

Alianza de las Artes Americanas
NOVEDADES
del Nuevo Mundo
FALL, 2011



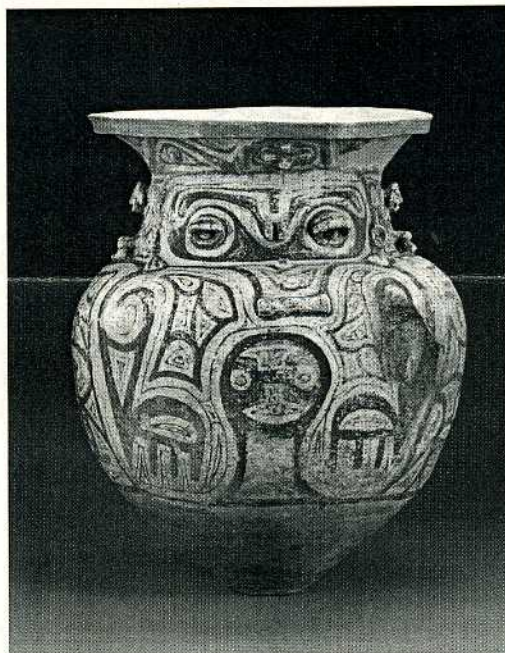
11th - Annual Mayer Center Symposium to Focus on the Island Civilization of Marajó and the Ancient Amazonian World

In conjunction with the current exhibition, *Marajó and the Ancient Amazonian World*, the Frederick and Jan Mayer Center for pre-Columbian and Spanish Colonial Art is sponsoring its annual symposium on the topic of the ancient island civilization of Marajó. Organized by pre-Columbian Curator Margaret Young-Sanchez, this year's symposium will be held on Friday, September 16 (9:00 am-5 pm) and Saturday, September 17 (10:00 am-noon) in the Sharp Auditorium, Hamilton Building, at the Denver Art Museum. The Saturday workshop will be held in the exhibit gallery on the second floor, Hamilton. Attendance at the workshop is optional and limited. There will also be a special lecture at 5:30 p.m. on Friday by Peter Schjeldahl, art critic, *The New Yorker*, followed by a cocktail reception. The symposium is \$70 for *Alianza* members, \$75 for DAM members and non-Colorado participants, \$80 others, \$20 students. For more information, please email: mayercenter@denverartmuseum.org.

Long virtually unknown to the North American and European audiences, the Amazon Basin is now recognized as a cradle of cultural and technological innovation in the ancient Americas. The hemisphere's earliest known ceramics (about 5000 B.C.) were produced there, and archaeology is revealing the

remains of large settlements, ancient mound structures and extensive water management systems, all built over the course of centuries.

offerings in ancient Marajó cemeteries attest to the technical skill and artistry of Amazonian potters, and the complexity and sophistication of their cosmology.



Large earthenware funerary urn painted with intricate design of an Owl

Marajó Island, located at the mouth of the Amazon River in Brazil, was home to one of the region's most populous and sophisticated ancient societies (A.D. 300-1300). The world's largest fluvial island (about the size of the Netherlands), much of Marajó's territory is flooded during the rainy season each year. Island chiefdoms built impressive artificial mounds to support multifamily residential longhouses, ceremonial spaces, and cemeteries. Beautifully decorated ceramics deposited as

This year's speakers include the following: Michael Heckenberger, University of Florida, *Garden Cities of the Southern Amazon*; Peter Roe, University of Delaware, *Enlightened Pottery: Shipibo Ceramics and the Polychrome Horizon*; Anna Roosevelt, University of Chicago, *The Origin of Marajoara Society and its Influence in Amazoniana from Prehistory to Today*; Denise Schaan, Federal University of Pará, Brazil, *Land of the Ancestors: Archaeology at the Amazon River Mouth*; Nigel Smith, University of Florida, *Livelihoods on Marajó Islands and their Links to the Past*; John Walker, University of Central Florida, *Landscape, Art and Design in the Llanos de Mojos, Bolivia*.

**Last Chance to See
Marvelous Mud Exhibit,**
a museum-wide exhibit of clay in its many forms which includes contemporary ceramics in *Overthrown*, the Marajó Exhibit, and ceramics in many of the galleries at the museum, including *Mud to Masterpieces* on the fourth Floor, North. All exhibits will end mid-September.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome back to another busy year of unique *Alianza* events and activities. It will be difficult to top last year's fine programs, membership and marketing successes. However, the board is hard at work, and we have some tantalizing things in store for you. Be sure to add our new website, www.Alianza-dam.org, to your list of favorites and check it frequently for updates in programming and activities.

We open the season with the Frederick and Jan Mayer Center Symposium on *Marajó and the Ancient Amazonian World*, followed in October with a lecture by Dr. Jillian Mollenhauer on Olmec stone monuments and in November by ceramicist Jacobo de la Serna, the contemporary southwestern artist who fashioned the stunning ceramic vase which *Alianza* purchased for the collection this year. Many of us enjoyed the Fiesta on the Lake at Joe and Joyce Solomon's in August, and we look forward to the traditional holiday gathering at Ruth and Paul Tomlison's on December 11.

Also in September, *Alianza* members will again have the opportunity to purchase a second reduction woodblock print by nationally-known artist Leon Loughridge for a special introductory price of \$110 plus tax, after which the print will be offered to the public for \$160. 50% of the sales are donated back to *Alianza*. This year, Leon, who shows at the Gerald Peters Gallery in Santa Fe and the Tina Goodwin Gallery in Denver, will produce an image of Montezuma's Castle in Arizona. Those who purchase the print are invited to a gallery celebration at the Tina Goodwin Gallery in Denver on October 13. Last year we raised more than \$3000 from this event thanks to Leon's generosity, and we hope to be equally successful this year.

After the first of the year, we will welcome Andrew Hamilton, our *Alianza* Mayer Scholarship winner, who will spend several weeks in Denver studying the pre-Columbian Collection. Our 2012 speakers include Mark Sciscenti, a chocolate specialist from Santa Fe, who will give us a special demonstration and tasting in January. In February, Dr. Edwin Barnhart from the University of Texas will speak on the significance of the year 2012 in the Mayan Calendar. *Alianza* also hopes to hold a gala benefit for the department, *A Night in Old Mexico*. Stay tuned for details of the event which is just now in the planning process and feel free to volunteer to help. All ideas and manpower welcome!

By now you have received your membership renewal letters and we eagerly await your response. Membership revenues account for a third of our budget each year, so your participation is important. For those who can join at the Patron (\$125 and above) level, Ed and Hope Connors have graciously consented to open their new home and reinstalled collection of Santos to us for a Patron event on November 20.

Finally, please welcome three new board members David Butler, Marty Corren and Madalena Salazar. We have a talented and hard-working board, and I very much look forward to the year ahead.

Barbara Kelly, President

Patron Event Planned for November 20, 2011

Each year, those who join at the Patron level or higher are invited to one or two special events. This fall, members will be treated to preview the reinstallation of the Santos collection of Ed and Hope Connors in their new residence. Following the lecture on Sunday, November 20, the Connors will host a reception at their home at 4:30 pm for all patron members. Invitations will be sent out in November.

