



Fig. 7: Etzna Glyphic Stone with portrait sign. (Photo: Karl H. Mayer, 1994)

it represents a human head, facing left; it is a female portrait glyph (Fig. 7).

### Investigations at El Pilar: Cultural – natural resource conservation and development in the Maya forest

SANTA BARBARA (Anabel Ford). The El Pilar Program, under the direction of Anabel Ford, has attracted an international and multi-disciplinary research and development team with the momentum to evolve an unique conservation plan incorporating local community needs, government development agenda, and international environmental concerns. The core of the El Pilar vision comes from research on the evolution of the ancient Maya landscape. The essence of this program acknowledges that clues to sustaining the complex habitats of today's Maya forest environment are embedded in ancient Maya prehistory. The design for the new El Pilar Archaeological Reserve for Maya Flora and Fauna in Belize/Guatemala is based on ancient Maya settlement patterns and is designed to develop a resource management model that conserves environmental diversity and preserves the irreplaceable cultural heritage of the ancient and contemporary populations in the region. This vision has been adopted by an international group of professionals, supported by the diplomatic community, and endorsed by the governments of Belize and Guatemala.

The staged project of the Belize River Archaeological Settlement Survey (BRASS) was designed to compile regional settlement data, identify local community patterns and investigate household organization evident in the archaeological record of the central Maya lowlands. The research results present a picture of the ancient Maya economic landscape as a continuum of land use strategies from densely settled, intensively-used uplands with public centres, dispersed and extensively-used transitional zones loosely organ-

ized around resident elite, to unsettled swamps. The regional centre of El Pilar stretches over an area of more than 40 hectares (100 acres) and was constructed over the course of 15 centuries, beginning in the Middle Preclassic before 500 B.C. This important ancient Maya centre is composed of several sectors unified by causeways, one of which connects across a contemporary political boundary, linking Belize and Guatemala. To accomplish the goal of improving living standards and self sufficiency of the regional community of the Maya forest, the immediate and short-term needs of families must be incorporated into the long-term agenda of sustainability. A cooperative association has already been established with Amigos de El Pilar, a community-based organization promoting local participation in the reserve. Their goal is to develop community enterprises in tourism and agriculture that increase villagers' economic stake in the reserve.

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### Five new archaeological sites discovered in the Tlaxcala region

MEXICO CITY (Arqueología Mexicana). Recently, campesinos and archaeologists of the Mexican INAH at Tlaxcala have discovered five new archaeological sites in the Tlaxcala region. Three have been located in the capital of the Calpulalpan municipality. They are situated in areas adjacent to the archaeological sites of Tecoaque, where several skulls of Spanish soldiers and horses were found some years ago, and La Herradura. Two other sites have been discovered in the municipal territory of Alzayanca. With these findings the number of registered archaeological sites in the Tlaxcala area amounts to 1095. Until now, only five of them have been broadly explored: Cacaxtla, Xochitecatl, Tizatlan, Tecoaque and La Herradura.

### Prehispanic findings in the Mexican state of Guerrero

MEXICO CITY (H-Mexico). Recently, several objects of Prehispanic and Prehistoric origin were brought to the Centro Regional of INAH in the Mexican state of Guerrero by a private person. According to an official communication of INAH, the pieces of high archaeological value consist among other things, of six vessels, several stone beads, a clay figurine, a stone sculpture in the form of a human head, and diverse organic fragments, such as pieces of wood, copal and textiles. With the assistance of the bearer of the archaeological objects it has been possible to identify the place from where they were looted about twenty years ago. The objects originally were found in a cave at the summit of the Cerro de la Peña, near Oztotitlan, Guerrero. According to archaeologist Elisabeth Jiménez, on ascending the hill, a team of investigators found alignments of stones, *tepalcates* of orange and red colour, a fragment of Postclassic polychrome ceramic, fragments of *metates* and *metlapiles*, knives and projectile points of black obsidian. Only a few metres in front of the entrance of the cave, the archaeologists discovered residues of adobe deposits covered with stucco. Jiménez suggests these constructions could have possibly served for water collection. Inside the cave, rock