



PEABODY MUSEUM  
*of* ARCHAEOLOGY & ETHNOLOGY

PRESS RELEASE

**Itza and Kowoj: Conflicts and  
Factions in the Last Maya  
Kingdom**

**What:** FREE Lecture and Reception

**Where:** Lecture in the Yenching Institute  
2 Divinity Ave., Cambridge  
Reception follows in the Peabody  
Museum, 11 Divinity Ave.

**When:** Thursday, March 19, 2009, 5:30 P.M.

**Contact:** 617-496-1027 (Public Information)

**(Cambridge, February 19, 2009)** The Peabody  
Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology at  
Harvard University presents the free Gordon R.  
Willey lecture, *Itza and Kowoj: Conflicts and  
Factions in the Last Maya Kingdom*, on  
Thursday, March 19, 2009 at the Yenching  
Institute at Harvard University at 5:30 P.M.



Effigy figure attached to a Late Postclassic incense burner  
from Zacpetén, Guatemala.

The Itza Maya in northern Guatemala was the last indigenous kingdom in the Americas to fall to European conquest in March 1697. Recent archival studies have illuminated details of socio-

political intrigue between the territorially expansionist Itza and one of their many enemies, the Kowoj. The two groups had a long history of conflict in the region and were engaged in civil warfare at the time of Spanish conquest.

Dr. Prudence Rice discusses archaeological research at the site of Zacpetén that has revealed details of the Postclassic history of the Kowoj and their brief period of continuing independence following the Spanish conquest and occupation of Itza island capitol.

### **Speaker**

Dr. Prudence Rice is Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, and Director of the Office of Research Development and Administration at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. Her research interests include ceramic analysis – technology, production, style; Latin American prehistoric and historical archaeology; Mesoamerican calendrics; Maya political economy; and Lowland Maya, Southern Andes. In addition to winning numerous awards and research grants, she has written or edited 11 books, including the recent *Maya Calendar Origins: Monuments, Mythistory, and the Materialization of Time*. She is currently working on a book about lowland Maya pottery and another about the history, wine, and archaeology of a Peruvian valley.

### **About the Peabody Museum**

The Peabody Museum is among the oldest archaeological and ethnographic museums in the world with one of the finest collections of human cultural history found anywhere. It is home to superb materials from Africa, ancient Europe, North America, Mesoamerica, Oceania, and South America in particular. In addition to its archaeological and ethnographic holdings, the Museum's photographic archives, one of

the largest of its kind, hold more than 500,000 historical photographs, dating from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to the present and chronicling anthropology, archaeology, and world culture.

**Location:** *The Peabody Museum is located at 11 Divinity Avenue in Cambridge. The Museum is a short walk from the Harvard Square MBTA station.*

**Hours:** 9 A.M. to 5 P.M., seven days a week. The Museum is closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Admission is \$9 for adults, \$7 for students and seniors, \$6 for children, 3–18. Free with Harvard ID or Museum membership. The Museum is free to Massachusetts residents Sundays, 9 A.M. to noon, year round, and Wednesdays from 3 P.M. to 5 P.M. (September to May). Admission includes admission to the Harvard Museum of Natural History. For more information call 617-496-1027 or go online to: [www.peabody.harvard.edu](http://www.peabody.harvard.edu).

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