

March 15, 2017 • Maya Ceremonial Era Long Count: 0.0.4.5.5 • 2 Chik'chan 8 Kumk'u • G6

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Maya enthusiasts providing public education for 45+ years

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Broken Legs; Still Kicking

by Janice Van Cleve

On the third day of December in the year 730 CE, a Maya king took two broken legs and buried them under a monument. Those two legs kicked me in the backside and got me running to the library, 1273 years later.

The king was Eighteen Rabbit of Copan (lovingly known as *Uaxaclajuun Ub'aah K'awiil*) and the monument was Stela H (at right). The text on the back is brief, owing to the elaborate carving of the monument showing Eighteen Rabbit as the Maize God.

The text begins at A1-B1: "On 4 Ahau 13 Muwaan it came to pass". A2-B2 is "it was stood up, the White Kan-na Xoc." B3-A4a is "it was the name of the banner stone of Eighteen Rabbit, holy blood lord of Copan". A4b is effaced. B4 is "the 4 gourd trees with the lords". B4 doesn't make sense until we read Stela A.

Stela A (see page 3) was erected just 60 days after its twin, Stela H. Eighteen Rabbit wears a plaited mat pattern headdress symbolizing ruling authority in Maya regalia. The entire back and sides carry a long inscription.

The south side of Stela A begins E1-F1 is "the north gourd tree". E2-E4 is "There are the 4 wood skies, the 4? skies, the 4 ni skies, and the 4 deer hoof skies". This grouping of fours is clarified at F4-E6: "the holy blood lord of Copan, the holy blood lord of Tikal, the holy blood lord of Calakmul,

the holy blood lord





Practically every Maya adventurer cherishes their photos of Copan's Stela H, but these are two nice images now maintained at LAMCA. Access new link through: www.famsi.org/research/copan/monuments/

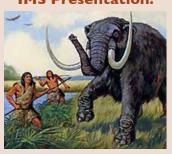




L) Pertinent glyphs from Linda Schele's illustration of Stela H. The Linda Schele Drawing Collection is now maintained by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA). To view the collection, go to: http://ancientamericas.org/collection/browse/29. R) Alfred P. Maudslay snapped this image of the back side of Stela H in 1885. Courtesy of BrooklynMuseum.org.

of Palenque". Evidently these four lords witnessed the dedication of both stelae and the associated rituals. They are likened to





The Old Vero Site and Its Place in Florida's Paleoindian Record

with **Dr. C. Andrew Hemmings**

the four gourd trees, the four *pawahtuns* who hold the sky up above the earth. They are the pillars of Maya royal authority.

The ritual begins at C2-C4a: "zero K'ins and 3 Winals ago (60 days) on

continued on page 3



This College Donation is Truly Historic; and It's Not Just the **Artifacts Involved, by Ana Veciana-Suarez**

In a move that will help cement two local institutions' role as stewards of Florida and early American history, the Jay I. Kislak Foundation is donating thousands of priceless items, including rare books, maps, manuscripts and artifacts, to the University of Miami and Miami Dade College.

The announcement was made on January 16 (MLK Day) by real estate magnate Jay I. Kislak, his foundation and the two higher education institutions. It means that such valuable pieces as the two earliest published editions of a famous 1493 Christopher Columbus letter will have permanent homes in the Special Collections Division of UM's Otto G. Richter Library in Coral Gables and at MDC's Freedom Tower in downtown Miami.

MDC plans to create a permanent 2,600-sq-ft public exhibition gallery in the Freedom Tower, adjacent to the historic New World Mural, which celebrates Ponce de Leon's 1513 discovery and naming of Florida – a fitting place for a Kislak collection replete with Precolumbian and early American historical pieces. At UM in Coral Gables, the

Kislak donation will enhance a collection pertaining to South Florida history and Caribbean and Cuban culture.

> "These two institutions are part of Miami and I am here in Miami," Kislak said in an interview before the announcement. "These are now permanent homes [for the collection] and the southernmost end of the larger collection."

> In 2004, Kislak gave 3,000 items to the Library of Congress. The latest Kislak gift includes more than 2,300 books, maps, manuscripts and other historic materials valued at about \$30 million. Some of the more interesting items:

> • A 1486 edition of Ptolemy's Cosmographia, considered one of the most influential works in the history of cartography. A copy was owned by Christopher Columbus.

A I52I volume describing Cuba by Italian historian Peter Martyr d'Anghiera.

- A 1589 volume, The Principal Navigations, Voiages and Discoveries of the English Nation, by English writer Richard Hakluyt.
- A two-volume account of the 1804-1806 Lewis and Clark Expedition, commissioned by President Thomas Jefferson.

As a result of the donation, a Kislak-MDC-UM partnership

will plan exhibitions, research projects, education and public outreach to serve students, residents and scholars studying Florida, American history and the cultures of the Caribbean and Latin America. MDC and UM plan to collaborate on

the collections' care and public

events as well. The gift to UM and MDC,

however, carries with it an extra layer of meaning because of Kislak's connection to the area. The former Navy pilot who served in World War II has called Miami home for more than 60 years. "It's truly invaluable, the collection," UM Dean and University Librarian Charles Eckman said.

"This gift advances Miami Dade College's legacy and stewardship of continued on page 7



This Precolumbian art work, Diving God, 1000-1250 CE, is a Postclassic Maya pottery vessel from Yucatan, Mexico. Donated to Miami Dade College, it features an ochre-bodied god painted with red and white markings and wearing a whitefaced bird headdress, probably representing a Yacatec owl.



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Christopher Columbus Letter: Epistola de insulis nuper inventis, was published 1493 in Rome by Eucharius Silber, and it describes the explorer's New World discoveries to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain. The letter is considered one of history's most important documents. Both images courtesy of the Jay I. Kislak Foundation.

What Does Central Mexico Have To Do with the Maya?

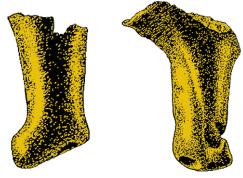
A whole lot, when you know where to look! Traveling with members of the IMS...

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?





Cut legs of gold figurine found in the cache under Stela H, Copan. Credit: Gustav Stromsvik.

Broken Legs; Still Kicking by Janice Van Cleve

continued from page 1

4 Ahau 13 Muwaan, was planted the banner stone, the stood-up Kan-na Xok was its name". C4b-D5 is "he died, the youthful Scatterer, the young Nun, 3 Monkey Pu-Wi Ahau". C6 is Butz Chan, followed by a curious "Ahau Mam". "Mam" is negative, so this might be "no longer Ahau".

Then comes a ritual cutting of the bones of *Butz Chan*. D6-C8a is "Many times strengthened were the bones and blood of the sun-eyed one. They cut the bones of the dead one who has passed away".

Linda Schele noted that in the cache below Stela H were buried two legs from a gold figurine (see above). The legs were hollow and barely an inch long. One had been broken above the knee, the other below the knee. Gold is almost non-existent in the Maya lands and the legs may have come from Panama.

Great bats and quetzal feathers! We have physical monuments with inscriptions that

Glyphs on the backside of Stela A, also by Linda Schele.

precisely date a bone cutting ritual and lo and behold under one of them we find these little cut leg bones! Could

they be the exact ones used on that day in 730 CE? Were they handled by these folks whose titles are actually recorded in stone? This is almost a clear window into an actual scene from the past. It's a smoking gun. It's like being there!

Schele referenced an article by Gustav Stromsvik who catalogued the contents under the stelae at Copan. That's when the little legs kicked me out the door and into my my car. I had to see that article. In minutes I was deep in the library stacks pouring through arcane periodicals until I found it. He had maps and diagrams of each substela chamber at Copan. He had inventories of the contents and photos of them. There in the middle of the stash from Stela H were the little legs!



Pertinent glyphs from Linda Schele's illustration of Stela A. The Los Angeles County Museum of Art notes that this collection is now available in high-resolution. To view the Linda Schele Drawing Collection, visit: http://ancientamericas.org/ collection/browse/29



A frontal view of Stela A featuring Eighteen Rabbit. Courtesy of Simon Fraser University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology.

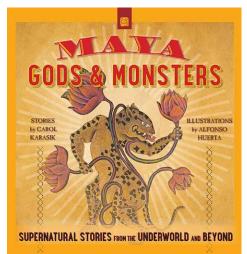


Alfred P. Maudslay snapped this image of Stela A in 1885. Courtesy of: www.BrooklynMuseum.org.

Sources:

Schele, Linda; Mathews, Peter
1998 The Code of Kings.
Published by Scribner.
Stromsvik, Gustav
1942 Substela Caches and Stela,
Foundations at Copan and
Quirigua. Contributions
to American Anthropology
and History, Vol. 7, No. 37.

Editor's note: Janice Van Cleve is the author of *The Kings Of Copan In Their Own Words* that contains drawings and translations of the royal inscriptions from Copan. All her offerings are at: www.mayas.doodlekit.com.



Maya Gods and Monsters

Editor/Publisher: Linda Ligon Associate Publisher: Karen Brock Layout and Design: Susan Wasinger Text: ©2016 Carol Karasik Illustrations: ©2016 Alfonso Huerta

Library of Congress Control Number: 2016954660

Editor's Pick: Recommended Reading

Maya Gods and Monsters: Supernatural Stories from the Underworld and Beyond

Stories by Carol Karasik Illustrations by Alfonso Huerta

I can't say it better than to quote a phrase by Janice Van Cleve: "Great bats and quetzal feathers!" I couldn't be more impressed with any book more than this new publication by Thrums Books.

In our August 2016 issue of the IMS Explorer, we covered the book release of Maya Threads: A Woven History of Chiapas. Since then, that book has won awards for co-authors Chip Morris and Carol Karasik. With the release of Maya Gods and Monsters, Carol takes her next giant leap into amazing and enlightening our world of Maya enthusiasts.

And if you can't accept my endorsement of this wonderful and inspiring new book, then read this:

"Inspired by myths, stories and images from over two thousand years of Maya civilization and religious beliefs, Carol Karasik has given a highly readable and lively vision of the supernatural world of these remarkable people."

- Michael D. Coe

Professor of Anthropology, Emeritus at Yale University, and Curator Emeritus of the Anthropology collection in the Peabody Museum of Natural History.



Chaak was sitting in his cave, rumbling and grumbling. Far off he heard a song that rattled and rocked like a summer storm.

Rain, rain, it's falling again. The fields are flooding, the sun is black. the wings of the corn are yellow and damp. Stop the lightning... Stop the thunderclap!

Tin, tin, tin.

Pim, pom, pim!

Hun Hunahpu, the God of Corn,

lives inside each kernel of the corn plant. Hun Hunahpu, the First Father, lives inside the Maya people. His spirit is the essence of life that grows and dies and renews itself each spring, now and forever.



continued on page 5

Water Lily Jaguar

Water Lily Jaguar swims

in the silver rivers of

the rainforest. He

swims in the silver



Grandmother Moon

All the earth's creatures are woven together in our clothes, all rythms, all cycles, all songs. These the goddess showed us.



Maya people – one of the greatest civilizations in the New World.

Carol Karasik is a deft storyteller, relaying extraordinary tales with a humorous and often lyrical voice. She includes a concise and beautiful history of the Maya along with an enchanting account of the myriad sources for her stories.

This auxiliary content provides context and easy access to a complex creation narrative. Maya Gods and Monsters will appeal to young adult and adult readers with an interest in world cultures and

multicultural folktales as well as Maya enthusiasts attentive to Maya culture, Mexico, and Central America.

ater Lily

Jaguar

Things get out of

hand when Water Lily

laguar dances, and the dead

start jumping for joy!

Carol Karasik has published a variety of books on Maya culture, notably Mayan Tales from Zinacantán: Songs and Stories from the People of the Bat and the award-winning Maya Threads: A Woven History of Chiapas. Maya Gods and Monsters is her latest effort to introduce broad audiences to the cosmic vision of the ancient and modern Maya.

Alfonso Huerta is a native of Mazatlán, Sinaloa, Mexico. He drew on primary sources as inspiration for these illustrations, reworking them to make them not only faithful to the Maya originals, but also flavored with his own sense of the magic of the indigenous world. He currently

lives and works in Austin, Texas.

Sources: Condensed by the editor from the Thrums Books promotional announcement and the pages of the book itself. No fooling, the book release date is April I, 2017. Preorder your copy now at: ClothRoads: www.clothroads.com/product/maya-gods-monsters/ or on Amazon by searching the book title at: www.amazon.com



White Bone Centipede

by name, looks like the skeleton of a long-dead snake, but don't let that fool you. He has a hundred greasy legs that crawl faster than you can run.

The Vision Serpent

Some serpents live on the earth, others dwell in the sky. The Vision Serpent easily moves from one level of the universe to another. Though this serpent is made of clouds and fire, he can slip beneath the blood-red sea and down the snake-like passages of the Underworld.

There he watches and listens.

Pawahtun

He's always on the verge of laughing himself silly. Then he climbs out of the turtle shell on his back, which he beats like a drum when he's dancing.



The main-page masthead of the Old Vero Ice Age Sites Committee (OVIASC) website. Artwork and design by Dann Jacobus. See the history of excavations at the site at: www.oviasc.org/New-Lead-Archaelogist.html

Old Vero Man Site Excavations Back in Action!

In the heart of the Treasure Coast, a team of archeologists is poring over a 14,000-year-old site that could completely rewrite the prehistory of the State of Florida and, to some extent, the prehistory of humankind in the New World.

But it took a last-minute intervention by Florida Atlantic University to assure The Old Vero Man site would be around to reveal its mysteries.

The dig's story began a century ago, with the Indian River Farms
Company dredging a canal in a backwater called Vero in 1913 – the actual town of Vero Beach wouldn't exist for another six years. The dredging turned up old bones and other artifacts, which in turn drew the attention of then state geologist
Elias Sellards. He excavated over



The excavation area of Old Vero Man site is protected from the elements by a tent-like structure called a WeatherPort since the summer of 2014.



Human radius in place in the canal bank — Vero, Florida, ca. 1916,
Florida Memory, State Archives of Florida. Check out:
www.floridamemory.com/items/show/125750

the next couple years, turning up more evidence of ancient human habitation.

When found a century ago, the remains of human beings and their artifacts associated with extinct Pleistocene fauna at the Vero Site (8IR09) initiated a debate that is now IOI years old. Equivocal contexts and non-meaningful criticism led the protagonists, both pro and con, to talk past each other in a less than scientific manner.

Unanswered and unresolved questions about the initial occupation of the site were part of the impetus to begin modern re-excavation of the site starting in 2014. Having resolved many issues about the geologic history of the site, we continue to find ever more interesting materials in the undisturbed sediments spanning the last 30,000 years of deposition.

In 2012, OVIASC hired Andrew Hemmings, Ph.D. He is a Florida-trained archaeologist and expert on the oldest Paleoindian sites in the United States. He became the site project director.

In early 2013, the program's "co-project director Jim Adovasio, was hired. The duo has excavated since 2014 until the present. Early excavations established the geology of the site — what soil had been added by the canal dredging and other construction, and what had been there longer.

Now, Florida Atlantic University (FAU) has come to the rescue. Its Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute

in Fort Pierce has announced they will sponsor excavations.

Join in! The 2017 digging season started in January... and IMS members are encouraged to volunteer!

IMS Program note:

Our presentation on March I5 features

Dr. C. Andrew Hemmings

Be there to ask your questions in person!

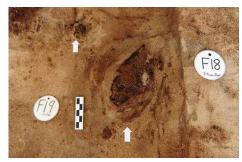
Two of the photos below were taken by Dr. Hemmings on February 20, especially for our IMS Explorer readers!



"Here is the excavation block looking west. The sandbags are for us to walk on. All of the plastic and aluminum pans or sheets are covering pieces of bone in place below our 13,000 year old (cal) floor." (A. Hemmings, 2/20/2017)



In early 2013, the program's "Here is a view of the bones from the end of the 2016 co-project director Jim Adovasio, season. They are in line running east to west and we was hired. The duo has excavated since think we could find many more in the low mounded 2014 until the present. Early excavations area in the units to the west." (A. Hemmings)



"This is a close up of the heavily deteriorated exposed surface of a large bone fragment. The protected down side is in much better condition and will have an intact cortical surface. Not ideal but, boy we are glad to get them at all. This fragment was uncovered during the week of February 20." (A. Hemmings)

Source: Text condensed from www.archaeological.org/fieldwork/afob/20794 and an online article by Sun-Setinel reporter Dan Sweeny, released 12/15/2015. Check out the video at: www.sun-sentinel.com/news/florida/fl-vero-man-site-fau-20151218-story.html

March 15 • 6 pm • IMS Feature Presentation

The Old Vero Site and Its Place in Florida's Paleoindian Record

with Dr. C. Andrew Hemmings,

Florida Atlantic University – Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute – Old Vero Ice Age Sites Committee

When found a century ago the remains of human beings and their artifacts associated with extinct Pleistocene fauna at the Vero Site (8IR09) initiated a debate that is now IOI years old. Equivocal contexts and nonsensical criticism led the protagonists, both pro and con, to talk past each other in less than scientific



Excavators work on a 14,000-yearold surface during the 2016 dig season. The 2017 season began in January and will continue through May. Volunteers are welcome!

manner. Unanswered and unresolved questions about the initial occupation of the site were part of the impetus to begin modern re-excavation of the site in 2014. Having resolved many issues about the geologic history of the site we continue to find ever more interesting materials in the undisturbed sediments spanning the last 30,000 years of deposition.

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

This program will take place at 6 pm in K-4I3 (in Building K-4, Room I3)
IMS Hotline: 305-279-8II0

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

This College Donation is Truly Historic; and It's Not Just the Artifacts Involved, by Ana Veciana-Suarez cont. from page 2

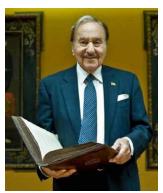
Miami and our region's history," MDC President Eduardo J. Padrón said in a statement. "I am extremely grateful to Mr. Kislak for this invaluable contribution and honored to once again collaborate with Dr. Frenk and the University of Miami. At MDC, we are committed to ensuring the donation is accessible to the South Florida community and

our students for educational and cultural enrichment."

UM President Julio Frenk called the donated items "unique and exceptionally important materials" that will have "an unparalleled opportunity to engage our community in the history and culture of our hemisphere."

Source Ana Vec

The Miami collections will enable local scholars to do research without having to head to Washington, D.C. "I get a good feeling that these things are available to future generations," Kislak noted.



Source: From an article released 1/22/2017 by The Miami Herald reporter Ana Veciana-Suarez. Search for article: 128075264 on: www.miamiherald.com

2017 New Membership and Renewal Application

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City, State, Zip:	Century: \$100 ———————————————————————————————————
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Brown University's Stephen Houston and a team of leading researcher in anthropology and Maya archeology methodically verify the authenticity of the oldest known manuscript in ancient America:

13th Century Maya Codex, Long Shrouded in Controversy, Proves Genuine

The Grolier Codex, an ancient document that is among the rarest books in the world, has been regarded with skepticism since it was reportedly unearthed by looters from a cave in Chiapas, Mexico, in the 1960s.

But a meticulous new study of the codex has yielded a startling conclusion: The codex is both genuine and likely the most ancient of all surviving manuscripts from ancient America.

Stephen Houston, the Dupee Family Professor of Social Science and co-director of the Program in Early Cultures at Brown University, worked with Michael Coe, professor emeritus of archeology and anthropology at Yale and leader of the research

team, along with Mary Miller of Yale and Karl Taube of the University of California-Riverside. They reviewed "all known research on the manuscript," analyzing it "without regard to the politics, academic and otherwise, that have enveloped the Grolier," the team wrote in its study "The Fourth Maya Codex." The paper, published in the journal Maya Archaeology, fills a special section of the publication and includes a lavish facsimile of the codex.

The study, Houston said, "is a confirmation that the manuscript, counter to some claims, is quite real. The manuscript was sitting unremarked in a basement of the National Museum in Mexico City, and its history is cloaked in great drama.



A detail of an image from page 4 of the Grolier Codex with red underpainting visible. Released on the Brown University website. Photo: Justin Kerr.

It was found in a cave in Mexico, and a wealthy Mexican collector, Josué Sáenz, had sent it abroad before its eventual return to the Mexican researchers."

Source: Condensed by the editor from an original article by Gillian Kiley, released 7/9/2016, at: https://news.brown.edu/articles/2016/09/mayacodex. Submitted by Dr. Hal Henry (from Peru)

Upcoming Events at the IMS:

March 15 • 6 pm: IMS Feature Presentation
The Old Vero Site and It's Place
in Florida's Paleoindian Record —
with Dr. C. Andrew Hemmings,
a professional archaeologist recently

a professional archaeologist recently hired by Florida Atlantic University. He also represents the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute and the Old Vero Ice Age Sites Committee. Floridians – the site lies practically in your backyard!

April 19 • 6 pm: IMS Feature Presentation

Central Mexico and Its

Connections to the Maya – with IMS President Eric T. Slazyk. We take a look at the architectural and artistic connections between the two regions in anticipation of our upcoming adventure.

IMS Program Note:

In alignment with MDC, we now offer nine IMS presentations during a calendar year: January – June and September – November. For more information, contact our Hotline at: 305-279-8110; or by email at: _____ info@instituteofmayastudies.org _____

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. In New Orleans, LA. Registration is at: http://mari.tulane.edu/TMS/registration.html

March 5: Tulane Symposium Workshop LiDAR: The Future of Lowland Maya Archaeology – featured as part of the 2017 Tulane Maya Symposium. LiDAR, an advanced laser-scanning technology capable of penetrating dense treecover, is providing revolutionary new

topographic data. It is the future of lowland Maya archaeology! The workshop will be led by Dr. Francisco

Estrada-Belli of Tulane University and Dr. Thomas Garrison of the University of Southern California. The workshop will be held twice, once in the morning and once in the afternoon. You may sign up for either workshop at our online registration form: mari.tulane.edu/TMS/registration. In addition, the men will be hosting an open house before and after lunch on Sunday. See the full program at: mari.tulane.edu/TMS/program.

March 31: Maya Society of Minnesota

Bloodsport: The Ballgame and

Boxing in Ancient Mesoamerica

- Lecture by Dr. Karl Taube, University of California, Riverside. Dr. Taube is a 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/

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



Water Lily Jaguar
Water Lily Jaguar swims in the silver rivers of the rainforest. He swims in the silver pool of the moon. Things get out of hand when Water Lily Jaguar dances, and the dead start jumping for joy!

Illustration by Alfonso Huerta. Text by Carol Karasik. Courtesy of Karen Brock, and Thrums Books. Jaguar border by Steve Radzi.