



PEABODY MUSEUM  
*of* ARCHAEOLOGY & ETHNOLOGY

# THE ANCIENT MAYA IN MODERN HONDURAS: ARCHAEOLOGY, ANTHROPOLOGY, AND HISTORY AS NATIONALIST IMAGINATION

## PRESS RELEASE

- What:** FREE Lecture and Reception
- Where:** Lecture in Geological Lecture Hall, Harvard University  
24 Oxford St., Cambridge  
Reception follows in the Peabody Museum, 11 Divinity Ave.
- When:** Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2008, 5:30 PM
- Contact:** 617-496-1027 (Public Information)
- Lecture by:** Dario A. Euraque, Ph.D.



Stela A, Copan, Honduras

**(Cambridge, 3 November 2008)** The Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology presents “The Ancient Maya in Modern Honduras: Archaeology, Anthropology, and History as Nationalist Imagination,” a lecture by Dario A. Euraque, PhD. The Ancient Maya of Honduras, whose material legacy is found today mostly in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Copan, in the

extreme west of the country, have been intensively studied for more than 100 years. Much of this research has been carried out by foreign archaeologists, including many scholars from Harvard. Honduras lacks a school of archaeology and anthropology. Today, Copan occupies a central place in official considerations of what Honduras is and what it has been since the ancient past. Also, currently, as a result of much tourist marketing and other means, most Hondurans are acutely sensitive to “their” ancient Maya past. How did this happen, given that the ancient Maya represented only a small ethnic element of the territory now occupied by Honduras? The presentation describes how knowledge about the ancient Maya of Copan generated by scholarship, (archaeological, anthropological and historical), has served “national imagination” in Honduras since the 1940s. The presentation will be illustrated with original photographs and printed materials.

### **Speaker**

Dr. Dario A. Euraque has written extensively about 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century Honduran history. He is currently serving as the Director of the Honduran Institute of Anthropology and History. He is also a Professor of History and International Studies at Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut.

### **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 AM to 5 PM, 7 days a week. The Museum is closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Admission is \$9.00 for adults, \$7.00 for students and seniors, \$6.00 for children, 3-18. Free with Harvard ID or Museum membership. The museum is free to Massachusetts residents Sundays, 9 AM to noon, year round, and Wednesdays from 3 PM to 5 PM (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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