

Christophe Helmke, Jarosław Żrałka

From the editors of the volume

Contributions in New World Archaeology 3, 5-6

2012

Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej bazhum.muzhp.pl, gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach
dozwolonego użytku.

FROM THE EDITORS OF THE VOLUME

This volume is the result of the 1st Cracow Maya Conference, held at the Jagiellonian University, in Cracow, between the 25th and 27th of February, 2011. Before we move on to describe its content we would like to provide a short description of the origin and nascent ideas behind the Cracow Maya Conference.

In November 2009 both the Jagiellonian University and the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences were hosts of the 14th European Maya Conference, the first conference of this type to be organized in Central-eastern Europe in collaboration with the European Association of Mayanists (WAYEB). This event inspired such a great interest in the ancient Maya, and especially in Maya epigraphy that we decided to invite several young and talented WAYEB participants to Cracow once again. The idea was to organise a two-day long Maya hieroglyphic workshop with two different groups representing different levels of expertise (introductory and intermediate levels). While working on organising the event, Harri Kettunen (University of Helsinki) proposed that a symposium session preceding the workshops would be both highly appropriate and useful. Thus, the scope of the Cracow Maya Conference was extended. The topic of the conference was *Archaeology and Epigraphy of the Eastern Central Maya Lowlands* since most of the participants and the organizers were involved in archaeological work and epigraphic study in the central and eastern part of the Southern Maya Lowlands. The present volume is the outcome of this fruitful meeting.

We would like to especially appreciate two Jagiellonian University students: Monika Banach and Magdalena Rusek who came up with the idea and initiative to run a Maya hieroglyphic workshop in Cracow and who worked hard in the organization of the events.

Moreover, it would not have been possible to organize the 1st CMC without the support of the following institutions whom we would like to thank for their financial aid and honorary patronage: the Institute of Archaeology and Faculty of History of the Jagiellonian University, the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Polish Society of Latinamerican Studies, the Kochanowski Fund, the Bratniak Foundation, Qulinaria Company, and WAYEB.

The volume contains six papers dealing with different subjects related to archaeology, epigraphy and iconography. The first three papers discuss mainly archaeological data whereas the other contributions concentrate on epigraphy and iconography. The first paper: *Nakum y su importancia en el mundo maya: resultados de los trabajos realizados por el Proyecto Arqueológico Nakum entre 2006 y 2011* presents results of archaeological excavations that have been carried out at the Maya site of Nakum since 2006 by a team of archaeologists from Cracow. It summarizes the most important discoveries at the site, including a rare drainage feature, important remains of Protoclassic phase activity, a pyramid with several royal tombs as well as several other discoveries which shed light on the role Nakum played in local geopolitics. The second paper *Hiatus en el fin de Preclásico y retorno de los reyes, Uaxactun, Guatemala*, by Milan Kováč, presents interesting results from recent excavations that have revealed

the abandonment and hiatus of the Uaxactun Group H at a period more or less contemporaneous with the great collapse of the El Mirador polity. It also reports how this group was re-occupied at the onset of the Early Classic period and discusses the subject of Preclassic collapse and the hiatus at other Maya centres. The following contribution by Sven Gronemeyer and Markus Eberl is entitled *Recent Archaeological and Epigraphic Investigations in Tamarindito, Peten, Guatemala*. It provides a detailed description of the results of archaeological work conducted at the Maya site of Tamarindito (Guatemala) and shows some new clues to the development and collapse of this centre. The paper also presents an epigraphic study of all carved monuments. These data provide a basis for the identification of previously unknown rulers of Tamarindito.

Initiating the epigraphic and iconographic section is a paper by Christophe Helmke, entitled *Mythological Emblem Glyphs of Ancient Maya Kings*. This paper provides detailed analyses of a sample of paired Emblem Glyphs from Palenque and Yaxchilan, which involve toponyms drawn from mythological times. The implications are that despite the importance of Emblem Glyphs in the reconstruction of historical socio-political landscapes, these mythological emblems provide an alternate model that is highly revealing as to perceptions and conceptions of deep time and the role that myths play in the legitimization of royal power. The next contribution *Struggle for Supremacy: Armed Conflicts in the Eastern Peten During the Late Classic Period*, by Harri Kettunen, provides a synthesis of the armed conflicts in the eastern Peten, between different Maya sites involved in the great conflict between two powerful dynasties: the so-called Snake and the Tikal dynasties. Particular emphasis is placed on the role that Naranjo played in these conflicts. Finally, *Painting Styles of the North-Eastern Peten from a Local Perspective: The Palace Schools of Yax We'en Chan K'inich, Lord of Xultun*, by Guido Krempel and Sebastian Matteo, provides a thorough overview of the features that identify the ceramic workshop under the patronage of the royal dynasty at Xultun. The authors discuss the stylistic, epigraphic, iconographic and paleographic traits of the ceramic collection that forms the legacy of *Yax We'en Chan K'inich*, the ruler whose reign and patronage is widely celebrated in the ceramics produced by this workshop.

Christophe Helmke & Jarosław Żrałka