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Studying the indigenous cultures of Mexico and Central America since 1924



New Discovery about the Maya 2012 Date

Update on M.A.R.I.'s La Corona Archaeological Project



(photo courtesy of David Stuart)

Many of you may have heard or read about the discoveries made by M.A.R.I.'s La Corona Archaeological Project that were announced at the National Palace of Culture in Guatemala City on the June 28, 2012. Thank you all for your support and kind words. With your help, we are hopeful that we will be able to continue with our research in the upcoming years.

However, for those of you who have not heard about our recent discoveries, M.A.R.I. is proud to announce that in 2012, the La Corona project discovered a beautifully preserved hieroglyphic staircase that contained a dozen carved blocks with hundreds of hieroglyphs recounting the intricate political history of the Classic Maya site of La Corona and its allies.

However, among these inscribed blocks, one stood out because of its finely carved and intricate

text. It turned out that this special block's text contained only the second reference in the entire corpus of ancient Maya writing to the so-called "end date" of the Maya calendar that falls on December 21, 2012 - that is, the end of the 13th Bak'tun. Its discovery and decipherment were exciting moments for the project, especially since there has been so much hype about this particular date already and yet we were lucky enough to find an actual Maya reference to it!

At any rate, we received some press attention for our finds and we invite you to take a look further if interested. We have updated our M.A.R.I. website to accommodate the increased interest. We have added much more information about the discovery that includes photos, descriptions, and links to more detailed analyses. So please feel free to go to our website and take a look for yourself.

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