

***It's Time for an
Accomplished Sculptor
Rudy Josue Sandoval Valladares
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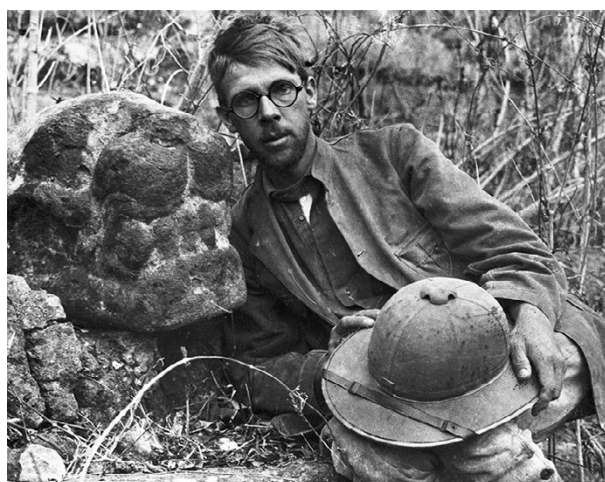
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Morley Diary Project Underway at Mesoweb.com by Chris Ward

A long-term project to publish online the tens of thousands of pages of the decades-spanning archaeological field diaries penned by the noted Mayanist Sylvanus Griswold Morley has now begun at Mesoweb.com.

Editors Prudence Rice and Christopher Ward are editing, annotating, and illustrating the volumes, along with discussions of various topics raised in the journals relating to the history of Maya studies in the early 20th century. Because Morley was the leading scholar of the ancient Maya during the first half of the 20th century, his daily writings offer an unparalleled opportunity to study this important period of Maya archaeology.

Publisher Joel Skidmore of Mesoweb.com comments "The Morley Diary Project is a major contribution to the field and will be an essential resource for both Mayanists and historians studying the early history of American anthropology. Rice and Ward's work on these materials is certainly impressive



Morley circa 1916 posing next to a jaguar head at Copan.

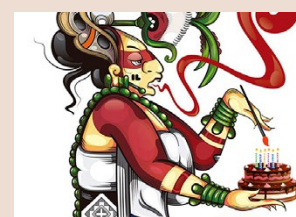
Courtesy of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, 2004.24.27439.2.

in both size and scope. Mesoweb.com is very pleased to be involved in the project and we look forward to many volumes to come."

Although many archaeologists maintained journals and field notes (Keith Merwin of the Institute of Maya Studies is in the process of editing the 1909–1912 diaries of his ancestor, Peabody archaeologist Raymond Merwin), Morley's accounts, which cover the period 1907 through 1947, are unique in that they provide detailed rich coverage of Morley's professional and private life for the duration of his career. The diaries exist in two versions – the original hand-written record is held at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology

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**IMS Streaming:
Dec. 15, 8 pm EDT**



**IMS:
A History:
Part II and our
Annual
Membership
Meeting
with
Rick Slazyk and
Keith Merwin**



**Jim Reed,
Editor**

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Lost and Found: An Architectural Survey in the Maya Puuc Area, Part III: Rank 6 and 7 Sites by Stephan Merk



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Ten out of the 14 ancient Maya sites found within the approximate 75-sq-km limits of the Dzekilna Survey belong to the low Rank 6 and Rank 7 categories as established by Nicholas Dunning (1992). A Rank 6 assignment describes marginal settlement areas, which often contain only one group of small buildings. Sites of this category did not have political importance and most likely depended on larger neighbors. The seven Rank 6 sites in the surveyed area are shortly presented here in order of their settlement size.

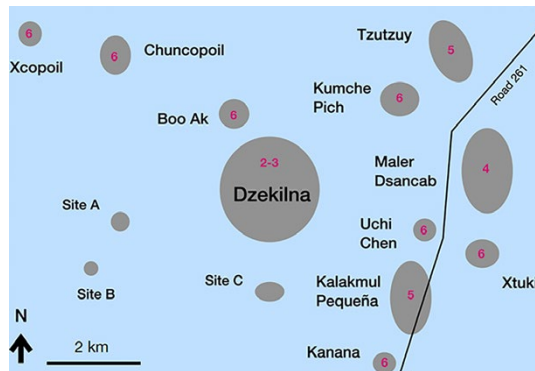
Rank 6 sites

Chuncopoil

Several platforms of varying size and a few overgrown stone mounds, all of them built on outcrops across a plain northwest of Dzekilna form the Chuncopoil settlement. In only two occasions did we find scant remains of standing architecture, none of them reaching up to a height above half a meter. Banded parts of corner columns and boot-shaped vault stones in the rubble point to Late Puuc architecture. It seems that the largest former building within the 0.25 sq.-km. settlement area contained four rooms.

Kumche Pich

This site is situated roughly one km west of the Rank 5 settlement of Tzutzuy in the eastern part of the surveyed area. Two small groups of mostly destroyed structures are placed close to a large and deep *sarteneja* (a natural stone basin that held water for some time). At some point someone incorporated a carved stone decorated with three disks from one of the buildings into the rim of this *sarteneja*. Two structures are of special interest: an approximately six m high and in parts well preserved stepped pyramid, and an also partly standing building of four rooms arranged in a double line. In the rubble of the latter, some



Map showing the numerous archaeological sites located in and around the Dzekilna Survey area.

richly decorated stones were detected (**Fig. 1**) which once adorned this Late Classic Mosaic style building. The settlement area of Kumche Pich is comparable to the one in Chuncopoil.

Boo Ak

Its close distance to the estimated northern limits of the city of Dzekilna suggests that Boo Ak was a satellite or even an extension of the former. Aside from several platforms and chultunes, Boo Ak consists of four former vaulted buildings erected on two hills. What was probably the major building shows a massive core with two wings reaching to the north and the south; each wing consists of two rooms, back to back (**Fig. 2**). The building's rubble could indicate that there was a stairway reaching to the second floor, but the planned room on top was never finished. At least two of Boo Ak's documented structures come from Late Classic Puuc times.

Kanana

On top of a leveled hill at the southernmost end of the researched area lies a group of partly preserved Puuc buildings. *cont. on page 3*



Fig. 1: A decorated stone from Kumche Pich.



Fig. 2: Partly standing room in the main building in Boo Ak.

Morley Diary Project Underway at Mesoweb.com by Chris Ward

continued from page 1

and Ethnology while the typed transcripts of the same texts are held at the American Philosophical Society. The fact that Morley himself had his diaries transcribed suggests that he intended them for publication in one form or another. Rice and Ward are consulting both versions for their published editions of his writings. The first volume,

The Archaeological Field Diaries of Sylvanus Griswold Morley: 1914–1916 is now available at <https://www.mesoweb.com/publications/Morley/index.html> and the second, covering 1917–1918 (the period when Morley was an espionage agent for the Office of Naval Intelligence) has been completed and will be available in January. The third volume, covering excavations at Quirigua between 1912 and 1919, is now in preparation. Each volume is available for download at no cost at Mesoweb.com.

Morley and the Staff of the CIW Chichen Itza project, circa 1926.

Courtesy of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, 2004.24.27440B.



Lost and Found: An Architectural Survey in the Maya Puuc Area, Part III: Rank 6 and 7 Sites

by Stephan Merk continued from page 2

They consist of one fallen structure, probably a pyramidal substructure that once carried a small room, and a building of four rooms, arranged in two rows back to back (Fig. 3). A platform connects the two structures. The two front chambers of the second building, as well as one of the back rooms, have a north-to-south axis, while the vault of the fourth room follows a east to west orientation.

One of the front rooms presents an entrance divided by a doorway column. Even though parts of the building are still standing at their complete height, their moldings have fallen. Therefore, the stylistic classification is not clear, but I would opt for Late Classic Puuc style.

Xtukil

One of the few former buildings in this settlement, located four to five km east-southeast of Dzekilna, has survived the ravages of time pretty well. The front and parts of the side walls of this one-room structure are standing, while the back wall

has collapsed (Fig. 4). On a close-by elongated hill we saw some platforms and foundation braces. The preserved building was executed in the Late Classic Puuc style.

Xcopoil

The dominant structure in this tiny ancient place in the northwestern-most corner of the Dzekilna grid is an almost eight-meter-high pyramid with a destroyed one room building on top. To the west of the pyramid are the scant remains of another one room building.

Uchi Chen

Uchi Chen is probably the smallest of the Rank 6 sites in the area. It is situated between Maler-Dsancab and Kalakmul Pequeña. We could only recognize with certainty a single former vaulted stone building with one large or two small and mostly destroyed rooms. Besides this building, we saw a few low mounds and platforms. One intact



Fig. 3: One of the rooms in Kanana, seen from the inside.



Fig. 4: This front side of a one room building is the only still standing architecture found in Xtukil.

chultun ring at some time was removed from its original location and placed in the middle of a dirt road that penetrates the site (Fig. 5, page 5).

Rank 7 (“Small sites”)

Both Andrew’s and Dunning’s ranking systems for Puuc sites

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IMS 2021 Live Streaming Speaker-Program Update

You can click on the blue italic hyperlinks and view the recordings at your leisure!

January 20

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

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!

View the recording here: [Jade and Chocolate](#)

February 17

Making a Home in the Maya Lowlands: Lifestyles of the Early Middle Preclassic Period, with Debra S. Walker, RPA

While people have been living on Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula for more than 10,000 years, three millennia ago they started settling down on smaller bits of the landscape, eventually committing to redefining "home" as a more permanent location.

View the recording here: [A Home in the Maya Lowlands](#)

March 17

The Sea-Floor Survey of Ek Way Nal, Belize, with Heather McKillop, Louisiana State University

Ek Way Nal is a large underwater site, the remains of a former salt-making site, located in the marsh groves along the Caribbean coast of Belize.

View the recording here: [Sea-Floor Survey of Ek Way Nal](#)

April 21

Ancient Maya Geometry – The Shapes of Sacred Space, with Dr. Ed Barnhart

This lecture will present evidence of an underappreciated aspect of ancient Maya geometry knowledge. The ancient Maya repeatedly used a set of geometric proportions to build their homes, temples, and sculptural works of art.

View the recording here: [Ancient Maya Geometry](#)

May 19

Burning Rings of Fire: Early Maya Burnt Lime Product in the Northern Lowlands, with Kenneth Seligson, PhD

The Ancient Maya used burnt lime for everything. In this talk, I discuss the identification of a fuel-efficient Pre-Colonial pit-kiln technology in the Northern Lowlands that has implications for ancient Maya resource management strategies.

View the recording here: [Burning Rings of Fire](#)

June 16

Digital Approaches to the Past, Present, and Future of Egmont Key, Florida, with Laura K. Harrison, Ph.D., Director, University of South Florida Access 3D Lab.

Egmont Key is a small island located where the Gulf of Mexico meets Tampa Bay. Because of its strategic location, the island played a significant role in Florida's history.

View the recording here: [The Future of Egmont Key](#)

June 23

From the Ground Up – Preclassic Construction Methods, Excavations, and Floors in the Cival/Holmul Region, with Kaitlin Ahern, Ph.D, Research Associate, University at Buffalo

This lecture discusses construction material, lime plaster, and floors researched from various excavations from the Holmul region in northern Guatemala. Particular emphasis is placed on the ancient Maya sites of Cival and East Witzna. View the recording here:

[Floors in the Cival/Holmul region](#)



July 21

Dogma and the Peopling of the Americas, with D. Clark Wernecke

Beginning in the 1970s a trickle and later a torrent of new archaeology clearly showed that not only did the first people in the Americas not walk here but they were here much earlier than we had previously suspected.

View the recording here: [Peopling of the Americas](#)

August 18

Measure & Geometry in Ancient Maya Art & Architecture, with V. Garth Norman, director of the Center for Izapan Research

Garth Norman proposes a sophisticated and complex link between ancient art and architecture in the Middle East and in Mesoamerica.

View the recording here: [Measure and Geometry](#)

August 25

Rapa Nui: Easter Island's Mighty Ancestors, with Georges Fery

The tragedy of Easter Island is wrapped in the "mind-made" faith of another world, with dreadful consequences. What happened to the people of this sixty-five-square mile island in the middle of a million square miles in the South Pacific, which is called by Easter Islanders *Te Pito o Te Henua* or "The End of the Land".

View the recording here: [Rapa Nui Easter Island](#)

September 15

A History of Ancient Maya Ancestor Veneration and Political Authority in the Mopan Valley of Western Belize, with Kathryn Brown and Jason Yaeger

Thanks to over six decades of concerted fieldwork by several long-term projects, we have excellent data for reconstructing the region's political history.

View the recording here: [History of Ancestor Veneration](#)

October 20

The Cultivated Landscape of the Maya Forest: Exploring Solutions Past, with Dr. Anabel Ford

This presentation will show the links of contemporary Master Maya forest gardeners to the ancient Maya settlement patterns and promoted a new way of seeing ancient monuments under the canopy.

View the recording here: [Cultivated Landscape of the Maya](#)

November 17

The Happy Accident – Linda Schele Meets Palenque, Moi, and Merle, with Elaine Schele

Linda Schele's cathartic visit to Palenque, Mexico in 1970 was transformative for her. She fell in love with the ancient ruins, the forest surrounding it, the people of Palenque and with the art and architecture of the site. She spent the next two years obsessively studying its architecture and its jungle, drawing the buildings and creating oil paintings of its rich foliage.

View the recording here: [The Happy Accident](#)

December 8

IMS: A History: Part II, along with our Annual Membership Meeting, with Rick Slazyk and Keith Merwin

Happy 50th Birthday IMS! Many are unaware of just how important a venue the Institute of Maya Studies has been for scholars and researchers to share their research and discoveries with IMS members and Maya enthusiasts for 5 decades!

View the Dec. 8 presentation here: [IMS History Part II](#)



Lost and Found: An Architectural Survey in the Maya Puuc Area, Part III: Rank 6 and 7 Sites

by Stephan Merk *continued from page 3*

include Ranks 1 to 6. But Dunning (1992: 97) adds one more category, here labeled as Rank 7, which he describes as consisting of “widely scattered, small groups of modest structures, never including vaulted stone architecture. The virtual absence of water-storing chultunes in these groups suggests that they were only temporarily or seasonally occupied.” In the Dzekilna grid we found three very small settlements, here named Site A to Site C, which only partly fulfill Dunning’s criteria, but, on the other hand, are too unimportant to even belong to the Rank 6 category.

Site A

This is a small platform group west of Dzekilna without traces of stone buildings, but with two *chultunes*.

Site B

Site B is situated almost one kilometer southwest of Site A. Besides a few low platforms we could only detect one mound, about two meters high, that probably once was a small stone building on another low platform. No *chultunes* were observed.

Site C

This is the largest of the tiny settlements in this category. It consists of one mound, probably a fallen one-room building as well as few simple platforms and two foundation braces



Fig. 5: This intact chultun ring from Uchi Chen was at some time taken from its original location and left in the middle of a dirt road.

on top of a hill. We found a *sarteneja* but no *chultunes*. Site C lies two km south of Dzekilna.

Summary

When compared to the 725-sq-km-wide area in the central Puuc investigated by Dunning, and to my two near-by earlier surveyed zones (each one with an extension of 100 sq km) around the Maya cities of Sabana Piletas and Itzimte, the Dzekilna grid shows a similar pattern. We see major cities

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

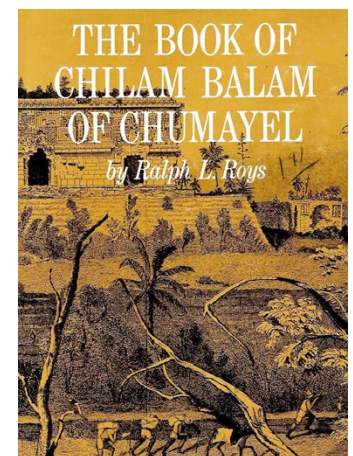
by Zach Lindsey

18 December 1857 CE: On 12.12.2.13.4 3 K'an 2 Kej G3, José Secundino Na finished the first part of his *Book of Chilam Balam*. These books were tools used by the *chilano'ob*, or “jaguar priests,” to document changes in the community, astrological events, and recipes for medicine. The *Chilam Balam of Na* is one of the last of its type. The part of the book that Secundino Na finished on this date was a transcription of an earlier book from Tekax; later, he added region-specific information such as announcements of deaths in the community.

I give the date in the ancient Maya calendar, but Secundino Na was firmly anchored in Western time. While he mentions the Mesoamerican sacred calendar,

it’s only in relation to the Gregorian. He uses language that sounds quite Maya, such as the “burden of the days.” But the actual content of his auguries has a Christian influence. Side note, if you’ve got bad knees, watch out this month – Capricorn rules over the body “and the kneecaps,” according to the Gubler and Bolles translation of the *Chilam Balam of Na*.

24 December 1991 CE: On 12.18.18.12.12 6 Eb 0 K'ank'in G9, rapper Pat Boy was born. You may not think of rap when you think of the Maya, but you should. Yukatek Maya-speaking raperos have helped revitalize the Yukatec language, racking up tens of thousands of YouTube likes in the process. The most influential has been the trailblazing multi-lingual Pat Boy, who sings about Maya cultural pride. He also works in local communities to increase the standing of the Mayan language among young people, and, according to his YouTube channel, he cooks a mean *cochinita pibil*. Here’s something I never expected to say in my Maya history column: Check him out on Instagram! https://www.instagram.com/patboy_rap_mayaoficial/



The *Book of Chilam Balam of Na* seems to be out of print. But a 2000 version titled: “Facsimile, Translation, and Edited Text” was edited by Ruth Gubler and David Bolles. The *Book of Chilam Balam of Chumayel* seems to be more readily available and referenced.

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IMS Streaming 2021!

**December 15
8 pm EST**

IMS: A History: Part II,

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hosted by Rick Slazyk and Keith Merwin

Join us as we hear about what IMS did and who came to speak during the 1980s.

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This is the active IMS Streaming invite link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85355427131>

Keith has spoken at conferences in the United States and Europe. Today he is partially retired mostly working as a Travel Consultant planning group trips.

Keith is currently writing a book on a journal kept by his ancestor Dr. Raymond E. Merwin, an early Mayanist for the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology at Harvard University. He is the webmaster and a board member for the Institute of Maya Studies, Inc.



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Lost and Found: An Architectural Survey in the Maya Puuc Area, Part III: Rank 6 and 7 Sites by Stephan Merk *cont. from page 5*

separated by distances of five to nine kilometers, each one surrounded by smaller sites. Almost always there is a Rank 4 site halfway in the middle between the cities. Many of the smaller sites around those cities present mainly or exclusively Late Classic architecture. To the contrary, almost all Rank 2 and Rank 3

settlements show some or even abundant early architecture. This could be an indicator that at least some of the smaller sites were founded under the political authority of the already earlier existing large settlements with the purpose to expand and control agricultural areas.

Also the heavy density of

settlements within the mentioned four areas seems to be similar. What differentiates the Dzekilna grid from the other three is the bigger share of Rank 6 sites and the less amount of Rank 4 and Rank 5 settlements. In general, the Dzekilna area joins the already known other parts of the ancient Maya Puuc zone. ▲

It's Time for an Accomplished Sculptor Rudy Josue Sandoval Valladares

Our featured sculptor, Rudy Josue Sandoval Valladares, was born in Honduras, but currently calls Celaya, Guanajuato, Mexico, home. Married, and now 36 years old, Rudy has 14 years of experience in sculpting in stone, slate, wood, and plaster. His favorite themes are from the Maya and Aztec.

Rudy's talent is on permanent display at the Maya Eden Turistic Park in Roatan, Honduras; Hotel del Camarón in Salinitas Beach, El Salvador; Esquipulas, Guatemala; and in the "Apaseo El Grande" in Guanajuato, Mexico, among many others.

The quality of his work speaks for itself. You can contact Rudy to request your own sculpted piece at: Esculturassandovalcreando-arte@gmail.com or Esculturassandoval@gmail.com and on Facebook by searching [rudysandovalvalladares](https://www.facebook.com/rudysandovalvalladares)

