

December 25, 2018 • Maya Ceremonial Era Long Count: 0.0.6.1.15 • 2 Men 8 K'ank'in • G9

## Of Gods and Ancestors: Palenque IV

with **George Fery** Writer, Photographer, World Cultures Enthusiast

There is no man who is working as hard to bring you excellent photography of Maya sites along with informative and educational essays of the sites than our good friend George Fery. George now has two websites with which to share his passion: *Maya World Images*, and *George Fery.com*. George has just released "Palenque IV", which is an **83-page PDF** that you can download, full of beautiful photos and insightful prose.

Both sites bring you the great past of the Maya and their Neighbors by showing their art, culture, and history through photography and numerous articles based on George's field trips that span over thirty five years, and writing about today's customs and traditions, as well as interviews with archaeologists working their often remote sites.

George notes: "Traveling and learning, often with great scholars and archaeologists



George enjoys his spot under the sun in front of the Temple of the Inscriptions, Palenque.



Locals come to do ceremony invoking Pakal.

but, best of all, friends, continue and will for years to come. Learning ancient and contemporary myths and beliefs, is the cornerstone for understanding people and cultures. It is even more so for today's traditional communities given the historic impact of the 16th century European contact, and its ensuing cultural and social collapse of Mesoamerican cultures."

George is a Fellow of the Institute of Maya Studies in Miami, FL., as well as the Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers, London, U.K., and a member in good standing of the Maya Exploration Center, Austin, TX .

Check out Palenque IV, and a host of other articles and lectures at: <https://www.georgefery.com/long-form-articles> and the home page of Maya World Images at: <https://www.mayaworldimages.com/p306904257>

**GEORGE FERY**  
FREELANCE WRITER & PHOTOGRAPHER

HOME NORTH AMERICA CENTRAL AMERICA SOUTH AMERICA CARIBBEAN

LONG-FORM ARTICLES PHOTOS ABOUT GEORGE ABOUT THE EDITOR CONTACT GEORGE



**Jim Reed,**  
Editor

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**Kudos to the 2018 IMS Board of Directors!**



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954-786-8084

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**Jim Reed**  
Newsletter Editor  
[mayaman@bellsouth.net](mailto:mayaman@bellsouth.net)

# Unbundling the Past: Events in Ancient and Contemporary Maya History for December by Zach Lindsey

In the masthead this month, our mascot Itzamná dons his Santa hat and we have noted the Maya glyphic signature of the Gregorian calendar date of December 25, correlating to the Calendar Round of the Maya @584283. Here, we combine the two, so you can explore what was going on this time of year in the historical Maya world.

## 5 December 573 CE:

On 9.7.0.0.0 7 Ajaw 3 K'ank'in G9, Kan B'ahlam I of Palenque performed a ritual stone seating in honor of the date, a K'atun ending. From Kan B'ahlam I, epigraphers learned about the language of the glyphs. His name glyph has a snake head in it, so scholars used to call him *Chan Bahlum* (Snake Jaguar in Ch'ol, a Mayan language still spoken near Palenque), according to Joel Skidmore. But, they later found his name written with the *ka-* syllable: His name was *Kan*, not *Chan*. That's not Ch'ol, it's Yucatec Maya. It's one way we know the people of Yucatan were in close contact with their Ch'ol-speaking neighbors.

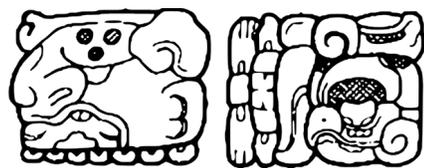
## 17 December 745 CE:

On 9.15.14.9.14 11 Ben 16 Pax G4, Ruler 4 of Piedras Negras spent a little time remembering his late mother. Stela 40 (at far right) shows the king of Piedras Negras scattering blood in his mother's honor. She is below in her tomb, looking surprisingly un-Maya. This is evidence that Ruler 4 was not related to the third ruler of Piedras Negras, K'inich Yo'nal Ahk II.

Kathryn Josserand suggests Ruler 4 married K'inich Yo'nal Ahk II's daughter, though if he did, he wasn't very respectful of his father-in-law: he buried him under a courtyard, according to Stephen Houston. Then again, Ruler 4 didn't finish his own mother's memorial, either, so maybe he should have spent a little more time remembering her!  
Image at: <http://research.famsi.org/uploads/montgomery/557/image/JM05530.jpg>

## 30 December 664 CE (9.11.12.7.2 2 Ik' 10 Pax G7):

U ki'imak ólal k'iin k'aaba' (Happy birthday) K'inich Yo'nal Ahk II. That was his royal title, but even on his last stela, he went by his pre-dynastic name, *Kooj*. While *Kooj's* military record

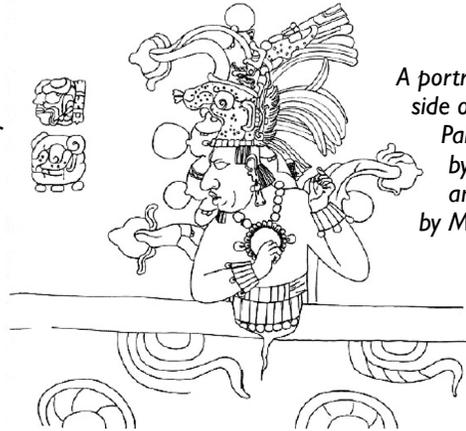


K'inich Yo'nal Ahk II: KO:J-ji K'INICH-yo-o[AHK]-NAL, "Puma Radiant ? Turtle". Drawing, transcription, and translation after Martin and Grube (2008).<sup>2</sup>

was less-than-stellar, and he saw the city lose battles to Tonina and Palenque, he created important monuments for our understanding of the Maya world. His most famous stelae show his wife in prominent roles, and one, Stela 3, includes the only known depiction of a young female heir, his daughter *Ix Juntan Ahk*.

Sources: <sup>1</sup>Skidmore, Joel (2010). *The Rulers of Palenque* (Fifth ed.). Mesoweb Publications, PDF. p. 33. <sup>2</sup>K'inich Yo'nal Ahk II at Mesoweb; and *Chronicle of the Maya Kings and Queens* by Simon Martin and Nikolai Grube.

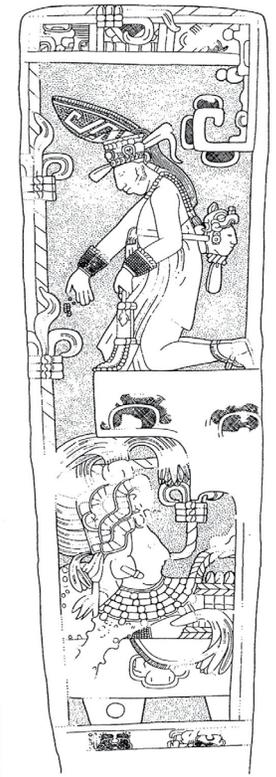
K'inich Kan Bahlam impersonating Uk'ix Chan on the sanctuary jamb panel of the Temple of the Cross (drawing by Linda Schele). The ruler's name, when transcribed is (K'INICH)KAN [BAHLAM]-ma, translated "Radiant Snake Jaguar".<sup>1</sup>



A portrait of Kan Bahlam I from the west side of the sarcophagus of K'inich Janaab Pakal at Palenque. He can be identified by his headdress, part serpent (*kan*) and part jaguar (*bahlam*). Drawing by Merle Greene Robertson.<sup>1</sup>



Itzam K'an Ahk II, Ruler 4 of Piedras Negras. ?-na-a-ku ?-HA'? [K'AN]AHK. His pre-regnal name was *Kooj* - "Puma". Upon his accession, he took as his regnal name that of his grandfather. Drawing and transcription after Martin and Grube (2008).<sup>2</sup>



Piedras Negras Stela 40 by John Montgomery (2000).



Stela 6 was erected at Piedras Negras by K'inich Yo'nal Ahk II. Courtesy of Fernando Franciles.

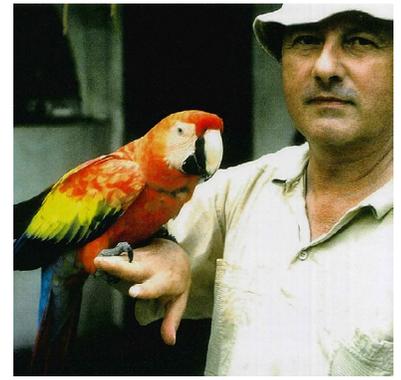
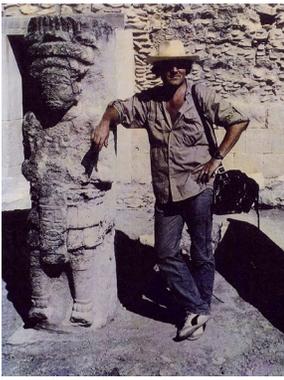
**December 12, 7:30 pm**

**IMS Annual Business Meeting and December Birthday Party**

This event will take place at 7:30 pm at La Carreta Restaurant, Miami.

**Be there!**





L) Before and LC) twenty-five years later posing with a carved column from Ah Canul Group, Oxkintok, Yucatan (Karl on the right). RC) Karl with the legendary Río Bec guide, Juan de la Cruz Briscoño, who enjoyed walking clients down going to out of the sites. This time, Karl walked him out of his clothes. R) Karl always enjoyed making many friends along the way during field seasons – avian, reptile, sea or land animal – and human.

## Unauthorized Biography: Karl Herbert Mayer by Ruin-Hunter Lee Jones

For almost a K'atun, I have submitted articles for the *IMS Explorer*. They have, miraculously, after a fashion, been accepted. Editor Reed is less critical, and analytical than if I would have first sent the articles to Karl Herbert Mayer (MEXICON), of Graz, Austria, for editing. This little epistle, obviously, will not be edited by Karl. Unauthorized biographies are not edited by the subject. C'mon. If you IMS folks are reading this, then, you can assume Editor Reed "threw up his hands, and just gave in!"

In 1968, the young Karl H. Mayer, dared to back-pack through the Mayalands, the Yucatan Peninsula, and the Peten. On a shoestring budget, he visited various pueblos and was granted a free night's sleep in jails. Yes, jails! On his way to his next stop via public transportation, he would procure a note from the previous jailer to the next to allow Karl entry to his jail.

I don't know how many sites Karl visited in 1968, but it was many.



Here, Karl enjoys the friendship of a lap cat in Merida, 2008. Submitted by Lee Jones. Editor's note: I have an archive of photos that Karl has sent me for almost a K'atun.

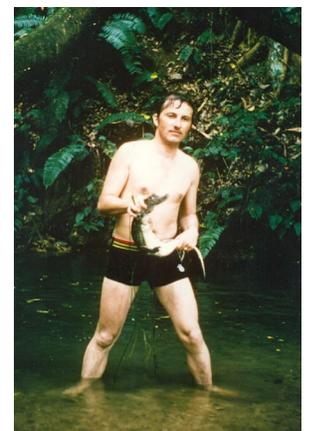
Karl Herbert Mayer is the recipient of the SAA's Crabtree Award for 2006 for his distinguished record of service to Mesoamerican archaeology spanning more than 35 years. A native of Austria, Professor Mayer used his vacation time to travel at his own expense into Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras, nearly every year to work with archaeologists in relocating and documenting



sites and to share with his professional colleagues his extensive knowledge of unprovenanced stela fragments, sculptures, and artifacts from European private collections. He is the founder of the respected journal *MEXICON*. His work is in the best tradition of cooperation and mutual respect between vocational and professional archaeologists: as one committee member remarked, "I know Don Crabtree would have approved!"

### The Karl we all know and love

Karl won't admit as to how many showers he took along the way, but, he eventually wound up in Chiapas and decided to go to the home of Merle Greene Robertson, unannounced. So he needed to "freshen up". At the bottom of Palenque, there are many waterfalls. Karl was "freshening up", in anticipation of La Canada Avenue where Merle lived. He wanted to bring a gift to this icon Mayanist. He thought of flowers, but, in the natural pool where he was washing, he saw a small alligator (Caiman?). He took it to Merle. As always, she welcomed strangers. Merle liked the little croc – her husband hated it. A year later, her neighbors couldn't find their dogs. The reptile disappeared.



Karl, posing with his croc named "Merle" at Palenque, 1978.

Karl was, and is, intensely interested in sculpture of "unknown provenance". I met him in 1997 at Akumal, Quintana Roo, with a MEXICON team that consisted of Karl, Stephan Merk, who I already knew, Christian Prager, and Isabel Welter. I showed them Xaak, Chakalal, Paamul, and Akumal ruins. Karl had already visited Akumal Ruinas (and, together with me, Chakalal). Next day, I took them to Sian Kian biosphere and showed them the ruins that Peissel reported in 1969, plus a second one.

The following day, we journeyed to Chacchoben, a site on private land and forbidden entry. I had a permiso from INAH in Chetumal. A good site, at least in 1997. Now, it is only partially open, and

continued on page 5 ●●●

## Institute of Maya Studies Program and Speaker Recap for 2018

Offering educative public programs on Mesoamerican studies with a focus on the Maya



Stanley Guenter



Keith Merwin



Michael G. Callaghan,  
& Brigitte Kovacevich



Gabrielle Vail



Evan Parker



Arthur  
Dunkelman



Heather  
McKillop

January 31:

**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.

February 21:

**Secrets of the Black Door: What Were the Ancient Maya Trying to Tell Us?**, with Keith Merwin, IMS Webmaster

March 21:

**The Naked and the Dead: Ritual and Sacrifice in Early Maya Civilizations**, with Michael G. Callaghan, Ph.D., and Brigitte Kovacevich, Ph.D. Both of the University of Central Florida

April 4:

**Maya Voices: Connecting the Precolumbian Past to Today's Maya Youth**, with Gabrielle Vail, PhD, of the University of North Carolina, at Chapel Hill

April 18:

**If I Had A Hammer: Tools and Construction Techniques of the Ancient Maya**, with IMS Director of Research Joaquín J. Rodríguez III, PE

May 17:

**Ritual, Sport, and Monumentality among the Early Maya of the Northern Lowlands: New Insights from Paso del Macho, Yucatan**, with Evan Parker, Tulane University

June 20:

**Culture and Change in the Early Americas: The Kislak Center at the Freedom Tower Exhibit**, with Arthur Dunkelman, Director and Curator for Jay I. Kislak Foundation, Inc.

September 19:

**Ancient Capital Cities of Central Mexico**, with President of IMS Rick Slazyk and IMS Executive Vice President and Programming Chair Marta Barber

October 17:

**Salt in the Classic Maya Economy**, with Heather McKillop, Thomas and Lillian Landrum Alumni Professor, Dept. of Geography and Anthropology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

December 12:

**IMS Annual Business Meeting and Anniversary Party**

In alignment with Miami Dade College, we usually offer 9 IMS presentations in conjunction with their calendar year: January – June and September – November. This year, we offered 8, with no public lectures during July, August, November and December.

## LiDAR Reveals Massive Extent of Izapa Kingdom

Archaeologists have discovered once-hidden monuments and ancient cookie-cutter suburbs in southern Mexico's Izapa kingdom. The kingdom, which flourished between 700 and 100 BCE, was mostly known for its capital, Izapa, where pyramids, plazas, ballcourts and hundreds of elaborately carved monuments have been unearthed since the 1940s.

Izapa is the site that author and archaeologist

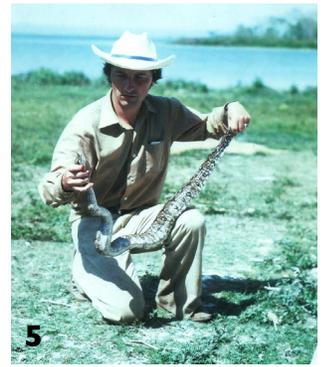
V. Garth Norman has dedicated his life to, and may have been central to the area where scholars believe that two of the ancient Maya's calendars were initiated.

But now, archaeologists have confirmed that Izapa wasn't a stand-alone city. It was surrounded by about 40 smaller towns. Each of these satellite settlements had a layout that copied the capital's, according to a new study using aerial observations.

"The consistency is remarkable," said study leader Robert Rosenswig, an archaeologist at SUNY Albany. "This was a tremendous amount of coordination within the kingdom."

In a quest to understand the Izapa kingdom beyond the capital, Rosenswig and his colleagues started conducting surveys in the region on foot and with LiDAR, a remote-sensing technique. A lidar instrument blasts rapid light pulses at a surface and measures how long it takes for

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Editor's note: Karl has practically traveled 360° around the globe in his investigations and interests in other cultures. He is also somewhat of a snake charmer, or is it that he is charmed by the serpents? 1) KHM in Cambodia, 1983. 2) KHM in Egypt, 1970. 3) KHM in Bangkok, 1983. 4) KHM in Tunisia, 1970. 5) KHM with a Boa on the isle of Tayasal, Flores, Peten, Guatemala, 1976. Photo by Andy Seuffet. He lives the life of an Explorer!

## Unauthorized Biography: Karl Herbert Mayer by Ruin-Hunter Lee Jones

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somewhat visited by the cruise ships from the "Costa Maya". Our guide was nice. Karl told him that the one stela, in four pieces, was upside down.

I kept thinking-Karl Mayer, Karl Mayer! On returning to my home in Natchez, Mississippi, I discovered that I had two of his books!

A long relationship followed, along with Stephan Merk. I've probably visited over one hundred sites with Karl.

He is very generous with his archives, having, mas o menos, 40,000 photos, all with dates and site names on the back. I just received from him information on 2,000 sites with GPS information.

Karl has many projects "rattling around his head", including documenting the many Río Bec palaces, curiously, in the vicinity of the urban sprawl of Xpujil Pueblo (now ciudad). Local entrepreneurs, as we speak, are mowing down these palaces.

When Karl was young, he, accompanying Hanns Prem, George Andrews, and others, walking from Oxkutzcab to Sayil. (Not true; KHM walked alone, not with Prem and Andrews And he walked until he reached Kabah). I asked him if he enjoyed the trek. He recalled that blood was coming out of the tops of his boots. He rode an ATV to Xultun, which I imagine wasn't easy. His car broke down at Río Bec II, and he had to walk forty kilometers out. (Not true: our car broke down on our way to Río Bec B, and we had

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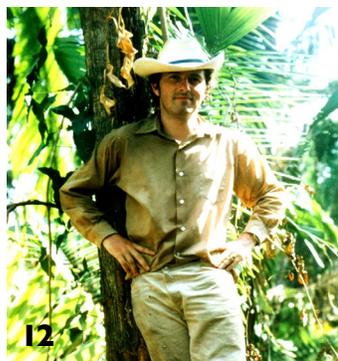
6) KHM with Nikolai Grube in Campeche, 2012. Photo by Peggy Goede.



7) Karl's pocket route map documenting his Maya adventure in 2012.



8) KHM with a young spider monkey in Uaxactun, Guatemala, 1998. Photo by H. Tesucun. 9) KHM with an iguana, Xkichmook, Yucatan. 10) Fearless sea turtle rider, Isla Mujeres, 1968. 11) KHM posing in Santa Lucia Cotzumalguapa, Guatemala, 1976.



12) KHM with more hip action going on in Petexbatun, El Raicero, 1976.



13) KHM gets around in style in Yaxha, Peten, Guatemala, 2003.

Dedicated to IMS members and cherished Mayanists who have entered on the road to Xibalba this year...

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Alfonso Lacadena  
García-Gallo



Peter J. Schmidt



John Anthony  
West



Mario Ferrante



Dr. Guillermo  
Mata Amado



Jay I. Kislak



Pat Manfredi

### Vol 46, Issue 1: January

New Subaquatic Archaeology Museum in Campeche by Antonio Benavides C., INAH Campeche; The Sandscape of Northern Peru: An Unforgettable Adventure through 4,500 Years of History of the Americas. by IMS Executive Vice-President Marta Barber; Lake Amatitlan, Guatemala, an Enigma of Beauty and Tragedy, by Mark F. Cheney

### Vol 46, Issue 2: February

Maya Healers: A Thousand Dreams, by Fran Antmann; Dr. Anabel Ford's Philanthropic Magic: Donor Spotlight on the Santa Barbara Foundation Website: February 20: The Day in Honor of Tecún Umán; *New IMS Series Premiere: Unbundling the Past: Events in Ancient and Contemporary Maya History* for February, by Zach Lindsey.

### Vol 46, Issue 3: March

The 2017 Field Season at Edzna, by Antonio Benavides C., INAH Campeche; Tulane Researchers Central to LiDAR-Discovered Ancient Maya Cities (of the Maya Biosphere Reserve, in Guatemala's Peten region); Teledyne LiDAR Reveals Extensive Maya Civilization; *In Memoriam: Alfonso Lacadena García-Gallo*, by Marc Zender; *Unbundling the Past: Events in Ancient and Contemporary Maya History* for March, by Zach Lindsey.

### Vol 46, Issue 4: April

A Ruin-Hunter's Original: Three Days at El Resbalon with Ian Graham, by Lee Jones; The Sandscape of Northern Peru: An Unforgettable Adventure to 4,500 Years of History of the Americas – Part II, by Marta Barber; *Unbundling the Past: Events in Ancient and Contemporary Maya History* for April, by Zach Lindsey; *Inspiring Achievements of Visual Communicators: Artistic Wood Carvers Aspire to Greatness*, with Edwin Ramírez Najera, El Remate, Peten, Guatemala; Teotihuacan vrs. Tehuacan.

### Vol 46, Issue 5: May

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### Vol 46, Issue 6: June

The Kislak Center at the Freedom Tower; The 2017 Kanki, Campeche, Field Season, by Antonio Benavides C., INAH Campeche; *Unbundling the Past: Events in Ancient and Contemporary Maya History* for June, by Zach Lindsey;

*Pioneer in Maya Studies: In Memoriam: Peter J. Schmidt*,  
(compiled by Jim Reed).

### Vol 46, Issue 7: July

The Copan Baseline: K'atun 9.11.0.0.0 and the Three Hearthstones in Orion by Michael J. Grofe, American River College; A Look Back Through Time and Space: Tak'alik Ab'aj, by Dr. Marion Popenoe de Hatch; Ancient Maya Food Staple? A Tree That Produces Over 1000 Cacao-sized Fruits a Year? by Dr. Nicholas Hellmuth FLAAR (USA) and FLAAR Mesoamerica (Guatemala); *Pioneer in Egyptian Studies: John Anthony West*; *Unbundling the Past: Events in Ancient and Contemporary Maya History* for July, by Zach Lindsey; Fuego Volcano: K'awil Enters the Mountain to Retrieve the Maize Seeds (Guatemalan disaster, 6.6.2018).

### Vol 46, Issue 8: August

Faded Maya Painted Inscriptions at Bonampak, Chiapas, Mexico, by Karl Herbert Mayer; Nostalgic Photographs from Copan, Honduras; Exploring the World of the Ancient Maya with Artist Steve Radzi; The Maya Train: From Cancun to Palenque.

### Vol 46, Issue 9: September

Rewriting the History of the Maya, Part I, Interview with Francisco Estrada-Belli, by Teena Clipson; Life-Size Model of the San Bartolo Mural at the Tang Museum in Saratoga Springs, NY, featuring Heather Hurst; The Ancient Maya Site of Chumucbe, Campeche, by Karl Herbert Mayer; *In Memoriam: Mario Ferrante*, Cultural Historian; *Unbundling the Past: Events in Ancient and Contemporary Maya History* for September, by Zach Lindsey; Modern Maya Money Now Available! (Maya commemorative coins).

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### Vol 46, Issue 11: November

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### Vol 46, Issue 12: December

Of Gods and Ancestors: Palenque IV, by George Fery; Writer, Photographer, World Cultures Enthusiast; *Unbundling the Past: Events in Ancient and Contemporary Maya History* for December, by Zach Lindsey; *Unauthorized Biography: Karl Herbert Mayer*, by Ruin-Hunter Lee Jones; IMS Program and Speakers Recap for 2018; IMS Recommended Reading: *The Cubit Connection*, by V. Garth Norman; Index for Volume 47.

**Recommended by the Editor** Recently released book:

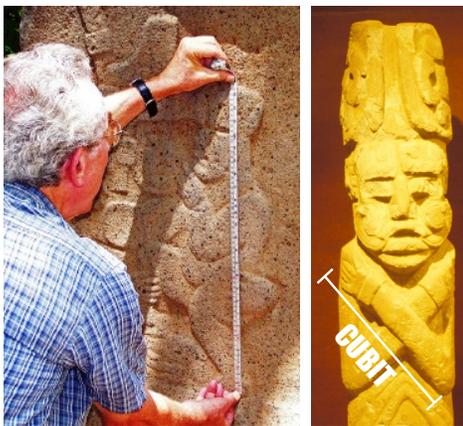
**Cubit Connection in Ancient World Migrations**  
by **V. Garth Norman** Archaeologist, Author, Izapan Culture Scholar

Evidences of ancient trans-oceanic migrations have been circumstantial in the absence of non-arbitrary data until now. Archaeologist V. Garth Norman has traveled world-wide since the 1980s compiling a mountain of data revealing the transport of ancient Mesopotamian and Egyptian standard measurements from the third millennium to sixth century BCE by land and sea across East Asia to China, and the Americas where they prevailed in Mesoamerica and Peru for nearly three millennia to Spanish contact. Measures were being used to compose geometric design formats for both architecture and art in the same way in both the Old and New Worlds.

**"V. Garth Norman** has proven strong trans-Atlantic connections between the Civilizations of the ancient Americas and the Middle East by revealing the use of common cubit measurements. Garth and I (Lance) completed research at the British Museum in London and the Louvre in Paris, where we measured ancient relief sculptures and statues.

"On every single sculpture, from ancient Egypt, Assyria, and Babylon, we found consistent use of whole, fractional, and multiple cubit measurements on the arms and feet of the human figures, as well as other dimensional widths and lengths. These measurements were all based on the use of two ancient cubits: the Royal Egyptian Cubit (52.5 cm) and the Babylonian-Assyrian Cubit (49.5 cm).

"Norman's art and architecture measurements taken across America's antiquities, from Nazca through Peru, across Middle America, and to petroglyphs in the Southwest US and Southeast US, verify the consistent use of these two Middle



Garth Norman measured carved stone monuments at La Venta Park, in Villahermosa, Mexico. He discovered both cubits on the sculptures. Both fore-arms on the Juchitan statue (above right) are 49.5 cm cubits.

Eastern, Egyptian and Babylonian cubits, over a long period of ancient history in the Americas."

– C. Lance Harding Ph.D.  
*Princes School of Traditional Arts,  
London. Research in Art History  
and Aesthetics, including  
Ancient Metrology*

**"V. Garth Norman** is an noted Archaeologist, Archaeo-astronomer, Epigrapher, and Art Historian, with Graduate degrees in Archaeology, Ancient Studies, and Anthropology. Beyond his other passions for archaeological and investigative studies in the Middle East and the American Southwest, Norman is the leading scholar on the Izapan culture of ancient Mesoamerica, based on more than forty years of the study at the site of Izapa.

"Scholars believe that Izapa flourished due to its influence by and relationship with the neighboring and evolving Olmec culture. It is at Izapa, or in the immediate surrounding area, that the 360-Day Haab calendar, as well as the 260-Day sacred count of days – the Tzolk'in calendar system – were initiated. Izapa culture then appears as a precursor to ancient Maya culture; and it is only at Izapa where carved stone monuments depict identifiable scenes from the *Popol Vuh*. The *Popol Vuh*, often dubbed the 'Bible of the Maya', is a cultural, and considered sacred narrative that recounts the mythology and history of the K'iche' Maya. Within the pages of the *Popol Vuh* are found references to 'ancient bearded seafarers who arrived on our shores from the east'.

"Dr. Scott Olsen, Professor of Philosophy, College of Central Florida, notes 'Norman's stunning discoveries of geometric design planning, and standard measures in monuments and architecture, as well as the 260-Day sacred Maya calendar at Izapa, attest to the astonishing knowledge gathered by the priest-astronomers at Izapa, and their profound influence on centuries of later generations'.

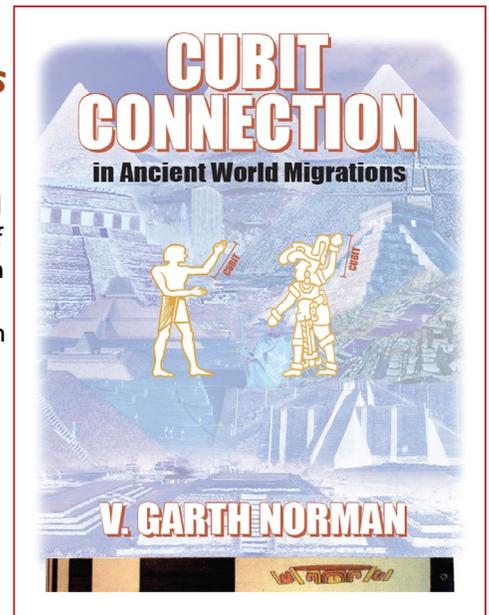
"Within this colorful and scholarly manuscript, Norman provides convincing evidence that in ancient times, there must have been trans-oceanic cultural exchange, and he does it all, based on their use of common Standards of Measurement. Norman expertly weaves all the clues together, incorporating 160 pages, 240 photos and illustrations, 23 maps, 12 tables, and a referenced Bibliography."

– Jim Reed *Independent Maya Researcher*

**Editor's note:** I spent more than a year helping Garth and Cheryl Norman bring this important book to the world. Those of you who read and purchase scholarly books know that just about every one of them is printed in black and white. I can't recommend this book any higher – it is designed and printed with the maximum of color images from front-to-back! A masterpiece.

The volume is now available on Amazon Books; click here:

[https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss\\_2?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=V.+Garth+Norman](https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss_2?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=V.+Garth+Norman)



ISBN-978-1985883635  
(Cover design by Jim Reed)



## IMS Annual Business Meeting and Anniversary Party – December 12



Wear your favorite Maya get-up!

Officially dubbed the Annual Members Meeting, members seldom think of it as that. Think fellowship, food and fun! Think bargain books and other desirable items. Think “Happy Birthday” to the IMS.

**The IMS has now been together for 47 years!**

As established in the bylaws, the event takes place on the second Wednesday of December, in this case December 12. We combine our anniversary party with a short business meeting, and a few short committee reports; celebrating with the a la carte dinner. This year, there are no new board members up for election to the 2018 Board of Directors.

## Institute of Maya Studies Annual Affair

This event will take place at 7:30 pm at La Carreta Restaurant  
3632 SW 8th Street, Miami, 33135 • Dinner will be a la carte • Menu at <http://lacarreta.com>

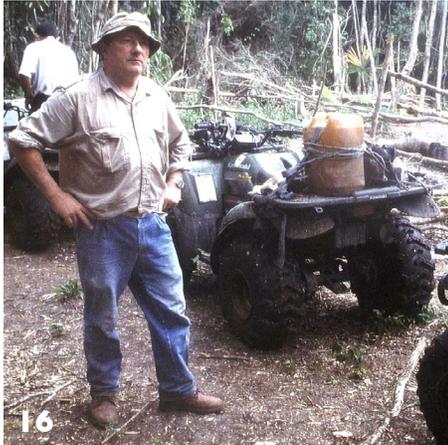
Call the Maya Hotline: 305-279-8110 for additional info and specifics



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Editor's note: Even more hip action! 14) KHM illuminated at Kabah, Yucatan, 1992. Photo by Stephan Merk. 15) KHM with boa friend, Peten, 2002. Photo by H. Tesucun. 16) KHM with Quad, San Bartolo, Guatemala, 2002. 17) KHM and stela at Ixkun, 2014. Photo by Jorge Chocon, IDAEH.

## Unauthorized Biography: Karl Herbert Mayer continued from page 5

to walk in total around 25 kilometers).

In the late 80s, I was assisting Ian Graham in mapping Uxmal. While taking the “macheteros” back to Santa Elena, they showed me the dirt road to Nohpat, a huge, overgrown, important site along the famous sacbe between Uxmal and Kabah. They mentioned an “Aleman” who had just visited Nohpat. Returning to Uxmal, I told Ian. He said, confidentially, “Oh, that would be Karl Mayer”. I responded “Lots of Alemanes in the world, how do you know it's Herr Karl Mayer?” He said “Karl likes to see everything! ...and, BTW, Karl is Austrian, not German”.

And we Maya aficionados are grateful for it!

Respectfully submitted, Lee Jones



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18) KHM dreaming down the Maya river... Usumacinta, 1997.

## LiDAR Reveals Massive Extent of Izapa Kingdom continued from page 4

the light to bounce back. Now that computing power has improved enough to handle the billions of points a LiDAR survey might collect, the technology has become a popular tool for archaeologists. A lidar survey that scans the landscape from a plane or drone allows researchers to “see” through vegetation to create a topographic map that can reveal lost roads, mounds, canals and other ancient human-made features.

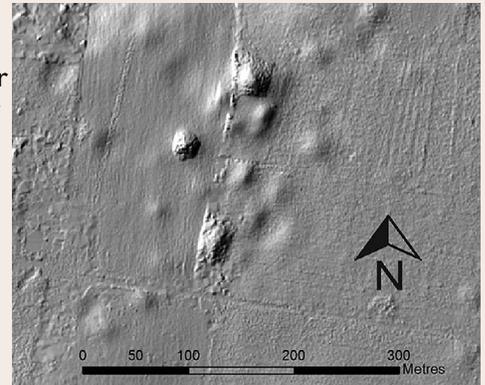
Rosenswig said that one of his first surveys covered about 20 square miles (50 square km) near Izapa. After he found nine small settlements in that area alone, he expanded the search.

Over a total area of 225 square miles (584 square km) – about the size of Chicago – Rosenswig documented 41 settlements around Izapa, all within about 13 miles (22 km) of

the capital. The settlements varied in size, and the largest three seem to be arranged around the perimeter of the kingdom, likely offering a layer of protection from neighboring polities. (Carvings found in Izapa, some of which depict scenes of violence and decapitation, hint that there was conflict with other kingdoms.)

The outlying towns followed the same blueprint. The east-west axis would have been aligned with the sunrise during winter solstice, Rosenswig said. The north-south axis was pointed just east of north, toward the Tacaná volcano (which eventually erupted and may have led to the downfall of the Izapa kingdom).

“The fact that this structure was replicated at the lower-order centers, which are not that far apart, meant that there was this sense of polity in the Izapa kingdom, and being a member of this entailed some specific ritual



The north-south axis of the towns in the Izapa kingdom, like this small “cookie-cutter” town, pointed slightly east, toward the Tacaná volcano.

Credit: Antiquity, Rosenswig 2018.

activities that would have happened periodically,” Rosenswig noted.

Source: From an article by Live Science Contributor Megan Gannon, posted 10.29.2018. See the complete article along with a video at: [https://www.livescience.com/63935-ancient-izapa-towns-discovered.html?utm\\_source=ls-newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=20181029-ls](https://www.livescience.com/63935-ancient-izapa-towns-discovered.html?utm_source=ls-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20181029-ls) Submitted by Georgeann Johnson. 🏠



January 15-19: 2019 Mesoamerica Meetings **Dress Codes: Regalia and Attire in Ancient Mesoamerica** – The 2019 Mesoamerica Meetings will take a detailed and interdisciplinary look at topics related to dress, adornment, regalia, and bodily decoration among ancient Mesoamerican cultures.

This topic was certainly of great importance to ancient Mesoamericans, given how the imagery accompanying the human body was so central to identity, status, and social codes. Yet the study of this rich and informative

## Upcoming Events and Announcements:

theme remains under-developed in many ways. Our meeting will bring together an international group of scholars, students, and all interested people to explore the different ways in which “dress codes” can reveal new insights into Mesoamerican societies, cultures, and worldviews.

We don’t envision a conference only about clothing and costumes. Rather we want to investigate what might be called the “iconography of the body.” The human form was a medium for artistic display of many kinds, encompassing woven and painted designs in cloth and paper, jewels of precious stones and metals, intricate featherwork, and the use of hides and other animal parts, diverse color materials, headgear, body art, even hieroglyphic writing. Tackling subjects within this large topic inevitably takes us into important issues about performance, economics,

gender, politics, and society. Like other broad themes covered by The Mesoamerica Meetings, regalia and attire provide a window of new perspectives on a distant world.

For program, workshops, registration, and lots more info, visit: <https://utmesoamerica.org>

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/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)