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Cover

Front Cover: The Late Preclassic Cache Deposit from Structure H-XVI Sub, Uaxactun, after removal of the upper lid (Photo: Milan Kováč, 2015)

Back Cover: The Incised Bloodletter-Sceptre from Structure H-XVI Sub, Uaxactun (Drawing: Guido Krempel, 2015)
see pages 1, 9-29, 32

News

Descubren restos de la principal cancha de Juego de Pelota de Tenochtitlan

MÉXICO D.F. (INAH/www.inah.gob.mx). En el mismo predio de la calle Guatemala, en el Centro Histórico de la Ciudad de México, donde en 2010 se localizó el Templo de Ehecatl-Quetzalcoatl, arqueólogos del Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH) detectaron restos del costado norte de la principal cancha de Juego de Pelota de la antigua Tenochtitlan (Figura 1).

El descubrimiento dado a conocer públicamente en la pasada Primera Mesa Redonda de Tenochtitlan, organizada por el INAH, fue registrado como parte de los trabajos de salvamento del Programa de Arqueología Urbana (PAU), bajo la coordinación del arqueólogo Raúl Barrera Rodríguez. Durante las excavaciones efectuadas en 2014, se descubrieron los vestigios de una plataforma orientada de este a oeste



Figura 1. Restos de la principal cancha de Juego de Pelota de Tenochtitlan (Foto: PAU-INAH).

y cuya longitud aún se desconoce. Dicha sección de la estructura prehispánica, que mide 9 m de ancho y se encuentra a 6.45 m al sur del Templo de Ehecatl, presenta tres etapas constructivas correspondientes a las fases V, VI y VII del Templo Mayor, y abarca el periodo comprendido entre 1481 y 1521. La fase VI, edificada hacia 1486-1502, es la mejor conservada. En el costado norte de la plataforma que delimita al Juego de Pelota, se localizaron remitidas dos escalinatas superpuestas de cuatro peldaños, con sus respectivas banquetas que comunicaban con el Templo de Ehecatl. En el otro extremo (lado sur), se identificó la superposición de los restos de tres muros estucados en forma de talud de aproximadamente 1.95 m de altura.

Bajo uno de los pisos de la escalinata norte del juego de pelota a una profundidad de 1.60 m, en un reducido espacio de aproximadamente 45 centímetros de diámetro, se encontraron una ofrenda única por sus características, respecto con otras localizadas en estructuras del Recinto Sagrado de Tenochtitlan. Ésta la conformaban varios grupos de cervicales humanas - entre dos y seis vértebras en cada conjunto - que aún guardaban su posición anatómica y presentan buen estado de conservación, juntos con navajillas y puntas de maguey entre otros materiales que aluden al sacrificio (Figura 2).



Figura 2. Ofrenda con grupos de cervicales humanas (Foto: PAU-INAH).

Moho Cay. Whether it arrived there as part of an intact vessel, or as a fragmentary curiosity, remains unknown.

The Moho Cay vase fragment provides, however, further evidence of the vibrant and multi-faceted patterns of exchange and connectivity between the Ulua Valley and its Caribbean neighbors. Ulua marble vases are one important component in this network, and the exchange of these objects demonstrates a particular interest in this luxury good in the Caribbean spheres as well as the Maya lowlands.

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New Findings and Preliminary Results of a Submerged Pleistocene Skeleton from the Underwater Site of Hoyo Negro, Tulum, Quintana Roo, Mexico

MÉRIDA (Vera Tiesler). Explorations by the Proyecto Espeleológico de Tulum, Quintana Roo, led in 2007 to the discovery of the prehistoric skeleton of a female juvenile at the bottom of a karstic underwater collapse chamber. The remains, subsequently called "Naia", rested more than 40 meters below the sea level amidst an abundant Late Pleistocene deposit of plant macrofossils and faunal remains (bats, fish, and large mammals, many of them long extinct). The youngster herself lived between 13,000 and 12,000 yrs. B.P., as established by different direct and indirect dates (Chatters et al. 2014). She is presumed to have died after falling some thirty meters into



Figure 1. Photo: A. Cucina, 2014.

the still-dry karstic hole from a dark confluent branch tunnel, although more specific causes of death might be revealed once the whole skeleton is retrieved from the bottom of the sinkhole.

The ongoing Proyecto Arqueológico Subacuático Hoyo Negro is led by Dr. Pilar Luna Erreguerena (Subdirección de Arqueología Subacuática, Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia) and Dr. James C. Chatters (Applied Paleoscience and DirectAMS) and includes the participation of several Mexican and international institutions. Besides prospection, dating and mitochondrial analyses, which affiliated Naia to haplogroup D1 (consistent with Beringian populations), recent interdisciplinary efforts have focused on understanding the taphonomy of Naia's remains and preservation, her living conditions and lifestyle, and her population affiliation, which based on dental morphology falls within the range of variability of more recent Mesoamerican populations. The preliminary results of this research indicate that the gracile youngster had sustained antemortem trauma and already suffered from a heavy oral load of caries and gingivitis at the time of her death

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2014 Late Pleistocene Human Skeleton and mtDNA Link Paleoamericans and Modern Native Americans. *Science* 344, 750: DOI: 10.1126/science.1252619.

New Research at La Florida

PHILADELPHIA (Joanne P. Baron). In 2015, I spent the month of July in the town of El Naranjo Frontera, Peten, Guatemala investigating the archaeological site of La Florida. The site lies on the banks of the San Pedro River, just a short drive from the western border with Mexico. I direct the La Florida Archaeology Project together with Liliana Padilla, and we were joined in 2015 by students Josh Freedline, José Subuyuj, and Walter Ochoa. During the course of our 2015 field season, we updated and expanded the map of the site and photographed two previously undocumented inscriptions.

Mapping

La Florida has been mapped by previous investigators, most accurately by Ian Graham (1970) and Paulino Morales (1998). Both of these archaeologists relied on tape-and-compass methods and restricted their mapping efforts to the site's mon-



6 Figure 1. Map of La Florida showing the three identified groups.

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