

January 20, 2020 • Modern K'iche' Maya Long Count: 0.0.8.3.12 • 5 Eb' 15 Muan • G9

A monthly newsletter published by the **Institute of Maya Studies**

Maya enthusiasts providing public education for 48+ years

Now live streaming educational presentations each month!

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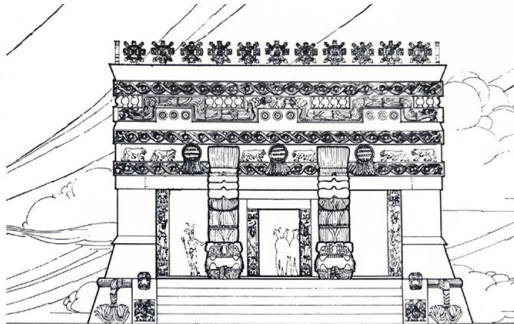
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Names of Warriors from the Temple of Jaguars in Chichen Itza Deciphered

The names correspond to the Cocom rulers’ lineage, the millenary Maya clan of the “vanilla flower.”

A new book has been released and a free download link of the complete book is included at the end of the article

“This work presents a decipherment of the nominal glyphs of the characters from the Upper Temple of Jaguars in Chichen Itza, who are identified with the Cocom lineage, according to colonial documents from the Willard collection.



L) The Temple of the Jaguars is a major structure surrounding the Great Ballcourt at Chichen Itza (lámina 265). R) Illustration of the Temple of the Jaguars by M.A. Fernández (lámina 267). Both images are from “Marquina en Arquitectura Prehispanica” and are reproduced in the book.

The origin of the Cocom lineage is traced from the Terminal

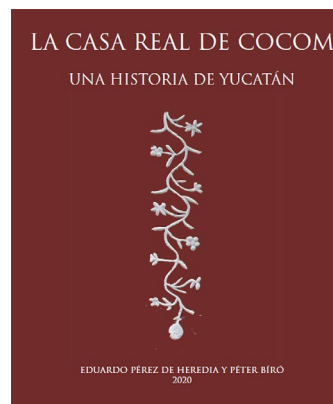
Classic period and its adaptation to the arrival of the Toltecs. Subsequently, their role in the Mayapan government is examined until the episode of the massacre that would lead to their enmity with the Tutul Xiu group, and that would mark the role of each lineage in the war of conquest of the Spanish. Later, the history of Nachi Cocom and its settlement in Sotuta is presented. Finally, we propose that the meaning of Cocom as a ‘yellow-flowered vine’ corresponds to vanilla”.

Rediscovered

The Cocom documents were bought by Theodore Willard at the beginning of the 20th century, but were not rediscovered until the 1980s by anthropologist Ruth Gubler. (Editor’s Note: Ruth Gubler was a former IMS board member and at the time, in charge of publications.)

The Cocom documents are currently housed in the Southwest Museum in Pasadena, USA, which has been closed for years and is not accessible. There are fears

continued on page 3



This revelation is documented in the book “The Royal House of Cocom. A History of Yucatan”, recently published in its digital version and distributed among the international scientific community... (and IMSers!).

IMS Streaming: January 20, 8 pm



Jade and Chocolate: Ancient Mesoamerican Trade Routes with Mary Lou Ridinger



Jim Reed, Editor

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An important message from the IMS President: **“The IMS is always evolving... and the best is yet to come!”**



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Dear Membership,
 As 2021 dawns, I hope this New Year finds you well and with a sense of optimism.

Among many other issues, 2020 was a transitional year for IMS. To combat COVID-19, IMS suspended live lectures starting in March 2020 in conjunction with best practices and Miami Dade College policy.

As the year progressed, it became apparent that we would not be able to resume our regular lecture activities in any foreseeable future. A new strategy was necessary, and we embarked on an online format which began in September 2020. Bringing online lectures to our membership has been a learning experience, but we are improving.

Our focus for the coming year, as always, is our membership. Our goals are to provide membership value, re-energize non-participating members and of course, the development of new members.

In addition to our new format, the positive side of 2020, was a reduction of expenses due directly to COVID-19. This has allowed us to invest in technology upgrades.

*This has also allowed us to offer a reduced donation level for a new IMS membership, or a renewal of your current IMS membership, for only \$25. **Join now!***

To achieve our goals, we will upgrade our Zoom lecture platform to Vimeo, improving the quality and stability of live transmission, as well as the ability to host more attendees, and gain larger archive capacity in the cloud. This will provide flexibility for our members to view or re-view lectures at their convenience. Such a feature is important for our members in different time zones around the globe.

The IMS has a jam-packed lineup of Vimeo live-streaming speakers for 2021! They include:

Mary Lou Ridinger, Debra Walker, Heather McKillop, Ed Barnhart, Ken Seligson, Laura Harrison, Clarke Werneke, Elizabeth Graham, Anabel Ford, David & Elaine Schele, among others to be announced in due time!

As a standard, we intend to keep our main lectures scheduled for the 3rd Wednesday of the month although date and time may vary on occasion to accommodate international speakers. In this case we will advise the membership in advance of any schedule changes via our newsletter and website.

In addition, we will continue to make available:

- Quality lectures from top scholars in the field.
- A relevant and informative monthly newsletter.
- Interaction with our membership via social media and related events.
- Upgrades to our website.
- Membership value.

Finally, we plan to re-initiate “Explorer Lectures” (live streaming events for the 2nd Wednesday of a month), focusing on more general topics such as Maya culture and architecture, as well as other topics. We are hopeful this will help to encourage new memberships. Subject, date and time will be posted in the newsletter and on the IMS website.

In closing, IMS has been evolving over the past few years and we are very excited about our prospects in 2021 and beyond. We are heartened that you will be also.

I thank you for your past support and trust in your continued support of the Institute of Maya Studies.

Eric T. Slazyk AIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C
 President, Institute of Maya Studies

2021 New Membership and Renewal Info:

The Institute of Maya Studies is totally member-supported! If you are not a member, please take a moment and join us. If you are already a member, please renew and encourage your friends to join.

Membership in the IMS includes access to monthly IMS Live Streaming Events; a year’s subscription to our monthly **IMS Explorer** newsletter; and access to all features on our website.

Online: You can become a member or renew by using **PayPal** and the application form on our website at: <http://instituteofmayastudies.org>

By postal mail: See form on page 7. Make payment out to:
 The Institute of Maya Studies, Inc.
 Mail to our new address: The Institute of Maya Studies,
 P.O. Box 291775, Davie, FL 33329

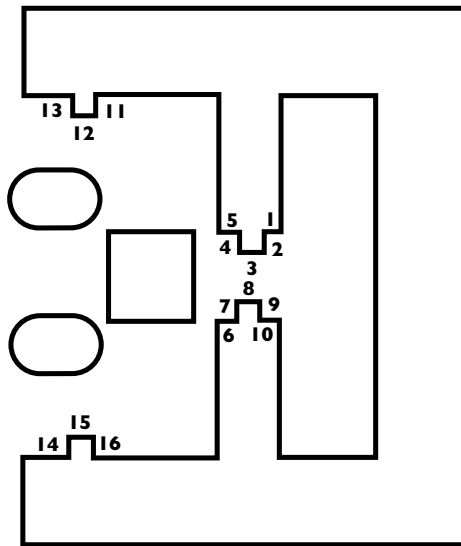
Names of Warriors from the Temple of Jaguars in Chichen Itza Deciphered

continued from page 1



Order of the lineage of Cocom warriors as depicted in the Upper Temple of the Jaguars. (bottom of Figure 9 in the book PDF, drawn by Péter Biró) (enhanced by the editor).

Location of the Cocom warrior glyphs as depicted in the Upper Temple of the Jaguars. (top of Figure 9 in the book PDF, drawn by Péter Biró) (recreated by the editor)



among academics about their conservation status.

When translated into English, the names mean Star, Raccoon, Priest, Snake, Tooth, Glass, God, Flint, Infant, Charcoal, Grass, Cotton, Worm, Animal Skin, and Son.

The Temple of Jaguars in whose glyphs the Cocom were identified, was considered by John Lloyd Stephens as “perhaps the greatest gem of aboriginal art that still survives on the American continent.”

Toltec Influence

In this new book, the authors trace the origin of the Cocom lineage from the Terminal Classic period and its adaptation to the arrival of the Toltecs in the early 10th century.

The Cocom lineage, the book explains, may have its origin in the kingdom of Komkom, whose capital coincides with the current site of Buenavista del Cayo, in Belize.

Vanilla Flower

Both terms, Kokom and Komkom, are synonymous and refer to a plant identified with vanilla. However, Kokom also means judge in Yucatek Maya and refers to the government position that had this title in Chichen Itza.

In addition to its origin, the work tells the story of the Cocom

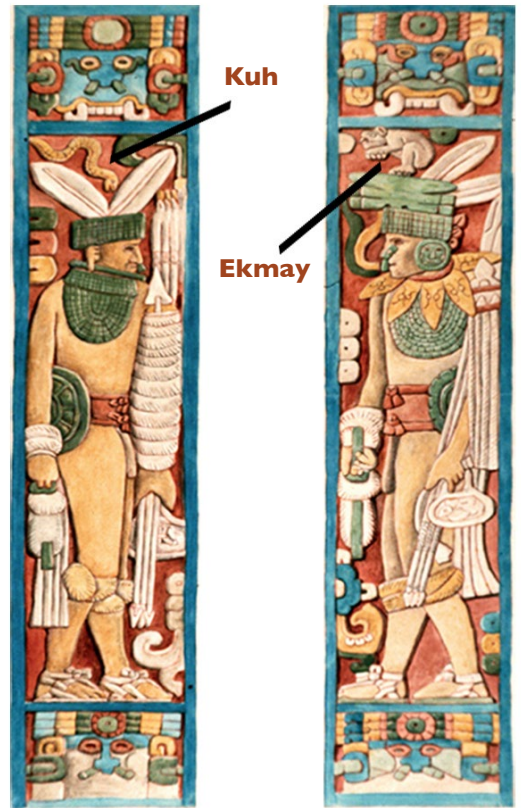
lineage from its founder “Yajawal Cho” (the Cocom Jaw) in Chichen Itza in the ninth century to the present day, covering twelve centuries of fascinating stories in which the Cocom were integrated into Chichen Tolteca in the tenth century, and then moved on to found Mayapan.

Nachi Cocom

After the fall of Mayapan, the Cocom family moved to Tibolón and Sotuta, where the famous Nachi Cocom commanded them when the Spaniards arrived.

To this day, many Yucatecans carry the Cocom last name, which is more than a thousand years old. They descend from this important Maya lineage that had a leading role in the history of the Precolumbian Yucatan and whose legacy is still alive.

Eduardo Pérez de Heredia



Artistic renderings of two door jambs from the Upper Temple of the Jaguars. (from page 31 in the book PDF, by Adela Breton after Ringle 2009) (enhanced by the editor).



Type of orchid called, *Vanilla planifolia*, from which vanilla is extracted.

and Péter Biró, graduates of UADY and UNAM, respectively, began to collaborate while pursuing their doctorate in archaeology at La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia.

The authors opted for a free digital edition of the book because they want to reach a wider audience, especially in the Yucatan and the Maya community. Go to: https://www.academia.edu/44631362/LA_CASA_REAL_DE_COCOM_UNA_HISTORIA_DE_YUCAT%C3%81N

Source: From an online article, at: <https://www.theyucatanimes.com/2020/12/names-of-warriors-from-the-temple-of-jaguars-in-chichen-itza-deciphered/>





The
Mesoamerica Meetings
The University of Texas at Austin

January 12–16, 2021
Virtual Vimeo Edition

News from the Field: Archaeological Perspectives from Mesoamerica

Access the daily program schedule at:

<https://utmesoamerica.org/symposium-program-january-12-16-2021>

The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX
Organizers: David Stuart, Astrid Runggaldier, Milady Casco, and Laura Gámez

The 2021 Mesoamerican Meetings will take place for the first time in an entirely digital format. We acknowledge that this will feel very different, given that the Meetings have always been an opportunity for people to connect, exchange ideas, meet new people, and meet up with old friends. Converging in Austin, the hub of the Meetings for more than forty years, will have to wait for a future opportunity when we can all travel safely again and share in person. Nevertheless, continuity is important, and with Mesoamerican goggles on, we see the value of keeping the Meetings going, one cycle after another, even if in a virtual *Vimeo* format of remote online presentations.

This year, we have designed a virtual Mesoamerica Meetings for 2021, focused on the new and important research moving forward on several fronts. Sometimes, a new find can radically change the interpretation of a whole context or a whole site. Other times, fresh discoveries deepen the previous understanding of a place, and fill gaps in our knowledge of the past. In this way, things – whether monuments, structures, objects, or ceramic shards, can speak to us from ancient times, and add new perspective to what we know of the

cultures of Mesoamerica. In this spirit, we present a series of talks from the perspective of the discipline of archaeology, focusing on a site, artifact, structure, or artwork, through which our speakers will explore how these new finds have added to or changed what we previously knew.

Our material culture approach for 2021 allows students and scholars to see how the discipline of archaeology connects with other disciplines in Mesoamerican studies, how these studies are transforming in important ways, and even how this new knowledge can begin to meet the needs of a changing world while confronting unforeseen challenges. We won't all be gathering in Austin this year, but the Mesoamerica Meetings will be available to a wider audience across the world. We are enthusiastic to help set the stage for a renewal of research and new understandings that will offer a taste of the future directions in Mesoamerican studies.

Registration is now open! The 2021 Mesoamerica Meetings are indeed happening, and they are all online so you can attend from the comfort of your home, from anywhere in the world! And since this year has been particularly challenging for everyone, we wish to focus on our community, and welcome everyone at whatever registration fee level you decide, including free! **IMSers and Maya enthusiasts, be there!** For more details on program, schedule, and how to register, see: <https://utmesoamerica.org/registration-information> 🏠

THE 2021 *Virtual* MESOAMERICA MEETINGS JANUARY 12th - 16th

News from the Field: Archaeological Perspectives from Mesoamerica



The
Mesoamerica Meetings
The University of Texas at Austin



THE MESOAMERICA CENTER



The University of Texas at Austin
Department of Art and Art History
College of Fine Arts

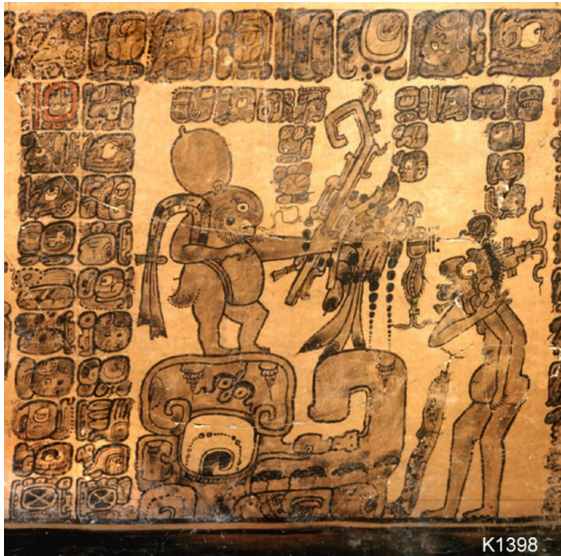
RUTA MAYA
COFFEE

Unbundling the Past: Events in Ancient and Contemporary Maya History for January

by Zach Lindsey

3 January 1924 CE: On 12.15.9.13.5 9 Chikchan 13 Mak G4, the governor of Yucatan, Felipe Carrillo Puerto, was executed after giving his famous last words: No *abandonéis a mis indios*. It was a plea to the federal government of Mexico not to forget about indigenous people in the far-off Yucatan. Carrillo Puerto was part Maya, and gave many of his most important speeches in Maya. He supported women's suffrage and crusaded for the rights of indigenous folks, and all that cool stuff. But unfortunately, he ended up on the wrong side in the messy Mexican Revolution, a sad and frustrating end for a great leader.

Carrillo Puerto was born in the town of Motul, Yucatan, 45 km northeast of Merida, and was of partly indigenous Maya background; he was rumored to be a descendant of the Nachi Cocom dynasty of Mayapan. He was a socialist who favored land reform, women's suffrage, and rights for the indigenous Maya people. In 1923, he had a romance with a United States journalist, Alma Reed of San Francisco, CA, which was commemorated in the song commissioned by him: "Peregrina", written by the poet Luis Rosado de la Vega and the composer Ricardo Palmerín. The movie *Peregrina* regarding his life was made in 1974 starring Antonio Aguilar. He promoted new farming techniques, granted women political rights, began family planning programs, fought against alcoholism, and fought for the conservation and restoration of the Precolumbian Maya archaeological sites. Felipe Carrillo Puerto was called "Apostle of the Bronze Race" by those who loved him. Photo: Public domain (uploaded by Tatehuari).

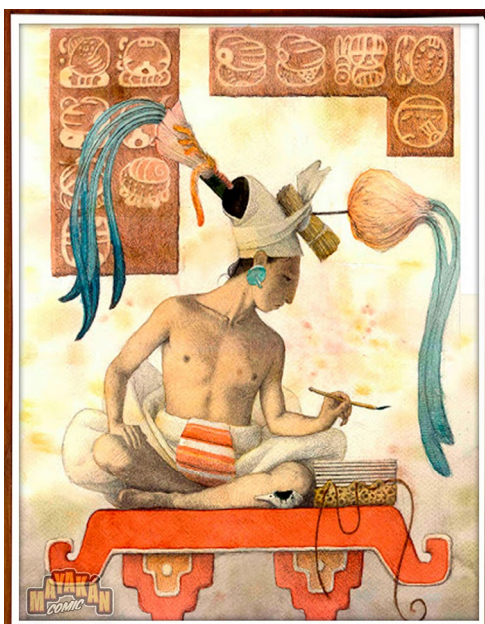


A vase from the Naranjo area with God L asking for his clothes from Rabbit. Search K1398 to see the vase at: <http://research.mayavase.com>

4 January 688 CE: On 9.12.15.13.7 9 Manik 0 K'ayab G6, K'ahk' Tiliw Chan Chaahk was born. Of Naranjo was always overshadowed by his mother, Lady 6 Sky. Still, he was a great supporter of the arts, called Sak Chuwen ("Pure Artisan") on some of his monuments. The archaeological record supports the idea of an artistic revolution in Naranjo during his lifetime, though perhaps the most well-known piece from this time manages to be both beautiful and absurd – it's K1398 (detail at left) in the Kerr Maya Vase Database. This pot shows mystic scenes and uses intricate calligraphic hieroglyphs to tell the story of the time a rabbit stole God L's clothing and told him something very insulting.



K'ahk' Tiliw's name glyphs from Stela 30. Original artwork by Zach Lindsey.



Maya scribe at work. Image courtesy of Mayakán.

The Maya had a School for Scribes and Painters at Ek' Balam

During its heyday, the site of Ek' Balam in Yucatan created a school for highly-qualified scribes and painters, as revealed in studies by INAH (Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History).

In a recent press release, the institute pointed out that during Ukit Kan Lek Tok's rulership (between 770 and 801 CE), an elite school evolved that managed to influence the early pictorial tradition of Chichen Itza.

Ek' Balam, capital of the kingdom of Talol, was a center of artistic production, a center of diffusion that played an important

role in the development of mural painting in the whole region.

The arrival of calligraphic scribes to the arena of artistic Maya expression in the Yucatan developed towards the end of the Early Classic period, noted INAH archaeologists Leticia Vargas de la Peña and Victor R. Castillo Borges, co-editors of the Ek' Balam Archaeological Project, as well as Dr. Alfonso Lacadena García-Gallo, an epigraphist specializing in Maya culture.

"By breaking into the scene of traditional painting, calligraphers offered their experience in the use of line as an essential element

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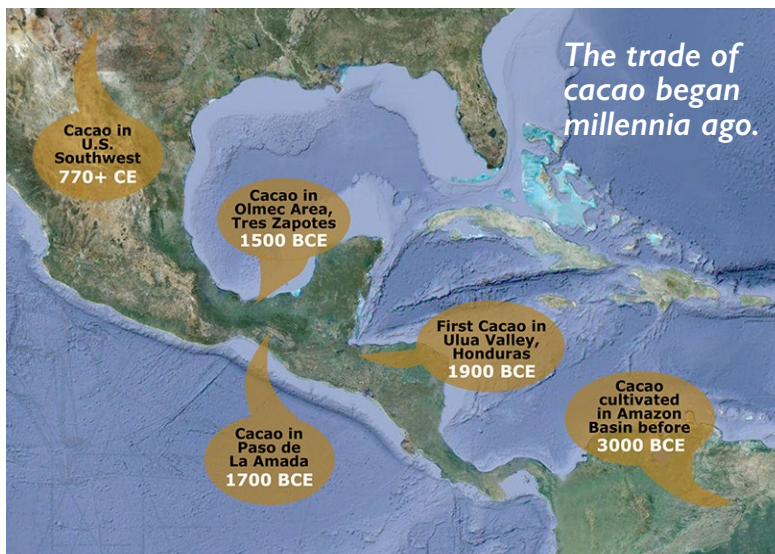
Getting to Know Mary Lou Ridinger

Mary Lou Ridinger is best known for having discovered the lost jade mines of the ancient Maya. Her story appears in the book *The Stone of Kings: In Search of the Lost Jade of the Maya* by Gerard Helferich (publication date, December 2011). Her first discovery of an ancient Maya jade-working site in the Motagua River Valley of Guatemala, led to finding one jade deposit in 1974. She and her husband, Jay Ridinger, then established a small jewelry business that replicated Maya artifacts and designs in jade. The business grew gradually, and in the 1980s and 1990s, they discovered other jade deposits of with colors ranging from whites, variegated greens, lavender, pink, yellow, and mixed colors. In the early 90s, the Ridingers discovered a color unique in the world for jade... jet-black with flecks of gold.

Early Years: Mary Lou (ML) grew up in Texas, Mexico, and Europe. She earned her B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Colorado in 1967. After a two year stint as a social worker, she returned to her mother's home in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. In 1970, she began her graduate studies at the University of the Americas in Cholula, Mexico. ML obtained her M.A. in Archaeology in 1972. She started her archaeology career as a student in the excavations for the Metro system in Mexico City. In 1974, she went to Guatemala at the bequest of friends who thought there might be jade in the Motagua River Valley.

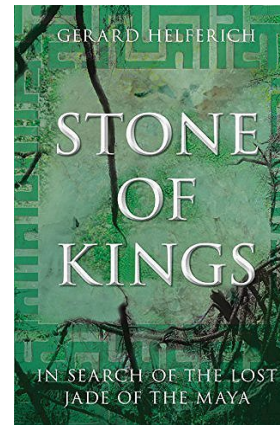
Career: Upon finding the jade deposits and starting a jade business, Mary Lou had to choose between continuing a career in archaeology or building a jade business. She chose the business, but has always maintained an alliance with various archaeologists, epigraphers, and others. She appeared in the September 1987 *National Geographic* in an edition on jade. It was this visibility that led both Guatemala and the rest of the world to realize that authentic jadeite (jade) was native to Guatemala. She then became known as the expert with an eye for jade identification.

Although involved in what is now a national industry in Guatemala, ML has kept up with the developments in Mesoamerican archaeology. Many archaeologists and epigraphers pass thru her business in Antigua, Guatemala; and her business, **Jade Maya**, has participated in Mesoamerican conferences.

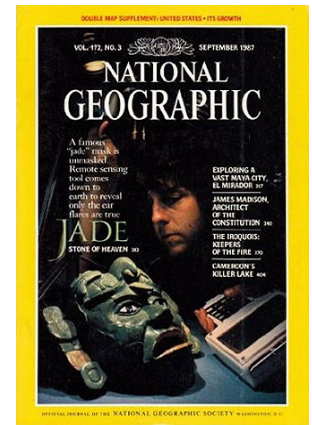


Mary Lou will provide evidence for early trade between the sources of jade in the Motagua Valley of Guatemala and the trade of cacao along the same routes.

She will present maps of the Maya regions which were in contact through trade as early as 1900 BCE. Artwork by Jim Reed.



Stone of Kings: In Search of the Lost Jade of The Maya, by Gerard Helferich (2011) is available on Amazon; The story that launched enthusiasm for real Jade in the Americas, *National Geographic*, September (1987) Vol. 172, No. 3.



Trade of jade and cacao went hand-in-hand.

In 2010, Mary Lou started the non-profit The Maya Conservancy (themayaconservancy.org), whose goal is to conserve archaeological sites and Maya cultural traditions. The organization hopes to raise money to build a small museum and educational center at the site of Izapa, near Tapachula, Chiapas, Mexico. Izapa is a little known, but highly important, Maya Cultural Heritage site. Researchers propose that Izapa is the origin site of the Maya calendar system and the *Popul Vuh*.



The work must go on: Covid-19 ravaged Guatemala in 2020 and Mary Lou found it necessary to scale back the operations of **Jade Maya**. But, International online orders continue to save the day for many jade artisans and their families. Now, Mary Lou continues to educate and inform the world of the history and value of jade in the Americas in webinars and online live streaming events. She will be our IMS speaker on January 21, at 8 pm. See *program announcement on page 7*.

The close trading relationships at such early dates allowed astronomical information and calendrics, as well as religious symbols and myths, to be shared along the routes across Mesoamerica. And cacao was traded as far north as the American Southwest.

The earliest calendar dates carved in stone from the Long Count calendar appeared only 15, 25, and 40 years apart along the distant points of the jade/cacao trade routes which had been in place 1,000 years before the development of the calendars. 🏛️

Be there with Mary Lou and the IMS for our January 20 live streaming event!

Wednesday
January 20
at 8 pm



1.20.2021 IMS Streaming

Join in the Exploration!



by Mary Lou Ridinger



JADE AND CHOCOLATE

ANCIENT MESOAMERICAN TRADE ROUTES



Above, the title slide from Mary Lou's new PowerPoint presentation that she created especially for the IMS.

A long-time supporter and member of the IMS, and previous presenter, Mary Lou Ridinger solved a long-standing archaeological problem... Where did the ancient Maya get their jade? Now, she shares her research into the ancient Jade and Cacao trade routes used by the Maya!

Wednesday, January 20, 2021 • 8 pm • Be there with us!

Access and save this live streaming hyperlink to join the event: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85223228181>

2021 New Membership and Renewal Application

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Join us now or renew for only \$25! Join today!

You can also become a member by using **PayPal** and the on-line application form on our website at: <http://instituteofmayastudies.org>

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- Patron: \$150
- Century: \$100
- Member: **\$25!**



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The Maya had a School for Scribes and Painters at Ek' Balam *cont. from page 5*

of representation, exploiting the absence of color and incorporating empty space in representations, in a way never seen before” .

Some epigraphic characteristics considered representative of Chichen Itza have their antecedents in Ek' Balam, located in the central-eastern part of Yucatan. Added to this are similarities that include the technical preparation of the lime and color smoothing.

The results of the electron microscopy tests showed that the Itza painters used materials such as clays with the same composition as those used in Ek' Balam,



More than 5,000 fragments of mural paintings were studied and cataloged. From the original NOTIMEX press release; hyperlink noted below.



It is the architecture and intricate design motifs of El Torre, The Tower, that amaze archaeologists. The decorations were not carved stone, like those found in Uxmal and Chichen Itza. Builders and artists used stucco and limestone mortar, a pliable material that could be modeled into distinct 3-D forms and painted over.

coming from nearby caves. These peculiar features taken from Ek' Balam, known now as part of the northern Peten architectural style, can be seen reflected across the region in ceilings, exterior and interior walls, vaults, floors, benches, stucco reliefs, and architectural sculpture, from the final third of the 8th century and the first years of the 9th.

Source: From an online article by NOTIMEX at: <https://www.cronica.com.mx/notas/2016/938439.html>
Posted by Simón Riega Martín of the Pre-Columbian Society of the University of Pennsylvania Museum.

IMS Streaming 2021

Join in the Exploration!

Every third
Wednesday of a
month, at 8 pm



February 17, 2021 • Debra S. Walker, RPA

◀ **Making a Home in the Maya Lowlands:
Lifestyles of the Early Middle Preclassic Period**

Stay tuned for
Zoom IMS
event link
notices

March 17, 2021 • Heather McKillop

The sea-floor survey of Ek Way Nal, Belize ▶
(before our 2020 2021? excavations)



◀ **April 21, 2021 • Ed Barnhart**

Ancient Maya Geometry – The Shapes of Sacred Space

Stay informed... stay engaged...
with the
IMS!



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