

November 19, 2014 • Maya Ceremonial Era Long Count: 0.0.1.16.18 • 13 'Etz'nab 11 Keh • G5

Inside this issue:

Part I: Recounting the Story of the IMS Stelae, by Keith Merwin 2,3

Flor de Muerto Also for the Living: Marigolds in the Maya Diet, by Nicholas Hellmuth, *cont. from pg. 1* 3

Precolumbian Archaeological Boom Underway in Costa Rica 4

The Lamanai Archaeological Project Has a New Website and They're Looking for Friends; Lubaantun Correction 5

Escuela Caracol: A Different Kind of School on the Shores of Lake Atitlan 6

November IMS Programs; Membership Application 7

Recreating an Ancient Beer of Mesoamerica; Upcoming Events 8

Flor de Muerto Also for the Living: Marigolds in Maya Diet

by Dr. Nicholas Hellmuth

If you go to any village in Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, or El Salvador and ask about how they use marigold flowers, most local people will say these flowers are ONLY for decorating burial sites (and primarily on November 2nd).

If you are a caballero and wish to give flowers to a pretty woman in Central America, if you offer a gorgeous marigold flower, the girl will be extremely irritated. "These are only for Day of the Dead, I do not want to see or touch this flower from you."

Yet for thousands of years several species of marigold flowers were significant items in the diet of the Maya,

Rare purple Flor de Muerto (Tagetes sp.) in the garden at the FLAAR office in Guatemala City. Photo by Nicholas Hellmuth.



and Aztec, and most of the other people of Prehispanic Mesoamerica.

Since Day of the Dead is in early November, now is a good time of year to learn about "the flower of death." This was really a flower of the daily kitchen; eaten, consumed, and used in many aspects of daily life by the local people (before the arrival of the Spanish).

First part of learning about flowers, fruits, vegetables, or plants in Latin America is that local nomenclature varies from imprecise to contradictory. Every area of Mesoamerica may have a different name for each flower. And even within Guatemala, a single plant may have a different name in each departamento.

If you assume that by using the scientific botanical name you can escape the mishmash of local Spanish you quickly find that scholars change plant names with remarkable frequency. So one group of botanists will call a plant *Scientificas scholasticas* and at a nearby university the other botanists call the identical plant *Differentias nominias*. And other botanists will then tell you that both plant names are merely synonyms of each other and that both plants are really just one species.

But the two plants may look totally different in size, shape and color! (if they



Graveyard decorated with marigolds for Day of the Dead. Marigolds are also fashioned into elaborate arches for display on altars and graves. In some villages, people leave a trail of marigolds from their front door to their loved one's grave, so that the deceased may easily find their way back home again. The attractive scent of the marigold is said to draw them back to earth for the yearly Day of the Dead reunion.

Courtesy of National Geographic.

IMS Presentation: November 19, 8 pm



Stela 24 from Naranjo

The IMS Stelae with Keith Merwin

are varieties, not really different species). So, be prepared for mumbo jumbo at all levels.

This report is about those marigold flowers that are also called Flor de Muerto (*Tagetes patula*).

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**

Part I: Recounting the Story of the IMS Stelae

by **Keith Merwin**, IMS Webmaster

The Institute of Maya Studies (IMS) was first proposed by Charles Lacombe and founded on September 29, 1971, by a small group including Lacombe, Hal and Alberta Ball, Lewis Dorn, John Harrison, Allan Kaplan, his wife Elaine Marquis, Timothy Sullivan and Albert Weintraub. By November 1971, membership had reached 26 and plans were underway for a museum exhibit, sponsorship of an excavation, lectures and publications.

Initially, the official name of the IMS was “the Institute of Maya Studies of the Museum of Science,” when the members formed a non-profit corporation on April 21, 1972. In one of its early brochures the IMS stated, among its goals, “Maintaining liaison with governments of Mesoamerica, Museums, Universities and organizations with interest in the Precolumbian field.”

From mid-January through February 16 of 1972, the IMS sponsored a photographic exhibit in the lobby of the Miami Museum of Science (Museum). Titled “A Photographic Exhibit of The Maya Area”; it featured 71 photographs dating to the 1950s and forward, taken by Dr. Peter Harrison of Trent University, Ontario, Canada.

Just a short time later, in March 1972, the IMS and the Museum agreed to co-sponsor the Monte Alto Project in Guatemala. The project involved the archaeological find of large stone-carved heads with Olmecoid features, found in Guatemala’s Pacific Coast in the area of La Democracia. A reception announcing



L) Machaquila Stela 2 on display in National Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology in Guatemala City. Photo by Rick Slazyk. R) Drawing of Machaquila Stela 2 by Ian Graham for the Corpus of Maya Hieroglyphic Inscriptions Program of the Peabody Museum.

the sponsorship was held in Gallery A of the Museum on March 23, 1972.

Albert Weintraub, one of the founding members, served as Master of Ceremonies and Chairman of the Monte Alto Museum Committee. Edwin Shook, director of the Monte Alto Project, was named a Research Associate. The government of Guatemala was represented by Alejandro Maldonado Aguirre, Minister of Education, personally sent by Guatemala’s President Carlos Arana Osorio, and Luis Luján Muñoz, Director of the Museum of Anthropology and History of Guatemala.

Also in March 1972, the first IMS newsletter was published. There it was reported that members had negotiated the loan of a Maya stela from the Guatemalan government to be exhibited at the Museum.

At the time, Guatemala was trying to recover a looted stela in the possession of a United States art dealer. Ian Graham had contacted the Guatemalan government after identifying the stela up for sale in California as Machaquila No. 2, which he had discovered and documented in 1962. The Guatemalan government and the Museum had reached an agreement that the stela would be exhibited in Miami upon recovery.

The dealings between the IMS, the Museum and the Government of Guatemala regarding the loan of stone monuments from Maya sites would continue for months to come, culminating in the creation of a Maya Plaza in the Museum that would house such monuments for the duration of the loans.



Assembling the fragments of Piedras Negras Stela 3 are Hal Ball (on left), H. Lewis Dorn (center), and Charles Lacombe. From slide by Hal Ball.



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/Subscription List
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

Gerald Wolfson

Public Relations
gerald.wolfson@att.net

Jim Reed

Newsletter Editor
mayaman@bellsouth.net

Nothing would be easy. In the second issue of the IMS newsletter, it was reported that, “Our stela is still in Los Angeles and shipment to the Museum for exhibit will have to await outcome of a court trial to prove ownership by Guatemala. This may take many months, and in the interim, the Guatemalan government has agreed

continued on page 3

Flor de Muerto Also for the Living: Marigolds in Maya Diet

by Dr. Nicholas Hellmuth

continued from page 1

Tagetes species, various marigold names, including Flor de Muerto

In USA and elsewhere, the plant is discussed primarily for its diverse uses unrelated to Precolumbian cultures; yet in Latin America, and in particular in Guatemala, *Tagetes patula* is Flor de Muerto.

The *Tagetes patula* plant produces a yellow dye for coloring textiles.

Many websites mention that natural oil can be produced from this type of marigold, to be included in perfumes.

A thousand years ago several species of *Tagetes* were used in beverages, to flavor tobacco, and as a colorant: today it is almost exclusively a flower to put on top of the burial place of your beloved deceased relatives. Because this flower has so much potential, we would like to “bring it back from the dead” so to speak, and suggest that the flower should be grown, and harvested, and used productively, for more than just on November 1st and November 2nd.

The stem has a deep fragrance; the flower has a slight fragrance;



Above: Of many pretty marigold flowers, *Tagetes lucida* is used as flavoring for cacao and as a colorant (Lutein) and as medicine. Other marigold species may have other uses. Photo by Nicholas Hellmuth. Right: The cultivation of Flor de Muerto plays a major role in the cultural traditions of Mexico. Outside the town of Nelaticán, in the state of Puebla, they harvest the marigolds in late October. Photo: EFE / Ulises Ruiz.

it is definitely the leaves which have the most delightful fragrance. For the flower and stem you need to crush the plant part between your fingers. The leaves impart an immediate pleasant scent even before you crush them.

Marigolds are known to any gardener around the world. But I bet not many of them know that the origin of this pretty garden plant is Mexico and Central America. And I bet even fewer gardeners realize that just about every part of the marigold can be eaten (but whoa, be careful, you might not like the after effects of some of the chemicals in the leaves).

Far more than being restricted to decorating burials, in Precolumbian times, various marigolds were:

- used as flavoring for cacao,
- used as flavoring for tobacco,
- used as flavoring for incense,
- used as medicine,
- used as insecticide,
- used to produce yellow or related colors to dye cotton or other materials.

Source: Check out all the FLAAR Reports by Nicholas Hellmuth at www.maya-ethnobotany.org. Nicholas has suggested that I mention that there is a newly released book on all the Maya plants which produce dye colorants by weaving specialist, native-born Olga Reiche of Antigua, Guatemala. Google her name for availability.



Part I: Recounting the Story of the IMS Stelae

by Keith Merwin, IMS Webmaster

continued from page 2

to make a substitute stela available to the Museum. Director Charles Lacombe is in Guatemala City to complete arrangements with the government for this stela”. They also learned that another stela already in the United States was also coming to Miami.

In July of 1972, the third newsletter provided more information about the stela Guatemala would be loaning to the Museum of Science and IMS. “Stela 24 is on its way... This priceless national treasure of Guatemala should arrive at the Museum on extended loan by August 1, as announced at the meeting”.

The first stela to arrive in Miami was Stela 3 from Piedras Negras, and it was in pieces. Stela 3 had been cut apart by

Piedras Negras Stela 3 from PBS Cracking the Maya Code website at www.pbs.org/wgbh/now/ancient/cracking-maya-code.html

looters in the late 1950s or early 1960s. In 1964, the Brooklyn Museum purchased eleven of these pieces from a dealer for \$3,000.00. They went on display in 1965 and were identified in 1966. The Guatemalan government requested their return, but the Brooklyn Museum did not do so until 1972. So, on the last day of August 1972, a Brinks armored truck delivered the fragments of Piedras Negras Stela 3, now valued at \$120,000, to the Miami Museum.

Gabriel J. Cordovez of the Guatemalan Consulate, the Museum Director and IMS Board members Lewis Dorn and Charles Lacombe, were on hand to supervise the delivery and unloading.

Part II continues in the December *IMS Explorer* (Issue 12, Volume 43).

Keith will present his program titled “The IMS Stelae” on November 19.

See program announcement on page 7.



Left: There are around 300 stone spheres in Costa Rica, and over 10% of them lie on this 10-acre property. The Stone Spheres of the Finca 6 Archaeological Site were discovered during the agricultural boom of the 1930s, when the United Fruit Company cleared this jungle land to make way for banana plantations. Center: "Tourists can visit the Gold Museum and the Jade Museum in San Jose. But they're meaningless scientifically, like a bank vault or a jewelry store. Every item in them comes from looting," said Michael Snarskis, PhD. "Only the National Museum has an active research program with didactic exhibitions based on its own scientific excavations." Right: El Guayabo de Turrialba contains a wide array of stone paved streets, round platforms which were the base for wooden structures, aqueducts, ponds, and numerous carved stone designs.

Precolumbian Archaeological Boom Underway in Costa Rica

Dr. Anne Stewart presents her program at the IMS Nov. 12. See pg. 7.

The recent grand opening of the Park and Museum of the Stone Spheres and the extensive recovery and curation work of the Guayabo National Monument are the two most significant events that represent the current boom in archaeological and anthropological research in Costa Rica.

One of the highlights of the administration of President Laura Chinchilla has been her insistence that government agencies must work with each other and cooperate with non-governmental organizations for the benefit of the nation. This collaborative philosophy has certainly benefited the archaeological record of Costa Rica.

In 2014, the Park and Museum of the Stone Spheres in the southern canton of Osa has been deemed a great success in terms of awakening interest in cultural tourism and it is

Diquís Statue on display in the Stone Spheres Park Museum.



firmly in the running to become one of UNESCO's World Heritage sites. Also in 2014, archaeologists and restoration experts at the Guayabo National Monument, province of Cartago, are reporting on the considerable progress they have made in unearthing and cleaning up several structures at this important Precolumbian citadel.

The accomplishments made over the last 12 months have resulted in the reconstruction of an area of about 1,925 square meters, which archaeologists believe now looks as it did circa the years 500 to 1350 CE.

The ongoing restoration at Guayabo is a joint effort undertaken by the University of Costa Rica and the National System of Conservation Areas (Spanish acronym: SINAC).

During the excavation, archaeologists dug up more than 60,000 fragments of stone and ceramic materials. In total, the archaeological restoration team at Guayabo rescued and reconstructed a walled stone path about 25 meters long as well as



A restoration project funded by Costa Rica's National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC) rebuilt various structures within the central plaza area of El Guayabo, located in Turrialba, Cartago, Costa Rica. Credit: La Nación.



One of the aqueducts leads to and from this pool in the central plaza. It reminds the editor of the pool we recently saw restored at Palenque.

two promontories that were part of a public assembly area. This path, known as Caragra, served one of the main gates of the ancient settlement. SINAC is committed to continue restoration efforts in Guayabo, which will include modern drainage systems to protect the structures and an overhaul of the existing visitor paths so that all structures can be fully appreciated. 🏛️



Excavation of a multiple burial (dated to around 1200 CE) at the Nacascolo site, on the north side of Culebra Bay.



Photo courtesy of Henry Wallace.

Sources: From Posted by Jaime López on April 10, 2014, in the Costa Rica News at: <http://news.co.cr>. Submitted by Scott Allen.



Lamanai's Temple of the Masks, Structure N9-56, is the featured photo in the website's masthead.

The Lamanai Archaeological Project has a New Website and They're Looking for Friends

Located in the north of Belize, in Orange Walk District, Lamanai was occupied as early as the 16th century BCE. The site became a prominent center in the Preclassic Period, from the 4th century BCE through the 1st century CE. In 625 CE, Stela 9 was erected there in the Yucatek language of the Maya. Lamanai continued to be occupied up to the 17th century CE.

Archaeological excavations at the site began in 1974 under David M. Pendergast of the Royal Ontario Museum, which continued through 1988. Further excavations and restoration work is being conducted as of 2004. A team from the nearby villages of Indian Church and San Carlos help with the excavations.

The current project is co-directed by Dr. Elizabeth Graham (Institute of Archaeology, University College London) and Dr. Scott Simmons (University of North Carolina at Wilmington). Since 2006 research at the site has been directed mostly towards artifact analysis. Major excavations will resume when funding for more artifact processing, analyses and storage is acquired.



Dr. Elizabeth Graham, the Lamanai PI (Principal Investigator), holds up the boulder core at the elite residential group, Plaza Group N10[3], nicknamed "Ottawa" (July 2014).

Graham currently is focusing her efforts to acquire funds to improve collection and data storage, facilitation of analysis of the Lamanai material culture, and access and exposure to the Lamanai archaeological record by many different publics, which includes researchers, ecotourists, and local adults and children.

Become a *Friend of Lamanai* and help support their archaeological investigations. The cost of one metal storage box is \$20 USD, and they will put your name on it. They are planning their 2015 field season and they'll be reorganizing the Lamanai artifact collection. 100% of your donation goes toward the purchase of storage and building materials.

Visit the Lamanai Archaeological Project website and learn how you can donate, at: www.lamanai.org.uk/index.html. Submitted by Janet Miess. 🏠

Lubaantun Correction:

Editor's note: On page 6 of the August IMS Explorer (Vol. 42, Issue 8), we featured an article titled "Construction at Lubaantun"; partially penned by our IMS Director of Research, Joaquín J. Rodríguez. I did some research about the site in order to make the article fill a whole page and I came across some beautiful 3-D images and videos of Lubaantun created by TMBA Inc. I picked up some texts, images and a photo caption that noted: "The structures of the city are built from stone blocks that were not set with mortar. The blocks were primarily black slate that was common to the area, instead of limestone."

Joaquín has since pointed out that he has tested the stone used



The Lamanai High Temple. Residents from the local village of Indian Church can be seen on the structure from when they took a Cultural Heritage class conducted by Lamanai archaeologists and learned about the ancient Maya site they live near.



New termite-proof steel and aluminum shelves and zinc artifact storage boxes were installed in one room of the Lamanai site bodega in June 2014. They need about 500.



Though some of the text on the TMBA Inc. website may not be scientifically accurate, their videos are excellent. See their 3-D artistry at: www.tmba.tv/3d-animation/city-lubaantun/

by the ancient Maya at Lubaantun and that it is not black slate (a metamorphic rock) but a sedimentary grey calcarenite, a sandstone-like rock composed primarily of calcium carbonate grains (therefore a type of limestone). I regret the error. 🏠

Escuela Caracol: A Different Kind of School on the Shores of Lake Atitlan

Guatemala has the lowest primary-school

completion rate in Central America, less than 1% of girls make it to university, and 80% of the people live in poverty.

What is Escuela Caracol?

Escuela Caracol is an intercultural Waldorf school that was founded in 2007 in San Marcos La Laguna, a Kaqchikel community on the shores of Lake Atitlan, Guatemala.

Escuela Caracol, a center for educational renewal, provides the opportunity for indigenous and non-indigenous children alike to live up to their full creative potential, and honors the riches of the long overlooked Maya cultures.

Founded in 2007 by Joshua and Courtney Wilson in response to an overcrowded local school system with an authoritarian character and residual tones of violence, Escuela Caracol is the first and only Waldorf school in Guatemala. Amidst thousands of years of Maya history, children from Kindergarten through Grade 6 are educated with a pedagogy that sprang from the intention of renewal following World War I.

Waldorf education is a natural fit for this community, based on the fundamental principles: freedom, equality and solidarity. The founder of Waldorf education, Rudolf Steiner, was a social visionary, scientist, teacher, architect and much more. He created an education that allowed for the unfolding of an individual's innate capacities which then formed a free and equitable society representative of the collective consciousness



In early July 2014, a group of high school students from the Emerson Waldorf School located in Chapel Hill, NC, visited the learning center. A group of 17 students came accompanied by three group leaders and volunteered all week, sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm with the whole community of Escuela Caracol.

of the whole community. Creative expression, practical work, the natural environment and social harmony are part of each day at Caracol where there is an honest intention to celebrate and honor traditional customs while recognizing ways to integrate and emerge together as a new culture.

"Humanity will not recover from their mistakes without a global education."

– Rigoberta Menchú
Guatemalan Indigenous Leader
and Nobel Peace Prize winner, 1992

Escuela Caracol is breaking the paradigms of oppression and the natural environment and social harmony are part of each day at Caracol where there is an honest intention to celebrate and honor traditional customs while recognizing ways to integrate and emerge together as a new culture.

The collective voice ('La Voz') of Escuela Caracol's staff, parents and students, are preparing to move forward into the next seven years modeling a center for educational renewal by fully enrolling each class with an equal school-wide proportion of girls to boys, providing teacher training to all teachers, offering professional development opportunities to numerous other Guatemalan educators, and engaging in social-impact initiatives that recognize the needs and challenges of the community as a pulse for regeneration.

Located at the cultural center of the Maya people, "the navel of the world", Escuela Caracol integrates the richness of Maya cultural traditions that have been marginalized for the past 500 years, enlivening curriculum with traditional Mayan languages, folktales, songs, games, handicrafts and cooking.

A new culture is emerging among the indigenous and the non-indigenous, a humanitarian



School must in itself be a community. Waldorf is a living humanitarian education built on values that honor the evolution of this intercultural community of indigenous Maya, non-indigenous and International students: equality, solidarity and freedom.

culture arising from knowledge, understanding, respect an authentic interest in the "other".

With the attempted border crossings exploding in quantity (in 2011 there were 6,500 minors apprehended at U.S. borders and just 3 years later it is estimated to be 90,000). These children need a reason to stay, they need good education, and they need confirmation that opportunity exists for them.

A message from Escuela Caracol



Over 70% of our students are indigenous Maya who need the support of sponsors. You can become a sponsor for as little as one dollar a day. Your gift will help us reach our goals to provide renewal, solidarity and stability!

Make donations online at <http://escuelacaracol.org>, or e-mail info@escuelacaracol.org. The school is a registered 501c3 nonprofit organization. 🌱

November 12, 2014: IMS Explorer Session

Costa Rica and Its Connections to Mesoamerican Archaeology

with **Dr. Anne Stewart**



This ceremonial metate – basically a fancy, special-occasion version of the grinding stones used for everyday cooking – is carved from a single piece of stone.

Costa Rica is not only a land between two oceans, it is also a land between two continents. While it received its metal technology from the south, much of its ceramic motifs as well as jade arrived from the north via migrants from various parts of Mesoamerica. The presentation will also include a visit to the Precolumbian site of El Guayabo de Turrialba. The city, known as a chiefdom, was a key political, economic, and religious center.



A trip to Guayabo National Monument is a trip back in time. At El Guayabo, walk through thousand-year old streets; observe ancient stone-and-wood homes; examine petroglyphs and stone statues; and explore aqueducts that once carried water from nearby streams to on-site storage pools.

November 19: IMS Presentation

The IMS Stelae with **Keith Merwin**, IMS Webmaster



Stela 24 at the dedication ceremony held in Gallery A on January 30, 1974. Cover image from Museum of Science Annual Report 1973-1974.

In March of 1972, the very first IMS newsletter reported that IMS members had negotiated the loan of a Maya stela from the Guatemalan government to “a museum in another country.” This is the story of three stelae from Guatemala that the newly formed Institute of Maya Studies was involved in bringing to the Miami Science Museum. Of the three, two made it to Miami and spent years on exhibit at the now defunct Maya Plaza. The third involved the legendary Ian Graham and the judicial system of the United States. We explore the history behind Stela 3 from Piedras Negras; Stela 24 from Naranjo; and Stela 2 from Machaquila.

Drawing of Naranjo Stela 24 by Ian Graham for the Corpus of Maya Hieroglyphic Inscriptions Program of the Peabody Museum.



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

New Membership and Renewal Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

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>

- 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

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.



Editor's note: This article may be old news but it sure is tasty. Interesting that it was submitted by Keith Merwin!

Recreating an Ancient Beer of Mesoamerica

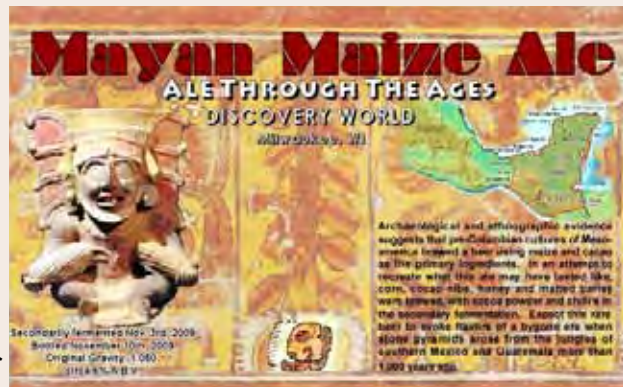
A couple of years ago, at the Discovery World Science and Technology Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, members brewed a Mayan Maize Ale, as part of their adult education series "Ale Through the Ages: The Anthropology and Archaeology of Brewing".

The recipe was inspired by how an alcoholic beverage may have tasted in Central America over 1,000 years ago. Archaeological and ethnographic evidence suggests that Precolumbian cultures of Mesoamerica brewed a fermented alcoholic beverage using corn and cacao as the primary ingredients. Spanish chroniclers described how the Yucatek Maya made a foaming

drink from cacao and maize that was very savory and which they used to celebrate their feasts. DiscoveryWorld's ale of the ages was their attempt to recreate how this drink of ancient Mesoamerica may have tasted like.

The bottling was extremely easy and resulted in sixty 12-oz. bottles. The happy brewers noted the corn and cacao ale had a distinct maize flavor with a delicious chocolate body with a hint of serrano pepper on the end.

There are many modern examples of brewing corn beer throughout the Western Hemisphere. Most often it is called *chicha*, where the traditional method involves



Final alcohol by volume was estimated to be around 5.5%.

the maize being chewed and then spit into a pot or bowl. Natural enzymes in the mouth aid in converting the starch in the corn into fermentable sugars. This mash is then boiled and left to naturally ferment. While the Discovery World brewers did not spit in their Mayan Maize Ale, a small batch of authentic *chicha* was made following the traditional method. ▲

Source: <http://distantmirror.wordpress.com>

Upcoming Events at the IMS:

November 12 • 8 pm: *IMS Explorer Session: Costa Rica and Its Connections to Mesoamerican Archaeology* – Costa Rica is not only a land between two oceans, it is a land between two continents, with **Dr. Anne Stewart**. This presentation will also include the highlights of a visit to the Precolumbian site of El Guayabo de Turrialba.

November 19 • 8 pm: *IMS Presentation: The IMS Stelae* – IMS webmaster **Keith Merwin** shares the story of three ancient Maya stelae brought to the U.S., with two ending up in Miami!

December 10, 8 pm: *IMS Annual Affair IMS Annual Business Meeting and Anniversary Get-Together* – Join with us as we celebrate 44 years together! We're planning food, fun and fellowship. We mix a short business meeting with a few annual committee reports and add in a little bit of celebrating. Donate a book; buy a book. It's free for all members, please attend!

Upcoming Events and Announcements:

November 12: *Museum Exhibit The World of Style: Ancient Maya Ceramics and Power* – Exploring the myriad roles played by ceramic creations throughout ancient Mesoamerica, with Dr. Dorie Reents-Budet. At the Gardiner Museum, Toronto, Canada. See www.gardinermuseum.com

January 13–17, 2015: *UT Maya Meetings Body and Sacrifice: New Interpretations of Ancient Maya Art, Ritual and Performance* – Theme of the 2015 Maya Meetings at The University of Texas at Austin. Registration is now open, go to: www.utmesoamerica.org/maya/registration

Through February 2015: *Museum Exhibit The Aztecs* – Experience the power, the glory and the guts of the Aztec empire in this major exhibition of artifacts from ancient Mexico, at the Australian Museum, Sydney, Australia. Exhibit and nighttime talks schedule at: <http://australianmuseum.net.au/landing/aztecs/>

March 19–22, 2015: *Tulane Symposium Royal Chambers Unsealed: Tombs of the Classic Maya* – Theme of the 12th Annual Tulane Maya Symposium in New Orleans, LA. The keynote speaker will be William A. Fash. Presenters include Ricardo Agurcia F., Jaime Awe, David Freidel and Marc Zender. Info at: <http://mari.tulane.edu/TMS/>

Through May 3, 2015: *Museum Exhibit Mochica Kings: Divinity and Power in Ancient Peru* – Peru has lent a treasure trove of Moche artifacts for this exhibit at the Ethnography Museum of Geneva, Switzerland. Get more info at: www.ville-ge.ch/meg/exposition.php

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 at: <http://bit.ly/1aKJzE>



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