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Undergraduate School of Studies
in Archaeological Sciences
Chairman G Brown BSc PhD

Centre for Precolumbian Studies

Re: Maya lithics conference, Belize, Easter 1976. Please quote ref

I'm sorry to be sending out another circular before receiving most of your replies to the last, but an element of confusion has been introduced into the situation: one of the invited participants for this meeting, Payson Sheets, has simultaneously sent many of you a proposal for a meeting on Mesoamerican lithic analysis, to be held in Boulder, Colorado also at Easter 1976. I did not know of his plans when writing to you before; I have now written to him suggesting that if he is able to obtain funding for the Boulder meeting he should try to schedule it so as not to clash with the one in Belize, so that all those who can stomach two lithics meetings will be able to attend both. Some of you may not wish to do so, however, and I would welcome some indication of which you would prefer to attend if both are held. The advantage of the Boulder meeting, if Sheets obtains the funding he proposes to apply for, will be that participants will have all their expenses covered; the advantage of the Belize meeting, for which we are only able to offer free subsistence and accommodation, will be that it is explicitly a field symposium to examine at first hand the production processes and technology of one of the largest Maya lowland axe-, spearhead- and eccentric-flint factories so far discovered, as background to a consideration of these processes in the Maya area in general. A second, paradoxical advantage is that because you all have to find your own fares, we do not have to seek or await confirmation of funding to confirm that the meeting will take place: if you can come, it's on! Please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

Norman Hammond!

cc: those listed on previous circular, plus T.A. Lee and W.R. Coe, Don Crabtree

Jay Johnson

~~Centre for Precolumbian Studies, University of Bradford, England~~
Center for Archaeological Research, University of Texas at San Antonio, U.S.A.

Maya lithic technology and production processes

A field symposium

To be held at Easter 1976 at Tower Hill,
Orange Walk District, Belize, C.A.

The study of Maya lithics, and their use as chronological and processual indicators, is in the same state as the study of Maya ceramics was thirty years ago: we are just beginning to emerge from a phase of classifying the material in a descriptive and functional way, and are beginning to consider the role that lithic studies can play in elucidating patterns of trade, conquest, social organisation and resource utilisation.

This symposium is planned explicitly to take place in the Maya area in order to be able to study some of the problems at first hand: the huge flint-working site of Colha from which axes, eccentric flints, projectile points and other artefacts were traded widely into the Maya lowlands lies only 15 miles from Tower Hill, and several of the sessions will take place there. One concrete result of the symposium will, we hope, be a fuller assessment of the function of such factory-sites and their place in the prehistoric Maya economic network.

Participation in the symposium is being intentionally restricted to those specialising in Maya lithic studies, with the addition of a few outside specialists in the fields of edge-wear analysis and trade studies. Although participants will have to make their own way to Belize (daily flights from Miami and New Orleans) their transportation, accommodation and subsistence at the symposium will be provided. None will be luxurious.

Accommodation will be in the field camp of the British Museum/Cambridge University Corozal Project, which is equipped with hot and cold water, a refrigerator, bath/shower and swimming pool. Participants may have to share a room.

Please take this notice as an invitation to participate, and reply to: Norman Hammond, Centre for Precolumbian Studies, University of Bradford, School of Archaeological Sciences, Bradford BD7 1DP, England, as soon as possible, stating which dates over the Easter period are feasible for you. As soon as this information is collated we can fix firm dates for the meeting and specify which flights to Belize will be met. The meeting should last for 3-4 days, and will include some prepared papers, a lot of discussion and a substantial period on-site at Colha. A collective decision on possible publication will be made at the meeting.

cc: R.E.W. Adams, University of Texas at San Antonio
Tom Hester, " " "
Irwin Rovner, Western Michigan University
Rick Wilk, University of Arizona
William L. Rathje, University of Arizona
Gordon R. Willey, Harvard University
Raymond V. Sidrys, UCLA
Payson D. Sheets, University of Colorado
Colin Renfrew, University of Southampton
Harry Shafer, Texas A & M University
Duncan Pring, University of London
Ruth Tringham, Harvard University
Joseph W. Michels, Pennsylvania State University
Norman Hammond, University of Bradford

If you feel that there are any palpable omissions in the Maya lithic field in this list, please let me know. NH.

Maya lithic technology and production processes. Orange Walk, April 16-20, 1976.

Programme.

Friday 16th: Those arriving on TX 773 from Miami proceed by cab to Fort George Hotel (pool, bar) where N.Hammond will meet them at lunch time (ca. 12.30 pm) in the bar.

Those arriving on TA 111 from New Orleans in the afternoon will be met at the airport, and all will proceed direct to Orange Walk, where rooms have been reserved at the Hotel Nuevo mi Amor. Room rates are about \$6 single, \$7.50 double with bath, about \$4 and \$5 without bath. Breakfast is about \$1.25, lunch \$2, dinner \$1.75. We have a grant of some \$200 from U.T.S.A. to defray transport and subsistence, which won't cover all of you in toto: we can either use it to reduce room bills, or let you pay your own and use the money to keep the symposium supplied with beer: the latter would be simpler!

Arrival at Orange Walk by 18.00 hrs. Welcome and drinks in the rooftop room at 18.45, with buffet supper (the restaurant being closed on Good Friday). Informal discussion.

Saturday 17th: 07.00 breakfast

08.00 leave for Colha axe-factories, arriving 09.00. Examination of factory site, collection and discussion of workshops. Lunch on site.
16.00 leave for Tower Hill (swim in pool) and Orange Walk. 18.00 assemble in rooftop room for first session of papers.

Session 1: Mattula Moholy-Nagy: Empty-Dumpty Maya artifact studies
Tom Hester and Harry Shafer: Belize Lithics: Functions and Forms
Arlene Miller: The Richmond Hill lithics: Early Man in Belize?
Richard Wilk: Research and sampling strategy for the Colha Lithic workshops.

20.00 Dinner; drinks and informal discussion

Sunday 18th: 07.00 breakfast

08.00 Session 2: Irwin Kovner: Yes we have no obsidian - local lithic industries in the Central Lowlands

Mattula Moholy-Nagy: Flint and obsidian at Tikal, Guatemala

Jay Johnson and Ray Sidrys: Long Distance Obsidian Trade: New Data from the Western Maya Periphery

Norman Hammond: East coast obsidian trade

Joseph Michels: Some sociological observations on obsidian production at Kaminaljuyu

Duncan Pring, Norman Hammond: Sequence and site hierarchy in northern Belize: background to site visits.
followed by discussion.

12.30 lunch

13.30 Visit to north Belizian sites: Nohmul, Aventura, Santa Rita/ or Cerros

18.30 Return to Orange Walk; drinks, dinner, discussion

Monday 19th: 07.00 breakfast

08.00 Visit Corozal Project excavations at Cuello (sequence back to 2000 bc+)

10.30 Return to Orange Walk

11.00 Session 3: Payson Sheets: The Terminal Preclassic Lithic Industry of the SE Maya Highlands - a component of the Preclassic site-unit intrusions in the lowlands

Thomas Lee: The lithic tools of a Colonial Maya community: Comitán, Chiapas.

Gordon R. Willey:

Monday 19th (cont)

13.00: lunch

- 14.00: General Discussion of
1. A unified approach and terminology for lithics
 2. Age/area/technological/materials gaps in current knowledge
 3. Avenues for immediate and subsequent research on a broadly cooperative basis

16.00: Swimming at Tower Hill pool; option of second quick visit to Colha.

18.00: Drinks as guests of the Corozal Project; dinner thereafter.

Tuesday 20th: 06.30: breakfast

07.00: depart for Belmopan; drop some people at airport. Visit national archaeological collection in Belmopan (optional) or at leisure in Belize City. Meet for lunch at Fort George Hotel (at own expense) and depart for airport.

- Notes:
1. The Center for Archaeological Research at the University of Texas at San Antonio intends to publish the symposium papers as a special monograph collection. You are at liberty not to publish, of course, but if you wish to, please bring a typescript with references and illustrations ready to hand over: this will speed things up considerably. A resume of discussions and conclusions will be included also.
 2. Belize allows importation of 1 bottle liquor; whatever you bring will make the meeting swing that bit more.
 3. Clothing should be light: temperature and humidity will be high, and tramping round sites is sweaty. Nobody in Belize wears a jacket or tie. There are hot showers in the hotel, and a cool pool at Tower Hill. There will be a doctor (Frank P. Saul) around.
 4. Norman Hammond's address from March 26 is P.O.Box 52, Belize City, Belize, C.A., cables SUGAR COROZAL BELIZE. If when you get this programme you've still not advised your flight of arrival and departure do so to Belize. (JJ, IR, TL, GRW)

DC.