2014, at the Los Angeles Jewelry & Antique Show that took place at the LA Convention Center.

Before the event, Fernando Paíz, president of the sponsoring organization La Ruta Maya Foundation, stated “‘Treasures of the Maya Spirit’ is an exhibition that celebrates Maya culture and its contributions to the greater world. We want the world to understand the richness and sophistication of the Maya civilization in Guatemala and beyond. Since the largest population of Guatemalans living outside of Guatemala reside in Los Angeles, it makes sense for this exceptional exhibition to debut there.”



Crouching Masked Jaguar

Dancer: A nine-foot long stucco sculpture depicting a Crouching Masked Jaguar Dancer from Guatemala’s Early Classic period (ca. 300–600 CE). On view publicly for the first time ever, this figure has been touted as one of the most important Maya archaeological finds in recent decades. An entirely unique example of craftsmanship and artistry, the Jaguar figure is believed to include references to Maya cosmology. The sculpture has been likened in importance to Maya scholarship as equivalent to the importance of King Tut’s Golden Mask to Egyptology. The Crouching Masked Jaguar Dancer is the subject of intense academic research.



Cacao Drinking Vessel: with the Hero Twins, features two characters identified as Hero Twins holding ritual paraphernalia. The writing on the vessel indicate that it is a drinking vase for cacao and is dedicated to the last ruler of Dos Pilas, Sina'n-Ti 'K'awilil. Late Classic Period (600–900 CE), Maya Lowlands, possibly High Pasión River/ San Pedro Mártir River / Usumacinta, El Peten, Guatemala. Height: 17.8 cm; Diameter: 14.4 cm. Fundación La Ruta Maya, Guatemala. Register of Cultural Property No. I.2.159.47.



Cancuen Panel: Maya lowlands, Cancuen. Late Classic (ca. A.D. 799) Height: 97 cm; Width: 130 cm; thickness: 10 cm. Fundación La Ruta Maya, Guatemala. Register of Cultural Property No. I.6.2.5.244. Photo: Jorge Pérez de Lara.



Sihyaj Chan K'awilil

Vase: Dated to the Late Classic Period (600–900 CE), the vase depicts an obese ruler, with an elaborate feather headdress and a mask of a huge toad, with its own headband of the “Jester God”. The hieroglyphic text identifies him as a ruler of the Motul de San José polity: 'Ub'aah joyal Sihyaj Chan K'awilil k'uhul “Ik”, divine lord (of the polity) “Ik”.



Mosaic Jade Mask with Coral, Obsidian and Inlaid Shell:

Terminal Classic Period (900–1200 CE) Maya Lowlands, Length: 34 cm; Width: 18 cm. Register No. I.2.144.187 Photo: FLAAR.



2014
IMS Board
of Directors:

Rick Slazyk, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP

President/Membership/Website
arcwerks@bellsouth.net

Marta Barber

Executive Vice President/
Programming
msmiami@yahoo.com

Joaquín J. Rodríguez III, P.E.

Administrative Vice President/
Director of Research
rod44@comcast.net
954-786-8084

Janet Miess, MLS

Secretary/Library Chair/Website
jmiess@gmail.com

Ray Stewart

Treasurer • rstu@bellsouth.net

Susan Bearse

Hospitality
bear6072@bellsouth.net

Patricia Manfredi

pmanfred2003@yahoo.com

Keith Merwin

Website Chair • keith@merwin.com

Alex Morán

kj4cgv@gmail.com

Dr. Anne Stewart

Education Chair

Beth Wein

Hospitality • bethwein@ymail.com

Beth Wiggert

Subscription List
beth2vic@earthlink.net

Gerald Wolfson

Public Relations
gerald.wolfson@att.net

Jim Reed

Newsletter Editor
mayaman@bellsouth.net

The exhibit also featured thirty 19th and 20th century examples of Maya ceremonial garments. It will be interesting to see where else this exhibit will travel before the museum’s ground-breaking in 2016. 🏗️

Sources: Condensed by the editor from two articles with different images released by Agnes Gomes-Koizumi at: www.artfixdaily.com and www.thehollywoodsentinel.com

In Memoriam George Edwin Stuart III

continued from page 1

where he wrote numerous *National Geographic* magazine books, articles and scholarly journal papers.

As a cartographer and designer, he also conceived and helped design many of the Society's special-purpose supplement maps, including *Archaeology of Middle America: Land of the Feathered Serpent* (1968); *North America Before Columbus* (1972) and *Land of the Maya* (1989).

Stuart had recently retired after 38 years at the Society. There he was Vice President for Research and Exploration; Chairman of the Society's Committee for Research and Exploration; and Senior Assistant Editor for the magazine.

George and his wife Melinda, a museums and cultural history consultant, lived in Barnardsville, NC, where they built a study center (BEARC) devoted to American archaeology and cultural geography of the Western North Carolina area of the Southern Appalachians. They also, in conjunction with David Moore's *Archaeology of World Culture's* class at Warren Wilson College (WWC), constructed a megalith circle on their land. We are very grateful to George and Melinda and the support and interest they showed in our work at WWC. 🏠



George and Melinda sat with us at our table during the luau at last year's *Maya at the Playa* conference; captured here with *IMS Explorer* editor Jim Reed. Photo by Scott Allen. I showed him a beautifully knapped spear point that I discovered deep within a deposit of bat guano in Chapat Cave, Belize, back in the 70s. He said it was one of the best examples that he'd ever seen. They allowed me to bless them with my abalone shell full of Maya copal incense. Only great memories of hanging out with you over the past decade and a half, George. Thank you, George and Melinda.

Linda Schele and George. We lost Linda in 1998 and George joined her this morning. Both are legendary



characters that will live on in our hearts and minds. Posted by Melinda to George's facebook page on the morning of his passing.

From George's page on mesoweb.com

George Stuart was a national treasure. The recipient of numerous distinguished awards for his contributions to Maya archaeology, public outreach and academic publishing, his career spanned some sixty years, nearly forty of them with the National Geographic Society.

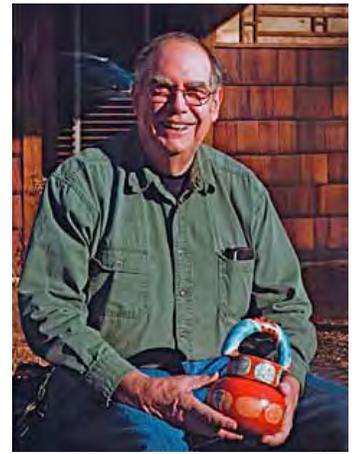
In 1984, George founded the Center for Maya Research, now the Boundary End Archaeology Research Center, a non-profit organization promoting research into the archaeology of ancient America through conferences and publications, including the famous *Research Reports on Ancient Maya Writing* and *Ancient America*. As Editor-in-Chief of these journals, George

From the National Geographic website

Published on June 12, 2014, at: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com>

George Stuart participated in many of the most important investigations of Mesoamerican sites as staff archaeologist at the National Geographic Society, and brought the discoveries to a global readership as a senior editor at the magazine.

In the course of a nearly 40-year career at the *Geographic*, as well as after retirement, Stuart helped shape the field of Maya studies; his contributions included work on the sites of Coba, Dzibilchaltun, Balankanche Cave, and others. He also served as vice president for research and exploration, overseeing



Nice photo

of George holding the famous cacao vessel from Rio Azul. Taken at the University of North Carolina by Paul Jackson. Posted on mesoweb.com and at: <http://news.unca.edu>

had profoundly shaped the field of Maya studies.

To give but one example, George's guide to the style and content of the *Research Reports* still serves as a guideline for the transcription of Maya hieroglyphs followed by most scholars today. George also introduced thousands of amateurs and enthusiasts to the Maya through dozens of popular books and articles, including *The Mysterious Maya* and *Lost Kingdoms of the Maya* (with his late former wife, Gene Stuart) and *Palenque: Eternal City of the Maya* (with his son, David Stuart). 🏠



George Stuart stands on the Maya Acropolis in Copan, Honduras. Photo by Kenneth Garret, National Geographic Creative.

millions of dollars in research grants every year.

"George was a cheerleader for Maya studies and a champion of supporting Maya research," said Jeremy Sabloff, president of the Santa Fe Institute and a past president of the Society for American Archaeology. Stuart's books as well as articles

continued on page 4



In Memoriam George Edwin Stuart III

From the National Geographic

website Published on June 12, 2014,
at: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com>

continued from page 3

in *National Geographic*, introduced that world to a broad audience.

When he was 11 years old, Stuart walked by an antique store in his hometown, Camden, SC, and saw a framed collection of arrowheads in the window. They weren't for sale, but the owner, Norman Fohl, took Stuart to a field and showed him how to discover his own.

"I found six arrowheads, and that was it," he later recalled. Stuart worked on his first dig – the excavation of a Native American mound in Camden – when he was 17. He'd gotten the job, he said, because he'd convinced the researchers he could draw skeletons.

In college, he started work at the Etowah Indian burial mound excavations in Georgia the week diggers unearthed marble human effigies dating to 800 to 1400 CE.



Stuart, a pioneer in the field of Maya studies, explores the archaeologist's tunnels in Copan. ©Kenneth Garret, National Geographic Creative.

"It was the first thing I got into that stunned me with the nature of discovery," he said. "I had just been a sort of teenage looter and pot hunter, continually being berated by teachers and even beaten for skipping classes and going to dig in the mountains near the house."

George was a raconteur in the Southern tradition; his stories would unfurl like a honeysuckle vine. He was thrown out of Egypt and declared persona non grata on suspicion of being a spy. While flying to a Maya tomb in Guatemala, his helicopter ran out of fuel and



Dressed for a reception... posing for the auto-shutter, in a hotel room... 2007. I think it might be Washington, on the occasion of the Library of Congress Kislak collection opening. Note the glistening Orden del Pop insignia in G's lapel – a coveted award from Guatemala for contributions to archaeology. That was as formally dressed as George could manage to be... black turtleneck, black pants, and a dark blue blazer! Posted by Melinda to George's facebook page.

crashed in the jungle. He submitted expense accounts for black candles and sacrificial chickens. Once, he put the cost of clearing a helicopter landing pad on his credit card. 🏠

In addition to his long-standing association with the National Geographic Society, Dr. Stuart was President and Founder of Boundary End Archaeology Research Center, Barnardsville, NC, a center dedicated to Maya and Ancient America Research. The study facility located in the Western North Carolina mountains includes The Center For Maya Research and The Center For Ancient American Studies. Check their website to make contributions.

The Boundary End Archaeology Research Center

The Boundary End Archaeology Research Center (BEARC) is located 25 miles (by highway) northeast of Asheville, North Carolina. The name derives from its situation adjacent to the "Coleman Boundary" portion of the Pisgah National Forest.

Boundary End had been the residence for George and Melinda Stuart since 1994. The house, a local version of a 1930 Sears Roebuck bungalow, has been fully restored, as has the mid-19th-century log cabin, which now serves as an extra bedroom and occasional guest house.

The research center occupies two separate buildings – the Library, a converted horse barn, and the Library Annex, a combination conference room, workshop and book storage and sorting area.

BEARC provides a

unique facility for research on most topics related to Native American art, culture and writing systems. Its location in the

very heart of a region where a large number of environmental, cultural and conservation issues are present also makes the center a prime place for small-scale retreats and scholarly meetings on a variety of topics that include botany, conservation biology, forestry and geology. It is also one of the most beautiful spots on our planet.

Check out the BEARC website at: www.precolumbia.org/bearc/about.html

George was quite a bibliophile. From very modest beginnings decades ago, what has come to be known as the Stuart Collection



George is at one among the standing stones in his megalith circle... thank you, Amy White. Posted by Melinda to George's Caring Bridge page.

numbers nearly 13,000 items. Since the end of 2006, the Stuarts began donating the printed, manuscript, photographic and other relevant materials that were in the BEARC Library to the North Carolina University Library in Chapel Hill.

Get the full story and learn more of the valuable contents of the Stuart Collection at: www2.lib.unc.edu/rbc/Mayaexhibit/collection.html 🏠

continued on page 6



An Early Puuc Building with a Rare Broken Molding in Tunkuyi, Campeche

by Stephan Merk

The small Maya Puuc site of Tunkuyi was discovered by locals from the hacienda town of San Antonio Yaxché in the northern part of the Mexican state of Campeche in the late 1950s. In 1976, Eric von Euw, then with the Peabody Museum, Harvard University, visited the ruins after he received notice of someone's attempt to remove two carved doorway-columns from the site.

He reported that one of the columns was "looted in February, 1976, a few hours before it was to be rescued. (It is) now in Merida, in (a) private collection" (written communication with Karl Herbert Mayer, 1976).

The other carved column and two associated limestone capitals with hieroglyphic inscriptions were kept safe by INAH. They are exhibited in the Museum Baluarte de la Soledad in Campeche (Mayer 1984, 1987 and 1995). In 1985, INAH archaeologists Antonio Benavides, Florentino García and Renée Lorelei Zapata Peraza inspected Tunkuyi, but they did not report seeing any still-standing buildings there (Florentino García, written communication with Karl Herbert Mayer, 2013).

It is likely that the modern name of the ruins, Tunkuyi, derives from the above mentioned columns, each showing a Maya noble in dancing position, given that *tun* in Yucatek Maya means "stone" and *kuyi* – according to my local informants – is the "heel".

This "heel made of stone", in my opinion, is a reference to the dancers on the columns. David Bolles (written communication with Karl Herbert Mayer, 2013) proposes the name could also stem from *Ton cuy li*, meaning "hawk's talon".

Until recently, it was assumed that there was no other standing Puuc architecture at Tunkuyi. However, in February 2014, local people from the ejido San Antonio Yaxché started to prepare a new milpa to the north of the previous known parts of the ruins.

By clearing the dense vegetation from a terrace at the foot of a chain of hills, they discovered a partial-standing Early Puuc building, here designated as Tunkuyi, Structure I (**Fig. 1**).

On March 10, 2014, a **mexicon** team, consisting of Karl Herbert Mayer and Stephan Merk, accompanied



Fig. 1: The outer façade of the central room of Structure I, with the double-broken molding in Tunkuyi (2014). **A** = Single verticle stone in surviving molding.

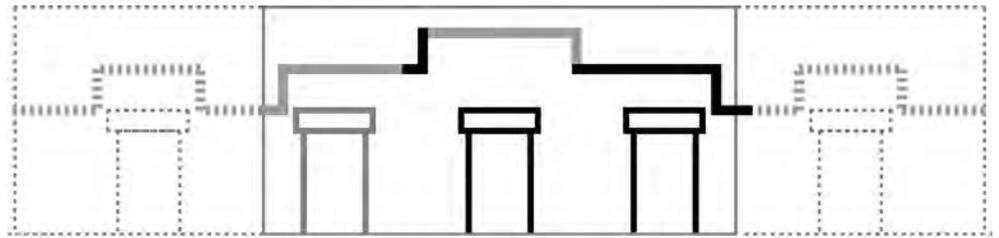


Fig. 2: Reconstruction drawing of the structure with the double-broken molding in Tunkuyi.

by (IMS members) Eduardo González Arce, Lee Jones, and Steve Mellard, reached this structure and took photos and measurements (**Fig. 2**).

The wide terrace on which the structure is situated, rises about ten meters above ground level and leans against a high hill to the east. The former three-room building on top of the terrace has a north-south axis and faces west, onto a large *mecanizado*.

This zone in ancient times was an important spacious plain area where the Maya grew corn and other crops. What we see of Structure I today is the major front part of its central room, with two of its three doorways. The northern entrance of this chamber, both side rooms in the north and the south, as well as almost all vaults and parts of the back wall have fallen down.

An unusual feature is what I refer to as the "double-broken medial molding" on the building's main façade (**Fig. 1**). I don't know of any other similar molding. In an article (1985) and in an updated version for one of his books (1995: 133-160) George F. Andrews described the broken molding as a special Puuc architectural detail, "in which the medial molding breaks up over the

doorway(s) below." According to him, it is strictly limited to the Early Puuc styles, with only two exceptions.

Prominent examples of buildings with broken medial moldings would be Structure I in Sabacche, the Building with Hieroglyphic Inscriptions in Huntichmul I, the South Wing of Structure I in Labna, and Kabah's Structure IA5, to name just a few (**Fig. 3**, page 6).

Andrews listed 22 buildings with broken moldings; none of them has a double-broken medial molding, that is, the molding not only breaks up over the doorway(s), but also rises one more time exclusively over the central entrance of a room with multiple doors.

In Tunkuyi, Structure I, this pattern is clearly recognizable for the middle room, although wide parts of the molding have fallen down; however we have so far no proof as to how this feature looked on the now-fallen southern and northern side rooms.

The single stone set vertically at the top left of the double-broken molding remaining in Structure I (see **A** in **Fig. 1**), disrupts the otherwise plain front façade, which was made

continued on page 6



In Memoriam George Edwin Stuart III

continued from page 4

“Sadly, one of the greatest Mayanists has passed on to the otherworld. The fact that I could call George a friend was something



George and Melinda Stuart enjoying the gardens around the entrance to Balankanche Cave (2013). Posted by Melinda to George’s facebook page.

I always found remarkable and an absolute thrill, given that he was my childhood idol.

“I can still quote many a passage from *“The Mysterious Maya”* and when I get back to Tikal in a few weeks, I will definitely remember the haunting words George wrote in that book, nearly forty years ago. I quote George:

“There are many ghosts here – this morning, all of them seem to be wandering about.” Every time I visit Tikal those words of George run through my head, and I know that those ghosts will seem a lot closer and a lot more familiar the next time I’m there. Godspeed, George Stuart.”

Stanley Paul Guenter



Left: George and his son David Stuart, 1975, Cuba. Right: George and Dave a few years back, Austin. Both photos posted by Melinda to George’s Caring Bridge page.



For those wishing to honor George’s memory with a contribution to Boundary End Archaeology Institute, a Paypal link is provided at: www.precolumbia.org/bearc/index.html. (All major credit cards are accepted; a Paypal account is not required. Simply fill in the amount of your contribution during the secure checkout process.)

Alternatively, checks endorsed to “Boundary End Archaeology Research Center” may be mailed to:
Boundary End Archaeology Research Center • Post Office Box 220 • Barnardsville, NC 28709

Please visit the Caring Bridge website and post your thoughts and comments. See more than 60 intimate and historic photos of George posted by Melinda Stuart, at: www.caringbridge.org/visit/georgestuart

An Early Puuc Building with a Rare Broken Molding in Tunkuyi, Campeche

by Stephan Merk *continued from page 4*

out of irregularly laid well-cut stones that explicitly vary in size.

This wall had a now mainly-vanished stucco coat, and was most likely painted in bright colors. Each doorjamb of the two remaining entrances is formed by three rows of various vertically laid and well-cut stones and is topped by a monolithic stone lintel.

Inside the central room measures approximately 720 cm long by 280 cm wide. The length of the fallen side rooms was roughly estimated as four meters each. A cord holder stone is incorporated in the lower part of the southern lateral wall of the central room; it obviously came from an earlier building and

was reused in its new location as a simple wall stone.

Fig. 3:

A typical broken molding, Kabah, Structure A5 (1995).

Between the two preserved doorways notable in **Fig 1**, page 5, on a level above the lintels, one large façade stone is missing. This opening in the wall is still used now by local people as a shrine to deposit donations to the supernatural, such as candles, feathers, and some small bones.

References

- Andrews, George F.
1985 *Early Puuc Architecture: Buildings with “Broken” Medial Moldings.* Cuadernos de Arquitectura Mesoamericana, No. 5.
1995 *Pyramids and Palaces, Monsters and Masks*, Vol. I. Labyrinthos, Lancaster, CA.



Mayer, Karl Herbert
1984 *Maya Monuments: Sculptures of Unknown Provenance in Middle America.* Verlag Karl-Friedrich von Flemming, Berlin.

1987 *Maya Monuments: Sculptures of Unknown Provenance, Supplement 1.* Verlag von Flemming, Berlin.

1995 *Maya Monuments: Sculptures of Unknown Provenance, Supplement 4.* Academic Publishers, Graz.

Text, reconstruction drawing and photographs by Stephan Merk.

Institute of Maya Studies Line-up of Presentations!

July 9, 2014: Ancient Maya Cities Series Presentation:

Ancient Maya Cities with Mural Paintings
with **Dr. Anne Stewart**

Many ancient Maya cities had murals. Just how did they paint them, what was the basis of the pigments, and what was the subject matter that was presented? We will be looking not only at the well-documented surviving murals at sites such as Bonampak and San Bartolo, but also



examples encountered at lesser-known sites, as well as some murals that were recorded by early archaeologists that no longer exist.

This ancient mural portrays ordinary Maya citizens preparing for a festive celebration at Calakmul, Mexico. Photo courtesy of Carrasco Vargas / PNAS.



Project illustrator Heather Hurst studies murals encountered by archaeologist William Saturno at Xultun, a site located in the Peten of Guatemala, near Tikal. Photo by Tyrone Turner ©2012 NGO.

July 16: A National Geographic Film



Deep in the jungles of Guatemala, archaeologists are uncovering astounding evidence of an early Maya civilization – one that was flourishing before the time of Christ. Clues to a lost dynasty of kings, a breathtaking mural, a monumental mask, what may be the biggest pyramid ever built... these discoveries are pushing back the clock by more than two millennia, revealing the origins of Maya civilization.



King (impersonating Hunahpu, one of the Hero Twins) involved in a sacred ritual. Fragment of west mural, San Bartolo.

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

New Membership and Renewal Application

Name: _____
Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____
E-mail: _____
Phone: _____

- New Renewal
- Benefactor: \$350
- Patron: \$150
- 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!*

Institute of Maya Studies

The Institute of Maya Studies is totally member-supported! If you are not a member, please take a moment and join us. Membership brings benefits and helps the IMS offer educational programs to the public. If you are already a member, please encourage your friends to join. If you need any assistance, call our Maya Hotline at: 305-279-8110

The IMS has gone Green! Join today

You can also become a member by using PayPal and the on-line application form on our website at: <http://instituteofmayastudies.org>

Members: Be sure to get your password by contacting our Webmaster at: keith@merwin.com

Mail payment to: The Institute of Maya Studies, Inc. • Attn: Membership • 3280 South Miami Avenue • Miami, FL • 33129

The Institute of Maya Studies is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Membership dues and contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by the I.R.S.



A recent article published in the July 2014 issue of *National Geographic* magazine features two good friends of the IMS, Christa Schieber and Miguel Orrego, site directors in charge of excavations and research at the ancient “Pre-Maya” site of Tak'alik Ab'aj on the Pacific Coast of Guatemala:



The King's Maidens

Six ceramic figurines were a puzzle when they came to light in a royal Maya tomb at Tak'alik Ab'aj in 2012. Now archaeologist Christa Schieber de Lavarreda and her team believe they have worked out the complete symbolism.

“They’re like marionettes in a theater,” she says. “In about 500 BCE, one role was to accompany the king to the underworld.

“But they also played other parts. Four stood at the cardinal points, the corners of the Maya universe. Two others, positioned east and west, likely represented the daily cycle of the rising and setting sun. That symbol of constant rebirth may allude to the staple crop of corn sprouting anew every year – a nod to

the king’s own mythical role as the corn god.” All figurines are female, each slightly different from the others. The heights range from 11 to 16 inches.

Source: This article appears in the “Next” section of the July 2014 issue of *National Geographic* magazine. It does not appear in their online coverage of featured articles in the issue. For the latest articles published of research and current archaeological investigations sponsored by NatGeo, bookmark their website at: www.nationalgeographic.com

Shaman Petroglyphs Recorded in Veracruz

A set of petroglyphs including one which depicts a priest or “wise man” has been recorded by the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH).

These pecked stone images were found on the slopes of Cerro del Bonnet in the state of Veracruz. Thought to be about 500 years old, they contribute to increasing knowledge of the of the Huasteca Veracruzana.

Source: INAH, from an article released 4/24/2013 at: www.pasthorizonspr.com. Submitted by Scott Allen.



Dancing figure, (left) with a circular earplug wearing a long flapping loincloth. Shaman figure (right) surrounded by symbols related to the divination and astronomy. Images: Maria Eugenia Maldonado/INAH.

Upcoming Events at the IMS:

July 9 • 8 pm: *Ancient Maya Cities Series: Ancient Maya Cities with Mural Paintings* – Beyond the well-known murals of Bonampak and San Bartolo, **Dr. Anne Stewart** reports on many other murals at lesser-known sites.

July 16 • 8 pm: *National Geographic Film: Dawn of the Maya* – This beautiful film explores how the Preclassic Maya lived and ruled before 200 CE.

August 13 • 8 pm: *Ancient Maya Cities Series: Tulum and Coastal Cities* – A look at mostly Postclassic Coastal Maya cities reveals much more than expected. Let’s dig in and try to find some hidden gems, with **Ray Stewart**.

August 20 • 8 pm: *IMS Presentation: Centipedes in the Art and Iconography of the Ancient Maya* – A personal account of 1-1/2 years of research into why centipedes appear so prominently and were so important to the ancient Maya, with IMS Explorer newsletter editor **Jim Reed**.

Upcoming Events and Announcements:

September 20: *PCSWDC Symposium Land Without Borders: Cultural Interaction Between the Pre-Hispanic Southwest and Mesoamerica* – Theme of the Symposium of The Pre-Columbian Society of Washington, D.C. This symposium will re-examine the relationship between the culture areas of the Southwest and Mesoamerica, with their acknowledged differences and many important similarities. For details and registration information, see the Pre-Columbian Society website at www.pcswdc.org

September 25-28: *M@TP Conference 8th Annual Maya at the Playa Conference* – For eight years, it has been our honor and privilege to host some of the world’s leading minds in the field of Maya studies as well as some of the greatest students, enthusiasts, and supporters of the science. Dr. Peter Mathews will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award. Presenters include

Elaine Schele, David Schele, Francisco Estrada-Belli, Marc Zender, Marcello Canuto and IMS’s own Keith Merwin and artist Steve Radzi. To be held in Flagler Beach, FL. Get more info at: www.mayaattheplaya.com

October 24-26: *Meso Conference 5th Annual South-Central Conference on Mesoamerica* – Sponsored by The Middle American Research Institute, hosted by Tulane University, organized by Marc Zender, Marcello Canuto and Tatsuya Murakami. John Watanabe, an Associate Professor of Anthropology at Dartmouth, will be the keynote speaker. Free and open to the public. More info at: www.southcentralmeso.org

Editor’s Tip: *Online all the time Visit the IMS facebook page under the group Institute of Maya Studies* – Join in the fun!



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