



February 16, 2022 • Modern K'iche' Maya Long Count: 0.0.9.5.4 • 7 Kan 2 Kayab • G5

A monthly newsletter published by the
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Volume 50, Issue 2

February 2022

ISSN: 1524-9387



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A Day on the Trail: Excerpt from the Diaries of Sylvanus Griswold Morley¹ by Chris Ward²

Context: Morley and his team had just discovered the site of Uaxactun and were returning to British Honduras to deliver news of their great discovery. Sadly, on the final day of the return, the expedition was ambushed and two participants were killed, casting a pall over the success of the trip. This excerpt is from four days before the massacre and offers an example of an average adventuresome day on one of Morley's expeditions.

Monday, May 15, 1916

I was awake at 3 am and awakened Andrew and the others at 4. We all got up at once, dressed, and finished what little packing we had left. By five-thirty we were all through breakfast. Then commenced the regular morning humbug of one animal missing, this time Arthur's horse. One of Charley's animals also could not be found. There was a little talk of staying over another day, but I quashed this as much as I could, and fortunately the two missing animals turned up in a short time and the packing went forward rapidly. There are 18 of us now in the two *muladas* joined, and some 30-odd mules. There were many goodbyes to say – Don Lencho, Toea, and the former's men. As we left the *champas* and crossed the Rio Triunfo, it was just 7:30.

We followed our old trail back for two hours, and then missed the fork to



Morley on the trail to Uaxactun, 1916. Gift of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1958.

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Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology,
Harvard University, 58-34-20/58694.

Corozal, which lost us 15 minutes. Just before this mishap, we passed Trinidad Flores' *mulada* in charge of Alejo Requena. The usual confusion incident to these occasions ensued, and after the two *muladas* had disentangled themselves, each went their way.

As I said, we took the wrong trail, our old one going to Camaron.
continued on next page

¹Taken from Prudence Rice and Christopher Ward, *The Archaeological Field Diaries of Sylvanus Griswold Morley, 1914-1916*. Mesoweb.com online publication, 2021, pp. 300-302.

²Christopher Ward received a Ph.D. in Latin American History from the University of Florida. His current focus of research is on early 20th Century Maya Archaeology. He is the co-editor, along with Prudence Rice, of *The Morley Diary Project* at Mesoweb.com.



Jim Reed,
Editor

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IMS Streaming:

Feb. 16, 8 pm ET
**Tales from
the Field**
with
Matt Saunders

Feb. 23, 8 pm ET
**The Palenque
Mapping Project**
with
Ed Barnhart

A Day on the Trail: Excerpt from the Diaries of Sylvanus Griswold Morley

by Chris Ward *continued from page 1*

We discovered our error shortly, however, and were soon on the right trail. Here occurred a quasi-dramatic incident. Andrew passed the word back that Charley had seen a man riding rapidly into the bush from the direction we are going, some yards to one side of the trail. Everyone was very quiet. When I caught up with Charley, I asked him to tell the story and he said he had only seen a riderless, but saddled, mule going in the opposite direction. When we reached Corozal, which we did after 3 1/4 hours, we found the explanation. José had tied his mule (Lind's animal) by the bridle, and it had broken the same and escaped. Poor boy, there was nothing for him to do but return and find it. We blazed the trail leaving Corozal elaborately for him, but *quién sabe* when he will show up.

We lost another 15 minutes here at Corozal by taking another wrong trail, but finally got started right. Fortunately, the two *muladas* kept pretty close together, and straying mules were promptly detected and more promptly brought back into the straight and narrow path. About an hour before getting in, Lafleur's horse suddenly failed. On examination it proved to have sustained a 4-inch cut between his forelegs. Lafleur dismounted and had to walk in. About a quarter to two, the road began to pass through a large group of mounds, which continued on and off for three quarters of an hour, when we reached our journey's end, Dos Aguadas.

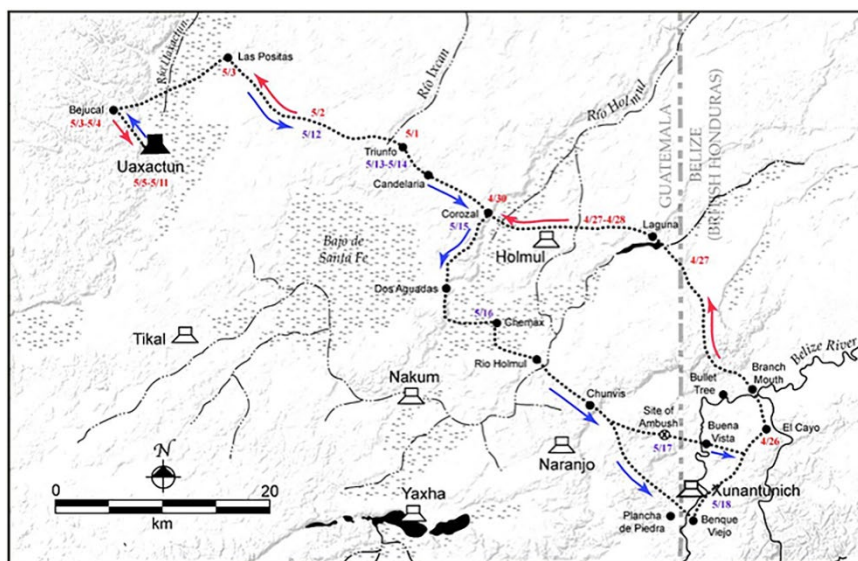
We camped a little beyond the regular *paraje* because the water there was so poor. We got in at 2:30, just 7 hours on the road, only 6 1/2 of which can be considered effective, as we were straying twice for 15 minutes each stray. There are no *champas* at the point we stopped, but the boys say it will not rain, and we are trusting to luck. After a cup of hot Horlick's malted milk, Arthur and I returned to examine the big site through which we had come.

The *ramoneros* were felling their trees off somewhere to the north, and we went in this general direction, leaving the trail at the first large mound on the left. It wasn't long before Arthur had found a large stela, and in front of it, a round altar. The stela had fallen face downward, and all the back had disintegrated. The sides are plain. The face we could not determine, but are inclined to think it is plain, as all the other stelae I examined here (3) are plain. Leaving this mound and bearing off to the west, we came to another mound, on top of which two of Charley's boys were felling *ramon*.

In front of this was one of the widest stelae I have ever seen. It was at least 6 feet

wide and 8 or 10 feet high. The top was broken off and fallen to one side. Two square altars with well-rounded corners were associated with it. The front, back, and sides of the stela were plain.

Escaping from this vicinity just in time to escape the falling *ramon* trees, we continued our peregrinations. We rounded the corner of a very large mound – the largest we saw – and commenced ascending its back. About half way up, we climbed over the ruins of a double range of rooms, the inner chamber not being more than 3 feet wide. Continuing on up over these, we still had a stiff climb before we reached the summit of the mound. From here, through the thick foliage on the sides, we caught glimpses of large stretches of country



Detailed map of Morley's 1916 Uaxactun expedition. Map drawn by Don Rice.

on all sides. We saw we were on the summit of a low ridge extending roughly east and west.

An exclamation from the lynx-eyed Arthur attracted me. "I see a whale of a ruin to the west." Sure enough, there pricked out against the western horizon on top of a distant ridge was a large city, with its main pyramid, a lofty structure, surmounted by a high temple with its roof-comb. To the left and right stretched a long chain of minor mounds and constructions, the whole being half a mile long as presented to us.

The sight of it took my breath away and held me spell-bound. What could it be? Surely no city of such size could have remained undiscovered in this region. It appeared to be between 10 and 15 miles west of us. My mind flashed to Tikal. But there are 5 tall pyramid temples there, and then I knew it must be Nakum. The position was about right for Nakum, and the one pyramid temple suited to a T. We ardently wished we had brought the binoculars so we could

continued on next page

2022
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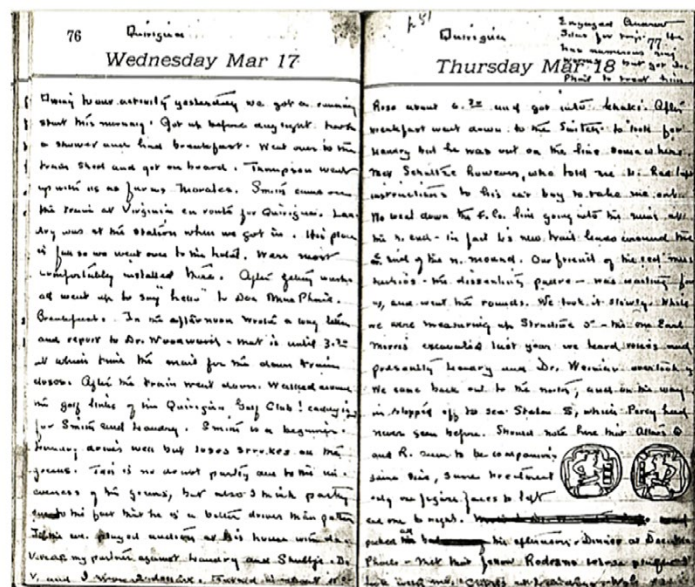
A Day on the Trail: Excerpt from the Diaries of Sylvanus Griswold Morley

by Chris Ward continued from page 2

see the city better. This wish grew so strong that Arthur finally decided to return to the camp for the binoculars. I was to remain behind on the top to guide him back to the temple by my shouts.

He was not gone too long, though the flies, mosquitos, and other insects in that lofty place had well-nigh devoured me before he finally got back. The binoculars swept away the cobwebs of the intervening miles and brought the city almost to our very feet. It towered there above that distant ridge, silhouetted against the roseate glow of the late afternoon light, a thing of towers, pyramids, turrets, minarets, whatnot – a fairy city, exquisite, mysterious, unreal. We waited until sunset, taking its azimuth and time, then hurried camp-ward. Descending the pyramid, I slipped and struck my shoulder against a sharp stick, which hurt not a little.

Returning to camp we found Lafleur had had the boys put the beds up and supper was nearly ready. We had a regular feast, a cocosal that Chon had killed, beans, crackers and tea – lots of the latter. The only unpleasant feature was



Two pages from Morley's Diary (1915). Photo by Don Rice.

the mosquitoes, which literally swarmed from the aguada nearby in legions.

After dinner, I retired immediately to my cot, crawled in under the *pabellon*, undressed, and proceeded to lose by perspiration what I put in with tea. José did not come in; we all think he took another road.

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

by Zach Lindsey

6 February 565 CE:

On 9.6.11.0.16 7 Kib 4 K'ayab G7, Palenque king K'an Joy Chitam I "entered the road," a euphemism for death that may reference the road to Xibalba. K'an Joy Chitam I was the fifth in succession of the known Palenque rulers and lived to be 75, which suggests that the later Pakal the Great's advanced age wasn't an outlier, but a regular possibility for royalty. There isn't a whole lot of information about Chitam compared to some other Palenque rulers.

The great mystery of K'an Joy Chitam's rule is the length of time between the previous king's death and Chitam's accession. He was recognized as a member of the *okte'el*, possibly an honorary military position for leaders, at five and a half years old. Still, the throne proved elusive. The previous ruler died in 524, but K'an Joy Chitam I did not get the job until 529, despite being thirty-four when the previous king died. We don't know why, but interregnums usually indicate some kind of dynastic instability. He must have done a good enough job; he ruled a long time, and a later king of Palenque took his name in his honor.

8 February 752 CE: On 9.16.0.13.17 6 Kaban 5 Pop G7, Yaxu'n Bahlam, the future king of Yaxchilan, who is identified as "He of Many Captives" in inscriptions, lived up to his title and took Yax? Took' captive. Yax? Took' was a *sajal*,



K'an Joy Chitam's name glyph, translated by Martin and Grube as "Precious/ Yellow Tied Peccary"

Yaxchilan Stela 16 showing Yaxu'n Bahlam with Yax? Took' at his feet.

or lesser lord, from the nearby site of Wak'aab (probably Santa Elena).

It's easy to forget sometimes that the individuals at the feet of rulers

were real humans. After all, they are used as rhetorical devices. The people didn't matter to the ancient scribes – merely the fact of their defeat. Still, great scholars like David Stuart have fleshed out the lives of some captives. Unfortunately, Took's pre-captive life is fairly opaque, but he worked for Pay Lakam Chaahk, the king of Wak'aab. On Yaxchilan Stela 16, he is shown on his knees and biting his thumb, which we can imagine carried a different connotation than the Shakespearean gesture. He wears a headdress, but there are clear signs he is a captive, such as strips of cloth through his ears, which mean his captors have removed his earplugs. He also holds a fan tilted down at the ground, undoubtedly a sign of obedience or deference.

Thanks to Stuart, we know captives did not always die at their time of capture. Given that the position of *yok waał* – royal fanner – was both common and essential to royal life in the jungle, I wonder if the fan implies he was about to receive a new job, whether he wanted it or not.



IMS Live Streaming 2.16.2022

Join in the Exploration!

8 pm ET

An Archaeologist's Greatest Treasure: The Stories Behind the Science with Mat Saunders

Access this active hyperlink to join the event: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82782030463>

It takes a certain kind of person to become an archaeologist. They must be scientists, of course, experts in history, excavation, and data crunching. But more than that, they must be hardy, fearless, inventive, unflappable, with a streak of masochism and a stomach of steel. Mat Saunders teamed up with co-editor Pamela Voelkel to create *Maya Archaeology: Tales from the Field*; a brand-new book published by Precolumbia Mesoweb Press. In this unique anthology, over thirty leading Maya archaeologists and anthropologists describe what it's really like to live and work in the field. From sublime moments of discovery to the highs and lows of camp life, these real-life Indiana Joneses take you into rainforests, mangrove swamps, cave systems, and ancient tombs to hear the stories that never make it into academic journals. Join Saunders for a light-hearted evening as he shares highlights of the book as well as never-before-heard tales from the field.



Davidson Day AFAR students sorting ceramics onsite at Cahal Pech. See details on all of AFAR's research opportunities at: www.goafar.org/projects



Mat Saunders is the founder and director of American Foreign Academic Research (AFAR) and serves as the director of international research at Davidson Day School. Saunders has devoted his career to advancing international research opportunities to students, focusing his efforts on finding ways to bridge the professional world of science with under-served populations such as pre-collegiate students. Saunders' interest in the ancient Maya led him to carry out archaeological research at terrestrial and cave sites in western Belize where he has carried out excavations for the last 22 years. Over the last 16 years, he has utilized

pre-collegiate students to successfully advance archaeological research. He has overseen excavations at the ancient Maya city of Cahal Pech in western Belize since 2006, at the Medieval castle site of Zorita de los Canes in central Spain since 2014, the Macedonian city of Mieza in northern Greece since 2017, and the ancient Roman city of Tróia in Portugal since 2018. In addition, Saunders created and oversees the

Maya at the Playa and **Maya at the Lago Conferences** and also serves as the co-editor of **The Mayanist**; a peer-reviewed open-access journal dedicated to current archaeological research.

Maya Archaeology: Tales from the Field Edited by Mat Saunders and Pamela Voelkel

In this unique anthology, over thirty leading Maya archaeologists and anthropologists describe what it's really like to live and work in the field. From sublime moments of discovery to the highs and lows of camp life, these real-life Indiana Joneses take you into rainforests, mangrove swamps, cave systems, and ancient tombs to hear the stories that never make it into academic journals.

By turns exciting, thought-provoking, hilarious, and downright terrifying, it's not a journey for the faint of heart!

"This book is dedicated to my good friend George Stuart, a bright star who energized the field of archaeology and illuminated it for everyone to see.

As the ultimate lover of books, I think that George would find this publication to be 'far out!'"

Indiana Jones has a lot to answer for. Thanks to him, archaeologists are expected to spend their days swinging
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Maya Archaeology: Tales from the Field

Edited by Mat Saunders and Pamela Voelkel

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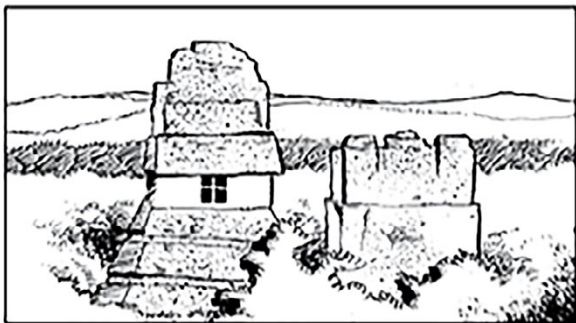
across bottom-less chasms and getting lowered into snake pits. But of course, the reality is usually a lot less thrilling.

For starters, most archaeologists focus on the academic side of their work, spending only a fraction of their time in the field – and out of that fraction, few moments rise above painstaking routine. However, an archaeology student looking for excitement would be well advised to focus on the Maya.

For one thing, there's still so much to discover and unexpected finds happen every year. For another, the unpredictability of working in Central America increases the opportunity for adventure and surprise. That unpredictability typically comes in the form of missing equipment and supplies, ants getting into lunchboxes, or cuisine-induced digestive issues. It is rare that we fall through a suspension bridge or fend off attacks from large jungle cats, but – as you will read in *Tales from the Field* – these things do happen, and when they do, those who survive the adventure cherish those moments. (And by cherish, I mean wake up screaming.)

I have dedicated my career not only to research, but also to bridging the gap between academics and non-professionals with an interest in archaeology. I bring experts, students, and amateurs together on field projects and at conferences, and together they engage in the thrill of discovery – which is, after all, why we do what we do. The path to those discoveries includes the acquisition of funding, meticulous planning, and the learning of (often monotonous) field techniques. But, woven into these elements, we find those special moments, sometimes comical, sometimes frightening, and sometimes inspiring.

Tales from the Field came out of an idea we thought up years ago to spice up a fund-raising dinner at the Maya at the Playa conference. To justify the ticket price for catered chicken and pasta dishes, I persuaded the conference speakers



The tops of pyramids loom above the jungle of Tikal. This illustration by Alex Gallego appears above the Foreword by Mat Saunders.

Precolumbia Mesoweb Press presents *Maya Archaeology Tales from the Field*, edited by Mat Saunders and Pamela Voelkel. Produced by Joel Skidmore and Mat Saunders. Illustrated by Alex Gallego and Chip Breitwieser. Hardcover, 224 pages, 36 b&w illustrations. ISBN 978-1-7350606-1-3.

to share stories from the field during the meal. What started as a fill turned into a highlight of the conference weekend.

One of the earliest contributors to this storytelling event was the inimitable George Stuart.

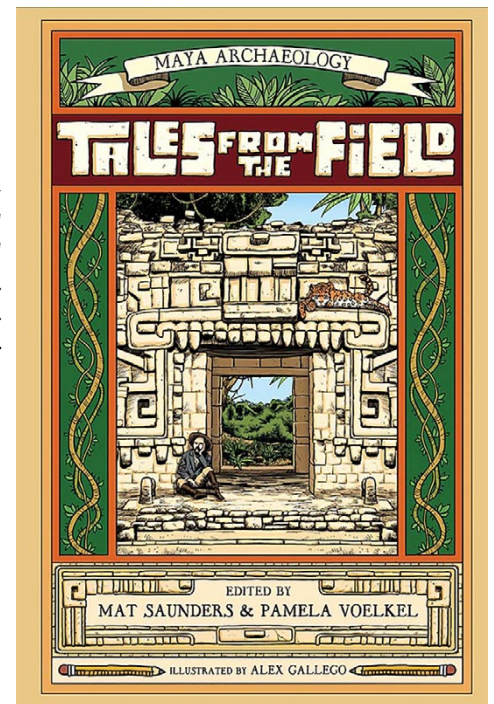
Anyone who heard George spin a tale would agree that he was the best. No speaker ever wanted to follow a George story because, regardless of how exciting their story might be or how great their delivery, it was going to be forgotten compared to George's.

George pushed me to put this book together, and with his encouragement I made a start on it ten years ago. But things, as they do, kept getting in the way. I'm embarrassed to admit that I sat on the first round of submissions for many years without publishing them. It wasn't until the COVID-19 pandemic struck that I found the time to push the project across the finish line.

When I searched my inbox for these first stories and reread them, they reminded me of the travel, freedom, and adventure we were all missing in the lockdown, and they brought back so many great memories of those Maya at the Playa dinners. But most of all, they brought back memories of George, my friend that we lost in 2014. I was overcome with disappointment that I hadn't finished what we had started together. I immediately reached out to scholars who had promised to submit stories in the past and urges them to get serious about it.

Within two months, I found my inbox overflowing with tales of excitement, peril, and humor, as well as enlightening and inspiring moments. We thought about organizing them into neat chapters for this book, but soon realized that they defied categorization. So instead, I decided to stay true to one of my favorite aspects of archaeology: the unknown. As you read, you'll feel like we do most days in the field, never knowing what will come next.

You'll also notice that, although the majority of our authors are archaeologists, we're thrilled to have received stories from cultural anthropologists, epigraphers, and artists. Although this was unplanned,



A Trip and a Tomb

An Archaeological Adventure

A caricature of George Stuart by Alex Gallego appears as the intro page to a story by George.

continued on next page

Maya Archaeology: Tales from the Field

Edited by Mat Saunders
and Pamela Voelkel

continued from previous page

it represents how our Mayanist community works together to generate the most complete and well-rounded research. In addition to the contribution by George Stuart that started this whole project, we're also proud to include a piece from the late Merle Greene Robertson who regaled us with stories at Maya at the Playa in 2010. We lost Merle one year later, but once this project started taking shape again, I knew she would want to be in the mix. I am very grateful to Merle's son David Greene for allowing me to use a small piece from *The Further Adventures of Merle*, which ran from 2013 to 2016 in *The PARI Journal*. I strongly encourage everyone to seek out the rest of Merle's writings in *The PARI Journal* and her biography, *Never in Fear*.

Finally, I'm grateful for all the experiences and rewards that archaeology has given me, and even more grateful that I lived to tell the tale. Having the opportunity to work alongside great scholars like the ones who've contributed

Illustrated by Alex Gallego, the ballcourt at Coba appears above a contribution by George Stuart's daughter, Anne Stuart. "George Stuart inspired this book and embodied its spirit more than anyone. He also loved people and books and teaching."



to this book has been one of the greatest privileges of my career. Scientists in other fields might be just as able to fill a book with stories, but I would argue that no field has as many amazing characters as ours. So a huge thank you to my amazing contributors – to my mind, you put Indiana Jones in the shade. 🏰

On the Precolumbia Mesoweb Press website, you can see more about Mat's *Tales from the Field*, that will be available in February. Here are a few links...

On this one, scroll down to the book cover:

<https://www.mesoweb.com/books/index.html>

This one has a pop up of the book, and check out the "Look Inside" feature:

<https://www.mesoweb.com/books/Tales.html>

Get to know AFAR

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American Foreign Academic Research, more commonly recognized as **AFAR**, is an organization dedicated to the advancement of archaeological field research, cultural site preservation, and the belief that the science can be advanced through the education and outreach of professionals and non-professionals alike.



Since its inception in 2006, AFAR has pioneered full-scale international archaeological research incorporating pre-collegiate students, driven historically important site preservation initiatives, as well as developed outreach and educational programs for all ages and experiences.

AFAR bridges the academic and non-academic worlds and works to educate and engage the youngest elementary students to intellectually curious senior citizens. Through education, research, and financial support, American Foreign Academic Research is actively opening the eyes of the world to the wonders of archaeology.

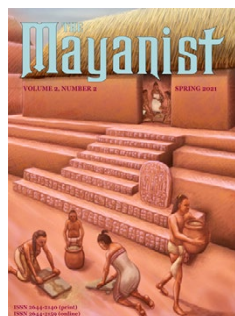
Shifting the paradigm of academic journals, AFAR publishes an open-access biannual publication named: **The Mayanist**. The journal emerges out of a desire to create a new style of peer-reviewed journals;

one which delivers excellent contributions to the archaeology, epigraphy, ethnohistory, and anthropology of the ancient and modern Mayas. The issues are edited by Maxime Lamoureux-St-Hilaire and C. Mathew Saunders. Mat Saunders is the Founder and Executive Director of Academic Foreign Academic Research. AFAR also presents two very popular annual conferences named:

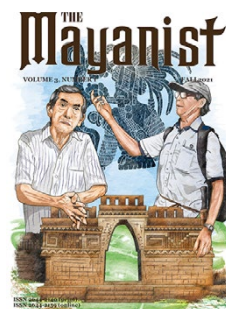
Maya at the Playa and **Maya at the Lago**.

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AFAR is based in Davidson, NC, and operates as a 501(c)3 organization.



Vol. 2, No. 2
Spring 2021



Vol. 3, No. 1
Fall 2021

Excerpt from the Diary of Sylvanus Morley, May 19, 1916¹ by Chris Ward

This extract from Morley's 1916 diary details one of the most tragic events in the history of early 20th century Maya archaeology. The setting is in the jungle of Peten near the border of what was then British Honduras. Morley and his expedition had just made the triumphal discovery of Uaxactun and its famous Cycle 8 stelae, at that time the oldest known inscription yet discovered. Morley was anxious to return to Belize City to get word out about his important discovery, but joy was short lived...

About 2:30, a sudden brief shower came up. The water collecting on the lenses of my glasses so interfered with my vision that I took them off to place in my pocket until the rain should be over. In so doing, they fell to the ground, and I was obliged to dismount to pick them up. At this point Dr. Lafleur, who had been riding well toward the rear, pushed up ahead of me, saying as he passed, "I'm going up next to the guide, Morley, to talk to him." Andrew Silas, leading the lame horse, also passed me before I remounted and fell into line.

This trivial incident, you will note, caused an entire shifting in our relative positions in the line. Romero the guide was still first, but Dr. Lafleur had taken my place as second, and Andrew Silas and the lame animal had come forward to the third place. I then fell back to the fourth place. Mr. Carpenter came fifth and Marius Silas last. This could not have been more than five minutes before the shooting.

We proceeded noisily enough through the bush, with no thought of concealing our presence there, talking back and forth to one another, all fears at rest. The frontier was within a quarter of a mile. I had told Romero to advise me in advance when we approached the line so that we could take the readings of our watches, since we were carrying out observations for longitude. He had just called back to me that we were getting very near the line. We had entered a space about 125 feet long where the underbrush had been cleared back from the trail some distance on the left-hand side and a few yards on the right-hand side, leaving us in a little clearing. Ahead the thick undergrowth closed in again.

Suddenly, without warning of any kind, not the stirring of a leaf, there burst from the bush just ahead of us to the



A

Moise Lafleur (A), the young doctor who was murdered on the trail in 1916 (Public domain from the 1914 Tulane University Yearbook). Arthur Carpenter (B) on the Morley Uaxactun expedition (Gift of S. K. Lothrop, 1996. ©President and Fellows of Harvard College, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, 996-27-20/75056.2.632.192)



B

right and left as well, a volley of ten or fifteen rifle shots, and this was immediately succeeded by sustained irregular firing.

Simultaneously with this first volley, the guide Romero gave a violent cry, at the same time falling to the ground where he lay crying and writhing about, apparently mortally wounded.

Doctor Lafleur after the first volley jumped from his horse, and paused to pump a shell from the magazine into the chamber of his gun, a Winchester .38 caliber carbine, which he was in the habit of keeping at hand while traveling for hunting purposes. An instant later he sought cover to the right of the trail. It is doubtful in the minds of Mr. Carpenter and myself whether he ever succeeded in firing a shot, particularly since the autopsy seems to show that his right arm was almost immediately disabled.

The boy Andrew, who occupied the third place in line, dismounted with maximum celerity, abandoning his own mount and the lame horse he had been leading, and retired to the rear post-haste, back down the trail toward Chunvis.

During these few seconds I retired a few feet – still mounted – until I was abreast Mr. Carpenter, who had just dismounted. By this time none of the party remained between us and the firing line, which was not more than 25 yards distant at the maximum, and probably nearer half that. We stood here engaged in conversation between 35 and 60 seconds, the open target of uninterrupted fire from the ambushade. I said, "What are they doing?" Mr. Carpenter replied, "They are shooting at us." I returned the question, "What had we better do?" He answered, "I am going to shoot."

At this point the boy Marius, who had not moved from the beginning, broke in by saying: "Mr. Morley, I have only four cartridges, we'd better go back." Mr. Carpenter had, in this interval, drawn his pistol, released his horse, which dashed forward through the ambushade, and had fired twice. Up to this

continued on next page

¹Taken from Prudence Rice and Christopher Ward, *The Archaeological Field Diaries of Sylvanus Griswold Morley, 1914-1916*. Mesoweb.com online publication, 2021, pp. 304-305; 311-312. Technically this is a letter to Dr. Woodward, president of The Carnegie Institution of Washington that recounted the tragic events. Morley included the letter in his diary as a replacement for pages that were never written.



Excerpt from the Diary of Sylvanus Morley, May 19, 1916

by Chris Ward *continued from page 7*

moment none of us had seen any member of the ambushade, though we assumed from the first that it was the revolutionists.

Mr. Carpenter believes that as his horse passed through the ambushade, he saw one man reaching for it, at whom he fired the two shots mentioned. That he did see a man at this time is not entirely certain, however, since the head of the clearing was already filled with powder haze.

At this point I began to realize the extreme peril of our open position, and called first to Mr. Carpenter, "Arthur we must get back," and then gave the general command "Back! Back! Back! For God's sake, everybody back." I spurred my horse, wheeled, and dashed down the trail around the first bend, followed closely by Marius and at a greater distance by Mr. Carpenter, both on foot. Here we paused an instant and then set off at a run overtaking the boy Andrew, about 150 yards from the first bend. At 200 yards we came to the bottom of the slope and stopped.

A hurried consultation was held. Mr. Carpenter decided, against my wishes – since I believed that Dr. Lafleur was dead – to approach as near as possible through the bush with the object of ascertaining whether Dr. Lafleur had survived the opening fire, and if so to carry him cartridges, which he lacked. I instructed him to return to Chunvis within the hour to which he refused to agree. He started back toward the shooting, which had practically subsided, carrying his pistol and some cartridges but leaving everything else. I started for Chunvis with the two servants. We had scarcely gone a hundred paces when two rifle shots were heard in the direction Mr. Carpenter had taken. I said, "They've got Carpenter or that is the end of the poor doctor," whereupon we quickened our pace fearing pursuit. Subsequently the servants say they heard faint shots, but I did not. Two hours later we were in Chunvis.



An archaeological expedition leaving El Cayo with mules and horses, circa 1916.
Courtesy of ambergriscaye.com (180517)

The next day Morley and Carpenter returned to recover Dr. Lafleur's corpse:

After leaving the Colonial escort, Dr. Lewis, Mr. Carpenter, and myself advanced under a flag of truce to the line, where we were met by Father Versavel and the officer in charge of the Guatemalan troops, *Sargente* Roberto López O. Guatemalan troops to the number of 30 were drawn up on either side of the trail and saluted when we passed.

Father Versavel reported that he had already seen the body and that it was in very bad condition. We proceeded about a third of a mile along the Chunvis trail and then turned off to the right (north). Some eighty yards from the trail we found the body in a little hollow, whither it had evidently been removed.

This hollow, a natural hole surrounded by a bank perhaps six feet on all sides, was an excellent hiding place, since the body could only be seen from on top of the bank surrounding it. The body was bound to a pole, tied at the knees and neck with tough vines, for the purpose of carrying it thither. The place where he died – i.e., on the trail – was about 250 feet distant.

I need not dwell here on the conditions of the body or the nature of the wounds which caused death. These matters have been adequately covered in Dr. Lewis' report, which I have already forwarded to you. I cannot refrain, however, from commenting on the wound in the throat, undoubtedly a cut from a machete, which all but severed the head from the body. Such an act of wanton brutality, even though committed after death, is utterly indefensible, and I earnestly trust may be made the basis for increasing the legitimate indemnity Doctor Lafleur's heirs are entitled to. 🏠

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British Museum Exhibition Peru: a Journey in Time



L) Vessel in the shape of a kneeling Moche warrior holding a club and a shield, Peru, 100–600 CE. LC) Vessel depicting a human figure in a reed boat, Moche, Peru, 100–800 CE. RC) Vessel in the form of a contortionist, Cupisnique, Peru, 1000–500 BCE. R) Chancay-Inca painted tunic, Peru, 1000–1470 CE.

Marking Peru's bicentennial year of independence, this exhibition highlights the history, beliefs and cultural achievements of the different peoples who lived here from around 2500 BC to the arrival of Europeans in the 1500s, and their legacy in the centuries that followed.

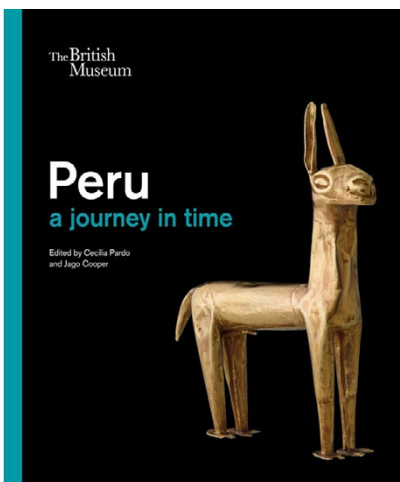
From Peru's early indigenous peoples to the ill-fated Inca, discover how past cultures were shaped by the diverse landscapes of the central Andes, flourishing at some of the highest altitudes and in some of the driest deserts on earth. Find out how they developed unique approaches to time, agriculture, economy

and power, some of which endure today.

The exhibition features objects from the British Museum's collection, including ceramics, precious metals, textiles and ritual paraphernalia, as well as extraordinary pieces borrowed from Peru itself. Striking, large-scale photography and videos of iconic sites, including the Nasca geoglyphs and Machu Picchu, will also give visitors a vivid sense of place and an appreciation of the artistic and architectural prowess of ancient Andean cultures.

Check it all out at this hyperlink:

[Peru: A Journey in Time](#)



Cover of the catalog available for the exhibition.

Exhibition Catalog: The environments of the Central Andean region in Peru, South America, are some of the most geographically rich and diverse in the world. This publication highlights the history, beliefs and cultural achievements of the different peoples who lived in these remarkable landscapes from 1500 BC to the arrival of Europeans in the 1500s, and the importance of their legacy up until today.

Over thousands of years, the people of the Andes have approached agriculture, economy, gender, power and belief in fascinating ways. Many archaeological sites in Peru are uniquely preserved, and the book discusses key examples with a thematic and geographical approach. The vibrant and varied material depicted includes ceramics, colorful textiles, golden objects and wooden carvings, drawn from the British Museum and museums and collections in Peru and beyond. This beautifully illustrated companion to the exhibition will be essential reading for anyone interested in Peru's art, history and cultures.



IMS Live Streaming 2.23.2022

Join in the Exploration!

8 pm ET

Stories from the Palenque Mapping Project with Ed Barnhart

Access this active hyperlink to join the event: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81603748889>

In the years 1998-2000, I led the Palenque Mapping Project. The result was one of the most complete and accurate maps of any ancient Maya site. In this presentation, I'll tell stories from the project and about the many challenges we faced. Rather than a standard report of our findings, this will be an inside view of what it took to map an ancient city covered by over 1000 years of rain forest growth.



Ed during the project, 1999.



Ed (right) and Jim Eckhardt surveying at Palenque.

Dr. Edwin Barnhart is a renowned American archaeologist who has appeared on History Channel, Discovery Channel, Canada's Religion Channel, and Japanese Public Television. He's the Director of Maya Exploration Center, a Fellow of the Explorer Club, and a widely recognized authority on ancient astronomy, mathematics, and calendar systems. During his over 20 years in Latin American archaeology, he has discovered the ancient city of Ma'ax Na in Belize, mapped over 4,000 ancient buildings, and published over a dozen articles and books.

His research on ancient sciences has taken him to over a dozen countries, including Cambodia, Indonesia, Peru, Bolivia and Chile. Through the Teaching Company's *Great Courses* he's produced 4 video courses including 104 30-minute lectures on subjects within the topic of ancient American civilizations. His most recent projects are an 8-part travel show for *Great Courses* named *Exploring the Mayan World* and a podcast series called *ArchaeoEd*. **Plan to be there with us on February 23!**

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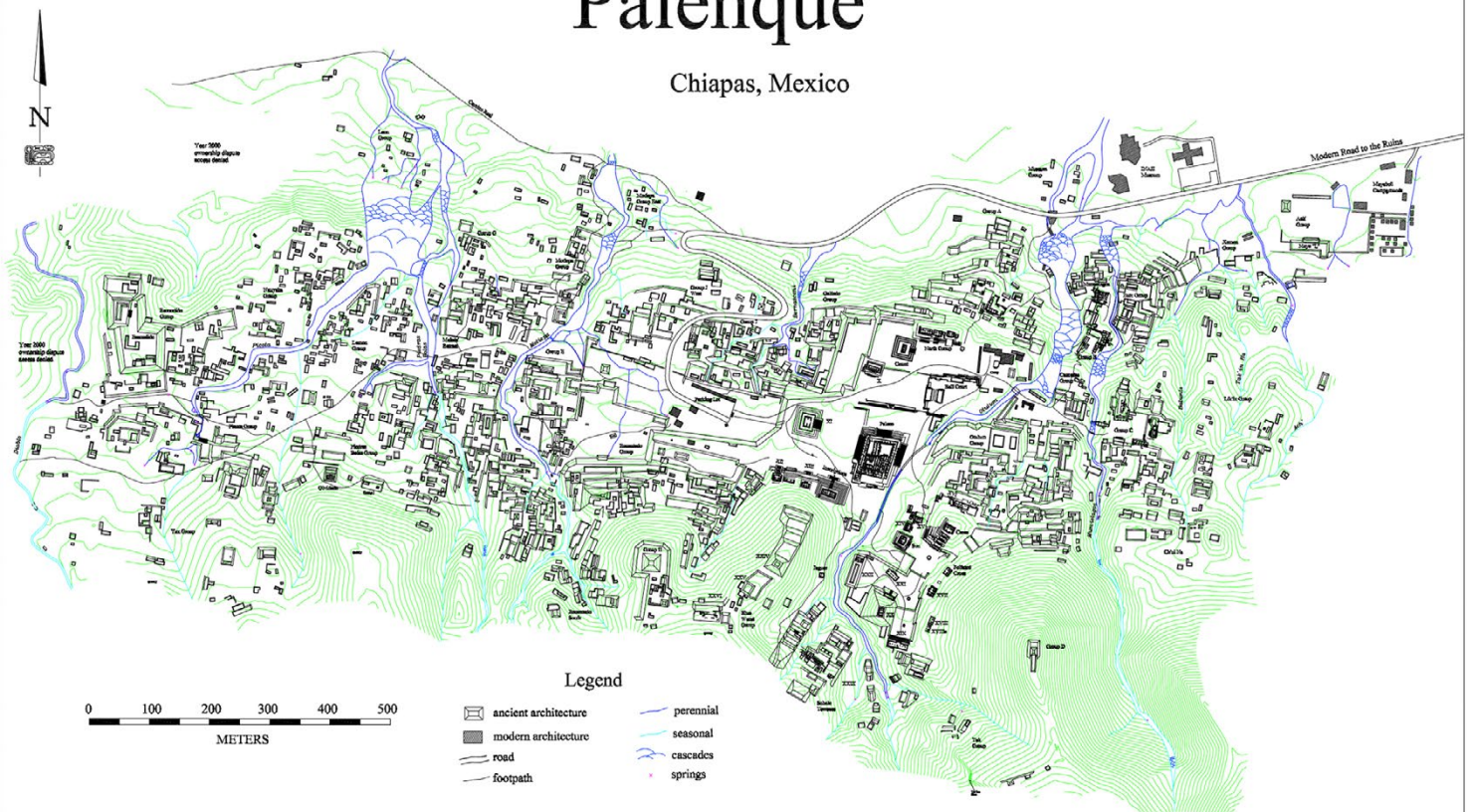
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Palenque

Chiapas, Mexico



The final Palenque Mapping Project map (2000)

Edwin L. Barnhart
2000

The Palenque Mapping Project: Settlement and Urbanism at an Ancient Maya City

by Edwin Barnhart (excerpts from Ed's 2001 dissertation)

The Palenque Mapping Project (PMP) (1998-2000) intensively surveyed the ancient Maya ruins of Palenque, in Chiapas, Mexico. The project covered 2.2 square kilometers of the city's jungle shrouded plateau, documenting 1481 structures and over 16 linear kilometers of terracing. After a brief summary of Palenque's mapping history, this dissertation presents the site's new map. Each group within the city's boundaries is discussed individually and illustrated with a detailed map.

These new maps, combined with selected data from the last 100 years of excavation, are then used to present a preliminary evaluation of Palenque's settlement pattern. Aspects including settlement density, population estimates and land use strategies are the primary topics of discussion. The degree of urbanism achieved at Palenque is also evaluated. Through comparison to other well-documented ancient Mesoamerican cities, Palenque is shown to have had an extremely high settlement density and one of the most extensive public works systems ever built by the Maya.

The conclusion of this study provides a low-impact excavation plan, one not possible before the new map, designed to clarify three still poorly understood aspects of Palenque; chronological development, subsistence strategies, and social organization.

Completed in August of 2000, the Palenque Mapping Project was a three year program of survey and exploration

at the ruins of Palenque, Chiapas, Mexico. The data gathered during the project has to date resulted in the creation of what has been described as the most accurate and detailed map of Maya ruins yet made. Additionally, Dr. Ed Barnhart's dissertation *The Palenque Mapping Project: Settlement and Urbanism at an Ancient Maya City* and Kirk French's master's thesis *The Waters of Lakam Ha: A Survey of Palenque's Water Management* serve as two superior examples of scholarly work produced as a direct result of the project. However, there still remains much work to be done.

During the course of the project, a detailed photographic record of a large number of structures and standing walls was compiled, many reconstruction drawings were produced, architectural and environmental information was gathered, and of course, a vast amount of geographic data was collected. While the PMP itself has concluded, the MEC staff continues to mine the rich depths of the data yet to be analyzed.

From Chapter 1: Introduction

The ruins of Palenque, nestled in the foothills of Chiapas, Mexico, were once a major capital of Classic Maya civilization (250-900 CE). The last 100 years of archaeology at Palenque focused on the exploration and restoration of its beautiful ceremonial center. However, thanks to a 1997 agreement between Mexico's Instituto

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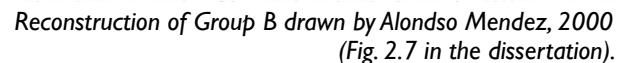
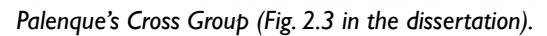
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The topic of this dissertation is the new map and what it can tell us about Palenque as an urban center. Chapter 2 presents a map along with observations made during the course of the survey. Each group defined within the city is discussed individually in terms of the nature of its architecture, the topography upon which it was built, and when applicable, the water management features it contains. Chapter 3 discusses what the map can tell us about Palenque's settlement pattern.

Previous Research

Maudslay's surveyor, H.W. Price, produced the first accurate map of the city's central precinct. Though it covers only a small section of the city, Price's map remains one of the most accurate ever published on Palenque. After a hiatus during the Mexican Revolution, research at Palenque picked up again, this time under the direction of Franz Blom. Between 1922-1927, Blom surveyed the site and its immediate periphery. He found many outer groups and named them using an alphabetic designation system. His map, though it covers roughly the same area as the Palenque Mapping Project map, depicts only the city's largest structures. As was the practice in the 1920s, house mounds were disregarded as insignificant.

The fifty years after Blom's map saw a surge of excavation and research projects, all of which focused on Palenque's



central precinct. Mexican archaeologists Miguel Angel, Alberto Ruz and Jorge Acosta were the major project directors of the time. Ruz's 1952 discovery of Pakal's tomb received global attention and instantly made Palenque one of the ancient Maya's most celebrated ruins. It was not until the 1980s that research attention returned to Palenque's periphery. As part of a 1980 local newspaper article entitled "Palenque 2000", Palenque resident and tour guide Moises Morales drew a fictitious map of what he believed Palenque would look like in the year 2000. It demonstrated that, at the time, Morales knew more about Palenque's periphery than any other professional of the site. Prophetically, the Morales map predicted that by the year 2000, researchers would have documented 1000s structures in the city.

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The Palenque Mapping Project: Settlement and Urbanism at an Ancient Maya City by Edwin Barnhart (excerpts from Ed's 2001 dissertation)

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In 1983, a new map compiling all previous maps (including the Morales map) was published in Merle Green Robertson's in the first volume of her *Sculpture of Palenque* series. Reconnaissance survey data collected in 1974 by Linda Schele, Robert Rands and Jay Johnson was also incorporated into the Robertson map. Though Robertson's map was the most inclusive available, it contains large areas marked as "unmapped buildings". The Palenque Mapping Project, supported by Robertson's Precolumbian Art Research Institute (PARI) set out to improve on that map, both in detail and accuracy. Chapter 2 presents the results of that project.

From Chapter 2: The Map of Palenque

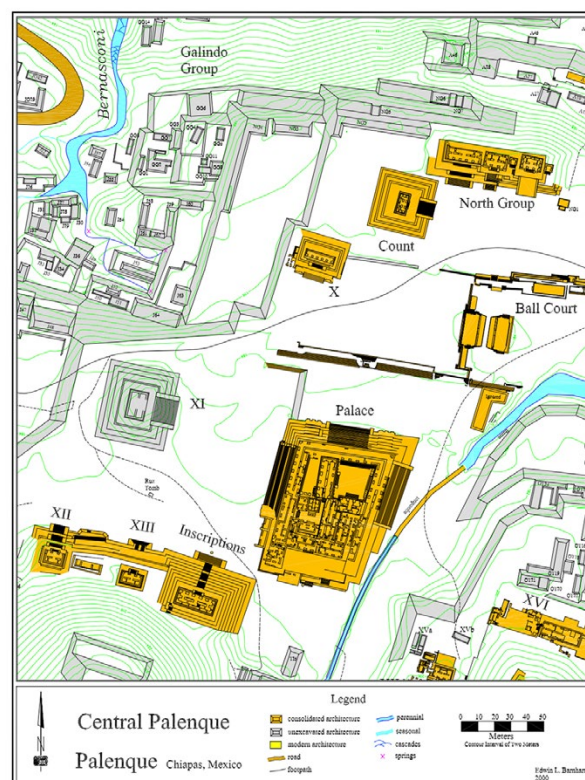
The Palenque Mapping Project was completed in August of 2000. The project recorded a total of 1481 structures and over 16 linear kilometers of terracing. Robertson's 1983 map covered essentially the same area and contained only 329 structures. An area of 220 hectares was investigated over the course of 18 months and determined to be over four times more densely settled than previously understood. Data points were taken at every building corner, river's edge and topographic change, over 24,500 points in total. Accuracy was one of the project's major goals and as a result the locations of features on the map are correct within +/-20 centimeters of error. The over 1000 newly recorded structures range from small, half-meter-tall platforms to the largest structure ever found in Palenque, the Escondido Temple.

Survey and Mapping Methodology

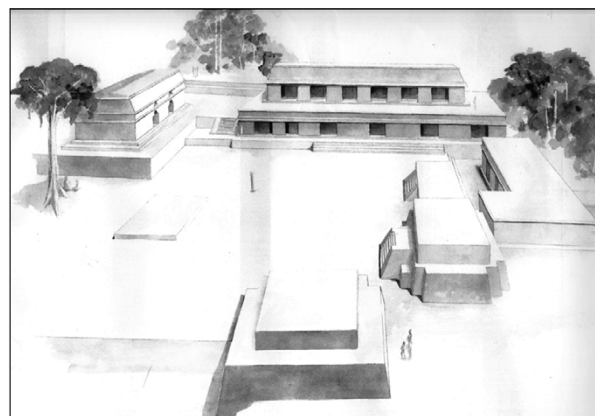
The survey methodology was designed to achieve 100% coverage of a 1x3 kilometer area. Computer software allowed the survey crew to have daily-generated maps of what they covered and which areas needed further documentation. Water-resistant notebooks were used to record the data and accompanying field sketches. The survey instrument, a GTS-211D total station on loan from the Topcon Corporation, recorded data points by bouncing light off a movable prism. The prism was placed in a desired location and the instrument recorded its position in reference to its own. Locations where the instrument was to be set up were given individual station numbers and marked with five-inch steel nails. Each new station was established by sighting it from the prior station. The crew moved the instrument in loops of stations, regularly returning to previously established locations in order to monitor and control the accumulation of error.

From the Summary

Archaeological investigation can and should be viewed as a continuum, starting with generalizations and theory and striving towards details and facts. Moving from the known into the unknown drives archaeological investigation. The first step in any archaeological investigation is to identify the location of the site. In the case of Palenque, that was done by Spanish priests hundreds of years ago. The second step, and the first quantifiable data to be assessed, should be mapping. The researchers should accurately assess the extent of the site they are attempting to investigate. Especially when dealing with a site the size of a city, a map can provide an initial understanding of the general settlement pattern. Once a good map has been created and analyzed a myriad of excavation options become available to the archaeologist. Dependent upon the kinds of questions they seek to answer, excavation strategies that maximize time, efforts and available resources can be developed.



Central Palenque (Fig. 2.4 in the dissertation).



Reconstruction of Group IV drawn by Heather Hurst, 2000
(Fig. 2.4 in the dissertation).

In the case of Palenque, your author believes that citywide chronology should be the next important question to be answered. The validity of the population estimates and settlement densities forwarded in this dissertation are hinged upon site chronology. While they were appropriately based upon available excavation evidence from multiple sections of the site, too great an area of the site remains untested. The same excavations proposed to collect chronological data could also be used enhance our understanding of citywide socioeconomic status, subsistence strategies and social organization.

The final map and the dissertation can be downloaded from the Maya Exploration Center website here: [Palenque Mapping Project](#)

Check out Ed's Podcast website (his latest featuring Moises Morales) here: [Archaeoed.com](#)



An Artistic Eye for the Maya with artist Steve Radzi

UAXACTUN – Temple A-18 (300 BCE – 900 CE). The site is located 12 miles north of Tikal and was occupied from the Formative through the Classic periods of Maya culture. Astronomical complexes were first identified at Uaxactun, and are identified throughout Mesoamerica as “E Groups”. **Sylvanus Morley** coined the site’s name Waxac (eight) Tun (stone) in 1916. Temple A-18 is one of the highest structures at the site, resting on a steep rectangular platform that is located in the northeast corner of the acropolis and faces south across the east plaza.

Steve Radzi has been illustrating Maya sites for many years. In 1995, his original black & white illustrations were exhibited at the IMS Conference at the Science Museum in Miami. In recent times, Steve has colored them, bringing them to life. These illustrations have not been published before. We shall feature his work in this and upcoming issues. Enjoy. You may visit Steve’s site for more of his work. www.mayaivision.com



Online Teacher Workshop with Dr Diane

10 – 1 pm, Saturday 12th February 2022

As part of University College London’s annual Maya on the Thames event, Dr Diane will be giving a live online CPD workshop on teaching the Maya in the classroom.



Introducing the Ancient and Modern Maya to the Classroom

Online Teacher Workshop with Dr. Diane

Saturday, February 12, 2022. 10 am – 1 pm

As part of University College London’s annual Maya on the Thames event, Dr. Diane Davies will be giving a live online workshop on teaching about the Maya in the classroom. The workshop is aimed at participants with little or no prior knowledge of the ancient Maya. Aspects of the Maya civilization will be discussed and their remarkable achievements and popular misunderstandings will be addressed.

Examples of teaching activities that can be used across the curriculum, as well as a scheme of work with lesson plans will be given.

Go to: [Dr Diane Teacher Workshop](https://www.diane-davies.com/workshop)

This event is part of the Maya on the Thames Annual Workshop on Maya Myths and Glyphs, at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, on Feb. 11–13. For info on attending their first hieroglyphic workshops, email: mayaaglyphsucl@gmail.com



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