



Fig. 1 Kaminaljuyu, Guatemala (1500 BC-1200 AD)

Exploring the Legacy of Kaminaljuyu in Mesoamerica



by Cheryl Norman
(*The legacy of V. Garth Norman lives on.*)

Archaeologists have long recognized Izapa, Mexico as a manifestation of the Late Formative era in southeastern Mesoamerica between the period of the early Olmec that flourished on the gulf coast, and the Classic Maya in the Peten region of Northern Guatemala. An alliance clearly existed between Izapa (Chiapas, Mexico) and Kaminaljuyu of central highland Guatemala in its Late Formative emergence before its 600 BC rise as new migrants arrived at this city. From the beginning, Kaminaljuyu buildings and art carvings were created using the Babylonian and Egyptian cubits.

The almost 1000 years of the Olmecs occupation of Izapa (1500 BC to 550 BC) may have already been in ruins when new “bearded foreigners” arrived by sea around 600 BC and migrated to the area of Kaminaljuyu, the possible first settlement in southern

Mesoamerica. With the decline of the Olmec, a host of chiefdoms sprang up on the Pacific coastal plain of Chiapas and Guatemala.

Because of the lack of stone suitable for construction, pyramids and other structures at



Fig. 2 - Kaminaljuyu pyramid steps under Guatemala city.

Kaminaljuyú were built of adobe and later of other perishable materials. In the Late Classic (600-900 AD) the center declined in importance. At its peak it was a large city of temples and clay platforms measuring up to 20m in height surrounded by a sophisticated hydraulic system for agriculture.

Most of Kaminaljuyu is now buried under Guatemala City, and what remains is one of the city's few green spaces.

This Kaminaljuyu article is from *Izapa Sacred Space: Sculpture Calendar Codex* (2015) by V. Garth Norman (pp. 4,8,25,39)



Fig. 3 - Kaminaljuyu "MOUND" that is covered by trees.



Fig. 4 - Mayans today worship at Kaminaljuyu

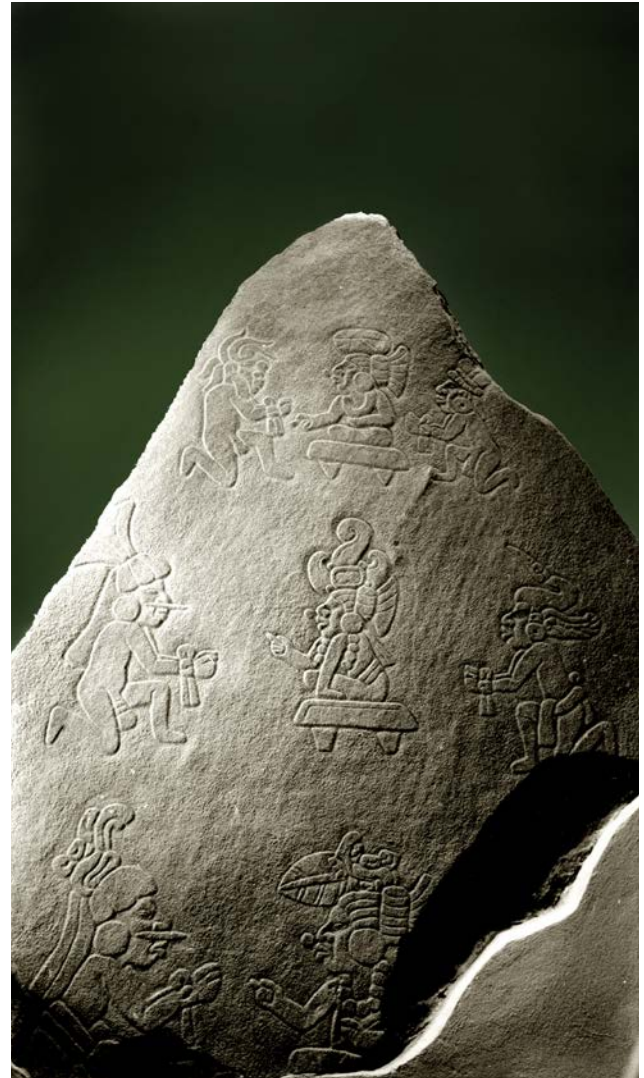


Fig. 5 - Kaminaljuyu Monument 65

Watch this video on
<https://youtu.be/qDYtkJsU9pA>
to learn more.

Archaeologist Garth Norman measured stones at Kaminaljuyu with the Babylonian and Egyptian cubit measurements.

Watch this video
<https://youtu.be/81x2cA7mDg>
to learn more.

Videos of Kaminaljuyu – 2002 by Garth and Cheryl Norman