



September 16, 2015 • Maya Ceremonial Era Long Count: 0.0.2.13.19 • 2 Kawak 7 Ch'en • G9

*“The exposé on illegal jade mining by the Vice President of Guatemala was a small, but important part, of the unbelievable corruption of the current government. Very brave journalists have been telling the story. CICIG, an International commission to dig into crimes in Guatemala, has been the other key factor in this story. The President, Otto Pérez Molina, wanted to get rid of them, but others said ‘No’. Pérez Molina may soon fall. Same ol’ story folks. Until the people get in the streets... and stay there... there is no change. Hopefully it will unfold as a peaceful change.”* – Georgeann Johnson, President of The Maya Conservancy

## Protests in Guatemala Help Oust Disgraced Government Officials for Illegal Jade Mining

The political order in Guatemala has been upended. The vice president has resigned, and so too have the minister of Energy and Mines and the minister of Environment and Natural Resources. The president is embattled and clinging to his office, attempting to stonewall accusations of corruption.

A watershed moment in this political unraveling occurred on January 25, 2015 when 300 unarmed protesters from the village of El Arco linked arms and peacefully marched up the steep mountain road toward the nature preserve of Sierra de la Minas. For months, the villagers had complained of illegal jade mining there and the resulting desecration of the protected biosphere. Officials had done nothing. This day, the villagers decided to confront those destroying sacred land. And “those” were protected by Guatemala’s own National Civil Police. The protestors knew armed guards awaited them. None knew what would happen next.

The former guerrilla leader Cesar Montes had organized the protest. Montes is now the president of the Turcios Lima Foundation, which states its mission to be the relief of poverty and the achievement of social justice.



*Thousands of Guatemalans protest against corruption and call for the immediate resignation of president Pérez Molina outside the National Palace in Guatemala City on August 27, 2015. Photo: Esteban Biba/EPA.*

The illegal mining infrastructure was illegal in the protected forest and biosphere. So, too, were the six earth moving machines used to scrape away entire mountain faces to access the jadeite underneath. The illegality was flagrant. Guatemala’s law is clear: no excavation is permitted in the biosphere area, no removal of jade – even from private land – is permitted without a license. No sale or export of jade is permitted without a permit and license.

Chinese investors were implicated and documents reveal that jade was being shipped to Taiwan, Hong Kong, and various ports in China. In late May, a public prosecutor and two others involved in exposing the illegal jade mining were assassinated.

The request to remove the president’s immunity from prosecution

Volume 44  
Issue 9  
September 2015  
ISSN: 1524-9387



### Inside this issue:

- The Wacky World of Maya Glyphs, by J&P Voelkel 2
- Exploring Palenque and Chichen Itza in the Archives of Louis Capitan 3,6
- Maya Sites in the Southern Belize Region, with Geoffrey E. Braswell 4,5
- The Pyramid of Kukulcan at Chichen Itza Rests Atop an Underground River 5
- September IMS Programs: Membership Application 7
- Chakanbakán Masks; Upcoming Events 8

### IMS Presentation: September 16, 8 pm



Artistic rendering of Lubaantun

### Southern Belize in the Ancient Maya World

with **Geoffrey E. Braswell**

was approved by the supreme court in late August. Now Pérez Molina is trying to negotiate deals in Latin American embassies for political exile. Guatemalans fear a coup is imminent. 🏹

Source: Condensed from an article by John Christopher Fine, released 7/20/2015 at: <http://2.realnews.com>; and an article released 8/27/2015 by Jo Tuckman at: [www.theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com)



**Jim Reed,**  
Editor

©2015 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 to IMS program videos, photo archives, past issues and more. **Get your password by contacting our Webmaster at: [keith@merwin.com](mailto:keith@merwin.com)**

# The Wacky World of Maya Glyphs

By J&P Voelkel

Every fall, we attend the Maya at the Playa conference in Florida and listen to leading Maya archaeologists share their latest discoveries. Here are some fun things we learned last year:

## Nightmare beasts from the underworld:

Maya art occasionally features strange mutant animals: monkeys with antlers, fire-eating peccaries, skeleton centipedes, tapirs with burning tails, deer with distended eyeballs, evil jaguars on sticks. These nightmare beasts are thought to be spirit monsters (called “way”) from the underworld. Maya rulers would send them to attack their enemies – like a curse. The spirit monsters give their victims deadly diseases and the description of the disease is much the same as the spirit monster that causes it. So just imagine what you’d be feeling if you were attacked by the burning-tail tapir.



*Distended Eye Deer.*

## Toads are made of jade:

In Maya art, toads are often drawn with glyphs on their backs that translate as something like “shiny jade guy”. That’s not just because toads are often green. It’s also because, in the dry season, toads go into a kind of hibernation (known as *estivation* – Ed.). They burrow into the ground and go still and hard. Traditional lore is that they turn to stone – and as a green stone, they are associated with jade. They come back to life when the rains come.



*©Justin Kerr, #1181.*

## Casper, Homer and the Headless Cat:

When archaeologists discover a glyph that hasn’t yet been deciphered, they often give it a nickname based on what they think it looks like. It makes the glyphs easier to remember



and talk about. “Casper” (the glyph on the left above) is the nickname they gave to the name glyph of the first king of Palenque because it looks like a ghost. “Headless Cat” is what they call the glyph on the right. I would love to tell you that the glyph in the middle is called “Homer Simpson” – just look at those lips – but they’ve now figured out that it’s the name of a queen called Lady Wind God Star. In case you’re wondering, those big lips are what the wind god uses to make the wind blow.

## 1300-year-old snakes:

The royal family of the Maya Snake Kingdom (Kan) was one of history’s longest lasting dynasties. They held power for 49 generations – a staggering 1300 years! They survived the collapse of their first great capital city El Mirador, overcame countless wars, built the massive imperial city of Calakmul and created one of the Maya world’s biggest empires. Their eventual defeat by Tikal was the beginning of the Maya’s collapse in the region.



*Kan (Snake Kingdom) emblem glyph.*

## Rabbits can swim on the moon:

If you aren’t already aware, where we see a man in the moon, the ancient Maya saw a rabbit. And since, in the tropics, the moon looks more like a bowl than a crescent or half moon, the Maya thought of it as a vessel that filled and emptied with water as it waxed and waned. So, if the moon rabbit was not



*Rabbit with waterlily ears.*

2015  
IMS Board  
of Directors:



**Rick Slazyk, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP**

President/Membership/Website  
[arcwerks@bellsouth.net](mailto:arcwerks@bellsouth.net)

**Marta Barber**

Executive Vice President/  
Programming  
[info@instituteofmayastudies.org](mailto:info@instituteofmayastudies.org)

**Joaquín J. Rodríguez III, P.E.**

Administrative Vice President/  
Director of Research  
[rod44@comcast.net](mailto:rod44@comcast.net)  
954-786-8084

**Janet Miess, MLS**

Secretary/Library Chair/Website  
[jmiess@gmail.com](mailto:jmiess@gmail.com)

**Ray Stewart**

Treasurer/Subscription List  
[rstu@bellsouth.net](mailto:rstu@bellsouth.net)

**Patricia Manfredi**

[pmanfred2003@yahoo.com](mailto:pmanfred2003@yahoo.com)

**Keith Merwin**

Website Chair • [webmaster@instituteofmayastudies.org](mailto:webmaster@instituteofmayastudies.org)

**Dr. Anne Stewart**

Education Chair

**Beth Wein**

Hospitality • [bethwein@gmail.com](mailto:bethwein@gmail.com)

**Gerald Wolfson**

Public Relations  
[gerald.wolfson@att.net](mailto:gerald.wolfson@att.net)

**Jim Reed**

Newsletter Editor  
[mayaman@bellsouth.net](mailto:mayaman@bellsouth.net)

going to drown in all that water, they figured it would have to be semi-aquatic. And that’s why ancient Maya drawings of rabbits often have the glyph for waterlily on their ears. 🐰

Source: Posted 10/24/2014 by J&P Voelkel on their Middle World Diaries blogspot at: <https://jagclubblog.wordpress.com/2014/10/24/the-wacky-world-of-maya-glyphs>. Submitted by Janet Miess on the IMS Facebook page.

Attend this year’s **9th Annual Maya at the Playa** Conference  
September 17-20 in Flagler County, FL

Details are now posted on their website at: [www.mayaattheplya.com](http://www.mayaattheplya.com)

**E. Wyllys Andrews** will receive the 2015 Maya at the Playa Lifetime Achievement Award.



## Exploring the Archives of Louis Capitan at the Collège de France

As reported in the August 2015, *IMS Explorer*, in May of this year, Dr. Éric Taladoire, Professor of Precolumbian Archaeology at the University of Paris I, gave a lecture at the IMS about the Mesoamerican ballgame. He mentioned an important photographic archive project that he coordinated along with Dr. Jane Walsh of the Smithsonian Institution of Washington for the Collège de France.

Launched in 2013 and known as “Salamander”; the portal provides access to heritage collections and digitized archives of the Collège de France. It offers access to old books, as well as archival documents, images, sounds and texts, from the work of the teachers at the college.

Fifteen digitized collections are already online, but Drs. Taladoire and Walsh focused on the archives of Louis Capitan, who was a professor and lecturer at the Collège de France at the turn of last century. Thanks to Dr. Taladoire, the archive is available and searchable to *IMS Explorer* readers at the following address: <https://salamandre.college-de-france.fr>.



Capitan himself standing inside one of the inner doorways that open onto the main courtyard within the Governor's Palace.

Louis Capitan (1854–192), who taught American antiquities at the Collège de France from 1908 to 1929, left abundant archives: over 2,000 photographs that were used to illustrate his lectures about the

### Capitan's images of Palenque, ca. 1910

*Editor's note: Sorry, but these photo captions are from my interpretation of the French words used in the photo file names. Please excuse any inaccuracy on my part.*



Here, the famous stone tower inside the Governor's Palace. Above, the Palace from a distance.



On the website link, you can discover Capitan's original glass-plate photos and hand-drawn illustrations of archaeological sites at a time when most were barely emerging from the dense vegetation.



Capitan's drawing and glass plate image of the Oval Tablet that was located inside the Governor's Palace. The images depict Lady Sak K'uk', Janaahb K'inich Pakal's mother, offering him a crown on the day he assumed the kingship. Pakal sits on a double-headed jaguar throne.



L) The Temple of the Cross Complex at Palenque features the Temple of the Sun, the Temple of the Cross, and the Temple of the Foliated Cross. The cross is a representation of the World Tree in the center of the world according to Maya cosmology. R) Temple of the Inscriptions.



indigenous cultures of Mexico, the United States, and ancient Peru. During his lifetime, Capitan was interested in prehistory, archaeology

and ethnography, all disciplines that have, since the nineteenth century, taken a new turn. See *Capitan's images of Chichen Izta* on page 6.





Monuments showing rulers known only from iconography: Pusilha Stela C featuring Ruler X6. A line drawing is Figure 10.17 in the chapter. This original artistic rendering is by our good friend and passionate “Maya artist”, Rory Eade.

**Editor’s note:** Geoffrey E. Braswell of the University of California, San Diego will present at the IMS on September 16. The following short article is taken verbatim from Chapter 10 of a book edited by Braswell titled *The Maya and Their Central American Neighbors*. The chapter, titled “The Dynastic History and Archaeology of Pusilha, Belize”, was written by Christian M. Prager, Beniamino Volta, and Geoffrey E. Braswell.

## Maya Sites in the Southern Belize Region

### Southern Belize in the Ancient Maya World: Recent Research at the Classic Sites of Nim li Punit, Lubaantun and Pusilha

The Southern Maya Region was one of the first areas in the southern lowlands to see substantial archaeological investigation during the twentieth century. Five major sites – Pusilha, Uxbenka, Lubaantun, Xnaheb and Nim li Punit – are located in a relatively small inland area circumscribed to the north and west by the foothills of the Maya Mountains, to the east by the infertile soils and thin coniferous forest known locally as “pine ridge,” and to the south by the marshy terrain of the Temash and Sarstoon rivers. Within this small region, the five sites are situated on hilltops surrounded by drainable

slopes and, with one exception, are more or less evenly spaced in a line spanning less than 50 kilometers.

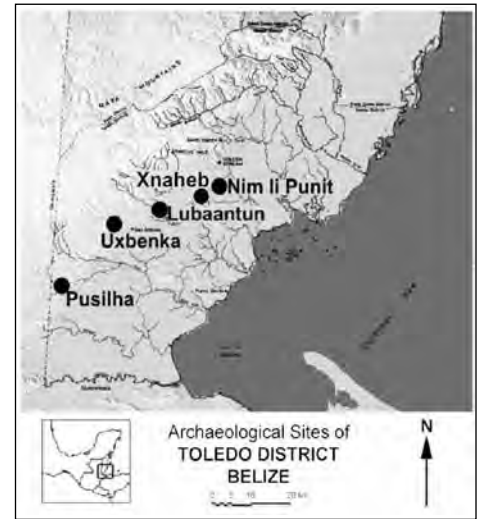
The two largest communities, Lubaantun and Pusilha, are strategically positioned on major rivers connecting them to the Caribbean Sea. A constant water supply and proximity to important coastal trade and salt-producing communities probably accounts for the continued success of Lubaantun well into the Terminal Classic period.

Uxbenka, although located relatively far from a major river, is positioned along a natural land passage running from the southeastern Peten to the Caribbean. This trade route is still important and parallels the newly paved road from the Guatemalan

border at Jalacte to the junction with the Southern Highway. Lubaantun is just 4 km north of this route and has its own direct access to the Caribbean via the Río Grande. In contrast, Xnaheb and Nim li Punit are situated just above the edge of the coastal plain in locations that strategically control north to south travel.

These two sites are just a few hundred meters west of the modern Southern Highway. Thus, the ancient Maya centers of Southern Belize are advantageously positioned in locations that dominate or are connected to important east–west and north–south transportation routes.

Despite the short distances among the major sites of the Southern Belize Region, the rulers of a number of them employed emblem glyphs, implying at least nominal claims of political independence. The emblem glyphs of Nim li Punit and Pusilha are clearly legible, that of Uxbenka is too eroded to read, and the Lubaantun emblem glyph – if that is what it is – employs the head variant of the *k’uhul* glyph as its main sign. The hieroglyphic texts of Xnaheb are eroded, fragmented, and few in number, but it is



possible that an emblem glyph was employed there, as well. A key question in the archaeology of Toledo District is: Did these closely packed sites form the cores of independent polities, or were some of them united in one way or another?

The Southern Belize Region differs from adjacent cultural zones in having distinctive architectural remains, such as terraced platform constructions, ballcourts within walled enclosures, a complete lack of corbelled vaults, and the use of natural terrain to support the façades of “Hollywood-style” pyramid-like structures. There also is a complete lack of astronomical groups or E-groups (we do not consider the Stela Plaza of Nim li Punit to contain such a complex), in great contrast to the adjoining Valley of Dolores Region.

### Construction Techniques

The masonry of the Southern Belize Region is also distinctive, but it ranges from very poor in quality to some of the most beautiful in the Maya region. It is fair to say that no site between Copan, Honduras, and the Río Bec Region, Campeche, exhibits such finely crafted stonework as Lubaantun.

*continued on page 5*



Cutting through the middle of Pusilha is the Machaca River, which in ancient times was crossed by a triple-span bridge. The abutments of the bridge are still visible today and now support a suspension bridge (photo July 2007). The image is Figure 10.4 in the book.





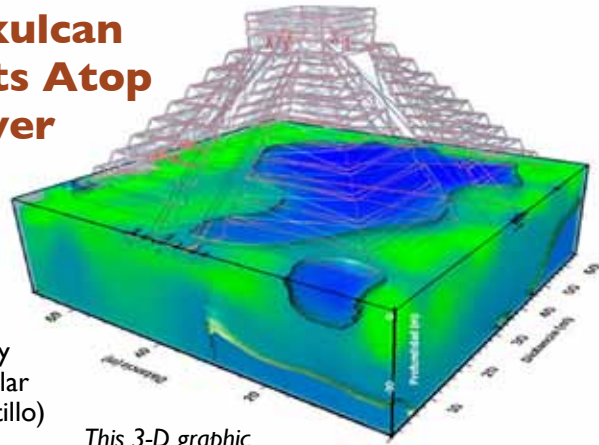
# The Pyramid of Kukulcan at Chichen Itza Rests Atop an Underground River

After making a three-dimensional electrical tomography survey, a team of scientists from Mexico's Institute of Geophysics, the Faculty of Engineering of the UNAM and the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH), made a spectacular find: the pyramid of Kukulcan (El Castillo) in Chichen Itza, is built on top of an underground river chamber that is connected to surrounding cenotes.

Researchers employed an innovative and noninvasive system of electrodes and metal plates called Syscal-Pro, manufactured by Iris Instruments of France. The 3-D graphics generated reveal the existence of an approximate 20-meter-deep body of water that is separated from the base of the pyramid by 4 to 5 meters of solid limestone. The chamber measures 25 meters from north to south, and is 30 to 35 meters in width.

Since only one corner of the structure was built over the water, researchers note that there is no chance the pyramid will collapse anytime soon.

Archaeologist Guillermo de Anda,



This 3-D graphic generated by the research data shows the watery chamber below the pyramid. The two photos show some of the metal plates and 96 electrodes set around the perimeter of the structure. Images courtesy of René Chávez, INAH.



who did not participate in the study, said the discovery was very important. "It may confirm that the ancient Maya included symbolic maps of their cosmology in their temples and sacred sites. The cenotes that surround the pyramid could represent the four cardinal points. The river at the center might represent the center of the Maya's universe, which they thought of as a tree with roots reaching below ground."

In October, the same technique will be used to investigate the possibility that the chamber below Kukulcan is connected to the nearby Cenote Xtoloc and the Tomb of the High Priest that lies under El Osario pyramid.

Also of interest, INAH has reported that recent research at Uxmal indicates an usually high number of medicinal plants growing near the Governor's Palace. The site director of Uxmal said the concentration of such plants was much higher in the sacred area than in surrounding fields, and this may indicate the ancient Maya intentionally planted them there as a sort of medicinal garden. The site has about 150 species used to treat snake bites, stomach infections and fevers. 🏹

Source: Condensed from articles released 8/14/2015 at: [www.theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com) and [www.gaceta.unam.mx](http://www.gaceta.unam.mx). Submitted by Mike Ruggeri to the IMS Facebook page.

## Maya Sites in the Southern Belize Region

continued from page 4

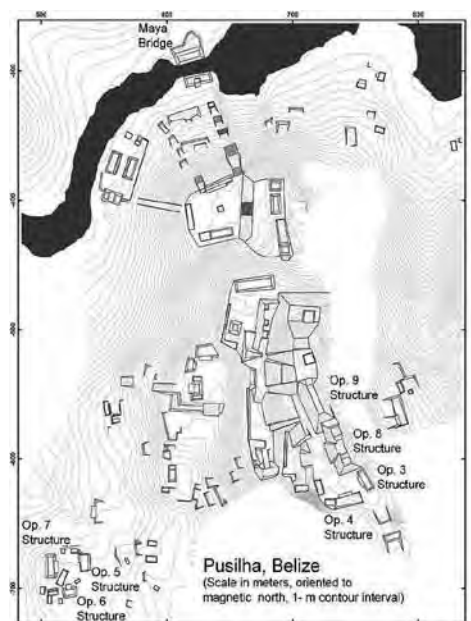
Construction techniques in the region all follow the same general pattern. First, a pen or box was built of cut and dressed stones to a height of about 1.5 meters and packed either with earth or with dry fill.

At Lubaantun, an inner retaining box of cut, but undressed stones, often was built first. Platforms could be built higher by constructing a second body set back a few inches from the first, much like adding a layer to a wedding cake. Next, stairblocks were built. Finally, stairside outsets were added. Almost no platforms supported superstructures with stone walls. The exceptions are miniature shrines with thigh-high walls found at Lubaantun.

Limited plaster mortar and

thin coats of stucco were employed at Lubaantun and Uxbenka; plaster and limestone mortar are rare or absent at Nim li Punit after the Early Classic period. In great contrast, the poorly finished masonry of Pusilha was covered with very thick coats of stucco. Unique to Lubaantun are its two major pyramids that lack stairs that climb to the summit.

Other shared cultural practices include collective tombs, the prevalence among elite burials of fully extended individuals on their backs with heads placed to the north and facing east (the opposite of the pattern seen in the Belize Valley), teeth cached as ancestral relics, a regional style of carving, a degree of literacy surprising for sites in Belize, and rather idiosyncratic hieroglyphic inscriptions employing nonstandard Lunar Series data. (Note: A PDF of the book is available by searching the title online.) 🏹



Attend Geoffrey Braswell's program about sites in the Southern Belize Region on September 16. See his program announcement on page 7.

# Exploring the Archives of Louis Capitan at the Collège de France

continued from page 3 **Capitan's images of Chichen Itza, ca. 1910**



Three views of the Pyramid of Kukulcan (El Castillo) from different angles during the days when the vegetation was being cut back by Maya workers. Capitan loved to include the workers, his friends, or other visitors in his photos of the sites he visited to present a sense of grandeur and perspective.



L) Capitan's drawing of the Sacred Cenote. R) One of the two serpent's heads at the base of Kukulcan.



A view from atop the great ballcourt looking towards the Upper Temple of the Jaguars and Kukulcan.



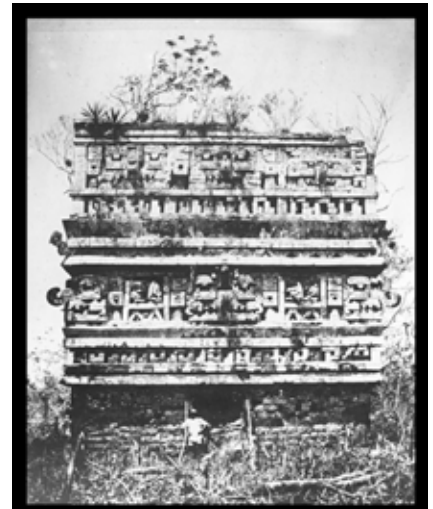
Close-up view of the serpent's heads atop the Upper Temple of the Jaguars.



One of the beautifully-carved doorway panels you see if you climb Kukulcan.



L) One can hardly imagine it, but here is a view of the Caracol observatory after the foliage was removed, before there was any thought about reconstruction. C) View of the façade of the Casa de las Monjas, and R) view of the façade of La Iglesia, both in the Nunnery complex.



Thank you, Dr. Taladoire for creating this valuable archive and sharing the link with our IMS Explorer readers! 🏰



September 9, 2015 • IMS Explorer Session • Gods, Legends and Rituals Series

### Maya Temple Portal Doorways: Masks of the Spirit



Nowhere in Maya architecture is the metaphor more strikingly presented than at the El Divino pyramid, Uxmal.

with IMS President **Rick Slazyk, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP**

“As if to indicate in tangible form the ability of ritual to create that liminal space where man could meet god, the very structures that housed that ritual were themselves embellished with masks. Whether those masks created doorways between the mundane and the sacred, emblazoned the facades of buildings with a symbol of the sacred activity housed within, or marked the sacred pathway up the steps of the pyramid leading to the temple, they served always to signify the presence of the sacred. The architectural masks found throughout Mesoamerica symbolize the underlying cosmological purpose of the structures on which they appear, structures that served to dramatize the cosmogony by constructing on earth a reduced version of the cosmos.”



The Codz Po'op at Kabah displays significant calendrical symbolism, generally in the form of masks.

Text from *Masks of the Spirit: Image and Metaphor in Mesoamerica*, by Roberta H. and Peter T. Markman

### September 16: IMS Feature Presentation

### Southern Belize in the Ancient Maya World: Recent Research at the Classic Sites of Nim li Punit, Lubaantun and Pusilha

with **Geoffrey E. Braswell**,  
of the University of California, San Diego



Geoffrey Braswell received his doctorate from Tulane University in 1996 and is currently Professor of Anthropology at UC San Diego.

The four major Maya sites of Southern Belize – Lubaantun, Nim li Punit, Uxbenka and Pusilha – are often said to form an archaeological region, distinct from other parts of the Classic Maya world but fully integrated with it. Political and economic relations among these sites, as well as with important distant centers such as Copan, Quirigua and Caracol, are the subjects of this presentation. The data to be discussed are drawn from surveys and excavations conducted during the past 15 years throughout the region. The discovery of three tombs – one Early, one Late, and one Terminal Classic in date at Pusilha and Nim li Punit – provide especially important insights into ancient interaction.



A new find, the discovery at Nim li Punit of a large carved jade pectoral with an extensive hieroglyphic text, will be presented for the first time in the United States.

All meetings begin at 8 pm • Institute of Maya Studies • Miami, FL • [www.instituteofmayastudies.org](http://www.instituteofmayastudies.org)

### 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!

**Members: Be sure to get your password by contacting our Webmaster at: [keith@merwin.com](mailto:keith@merwin.com)**

Mail payment to: The Institute of Maya Studies, Inc. • Attn: Membership • P.O. Box 972598, Miami, FL 33197-2598

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.

### 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



## Chakanbakán Masks

Proclaimed as one of the most significant discoveries in the southern region of Quintana Roo in recent years, INAH researchers have confirmed the existence of at least 14 giant masks that adorn the Nohoch Balam pyramid in the main acropolis at Chakanbakán. The site is located within the municipality of Othón P. Blanco, and is about 90 kilometers from Chetumal.

The masks are comparable to the famous masks at Kohunlich. Six of the smaller masks are located towards the top of the pyramid and have been restored. They measure 3 meters wide by 2.6 meters tall, larger than the smaller masks at Kohunlich.

Eight (or possibly more) of the larger masks still need to be excavated. The two larger masks that have been investigated (one shown at top right) measure 10 meters wide by 3.5 meters tall,

again, larger than those at Kohunlich.

INAH first investigated the site in the early 1980s. It was then when archaeologist Fernando Cortés de Bradesfer encountered the first mask. In 1991, looters discovered (and destroyed) a second. In 1995, they excavated six of the smaller masks.

Cortés de Bradesfer remains as the project director, and in recent efforts, they have determined there are at least eight more masks to be unearthed completely. Some of them, like the one featured above, are located under the base level of the existing outer pyramid.

The fill used behind the stucco covering on the masks contains trace elements of ceramic and carbon, and



Researchers note the masks were originally painted red. They are classified as anthrozoomorphic because of the notable jaguar features mixed with human attributes. They also say that the masks exhibit a certain distinct Olmec style or influence.

by analyzing this data, researchers have determined that the site dates back to 600 BCE. Interestingly, the site lies between two lakes, one being the lake the site was named after, and investigators say they have found stelae, some a meter in height, beneath the waters of Laguna Om.

Source: From an article released 7/30/2015 at: [www.periodistasquintanaroo.com](http://www.periodistasquintanaroo.com). Submitted by Janet Miess to the IMS Facebook page. 🏠

## Upcoming Events at the IMS:

September 9 • 8 pm: *IMS Explorer Session*

**Gods, Legends and Ritual Series:**

**Maya Temple Portal Doorways: Masks of the Spirit** – with IMS President **Rick Slazyk**.

September 16 • 8 pm: *IMS Presentation*  
**Southern Belize in the Ancient Maya World: Recent Research at the Classic Sites of Nim li Punit, Lubaantun and Pusilha** – with **Geoffrey E. Braswell**, of the University of California, San Diego. Come and see the recently uncovered jade pectoral from Nim li Punit.

October 14 • 8 pm: *IMS Explorer Session*  
**Gods, Legends and Ritual Series: Day of the Dead: A Celebration Across Two Continents, Two Cultures** – with IMS Executive Vice President **Marta Barber**.

October 21 • 8 pm: *IMS Presentation*  
**Part II: Recounting the Story of the IMS Stelae** – IMS webmaster **Keith Merwin** continues the story of three ancient Maya stelae brought to the U.S., with two ending up in Miami!

## Upcoming Events and Announcements:

September 11: *Maya Society Lecture*  
**Abbreviational Conventions of Classic Maya Writing** – Theme of a Maya Society of Minnesota lecture by Dr. Marc Zender, Assistant Professor, Tulane University. At Hamline University, St. Paul, MN. Get the full scoop at: <http://sites.hamline.edu/mayasociety>

September 17-20: *MATP Conference*  
**Maya at the Playa** – American Foreign Academic Research, Davidson Day School, and the Archaeological Institute of America present the 9th Annual Maya at the Playa Conference in Flagler County, FL. Keith Merwin and Joaquín J. Rodríguez III of the IMS are presenting. Specifics are now posted on their website at: [www.mayaatthplaya.com](http://www.mayaatthplaya.com)

September 26: *PCSWDC Seminar*  
**Amazonia and the Making of the Andean World** – Theme of the 22nd annual symposium sponsored by The Pre-Columbian Society of Washington, D.C. At the U.S. Navy

Memorial & Naval Heritage Center, Washington, D.C.

Get additional info at: [www.pcswdc.org/symposium2015](http://www.pcswdc.org/symposium2015)

September 26-27: *SAAS Conference*  
**Society for Andean and Amazonian Studies 2015 Conference** – Focusing on a broad range of social scientists working in the Andes, the Amazon, and beyond. At Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA. Details available at: <https://saasconference.wordpress.com>

October 24: *Smithsonian Symposium*  
**The Maya: Ancient Splendors, Modern Legacies** – at the Smithsonian S. Dillon Ripley Center, Washington D.C. Get info at: <http://smithsonianassociates.org>

November 11-14: *Chacmool Conference*  
**Shallow Pasts, Endless Horizons: Sustainability & Archaeology** – Theme of the 48th Annual Chacmool Conference to be held at the University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Additional info at: <https://anthanky.ucalgary.ca/chacmool2015>



# IMS EXPLORER

Join 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)