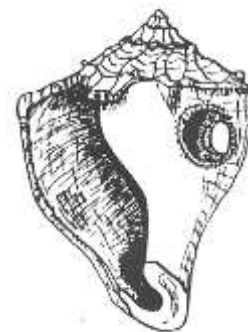


SWFAS

NEWSLETTER

THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



JOHN G. BERIAULT, ACTING EDITOR VOLUME 19, NUMBER 9 SEPTEMBER, 2003



This is a scanned image from a slide I took at the Castillo at Chichen Itza in 1984. John Lloyd Stephens visited this site over 150 years ago and did the first accurate assessment there. I hope to visit this place, after an absence of 20 years, this November and see what's been happening...

**ONE MORE
ISSUE... - THE
TIME IS DRAWING
NEAR...**

It's now common knowledge that I am leaving the editorship of this publication after the October issue. At that time, I'll have

been "at the helm" for five years. I think every person, if they are not earning a living at it – wearies of meeting a deadline on a regular basis, weekly, monthly, whatever. Anyhow, I'm weary enough, and, although I will miss the desktop publishing and the chance to present

"interesting" information, it's time to pass on the torch to the next person, who, I believe, will be Betsy McCarthy. We have been lucky to have over the nearly twenty-five years of our Society's existence a number of excellent editors – among these Barbara Logie, Art Lee, Travis Doering, and Gail Strader. I will soon join them as part of the "history" of our group.

Change is good. It's certainly as inevitable as life and death. Thanks for the memories; it's been fun...

Inside this Newsletter

- 1 We have Moved! Florida Gulf Coast University is the new site of our General Meetings
- 2 **John Lloyd Stephens and the Yucatan – Part of the Story of a Great Archaeologist**

THE DATEBOOK

September 10th SWFAS Board Meeting, Hampton Inn, Bonita Springs, 7:00 PM

September 17th SWFAS General Meeting Ben Hill Griffin Hall, Room 109, Florida Gulf Coast University at 7:30 PM

About SWFAS

The directorate: President Tom Franchino, first vice president Corbett Torrence second vice president Theresa Schoeber, membership secretary Charlie Strader, treasurer Charlie Strader, recording secretary Jo Ann Grey, directors Bud House, Sue Long, Liz Clement, Jo Ann Grey, Don Taggart, Jack Thompson, John Beriault, Charlie Strader, John Worth, and Dr Susan Stans.

The committees: Field: Beriault, 434-0624; Hospitality: position open; Membership: Charlie Strader, 941-992-6133; Publicity: Dottie Thompson, 597-2269; Sales: position open; Finances, Jack Thompson 597-2269, 774-8517; Lab: (774-8517), Art Lee, 261-4939, Walt Buschelman, 775-9734, Jack Thompson, 597-2269.

To Join: Address your check to the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society, P.O. Box 9965, Naples, FL 34101. Dues are: Individual \$20, Individual Sustaining \$50.00, Family \$35, Student \$15.

Any questions, comments, contributions to the Newsletter: John G. Beriault, acting editor, P.O. Box 9074, Naples, FL 34101-9074 or Email to: JGBeriault@aol.com.

John Worth to Speak on "The Timucuan Chiefdoms of Northern Florida"

Dr. John Worth will provide a detailed overview of the internal function of the Timucuan chiefdoms of the northern Florida peninsula, using evidence gained from ethnohistorical and archaeological sources. While the Timucua were farmers like most other Southeastern Indians north of the South Florida region, a combination of environmental patchiness and low population density resulted in a series of small-scale chiefdoms that may have resembled Calusa social formations in some ways. The talk will be held in Room 109, Ben Hill Griffin Hall at Florida Gulf Coast University, Wednesday, September 17th at 7:30 PM.

Ruins and Rainforest:

The Ancient Maya and Natural History Brought Together in Belize

By Laura Howard

I want to personally invite FAS and SWFAS members who are interested in the ancient Maya to visit Belize

with us to explore one of the most unique and fascinating areas in the world.

In the country of Belize, specifically at the Maya site of Lamanai, we bring together community development, archaeological research, natural history, and the ancient Maya in a way few are able to do. Our project includes not only a first-class traditional tour of 7 ancient Maya cities but also provides the opportunity to become part of a project that is truly making a difference for our host country.

This program will be concentrated at Lamanai (Laman'ai: a corruption of "Lama'an/ayin," Mayan for "submerged crocodile") located in northern Belize. This is a site of special interest because it appears to have been continuously occupied from Pre-Classic times to and through the Spanish Conquest. Most other Maya city-states suffered from a decline in occupation, and many experienced a permanent collapse that scholars have long sought to explain. At Lamanai the question to be answered is quite the opposite: how did this city escape the fate of its contemporaries and maintain a continuous, unbroken record of civic habitation? Perhaps because it is difficult to reach and self-sustaining; remoteness might have insulated Lamanai from

pressures common to other Maya centers.

During the working season the Lamanai Field Research Center provides a hum of interdisciplinary activity. There are the usual archaeologist and local workers as well as a changing assortment of other professionals such as osteologists, ornithologists, botanists, and an expert on bats. Society members will also be fortunate to become intimately involved with the Indian Church Village Community Enhancement Project that is supported in part by Beyond Touring.

Highlights of this program depending on length may include: at least 6 ancient Maya cities of Belize, night spotlight safari on the New River, Indian Church Village Artisans (ICVA), Rio Frio Cave, Belize Zoo and Education Center, sunset and birding excursion on the New River Lagoon, medicinal plant walk, 16th Century Spanish Churches, 18th Century British Sugar Mill, and a beautiful sunrise on Temple IV at Tikal.

The following trip dates are available for members of AIA, family, and friends:

Participant depart/return – December 10 - 17, 2003 (8-days)

Participant depart/return – March 9 - 16, 2004 (8-days)

Participant depart/return – October 6 - 19, 2004 (14-

days)

If you would be interested in becoming involved with the Lamanai Archaeological Project (LAP), the Indian Church Village Artisans (ICVA) community enhancement project, or visiting this area of northern Belize as well as 6 other spectacular ancient Maya cities please feel free to contact:

BEYOND TOURING: Maya Archaeology and Natural History Programs

3036 Lake Shore Drive,
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442

Toll Free: 866.Beyond2
(866.239.6632)

US Phone: 954.415.2897 Fax:
954.360.9387

Email:

Laura@beyondtouring.com

Web:

<http://www.beyondtouring.com>

<http://www.lamanai.org/>

STEPHENS AND CATHERWOOD – THE FIRST FATHERS OF YUCATAN EXPLORATION

Can't comment for anyone else, but the more I read about John Lloyd Stephens, the more impressed I am by him.

Here is a man who in the course of his not overly-long life was a lawyer, statesman, dreamer, adventurer, a major force in the building of a railroad across Panama – and the discoverer and popularizer of Mayan archaeology specifically and archaeology in general when the discipline was in its infancy. Here is someone, a dilettante, if you will, who maintained such excellence of purpose and care of technique in the 1830s and 1840s that it took all other archaeologists at least eighty years to catch up. Here is a man who traveled through Egypt, the Near East, the Ottoman empire, including Greece and even Poland, and then returned to his home in New York City and started all over again with the then barely hinted-at ruins in the jungles and thorn scrub of Central America, who went into what were truly dangerous places and who endured frightful injuries and diseases. Here was a man who was a sophisticated New Yorker before there was a sophisticated New York, who was educated, witty, sought after, a bachelor, but one with an eye for the ladies, an appreciator of women on all levels. Here was a guy that liked books, was a leader of men, dabbled in the politics of his day, was the personal friend of several presidents – someone who could have lived a comfortable,

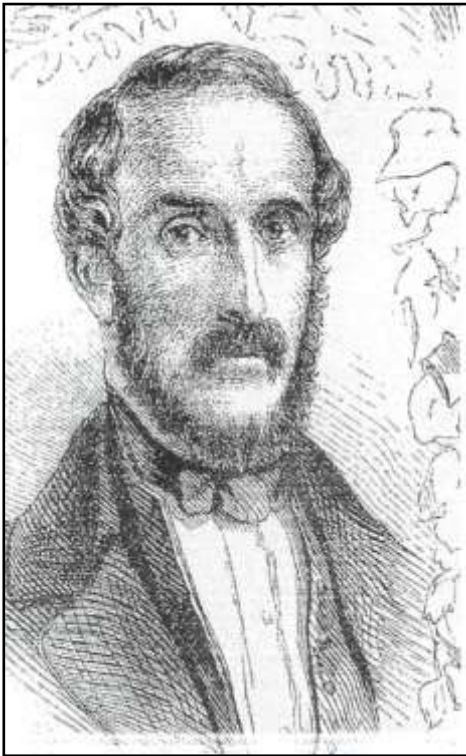
meaningful life in the United States – and yet found meaning in remote and enigmatic ruins, where, as he ruefully noted he could not read the hieroglyphic inscriptions he routinely found, but nonetheless correctly guessed they were “histories” and other accounts – a fact that even his biographer a century later (Victor Wolfgang Von Hagen, *Maya Explorer*, 1947) differed wrongly with him as to their significance (Von Hagen was under the sway of

of celestial events and little else).

Stephens was a man comfortable in his time, but far ahead of his time. A man as comfortable with a gun and machete as with a pen and a glass of good brandy. In short, he was the fellow they based Indiana Jones on, but a man who truly existed and was all those above-mentioned things. A man who probably would have lived out his “three score and ten” years and maybe even a little further, but who chose a fulfilling life together with a case of malaria which apparently finally got the best of him.

interest his travels generated) in the United States and abroad.

Stephens’ *Travels* in the area of Central America can be divided into two distinct phases: his initial investigations at Copan, Honduras, Quirigua, Guatemala, and later at Palenque in Chiapas, Mexico, and his later investigations at the various ruins of Yucatan, particularly those at Uxmal, Sayil, Labna, Kabah, Chichen Itza, and Tulum.



J. Eric Thompson, the English archaeological pharisee who dominated Maya archaeology for two decades and who believed the Maya were a race of “gentle astronomers” obsessed with recording dates

Frederick Catherwood was a quiet Englishman, an artist, in love with ruins like Stephens, and a lover of truth and not hyperbole. Together these men made a memorable alliance and for years explored Guatemala, Honduras and the Yucatan. Stephens’ great book (illustrated by Catherwood) *Incidents of Travel in Yucatan and Chiapas* was a best-seller, running through twelve editions within a year. It’s amazing that this book can still be purchased in its “original” series of printings in 1848 at what still seems a amazingly-reasonable price from antiquarian book dealers, and this is due to the large number of copies (and the great deal of public