

Archaeological Collection Reflects Ancient Civilizations

An ancient world of tombs and temples exists in the heart of New Orleans — up four flights of steep steps in a musty old building overlooking St. Charles Avenue.

There, the stark white skeleton of a Mayan Indian finds repose in a tomb of intricately carved walls.

A dimly lighted temple beckons the visitor into its eerie beauty.

A mummy is curled into a sleeping position in a wooden box and a shrunken head sits staring from its shelf in a storeroom counter.

A lifelike Mayan woman kneels by her thatched hut, weaving a delicate pattern on a primitive loom.

The place is Dinwiddie Hall on the Tulane University campus which houses a little-known but important collection of artifacts from ancient Central American civilizations.

The collection is largely the result of 50 years of work by Tulane's Middle American Research Institute (M.A.R.I.) archaeologists-explorers who have braved crocodiles, ticks and coral snakes to foray by boat and mule into the Central American jungles. There, they've dug into the past and returned to the academic halls with rich and important evidence from the ancient world of the Mayas and Aztecs.

Many of the items are irreplaceable, and a few of the collections are the best of their kind in existence, according to Tulane authorities. The small museum gallery can hold only a sample of the artifacts — the rest are stacked, box upon box, in every nook and cranny, storeroom and hall, in the Institute quarters.

Gifts to the Institute over the years include probably the world's finest collection of marble vessels from the Ulua region of Honduras, dated about 900 A.D. and the Mathilda Gray collection of Guatemalan Indian textiles.

The Doris Zemurray Stone collection of Ulua and Yojoa pottery from Honduras occupies 310 storage boxes and the Zemurray Costa Rican collection, 40 boxes. Only a few



DR. ROBERT WAUCHOPE visits with an "old friend," the skeleton of an ancient Mayan, in the intricately carved reconstructed tomb which is part of the Middle American

exhibit cases are available to display them, however.

An island in this sea of treasures and boxes is the office of Dr. Robert Wauchope, institute director for the past 33 years and veteran of many field expeditions. The soft-spoken South Carolinian, a former president of the Society for American Archaeology, first journeyed into the jungles in 1932 as a staff member of the Carnegie Institution of Washington expedition to the ruins of Uxactun.

Equipped with little more than a poncho, machete and hemmock, Dr. Wauchope recalls spending 10 hours a back a mule named Golondrina, floundering in mud, dodging heavy undergrowth to reach the excavation site.

"Now, you can fly there and stay in comfortable quarters near the site — it took us six days by boat and mule back in 1932," he said.

Through the years, his attempts to unveil the secrets of past civilizations have led him through jungles, into the

highlands and even to live for a time in Indian villages.

"We learned to be careful of small things such as coral snakes, scorpions and spiders," says Dr. Wauchope, who confesses he still sometimes automatically empties his shoes and shakes out his trousers before putting them

on.

The archaeologist has recounted many of his experiences in the introduction to his book "They Found the Buried Cities," a lively account of early expedition into Central America.

When Dr. Wauchope retires next June, leadership of M.A.

Research Institute at Tulane University. Dr. Wauchope has been director of the institute for the past 33 years.

R.I. will be turned over to Dr. E. Wyllys Andrews V, whose late father initiated the Institute's Yucatan field work where excavations were begun in 1936.

The digging, supported by the National Geographic Society, the National Science Foundation and American Philosophical Society grants, continued for 15 years and revealed the largest and longest-inhabited city ever discovered in the region, with evidence of habitation from about 1200 B.C. to the time of the Spanish conquest.

Dr. Wauchope, whose works include eight books, five monographs and more than 100 articles, feels the field of Middle American archaeology is still open "for tremendous opportunities."

"There are hundreds of sites for archaeologists to dig, thousands of miles of virtually unknown territory for explorers to explore and more structures than one could visit in a lifetime," says the archaeologist.

"Doubtless there are scores, perhaps hundreds, of Maya towns and cities, some of major size, that have never been discovered."

As M.A.R.I. passes the half-century mark in 1974, Tulane has just completed a major dig in the southern part of Campeche, 225 miles south of the Yucatan sites.

Dr. Andrews, Dr. Wauchope's former student, takes over the helm at a time when the Institute faces a space

problem — It occupies exactly the same floor space as it did 50 years ago and most of the offices — even a small carpentry shop — doubles as storage space. A little room once available for visiting

scholars is completely filled with stored publications.

As for Dr. Wauchope, he plans to use his retirement to pursue his hobby—archaeology. He and Mrs. Wauchope will leave in March, 1975, for

Juliapa, Guatemala, where they'll explore for Indian ruins and dig at selected sites. Then, in the fall of 1975, he'll teach full time in the Tulane department of anthropology.

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Now Cornwall Is Going Nationalist

By RAYMOND R. COFFEY

(C. 1974, Chicago Daily News)
LONDON—As if the English didn't already have their hands full with the Scots, the Welsh and the Northern Irish, now it's the Cornish who are getting all steamed up about nationalism and demanding independence.

That's right, the Cornish — the folk from the old Royal Duchy of Cornwall that once supplied thousands of tin miners to the American melting pot and which is now the Southwestern most country of England.

A bunch of them have got together to demand that their own "ancient and sovereign" parliament be revived.

To advertise their cause and press their point they have begun to print their own Cornish money.

The denominations include the old shilling that Britain abandoned when it decimalized its money four years ago — and the Cornish bills, which do not carry a picture of Queen Elizabeth II as British banknotes do.

"What we want is a full return of everything we are entitled to under the law of the realm," said Brian Hambly, who has been chosen (or has chosen himself) as "Lord Protector of the Stannaries."

Cornwall was the last part of England to fall to the Saxon invaders more than a thousand years ago and the "Stannaries" was a system of laws later-developed to cover the tin miners who made up most of the population centuries ago.

Part of the system was the so-called "Stannary Parliament" that last met 222 years ago — but which Hambly and other Cornish nationalists insist is still, in constitutional terms, "perfectly valid."

Last February they "elected" 24 members of the Stannary and declared Cornwall back in business as an independent operator.

They also threatened to seize land in Cornwall belonging to the British Crown and declared this week that all laws passed by the British government in the last 222 years are invalid in Cornwall.

The only official reaction from the British government so far has been a letter from the Home Secretary questioning the method by which the

24 members of the new "Stannary" got themselves elected — and therefore refusing to pay any attention to them.

But Hambly — who is a bus driver when he is not on duty as "Lord Protector of the Stannaries" — figures even that was a victory.

By questioning the election methods, he said, the British government was by implication admitting Cornwall's right to have its own parliament.

"We are demanding our ancient liberties," he said in an interview. "No act of the British Parliament is valid in Cornwall unless the Stannary gives its assent. We are capable of running our own affairs."

None of this, he hastened to add, should be taken as being against Queen Elizabeth.

"We would still be under the British Crown," he said. "We would just go on as an independent Royal Duchy . . ."

The new issue of Cornish money has been backed so far by a grand total of 300 British pounds — about \$700 — raised by Frederick Trull, who is chief clerk of the Stannary parliament that was convened last February.

The new bills carry the slogan "Argho Kenethlek Kernow," which is Cornish for "National Fund of Cornwall."

But since hardly anyone, including Hambly or Trull, speaks much Cornish these days, there is an English translation handy on the reverse side of the bills.

Trull said he expects the new money to be bought first by collectors but that he sees no reason why the day won't come when it is the main currency of Cornwall.

Resurgent nationalism in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland has lately had some of Britain's soberest political commentators speculating on a break-up of the United Kingdom.

Now it's the Cornish making noises. Where will it all end?

Well, probably not in Cornwall. Viscount Weymouth, the ponytailed, golden-eared, guitar-picking 41-year-old hippie heir to the Marquess of Bath, wants to abolish parliament and bring back the legendary kingdom of Wessex that Alfred the Great put out of business more than a thousand years ago.



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