

Re: Ancient Mexican city raises questions about Mesoamerica's Mother Culture

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.archaeology/2007-10/msg00704.html>

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- *From:* David <pchristainsen@xxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Fri, 19 Oct 2007 15:44:23 -0000
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On Oct 19, 2:01 am, Tom McDonald <kilt...@xxxxxxxx> wrote:

On Oct 18, 11:12 am, Russell Sheptak <nos...@xxxxxx> wrote:

In article <1192469423.215436.105...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>,

David <pchristain...@xxxxxxxx> wrote:

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/salife/travel/stories/MYSA20071014.05L.Ta...337.html>

The article is full of factual mistakes, such as the following:

"It is believed to have been created around 600 B.C. ? 2,000 years before what was previously the oldest discovered calendar in the Americas, the Olmec Calendar, which dates to A.D. 1400."

I read the article twice, and that paragraph three or four times. And each time, I mentally corrected 'Olmec' to 'Aztec'!

Of course, even reading it as 'Aztec' would make the sentence laughably wrong. I'm not even sure that 600 BCE would make this the earliest known version of a Mesoamerican calendar. ISTM that there are earlier indications of it than that; but I don't want to do the digging right now to check it out.

so I'd ignore it. Its the Aztec version of the mesoamerican calendar that might date to 1400 AD if I'm generous to the article's author. 600 B.C is right for Olmec.

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IIRC, examples of Olmec writing go back perhaps another several centuries. If correct, I wonder whether there are earlier calendar indications. I'd almost think there must be.

Introduction to Archaeology Fall 2006

<http://ocw.mit.edu/NR/rdonlyres/5443EE64-8D21-4DC6-B746-65E3F5162194/0/olmec.pdf>

"Pohl, M.E.D., K.O. Pope, C. von Nagy 2002 Olmec Origins of Mesoamerican Writing. *Science* 298:1984-87.

Abstract: A cylinder seal and carved greenstone plaque bearing glyphs dating to 650 B.C. have been uncovered near the Olmec center of La Venta in Tabasco, Mexico. These artifacts, which predate others containing writing, reveal that the key aspects of the Mesoamerican scripts were present in Olmec writing: the combination of pictographic and glyphic elements to represent speech; the use of the sacred 260-day calendar; and the connection between writing, the calendar, and kingship. They imply that Mesoamerican writing originated in the La Venta polity."