

nutritional goals, no nutritional data were collected as part of the program. As such, determining the nutritional effects of the policy becomes somewhat difficult. Agricultural and economic anthropologists may find the volume of most interest. But even anthropologists with just general interests in Mexico will find the excellent final chapter, "Final Reflections," authored by the volume's two editors, well worth their time. It sums up the rest of the book in as much detail as most will want. The approach that I would recommend would be to begin with this chapter, and then read other sections of the volume that seem of interest. The book discusses in great depth a most interesting approach to food policy but for most of us, it is more information that we are likely to find useful or to appreciate.

*Roles Conyugales Y Redes de Relaciones Sociales*, INGRID ROSENBLUETH, Cuadernos Universitarios 15, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana—Iztapalapa, México, D.F., México, 1984. 203 pp., appendix, bibliography. ISBN 968-840-101-3, n.p.

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This is a study of twenty upper middle class nuclear families in metropolitan Mexico City, with fieldwork and interviews conducted during eight months in 1974-75. The focus is on the married pair and the nature of their social networks, including consideration of some recent social science ideas from Elizabeth Bott, Peter Blau, and others.

Topics covered include relations between husband's and wife's occupations, roles, and nuclear family organization and type of relations between the nuclear and extended families of both spouses. Rosenblueth has identified several types of patterns of conjugal role relations among her twenty cases. These include three basic types referred to as "complementary," "united" (*conjunto*), and "segregated." Briefly, "complementary" refers to the case where the nature of the marriage relationship and its networks are driven by the business interest of one of the married pair, usually the husband, and the respective roles of husband and wife are clearly distinct. In the "united" type the roles of the pair are more "equal" in that both carry out domestic activities and often together. In contrast, "segregated" is where neither husband nor wife spend much time with one another or in joint or family activities. Additionally, various combinations of these types are isolated and described by Rosenblueth. In each she discusses the general characteristics of the type based on the actual cases, occupation(s), conjugal roles, and their social networks and relations. Despite some interesting discussion of the couples studied, there are no surprises in this study and Rosenblueth's conclusions fit well within Blau's social exchange theory. Still, this small volume will be of interest to those concerned with social networks and marital roles among the middle and upper classes in Latin America.

\*EDITOR'S NOTE: This review was previously published with omissions in the *SLAA Newsletter*, Volume IV, 1987-88. This complete review is published with apologies to its author.

## Archaeology and Ethnohistory

*A Dream of Maya: Augustus and Alice Le Plongeon in Nineteenth-Century Yucatan*. LAWRENCE GUSTAVE DESMOND and PHILLIS MAUCH MESSENGER. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1988. xi + 147 pp., bibliography, Index. \$19.95 (paper). ISBN 0-8263-1000-1

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This biography of Augustus and Alice Le Plongeon should interest historians of both archaeology and photography. Not only does it describe in detail the Le Plongeon's life work in the Yucatan but it also reproduces Augustus' stunning photographs—"originally shot in stereo" (p. xvi)—of the Mayan ruins as they looked in the late nineteenth century. In addition, the study movingly chronicles a Victorian marriage in which the couple's professional collaboration sustained their personal life. The Le Plongeon's sense that the "Yucatan was their life; the Maya, their family" (p. 99) proceeded from their unusual

devotion to each other.

Throughout the book, Desmond and Messenger are careful to distinguish between the virtues of the Le Plongeon's painstaking dedication to preserving Mayan archaeology and Augustus' theory that "ancient Maya civilization... [was] the mother culture of the world" (p. 1). His mystical thesis that Mayan Queen M'oo was a "long-lost sister" (p. 32) of Egyptian rulers has been unanimously rejected, yet the authors applaud Augustus' single-minded devotion to preserving the Mayan ruins, his unpaid tenure treating the Mayan people for smallpox, and his meticulous papier-mache molds of small architectural details, which his photographs could not reproduce. A brief discussion in the book's first few pages of Augustus' eclectic pursuits before he met Alice Dixon in 1871—he was alternately teacher, surveyor, adventurer, photographer, medical student, and quasi-seismologist—stresses the importance for Augustus of his marriage to the twenty-year old Alice: it solidified his decision to "delve into the secrets of the ancient Maya" (p. 13).

Regrettably, however, the authors do not make much of the Le Plongeon's significantly disparate impulses to record their instinctive sense of Mayan history. While

Augustus sought professional sanction of his thesis linking the Maya with Egypt, Alice seemed to recognize that this thesis was the fantastic offspring of their imagination. She turned to fiction to express her near-religious communion with the Maya, writing verses published under the title Queen M'oo's Talisman and receiving "some public appreciation and acclaim in literary circles" (p. 120). Seemingly more cognizant than Augustus that their interest in archaeology satisfied a spiritual need, Alice's writings emphasize the poetic rather than the scientific nature of their enterprise. It is appropriate, therefore, that their friend, John Opdycke, called them above all "artists and philosophers in the field of archaeology" (p. 126).

While Augustus photographed and cast the details of Uxmal's and Chichen Itza's structures, Alice recorded the Le Plongeons' domestic routine and the rituals of the Mayan people she admired. Her journalism approached the kind of style scholars were prescribing in order to assist archaeology to "develop. . . [into] an academic discipline" (p. xix). Moving "from speculation to description and gathering of facts" (p. xix), the excerpts from Alice's journals quoted in this volume earned her praise in *Scientific American* (1895) as one who had "contributed vastly to the knowledge and culture of the age" (p. 113).

And yet, Augustus also earns our admiration, as Desmond and Messenger empathetically chronicle his professional disappointments and his growing alienation from the scholarly echelon to which he aspired. For this reason, a question raised in the book's last pages startles: "Was Augustus Le Plongeon really a crackpot?" (p. 130). Nothing in the narrative suggests that he was more "cracked" than one whose work is fired by the imagination. Augustus' Mayan research—part data and part mythology—should invigorate researchers in any field precisely because much contemporary scholarship lacks his work's blood and fire.

***Maya Rulers of Time: A Study of the Architectural Sculpture at Tikal, Guatemala.* ARTHUR G. MILLER. Philadelphia: The University Museum, University of Pennsylvania, 1986. 96 pp. \$26.95 (paper) ISBN 0-8122-0956-7**

- MARSHALL BECKER  
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*Maya Rulers of Time*, produced to accompany the exhibition "Time and Rulers at Tikal: Architectural Sculpture of the Maya," meets the test of a good catalogue—it communicates the essential ideas of the associated exhibition even when separated from the three dimensional materials it describes. Not only is this a very useful publication, but it also is fully bilingual (Spanish and English).

The exquisitely produced exhibition with which this volume is associated opened at The University Museum in Philadelphia. In 1987 the exhibition began an extended tour throughout the country, affording visitors a sense of the splendor of this ancient Maya city. This volume, focusing on the sculpture which once adorned various buildings at Tikal, demonstrates how architecture and

other aspects of art reflected the power of Maya rulers during the Classic period, about 250 to 900 A.D. Perhaps the most important archaeological materials illustrated are the sculptured stone monuments with texts attesting to the wealth and abilities of individual rulers at Tikal and specifying their place in the history of the city. Other texts, carved into wooden lintels and on bone plaques or written on polychrome vessels, provide further evidence by which the dynastic sequence of Tikal has been reconstructed and details of the lives of individual rulers (dates of birth and of marriages) have been made known to us.

The excellent graphics and sophisticated layout of this slim volume help to transmit to the reader an understanding of the complexity of this civilization at its peak. Most importantly, Miller emphasizes that recent advances made in the translation of the written language have transformed our understanding of these people. As Christopher Jones points out in his brief introductory essay, "The Revolution in Maya Studies," these texts provide vast amounts of information about individuals and families at sites such as Tikal, clearly documenting the historical context within which these people lived.

Miller's three chapters provide information on the Maya calendar and its importance in the lives of these people, a review of the epigraphic evidence and how it enables us to give meaning to the archaeological data, and how writing and sculpture were used by the elite to maintain a political system which was the essence of Classic Maya civilization. Miller's interpretation of these relationships may be the weakest aspect of this volume, but his bold strokes paint a vivid picture of how these people created a social and political system which was capable of amassing an economic base upon which such a society could be built.

In drawing together the many iconographic elements relating to architectural sculpture Miller has built an elegant model reflecting life in ancient Tikal. The book thus provides a good introduction for general readers and for scholars want a brief overview of such subjects. In addition to providing a glimpse of Classic Maya society, Miller's footnotes deftly summarize many of the controversies regarding the interpretations of the data as discussed by the leading scholars in the field. When coupled with studies of the historical texts themselves, this volume offers a useful overview of the ideas of contemporary Mayanists who are decoding the archaeological record.

***Maya Postclassic State Formation: Segmentary Lineage Migration in Advancing Frontiers.* JOHN W. FOX. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987. 310 pp. \$44.50 (cloth) ISBN 0-521-32110-7**

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What prompted the collapse of Classic period lowland Maya civilization? How were Central Mexican and Gulf Coast beliefs and artistic conventions transmitted to eastern Mesoamerica during the Early Postclassic period? How was prehispanic Mesoamerica interconnected at the macroregional scale? In *Maya Postclassic State Formation*,