

February 15, 2017 • Maya Ceremonial Era Long Count: 0.0.4.3.17 • 13 Kaban 0 K'ayab • G5

LiDAR Research Reveals Previously Undetected Sacbeob at El Mirador

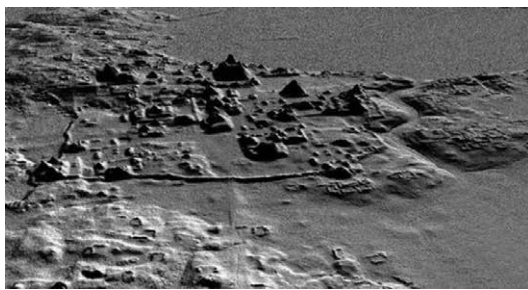
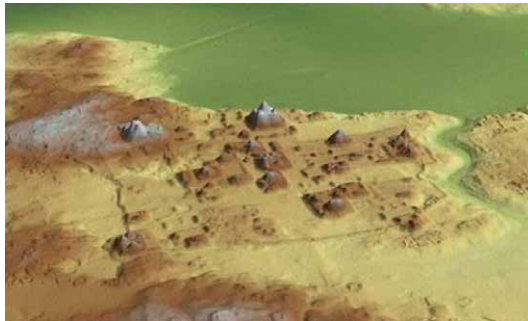
Few ancient civilizations have left us evidence of the roads they built to maintain effective communication and transportation within their sphere of influence. Until recently, the model for effective road creation and maintenance was ancient Rome. However, the recent discovery of a system of sacbeob (aka Maya superhighways) that once connected pyramidal complexes over a distance of 150 miles (240 km) in Guatemala, means that the Maya civilization may now rival the Romans.

Researchers from the Cuenca Mirador Archaeological Project, led by archeologist and anthropologist Richard D. Hansen of the University of Utah, announced, in late 2016, the results of a two-year study of the Peten in northern Guatemala – the largest remaining tropical forest in Central America.

Hansen and his team used LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) – an aerial surveying technology utilizing lasers to make high-resolution 2D and 3D maps.

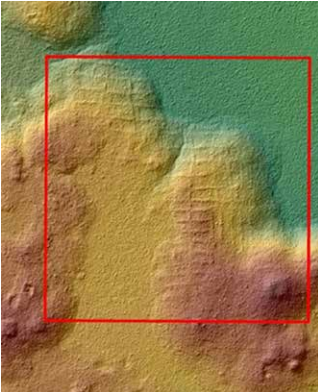
LiDAR technology enabled researchers to have a 3D view of the Mirador Basin without the dense jungle obscuring it. They focused the LiDAR and their attention on the area where El Mirador is located as well as surrounding areas. In the Mirador Basin, there are many Preclassic Maya sites including El Mirador, Nakbe, El Tintal, El Pesquero, Wakna, and Xulnal.

The results of the team's research is providing us with keen insight into the innovations of the



LiDAR scans in 3D (top) and high-definition 2D (below) reveal a network of roads, canals, corrals, pyramids and terraces in and around El Mirador. Photo: Archaeological Project Cuenca Mirador.

This LiDAR scan reveals a network of what could be corrals, that Hansen believes is evidence of large-scale meat production at El Mirador. Photo: Archaeological Project Cuenca Mirador.



ancient Maya civilization.

Using LiDAR, the researchers discovered that hidden beneath the thick canopy of the jungle below, were canals, corrals, pyramids, dikes, and terraces alongside the extensive network of roads.

Researchers believe that the animal

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February 15, 6 pm IMS Presentation:



The Crown Spoils: La Corona and the Hegemonic Rule of the Kaanul Kingdom
with
Marcello A. Canuto,
Director of the Middle American Research Institute (MARI) and Professor of Anthropology at Tulane University

pens or corrals may have been established first by the inhabitants of El Mirador. Hansen maintains that the sophisticated system of corrals is evidence that meat production in the Mirador

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Jim Reed,
Editor

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Field Museum Scientists Unearth Centuries-Old Crocodile Stone Carved Monument Yields New Clues

In the 1960s, a team of excavators uncovered the ruins of the ancient city of Lambityeco (500–850 CE), in what is now Tlacolula de Matamoros, Oaxaca, Mexico. In a recent return to the site, the discovery of a carved stone crocodile by Field Museum archaeologists has provided a key to revising long-held ideas about the site.

During the early excavation, archaeologists unearthed seemingly conflicting evidence. On the one hand, they found a palace with iconic frescoes that indicate the close connections between Lambityeco and nearby Monte Alban, a much larger urban settlement in the region. However, not all of the pieces recovered during this study seemed to fit this narrative. Some of the artifacts showed marked differences with those from Monte Alban. Because of these differences, the archaeological team attributed Lambityeco to a later time period than Monte Alban, an interpretation that stood for decades. Nevertheless, more recent reanalysis of materials from Lambityeco has shown that the site was actually contemporaneous with Monte Alban, leading to new questions.



The crocodile stone discovered by Field Museum archaeologists. By Linda Nicholas, The Field Museum.

Over the last four years, new excavations led by Gary Feinman and Linda Nicholas of The Field Museum (in conjunction with Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History) have expanded the investigated area at Lambityeco, and their discoveries have yielded a richer history than was originally thought. When the civic-ceremonial area of Lambityeco was first settled, the public buildings were clearly laid out in a manner closely reflective of that at Monte Alban. Yet, during the occupation,

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LiDAR Research Reveals Previously Undetected Sacbeob at El Mirador

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Basin may have existed on an industrial level. But he made it clear there needs to be more research to confirm this theory.

Beyond that, what they found was astonishing. The LiDAR penetrated the dense foliage at a rate of 560,000 dots per second and uncovered evidence of a complex transportation system based on a network of 17 sacbeob measuring 240 km in total length. The highways were used by the estimated one million people who lived in El Mirador at its peak.

Hansen has speculated that El Mirador was a “closed political system” and the LiDAR data also provides some evidence to support this. On the roads were what appears to be a “system of pens” or corrals that were possibly used for the production and transportation of meat at an industrial level uncommon at a time when the rest of the world was still dependent on small private farms.

In fact, Hansen calls El Mirador



“The first state of all the

Americas” and believes that, prior to its abandonment in 150 CE, it was the largest city/state in the world at the time, in both geography 2,158 sq km (833 sq km) and population.

He wants to use these discoveries to turn the area in the middle of the Maya Biosphere Reserve – referred to as one of the environmental and cultural lungs of the Americas – into a protected tourist area like Machu Picchu. For that, he'll need the cooperation and funding (an estimated \$100 million) of the Guatemalan and Mexican governments to buy into his philosophy.

Ironically, that will mean developing a tourism route without creating roads to visit the newly discovered features and all there is to explore in El Mirador Basin.

Editor's note: IMS members were able to visit El Mirador on a group excursion in 2013. They traveled in and out by helicopter and had the time of their lives! Check out page 2 of the September *IMS Explorer*, Vol. 42, Issue 9, for the full coverage of their adventure.



In the foreground, IMSers Eric Slazyk, Marta Barber, and Tom Geronimo observe site director Richard Hansen and archaeologist/epigrapher Stanley Paul Guenter discussing the itinerary for the day. Photo by Janet Meiss.

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In Memoriam: Harvey M. Bricker

Harvey Bricker at the 2015
Tulane Maya Symposium,
by Marta Barber.

It is with deep sorrow that we announce that Harvey M. Bricker has passed. The Institute of Maya Studies extends its heartfelt condolences to Vicki Bricker, and the whole Maya community, especially that of Tulane University. The IMS is lucky that Harvey and Vicki visited us every July for the last few years. We will miss his warmth, knowledge, wisdom and the generosity to share with everyone. – Marta Barber

Harvey Miller Bricker died at the age of 76 on January 18, 2017, in Gainesville, Florida, after a short illness. He was born on June 29, 1940, in Johnstown, PA, the older of two children of the Reverend George H. Bricker and Florence Miller Bricker. He received his early education in the public schools of Waynesboro and Lancaster, PA. He attended Hamilton College in Clinton, NY, graduating summa cum laude with a major in Russian history in 1962. From there, he went to Harvard University in Cambridge, MA, where he enrolled in the graduate program in anthropology, with a focus on archaeology. His area of interest was in the manufacture of stone tools by the earliest humans in southern France. He later was named “Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Palmes Academiques” for his research in this field. He married a fellow graduate student in anthropology, Victoria Evelyne Reifler, in December 1964. He received his PhD in June 1973.

The couple’s teaching careers at Tulane University began in 1969. In 1981, his research interests shifted to the astronomy of the ancient Maya as recorded in their hieroglyphic books. In collaboration with his wife, they wrote *Astronomy in the Maya Codices*, that was published by the American Philosophical Society in 2011, for which they received the Donald E. Osterbrock Book Prize for Historical Astronomy in 2013.

After retiring from teaching at Tulane at the end of 2005 (and in response to their experiences during Hurricane Katrina), they began spending the months from mid-June to the end of October in Gainesville, FL, where they had appointments as courtesy professors in the Department of Anthropology at the University

of Florida and as research professors in the Florida Museum of Natural History.

Harvey Bricker is survived by his wife of 52 years, Victoria Reifler Bricker, his sister, Helen Bricker Smith, of Falls Church, VA, and her children: Matthew Bricker Smith of Uncasville, CT, and Elizabeth Smith Hall of Eastleigh, England.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Latin American Library at Tulane University or the Latin American Collection of the Smathers Library at the University of Florida.

Susan Milbrath, who knew Harvey well, commented that his sharp wit and insightful comments will be greatly missed. She also noted that he was a very generous colleague, sharing computer programs that he had developed for studying Maya astronomy and providing feedback on her research in that field. Susan recalled first meeting him at the Palenque Mesa Redonda in 1993, where he bravely debunked the widely accepted notion that the maximum elongation of Venus was significant in Mayan texts.

By that time, he had already started to work on the *Dresden Codex*, later the subject of an award winning book written with Vicki and published in 2011 (*Astronomy in the Maya Codices*). Susan commented that he loved detective stories, and that she thinks he looked at Maya astronomy as a mystery to be solved. In this light, he and Vicki developed a revolutionary method of cross-dating almanacs in the Maya codices, one that has greatly enhanced our understanding of these enigmatic manuscripts.”

I am deeply saddened by the news. The last time I saw Harvey and Vicki was in Leiden, and I always thought I would see them both again soon. I concur completely with the sentiments expressed by Marta Barber and Jim Reed. Harvey’s warmth and wisdom will be missed and his absence will leave a hole in many people’s lives.

– Elizabeth Graham, PhD, F.S.A.

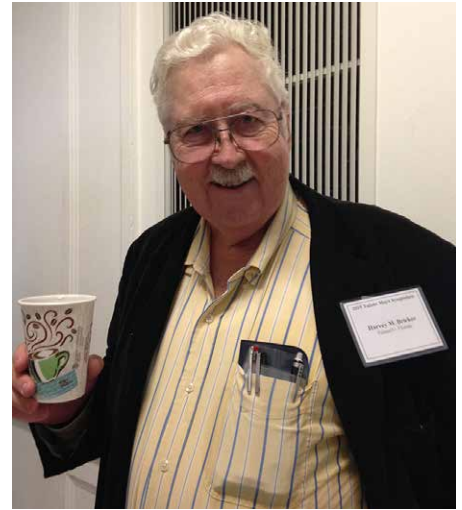
Astronomy in the Maya Codices is an amazing wealth of information and illustrations. Thanks to the Bricker’s for their incredible work.

– Michael Penny

With his expertise in lithics, I had the opportunity to consult with Harvey on the issue of the bow and arrow in pre-contact America. He will be sorely missed, both professionally and personally.

My deepest condolences to Vicky.

– J. Rodriguez



What Does Central Mexico Have To Do with the Maya?

A whole lot, when you know where to look!
Traveling with members of the IMS...

April 28–May 6, 2017

For a detailed itinerary, contact
Marta Barber at: imsmiami@yahoo.com

Was there a Maya barrio at Teotihuacan? Why does Tula resemble Chichen Itza? Did Maya merchants visit Cacaxtla?



The Ballgame Period-Ending on Xunantunich Panel 3

by John Major Jenkins

In May of 2016, new inscriptions were discovered at Xunantunich in Belize. The Mesoweb article was released in August, authored by Christophe Helmke and Jaime J. Awe, titled “Death Becomes Her: An Analysis of Panel 3, Xunantunich, Belize.” Part of this discovery, Panel 3, belongs to a larger narrative on other missing blocks (2016:3), and the panel itself was transported from the hieroglyphic stairway at Naranjo. Inter-regional dynamics are explored in the essay but I’ll focus on the reconstructed dates found in the third of three clauses. (Editor’s note: We covered the discovery in the September *IMS Explorer*, pg. 6, Vol. 45, Issue 9.)

Distance Numbers and Calendar Round dates show that the final date of Panel 3 is 9.10.10.0.0, which is, however, “suppressed.” It is suppressed, or not stated, because “it would have been well known and implicit to the reader” (2016:7). That makes sense, and indicates that not everything (including astronomy) needed to be explicitly stated in hieroglyphic narratives.

The authors state: “The third and final clause is only partially preserved and apparently would have continued on another panel” (2016:11). So, we might be in for some new surprises as archaeologists make more discoveries. What we do have in Clause 3 is rather striking. Although the Calendar Round date of the action described is not recorded, as previously discussed it can be reconstructed as the Lahuntun period-ending (half-Katun): 9.10.10.0.0.

This date corresponds to December 1, 642 CE. This date is also used in the heir-designation statements by Pakal’s son at Palenque. The astronomy of this date shows the sun positioned very close to the Dark Rift at the Crossroads of the Milky Way and the ecliptic in Sagittarius.

All that is preserved in the inscription from Xunantunich is a verb-action involving a ballgame. As mentioned, Panel 3 was once part of the Naranjo stairway, and on two other blocks from the Naranjo stairway (Steps 7 and 11) there are two mentions of ballgames. One corresponds with the date April 29, 627 CE, and involved the predecessor of the king Yuknoom Head. This ballgame echoed events of the Creation Mythos, because it was played in a ballcourt named Ux Ahal Ehbul or the “Three Conquest Stair”... This name is that of a legendary ballcourt where the Maize God was decapitated in the distant past, but was



Diagram 160. Stela 25. Midnight on the December solstice, era 300 BCE. From *Maya Cosmogonies* 2012.

Izapa Stela 25: The Big Dipper vs. The Milky Way. Stela 25 from Izapa embodies a dialectic between two parts of the sky – the Big Dipper polar region near Gemini and the “head” of the Milky Way “crocodile” near Sagittarius.

also a name attributed to historical ballcourts... as material emulations of the mythic precedent. ... As such, any ballgames played within such courts were in essence replications of mythic events that transpired in the time before creation. (2016:11)

The astronomy of April 29, 627 CE involves the sun in conjunction with the Pleiades on a primordial solar-zenith passage date, and will be discussed in a moment because the implications are quite striking if the astronomy of the dates are considered. If the ballgame described above was part of the Naranjo stairway’s dynastic narrative that included the Panel 3 inscription, which seems to be the case, then the period-ending of Panel 3 (December 1, 642 CE), which also involved a ballgame, probably involved a “three conquest stair” ballcourt where legendary events of the Creation Mythos were played out.

For example, such “Maize God” Creation Myth events reflect the well-known events of the *Popol Vuh* involving One Hunahpu, whose decapitated head was hung in the crook of the calabash tree, which symbolized the Dark Rift in the Milky Way (Tedlock 1996; Jenkins 1998). In this astronomical context, the sun’s position on the Lahantun period-ending makes sense, and it references the alignment in 2012 that is one bookend of the 13-Baktun Era-period which delineates the timing of World Age creations and renewals (in 2012 CE and 3114 BCE).

Kan Bahlam at Palenque commissioned a narrative which associated his heir-designation ritual at age seven in 642 CE – explicitly using the same Lahantun period-ending date – with the mythological precedent of GI’s birth-date (or “earth-touching”). That date is November 8, 2360 BCE, which also places the sun at the Dark-Rift/Crossroads – a sidereal location that is found in the *Popol Vuh* (Tedlock 1996; Grofe 2012; Jenkins 1998).

The earlier bookend of the 13-Baktun Era-period, August 11, 3114 BCE, places the sun in the zenith. The latitude associated with the origins of the Long Count, 15° North, defines two solar zenith-passage dates: August 11 and April 29. The Creation Myth ballgame



The Dark Rift in the Milky Way appears as the open mouth of a “celestial crocodile”. This photo was taken in Southern France by Laurent Laveder. Courtesy of www.greatdreams.com

Detail of the hieroglyphics on Panel 3. Illustration released by Northern Arizona University.

Field Museum Scientists Unearth Centuries-Old Crocodile Stone

Carved Monument Yields New Clues About Ancient Site in Oaxaca, Mexico *cont. from page 2*

a major reorganization in the use of space occurred in the ceremonial core of Lambityeco. The architecture was remodeled so that it no longer reflected the construction patterns at the larger site. This shift likely reflected a distancing in the relationship between the two Valley of Oaxaca centers.

“During this time period, the relationship between Lambityeco and Monte Alban shifted,” said Field Museum MacArthur Curator of Anthropology Gary Feinman. “The people of Lambityeco began to remodel their buildings and reorient the use of space in order to differentiate themselves from Monte Alban.”

Evidence collected over the past four years has helped illustrate this change. One key feature that changed at Lambityeco was its ballcourt – an important structure for both ceremony and recreation in prehispanic Mesoamerica. In its original design, the ballcourt at Lambityeco, which was discovered by the Museum team in 2015, was laid out in a very similar pattern to the one in Monte Alban: both were constructed with the same orientation and were entered from the north side of the court. However, less than two centuries after the ballcourt was created in Lambityeco, the people sealed its north entrance and created a new stairway on its northeast corner – a major shift from the layout at Monte Alban. At this same time, the frescos in the palaces, excavated in the



Gary Feinman (left) is the MacArthur Curator of Mesoamerican, Central American, and East Asian Anthropology at The Field Museum of Chicago. Lambityeco is the fourth Classic-period (250-900 CE) settlement where Feinman and Linda Nicholas (right, Adjunct Curator, Anthropology) have led excavations (following Ejutla, El Palmillo, and the Mitla Fortress).

1960s, were covered over, and never re-created again.

Another piece of evidence that helps illustrate this change at Lambityeco is a large stone carved on three sides with an image of a crocodile that was discovered during this recent field season. This is the largest carved stone found to date at Lambityeco. Not only was it one of a few carvings of its kind to be discovered still in its prehispanic context, but The Field Museum team also found that the stone was moved from its original location during the long-ago occupation of Lambityeco.

“We believe that this crocodile stone was originally a part of a stairway leading up to a temple at the heart of the civic-ceremonial center of Lambityeco,” said Linda Nicholas, archaeologist at The Field Museum. “However, when the people reconstructed the core area of the site, the entrance to the temple was blocked and the stairway was dismantled.” 🏠

Source: From a Field Museum article released 9/1/2016 at: www.fieldmuseum.org

The Ballgame Period-Ending on Xunantunich Panel 3 by John Major Jenkins *continued from page 4*

from Naranjo, mentioned by the authors in the quotation given above, falls on a primordial zenith-passage date, preserving even at the different latitude of Naranjo the astronomy of the orthodox 13-Baktun Era Base.

This non-local preservation is well-known and understood by Maya scholars. Moreover, April 29, 627 CE also has the sun in conjunction with the Pleiades (near Gemini), suggesting a retroactive idea of the sun in the zenith with the Pleiades. I reconstructed how the Pyramid of Kukulcan at Chichen Itza encodes this type of alignment within the precession of the equinoxes, which at the latitude of Chichen Itza points to the 21st century CE (Jenkins 1998).

On Panel 3 from Xunantunich, there is a narrative likely involving a symbolic Creation Myth ballgame that has relevant astronomical

undertones pointing to astronomical alignments occurring in both 3114 BCE and 2012 CE. These are, indeed, locations of events of the Creation Mythos, involving the celestially enthroned Sun God as a mythic prototype emulated by Maya kings as they sought to legitimize their dynastic claims. (The king could be enthroned in two different cosmic centers, one zenith and one “galactic,” that is, on the Milky Way, which is a galaxy.)

The authors conclude: “As such we can see that there is an intimate relation between the ballgame and the hegemony of the Snake-head overlords” (2016:11). Yes, and this relation was maintained in Yuknoom Yich'aak K'ak's use of the ballgame and the 2012 date, on La Corona Block 5.

Hopefully, more information will come to light. As it stands, this

new discovery, properly analyzed with respect to astronomy, supports the importance of the Dark Rift and the Crossroads, using certain dates that indicate the sun's alignment with those features that are centrally important to the Maya Creation Mythology.

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La Corona: Investigating a Classic Maya Center

Proyecto Regional Arqueológico La Corona (PRALC) has been conducting multi-disciplinary archaeological research in the tropical rainforest of northern Guatemala since 2008. It has focused its excavations on the Classic Maya city of La Corona, once known only as the mysterious “Site Q.”

During the 1960s looted Maya reliefs referring to a then-unknown city surfaced on the international art market. One of these reliefs, showing a ball player, is now in the Chicago Art Institute; another is in the Dallas Museum of Art. Peter Mathews, then a Yale graduate student, dubbed the city “Site Q” (short for ¿Qué? [Spanish for “what?”]). Some researchers believed that the inscriptions referred to Calakmul, but the artistic style of the artifacts was different from anything that had been found there.

Santiago Billy and Carlos Catalan, environmentalists studying scarlet macaws, came upon the remote ruins in 1996, and Ian Graham and David Stuart from Harvard University’s Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology investigated the site the following year, naming the new site La Corona. Among the broken sculptures left by looters, Stuart found textual references to a place name and to historical figures who were featured on Site Q artifacts, leading him to believe that La Corona was Site Q.

In 2005, Marcello A. Canuto, then a Yale professor, found a panel *in situ* at La Corona that mentioned two Site Q rulers. The panel had been quarried from the same rock as the Site Q artifacts, providing convincing evidence that La Corona was indeed Site Q.

Recent research

Since 2008, the site has been investigated by La Corona Archaeological Project, codirected by Marcello A. Canuto (Director, Middle American Research Institute at Tulane University) and Tomás Barrientos (Director, Dept. of Archaeology, Universidad del Valle de Guatemala).



LA CORONA ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

INVESTIGATING AN EXTRAORDINARY CLASSIC MAYA CENTER

Maya Cycle End Date

In April 2012, PRALC discovered a row of 12 staircase risers a hieroglyphic staircase with many different relief scenes; another 10 sculpted risers were found looted from their original context, but then discarded for being too eroded to be worth selling on the illicit antiquities market.

The texts of these newly discovered panels contain important historical information about political events in the Classic period; one of the panels (Hieroglyphic Staircase 2, Block 5) contains a reference to 4 Ahau 3 K'ank'in, the notorious 13th Baktun-ending.

David Stuart noted: “It is in this context that we have only the second reference to the “end date” in the entire corpus of ancient Maya writing. This text uses the 2012 date to put this king’s troubled reign and accomplishments into a larger cosmological framework.

El Achiotal Stela

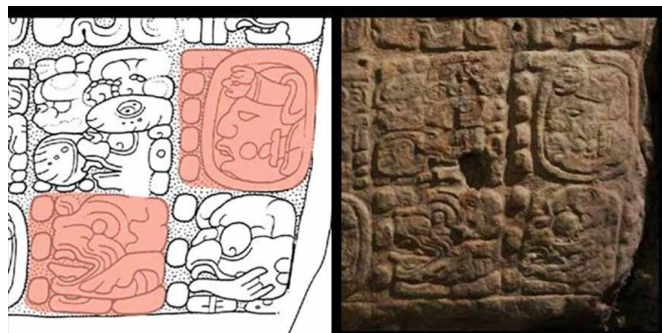
Of the important stela discovered in 2015, Marcello said “This stela portrays an early king during one of the more poorly understood periods of ancient Maya history.” The archaeologists have dated the stela to between 22 CE and 418 CE. It was a period when there was intense rivalry between two great metropolis of Tikal and Calakmul.

Each new discovery at La Corona and other nearby sites, provides details of events that remain murky, each providing other pieces of the Maya historical puzzle.

Program note: Join us on February 15 when **Marcello Canuto** presents a program for the IMS titled: The Crown Spoils: La Corona



Stanley Paul Guenter cleans a panel of Maya glyphs discovered at La Corona. This particular panel helped point to La Corona as the long-sought “Site Q”. The panel’s left side depicts king K’inich Yook of Sak Nikté.



L) The highlighted areas in red in this drawing by David Stuart show the date equivalent to December 21, 2012, that depicts 13.0.0.0.0, 4 Ahaw 3 K'ank'in. R) The actual glyphs from La Corona.



The stela found at El Achiotal was discovered inside a shrine-like structure, that appears to have been specifically built to house it. Archaeologists say there was evidence the Maya had been leaving offerings at the shrine for generations, suggesting the king held special significance.

and the Hegemonic Rule of the Kaanul Kingdom. See program announcement on page 7. 🏰

Sources: Condensed by the editor from various sources including www.ineffableisland.com, www.dailymail.co.uk, and <http://mari.tulane.edu/PRALC>.

February 15 • 6 pm • IMS Feature Presentation

The Crown Spoils: La Corona and the Hegemonic Rule of the Kaanul Kingdom

with **Marcello A. Canuto**, Director of the Middle American Research Institute (MARI); Associate Professor of Anthropology at Tulane

A central theme in Maya studies has been the interpretation and the use of models for the ancient capitals of the Classic Period. This talk discusses the variability of those political systems of the Classic period through both space and time. Indeed, this dynamism suggests that the categorization of certain sites as “Maya capitals” is too static to be used extensively. In fact, investigations at La Corona have demonstrated the extensive reuse and veneration of monuments, a practice that implies the ancient Maya were quite aware of the changing fortunes of political systems. This presentation deploys both epigraphic and archaeological data to consider how changes



Marcello excavating Step 1 of Hieroglyphic Stairway 2 at La Corona. Photo courtesy of Jocelyne Ponce.



Marcello beams at finding a carved stone tablet at El Achiotal that has been dated to November 22, 418 CE. Photo: Tulane University.

at La Corona reflect strategies of regional hegemonic control on the part of the Kaanul kingdom throughout the 7th and 8th centuries CE. It also considers the impacts on La Corona of the receding and fading of Kaanul’s power in the middle of the 8th century CE. In addition, by recognizing and studying reactions to changes in Maya political systems, we can better appreciate how ancient Maya political landscapes were formed and transformed but also how these same ancient Maya reacted to these changes.

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

This program will take place at 6 pm in K-413 (in Building K-4, Room 13)

IMS Hotline: 305-279-8110

Go to the college website at: www.mdc.edu for directions and campus map.

Jaguar pelt border courtesy of Steve Radzi. See his portfolio of original Maya-themed artwork at: www.mayavision.com

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In Honor of Harvey M. Bricker by Jim Reed

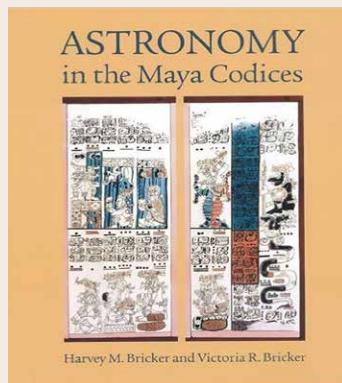
I, too, have been very moved and saddened by the passing of Harvey Bricker. And I agree with Marta wholeheartedly. As IMSers, we should not only feel lucky but very grateful that the Brickers came to present at the IMS so many times over the years.

The Brickers considered the IMS membership as a loyal crew, attentive and interested in all topics they came to share. The dynamic duo always came to offer their insights and findings from their research into the Codices and Maya archaeoastronomy, in presentations where they welcomed questions – no question too trivial to ask. They would let the IMS in on whatever they were into at the time, before they would present anywhere else. Many of their program topics later surfaced in the Bricker's award winning book, *Astronomy in the Maya Codices*.

As Harvey enters the road to Xibalba before us, he will be sorely missed.

Some of the programs the Brickers presented at the IMS include:

- "Zodiacal Beasts of the Precolumbian Maya" (July 15, 2009)



- "The Maya Ritual Burner Cycle" (July 21, 2010)
- "Bolon Octe and Venus in the Dresden Codex" (July 18, 2012)
- "Maya Astronomy Through 13 Centuries – not Baktuns!" (July 17, 2013)
- "New Evidence of Links Between the Venus Table in the Dresden Codex and the Central Mexican Codices" (July 15, 2015)



The Donald E. Osterbrock Book Prize of the Historical Astronomy Division of the American Astronomical Society was awarded in 2013 to Harvey M. Bricker and Victoria R. Bricker for *Astronomy in the Maya Codices*. The book represents the culmination of thirty years of collaborative research.

The Brickers have an impressive publication history on the astronomy found in the Dresden Codex, the Madrid Codex, and in some Mayan throne inscriptions.

Upcoming Events at the IMS:

February 15 • 6 pm: *IMS Feature Presentation*
The Crown Spoils: La Corona and the Hegemonic Rule of the Kaanul Kingdom – Expert **Marcello A. Canuto**, Director of the Middle American Research Institute (MARI) and Associate Professor of Anthropology at Tulane, treats us to the latest insights coming out of his ongoing investigations and research into this compelling topic.

IMS Program Note:

In alignment with MDC, we now offer nine IMS presentations in conjunction with their calendar year: January – June and September – November. During the summer months of July and August, as well as December, there will be no public lectures. The programs will continue to be held at 6 pm in Room K-413 at Miami Dade College – Kendall Campus, 11400 SW 104th Street, Miami, FL. For more information, contact our Hotline at: 305-279-8110; or by email at: imsmiami@yahoo.com

Upcoming Events and Announcements:

March 2-5: *Tulane Maya Symposium*
Monumental Landscapes: How the Maya Shaped Their World – Our good friend Marcello Canuto of the Middle American Research Institute (MARI) announces that registration is now open for the symposium. The event will feature the following speakers: Barbara Arroyo, M. Kathryn Brown, Arthur Demarest, Francisco Estrada-Belli, Eleanor Harrison-Buck, Brett Houk, Takeshi Inomata, Holley Moyes, Merced Terry Powis, Keith Prufer, and Brent Woodfill. The keynote address will be delivered by Dr. Arlen Chase of the University of Nevada, on Friday evening. The hieroglyphic forum will focus on new texts discovered from the site of Naranjo and will be led by Alexandre Tokovinine and Marc Zender. An alternative talk will be presented by Christopher Pool of the University of Kentucky. Registration is at: <http://mari.tulane.edu/TMS/registration.html>. Review the program at: <http://mari.tulane.edu/TMS/program.html>

March 31: *Maya Society of Minnesota Lecture*
Bloodsport: The Ballgame and Boxing in Ancient Mesoamerica

– Lecture by Dr. Karl Taube, University of California, Riverside. Dr. Taube is an exceptional scholar of American Mesoamerica, archaeology, epigraphy and ethnohistory. The corpus of his academic work demonstrates brilliance and depth of mastery. Check out: <https://sites.google.com/a/hamline.edu/maya-society/>

Editor's Tip: *Online all the time*

Visit the IMS Facebook page under the group Institute of Maya Studies – Get in on all the action! IMS members post interesting links, as well as photos from their recent adventures. Plus, Marta Barber seems to always be there to help out if you have questions or comments. Join the **Explorer-ation!**



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