Bibliography of the Colha Archaeological Project

Compiled for the Symposium

Chips Off the “Old” Block Honoring Professor Thomas R. Hester

Presented at the 68th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Milwaukee

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Brief Introduction to Colha, Belize

The archaeological site of Colha and the adjacent Cobweb Swamp are located in the Orange Walk District of northern Belize. Archaeological evidence indicates an occupation from the Preclassic (3400 - 1900 B.C.) to Middle Postclassic (A.D.1150 – 1300) (Hester 1996a; Iceland 1997; Jacob 1992; Jones 1994b; Valdez 1994a). This long history of occupation provides researchers the unique opportunity to view ecological, cultural, and material culture changes as they are manifested over more than 4,000 years.

Since its original recording in 1973 (Hammond 1973), 16 seasons of research, 14 as part of the Colha Project, have been conducted at the site (Hester 1979, 1980, 1983a, 1983b, 1985a, 1985c, 1994; Hester, Ligabue, Eaton, Shafer, and Adams 1983; Hester, Eaton, and Shafer 1980; Hester and Shafer 1991b, 1994b; Hester et al. 1979a, 1979b, 1983, 1994, 1996; King 1987; Valdez in prep-b; Valdez and Hester 1990). The results of over 22 years of research efforts can be found in site reports, published articles, organized symposia, papers presented at conferences, master’s theses, and doctoral dissertations. Each contributing to the understanding of Colha’s prehistoric environment, the people who inhabited and manipulated it, the cultural and economic systems that sustained it, and the material culture that functioned within it.

A compilation of these works (published and unpublished) is provided in citation format (Tables 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3). The three tables are organized by topic and include: Table 1.1, general Colha, Table 1.2 material culture studies, and Table 1.3 environmental studies. Further divisions have been made within the individual tables.
Citations denoted by an asterisk (*), summarize findings from sites other than Colha, but are included as the work/research was either funded by the Colha Project or was part of the endeavors of the Colha Regional Survey. A standard bibliography immediately follows. This bibliography represents all items submitted as of April, 2003.

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1 This document is available in PDF format on the Mesoamerican Archaeological Research Lab (MARL) website - http://uts.cc.utexas.edu/~marl/
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