Exhibition

Ancient and Living Maya Through the Photographic Lens
SEPTEMBER 18–DECEMBER 14, 2012

This exhibition includes twenty large photographic images of Maya peoples and sites taken by National Geographic staff members on assignment. Dating from the 1950s through the 1980s, the photographs are from the collection of George E. Stuart (UNC Ph.D. 1975), former National Geographic archaeologist. Lowland and highland Maya garments and textiles from the same period are also part of the display.

FEDEX GLOBAL EDUCATION CENTER GALLERIES

Exhibition

Ancient and Living Maya in the 19th and 20th Centuries: Archaeological Discovery, Literary Voice, and Political Struggle
OCTOBER 8, 2012 – JANUARY 27, 2013

The Stuart Collection and other holdings in the Rare Book Collection of UNC-Chapel Hill tell the story of European peoples’ discovery of Maya sites and Maya languages and literary traditions, alongside the dramatic political history of the region and the Maya struggle for autonomy.

MELBA REMIG SALTARELLI EXHIBIT ROOM, WILSON LIBRARY

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Two men of Zinacantán, Chiapas (photo, Justin Locke); Weaving of wedding dress, Chiapas (photo, Otto Imboden); Sewing machine in Pibil, Yucatán (photo, Bates Littlehales); Maize god from Copán (photo, Otis Imboden). All courtesy George E. Stuart and National Geographic.

Chromolithographs of the Madrid and Paris codices from Rosny, Essai sur le déchiffrement de l’écriture de l’hiératique de l’Amerique Centrale (1876); Popol vuh (1861); Photogravure of plaza from Maudslay, A Glimpse at Guatemala (1899). All courtesy Stuart Collection, Rare Book Collection, UNC-Chapel Hill.
"13 Bak'tun" is based at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill by the Global Hunt Lecture of Carolina Seminars, Friends of the Library, the Institute for the Study of the Americas, the Rare Book Collection at Wilson Library, the Institute for the Study of the Americas, the Rare Book Collection at Wilson Library, and UNC Global. Additional support comes from the American Indian Center, the Carolinas Digital Library and Archives, the Departments of Anthropology, Linguistics, and Romance Languages and Literatures, the Latin American, Iberian, and Lusophone Studies section of the Library; the Monograph Plantarium and Science Center; the Research Laboratories of Archeology; and the School of Law.

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25

5:00 p.m.
Reception and viewing of the exhibition Ancient and Living Maya in the 19th and 20th Centuries: Archaeological Discovery, Literary Voice, and Political Struggle
MELBA REMIGI SALTARELLI EXHIBIT ROOM, WILSON LIBRARY

5:30 p.m.
New Maya Perspectives, keynote lecture by Victor Montejo
PLEASANTS FAMILY ASSEMBLY ROOM, WILSON LIBRARY

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26

11:00 a.m.
Mesoamerica Through Its Literature, with Emilio del Valle Escalante
PLEASANTS FAMILY ASSEMBLY ROOM, WILSON LIBRARY

12:00 p.m.
Indigenous Land Rights in Belize, with Cristina Coc
ROOM 5042, VAN HECKE-WETTACH HALL, UNC LAW SCHOOL

2:00 p.m.
Ancestral Maya Civilizations: Cycles of Time and Classic Maya Royal Dynasties, with Patricia McNany
PLEASANTS FAMILY ASSEMBLY ROOM, WILSON LIBRARY

3:30 p.m.
Of Scribes and Calendars: The Once and Future History of Mayan Hieroglyphic Writing, with David Mora Marín
GLASSMITHKLINE FULLDOMED THEATER, NOREHEAD PLANETARIUM AND SCIENCE CENTER

5:30 p.m.
Reception and viewing of the exhibition Ancient and Living Maya through the Photographic Lens
FEDEX GLOBAL EDUCATION CENTER GALLERIES

6:00 p.m.
Curator’s talk on Ancient and Living Maya through the Photographic Lens, with George E. Stuart
PEACOCK ATRIUM, FEDEX GLOBAL EDUCATION CENTER

6:30 p.m.
Contemporary Maya Poetry Readings, with Briceida Cuevas Cob and Rosa Chávez
NELSON MANDELA AUDITORIUM, FEDEX GLOBAL EDUCATION CENTER

EVENTS

New Maya Perspectives
Internationally recognized author Victor Montejo addresses the role of native scholars and activists in the renewal of the Maya world by exploring Maya cycles of time through a native perspective of the sacred K’iche’ test the Papel Gila. A reception and viewing of the exhibition Ancient and Living Maya in the 19th and 20th Centuries: Archaeological Discovery, Literary Voice, and Political Struggle precede the lecture.

Mesoamerica Through Its Literature
In this open class, Profesor del Valle Escalante leads a discussion of how contemporary Maya concieve the end of the Long Count Maya calendar and represent it in current literature. Particular focus is placed on Gaspar Pedrón González’s (Maya Q’eqchi’) novel, 17 B’alam Mayan written Briceida Cuevas Cob; Rosa Chávez, and Victor Montejo are invited to participate in the exploration.

Indigenous Land Rights in Belize
Cristina Coc discusses the recent successes and ongoing struggles of the Maya in securing rights to ancestral lands in this Central American nation.

Ancestal Maya Civilizations: Cycles of Time and Classic Maya Royal Dynasties
Classic Maya royally used the Long Count to mark significant calendric events but also to record dynamic events, such as commutations, martial conflicts, and the anniversaries of the deaths of progenitors. Professor McNany leads an exploration of this open class of Classic Maya use of the Long Count (with ample illustrations) at major capitals that supported strong social traditions between AD 275 and 909.

Of Scribes and Calendars: The Once and Future History of Mayan Hieroglyphic Writing
In this multimedia presentation, Professor Mora Marín traces the development of Mayan hieroglyphic writing from its origins around 500 BCE and in the centuries century, demonstrating in close ties to the ancient calendar system used to keep track of political history and astronomical events and how ancient scribes adapted to changing social and political pressures.

Ancient and Living Maya Through the Photographic Lens
Curator George E. Stuart speaks about the photographs of Maya peoples and places on display taken for National Geographic from the 1950s onwards.

Contemporary Maya Poetry Readings
Briceida Cuevas Cob and Rosa Chávez read their work in Yucatec and K’iche’ languages, respectively, as well as in Spanish, with English translations provided by members of the UNC community.

PEOPLE

VICTOR MONTEJO (Mayan Pop’al, Guatemala), Emeritus Professor of Native American Studies at the University of California, Davis, is a novelist, poet, scholar, and human rights activist. His books include Testimony: Death of a Guatemalan Village (1987) and Maya Intelectual Renaissance: Identity, Representation, and Leadership (2005). From 2004 to 2008, Professor Montejo served as a member of the Congress of Guatemala and as Minister of Peace, in charge of promoting the peace accords that ended the 36-year civil war.

EMILIO DEL VALLE ESCALANTE (Maya K’iche’, Guatemala), Associate Professor in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at UNC-Chapel Hill, specializes in contemporary Latin American literature, with an emphasis on indigenous literatures in southern Mexico and Central America. He is the author of Maya Habitations and Postcolonial Challenges in Guatemala: Community, Memory and Identity Politics (2008).

CRISTINA COC (Maya Q’eqchi’, Belize) is the Executive Director of the Julian Chau Society, which promotes social justice, human rights, and sustainable development in Belize. Her work advocating for ancestral land rights of indigenous peoples has brought her to the highest courts of her nation, where, in 2007, the Chief Justice ruled in favor of Maya communities.

PATRICIA A. MCANANY, Kenan Eminent Professor in the Department of Anthropology at UNC-Chapel Hill, is an anthropologist who has directed field research and cultural heritage programs throughout the Maya region. She is the author of the Living with the Ancestors: Kinship and Kingship in Ancient Maya Society (1995) and Ancestral Maya Economies in Archaeological Perspective (2010).

DAVID MORA MARÍN, Associate Professor in the UNC Chapel Hill Department of Linguistics, is a scholar of Mayan historical linguistics and etymology. His interests include lexical and grammatical reconstruction of the Qu’eqchi’-Maya languages, the sociolinguistic context of ancient Maya writing, and inscriptions on portable objects.

GEORGE E. STUART (UNC Ph.D. 1975) worked for National Geographic for nearly forty years. His numerous publications include Ancient Pioneers (2003) and Palenque: Eternal City of the Maya (2008; co-authored with his son David Stuart). In 2006, he and his wife Melinda donated the Stuart Collection of Maya materials to the University Library at UNC-Chapel Hill.

BRICEIDA CUEVAS COB (Maya Yucatec; Tepakán, Calkiní, Yucatán, Mexico) is a poet and founding member of the Association de Escritores en Lenguas Indígenas. Among her books are Pil vem a K’ich’ ni taj sik = Como el sol [Like the Sun] (1998) and T v um ni K’ich’ = Dei destelok a mi nipa [From My Clothes] [2008].

ROSA CHÁVEZ (Maya K’iche’- Kaqchikel, Guatemala) is a poet and artist who is an active member of the literary collective “Caja Lidiosa, Comunidades y Pueblos de la República de Guatemala.” Her books include Casa solitaria [Solitary house] (2005) and Quitapenas (Taking Worries Away) (2010).