

January 20, 2016 • Maya Ceremonial Era Long Count: 0.0.3.0.3 • 8 Ak'bal 11 Mak • G3

The IMS in 2016: Celebrating a New Year, a New Partnership, and a New Direction!

by IMS Explorer Newsletter Editor Jim Reed

Greetings IMS members and Maya enthusiasts!

As we enter this new year, we count our blessings. We've met the challenge of being forced from our former base of operations and now embark on a journey down what we trust is a road of promise. This opportunity to join together with our new community partner – Miami Dade College/ Kendall Campus – means we continue to express our main mission statement – that is, to provide informative and educational programs to the public.

This new direction demands an update, and what better stimulus could there be to design a new masthead for our newsletter (see above). On many Maya polychrome ceramic vessels, our IMS mascot Itzamna (God D), is depicted in the act of teaching. This is a perfect tie-in to our new connection with the professors and students at the college.

In the masthead, we see Itzamna instructing the Hero Twins. They are two of the principal characters in the *Popol Vuh*. The masthead is K1183 from the Kerr Maya Vase Database. At right, we see another view of Itzamna on K5764. We acknowledge the importance of the volume of work accomplished by Justin Kerr and invite all to access his website at: www.mayavase.org. Students, take note, this will be a great resource along your path of Maya studies.

The importance of Itzamna

According to Karl Taube in his book *The Major Gods of Ancient Yucatan*, Itzamna is one of the most important and perhaps the major god of the Classic and Post-Classic Maya pantheon. Karl references and cites numerous other scholars, and a quick review reveals: Two important attributes of this deity are that he is invariably aged and often possesses the T24 Ajaw title of rulership. Although Michael Coe originally isolated the identifying attributes of God D on Classic Maya ceramics, Nicholas Hellmuth was the



Jim Reed,
Editor

©2016 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. 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: webmaster@instituteofmayastudies.org. Membership and renewal application on our website.

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

Maya enthusiasts providing public education for 44+ years

A Community Partner of Miami Dade College – Kendall Campus, Miami, FL, USA

Volume 45
Issue 1
January 2016
ISSN: 1524-9387



Inside this issue:

Message from the President of the IMS, by Eric T. Slazyk 2,3

Getting to Our New Location for IMS Programs 3

Interesting and Unusual Ancient Artifacts: A Classic Maya Ceramic Theme Rarely Discussed, by Chris Billings 4,6

IMS Recommended Reading: *Mortuary Landscapes of the Classic Maya*, by Andrew K. Scherer; *The Kings of Copan in Their Own Words*, by Janice Van Cleave 5

The Atacama Desert, compiled by Marta Barber 6

IMS January Program Announcements 7

In Memoriam: Robert B. "Bob" Little; Upcoming Events 8



A view of Itzamna on Kerr vase 5764.

first to recognize this entity as the Classic form of God D.

Many scholars note that God D is often associated with the scribal arts and is shown on many polychrome vessels in the act of writing or teaching the art of writing.

The term *itz* present in the name Itzamna is important. In Yucatec, *itz* signifies dew, semen, tears, resin, and other exuding fluids – those that are “precious” and essential to life. Our beloved “Itzzie” is an extremely powerful god, closely identified with writing, teaching and divination, with a strength based on esoteric

January 20, 8 pm

IMS Presentation:



Living, Eating, and Dying in the Formative Period in Northern Chile with

Dr. William Pestle
of the University of Miami

knowledge rather than physical prowess. So, in your Maya studies during 2016 ... may the *itz* be with you! 🏹

Message from the President of the IMS:

by **Eric T. Slazyk, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C**

Dear Membership,

December 2015

I hope this Holiday Season finds all of you well. It has been an interestingly positive year for the Institute of Maya Studies and I would like to update all of you on our progress and the changes that have occurred.

We have been successful in reaching many of the goals we set for ourselves in 2014:

1. Budget: We operated at a slight loss this year (approximately negative \$500), but received several new memberships and renewals, and had a good fund-raising season.
2. IMS Explorer continues to be a relevant, informative and a respected monthly newsletter and our new updated look is evident with this issue.
3. We've worked on improving the technological communication with our membership through PayPal, email blasts, Facebook and our website. Although we have made strides, we still have much to do in this area and I will touch on this subject later on.
4. Maintenance of our website continues to improve, offering the membership new lecture videos. In 2016, we expect to overhaul our website, with a major focus on improving our photo galleries.
5. Interaction with members and the archaeology-enthusiastic community through Facebook continues.
6. IMS members attended several conferences this year – Maya at the Lago, Maya at the Playa, Tulane's symposium – thus raising exposure of our organization among scholars and the public at large.

Through this effort, the Maya at the Playa conference became a significant fund-raiser for us this year and was most rewarding in the number of friendships and acquaintances made there.

Additionally, IMS became a member of the Society for American Archaeology and anticipates attending their conference in Orlando this spring.

We had a list of amazing scholars present lectures to us this year. (See the list in the December 2015 issue of the *IMS Explorer*.) Our Education Series was titled *Gods, Legends and Rituals*, and was presented by members of IMS.

Beginning in February 2016, our Explorer Sessions education series will be called, *An Introduction to the Maya*, and will focus on the basics of ancient Maya culture. This series will be presented by members of IMS.

Among the scholars who have accepted our invitation to come and speak at our General Meetings are: William Pestle, Gabe Wrobel,

●● Gaby Vail, Manny Torres, Mark Brenner,



George Bey and Francisco Estrada-Belli. We are waiting for a few responses and our calendar year will be filled. Most of these lectures will be available to members for viewing on our website.

Work on our research project, Lime Plaster & Mortar, spear-headed by IMS member Joaquín Rodríguez, a structural engineer, continues. A report on work completed to date is now under peer review. We will be looking into ways to raise funds in order to continue the project.

Plans for the new year also include work on a publication on the "Maya Before Teotihuacan". This would be a new edition to the Journals IMS has published in the past. We have one paper in hand and commitment from several other scholars. We are expecting to resume this project the beginning of 2016.

The most significant event of 2015 for IMS was our relocation to Miami Dade College – Kendall Campus. Many of you may not be aware that our 44-year relationship with the Miami Museum of Science ended in August of this past year. A new museum is under construction in what is now dubbed Museum Park by Biscayne Bay and the old museum ceased to operate at its old location in August. Fittingly, our newsletter editor and past president, Jim Reed, gave the Institute's final lecture that closed our long history with the museum.

So, we find ourselves in 2016 at a new beginning, and we are very excited to have become a Community Partner of Miami Dade College – Kendall Campus.

MDC has provided us with rooms to hold our Board meetings, General presentations and Explorer Sessions. A professional staff video captures our lectures for use on our website and for streaming to other classes throughout the college. This brings a much-needed higher quality to our videos.



2016 IMS Board of Directors:

Eric T. Slazyk, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C
President/Membership/Website
arcwerks@bellsouth.net

Marta Barber
Executive Vice President/
Programming
info@instituteofmayastudies.org

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

Keith Merwin
Website Chair • webmaster@instituteofmayastudies.org

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



Message from the President of the IMS:

by Eric T. Slazyk, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C

continued from page 2

The College advertises our lectures throughout the student body that includes 3 separate campuses. We have a liaison at the college who coordinates our lecture topics with the different college departments and we are starting to see the result of such communication.

As part of our agreement with the College, we will offer one travel scholarship a year to a mutually selected student and, in addition, we will offer one travel scholarship every other year to a professor – all for continued studies in Mesoamerica.

Over the past few years we have transitioned from a paper-based organization to a digitally based organization. This has been a daunting task, and has created a break in communication with many active members.

We continue to close the gap between the two. But much work is yet to be done. Our biggest issue to date is notification of membership renewal.

As we correlate our paper and digital lists and verify receipt of checks and PayPal payments we've

become aware that only about a third of our membership is current with their membership renewal.

We understand that the lack of a “renewal reminder” has been on our part and now with a new mailing address, it is even more important for us to rectify the matter.

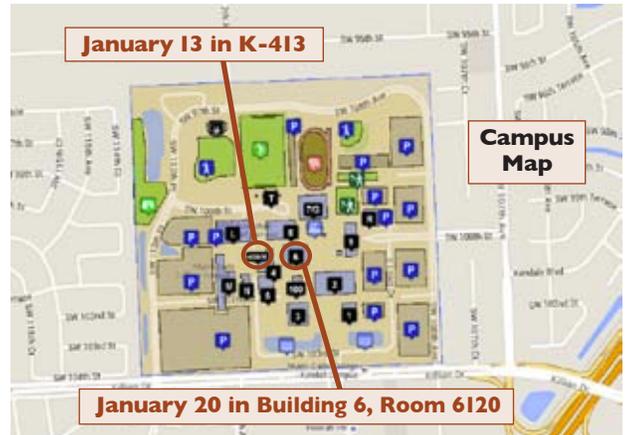
We anticipate, in the very near future, to have our newsletter subscription and website access corresponding with our list of active (current) members. All others will be assigned an inactive status.

In order to maintain your membership status as active, we ask that you please check your records for your last renewal payment and if necessary make payment by either PayPal or check. You can renew your membership on our website via PayPal or if paying by check, please include your email address.

The Institute of Maya Studies is a “not for profit” organization, so your renewal donation is fully tax deductible.

The IMS Board of Directors is committed

Masthead of the Miami Dade College – Kendall Campus website at: www.mdc.edu



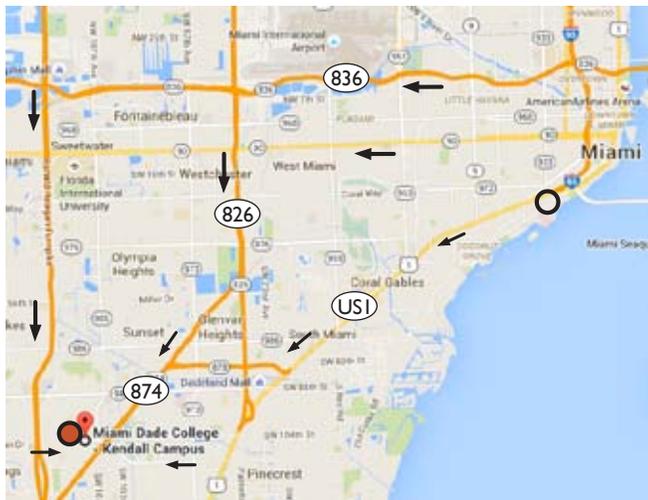
to the continued improvement of this organization. We depend on your support for the ability to accomplish this.

Please send us your comments and/or suggestions. We would love to hear from each and every one of you. I thank you for your past support and trust in your continued support for the Institute of Maya Studies.

Our new mailing address:

Institute of Maya Studies, c/o
Miami Dade College – Kendall Campus
11011 SW 104th St., Miami FL 33176

Sincerely, Eric T. Slazyk,
AIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C
President
Institute of Maya Studies



You can Google Map the address. The Kendall campus and our IMS mailing address is: 11011 SW 104 Street, Miami, FL, 33176

Getting to Our New Location for IMS Programs:

You've grown used to our public presentations featuring excellent monthly speakers and we endeavor to continue our tradition at our new venue: **Miami Dade College – Kendall Campus**. The location is further south of Miami proper than our previous base of operations. To get there, you can head west on the Dolphin Expwy (836), then south on the Palmetto Expwy (826), to the Don Shula Expwy (874), turning west on Killian Drive. Or, head south on the southern extension of the Florida Turnpike, tuning east on Killian Drive. Or, head south down US 1, turning west on Killian Drive. With a Travel app, search the campus name. You can also get driving directions and check out the campus map at: www.mdc.edu, or, call the Maya Hotline (305-279-8110) for directions.



Interesting and Unusual Ancient Artifacts:

This article discusses an interesting ancient painting style, portrayed on Classic Maya orangeware ceramic vessels. Many thanks to Guido Krempel for sharing images and shedding more light on this style, and to Donald Hales who has been a great teacher.

A Classic Maya Ceramic Theme Rarely Discussed

by Chris Billings

When studying Maya ceramics, certain themes, or schools of artistry, tend to stand out and capture your imagination. Around 10 years ago, I noticed a pair of Classic Yucatan Maya bowls at a public auction. What caught my eye were the seated individuals with jaguar spots on the inside of one bowl (A, B, C at right). They are using what appear to be long prismatic obsidian blades, to ritualistically pierce the skies, causing drops of blood to fall. The outside of the “sky piercing” bowl (C) matches the inside of a second larger bowl (D), showing they are of the same school and likely the same artist. This next part of the theme seems to depict tombs and clusters of tombs, as well as, jaguar paws which mimic the tomb clusters.

In 2013, I was offered a restoration project consisting of a heavily fragmented plate of this style (E). It was considered un-restorable, but the goal was mainly to piece the iconography back together.

Several weeks later, the artwork was clear and there were some new features to add in defining this style. This included a central figure with a more elaborate blade and holding a trophy head, indicating that the scene may have an element of human sacrifice.

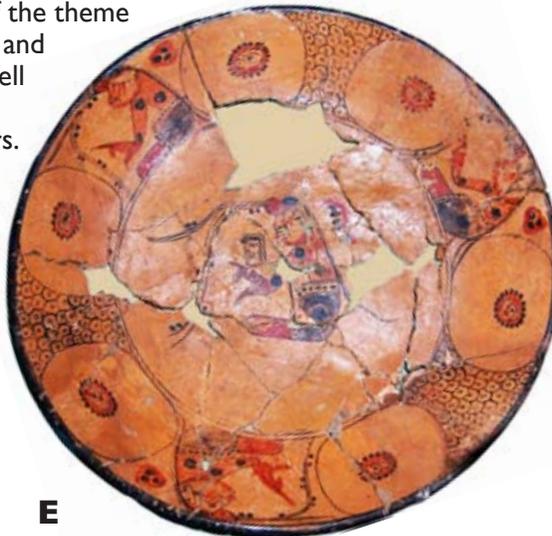
Also, there are six circles (each containing a stylized head), evenly spaced with the standard alternating “bloodletting individuals”



Detail of one of the individuals on the inside of the bowl shown at left,



The elements on the outside of the first bowl match those on the inside of the second bowl.



and pockets of tombs. The solar motif behind each individual, is on this example, exchanged for a stylized jaguar paw.

Interestingly, when this combined iconography is compared with other examples (F), a whole group of items with elements of this style emerge. Some are currently in museum collections but most seem to be

in private collections. After some review, including many examples not shared here, it can be assumed that items with this style were widely distributed between modern Quintana Roo, Campeche, and Yucatan, during the Classic Period.

In conclusion, this simple but elegant style is not only visually

continued on page 6

IMS Recommended Reading *Recently released books:*

Mortuary Landscapes of the Classic Maya

by **Andrew K. Scherer**

Recommended by David Stuart on his Wordpress blogsite.

From the tombs of the elite to the graves of commoners, mortuary remains offer rich insights into Classic Maya society. In *Mortuary Landscapes of the Classic Maya: Rituals of Body and Soul*, the anthropological archaeologist and bioarchaeologist Andrew K. Scherer explores the broad range of burial practices among the Maya of the Classic period (250–900 CE), integrating information gleaned from his own fieldwork with insights from the fields of iconography, epigraphy, and ethnography to illuminate this society's rich funerary traditions.

Scherer's study of burials along the Usumacinta River at the Mexican-Guatemalan border and in the Central Peten region of Guatemala – areas that include Piedras Negras, El Kinel, Tecolote, El Zotz, and Yaxha – reveals commonalities and differences among royal, elite, and commoner mortuary practices. By analyzing skeletons containing dental and cranial modifications, as well as the adornments of interred bodies, Scherer probes Classic Maya conceptions of body,

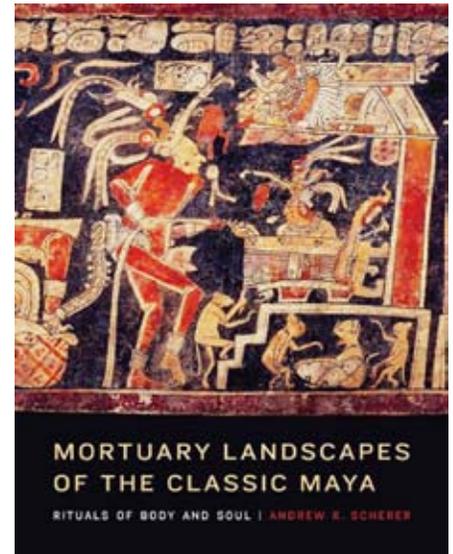
wellness, and the afterlife.

Scherer also moves beyond the body to look at the spatial orientation of the burials and their integration into the architecture of Maya communities. Taking a unique interdisciplinary approach, the author examines how Classic Maya deathways can expand our understanding of this society's beliefs and traditions, making *Mortuary Landscapes of the Classic Maya* an important step forward in Mesoamerican archeology.

Scherer is an assistant professor of anthropology at Brown University. He is coauthor of *Revisiting Maler's Usumacinta: Recent Archaeological Investigations in Chiapas, Mexico*.

A review by Karl A. Taube:

"*Mortuary Landscapes of the Classic Maya* is an ambitious and impressive work. Scherer is a highly trained biological archaeologist who has excavated many burials and offerings at Classic Maya sites in the Usumacinta region and the Peten of northern Guatemala. Perhaps the most innovative and



prominent contribution of this volume is Scherer's systematic comparison of both elite and commoner burials at particular sites. Scherer's work is an excellent addition to studies in the ancient Maya."

– Karl A. Taube, Professor of Anthropology, University of California, Riverside, coauthor of *The Murals of San Bartolo, El Peten, Guatemala, Part I: The North Wall* and *Gods and Symbols of Ancient Mexico and the Maya*.

The book is available now through The University of Texas Press
ISBN: 978-1-4773-0051-0. 🏠

The Kings of Copan in Their Own Words

by **Janice Van Cleve**

This book gathers all the available drawings of the royal inscriptions at Copan into one volume. The inscriptions are associated with the correct kings and the drawings are cleaned up so every glyph is clear and uncluttered.

The inscriptions have also been gridded alphabetically and numerically so the exact location of each glyph can be easily determined. Finally each glyph has been translated or transliterated to the extent that I am able.

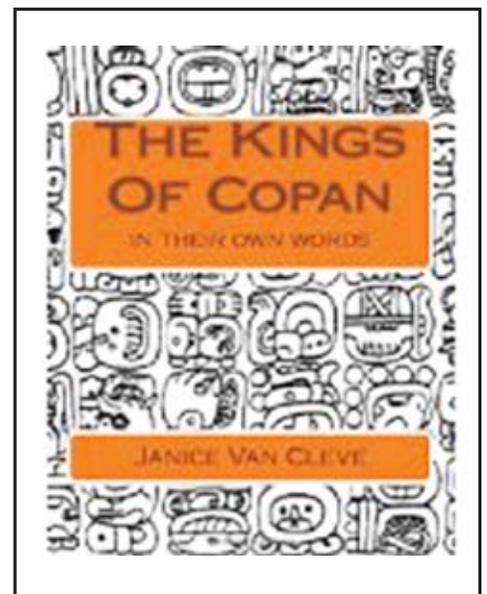
This publication owes a huge debt to the series of *Copan Notes* by Linda Schele and others, the *Manual de los Monumentos de Copan* edited by Ricardo Agurcia, *Reading the Maya Glyphs* by Michael

Coe and Mark Van Stone, and most especially to John Montgomery's *Dictionary of Maya Hieroglyphs*. I thank FAMSI for its treasure lode of research papers and the date calculator.

This book does not include the famous Hieroglyphic Stairway that runs up the face of Temple 26. Barbara Fash, by personal communication, is working on that. This book is available from www.CreateSpace.com/5783164, www.amazon.com or by order from your local bookseller.

This book is no best seller. It is intended as a resource tool for scholars, who will no doubt improve upon the translations offered.

As a resource book, it is my hope that it is picked up by libraries



to be available to students of the Maya civilization. Check out my website at: www.mayas.doodlekit.com.

Janice Van Cleve 🏠

Dr. William Pestle will present at the IMS at 8 pm on January 20 about early human occupation in:

The Atacama Desert

The Atacama Desert is a narrow strip of desert along the northwest coast of Chile. It extends nearly 1600 km and reaches a maximum width of 180 km. In many areas, rainfall has never been recorded. Consequently, an extremely arid, almost barren, landscape predominates. The Atacama is considered to be one of the driest coastal deserts in the world.

The desert's best known city is the coastal Antofagasta, a rich mining town and the capital of the region. Despite the city's prosperity, the region is practically devoid of vegetation. Only some brush plants occur along the coastal plateaus, dependent for survival on the moisture of persistent fog. In places away from the area of fog formation, the desert is almost lifeless. In these areas, even decomposition does not occur. Dead vegetation may be thousands of years old.

Understandably, very few animals have adapted to successfully inhabit this extremely dry habitat. The few scorpions and insects are the prey of lizards and of a small passerine group of the genus *Geositta* (a small bird that excavates a long burrow for breeding). An occasional bird of prey or vulture can be found scavenging on the carrion of domestic animals. Mammals are equally few



The hardships of living, eating, and dying in one of the driest and harshest deserts on the planet are evident in these two images supplied by William Pestle, in prep for his program at the IMS.

with a mouse (*Phyllotis darwini*) and a fox (*Pseudalopex griseus*) encountered periodically. The growth of a few scattered shrubs and herbaceous plants such as lichens enables certain specialized insects and poisonous spiders to colonize these deserts.

The region has been moderately affected by roads and mining operations. The northern area of the ecoregion has been especially affected by overgrazing of domestic livestock, collection of firewood, and commercial gathering of rare plants, including cacti and bulbs. Some nearby areas have archaeological importance.

Antofagasta was once a part of Bolivia, but it was conceded to Chile after the War of the Pacific (1879-1883). Today, it is one of the richest cities in Chile.

San Pedro Atacama was also part of Bolivia until claimed by Chile after the War of the Pacific, and is

due east from Antofagasta. San Pedro is 7,900 ft. up in the Andes and it has become a tourist destination for travelers searching for adventure. It is surrounded by desert, salt flats, volcanoes, geysers and hot springs. The Valle de la Luna, so called for its lunar-like rock formations, is nearby. The area has been occupied for centuries, and its early populations were known for their beautiful pottery and basket-weaving. There is a local archaeological museum showing Precolumbian artifacts.

This article was compiled by Marta Barber from the following sources:

<http://www.worldwildlife.org/ecoregions/nt1303>

<http://www.eoearth.org/view/article/150268/>

and an article by C.M. Torres, Florida International University, posted at: https://www.academia.edu/3816532/Exploring_the_San_Pedro_de_Atacama_Tiwanaku_Relationship 📌

A Classic Maya Ceramic Theme Rarely Discussed

by Chris Billings

continued from page 4

appealing but certainly has more to offer to Mesoamerican studies. Although no actual glyphs are present, it's likely that a more comprehensive study of this style can offer additional insight in understanding blood sacrifice, human sacrifice, Maya cosmology and perhaps information on trade alliances, and more.

The ritualistic piercing of the skies, although probably a metaphor for ritual bloodletting, seems to be a way to fasten

Two additional examples of plates designed and painted in this style that are apparently in private collections now. All images submitted by Guido Krempel.



together the bloodletter and the entire cosmos. Perhaps this is similar to how many centuries later, Diego de Landa reported, that the men "gathered in the temple in a line, and each made a pierced hole through the member, across from side to

side, and then passed through as great a quantity of cord as they could stand; and thus all together fastened and strung together..." 📌

If you have any examples or info to share, please contact the author at: precolumbianstudies@gmail.com

Institute of Maya Studies Line-up of Presentations!



Photo by George Fery

Piedras Negras throne

Miami Dade College – Kendall Campus, Miami, FL

To take place in K-413 (in Building K-4, Room 13)

January 13: IMS Presentation **Kinship, Kingship and the Ancestors in the Maya World**

with **George Fery**,
Fellow Member of IMS



Photo by George Fery

Ceremony in Pak'lom

Up to European contact, the Maya, as well as most other indigenous people in the Americas and beyond, interred their ancestors under the floor of their houses, in shrines within the residential compound, as well as in large funerary pyramids in the center of cities and villages. Through elaborate rituals and sacralization of places, the living kept an active line of communication between the ancestors and the living since it was understood, as it is to this day, that death is not the termination of life, but rather the “celebration of the continued and pervasive influence of the ancestors in the lives of both rulers and farmers – the life that arises from death.” The topic of ancestor veneration, as it is depicted in Classic Maya iconography and texts, “is highly politicized, with complex linkage between kinship, kingship and concomitant political power.”

All meetings begin at 8 pm • Institute of Maya Studies • www.instituteofmayastudies.org

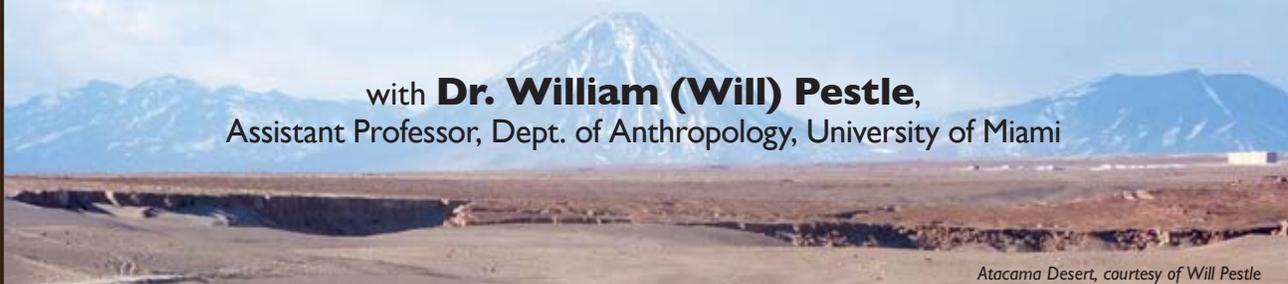
January 20: IMS Feature Presentation

Miami Dade College – Kendall Campus, Miami, FL

To take place in Building 6, Room 6120, 1st Floor (McCarthy Auditorium)

Living, Eating, and Dying in the Driest Desert in the World: Biogeochemical Analysis of Paleodiet in Formative Period Northern Chile

with **Dr. William (Will) Pestle**,
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Miami



Atacama Desert, courtesy of Will Pestle

Northern Chile's Atacama Desert is one of the most unforgiving landscapes on the planet, however a variety of complex risk mitigation strategies facilitated long-term human occupation of the region. Using stable isotope data from archaeological human remains, the present work examines patterns of mobility, exchange, and social interaction in northern Chile's Formative Period (1500 BCE–500 CE). While the geographic barriers and harsh climatic conditions of the Atacama Desert, in concert with substantial logistic considerations, established constraints on human diet at the site and local levels, regional dietary variation speaks to frequent and possibly even regular inter-zonal movements of people and/or foodstuffs.

The IMS is a Community Partner with Miami Dade College – Kendall Campus, Miami, FL

Check out their website at: www.mdc.edu for directions and campus map

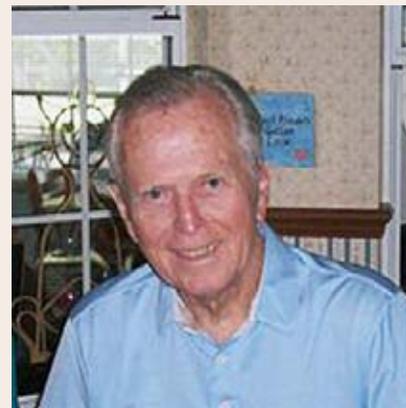
IMS Maya Hotline: 305-279-8110





In Memoriam: Robert B. “Bob” Little

Long-time IMS members remember Bob with very fond memories. He was a past president of the IMS in the 1970s and also served as an IMS treasurer. His brother-in-law, Jack Eaton discovered the Maya site of Chicanná.



Life-long IMSer Robert B. “Bob” Little

Robert B. “Bob” Little, age 88, of Ocala, FL passed away on Saturday, January 24, 2015. He was born in Miami, FL, on November 30, 1926. Bob grew up in Miami Shores, attended Miami Edison High School, and was a graduate of the University of Miami in the class of 1952.

Upon graduation from high school, Bob entered service with the United States Navy through the end of WWII. After completing his Bachelor’s in Education, he became a math teacher at Miami Edison, his alma mater. He completed his Master’s in Education at the

University of Miami in 1961.

After leaving the classroom in 1964, Bob continued his career in progressive managerial positions within the Dade County Public School system. A lifelong student, Bob pursued education during his retirement in Ocala, regularly attending classes “just for fun” at Central Florida Community College.

Bob and his wife Beverly enjoyed a long retirement exploring North America in their motor home and developed lasting friendships both in their travels and in their Ocala community.

Bob is survived by his wife of 59 years Beverly Little of Ocala, FL; sons Edmond G. Little (Shelley) of Boca Raton, FL, and Neil B. Little (Kathleen) of Joelton, TN; grandchildren Ryan, Casey, Brandon and Joshua; great grandchildren Ryan Jr., Chase, Sierra and Samuel Robert.

Source: Reproduced directly from Bob’s obituary posted at: <http://www.hiers-baxley.com/obituaries/Robert-B-Little/#!!Obituary> 

Upcoming Events at the IMS:

January 13 • 8 pm: *IMS Presentation*
Miami Dade College – Kendall **in K-413**

Kinship, Kingship and the Ancestors in the Maya World – with our good friend **George Fery** (Fellow member of the IMS).

January 20 • 8 pm: *IMS Feature Presentation*
Miami Dade College – Kendall **in 6-120**
Building 6, Room 6-120, McCarthy Auditorium

Living, Eating, and Dying in the Formative Period in Northern Chile – with **Dr. William (Will) Pestle** of the University of Miami.

February 10 • 8 pm: *An Intro to the Maya*
Miami Dade College – Kendall **in K-413**

Jungle Builders: Learning the Basics of Maya Architecture – with IMS President **Eric Slazyk**.

February 17 • 8 pm: *IMS Feature Presentation*
Miami Dade College – Kendall **in K-413**

Mortuary Cave Ritual – with **Dr. Gabriel Wrobel** – of Michigan State, and currently co-director of the Central Belize Archaeological Survey project.

Upcoming Events and Announcements:

January 8: *PCSWDC Lecture*
Place So Far Removed: Power and Identity in Sculptures from the Ancient Maya Frontier –

Theme of the Pre-Columbian Society of Washington D.C. January lecture with Caitlin Earley, PhD, presenting the first study of the art of the Comitan Valley of Chiapas, Mexico. At the Charles Sumner School, Washington, D.C. Get more info at: <http://www.pcswdc.org/events/>

January 8-9, 2016: *IAS Annual Meeting*
Institute of Andean Studies 56th Annual Meeting – to be University of California, Berkeley, CA. Get additional info at: www.instituteofandeanstudies.org/meetings.html

January 9: *Penn Museum Lecture*
Paths of Beauty: Pueblo Embroidery – Theme of the Pre-Columbian Society at the Penn Museum January Lecture, with Lucy Fowler Williams, PhD, Details at: www.precolumbian.org/nextmeeting.HTM

January 12-16, 2016:
2016 Maya Meetings
The Archaeology and History of the Lower Río Pasión Region –

Theme of the 2016 Maya Meetings, focusing on the sites of Seibal, Dos Pilas, Aguateca, and others. At the University of Texas at Austin Campus. Register online in advance. Get the symposium program at: <http://utmesoamerica.org/maya/symposium-information>

March 3-6, 2016:
13th Annual Tulane Maya Symposium
Ixiktaak: Ancient Maya Women –

The invited scholars will focus on the significance of women in ancient Maya society. This year’s Keynote, hosted at the New Orleans Museum of Art, will be given by Dr. Mary Ellen Miller of Yale University. The symposium will take place at Tulane University, New Orleans, LA. Get more at: <http://mri.tulane.edu/TMS/index.html>



IMS EXPLORER

Join the **Explorer-ation!** Scholar or not, we welcome submissions from IMS members and other Maya enthusiasts. 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