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November 22, 2018 • Maya Ceremonial Era Long Count: 0.0.6.0.2 • 8 'Ik' 15 Keh • G2

Science Meets Archaeology at the Library of Congress: Investigating Collections: A Rare Maya Bead

by John Hessler Curator of the Jay I. Kislak Collection of the Archaeology & History of the Early Americas, Geography & Map Division, at the Library of Congress

This article is about research conducted by the author, in conjunction with Dr. Tana Villafana, Research Chemist and Spectroscopist, from the Preservation Research and Testing Division, and with Rosemary Ryan, Archaeological Research Fellow, at the Library of Congress, Washington D.C. The research is part of a larger project to characterize and study all of the Mesoamerican jade and green stone objects that are part of the Jay I. Kislak Collection of the Archaeology and History of the Early Americas at the Library.



Green stone bead with cord fragment donated to the Library of Congress by Jim May. Kislak Collection, Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress.

A very rare artifact

Several months ago the Library of Congress began an investigation of a small green stone bead that, along with many other jade and green stone objects, is part of the Jay I. Kislak Collection of the Archaeology of the Early Americas. This

small bead, made from a low quality jade or other green stone, was donated to the Library by Jim May, a long-time member of the **Institute of Maya Studies**, who received the bead many decades ago from the late Lister Witherspoon IV, who was at one time President of the Institute. The bead itself is fairly common, and typical of beads found in the archaeological record throughout Mesoamerica.



Jade plaque from the Guatemalan lowlands, Late Classic Maya period, 600-900 CE. The carving shows a Maya ruler and a toad, whose name is Ah Mal, or “the dripper,” referring to the poison that comes from the parotid gland on its back. Kislak Collection, Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress.

What is unique about this particular bead, however, is what it contains. Still attached to the inside of the bead, after perhaps more than 2,000 years, was a small fragment of what appeared to be the cord or twine that was used to suspend it around the neck of an ancient Maya, Nahua, or Olmec noble. Organic material, like twine, is a rare find in Mesoamerican archaeology, where the damp and humid environments are not conducive to the survival of organic material such as cord, cloth, or wood.

Jade of any kind was revered by the Olmec, the Maya, and other Mesoamerican cultures and a significant variety of carved objects made from it and lesser green stones, like serpentine, have been found in archaeological context throughout Mexico and Central America. These include human figures, celts and axes, and personal ornaments like ear flares, necklaces, and beads, such as the one being investigated here.

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Jim Reed,
Editor

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Art Collector
Jay I. Kislak
In Memoriam

Jay Kislak and His Love for Ancient America

There have been many collectors of artifacts and documents from the Americas before the arrival of Europeans and from the period following contact. Several universities hold precious collections of items taken by the expeditions they funded for the exploration of the unknown civilizations of the continent. And there are those collectors who keep their precious holdings at home to be enjoyed by a few, lucky acquaintances.

Not Jay Kislak. The Miami businessman was known by his willingness to share his enthusiasm, knowledge and, above all, his collection with as many people who cared about it.

Members of the Institute of Maya Studies were often visitors to the Kislak Collection located in his business building in Miami Lakes.

Ancient maps and jewels of printed books were available to all who knew how to put the white gloves on to peruse through the pages. Maya vases were photographed by Justin Kerr to be entered into the Maya Vase Database that so many of us use constantly.

In 2004, Jay let go of the first major gift of his collection – more than 4,000 items – to the Library of Congress, where it

now resides in a spectacular room in perhaps the most beautiful building in Washington, D.C.

At that time, no facility in Miami produced a venue to keep the collection intact. What Miami lost has been the gain of the rest of the nation, where millions of visitors have enjoyed Kislak's love of collecting the very best, the most important.

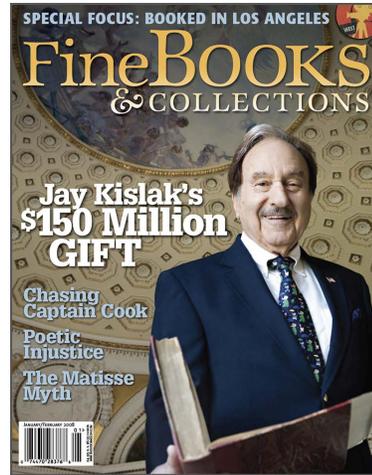
What remained in Miami Lakes was still impressive, and many of the guest speakers of the Institute of Maya Studies were able to visit that collection. Marc Zender, one of those visitors, took a picture of the glyphs in the back of a small tablet, which later he included in his talk.

In 2017, Jay established two permanent centers for the remaining collection: Kislak Centers at the University of Miami and Miami Dade College

Freedom Tower.



Mr. Kislak at home in the Miami Lakes Gallery. Photo by: Josh Ritchi.



Collector's magazine with a cover article featuring Kislak's donation to the Library of Congress.

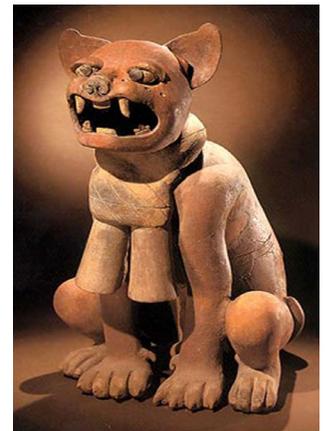


Kislak confers with Arthur Dunkelmann (right), the curator of the Kislak Collection at the Library of Congress.



L) Jay Kislak, together with Arthur Dunkelmann. R) The historic first encounter between Hernán Cortez and Moctezuma.

Arthur Dunkelmann, past president of the Institute of Maya Studies and curator of the collection for the past 23 years, said this when asked: "Jay was always on a hunt... for the most significant... the finest example. We spent hours poring over auction catalogs and speaking to rare book dealers. He collected broadly and in depth and knew, loved, and respected the things that he collected. It was an honor, a privilege and a joy to help Jay create a unique enduring cultural legacy. I shall miss him, always." So, will all of us.



Monumental Jaguar Sculpture Mexico, Southern Veracruz, Late Classic 600-900 CE.



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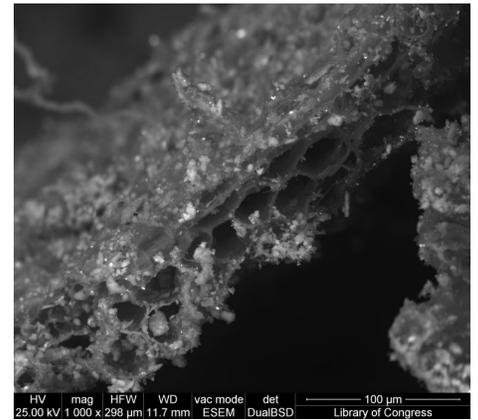
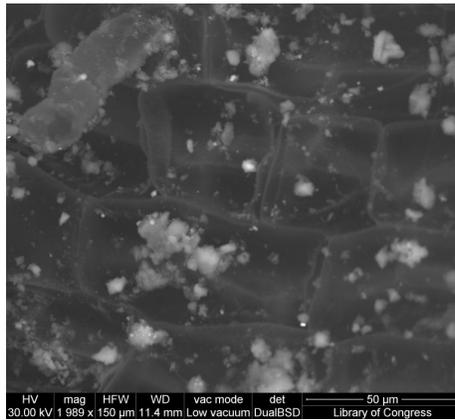
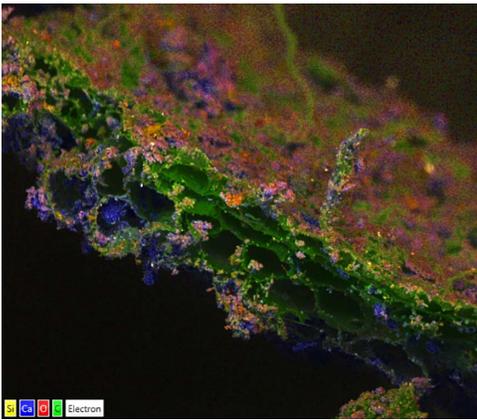
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L) EDX elemental map of a portion of the cord fragment. C) Agave plant cell walls shown on the surface of the cord. R) SEM photography of the cross-section of fiber of the cord. Analysis and photography by Tana Villafana, PRTD Division, Library of Congress, Washington D.C.

Science Meets Archaeology at the Library of Congress: Investigating Collections: A Rare Maya Bead by John Hessler

Curator of the Jay I. Kislak Collection of the Archaeology & History of the Early Americas, Geography & Map Division, at the Library of Congress *continued from page 1*

Because of the rarity of the cord fragments found in this particular bead, the author, in conjunction with scientists from the Preservation Research and Testing Division at the Library of Congress, decided to undertake an investigation using Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) and Energy Dispersive X-ray Spectroscopy (EDX) to search for clues to the makeup of the cord fragments. These two techniques were selected because they can be performed on rare and fragile objects non-destructively, and in this case, without researchers disturbing the cord fragments or having to remove them from inside the bead.

The preliminary results of the investigations have found that the fiber within the bead seems to come from a species of Agave plant. Agave fibers like those shown in the SEM photograph above, have been used to make rope and twine in Southern Mexico for centuries, with most of the modern ropes and twines coming from the Agave sisalana species, which is sometimes referred to as “sisal hemp.” Looking closely at the SEM images of the cord fragment, magnified nearly two-thousand times, one can see both the cell walls of the plant and cross-sectional structure of the fibers themselves.

EDX is an analytical technique that allows for the determination of the elemental composition of anything on the surface of an object that is excited by a high-energy particle beam, like the electrons in a scanning electron microscope. Using the EDX technique, a map was made to determine the chemical elements on the surface of the bead and the cord fragments, to determine if it might reveal hints of the kinds of dirt and other detritus that can also be seen in the SEM images.

The elemental map at above left is a scanning electron microscope image that is color-coded with the EDX results to show the chemical elements on the surface of the cord fragment. From the map, it is easy to see, in green, the carbon that makes up the plant fibers. The particles on the cord and bead seem to be lime (in the form of calcium oxide) and iron (most likely from red hematite, a form of iron oxide). Both lime and iron are common in the kind of archaeological context one would expect this kind of bead to be found in.

Although none of the results discussed above are as of yet definitive, as research will continue through the coming months, they are presented here to give readers just a small taste of how science meets archaeology at the Library of Congress. 🏠

Source: From an article posted on the Library of Congress website by author John W. Hessler, at: <https://blogs.loc.gov/maps/2018/09/investigating-collections/?loclr=eamap> Original notice was sent in by ex-IMS President Arthur Dunkelman, now curator of the Kislak collection.



Bead being inserted into the scanning electron microscope chamber in the Optical Properties Lab of the Library of Congress. Photo by Rosemary Ryan.



There is something new under the Sun!

Maya in the Pines

If anybody is in the Flagstaff, Arizona, area on November 16, please drop on by to be a part of the inaugural Maya in the Pines archaeology symposium. The event is put on by the students of Jaime Awe's undergraduate public archaeology class and will take place at the Native American Center at Northern Arizona University. For more info, contact our good friend Shawn Morton at: shawn.morton@nau.edu



Rewriting the History of the Maya: Part II The Maya – Teotihuacan Connection

Interview with **Francisco Estrada-Belli**, by **Teena Clipson**

Teotihuacan is the largest ancient Mesoamerican city known. It is famous primarily for its two massive pyramids – The Pyramid of the Sun, and The Pyramid of the Moon. Its early history remains unclear, but it is said to have thrived almost 1000 years prior to the arrival of the Aztecs. Nor is it clear who the original inhabitants of Teotihuacan were, or where they came from.

When the Aztecs arrived in the 13th century from the North, the city of Teotihuacan was already abandoned. It was the Aztecs who named the city “Teotihuacan”: “place where gods were born”. Unlike the Maya, it is not known who any of the Teotihuacan rulers were. There are no inscriptions that give any indication of kings or rulers, though Teotihuacan was an extraordinary city that was based largely on trade and war.

The original inhabitants of Teotihuacan conquered Tikal and other great cities, and intervened in Maya politics and culture, although the extent of their influence is debated by scholars. During the same year as the discovery of Cival, Francisco Estrada-Belli and his team discovered a smaller site by the name of La Sufricaya. This was also found in the region of Holmul, and offered up new information about the origins of the Maya and Teotihuacan influences on their culture.



Discovered in Copan, the Margarita tomb housed a royal woman. Her tomb and its adjacent offering chamber compose the richest female burial yet discovered in the Maya region. Besides this beautiful Lidded Tripod Vessel, the tomb also contained a number of other objects associated with Teotihuacan, most notably two slate and pyrite divination mirrors.

Clipston: Tell me how Teotihuacan fits in with Holmul, and what makes you think that the people here had some kind of relationship with them?

Estrada-Belli: Teotihuacan is the other big mystery. It is a huge metropolis, just north of Mexico City, thriving between the year 100 and 500 CE. There is no writing, technically they had a few signs that indicated they may have had writing, but no complete inscriptions survived. So, there are a lot of questions we cannot answer.

During their time, based on artistic and architecture styles, we can see that Teotihuacan had an influence on most other parts of Mesoamerica. Recently, the idea developed that Teotihuacan was actually the capital of a massive empire, in the same way that Tenochtitlan was part of the Mexica Empire. The problem is that a lot of Mexican archaeologists won't see it that way. They come from a Marxist background, and they believe Teotihuacan was ruled by a class of priests, that it was a collective society, since there are no pictures of kings, unlike the Maya, and therefore, they must have not had a king, but basically a committee of priests.

The truth is, if you didn't have the Spanish come here and describe the Aztecs, if they just came a 1000 years later and looked at the Aztec city and its art, there are no images of the Aztec emperor. So, it's very much the same thing. Society doesn't choose to carve images of their king. But, they did have an emperor and it was a big empire. So, with that problem, at one time they conquered the Maya; they came here with an army; they traveled 1000 km. People thought it was impossible, but it is very possible. The Spanish did it. They must have had a small contingent, and along the way, they amassed a



Stela 31 at Tikal reveals a connection that the Maya had with Teotihuacan during the Early Classic Period (250-650 CE). On the front is a representation of K'awil Chann, “Stormy Sky”, the seventh ruler of Tikal. On the sides are a representation of his father, Huh Chaan Mah K'ina “Curly Nose” with attire characteristic of Teotihuacan.

big army, just like the Spanish did. They conquered the most important Maya cities, especially Tikal. And then went out to other places to establish puppet kings. Holmul is one of those places. How do we know this? Because we have paintings of Teotihuacan warriors attending a ceremony by a local king. And we have another painting which shows a Maya King climbing a Teotihuacan pyramid.

Clipston: Amazing. Where are they?

Estrada-Belli: They are buried here. The paintings have been reburied. They are in a building that is now covered. I discovered those in 2001. And it's not the kind of painting you can leave out.

Clipston: Ah ok, or it would deteriorate?

Estrada-Belli: Yes. There is also a painting where a man is strapped to two posts, in a crucifix position, and he is about to be decapitated, similar to the Mexica sacrifice. And there are two feathered serpents, just like in the pyramid of the feather serpent in Teotihuacan, on either side of him. So, the conclusion of all this evidence is that there is a contingent of thought that proposes Teotihuacan put a king here, who set up the kingdom, and lived here for a while. Then the

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L) Speaking Maya: Lee with a local in Tzocchéen. C) Let's go and find a ruin: Lee Jones and Mariano Ortíz. R) Lover of Yucatecan folk songs: Lee with Alma Durán and Manuel Bonilla Caamal.

Some Personal Notes about Lee Jones – Maya Enthusiast and Friend

by Stephan Merk

Twentyfive years on the road: Lee Jones and the author in the Puuc.

Rarely do you meet somebody to whom you feel an immediate connection.

I remember very well my first encounter with Lee Jones. This happened 25 years ago, on December 2, 1993, at the hotel Hacienda Uxmal. I was back from a hot day in the ruins of Xkipche, where a German-lead excavation was going on. After work that particular day, I decided to enjoy the pool and a beer at the hacienda.

My good friend Humberto Bonilla, who was in charge of the hacienda's bar at that time, came over to me and said: "There is an American who wants to talk to an archaeologist". Humberto did not accept my defensive response that I am not an archaeologist by profession. He insisted: "This does not matter, come and see h my comfortable pool-chair and went to the bar.

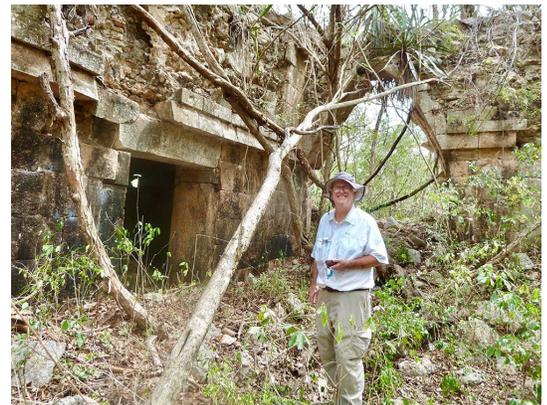
First, I saw a charming and lovely lady (Lee's wife Sherry) and then – next to her – a big fellow who grabbed my hand and introduced

himself as Lee Jones from Natchez, Mississippi. A few minutes later, we were sitting with a drink that Lee had already ordered for me, and talked about Maya ruins. The next day we went out for some hidden sites in the Puuc.

That first and very pleasant impression I had of Jones has not changed since then. It was the beginning of a deep friendship that has extended for decades and over many shared trips to the Maya lands. Now, a quarter of a century later, as Lee turns 80 years old, I look back on an unconditional alliance that has been shaped by trust, respect, and pleasure.

I hardly know anybody else who loves the ancient and modern Maya more than this Southerner. In a friendly and curious manner, Lee approaches this culture with an open heart. And he is always there for his friends. Moreover, he is very generous; an example would be his now legendary "fiestas", splendid meals that he organizes at the end of each trip to the Maya lands. To those, he invites the local guides and their families, besides all friends who accompany him, like Karl Herbert Mayer, the brothers Humberto and Manuel Bonilla Caamal, Eduardo Gonzalez Arce, and me.

There is always live Yucatecan music and Lee joins the musicians to do one of his



Glad to be here: Lee Jones at Xbanquetatunich.

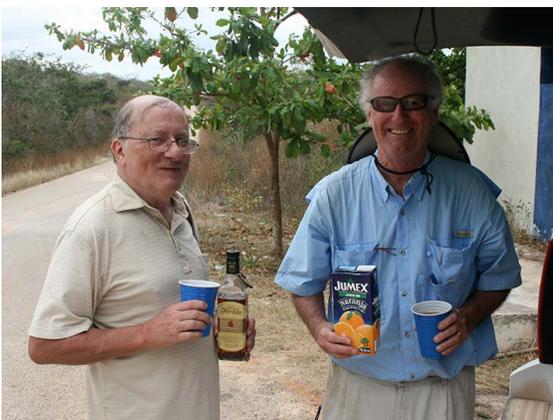
(very special) performances as local folk songs singer.

Lee is not only an aficionado of Maya culture, he has also participated in Maya archaeological research and exploration, for example when he helped his friend, the late Ian Graham, by measuring various Maya sites. Lee would refer to this work as "that of a slave".

If there is anything I have to criticize about Lee is his stubbornness by refusing to write a book about his experiences over the years with several well-known Mayanists, like Graham, Peter Mathews, or Merle Greene Robertson. Well, at least he revealed some of his "ruin-hunter" stories to the readers of this newsletter.

A long time ago, Lee "adopted" me as his younger brother. Younger siblings have obligations: mine are

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A refresher along the road: Lee with Karl Herbert Mayer.

Rewriting the History of the Maya: Part II The Maya – Teotihuacan Connection *cont. from page 4* Interview with Francisco Estrada-Belli, by Teena Clipson

kingdom continued after they were gone, but they still answered back to Teotihuacan.

Clipston: Was this when Cival was the major city or after?

Estrada-Belli: Cival might have been destroyed by the Teotihuacanos, and Holmul was the new place that was established. So, here we pretty much have the smoking gun. The end of many Preclassic cities was caused by Teotihuacan. And then a new order was established. They chose Tikal as their hub. Then Holmul was another place. Xultun was another place. A city called El Peru was another place that they set up puppet kings, so they had a network of puppet kings in the Maya lowlands, and all the tropical products of the Maya lowlands – including chocolate, which they loved; feathers which they loved, and jaguar pelts – all shipped to Teotihuacan, which was a massive consumer of these tropical, ritual objects.

Clipston: Pretty amazing.

Estrada-Belli: Well, it was an empire just like the Aztecs. If you look at the Aztec tribute list, in the Codex Mendoza, there is exactly the same things that I listed: chocolate beans, jaguar pelts, feathers, jade... That is what they wanted.

In one of the rooms with a Teotihuacan mural, there is a Maya

pot, but with a Teotihuacan carving on it. It is a heart seen in a cross-section, so it looks like something with three spirals and three drops of blood. You can see that same image in Teotihuacan, over and over again. Basically it is how they spelled heart sacrifice. What is that doing on a pot here? And it's just a Maya pot. So this is the second generation of those warriors who came and established themselves here. It's basically an invading army that has settled down.

Clipston: When they conquered these cities did they sacrifice the Maya that were here?

Estrada-Belli: Sure they did. Well we have a picture of one at least.

Clipston: I mean like a massacre. Have you found any mass graves?

Estrada-Belli: No, not around here... Wait, I take that back. With my mentor, I surveyed the Preclassic site of Cuello. We found that, at the very end of Cuello, slightly after the time of Christ – maybe 1st or 2nd century CE – we have these pits filled with skulls, and there is another pit as well, with some twenty bodies piled up. They were mass graves.

Clipston: And Cuello is in Belize, not far from here?

Estrada-Belli: Belize. It's a very small site. It wasn't a city. It was more like an aldea (a village), but

The famous Marcador found by JP LaPorte in 1987 at Tikal, is now in the National Museum of Archaeology in Guatemala City. Author Janice Van Cleve suggests this is not a ballcourt marker, but a stone representation of a war banner like the ones depicted in the Bonampak murals. The inscriptions on the stem record the conquest of Tikal by Siyaj Kak, brother of Teotihuacan emperor Spearthrower Owl in 378 CE. See www.maya.doodlekit.com



somebody came and slaughtered many of the young men and women and threw them in that pit. Back then it was evidence of Maya warfare. I mean, it could be, but you know, it didn't happen any other time but at the end of the Preclassic era. 🏰

Source: Author and adventurer Teena Clipson is originally from Kelowna, British Columbia, but now makes her base of operations in Playa del Carmen, Mexico. Visit Teena's Facebook site at: <https://www.facebook.com/teenaclipston-author/> and her website at: www.teena-clipston.com The First Maya Civilization by Francisco Estrada-Belli is available from your favorite book distributor.

Some Personal Notes about Lee Jones – Maya Enthusiast and Friend by Stephan Merk *continued from page 5*

Long time buddies: Lee with his friends Larry and Bill in Xcanahleb

mainly to select Maya sites to visit, and to drive; I hope I fulfill them to Lee's contentment (I try hard not to prang the car too often). My older brother's job is to keep the beer cool and to entertain me while we struggle on rocky roads through the bush – a well-practiced labor division. There is always a ruin to find.

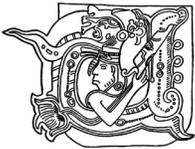
There is not enough space here to list all of Lee Jones' peculiarities, but a few

should be presented: he loves to speak Yucatecan Maya and with this he wins the hearts of the locals immediately; he always orders more food than he can eat; a phrase he constantly uses is "as we say in the South"; over all drinks he prefers the Margaritas (more than one) mixed by Humberto Bonilla; he treasures his wife Sherry and his family – and he is very fond of the cute donkeys that he keeps



on his property in Natchez.

Keep going, elder brother!
Kin tz'aik teech jump'el ki'ki'olal,
suku'un. Ka yanak teech ya'ab
a ximbalil ich u lu'umil maya! 🏰



**Life-long IMS Member:
Patricia “Pat” Manfredi
In Memoriam**

“It is with sorrow, that we have learned of the death of Pat Manfredi, a Fellow member of the Institute of Maya Studies, whose contributions helped shape what our organization is today. Those who met Pat – she was one of the two members who attended the first Maya at the Playa Conference – couldn’t forget her indomitable spirit; unwavering determination and her *joie-de-vivre*. She was a tireless traveler, with Syria being one of the last trips that only a war would prevent her from taking. Whenever she was asked how she was doing, she would answer, ‘divine.’ That earned her the moniker ‘La Divina.’ Bye, dear friend.” – Marta Barber

Pat receiving blessings from a Maya spiritual elder in Takalik Abaj.



L) Pat always staffed the IMS tables at the Maya at the Playa conferences and was the greeter at year’s of IMS public presentations. Photo by Thea Mathan. R) Tres amigos... Jim Reed, Pat and Carlos. Photo by David Sedat. “Mi corazon esta triste por la partida de mi amiga del alma Patricia – una gran persona que conocí en el año de 1997 en un tour que hizo mi amigo Jim a las ruinas de Palenque, Mexico, y muchos viajes que realizamos a las ruinas de Guatemala y Belice. Que descanse en paz.” – Carlos Noberto Corado León

“I was so saddened when Pat’s son Antonio notified me of her passing. I must have met Pat back around 1996, when I had returned from living in Guatemala, and first heard about a group of Maya enthusiasts meeting in Miami. I joined the IMS and I believe my enthusiasm for the Maya impressed everyone. Arthur Dunkelman and Pat spurred me on to run for president of the institute and I was able to accomplish the feat in just three years... in the year 2000... and by

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**Unbundling the Past: Events in Ancient and Contemporary Maya History for November
by Zach Lindsey**

On 28 November 849 CE (10.1.0.0 5 Ajaw 3 K’ayab G9), the few surviving Classic Maya dynasties celebrated the end of the first k’atun of the 10th baktun. Period endings like this one were once very important, but Tikal, Palenque, Naranjo – all were silent by 10.1.0.0. However, Xunantunich and Ceibal did celebrate. The ruler of Ceibal hosted dignitaries from Caracol and other places, but the glory days of the Maya forest of kings were over.

On 5 November 604 CE (9.8.11.6.12 2 Eb 0 Mak G6), at Palenque, Lady Yohl Ik’nal died. Lady Ik’nal served for 20 years as ruler of Palenque and enjoyed the same titles as her male peers, but she possibly suffered a devastating defeat during her time in office.

*During the reign of Yohl Ik’nal, Palenque suffered an important defeat by Calakmul, one of the two great Maya powers of the Classic Period. The battle took place on

April 23, 599, but Yohl Ik’nal reigned for several years more and died in 604 CE. After the defeat, Palenque apparently maintained its political identity but Yohl Ik’nal probably had to pay tribute to the ajaw of Calakmul. There are indications that either Yohl Ik’nal or her successor successfully rebelled against Calakmul’s dominance before 611 CE.

*Archaeologist Merle Greene Robertson has suggested that a vaulted tomb under Temple 20 at Palenque is that of Queen Yohl Ik’nal. She was considered important enough to be depicted twice on the sarcophagus of her grandson or great-grandson K’inich Janaab Pakal I and to be sculpted in stucco on the wall of his tomb.

An ancestor as important as Lady Yohl Ik’nal deserves a moment of reflection this *Día de los Muertos*. While based on the Catholic holiday *Día de los Fieles Difuntos*, *Día de los Muertos* incorporates important



Lady Yohl Ik’nal as depicted on the side of Pakal’s sarcophagus. From pg. 160 in *Chronicle of the Maya Kings and Queens*, 2nd ed., by Simon Martin and Nikolai Grube. New York: Thames & Hudson, 2008.

Prehispanic traditions. This year, the holiday (which lasts from the night of November 1 to November 2) falls on 13.0.5.17.1 13 Imix 14 Sak, and the following day, 1 Ik’ 15 Sak. 🏹

*Asterisked paragraphs from Palenque: *Eternal City of the Maya*, by David Stuart and George Stuart. London: Thames & Hudson, 2008.



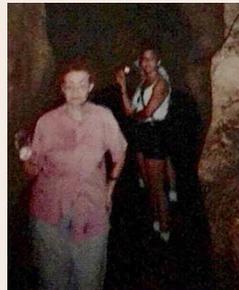


Lady Jaguar by Ben Kwok, alias Biowerks.

Life-long IMS Member: Patricia “Pat” Manfredi In Memoriam

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unanimous decision! To me, I lovingly knew Pat as 'Lady Jaguar' and she was the one who gave me my moniker 'Mayaman'. I will always be indebted to Pat for her kindness and generosity. She was my original proofreader of the *IMS Explorer*. I would mail her enlarged copies of each proposed issue and always addressed them to Lady Jaguar. Pat went on most of my adventures to the Mayalands, that I led over the past 18 years. Pat, you will live on in my heart forever." – Jim Reed



L) Pat, editor Jim Reed, and our mutual friend Sharon Moody, 8/20/2014 – the same night that Pat, George Fery, and I, were awarded our “IMS Fellow” awards. Once, on one of my numerous Maya group adventures, we all descended into the bowels of the Bolonchen Cave (with the Maya care-taker’s permission). Sharon danced for us as we all played musical instruments and burned copal. Pat shook a skull-shaped rattle. R) Pat deep within Bolonchen Cave searching for a good place for a ceremony. Photo by Sharon Moody.

Pat feeds the sacred fire with her offerings in a Rose Petal ceremony at Takalik Abaj. In the background at left, Mary Lou Ridinger, codiscoverer of the ancient Maya jade mines and vice president of The Maya Conservancy.



“Pat Manfredi, a joy to have as a student, colleague and friend, always interested in art and humanities. Pat got the best out of you, she knew how to connect with people. Her enthusiasm for

anything Maya was contagious. We will miss you dearly.”

– Batia Cohen, PhD

“She was a good friend and a fine lady; enjoyed her company on the road and very sad that she passed. May she be blessed with a safe passage through Xibalba.”

– George Fery

Upcoming Events and Announcements:

November 14-17: *SEAC Conference*
**75th Annual Southeastern
Archaeological Conference –**

We are excited to have the Southeastern Archaeological Conference return to Georgia and this year, to the historic town of Augusta, along the banks of the scenic Savannah River. This year is a special one for SEAC, celebrating its 75th annual meeting. Our program includes 264 papers and a record 83 poster programs for a total of 347 presentations. Venue: Four days in the Augusta Marriott at the Convention Center, Augusta, GA. See program and registration details at: <https://www.southeasternarchaeology.org/annual-meeting/details/>

IMS Program Note:

This year, in alignment with MDC, we offer eight IMS presentations during the calendar year: January – June and September – October. For more information, contact our Hotline at: 305-279-8110; or by email at: info@instituteofmayastudies.org

February 14-17, 2019: *Tulane Symposium*
**The Center Could Not Hold:
The Ancient Maya and Collapse**
– 16th Annual Tulane Maya Symposium.



We are excited to have a great line-up of speakers and workshops to address the issue of political decline over the span of ancient Maya history! These researchers will help us address the topic in a multi-disciplinary fashion and bring attention to recent research in the region.

Dr. Jeremy Sabloff will kick off our meetings with a Friday evening keynote address at the New Orleans Museum of Art, providing a broad overview of the study of societal collapse in the Maya world.

M.A.R.I. is getting a new website! Unfortunately, the old site will not be updated during this transition as we put our efforts toward the new. Instead, we will be communicating important information about the Symposium over

our mailing list. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at tms@tulane.edu

Ongoing:
NHM of LA Permanent Exhibit
Visible Vault: Archaeological Treasures From Ancient Latin America – at the Los Angeles Museum of Natural History. Get more info at: <http://www.nhm.org/site/explore-exhibits/permanent-exhibits/latin-american-art>

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://mikeruggerisevents.tumblr.com/>

Check out and get in on the fun on our IMS Facebook page: Get in on all the action! IMS members post interesting links, as well as photos from their recent adventures. Join the **Explorer-ation!** at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MiamiIMS/>



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