

January 31, 2018 • Maya Ceremonial Era Long Count: 0.0.5.3.7 • 12 Manik' 5 Pax • G4

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**Inside this issue:**

The Sandscape of Northern Peru: An Unforgettable Adventure through 4,500 Years of History of the Americas, by Marta Barber **2,5,6**

Lake Amatitlan, Guatemala, an Enigma of Beauty and Tragedy, by Mark F. Cheney **3,6,8**

New Subaquatic Archaeology Museum in Campeche by Antonio Benavides C., INAH Campeche **4,5** *(cont. from page 1)*

IMS Feature Presentation; 7 Membership Application

Upcoming Events **8**

## New Subaquatic Archaeology Museum in Campeche

by **Antonio Benavides C.**  
INAH Campeche

Campeche now has a Museum of Subaquatic Archaeology (MSA) displayed in six rooms exhibiting more than 420 objects rescued from around the Yucatan peninsula and from inland contexts (for example rivers, caves and cenotes).

The San José El Alto small fort, an XVIIIth century building located on top of a hill in the northern section of the city of Campeche, today exhibits more than three decades of subaquatic archaeology practiced in Mexico. Under the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, but also under continental Mexican waters, there are uncountable vestiges of the past, testimonies that help to read and better understand diverse spheres of ancient societies of different times.

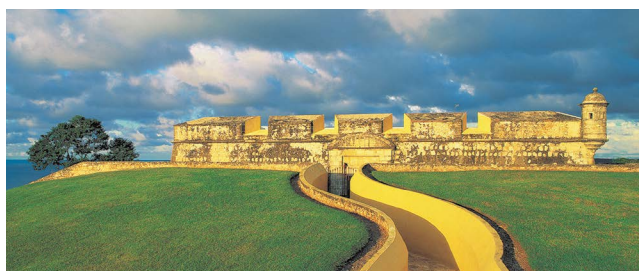
Visitors to the MSA will make several trips to a remote past where



*UNSECO distinguished this new museum as an example of good practices related with protection, conservation and diffusion of subaquatic cultural heritage. Above: Underwater archaeologists registering the vestiges of a wooden boat.*

they can learn about extinct species, prehistoric characters, the Maya civilization, colonial shipwrecks or 19th century ships. The new museum has texts, videos, tactile screens, reproduced paleontological and archaeological items you can touch, Braille texts, Mexican hand-signs explanations, ramps for wheel-chairs, among other elements, to include visitors with motion, auditive or vision problems.

The first room is an introduction to subaquatic archaeology, a discipline that is practiced not only in the sea but also in rivers, lakes, lagoons, cenotes and flooded caves. Those places many times have encapsulated testimonies of forgotten times that need to be registered and sometimes retrieved by experts. This labor includes informants and participants of different sites and disciplines like fishers, professional divers, archaeologists,



*Construction of the Spanish Fuerte San José El Alto fort of Campeche was finished in 1792. Within the 1,828 sq. meters (19,676 sq. ft.) of this building – considered to be a historical monument and cultural heritage of humanity site – are the facilities of the Subaquatic Archaeology Museum.*

**IMS Presentation:  
January 31, 6 pm**



**Parallel Civilizations:  
A Comparison of the  
Cultural Histories  
of the Maya and the  
North Coast of Peru**

with  
**Stanley Guenter, PhD**  
Southern Methodist University

historians and restorers. That room also includes a beautiful image of Saint Joseph, patron of the small fort housing the museum, but also during colonial times patron of the province of New Spain.

*continued on page 4*



**Jim Reed,  
Editor**

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View of Caral – Most photos in this article by George Fery (GF). See his latest online site at: [www.georgefery.com](http://www.georgefery.com)

## The Sandscape of Northern Peru: An Unforgettable Adventure through 4,500 Years of History of the Americas

by IMS Executive Vice-President and Travel Director **Marta Barber**

For the third time in our 14-plus years of traveling together, members of the Institute of Maya Studies journeyed to a region outside Mesoamerica. Our first venture took us to another land of pyramids and rich tombs: Egypt. A few years later, Cambodia beckoned, and we answered the call from Angkor Wat. Both adventures were very memorable.

Our present two-week journey was equally unforgettable. With their extensive archaeological sites made of adobe, the cultures of Northern Peru provide an experience unlike those offered in the jungles of Guatemala, the brush forests of the Yucatan or the high Andes of Cuzco.

In our small van driven by Ulises (how appropriate), we left Lima on a Wednesday morning heading north on the Pan American Highway, a 48,000 km system of highways that starts at the border of Mexico and the United States and ends in Ushuaia, Argentina, the southern-most tip of the Americas.

There is an 11,000 km break between the north and the south in what is known as the Darien Gap, an impenetrable area between Panama and Colombia famous for its untouched natural bounty and infamous for drug-trafficking, robberies and hijackings. It resumes in the small town of Turbo, Colombia.

Peru's western coast is far from Darien, so our fellow travelers felt perfectly safe. As we



The Estela de Raimondi is a monolithic stone sculpture, with one side decorated in flat relief, representing a mythical being, which resembles the Wiracocha god of the Tiahuanaco culture as it also holds two rods or sticks. It belongs to the Chavin culture (around 9000 BCE) of ancient Peru. GF



Bandurria is a large archaeological site on the Huaura River in Peru going back to 4,000 BCE. The site is located near the Pacific coast, in the area called Playa Chica. GF

finally left behind the congested traffic of Lima, up went the iPads, iPhones and clicking cameras taking shots of the desert landscape surrounding us.

Our first archaeological stop was a visit to sites of the North Chico culture, which record the oldest settlement in the Americas. Carbon-dated to more than 5,000 years ago, the sites of Bandurria and Caral – a UNESCO World Heritage Site – show well-defined structures with sunken, round plazas apparently used in rituals. Though close inspection of these structures is not allowed – they are extremely fragile – you may walk around the sites on established paths and with assigned guides.

One notable accomplishment of the North Chico culture is cotton, the oldest found in the world, and one that most probably became a profitable crop for the establishment of the first society in the Americas. We would come to see in some of Peru's great museums many cotton weavings that have survived from antiquity thanks to the dryness of the terrain.

Almost as old as Norte Chico and thought of as the oldest for many years is the Chavin culture, 1200-200 BCE. To visit its capital, Chavin de Huántar, you leave behind the desert and climb from sea level to 15,000 ft. before descending to 10,500 ft. Gone are the sands and the adobe bricks, replaced by Andes vistas and stone structures. Glacier lakes offer driving breaks, where families stop to walk down to the cold water while the kids play soccer on its shores.

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Statue of Christ at the highest spot on the road to Chavin de Huántar., at approx, 15,000 ft.

continued on page 5



# Lake Amatitlan, Guatemala, an Enigma of Beauty and Tragedy

by Mark F. Cheney

Perhaps it would be best to begin this article with quotes from a few recent (2017) visitors to Lake Amatitlan: L.G. noted, per Google translation, "It is a beautiful place that normally attracts about 20 tourists [per day?] in the heart of Amatitlan... I love to go there; [it] is a quiet, nice place. I love to see ESGA [Escuela Secundaria General Acayucan?] beauty on the docks there and of course why not enjoy a crappie."

Now, I know that crappie is a tasty food fish, but you will soon see the irony in her comment. Another visitor, J.M. states, "If you are a foreign tourist, don't visit this lake. Probably you are looking for Atitlan, a different lake. We went here and (it) is ugly, dirty and (the) food (is) expensive." And a third guest, D.I.Q. declares, "Unfortunately, this (is a) very neglected and polluted lake, which is still beautiful, and it has a plague of gnats and mosquitoes in the area of the public dock."

The beauty of Lake Amatitlan is undeniable, as attested to by this video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7YJwUALzHzU>, and the couple of photos included here.



The good old days: Fun times at Lake Amatitlan, courtesy of Miguel Cruz.



Algae bloom at a boat rental facility.

However, even a lake that is about 7 miles long and 2 miles wide, with an average depth of 59 feet (18 m), cannot retain any degree of purity when it has to cope with the sewage of approximately five million people coming down the Villalobos River where it has been discharged by Guatemala City and its environs. In the past ten years about five percent of the lake's volume has been displaced by silting sediment, as well.

Sewage and silt are not the only enemies. For example, about 20,000 truckloads of garbage is taken out of the lake annually, most of it where it drains into the Michatoya River, which outflow is used to generate hydroelectric power. In a first trial in 1988, approximately 30 tons of solid wastes were gathered in the Villalobos River in a period of 60 days in an attempt to ameliorate the situation in the lake.

Sadly, the studies where I have found this data have diagnosed the problem this way: "Progressive accumulation of nutrients (sewage, etc.) in bottom mud indicates the advance of eutrophication.... Lake Amatitlan has been a eutrophic lake since the beginning of monitoring in 1985, and is now hypertrophic and has been irreversibly damaged." For this and further information, see: [http://wldb.ilec.or.jp/data/databook\\_html/nam/nam-41.html](http://wldb.ilec.or.jp/data/databook_html/nam/nam-41.html) and <https://globalwaterpartnership.wordpress.com/2013/08/20/how-to-ruin-a-lake/>

A few more tidbits – only 38% of the residents in the municipal catchment area have adequate sanitary facilities. Yet, the lake still provides drinking, swimming, irrigation water, and 180 metric tons of fish annually. In the past century, the population of Guatemala City has increased by a factor of fourteen.



Nice view of Lake Amatitlan, courtesy of: [guatemalaguides.com](http://guatemalaguides.com)



Lake Amatitlan has been a eutrophic lake since the beginning of monitoring in 1985. Refuse in the lake, photo courtesy of: <http://wldb.ilec.or.jp>

In 2013, it looked like there was a possible light at the end of the tunnel to "improve" matters, even though a "cure" may not be possible, when "the governments of Guatemala and Mexico made the following agreements on ecological issues and identified problems: e.g. enlargement of sewerage systems, improvements of wastewater treatment and rehabilitation of existing treatment plants in the urban zones, interception of silt loads of rivers in the catchment area, etc. However, these have not yet been implemented." The study does indicate that tree planting has been done in areas of exposed soil erosion, and some municipalities have improved their infrastructure. (See second cited website article above.)

The sad news is that in 2015, at least fourteen persons were arrested and 23 are being investigated, many high level government officials, for charges related to a purportedly fraudulent scheme involving an Israeli company, M. Tarcic Engineering Ltd. For 137 million quetzals (\$19.292 million), for the purchase of ninety-three thousand liters of an alleged decontaminant applicable to Lake Amatitlan." See [https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lago\\_Amatitlan](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lago_Amatitlan) And that this appears to be a part

continued on page 6





# New Subaquatic Archaeology Museum in Campeche

by Antonio Benavides C.

INAH Campeche  
continued from page 1

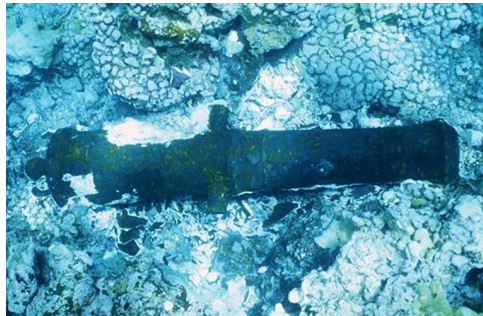
The next room is dedicated to the megafauna discovered in several flooded caves of the Yucatan peninsula. Visitors will have a better idea of extinct species like the giant sloth or the saber-toothed tiger, especially when comparing their large dimensions to that of humans.

One of those underwater places is called Hoyo Negro (Black Hole), a place in coastal Quintana Roo, where 40 meters deep the subaquatic archaeologists discovered an almost complete female skeleton of a young woman. The analysis of different materials tells us that the discovery is dated to 10,000 BCE – one of the first humans populating the peninsula. Her bones reveal she had a difficult life with health and feeding problems. She has been nicknamed Naia, recalling the mythological Greek nymphs that were incarnated in the water (top right).

Room 3 presents Precolumbian earthenware vessels deposited by the Maya in different cenotes; sometimes as offerings for water-deities, sometimes as objects accompanying deceased people. Those artifacts have been dated to several centuries before our era, during the Classic period (250-900 CE) and in Postclassic times (900-1500 CE).

An outstanding element is a spouted vessel with handle that was used in ancient times to serve chocolate drinks (center right). It was retrieved from the San Manuel cenote, near Tizimin, in eastern Yucatan. A replica of it can be touched and has Braille and hand-signs explanations.

The ancient Maya considered the cenotes as entrances to the underworld, inhabited by gods and creatures related with a watery domain. Their cosmogony also attributed special powers to objects coming from the rivers or the sea, like animals or sea shells.



Top left: Gold toothpick for multiple purposes; retrieved from the shipwreck Ancla Macuca. Above: An iron cannon found off the Campeche coast. Right: Naia's skull at Hoyo Negro, Quintana Roo. All photos in this article submitted by Antonio Benavides C.

That room also displays a magnificent offering found in front of Jaina's Structure 4. The collection includes different vessels, hand-made and molded figurines of animals and people, jade and sea-shell necklaces, a basalt metate and some spindles. Bones of a woman, a child and a man were found with the offering that was deposited around 700-800 CE.

The treasures in room 4 include a bronze cannon dated to 1552, the earliest of its type in America; and the magnificent helm of ebony in the form of a greyhound surrounded by a snake that was found in one of the Palizada River tributaries. It also displays a *caduceus*, so it represents Mercury, the Greek god of commerce, and surely it belonged to an European vessel shipwrecked during the 19th century (see photo page 5).

Other interesting objects in this hall are also related to navigation, for example, a marine compass, an astrolabe, an English sextant, a 16th century weights set, different kinds of ballast, cannon-balls, stone and metallic sandals that were used to scan the depth and contours of the seafloor, etc.

The 17th and 18th centuries were actively engaged in the intercontinental moving of people, goods and merchandise, as Room 5 shows us. But not all the ships arrived safely to their destinations. Heavy storms, bad weather or pirate attacks sometimes caused shipwrecks whose vestiges have been researched by underwater archaeologists.



Preclassic Maya spouted vessel excavated from San Manuel cenote, Yucatan.

As fruits of that patient work, today we can see part of the rich cargo that the ship Ancla Macuca once carried. It was found in the waters of the Alacranes Reef, northwest of the Yucatan peninsula. Gold crosses, rings, rosaries, medals, buckles, fragments of chains, buttons, and jewels, some of them with emerald, amethyst and coral settings.

Interesting objects of that collection are toothpicks shaped like curved knives and including a little ring to be hanged with. They were used not only for cleaning teeth, but also for nails and ears. Some of them also have small cavities like spoons and were used to help distribution of powders like tobacco (snuff).

continued on page 5



Chan-Chan was the largest city of the Precolumbian era in South America. The site is located in the mouth of the Moche Valley and was the capital of the historic empire of the Chimor from 900 to 1470 CE. The city spanned 20 km<sup>2</sup> and had a dense urban center of 6 km<sup>2</sup> which contained extravagant *ciudadelas*. *Ciudadelas* were large architectural masterpieces which housed plazas, storerooms, and burial platforms. GF

## The Sandscape of Northern Peru: An Unforgettable Adventure through 4,500 Years of History of the Americas

by IMS Executive Vice-President and Travel Director **Marta Barber**  
continued from page 2

At one stop, a narrow path showed a sign that said “*Té de coca.*” The lady at the shack showed us the fresh coca leaves from which the tea was made. Out came a ladle and paper cups, and soon the hot, delicious tea hit the spot. It worked against the high altitude sickness.

Stone-covered platforms shape the archaeological site. High magnitude earthquakes and floods created by overflowing glacier lakes have been its main enemies. Lots still remains, and a walk through its labyrinthine interior helps you understand the immensity of its main pyramid. Chavín de Huántar has been assigned as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Back on the coast – and 3000 years later in history – the Fortress of Paramonga sits atop a promontory offering a panoramic

view of the desert. The fortress, one of the highlights on our trip, was built by Chimú Culture (1000-1470 CE), whose capital Chan-Chan, we would also visit. The setting brought about memories of one of my childhood heroes, El Cid – The Lord in Arabic – defending the castles in arid La Mancha, Spain, against the invading Moors. “*...por la meseta castellana, polvo, sudor y hierro, El Cid cabalga.*” (“*...on the Castillian plain, dust, sweat and iron, El Cid rides.*”)

Well-preserved, the high defending walls of the fortress open up to the upper floors by a tall, narrow entrance with a ramp. Ramps, pun intended, are rampant in the sites of Northern Peru, where the cultures rarely used steps to reach different levels. The Chimú were defeated by the Inca, one of the last



Paramonga was an important city constructed at the border of the former Kingdom of Chimor in Peru during the late Intermediate Period (1200 to 1400 CE), whose capital was the metropolis of Chan-Chan. GF

Pre-Inca civilizations in Peru, and one you barely hear about north of Lima.

Chan-Chan, the Chimú capital, the largest Precolumbian site in South America, is not far from Trujillo – named after the Spanish birth city of Francisco Pizarro – an ideal place to spend a few days visiting some of the more than 3,000 archaeological sites in its environs. The location was chosen by Pizarro and his men to establish a stronghold to facilitate conquering the peoples of the area who were also fighting the Inca. We know who won that

continued on page 6

## New Subaquatic Archaeology Museum in Campeche

by **Antonio Benavides C.** INAH Campeche  
continued from page 4

The name of the ship was given by researchers for some coins found there and today called *macuquinas*. They were coined manually with hammers on gold and silver sheets, so the items have irregular sides.

The sixth room of the San José Subaquatic Museum has replicas of different boats and evidences found in shipwrecks researched around the

Yucatan peninsula. As technology advanced, the big sailboats were replaced by steamboats and that change included metal structures instead of wood. The process is also illustrated and explained here.

It is important to emphasize everybody should be aware of the subaquatic legacy and its relevance not only as part of the regional



*Ebony helm representing Mercury. Submitted by Antonio Benavides C.*

history, but also as a nonrenewable resource. 🏰

**Antonio Benavides C.** is Director of INAH Campeche. In a personal communication, Antonio noted that he also directed field excavations at Kanki and Edzna this season. He promises articles about those investigations for the *IMS Explorer* early next year. 🏰



# Lake Amatitlan, Guatemala, an Enigma of Beauty and Tragedy

by Mark F. Cheney *continued from page 3*

of the “La Linea Case” of a greater corruption scandal and investigation ongoing in Guatemala. See [https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caso\\_de\\_La\\_Linea\\_en\\_Guatemala](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caso_de_La_Linea_en_Guatemala)

You may now be asking yourself why I would follow up an article I wrote about Lake Atitlan (Samabaj, the Underwater Island Site in Lake Atitlan – *IMS Explorer* Nov. 2009) with an article about pollution in a similarly named Guatemalan lake in the *IMS Explorer*? Well, it’s because the lake has loads of archaeological significance as well.

An article online indicates that at least thirteen “underwater archaeological sites have been found and all but one are in the northern half of the lake... and several archaeological sites have been identified on the shores as well.” Ref. <https://www.mpm.edu/research-collections/anthropology/online-collections-research/lake-amatitlan-guatemala-collection-0> (and also see -I)

Ceramics dating back to about 500 BCE have been found and many

from the Early Classic (c. 300-700 CE) with a strong influence from Teotihuacan, especially the underwater sites of Lavaderos and Mejicanos.

As early as 1917, Marshall H. Saville of the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, collected many artifacts, including much pottery and stone implements (Borhegyi 1969:267). In the 1920s and 30s, fishermen on the lake would catch artifacts in their nets and find them on shore when lake levels were low, and sell them to tourists. After Cousteau invented the Aqualung, local Guatemalans dove in the lake in 1954, and collected over 800 artifacts which were kept in private collections.

Of note, one of those young divers was Jorge Samayoa. Interestingly, Jorge is the paternal



Two of the many “Teo-like” ceramic censers salvaged from Lake Amatitlan. (L) from the NMAI collection; R) from the Popol Vuh Museum.

uncle of Lake Atitlan’s official discoverer of his namesake “Samabaj”; Roberto Samayoa. See my earlier article on the underwater site of Samabaj in another beautiful Guatemalan attraction, Lake Atitlan, in the *IMS Explorer*, November 2009. In 1957, Dr. Stephan F. de Borhegyi, a teacher at San Carlos University of Guatemala, led students in 1957 and 1958 to explore, map and collect specimens in and around the Lake, discovering a number of new sites.

Many of the artifacts found were *continued on page 8*

## The Sandscape of Northern Peru

by IMS Executive Vice-President and Travel Director **Marta Barber**

*continued from page 5*

battle, but what has been left behind is remarkable.

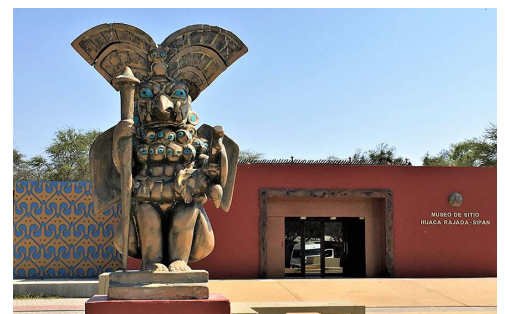
If Pizarro and his men destroyed the ancient cultures, a more powerful phenomenon has been playing havoc in this part of Peru: El Niño. In May 2017, Trujillo suffered the worst floods in decades, killing over 70 people, leveling whole adobe villages and leaving parts of the city in ruins. In November 2017, barely six months later, repairs to roads, businesses and homes are taking place seemingly everywhere.

The adobe archaeological sites continue to suffer devastation from heavy rains. Chan Chan is one of the “...twenty-six case studies from selected natural and cultural World Heritage sites in order to illustrate the impacts of climate change that have already been

observed, and those that can be expected in the future.”

Made entirely of adobe bricks and at one time the largest adobe structure in the world, what remains of Chan-Chan is a large expanse of lace-like decorations atop rounded walls within the confines of much taller walls. Corridors, plazas, interior courtyards and rooms expose the filigree that embellish the otherwise plain terrain. There’s an innate beauty that emanates from Chan-Chan, perhaps from the feminine nature of its decorations, perhaps from the simplicity yet majestic size of its outer walls.

If Norte Chico (Caral, Bandurria, and others recently excavated) was the first, Chavin the second and the Chimú the last of the Pre-Inca civilizations of Northern Peru, I’ve



Entrance to the site museum at Huaca Rajada. GF

left the middle for last. Among those, the Moche or Mochica, the one whose tomb of the Lord of Sipán spread the name of the Moche across the world. But, had you heard about the Lady of Cao? The pyramids of Túcume, of Thor Heyerdahl’s fame?

There is a lot still to tell about our adventure. The food is exceptional in Peru, but the names of dishes and ingredients would leave Spanish speakers in our group contemplating just what they were about to order. A list of our culinary adventure is also coming. 🍲

January 31 • 6 pm • IMS Feature Presentation



# Parallel Civilizations: A Comparison of the Cultural Histories of the Maya and the North Coast of Peru

with **Stanley Guenter, PhD**  
Southern Methodist University

There have long been comparisons of the Classic Maya of Mesoamerica and the Moche of the North Coast of Peru, with both having produced the most iconic and technically proficient works of art of their civilization. Recent reanalyses of the radiocarbon dates of the Moche have revealed the most accurate chronology of this culture's rise and fall, and this new chronology indicates that Moche culture history all but perfectly matches that of the Classic Maya, an extraordinary coincidence that cannot be explained by direct cultural contacts between these distant areas. In this presentation this chronological coincidence will be examined in the context of the general culture history of the North Coast of Peru and with special consideration of the sites visited on the recent IMS trip to this area.



Stanley Guenter was first introduced to the ancient Maya the day after his sixth birthday, when he refused to climb a crumbling staircase at the site of Xpujil, in Campeche, Mexico, and had to endure his more adventurous siblings' comments on the wonderful view. Having reformed his behavior, Stan has since returned to Xpujil to finally climb that staircase, as well as thousands of others at sites all across Mesoamerica. He obtained his undergraduate degree at the University of Calgary, his Master's Degree at La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia, and his PhD in Archaeology from Southern Methodist University. He is currently working as archaeologist and epigrapher with three projects in northern Guatemala: The El Peru-Waka' Project, the La Corona Archaeological Project, and the Mirador Basin Project.

**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](http://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](http://www.mayavision.com)

## 2018 New Membership and Renewal Application

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## Lake Amatitlan, Guatemala, an Enigma of Beauty and Tragedy

by Mark F. Cheney *continued from page 6*

censers as shown in these photos.

Hundreds if not thousands of artifacts have been removed from the lake; some were destroyed in a fire in Guatemala before they could be exported to the Peabody Museum of Harvard (Borhegyi 1969:267), but there was a dearth of photographs to be found in my online search.

However, I purchased a rare monograph/paper written in 1964 by Borhegyi for the XXXVI Congreso Internacional de Americanistas entitled "Shell Offerings and the Use of Shell Motifs at Lake Amatitlan, Guatemala and Teotihuacan, Mexico" which has a number of black and white photographs of artifacts that were in private



Famed archaeologist Suzanne Forrest exhibits a "jaguar" incense burner (censer) that she discovered in Lake Amatitlan.



At left and below, some of the other ceramic artifacts from Lake Amatitlan.



collections and museums at that date.

It seems with all the artifacts that have been removed from this lake and its rich history, ancient and modern, that further study should be forthcoming from archaeologists and

anthropologists (what I sometimes call the "A-Team"), so I hope this article will help to light a fire somewhere in academia for more research, preservation and conservation.

### Upcoming Events at the IMS:

January 31 • 6 pm: *IMS Feature Presentation*  
**Parallel Civilizations: A Comparison of the Cultural Histories of the Maya and the North Coast of Peru** – with **Stanley P. Guenter**, PhD, Southern Methodist University. Recent reanalyses of the radiocarbon dates of the Moche have revealed the most accurate chronology of this culture's rise and fall, and this new chronology indicates that Moche culture history all but perfectly matches that of the Classic Maya, an extraordinary coincidence that cannot be explained by direct cultural contacts between these distant areas. Stan will examine this chronological coincidence in the context of the general cultural history of the North Coast of Peru and with special consideration of the sites visited on the recent IMS trip to this area.

All IMS events will take place in Room K-413 at Miami Dade College – Kendall Campus. That's Building K-4, Room 13. See map on [www.mdc.edu](http://www.mdc.edu)

### Upcoming Events and Announcements:

Jan. 9-13: *2018 Mesoamerican Meetings*  
**Mesoamerican Philosophies: Animate Matter, Metaphysics, and the Natural Environment** – The keynote presentation will be by David Currasco. Speakers include Nicholas Hopkins, Barbara MacLeod, Karl Taube and David Stuart. Registration for the Mesoamerican Meetings (formerly know as the Maya Meetings) is now open. to register go to: <http://utmesoamerica.org/maya/registration-instructions>

January 26: *Maya Society of Minnesota*  
**The Controversial History of Chocolate in Mexico** – with Dr. Manuel Aguilar Moreno of California State University. The purpose of this talk is to provide an overview of the history of chocolate in Mexico from the Precolumbian times to the present. Dr. Moreno will also speak about a few cases of the role played by cacao or in the colonial society of Mexico. At Hamline University, St. Paul, MN. Get more info at: <https://sites.google.com/a/hamline.edu/maya-society/>

March 8-11: *2018 Tulane Maya Symposium*

**The Blood Pooled, the Heads Piled Up** – How the Maya Waged War will feature lectures by experts in the fields of archaeology, epigraphy, and ethnohistory, among others. This year's keynote speaker will be Dr. Matthew Restall. As usual, we will have various exhibits and workshops throughout the weekend. We look forward to seeing everyone in New Orleans this March! Register now; a preliminary program is available online at: <http://mari.tulane.edu/TMS/index.html>

Editor's Tip: *Online all the time*  
**Ancient Americas Events** – Get in the know with Mike Ruggeri's "better-than-ever!" comprehensive list of upcoming Ancient Americas Lectures, Conferences and Exhibits: Go to: <https://mikerruggerisevents.tumblr.com/>

**Check out and get in on the fun on our IMS Facebook page:** [https://www.facebook.com/groups/MiamilMS/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/MiamilMS/)



## 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](mailto:mayaman@bellsouth.net)