

April 19, 2017 • Maya Ceremonial Era Long Count: 0.0.4.7.0 • 11 'Ahaw 18 Pop • G5

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Maya enthusiasts providing public education for 45+ years

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Impressive Ancient Palace Unearthed in Oaxaca Was the Ruler's Home and the Seat of Government

The palace is the oldest ever excavated in Mexico's Valley of Oaxaca

Much of what we know about past civilizations in Mexico comes from the writings of colonial Europeans – Spanish conquerors and priests – who arrived in the Americas in the 1500s. But archaeological evidence from recent excavations at a site called El Palenque in the Valley of Oaxaca, Mexico, shows that temple precincts similar to the ones the Europeans encountered had existed in the region some 1,500 years earlier.

Married archaeologists Elsa M. Redmond and Charles Spencer, both of the American Museum of Natural History in New York, direct ongoing excavations at the site.

Redmond and Spencer have been studying the remains of ancient civilizations in Oaxaca since the 1970s, when both were undergraduates at Rice University. Interested in learning how early states arise, they have been working in the area around El Palenque since 1993. The research they described in a recently



A slow start at first: A view of the temple palace complex when excavations were initiated in 2013. Courtesy of Elsa M. Redmond and Charles Spencer.

published paper was initiated 15 years ago at the eastern edge of the site, where three symmetrically aligned, multiroom temples faced a public plaza. Behind the temples stood two residences that the archaeologists believe were used by priests.

What is important about the location, Redmond said, is the proliferation of building types there. Such diversity is a sign of specialization of roles in a ruling culture and is a hallmark of early states. Archaeologists have noted similar variety in buildings of earlier societies, too – including the culture that emerged in Mesopotamia more than 6,000 years ago. There, people built the temples known as ziggurats on the banks of the Euphrates River, which "loomed over the community," Redmond said.

Redmond said that she and Spencer were particularly excited to find that the temples in the El Palenque complex seemed to share attributes



View from a drone. The buildings at El Palenque were monumental, and set apart from the rest of the settlement by large enclosure walls. Courtesy of Elsa M. Redmond and Charles Spencer.

April 19, 6 pm
IMS Presentation:



Talud-tablero style evident at Cholula.

Central Mexico and Its Connections to the Maya
with IMS President **Eric (Rick) T. Slazyk**

that Spanish priests described in the civilizations they encountered in the 16th century. They faced into the plaza, but had another staircase on the back for staff – priests – to maintain privacy and secrecy.

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Jim Reed, Editor

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Impressive Ancient Palace Unearthed in Oaxaca Was the Ruler's Home and the Seat of Government

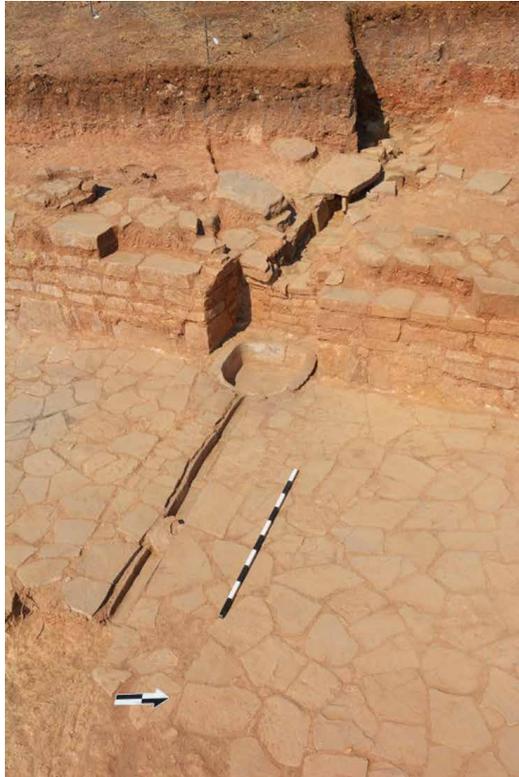
continued from page 1

“It separated the sacred and the secular,” Redmond said, explaining that the staircases “indicated there’s more back there. These aren’t just temples that face the plaza. There’s a significant temple staff.”

Recently completed excavations at the site of El Palenque in Mexico’s Valley of Oaxaca have recovered the well-preserved remains of a palace complex dated by associated radiocarbon samples and ceramics to the Late Formative period or Late Monte Alban I phase (300–100 BCE), the period of archaic state emergence in the region. The El Palenque palace exhibits certain architectural and organizational features similar to the royal palaces of much later Mesoamerican states described by Colonial-period sources.

The excavation data document a multifunctional palace complex covering a maximum estimated area of 2,790 m² on the north side of the site’s plaza and consisting of both governmental and residential components. The data indicate that the palace complex was designed and built as a single construction. The palace complex at El Palenque is the oldest multifunctional palace excavated thus far in the Valley of Oaxaca.

The palace’s features and archaeology makes it similar to the royal palaces of later, historically documented Mesoamerican states. It is indeed a multifunctional palace, composed of both courts and buildings where government officials assembled to conduct state affairs, but also of the ruler’s residential quarters. The archaeologists believe that the complex was built in a single large-scale construction effort. The sheer size of the palace highlights how



Water shrine, where a stone-lined drain descending from ruler’s residence supplied rainwater to cistern.

Courtesy of Elsa M. Redmond and Charles Spencer.

powerful the ruler was as it suggests his ability to amass considerable manpower for the building’s construction.

The archaeologists have also conducted radiocarbon dating to find out when it was built and inhabited. Using a series of radiocarbon dates derived from charcoal samples found at the site, including samples embedded in the walls of the palace, the team established that the construction dates back to between 300 and 100 BCE. An analysis of the ceramics found within the walls of the palace confirms this.



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This is a time for which there is considerable evidence of state organization in the Valley of Oaxaca and the palace is a further proof of that. “This 2,300-year-old palace is the oldest multi-functional palace excavated to date in the Valley of Oaxaca and is a key indicator of the early state society that emerged there at this time”; the authors conclude. 🏛️

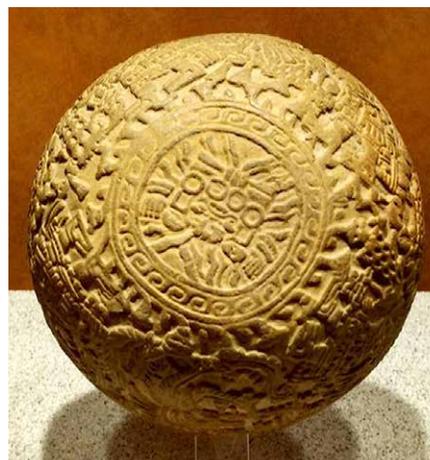
Sources: Condensed by the editor from three sources that were all submitted by Mike Ruggeri. Initial paragraphs by Eryn Brown, released 04/22/2013 at: <http://articles.latimes.com>. Additional paragraphs are from an article by Léa Surugue, released 03/27/2017 at: www.ibtimes.co.uk. One paragraph is from the Abstract of a paper that Elsa M. Redmond submitted for publication to the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, sent for review 01/26/2017 and approved and released 02/22/2017 at: www.pnas.org/content/early/2017/03/21/1701336114.

Vasija de las Colinas

Photos by **Roberto Vieyra**

This artifact was photographed in a display case in the “Sala Teotihuacan” within the National Anthropology Museum in Mexico City. The piece known as the “Vasija de Colinas, or “Vase of Hills”, caught the eye of Facebook friend Roberto Vieyra and we’re glad he shared a couple photos.

The artifact was found in the vicinity of Calpulalpan, that is a located in the Mexican state of Tlaxcala. Calpulalpan was always an indigenous town and on the route that the Pochteca



continued on page 7





Stephan Merk leaning against a major stone sculpture denominated as Monument 3 at the site of Sabana Piletas, by Lee Jones, 2009.

Editor's note: We covered Stephan Merk's first volume, *The Long Silence (1) (Sabana Piletas)* in the July 2011 *IMS Explorer*, Volume 40, Issue 7. This submission introduces Merk's second book in the series (*Itzimte*).

Ruinhunters:
Book Review by Lee Jones
The Long Silence (2):
Itzimte and Its Neighbors
 by **Stephan Merk**

Henry David Thoreau, in 1851, dedicated two years of his life in meticulously documenting all, yes all, of the flora and fauna around, and in, a pretty, although unspectacular, pond that his mentor, Ralph Waldo Emerson, let him live by.

The pond was called "Walden". Every bug, amphibian, weed, flower, tree, mammal, etc., was recorded, in many cases, for the first time. He would enthusiastically record, for example, when a previously unknown weed would change colors. Get a life, Thoreau.

Stephan Merk, of Augsburg, Germany, newspaper editor by profession, and Mayanist by passion, reminds me of Thoreau. When young and reckless, he wandered all over Mesoamerica, enjoying all of the Maya area, as well as other indigenous cultures. As he's growing older, it appears that he's settled on the Puuc area, although he enjoys forays to Chenes and Río Bec sites.

Merk's general project is the cataloguing of standing Maya

architecture in two chosen grid sections of the Puuc region.

Who can say why, around 2001, Merk chose a boring, ugly grid, 100 km² without known Class II sites, south of Santa Elena, Yucatan, east of Highway 261 and walked the length and breadth of it, usually with local guides, sometimes alone.

The result was *The Long Silence (1)*, 2011, now in its second printing. Over 200 buildings were recorded, including a Class II site, Sabana Piletas, with the longest hieroglyphic inscription in the Puuc area to date, along with a ranking of Class II to Yaxche Xlapak. Merk's ranking of sites leans toward prior ranking systems of Dunning and Andrews, but with a few differences, as explained clearly in his books.

Still fit and reckless (and, I think, enjoying his accolades), he moved just south of that grid and worked, and worked, a "new" grid, one hundred square kilometers, just as boring and ugly as the first, but with a Class II site, Itzimte.

Itzimte had been somewhat documented by many scholars, and a partial map was made by Erik Von Euw. Von Euw also "rescued" the stelae of Itzimte and delivered them to INAH in the State of Campeche, in the late 1970s.

Merk spent a moderate amount of time at Itzimte, finding heretofore unknown buildings and satellite sites, probably suburbs of Itzimte. But, like Thoreau, he felt this was too easy. He entered the forest east, and while most visitors



The Long Silence (2), by Stephan N. Merk. Cover photo by Balta Castro. Herstellung and Verlag: BoD, Books on Demand, Norderstedt, Germany. Also available on Amazon. 2016. ISBN: 978-3-7392-2627-9.

look down for stones, snakes, and hidden chultuns, Merk was looking for carved and cut stones, and any hint of a structure.

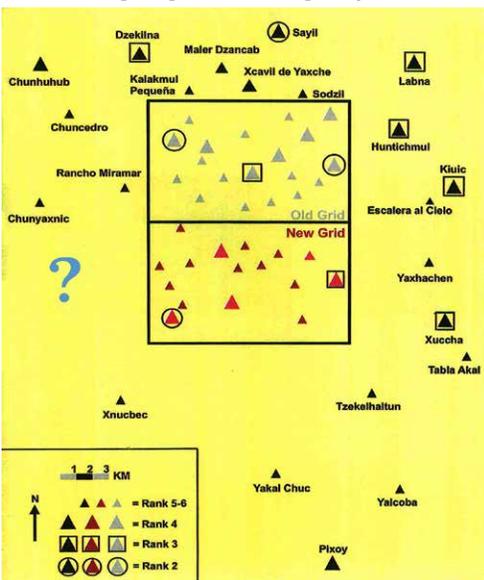
This "new" grid revealed only 69 structures as compared to the first grid of 270 structures. This surprised Merk, as he noted that the "new" grid had perhaps better soil than the first.

As always, Merk is generous with credit given to those who came before him and those who shared his adventures. Teobert Maler, perhaps his most important inspiration, discovered sites in both grids in the 1880s and '90s, described them, and usually photographed them. But then, after that, more times than not, no one could relocate the sites.

Merk, along with his colleagues, I believe, has rediscovered virtually all of Maler's "Hidden Cities", including the second palace of the Tantah site. It all wore Merk out, but he did it.

Tantah I has been described by some as the most perfect mosaic-style Puuc building. Maler devoted only one paragraph to Tantah II, which proved to be tantalizing to Merk. He couldn't find it!

After a while, Merk finally found Maler's Tantah II, approximately



Itzimte and Adjacent Areas, Plate 3 from the book, showing old and new grids. Note west of the "new grid", not one recorded site!



Mummified Bird, Baby Found in a Cave Shed Light on Earliest Desert Farmers

Archaeologists called to investigate a cave on a rancher's property have discovered an unusual burial that's providing new insights into the ways of some of the earliest farmers of the Chihuahuan Desert.

In the cave, researchers have found the skeleton of an infant, the lower half of a man whose legs were tied together, and the remains of a scarlet macaw, all buried among a scattering of stone points, textiles, and other artifacts.

Some of the remains – both human and avian – had been naturally mummified by the arid climate.

The find was made in central Chihuahua, near the town of San Francisco de Borja some 300 km (186 miles) from the Texas border.

It's the first archaeological site ever found in the area, and it's yielding new clues about the lives of some of the region's earliest agriculturalists and a period known as the Late Archaic, some 2,000 years ago.

"This is one of the few archaeological contexts registered by archaeologists in this region," said Dr. Emiliano Gallaga Murrieta in an interview with Western Digs.

"If we confirm the hypothesis [that this burial dates from] the Late Archaic, we could have a site with

information about the transition to agricultural, sedentary communities in the region."

Gallaga and his colleagues from Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) were called to the site in March, 2016, after a rancher in San Francisco de Borja was using heavy equipment to level the floor of the cave and uncovered strange remains, including the mummified head of a macaw.

"Many archaeological discoveries are the result of planned research and are conducted during years of intellectual efforts," Gallaga said. "Others are the result of an accident."

In October, 2016, excavations unearthed human remains as well, beginning with the partial skeleton of a toddler.

The sex of the child is unknown, as is its exact age, although Gallaga estimates that it was between one and three years old at the time of death.

"This burial was close to the surface and very disturbed," he said. The team then unearthed the partial remains of at least one more person, consisting of a partial pelvis and two sets of large leg bones, which had been bound together with cordage.

Such bound partial remains have been found in other, more recent contexts in northern Mexico, Gallaga explained. "It is not uncommon to find reburied partial skeletons," he said.

The practice was common, for example, in the large pre-contact city of Paquime, or Casas Grandes, about 350 km (217 miles) to the north, a trading hub that connected the cultures in the southern tropics to the Ancestral Puebloans and beyond.

Beginning around 1100 CE, the people of Paquime were known to dig up and re-bury their dead, sometimes depositing their bones in bundles or



The naturally mummified remains of a scarlet macaw – a tropical bird that's not native to the Chihuahuan Desert – are among the intriguing funerary goods found in the grave.

Photo courtesy of Emiliano Gallaga, INAH.

large jars, possibly so that they could be interred with relatives.

Assuming that this newly found cave site predates Paquime, the San Francisco burial could be early evidence of this practice, Gallaga said. "Probably the burial was [originally] buried somewhere else, and then only half of the body was reburied at the cave," he said. "But why? We just do not know."

"The remains of the baby were close to the half adult burial, but we do not know if they are related." The two sets of remains were surrounded with an array of goods, including baskets, textiles, a bag or dress made out of deer hide, and a large sea shell.

This early date also lends special significance to the macaw, Gallaga pointed out, because the tropical birds, like seashells, are not local to the high desert of Chihuahua. The discovery of the bird in this pre-Medio Period burial suggests that long-distance trade in exotic goods – and wildlife – pre-dated Paquime by centuries.

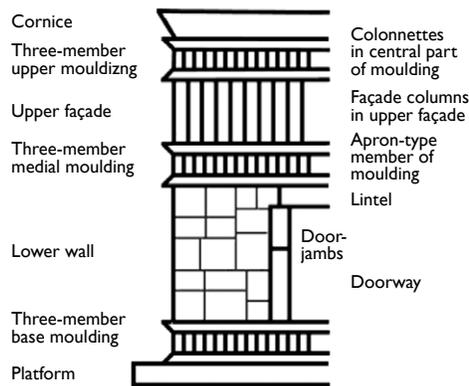
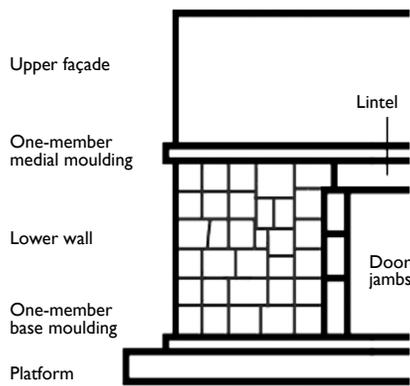
"This finding verifies once again that the [mountains of Chihuahua] have been a cultural corridor between the coast and the desert north with the south," Gallaga said in a separate press statement. 🏠

Sources: From an article by Blake de Pastino, released 10/27/26 at: <http://westerndigs.org/mummified-bird-baby-found-in-cave-shed-light-on-earliest-desert-farmers>. This originally appeared in Spanish in Bulletin 180, on 7/10/16 at: <http://www.inah.gob.mx>. Submitted by Mike Ruggeri.



Grave goods also included 1) an ear of corn, 2) a squash, 3) textiles, 4) worked deerskin and 5) a coiled basket.

Photo courtesy of Emiliano Gallaga, INAH.



From *The Long Silence (2)*: L) Fig. 6, showing the architectural elements of a typical Maya stone building executed in the Early Puuc style. R) Fig. 7, showing the elements of a typical Maya stone building executed in the Classic Puuc Colonnette style.



Fig. 188 in the original *Long Silence (1)*. The house in Merida where Teobert Maler lived and died. Photo by Karl Herbert Mayer, 1992.

Ruinhunters: Book Review by Lee Jones

The Long Silence (2): Itzimte and Its Neighbors by Stephan Merk *continued from page 3*

one kilometer from Tantah I, and confirmed it from Maler's short description, as classic Puuc colonneta style. But the locals demanded that the site be called Xkom Chakan, not Tantah II. Merk genially agreed, then located two other groups closer to Tantah that no one had reported.

So Maler's Tantah II becomes Xkom Chakan, and for spite, Merk finds new groups and triumphantly names them Tantah II and Tantah III! Thoreau would be thrilled (and sympathetic). Thoreau experienced frustration when he felt he had found every one of the spiders, beetles, water lilies, whatever, and after closing the file, came across another, and possibly another. Thoreau's family and friends thought he was deranged.

As Merk would leave a long, tiring, frustrating day in his second grid, he was noticed craning his neck, attached to his long body, peering west across Highway 261, searching for unusually tall trees that would perhaps indicate mounds... but it's just another desolate area. Not one known site.

The closest site is Chunyaxnic, to the north. There's nothing about it on Pollock's, Dunning's, or Merk's previous maps. Actually, Merk has stumbled onto a couple of unknown sites in the "grid"; one with quite high quality sculpture, all fallen, ostensibly while photographing orchids. Could this be a third grid?

Interestingly, Merk and his wife, Doctor Alma Duran Merk, (researcher, author) have recently bought a house in Merida. It's been reported that his colleague, Eduardo Gonzales Arce, and he have been sniffing around the lonely area west of his second grid. Explorers hate empty places on site maps.

There's an old saying going around the cantinas in southern Yucatan and Campeche – if a Puuc site hasn't been recorded by Maler, Pollock, Andrews, Prem, Dunning, Benavides C., Gallareta N., or Mayer, then it's not worth recording.

Luckily, Merk didn't buy into the program. Eight unknown sites are now known as a result of *The Long Silence (2)*, I think there's more to come. I just wish Thoreau could be available to help him.

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From *The Long Silence (2)*: Fig. 72, reveals the western wing of Maler's First Palace of Tantah. Photo by Balta Castro, 2013.

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Additional Contributors

Author Stephan Merk acknowledges the assistance of Nicholas Dunning, Eric Weaver, Daniel Graña-Behrens, Guido Krempel, Balta Castro, and Karl Herbert Mayer. 🏠

Editor's note: On March, 31, 2017, Dr. Karl Taube gave a lecture for the Maya Society of Minnesota. I think the subject of his program is so interesting, that I'd like to share it with you. I researched the subject and came up with the supporting images and captions.

Bloodsport: The Ballgame and Boxing in Ancient Mesoamerica

Program synopsis by **Dr. Karl Taube**,
University of California, Riverside

“One of the most frequently noted aspects of the rubber ballgame in Mesoamerica is the close relation to human sacrifice, especially in terms of decapitation. However, there tends to be little discussion of the underlying motivations and meanings of this

ritual act. In this study, I will discuss how human sacrifice and the ballgame relates to agricultural fertility and abundance, including the ritual flooding of ballcourts to denote them as deep,

watery sources of fertility and growth. I trace this to the early Olmec (ca. 1200-500 BCE) who offered rubber balls to the sacred spring at El Manatí and portrayed the feline Olmec rain god as a ballplayer.

“The Olmec also related their feline rain deity to ritual boxing, a very widespread, but little studied sport in ancient Mesoamerica.

The early Zapotec site of Dainzú features many monumental reliefs of ritual boxers wearing jaguar helmet masks, at times with the facial features of Cocijo, their aspect of the rain god.

“The Zapotec had held stone manoplas, or “stone knuckles” often used in boxing often portray jaguar faces. The boxing complex appears in Classic Maya art, including vessel scenes in

the remarkable corpus of figures from Luba'antun, Belize. In addition, in recent research, I have found this boxing complex to as far east as the Uluá Valley of Honduras, with clear relations to the major nearby site of Copan. Finally, I will discuss that the tradition of ritual boxing continues to this day in highland Guerrero, where young men dressed as jaguars engage in combat atop mountains, with their falling blood compared to fertile rain.”

Source: <https://sites.google.com/alhamline.edu/maya-society/>



Three combatant boxers in helmets with sections

of conch on their hands as weapons in route to hand-to-hand combat. Kerr No: 500, in Justin Kerr's Maya Vase Data Base, at: <http://research.mayavase.com/>



L) A stone carving, from the ancient Zapotec city of Dainzú shows a figure wearing a helmet and holding a small stone ball in his upraised hand. Some scholars think the ball was a weapon used in gladiatorial combat. Courtesy of Javier Urcid.



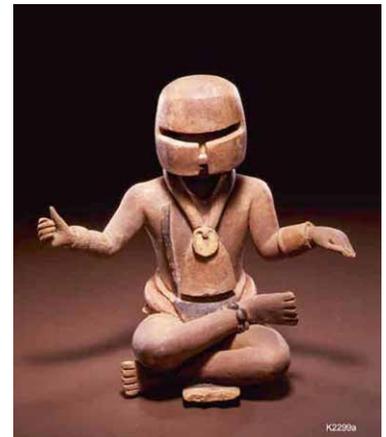
R) A monument from El Baúl in Guatemala, is believed to show the end of a gladiatorial ritual. The victorious fighter is wearing a jaguar mask with blood or vomit spewing from his mouth. Courtesy of Suzanna Miles. Source: From an article by Zach Zorich, published 12/08/2008 in AIA's online Vol. 61, No. 6, at: <http://archive.archaeology.org/0811/etcl/boxing.html>



Polychrome vessel: Am 1997, Q856, Person C. The notion of ancient Maya ritual combat, beyond the well-known rubber-ball game played across Mesoamerica, was proposed 40 years ago on the basis of this polychrome vase (L) from southern Belize and a series of Late Classic (700-850 CE) pottery figurine-ocarinas (R) depicting similarly accoutred individuals, found at Luba'antun by the British Museum in 1926-1927. (Hammond 1976. Each ocarina (ceramic whistle) originally had

a three-note sound chamber on the back. From Joyce 1933: pl. VIII. Now in Antiquity,

Vol. 91, Issue 355, February 2017, e6, available at: <https://www.cambridge.org/>



Maya Boxer. Peten. Seated clay figure with removable helmet. Image: 2299a in Justin Kerr's Precolumbian Portfolio, accessible at: <http://research.mayavase.com/>



Fighting is part of the rituals that mark the beginning of the rainy season in Mexico's Guerrero Highlands. The masks resemble the heads of jaguars, animals with ancient connections to rain and sacrifice. Courtesy of Jorge Perez de Lara.

April 19 • 6 pm • IMS Feature Presentation

Central Mexico and Its Connections to the Maya

with **Eric (Rick) T. Slazyk**
University of Miami School of Architecture
AIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C



Talud-tablero is an architectural style most commonly used in platforms, temples, and pyramids in Precolumbian Mesoamerica, becoming popular in the Early Classic Period of Teotihuacan.



Talud-tablero is very evident at Tikal.

The influence of Central Mexico on the Maya of Mesoamerica can be easily found in many of the important sites that dot the jungles of Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras and El Salvador.

In anticipation of our upcoming trip to Central Mexico, we take a look at the architectural and artistic connections between the two regions.

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.

Vasija de las Colinas

Photo by **Roberto Vieyra**

merchants took to get to Teotihuacan and in later times, to Tenochtitlan.

There are many elements that are associated with Teotihuacan, and some were iconic symbols associated with Teotihuacan, such as a bird, a dog, a snake, and a tassel headdress that is associated with the jaguar. Each of the animals is followed

by a richly dressed character, and each appears to be throwing or scattering what look like seeds.

A representation of the rain god Tlaloc dominates the center of the piece. Tlaloc was also by extension a god of earthly fertility and of water. The information sign that describes the artifact notes that this stone “vase” has been taken as an example of the theory that proposes that in Teotihuacan there was a corporate style type government. 🏔



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Colima Tomb Offers a “Small Window” into the Prehispanic Pantheon

In an oval-shaped, three-level tomb located beneath the city center in Colima, Mexico, specialists from the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) have excavated what remains of the bones of at least 12 individuals, as well as evidence of more bones scattered around the funerary area. Researchers note that these finds could represent “a small window” into what was a great Prehispanic pantheon of the Comala phase (0-500 CE).

Archaeologist Rafael Platas Ruiz, of the INAH Colima Center, reported that the tomb is around 1,700 years old. The remains were encountered at a depth of 84 cm (3 ft) below a concrete slab, during the remodeling work of a Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The specialists identified three levels of burial, and on the

second found an offering consisting of four ceramic objects, including two anthropomorphic sculptures.

One figurine portrays a masculine person standing with robust body wearing an elaborate headdress. He holds what appears to be an axe.

The second sculpture represents a woman with a wide body, with a triangular head and an aquiline nose. She has a banded headdress and holds a ceramic offering container. The other two objects excavated are a globular short-necked ceramic vessel that ends in a rounded rim (shown) and a box-like container.

“The presence of these artifacts in the burial alludes to the cosmovision of the groups that



Along with a globular ceramic pot, a sculpture representing a standing male character with an elaborate headdress was excavated, as well as a second figurine depicting a woman with a triangular head and aquiline nose. Photo courtesy of Rafael Platas, INAH.

inhabited the valley of Colima during various phases, from the Capacha phase (1500 BCE) through the Colima phase (0-500 CE), and on up to the arrival of the Spanish in 1500 CE”, noted Platas Ruiz. 🏰

Source: Condensed by the editor from Bulletin 1509 (in Spanish) appearing on the INAH website at: <http://www.inah.gob.mx>. Submitted by Mike Ruggeri on 2/8/2017.

Upcoming Events at the IMS:

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.

May 17 • 6 pm: *IMS Feature Presentation*
Maya Hieroglyphic Writing: A Comparison with Other Ancient Writing Systems – with **Stanley P. Guenter**, PhD, Southern Methodist University. This presentation will contrast other writing systems of the ancient world to that of the Maya, and reveal how Mesoamerican the ancient Maya and their writing system truly were.

June 21 • 6 pm: *IMS Feature Presentation*
Illustrative Travels Along the Maya Coast of Quintana Roo – with **Steve Radzi**, Illustrator/Artist.

IMS program note:

In alignment with MDC, we will take a summer break during the months of July and August.

Upcoming Events and Announcements:

April 15: *FIU Community Involvement*
Fourth Annual FIU Indigenous Celebration – Planting Seeds for Seven Generations: “Working as One for the Future”. Planting seeds for Seven Generations is a phrase known among Indigenous North American people reminding us of the importance our actions today have on our future and the seven generations that will follow.

Seminole, Miccosukee, Carib, Ainu, Quechua, and others will share their stories, dances, music, and art, conveying their ancestral knowledge while celebrating the important lessons of this year’s theme. We welcome our FIU Graduate Student, Carolina Castoreno of Apache heritage as our Master of Ceremonies.

The Indigenous Celebration will be presented as Workshops between 2:00-5:00 pm, and then Dance/Story/Song/Videos between 6:30-9:00 pm. The sessions will be as interactive as possible – inviting audience members to dance, sing, and participate.

This event is free and open to the public. At Florida International University, Miami, FL, FIU Modesto Maidique Campus, Graham Center Ballroom (GC). For more info, call (305) 348-2247 or visit: <http://indigenous.fiu.edu/>

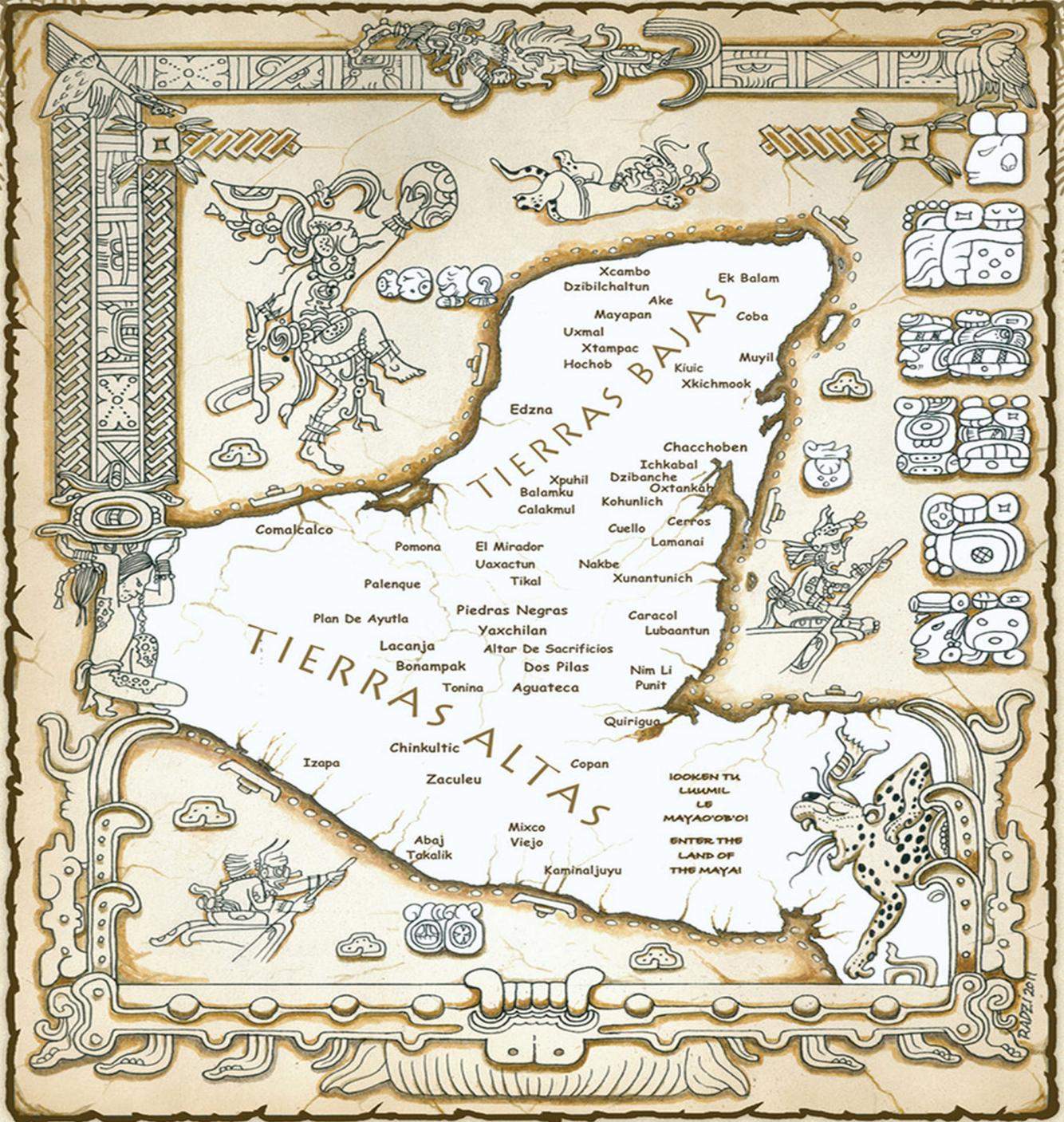
April 27-30: *7th Annual M@L Conference*
Maya at the Lago Conference – Sponsored by Davidson Day School and American Foreign Academic Research. M@L is a four-day “Everything Maya” event that’s comprised of lectures, workshops, and exciting social events. This year we will honor the life and career of Dr. Elizabeth Graham. A few of the other presenters are: Dr. Jaime Awe, M. Kathryn Brown, Dorie Reents-Budet, Stanley Guenter, Christophe Helmke, Simon Martin, Jason Yaeger and Marc Zender. Conference to be held at Davidson Day School, in Davidson, NC. Program and additional info at: <http://mayaatthelago.com/> Use the IMS discount code: IMS, when registering.



IMS EXPLORER

The Institute of Maya Studies adheres to the Society for American Archaeology Principles of Archaeological Ethics. Join the **Explorer-ation!** All articles and news items for the **IMS Explorer** should be forwarded to the newsletter editor at: mayaman@bellsouth.net

MUNDOMAYA



MAP DEPICTS VARIOUS SITES THAT ILLUSTRATOR, STEVE RADZI, HAS VISITED. © COPYRIGHT 2012. SEE MORE AT MAYAVISION.COM.

Unique map of the Mundomaya by artist Steve Radzi. Copies of this 18"x12" map are available at www.mayavison.com. Click on the "Map" link; then follow instructions for ordering. All proceeds from the sale of this poster will be donated toward the development of educational tools in the Maya Heartland. **Steve Radzi will present at the IMS on June 21. Be there!**