



1st Cracow Maya Conference 2011

Archaeology and Epigraphy of the Eastern Central Maya Lowlands

Feb 25th (Friday): Symposium

- 8:30 – 9:30** Registration
- 9:30 – 10:00** Welcome address
- 10:00 – 10:45** Wiesław Koszkul & Jarosław Żrałka: **Nakum and its Significance in the Maya World: Results of Excavations Carried out by the Nakum Archaeological Project (2006 – 2010)**
- 10:45 – 11:30** Katarzyna Radnicka: **Evidence of Ritual Destruction or a Refuse Midden? Termination Rituals from Nakum in a Wider Cultural Context**
- 11:30 – 12:00** Coffee break
- 12:00 – 12:45** Christophe Helmke: **The Archaeology and Epigraphy of Cuychen, Macal Valley, Belize**
- 12:45 – 13:30** Harri Kettunen: **Struggle for Supremacy: Armed Conflicts in the Eastern Peten During the Late Classic Period**
- 13:30 – 15:00** Lunch break
- 15:00 – 15:45** Sven Gronemeyer: **Recent Archaeological and Epigraphic Investigations in Tamarindito, El Peten**
- 15:45 – 16:30** Guido Krempel & Sebastian Matteo: **Towards a Better Understanding of Local Ceramic Styles in the Northeastern Peten – Elite Representation at Xultun and Yootz During the Late Classic Period**
- 16:30 – 17:00** Coffee break
- 17:00 – 17:45** Jarosław Żrałka: **Pre-Columbian Graffiti from the Maya Sites of Nakum and Yaxha: Their Function, Meaning and Archaeological Context**
- 17:45 – 19:15** Discussion

Feb 26th – Feb 27th (Saturday/Sunday): Workshop

10:00 – 13:00 Morning Session

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch break

14:30 – 17:30 Afternoon Session

Beginners Level (20 participants):

Sven Gronemeyer, Guido Krempel, Sebastian Matteo

Revisiting the Usumacinta Sites - A Fresh Look at the Inscriptions of Piedras Negras and Yaxchilan

The past four decades we have witnessed groundbreaking developments in the field of Maya epigraphy, changing our understanding of the ancient Maya culture. To be able to read what the Maya themselves wrote about their affairs is an intriguing endeavor and a captivating window into a past culture. The objective of this workshop is to provide an intensive introduction to the study of Maya hieroglyphs. Participants will have a chance to decipher hieroglyphs on their own during the workshop with the assistance of the tutors. No previous knowledge of Maya culture or hieroglyphs is required to attend the workshop. At the end of the two day workshop, participants will be able to understand the basic structure of a text, decipher calendrical information, reconstruct chronology, point at verbs and nominal phrases, and much more.

The focus of the beginner level workshop is on the Late Classic history of the sites of Piedras Negras (Guatemala) and Yaxchilan (Mexico) along the banks of the Usumacinta river. Both sites were the seat of powerful dynasties that had a far-reaching influence on neighbouring kingdoms and beyond. They were also on a constant strife for the predominance in the Usumacinta region and the control of the river trade routes. Participants can choose whether they want to focus on selected inscriptions either from Piedras Negras or Yaxchilan. By means of these texts, the beginner can practice the methods of reading the hieroglyphic accounts. At the end of the workshop, the results from the single inscriptions will be brought together to get an overall glimpse on the history of these two sites.

Intermediate Level (25 participants):

Christophe Helmke, Harri Kettunen

Where Atole Abounds: Naranjo Under the Reign of K'ahk' Tiliw Chan Chahk

The title for this workshop takes as its inspiration the ancient name of Naranjo, which relates that this was a place where *atole* (a type of maize gruel) was found in great abundance.

This workshop will provide participants with an insight of the life and times of Naranjo's famed 38th king, *K'ahk' Tiliw Chan Chahk*, who reigned between AD 693 and at least until 728.

In order to contextualize his reign we will also investigate key texts erected by his mother during her regency (ca. AD 682–693) and some of the later texts of his successors.

Using a variety of analytical techniques including structural analysis (the “cutting-and-pasting” that is the bread-and-butter of workshopping) and colored highlighting, we will explore a series of texts relating the fames and fortunes of this unbeatable mother and son pair.

All texts will be broken down glyph-by-glyph and will be the subject of transliteration, transcription, and literal translations, followed by free prose translations of each sentence. Group work will form an essential part of the workshop with texts being recapped as part of lectures.

Participation in this workshop assumes that you already have a working knowledge of ancient Maya writing or have successfully attended a prior workshop. Basic knowledge of the calendar and associated softwares is an asset, but we will provide explanations suited to each individual and the group as a whole.