

# Copan Association Newsletter

[www.asociacioncopan.org](http://www.asociacioncopan.org)

[www.copanmaya.org](http://www.copanmaya.org)

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## Don Jorge, President of Copan Association receives award



During a formal ceremony held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras in October, 2007, Don Jorge Bueso Arias, president of the Copan Association was honored with an important award as one of the most distinguished businesspeople in the Country by President Mel Zelaya.

Don Jorge has distinguished himself through his service, dedication and innovative ideas to his fellow countrymen and the nation of Honduras as a whole. He raises the bar and sets a high precedent for future generations to follow. In his eighty seven years his forward thinking has brought Banco de Occidente, of which he is presi-

dent, from an agricultural bank to be one of the top and most full service banks in the nation. During an interview with the press he stated that "we have to do it all" in relation to competing with the many financial institutions who are establishing a foothold in the Country. He stated that Honduras should definitely welcome the competition as it would keep people open minded. As one of Honduras' most innovative businesspeople his visions for the future and constant dedication has helped pushed Honduras into the 21 century. The updating of Banco Occidente and other areas of businesses he is involved in reflects these thoughts and ideas.

After the ceremony cocktails were served in the Presidential Gardens where Don Jorge was surrounded by friends, family, and business associated who congratulated him on this important achievement. Congratulations Sir! This award is the highest that can be given by peers and one of the highest honors that can be given to a Honduran businessperson.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS 2007

**Hector Arnulfo  
Cueva  
Juan Carlos Reina  
Roberto Segura  
Daphne Sikaffy  
Carin Steen**

## Pay your dues or join Copan Association Online

Copan Association is going 21st century by offering the option to our Members of paying your dues online. It is a simple process through Paypal, one of the safest online pay programs available. Using Paypal is a simple process and you can go online and just follow their instructions. Afterwards, an electronic payment request will automatically be sent to you every year to renew your dues. It is a very user friendly site. All you do is enter the site and click on send money, then follow the links. To pay dues online, send an email payment to

luis\_copam@yahoo.com. Your annual membership fee is \$40.00 and is tax deductible in the United States through Copan Maya Foundation. This type of payment will not only expedite and simplify your life, it will help the environment. Because the process completely eliminates the necessity of paper to send out a statement with, write a check or get a money order, address yet another envelope, buy a stamp, and send it to Copan Association. Please help us help the environment, one of the main purposes that Copan Association exists. If you want this

option and do not have your correct email on file, please call Heydi Galvan, Assistant, at the Copan Association Office

504 651 4103 in Honduras or 626 768 2834 in the United States. Coming also is our virtual store, you can order online gifts and items for your company or family.

As Copan Association is dedicated to the preservation of this valley, the chosen items are educational.

**“...the sun kings of  
ancient Copan  
raised this  
magnificent city  
from obscurity to a  
splendor  
unparalleled in  
Middle America.”**

Excerpt from *Kingdom of the Sun* by  
Ricardo Agurcia F.  
with photography by David Beyl.

## Kingdom of the Sun

Just in time for Christmas comes this newly released book by Archaeologist Ricardo Agurcia F. with photography by David Beyl. The book is small (perfect for several copies to fit in your carryon) but the 100 pages featured are beautifully colored and the photography was taken in and around modern day Copan. David Beyl's eye for the unusual along with Ricardo Agurcia's descriptions, notations, and maps, bring a fresh look and feel to Copan and outlying areas. Ricardo Agurcia's love of the area comes through in the descriptions of this beloved and ancient valley. Copan was a Kingdom which by looking at the past, brings to the present a look into the future. This book is available exclusively through the Gift Shop at the Maya Ruinas, but you can order it online and have it shipped directly to you. Additionally, books in bulk may be ordered for bookstores, college courses, or gifts. A unique item for friends and family who love books on the Maya or who will develop a love for the Maya. A must have addition to your library or coffee table. \$19.00 plus shipping.



## Oropendola, an unexpected presentation...



Juan Carlos Perez of the Copan Association

Not only did Ricardo Agurcia, Copan Association's Executive Director, have to be the Master of Ceremonies at the III International Congress at Copan, held in June, 2007 here in Copan Ruinas, he had to come up with a presentation at the last minute when one of the speakers could not make the trip to Copan due to family obligations. With less than 24 hour advance notice Ricardo and Juan Carlos Perez who is in charge of the Special Project dubbed Oropendola, made a special presentation to the III International Congress at Copan of their ongoing investigations. This unexpected surprise for the audience was well received as they were able to see an investigation and not one that had been researched and was being presented. As education and preservation are two of the main goal of the Copan Association, it gave the audience an opportunity to see one of the very important projects that the Copan Association participates in. Always on their toes Juan Carlos and Don Ricardo were well received by the audience of over 300 attendees.



## Copan Association Welcomes Honduran Registrants

**“Smoothest Registration I have ever been through, the staff is friendly and knowledgeable, I felt so cared for...Thank you Copan”**

The whole staff of Copan Association was on deck to register all Honduran Participants for the III International Congress at Copan “The Art of Power in the Mundo Maya.” Honduran Registrations made

up over half of participants in this Congress a large increase than in Congresses before because of the stronger awareness of their culture and what Copan really means to the population of this Country. ASCOPAN was also in charge of the sale of memorabilia for the Congress. From the exclusive design of the water bottles and t-shirts to the beautifully water-colored glyphs, the Asso-

ciation Copan Store set up for souvenirs was very successful. All registrants from Honduras received a discount for their Registration Fee with a savings of over 50%. This discount made it possible for students to attend for the first time and a large delegation from a top University in San Pedro Sula did just that.

### Discounts for Copan Association

Members are available in the

following Locations throughout Honduras:

#### Copan Ruinas:

**Maya Ruins Gift Shop**

**Casa K'inich Gift Shop**

**Hotel Don Udo's**

**Hotel Plaza Copan**

**Hotel Camino Maya**

**Hotel Marina**

#### Tegucigalpa:

**Hotel Honduras Maya**

**San Pedro Sula**

**Hotel Grand Sula**

## Some Very Special People make Casa K'inich a Very Special Place



Casa K'inich has quickly become the museum destination for the older crowd as well as the younger crowd. Even though it was built with a child in mind, adults visit this tiny museum to get a better understanding of the Maya culture. On a recent visit several teachers from Sweden remarked that it was the most well put together museum they had seen in their travels throughout the world. Its interactive displays are part of it but the staff is most of it. Although there is a full time employee, there are volunteers from the local High School. This keeps the museum fresh. The youth who are involved in this museum have a genuine

interest in their Maya ancestors and their friendly smiles (as you can see in the photograph) welcome the visitor as they walk in the door. Visit the Casa K'inich when you come to Copan. These kids are so proud of what they have! If you can not visit, you can donate online through the Copan Association Website. The museum was recently updated in 2006. Because of that popularity there is a new permanent location under construction and the Center will be moved again in March, 2008. The new location will have more space, a gift shop, and an even larger area of interaction for children.



**Casa K'inich**  
**Across from**  
**Central Plaza**  
**Inside the Cultural**  
**Center**  
**Open Daily**  
**8 a.m. - 12 noon**  
**1 p.m. - 5 p.m.**  
**651 4105**



**Tax Deductible  
Membership and  
Donations may  
be made through  
the  
The Copan  
Maya  
Foundation  
TIN: 77-0525430**

## Copan Maya Foundation...take another look

### Copan Maya Foundation and Copan Association

To preserve Copan and ensure its future, we must understand its past. Accordingly, the Copan Maya Foundation

([www.copanmaya.org](http://www.copanmaya.org)) partners with the Copan Association.

([www.asociacioncopan.org](http://www.asociacioncopan.org)).

In tandem these entities support scholarly work and fund educational, cultural and environmental projects that help understand the ancient past of this important region. Projects are determined by considering community needs, site requirements, and the Copan Management Plan as drafted by independent consultants for the government of Honduras in 2001.

The pressures of poverty, population, and pollution threaten cultural properties in Honduras and other developing countries in Mesoamerica. Without planned conservation efforts, the remains and lessons of the ancient

Maya civilization will be lost. Without the participation of both international and local communities, sustainable preservation of these enormous monuments is not possible.

The Copan Maya Foundation works to protect and conserve archaeological sites in developing countries in Mesoamerica, with Copan being our primary focus. Our global network of government, academic advisors, conservation and funding partners support our work in promoting community-based site conservation and sustainable regional development of tourism and cultural resources.

Joining the Copan Maya Foundation and participating in one of our funding programs will make a difference in preserving some of the most important ancient Maya heritage sites for current and future generations.

*The Copan Maya Foundation was founded in*

*January, 2000 and has IRS designated 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. Donations are fully tax-deductible. Tax exempt identification TIN: 77-0525430.*

*For more information on the Copan Maya Foundation, please contact us by Mail or email at the address below:*

**Copan Maya Foundation  
Copan Association  
(United States)  
P. O. Box 50113  
Pasadena, California  
91115-0113  
Telephone 626.768.2834  
[info@asociacioncopan.org](mailto:info@asociacioncopan.org)**

**Copan Association  
(Honduras)  
Casa Yax Na,  
Avenida Los Jaguares  
Barrio El Centro  
Copan Ruinas, Honduras  
Telephone 504.651.4103  
[info@asociacioncopan.org](mailto:info@asociacioncopan.org)**

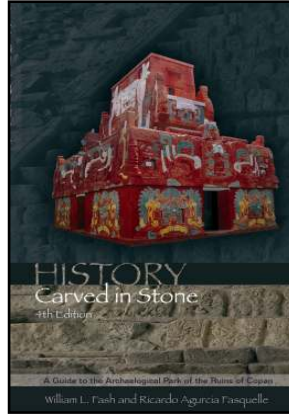
## History Carved in Stone: Most Popular Guide to the Maya Ruins of Copan to be re-released in November 2007

### Publications

#### I. History Carved in Stone: A Guide to the Archaeological Park of the Ruins of Copán

This 9" x 6" 52-page booklet is the most popular guide for the ruins of Copán. Published in 1992; reprinted in 1998 and due out again in 2007, the updated version will be available for purchase in the Gift Shop at

the Ruins. It has been completely rewritten by authors Ricardo Agurcia F. and William Fash. The booklet will be available in Spanish and English. This is the most concise guide of the ruins and its convenient size allows you to carry it with you as you are touring the ruins. It is also and easy size to mail. \$4.00 or L75 Lempiras



## The University of Texas

at Austin will host their first Maya Meeting on Copan in eight years visit their website for details go to their webpage [www.utmaya.org](http://www.utmaya.org)

## Sites of Interest and Upcoming Events

**February 15-17, 2008. The Fifth Annual Tulane Maya Symposium and Workshop.** *Sacred Cenotes, Hidden Caverns: Rituals, Beliefs and Everyday Life Relating to Caves and Cenotes among the Maya.* Stone Center for Latin American Studies, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA.

<http://stonecenter.tulane.edu/MayaSymposium/>

**February 25 - March 2, 2008. The 2008 Maya Meetings** *Copan Archaeology and History: New Finds and New Research.* University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.

[www.utmesoamerica.org/](http://www.utmesoamerica.org/)

**April 11-13, 2008 Maya Weekend at the University of Pennsylvania Museum. :**

Location: University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, 33rd and Spruce Streets Philadelphia, PA 19104-6234

Contact: [events@museum.upenn.edu](mailto:events@museum.upenn.edu)

## Website Updates

Copan Association's website [www.asociacioncopan.org](http://www.asociacioncopan.org) and the Maya Foundation [www.copanmaya.org](http://www.copanmaya.org) have recently been updated to reflect changes in our Board of Directors and in an ongoing effort to educate the populace on the efforts of the Copan Association and Maya Foundation to protect the culture and patrimony of this area. The site offer an online store in the future which will have books, caps, and t-shirts. Technology has now made it possible to be literally a world wide store. If you visit our website often you will see events and seminars and sites of interest as well as announcements about what the Association and Foundation are up to. If you become member of the Copan Association or Maya Foundation, you will be able to sign up for the newsletter and receive it online. All proceeds and donations to both of these invaluable organizations are used to protect and preserve the patrimony and cultural heritage of this area. Copan Association is the only professional organization set up to do this. Through its efforts preservation, ecological projects and ongoing education The Copan Association and Maya Foundation bring awareness to the layperson and professional alike as to what can be accomplished with a group efforts. The website also features the projects many of which are ongoing but also many of which have been completed.

# Awards, Speeches, Presentations, Activities

## Gran cruz por su dedicación y esfuerzo

**TEGUCIGALPA.** Por su influencia en el desarrollo de los destinos de Centroamérica, el Estado de Honduras confirió al señor Jorge Bueso Arias, la orden civil "José Cecilio del Valle" en el Grado de Gran Cruz de Placa de Plata, en el salón Morazán de Casa Presidencial la noche del martes anterior.

Al importante evento asistieron las máximas autoridades del gobierno central, representantes del Cuerpo Diplomático, empresarios, familiares e invitados especiales que compartieron con el homenajeadó el importante reconocimiento.

La entrega fue realizada por el presidente de la República, Manuel Zelaya Rosales, que manifestó que "el señor Arias se ha distinguido por su constante dedicación en el desempeño de sus actividades ciudadanas para servir los intereses de la nación y es un ejemplo a seguir por todos los hondureños".

Después de la ceremonia se ofreció un vino de honor en los jardines de la Casa de Gobierno, donde los presentes manifestaron sus muestras de admiración y afecto al homenajeadó.



Muy feliz don Jorge Bueso Arias, con la condecoración de la orden civil de "José Cecilio del Valle"



Elvin Santos, Mercedes y Jorge Bueso, el presidente Manuel Zelaya y su esposa Xiomara de Zelaya junto a Becky de Santos

## The Sentinel

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Sandra Guerra of Honduras speaks at a Rotary Club meeting at the Market Cross Pub in Carlisle. (Michael Bupp/The Sentinel)

### Carlisle, Rotarians help clean Honduras' water

By Jason Scott, Sentinel Reporter

Last updated: Wednesday, August 29, 2007 9:49 AM EDT

The city of Copan in western

## RICARDO AGURCIA

Executive Director, Asociación Copán, Honduras

A native of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Ricardo Antonio Agurcia Escobar, received his Masters degree in Anthropology and Archaeology from Tulane University. He is presently Vice President and Executive Director of Asociación Copán, a non-profit organization founded in 1980 by leaders in Middle American research. It is dedicated to the research and conservation of Honduras' national heritage.



## THE MAYA SUN KINGS OF ANCIENT COPÁN

Tuesday, September 4, 2007 • 7:00pm - 9:00pm  
Carlos Museum Reception Hall

Sponsored by:

Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program  
Institute for Comparative and International Studies  
The Hightower Family Fund  
Department of Art History  
Michael C. Carlos Museum

Free and open  
to the public

Contact Person:  
Rebecca Quintana  
requin@emory.edu, 404.727.6502  
Emory University, Atlanta, GA

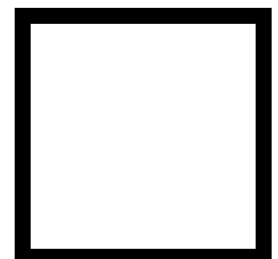
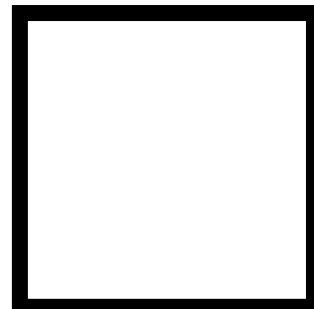
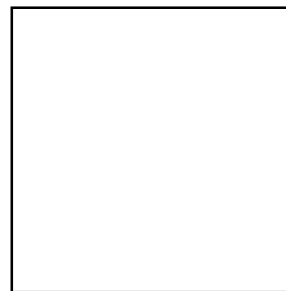
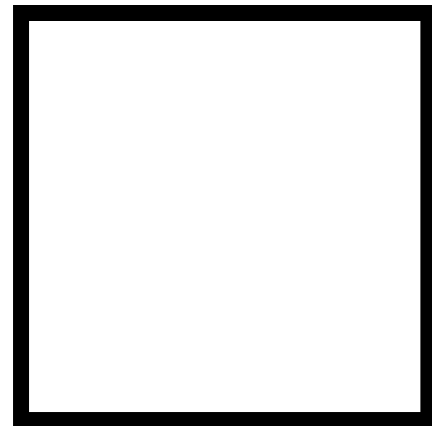
## Copan played Host June, 2007 Archaeological Conference

### “ The Art of Power in the Mundo Maya”

The mountain setting was familiar as Copan welcomed visitors and speakers from around the world to this village for the III International Congress at Copan” The Art of Power in the Mundo Maya” . It made one pause to think how many of these cumbers have happened in the past thousand years in what had been one of the most magnificent cultures in Mesoamerica. The modern day Conference followed the sellout success of the second Congress in 2001. If possible, the 2007 Congress was even more spectacular . Copan Association co-sponsored the event along with Archaeology Magazine, the Honduran Institute of Tourism and the Mundo Maya. The offices and staff of the Copan Association were invaluable for the seven month intense planning period of the III Congress. Director Ricardo Agurcia visited many universities and conferences in the United States along with Mariella Guzman, Treasurer of the Copan Association but who served in the capacity of Executive Director in charge of organizing the Congress. Through their efforts along with intense media promotion, the event was a sellout. ASCOPAN’s also participated in the design of the promotional paraphernalia that was presented at the Conference. The logistics of bringing over 500 attendees and additional staff members to present this important event was a smooth operation with everyone working together to make sure this event went off without a glitch. Copan Association was once again the headquarters of the event as in the past and also was in charge of the eighteen invited Presentors who came from all over the world to present their work. The Honduran Institute of Tourism relied heavily on the expertise of Copan Association’s Executive Director Ricardo Agurcia and his assistants at the office. The final three day presentation included everyone from the Copan Association being present to help with the event which was a huge success. Casa K’inich was a backdrop for a Maya Culinary food festival and was a popular destination to visit during breaks and off time when not listening to the presentations from the eighteen Maya Scholars. Copan Association Members received an over 50% discount to attend the Congress. If you missed it, you may get to see another one in 2009, there’s talk of presenting another one, and this one will really be well attended. Be sure you keep your dues up to date or join the Copan Association and watch the website for the next conference.



Casa K'inich was the setting for the Maya Gastronomical Festival at the Archaeological Conference in June, 2007. With the addition of Food Champas and colorful flags this tiny museum was also one of the most visited sites during the



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Please update your  
 Membership Information  
 and dues, call or email or  
 fill out the following and  
 return to us at the above  
 address so we can keep  
 our files up to date.

**GET UP TO  
 DATE IN 2008!**



*Round Table Discussions* were an event that started with the 2001 Congress at Copan. Although round tables are usually offered and planned at Maya Conferences all over the United States and the world, time elements usually prevent them from being squeezed into the busy programs. The Copan Congress is different as it is limited to 20 or fewer speakers during the 3 days of the Congress; and the Presenters must make themselves available at the end of the day to allow the audience to literally drag up a



Dr. Richard Hansen during a Round Table In June

chair and interact on a one on one basis with them. These 18 - 20 invited speakers also had the opportunity to interact with each other many times as they were guests at a Luncheon hosted by the Copan Association with the setting at the Bird Sanctuary, Macaw Mountain, who must make themselves available at the end of each day for one hour in order that the participants can visit on a one to one basis with these "stars" of the Maya world. It is the most attended event of the Congress. However, it is not the attendees who enjoy it the most, it is the Speakers themselves. These people are so busy that they hardly have time to interact with each other, much less attendees. Many commented on how these round tables helped them get in touch with what people wanted to really know and at times there were healthy debates between the speakers themselves. These Round Tables are planned in future itineraries of Congresses' to be held here in Copan and are setting a precedent at other



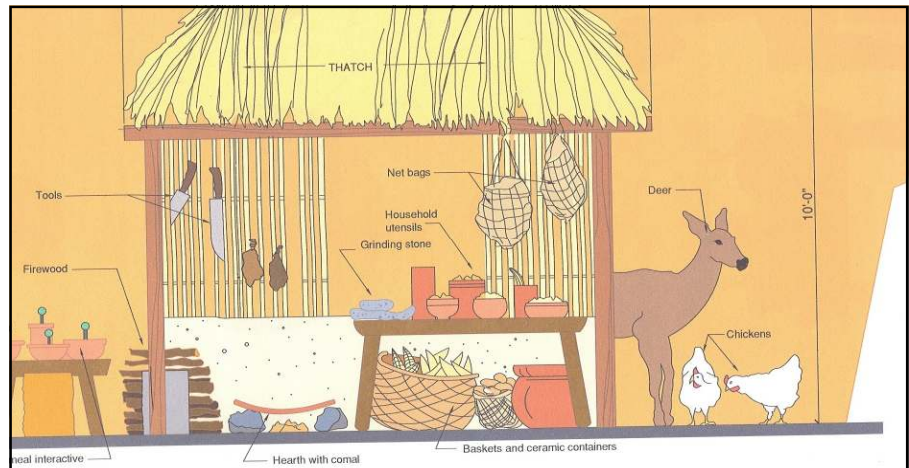
**Five young schoolgirls** beat the Tinkle drums one of the interactive displays available to the children and adults who think like children who visit Copan's only children's activity, the Casa K'inich Children's Learning Center. Casa K'inich is open daily from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 a.m. and the entrance is free. A new location for this popular site is under construction and is slated to open in early 2008. This small museum opened since 2001 and has attracted thousands of children from around the world.

The popularity stems from the playful, colorful and user friendly displays that teach so much to the person lucky enough to visit this site.

**Location:** Inside the Cultural Center across the street from Central Plaza

**Telephone:** 504 651 4105 (for group reservations)

**Hours:** Open Seven Days a Week 8:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.



One of the new interactive displays to be on exhibit at Casa K'inich new location