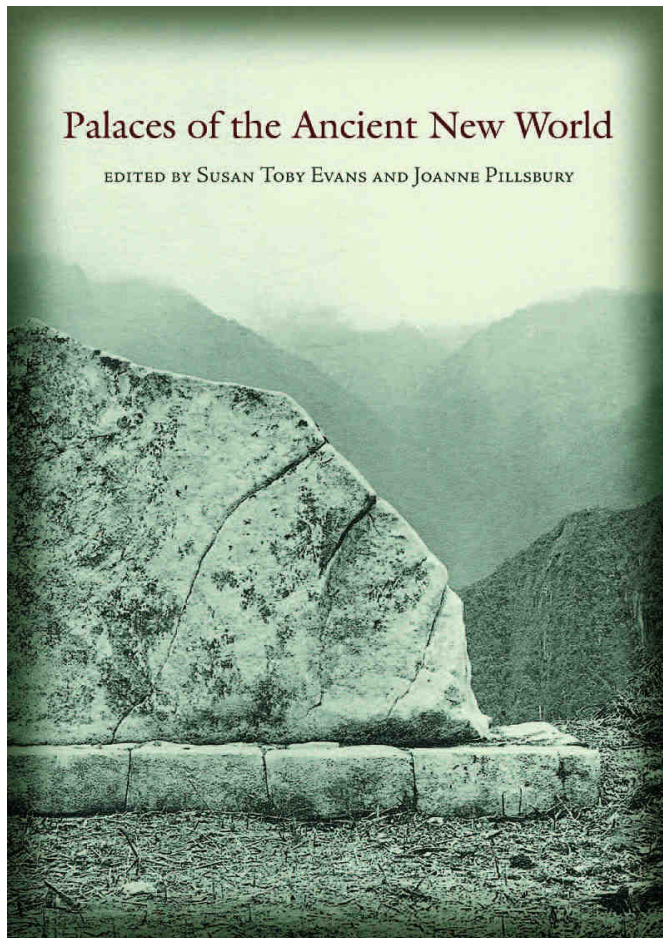


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## Palaces of the Ancient New World

EDITED BY SUSAN TOBY EVANS AND JOANNE PILLSBURY

### **PALACES OF THE ANCIENT NEW WORLD**

EDITED BY SUSAN TOBY EVANS AND JOANNE PILLSBURY, *Palaces of the Ancient New World*, Washington, D.C. Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, Harvard University, 2008, 416 pp., paperback edition, ISBN 978-0-88402-341-8, Price: \$19.95/18 euros.

AMONG THE MOST SUMPTUOUS BUILDINGS OF ANTIQUITY WERE royal palaces. As in the Old World, kings and nobles of ancient Mexico and Peru had luxurious administrative quarters in cities, and exquisite pleasure palaces in the countryside. This volume explores the great houses of the ancient New World, from palaces of the Aztecs and Incas, looted by the Spanish conquistadors, to those lost high in the Andes and deep in the Maya jungle.

Palaces are private residences, but, like their occupants, they play a very public role. Beyond their imposing physical presence, they are inherently rich in information about

the social contexts of the societies that made them. How did palace architecture serve to reflect and reiterate the power and legitimacy of the ruling elite? The articles in this volume investigate how these palaces facilitated and supported rulers, and how they functioned within the context of empires, states, and complex chiefdoms.

This volume, the first scholarly compendium of elite residences of the high cultures of the New World, presents definitive descriptions and interpretations by leading scholars in the field. Authoritative yet accessible, this extensively illustrated book will serve as an important resource for anthropologists, archaeologists, and historians of art, architecture, and related disciplines.

### **EL NIÑO, CATASTROPHISM, AND CULTURE CHANGE IN ANCIENT AMERICA**

EDITED BY DANIEL H. SANDWEISS AND JEFFREY QUILTER, *El Niño, Catastrophism, and Culture Change in Ancient America*, Washington, D.C., Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, Harvard University, 2008, 290 pp., hardcover edition, ISBN 978-0-88402-353-1, Price: \$55/49.50 euros.

THIS VOLUME IS CONCERNED WITH QUESTIONS OF CLIMATE change, resulting catastrophes, and the cultural responses to them. The primary focus is on the El Niño–Southern Oscillation phenomenon, a fluctuation in the normal ocean temperatures and related atmospheric conditions that can trigger unusual weather patterns. Geological events such as volcanic eruptions and other phenomena with potentially devastating consequences are also taken into consideration in this examination of catastrophes and culture change.

Recent advances in geoarchaeology and paleo-climatology have provided researchers with new data for understanding the long-term environmental history of the ancient Americas. But what is the effect of climate change on cultures? Are the correlations between geophysical indicators of extreme events and cultural shifts evident in the archaeological record indicative of a causal relationship? What are the social responses to such events? How do we tease out the variables in the complex interactions between humans and their environment?

The papers in this volume were written by scholars from an array of fields, including cultural anthropology, geology, archaeology, and epidemiology, and each author contributed a distinct perspective to the discussion. As with any volume embracing such a diversity of approaches, the contributions are varied, ranging from a distillation of complex data on understanding the paleoclimatic records through ice cores to an extraordinary first-person narrative of living through a major disaster. Through these diverse approaches, we have reached a new level of understanding of the principal questions surrounding climate, catastrophe, and culture.

DANIEL H. SANDWEISS is Dean and Associate Provost for Graduate Studies and Professor of Anthropology and Quaternary and Climate Studies at the University of Maine.

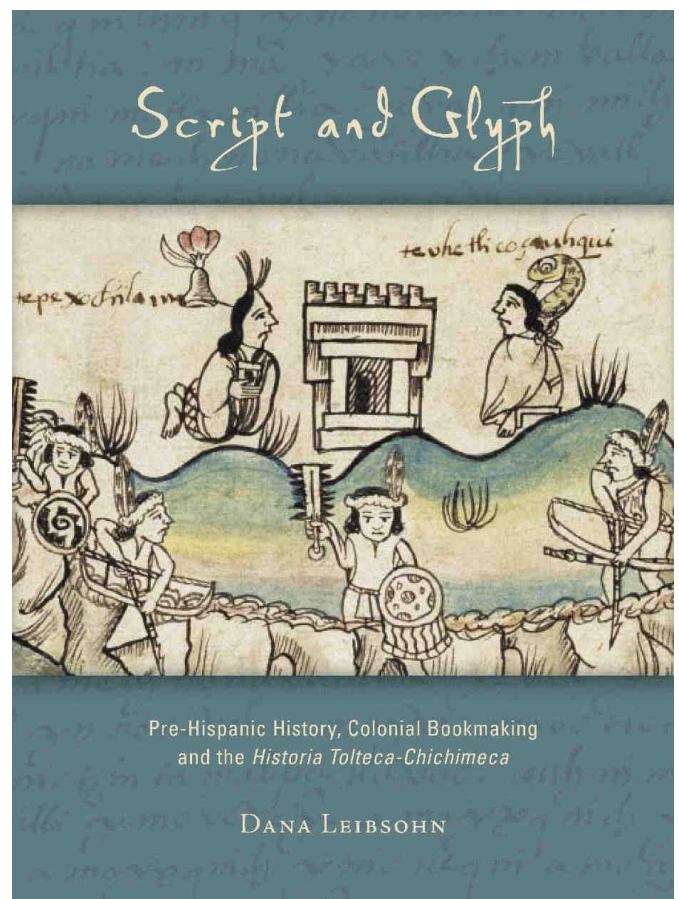
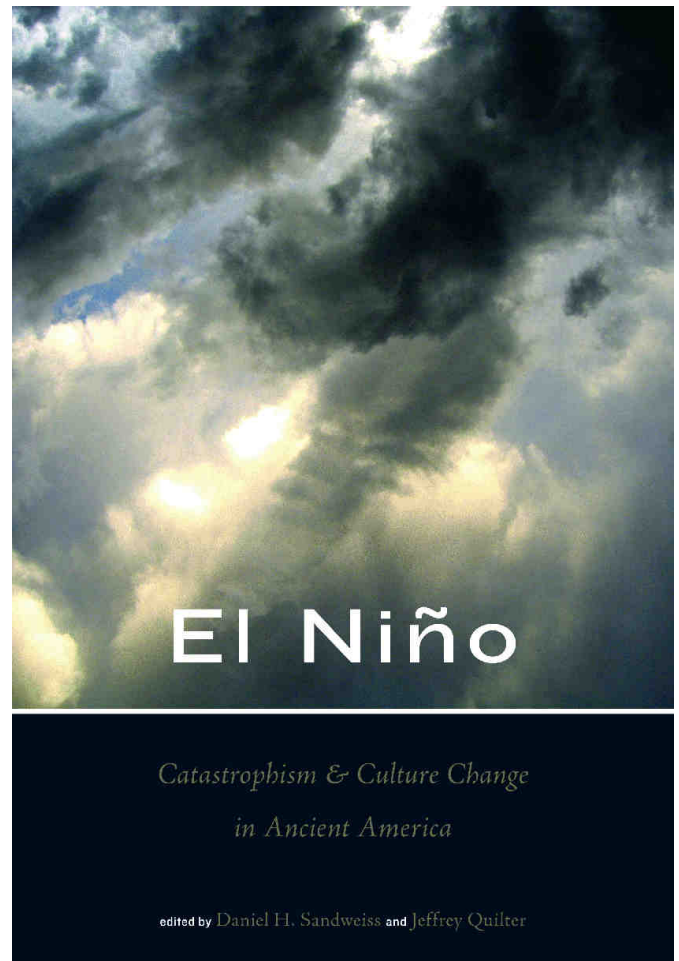
JEFFREY QUILTER is Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs and Curator for Intermediate Area Archaeology at the Peabody Museum, Harvard, and former Director of Pre-Columbian Studies at Dumbarton Oaks.

### SCRIPT AND GLYPH: PRE-HISPANIC HISTORY, COLONIAL BOOKMAKING AND THE *HISTORIA TOLTECA-CHICHIMECA*

DANA LEIBSOHN, *Script and Glyph: Pre-Hispanic History, Colonial Bookmaking and the Historia Tolteca-Chichimeca*, Washington, D.C., Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, Harvard University, 2009, 199 pp., ISBN 978-0-88402-361-6 (hardcover edition), ISBN 978-0-88402-342-5 (paperback edition), Price: \$49.95/45 euros (hardcover); \$29.95/27 euros (paperback).

THE *HISTORIA TOLTECA-CHICHIMECA* WAS CREATED AT A PIVOTAL transitional moment, bridging an era when pictorial manuscripts dominated and one that witnessed the rising hegemony of alphabetic texts. The *Historia* was composed using both systems, yet, as Dana Leibsohn notes, neither was fully trusted. Leibsohn analyzes the choices made by the patron, don Alonso de Castañeda, and *tlacuilos* enlisted to create the manuscript. How does one create a history? Which narratives are included and which are strikingly absent? Which modes of representation are called upon to convey certain types of information? Leibsohn argues how the very practice of history-keeping itself sustains or challenges a current reality.

Central to the *Historia Tolteca-Chichimeca* is the creation, representation, and understanding of landscape. In the recording of ancestral migrations don Alonso deline-





ates territory, noting boundaries and their histories, but this record also reveals relationships with a sacred landscape, detailing how relationships with territory were constantly re-inscribed, both on the landscape itself and in the documents that were created to record these relationships. In this sense, *Script and Glyph: Pre-Hispanic History, Colonial Bookmaking and the Historia Tolteca-Chichimeca* is a particularly appropriate volume for Dumbarton Oaks, as it crosses the boundaries of two of the three traditional areas of study, Pre-Columbian and landscape. The volume is beautifully illustrated with color images from the manuscript itself.

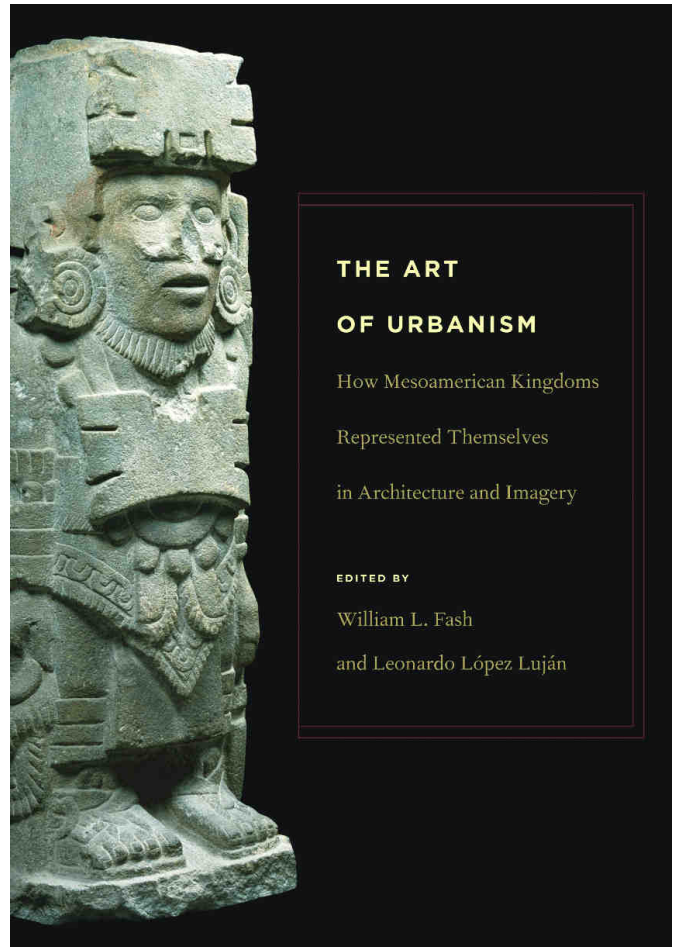
DANE LEIBSOHN is Associate Professor of Art at Smith College.

## THE ART OF URBANISM: HOW MESOAMERICAN KINGDOMS REPRESENTED THEMSELVES IN ARCHITECTURE AND IMAGERY

EDITED BY WILLIAM L. FASH AND LEONARDO LÓPEZ LUJÁN, *The Art of Urbanism: How Mesoamerican Kingdoms Represented Themselves in Architecture and Imagery*, Washington, D.C., Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, Harvard University, 2009, 480 pp., ISBN 978-0-88402-344-9 (hardcover edition), Price: \$49.95/45 euros.

THIS VOLUME EXPLORES HOW THE ROYAL COURTS OF POWERFUL Mesoamerican centers represented their kingdoms in architectural, iconographic, and cosmological terms. Through an investigation of the ecological contexts and environmental opportunities of urban centers, the contributors consider how ancient Mesoamerican cities defined themselves and reflected upon their physical—and metaphysical—place via their built environment. Themes in the volume include the ways in which a kingdom's public monuments were fashioned to reflect geographic space, patron gods, and mythology, and how the Olmec, Maya, Mexica, Zapotecs, and others sought to center their world through architectural monuments and public art.

This collection of papers addresses how communities leveraged their environment and built upon their cultural and historical roots, and the ways that the performance of calendrical rituals and other public events tied individuals and communities to both urban centers and hinterlands. Twenty-three scholars from archaeology, anthropology, art history, and religious studies contribute new data and new perspectives to the understanding of ancient Mesoamericans' own view of their spectacular urban and ritual centers.



WILLIAM L. FASH is Bowditch Professor of Central American and Mexican Archaeology and Ethnology and William and Muriel Seabury Howells Director, Peabody Museum, Harvard University.

LEONARDO LÓPEZ LUJÁN is senior professor and researcher of archaeology at the Museo del Templo Mayor, Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Mexico City.

## MITOS Y LITERATURA AZTECA

JOSÉ ALCINA FRANCH, *Mitos y literatura azteca*, Madrid, Alianza Editorial, 2008, 176 pp., 11 x 17,5 cm, rústica fresado, ISBN 978-84-206-4939-9, PVP: 6,75 euros.

