

ROMANCING THE MAYA

MEXICAN ANTIQUITY IN THE
AMERICAN IMAGINATION 1820-1915



R. TRIPP EVANS

Romancing The Maya Mexican Antiquity In The American Imagination 1820 1915

**Peter M. Burns, Cathy Palmer, Jo-Anne
Lester, Lyn Bibbings**



Romancing The Maya Mexican Antiquity In The American Imagination 1820 1915:

Romancing the Maya R. Tripp Evans, 2010-06-28 During Mexico's first century of independence European and American explorers rediscovered its pre Hispanic past Finding the jungle covered ruins of lost cities and artifacts inscribed with unintelligible hieroglyphs and having no idea of the age authorship or purpose of these antiquities amateur archaeologists artists photographers and religious writers set about claiming Mexico's pre Hispanic patrimony as a rightful part of the United States cultural heritage In this insightful work Tripp Evans explores why nineteenth century Americans felt entitled to appropriate Mexico's cultural heritage as the United States own He focuses in particular on five well known figures American writer and amateur archaeologist John Lloyd Stephens British architect Frederick Catherwood Joseph Smith founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and the French migr photographers D sir Charnay and Augustus Le Plongeon Setting these figures in historical and cultural context Evans uncovers their varying motives including the Manifest Destiny inspired desire to create a national museum of American antiquities in New York City the attempt to identify the ancient Maya as part of the Lost Tribes of Israel and so substantiate the Book of Mormon and the hope of proving that ancient Mesoamerica was the cradle of North American and even Northern European civilization Fascinating stories in themselves these accounts of the first explorers also add an important new chapter to the early history of Mesoamerican archaeology

Tourism and Visual Culture Methods and cases Peter M. Burns, Cathy Palmer, Jo-Anne Lester, Lyn Bibbings, 2010 The study of tourism as a complex social phenomenon beyond simply business is increasing in importance Providing an examination of perceptions of culture and society in tourism destinations through the tourist's eyes this book discusses how destinations were and are created and perceived through the lens of the tourist's gaze

The Order of Days David Stuart, 2011-05-17 The world's foremost expert on Maya culture looks at 2012 hysteria and explains the truth about what the Maya meant and what we want to believe Apocalypse 2012 An Investigation into Civilizations End The World Cataclysm in 2012 2012 The return of Quetzalcoatl According to many of these alarmingly titled books the ancient Maya not only had a keen insight into the mystical workings of our planet and the cosmos but they were also able to predict that the world will end in the year 2012 David Stuart the foremost scholar of the Maya and recipient of numerous awards for his work takes a hard look at the frenzy over 2012 and offers a fascination and accurate trip through Mayan culture and belief Stuart shows how the idea that the end of the Mayan calendar which supposedly heralds the end of our own existence says far more about our culture than about the ancient Maya The Order of Days explores how the real intellectual achievement of ancient Maya timekeeping and worldview is far more impressive and remarkable than any of the popular and often outrageous claims about this advanced civilization As someone who has studied the Maya for nearly all of his life and who specializes in reading their ancient texts Stuart sees the 2012 hubbub as the most recent in a long chain of related ideas about Mesoamericans the Maya in particular that depicts them as somehow oddball not of this world or as having some strong mystical link to other

realms Because the year 2012 has no prominent role in anything the ancient Maya ever actually wrote Stuart takes a wider look at the Maya concepts of time and their underlying philosophy as we can best understand them The ancient Maya Stuart contends were worthy of study and admiration not because they were strange but because they were altogether human and they developed a compelling vision of time unlike any other civilization before or since

Collecting Mesoamerican Art before 1940 Andrew D. Turner, Megan E. O'Neil, 2024-02-13 The untold chronicles of the looting and collecting of ancient Mesoamerican objects This book traces the fascinating history of how and why ancient Mesoamerican objects have been collected It begins with the pre Hispanic antiquities that first entered European collections in the sixteenth century as gifts or seizures continues through the rise of systematic collecting in Europe and the Americas during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and ends in 1940 the start of Europe's art market collapse at the outbreak of World War II and the coinciding genesis of the large scale art market for pre Hispanic antiquities in the United States Drawing upon archival resources and international museum collections the contributors analyze the ways shifting patterns of collecting and taste including how pre Hispanic objects changed from being viewed as anthropological and scientific curiosities to collectible artworks have shaped modern academic disciplines as well as public private institutional and nationalistic attitudes toward Mesoamerican art As many nations across the world demand the return of their cultural patrimony and ancestral heritage it is essential to examine the historical processes events and actors that initially removed so many objects from their countries of origin

The Transnational Construction of Mayanness Fernando Armstrong-Fumero, Ben Fallaw, 2023-05-15 The Transnational Construction of Mayanness explores how US academics travelers officials and capitalists contributed to the construction of the Maya as an area of academic knowledge and affected the lives of the Maya peoples who were the subject of generations of anthropological research from the mid nineteenth century to the present Expanding discussions of the neocolonial relationship between the US and its southern neighbors and emphasizing little studied texts virtually inaccessible to those in Mexico and Central America this is the first and only set of comparative studies to bring in US based documentary collections as an enriching source of evidence Contributors tap documentary ethnographic and ethnoarchaeological sources from North America to expand established categories of fieldwork and archival research conducted within the national spaces of Mexico and Central America A particularly rich and diverse set of case studies interrogate the historical processes that remove sources from their place of production in the field to the US challenge the conventional wisdom regarding the geography of data sources that are available for research and reveal a range of historical relationships that enabled US actors to shape the historical experience of Maya speaking peoples The Transnational Construction of Mayanness offers rich insight into transnational relations and suggests new avenues of research that incorporate an expanded corpus of materials that embody the deep seated relationship between Maya speaking peoples and various gringo interlocutors The work is an important bridge between Mayanist anthropology and historiography and broader literatures in American Atlantic and

Indigenous studies Contributors David Carey M Bianet Castellanos Matilde C rdoaba Azc rate Lydia Crafts John Gust Julio Cesar Hoil Gutierr z Jennifer Mathews Matthew Watson *Latin American Popular Culture Since Independence* William H. Beezley,Linda Ann Curcio,2012 This unique reader offers an engaging collection of essays that highlight the diversity of Latin America s cultural expressions from independence to the present Leading historians explore funerals dance and music letters and literature spectacles and monuments and world s fairs and food These themes and events highlight the ways in which a wide range of individuals with copious at times contradictory motives attempted to forge identity turn the world upside down mock their betters forget their troubles through dance express love in letters and altogether enjoy life The authors analyze case studies from Argentina Brazil the Dominican Republic Ecuador Mexico Nicaragua Peru and Trinidad Tobago tracing how their examples resonate in the rest of the region They show how people could and did find opportunities to escape if only occasionally their daily drudgery making lives for themselves of greater variety than the constant quest for dominance drive for profits or knee jerk resistance to the social or economic order so often described in cultural studies Instead this rich text introduces the complexity of motives behind and the diversity of expressions of popular culture in Latin America

Contributions by Sal Acosta Thomas L Benjamin John Charles Chasteen Dari n J Davis Lauren Robin H Derby Matthew D Esposito Ingrid E Fey Stephen Jay Gould Graham E L Horton Fanni Mu oz Cabrejo Blanca Muratorio Jeffrey M Pilcher Janet Sturman and Pamela Voekel *Imperial Stewards* K. Ian Shin,2025-07-22 From the Gilded Age to World War II elite collectors and museums in the United States transformed from owning a smattering of Chinese porcelain as curios to possessing some of the world s largest and most sophisticated collections of Chinese art Imperial Stewards argues that beyond aesthetic taste and economics geopolitics were critical to this transformation Collecting and studying Chinese art and antiquities honed Americans belief that they should dominate Asia and the Pacific Ocean through the ideology of imperial stewardship a view that encompassed both genuine curiosity and care for Chinese art and the enduring structures of domination and othering that underpinned the burgeoning transpacific art market Tracing both transatlantic and transpacific networks across the Pacific and the Atlantic K Ian Shin uncovers a diverse cast of historical actors that both contributed to US imperial stewardship and also challenged it including Protestant missionaries German diplomats Chinese Hawaiian merchants and Chinese overseas students among others By examining the development of Chinese art collecting and scholarship in the United States around the turn of the twentieth century Imperial Stewards reveals both the cultural impetus behind Americans long standing aspirations for a Pacific Century and a way to understand and critique the duality of US imperial power around the globe

A Cultural History of Underdevelopment John Patrick Leary,2016-11-10 A Cultural History of Underdevelopment explores the changing place of Latin America in U S culture from the mid nineteenth century to the recent U S Cuba d tente In doing so it uncovers the complex ways in which Americans have imagined the global geography of poverty and progress as the hemispheric imperialism of the nineteenth century yielded to the Cold War

discourse of underdevelopment John Patrick Leary examines representations of uneven development in Latin America across a variety of genres and media from canonical fiction and poetry to cinema photography journalism popular song travel narratives and development theory For the United States Latin America has figured variously as good neighbor and insurgent threat as its possible future and a remnant of its past By illuminating the conventional ways in which Americans have imagined their place in the hemisphere the author shows how the popular image of the United States as a modern exceptional nation has been produced by a century of encounters that travelers writers radicals filmmakers and others have had with Latin America Drawing on authors such as James Weldon Johnson Willa Cather and Ernest Hemingway Leary argues that Latin America has figured in U S culture not just as an exotic other but as the familiar reflection of the United States own regional racial class and political inequalities

Nature and Antiquities Philip L. Kohl, Irina Podgorny, Stefanie Gänger, 2014-12-04 Nature and Antiquities analyzes how the study of indigenous peoples was linked to the study of nature and natural sciences Leading scholars break new ground and entreat archaeologists to acknowledge the importance of ways of knowing in the study of nature in the history of archaeology

A Maya Universe in Stone Stephen Houston, 2021-11-16 The first study devoted to a single sculptor in ancient America as understood through four unprovenanced masterworks traced to a small sector of Guatemala In 1950 Dana Lamb an explorer of some notoriety stumbled on a Maya ruin in the tropical forests of northern Guatemala Lamb failed to record the location of the site he called Laxtunich turning his find into the mystery at the center of this book The lintels he discovered there long since looted are probably of a set with two others that are among the masterworks of Maya sculpture from the Classic period Using fieldwork physical evidence and Lamb s expedition notes the authors identify a small area with archaeological sites where the carvings were likely produced Remarkably the vividly colored lintels replete with dynastic and cosmic information can be assigned to a carver Mayuy who sculpted his name on two of them To an extent nearly unique in ancient America Mayuy can be studied over time as his style developed and his artistic ambition grew An in depth analysis of Laxtunich Lintel 1 examines how Mayuy grafted celestial seasonal and divine identities onto a local magnate and his overlord from the kingdom of Yaxchilan Mexico This volume contextualizes the lintels and points the way to their reprovenancing and as an ultimate aim repatriation to Guatemala

Coming of Age in Chicago Curtis M. Hinsley, David R. Wilcox, 2016-02 Coming of Age in Chicago explores a watershed moment in American anthropology when an unprecedented number of historians and anthropologists of all subfields gathered on the 1893 Chicago Columbian Exposition fairgrounds drawn together by the fair s focus on indigenous peoples Participants included people making a living with their research sporadic backyard diggers religiously motivated researchers and a small group who sought a scientific understanding of the lifeways of indigenous peoples At the fair they set the foundation for anthropological inquiry and redefined the field At the same time the American public became aware through their own experiences at the fair of a global humanity with reactions that ranged from revulsion to curiosity tolerance and

kindness Curtis M Hinsley and David R Wilcox combine primary historical texts modern essays and rarely seen images from the period to create a volume essential for understanding the significance of this event These texts explore the networking of thinkers planners dreamers schemers and scholars who interacted in a variety of venues to lay the groundwork for museums academic departments and expeditions These new relationships helped shape the profession and the trajectory of the discipline and they still resonate more than a century later Beyond Alterity Paula López Caballero,Ariadna

Acevedo-Rodrigo,2018-04-17 A sweeping look at the complicated concept and history of Indigeneity in Mexico Provided by publisher Travel Narratives, Travel Fictions Daniel Cooper Alarcón,2024-02-02 In Travel Narratives Travel Fictions

Daniel Cooper Alarcón argues that travel literature performs important social and cultural criticism often overlooked in studies of the genre By examining non fiction and fiction novels and short stories that purposefully examine different types of travel in relationship to each other Cooper Alarcón documents and highlights the sophisticated ways that both types of writing have anticipated and contributed ideas central to critical studies of travel tourism and migration The author uses the term travel fictions to illustrate the ways in which travel narratives supposed factual accounts of travel often misrepresent distort and fabricate notions about the people and places they purport to describe creating useful mythologies and hinting at the ways in which the acts of reading and writing have become an integral part of traveling shaping not just itineraries but perceptions and beliefs about places travelers visit Both types of travel writing are influential in this regard and they frequently borrow from one another mutually reinforcing ideas tropes and modes of representation often in problematic ways

Empires of the Dead Christopher Heaney,2023 This book explains why Inca mummies and ancient Peruvian skulls filled museums around the world from 1532 to the present and why they tell us more about the colonial violence of science than their more famous Egyptian cousins Ornamental Nationalism Seonaid Valiant,2017-09-25 In Ornamental Nationalism Archaeology and Antiquities in Mexico 1876 1911 Seonaid Valiant examines the Porfirian government's reworking of indigenous particularly Aztec images to create national symbols She focuses in particular on the career of Mexico's first national archaeologist Inspector General Leopoldo Batres He was a controversial figure who was accused of selling artifacts and damaging sites through professional incompetence by his enemies but who also played a crucial role in establishing Mexican control over the nation's archaeological heritage Exploring debates between Batres and his rivals such as the anthropologists Zelia Nuttall and Marshall Saville Valiant reveals how Porfirian politicians reinscribed the political meaning of artifacts while social scientists both domestic and international struggled to establish standards for Mexican archaeology that would undermine such endeavors Narrating the Landscape Matthew N. Johnston,2016-04-14 The American nineteenth century saw a largely rural nation confined to the Eastern Seaboard conquer a continent and spawn increasingly dense commercial metropolises This time of unprecedented territorial and economic growth has long been thought to find its most sweeping visual equivalent in the period's landscape paintings But as Matthew N Johnston shows the age's defining

features were just as clearly captured in and motivated by visual material mass produced through innovations in printing technology Illustrated railroad and steamboat guidebooks tourist literature reports of geological surveys ethnographic studies all of these new print vehicles brought new meanings to the interplay of time space and place as American continental expansion peaked Instrumental to that project of national and industrial growth these commercial and scientific publications introduced readers travelers and citizens to a changing North American landscape made more accessible by new travel routes blazed between 1825 and 1875 More fundamentally as Johnston shows in his nuanced analysis by simulating new temporal frameworks through their presentation of landscape these print materials established new models of consumption and new kinds of knowledge critical to expansion Johnston relates these sources to traditional art historical subjects the landscapes of the Hudson River school luminist paintings by John Kensett and William Trost Richards Native portraits painted by George Catlin and photographs by Timothy O Sullivan to show how key discourses associated with expansion shifted away from picturesque strategies pairing imagery and narrative toward entirely new forms that gave temporal structure to viewers experience of an emerging modernity Revealing the crucial role of print and visual culture in shaping the nineteenth century United States Narrating the Landscape offers fresh insight into the landscapes Americans beheld and imagined in this formative era *The Catherwood Project* Leandro Katz,Jesse Lerner,2017-10-15 The work of Argentine photographer Leandro Katz is presented here in dialogue with the nineteenth century artist Frederick Catherwood whose images of Maya ruins have fascinated viewers for more than a century Catherwood s daguerreotypes and sketches originally published to illustrate the travel narratives of John Lloyd Stephens are among the most accurate depictions of important Maya sites before the advent of modern archaeology Katz s photos of the same sites most of which are previously unpublished are presented alongside Jesse Lerner s essay which explores their connections to the history of archaeology their resonance in contemporary art and the evolution of an artist who seamlessly integrates form and content

Postapocalyptic Fantasies in Antebellum American Literature John Hay,2017-10-05 Even before the Civil War American writers were imagining life after a massive global catastrophe For many the blank slate of the American continent was instead a wreckage strewn wasteland a new world in ruins Bringing together epic and lyric poems fictional tales travel narratives and scientific texts Postapocalyptic Fantasies in Antebellum American Literature reveals that US authors who enthusiastically celebrated the myths of primeval wilderness and virgin land also frequently resorted to speculations about the annihilation of civilizations past and future By examining such postapocalyptic fantasies this study recovers an antebellum rhetoric untethered to claims for historical exceptionalism a patriotic rhetoric that celebrates America while denying the United States a unique position outside of world history As the scientific field of natural history produced new theories regarding biological extinction geological transformation and environmental collapse American writers responded with wild visions of the ancient past and the distant future **Peripheral Visions** Edward D. Terry,2010-03-16 The essays

in this collection illuminate both the processes of change and the negative reactions that they frequently elicited Yucatan has been called a world apart cut off from the rest of Mexico by geography and culture Yet despite its peripheral location the region experienced substantial change in the decades after independence As elsewhere in Mexico apostles of modernization introduced policies intended to remold Yucatan in the image of the advanced nations of the day Indeed modernizing change began in the late colonial era and continued throughout the 19th century as traditional patterns of land tenure were altered and efforts were made to divest the Catholic Church of its wealth and political and intellectual influence Some changes however produced fierce resistance from both elites and humbler Yucatecans and modernizers were frequently forced to retreat or at least reach accommodation with their foes Covering topics from the early 19th century to the late 20th century the essays in this collection illuminate both the processes of change and the negative reactions that they frequently elicited The diversity of disciplines covered by this volume history anthropology sociology economics illuminates at least three overriding challenges for study of the peninsula today One is politics after the decline of the Institutional Revolutionary Party What are the important institutions practices and discourses of politics in a post postrevolutionary era A second trend is the scholarly demystification of the Maya Anthropologists have shown the difficulties of applying monolithic terms like Maya in a society where ethnic relations are often situational and ethnic boundaries are fluid And a third consideration researchers are only now beginning to grapple with the region's transition to a post henequen economy based on tourism migration and the assembly plants known as maquiladoras Challenges from agribusiness and industry will no doubt continue to affect the peninsula's fragile Karst topography and unique environments Contributors Eric N Baklanoff Helen Delpar Paul K Eiss Ben W Fallaw Gilbert M Joseph Marie Lapointe Oth n Ba os Ram rez Hern n Men ndez Rodr guez Lynda S Morrison Terry Rugeley Stephanie J Smith

2012 Joseph Gelfer, 2014-09-11 21 December 2012 was believed to mark the end of the thirteenth B'ak'tun cycle in the Long Count of the Mayan calendar Many people believed this date to mark the end of the world or at the very least a shift to a new form of global consciousness Examining how much of the phenomenon is based on the historical record and how much is contemporary fiction the book explores the landscape of the modern apocalyptic imagination the economics of the spiritual marketplace the commodification of countercultural values and the cult of celebrity

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