

Books on the Mayan Language of Yucatan, Mexico

On the following page there is a list of books dealing with the Mayan language spoken in Yucatan, Mexico. The Mayan language of Yucatan, often referred to as Yucatec Mayan, is the largest of the various Mayan languages. In fact, the people of Yucatan are the only people of this linguistic group which refer to themselves as “Maya”, and refer to their language as “Maya Than” (Mayan Language).

The first three books were available through the publisher Labyrinthos. A flier from this publisher is included which gives contact information. Unfortunately, it appears that Labyrinthos is no longer in business. Updated versions of the Grammar and of Post Conquest Mayan Literature are available through me. The Chilam Balam of Na continues to be available from on-line booksellers.

The Grammar, written by my wife Alejandra and me, deals principally with the language as spoken today. However, because of the development of the language over the time it has been recorded using Latin script (i.e. since the 1570's) it was useful to refer to older grammatical forms, and thus the grammar part of the book includes a look at the language as spoken or written since the late 1500's. Included in the grammar is an extensive anthology of Mayan literature, starting with a hieroglyphic text and concluding with material collected in the 1980's.

The Book of Chilam Balam of Na, for which I was the translator of the Mayan texts, gives Mayan texts and their translations. Ruth Gubler's principal interest is in the field of native medicines, and this particular book is mainly a collection of medical recipes. However, there is also other material included in this book, which include calendrical material.

The book Post Conquest Mayan Literature is a two volume work. Volume I is a collection of texts in Mayan which were based on pre-Columbian thought. Volume II is a translation of the edited version of the texts given in this book. The principal purpose of P.C.M.L. is to make available to researchers in a convenient format the various texts of this nature.

Beginning with the publication of the *Bocabulario de Maya Than* in 1993 I was involved in helping René Acuña of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México get important published colonial texts and unpublished manuscripts dealing with the Yucatecan Mayan language ready for publication by Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. For people working on Mayan hieroglyphs and Mayan colonial history these works are quite valuable.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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Books published by Labyrinthos:

Bolles, David D. and Alejandra K.

2001. *A Grammar of the Yucatecan Mayan Language*. Revised edition. Labyrinthos, Lancaster, CA. ISBN 0-911437-49-5

Gubler, Ruth and David Bolles

2000. *The Book of Chilam Balam of Na: Facsimile, Translation, and Edited Text*. Labyrinthos, Lancaster, CA. ISBN 0-911437-23-1

Bolles, David

2003 *Post Conquest Mayan Literature Based on Pre – Columbian Sources; Compiled and edited by David Bolles With reference to the works of Alfredo Barrera Vasquez and Ralph L. Roys*. Labyrinthos, Lancaster, CA. ISBN 0-911437-55-X

Books available from Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, México.

Acuña, René (editor)

1984. *Calepino Maya de Motul*. Edición de René Acuña. Facsimile version by René Acuña. Instituto de Investigaciones Filológicas, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, México. ISBN 968-837-117-3

1993. *Bocabulario de Maya Than*, Facsimile and edited version by René Acuña. Instituto de Investigaciones Filológicas, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, México. ISBN 968-36-3097-9

1995. *Devocionario de Nuestra Señora de Izamal y Conquista Espiritual de Yucatán*. By Fray Bernardo de Lizana. Facsimile and critical edition by René Acuña. Fuentes para el Estudio de la Cultura Maya, 12. Instituto de Investigaciones Filológicas, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, México. ISBN 968-36-4699-7

1996. *Arte de la Lengua Maya*. By Fr. Gabriel de San Buenaventura. Facsimile and edited version by René Acuña. Fuentes para el Estudio de la Cultura Maya, 13. Instituto de Investigaciones Filológicas, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, México. ISBN 968-36-5419-3

1998. *Arte en Lengua de Maya*. By Juan Coronel. Critical edition by René Acuña. Fuentes para el Estudio de la Cultura Maya, 14. Instituto de Investigaciones Filológicas, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, México. ISBN 968-36-6737-6

2001. *Calepino Maya de Motul*, Critical and annotated edition by René Acuña. Plaza y Valdés, México. ISBN 968-856-992-5

2002. *Arte del Lengua Maya*. By Pedro Beltrán. Critical edition by René Acuña. Fuentes para el Estudio de la Cultura Maya, 17. Instituto de Investigaciones Filológicas, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, México. ISBN 970-32-0438-4



POST CONQUEST MAYAN LITERATURE
Based on Pre-Columbian Sources

With Reference to the Works of Alfredo Barrera Vasquez and Ralph L. Roys

Compiled and Edited by David Bolles

In Post-Conquest times Mayan scribes kept alive a Pre-Columbian custom of transcribing or renewing the sacred books in their charge. This custom, in fact, seems to have survived down to the present, if the reports from such towns as X-Cacal Guardia, Chan Cah, Chum Pom, and Dzitnup are true. As early as the latter part of the sixteenth century Mayan scribes, abandoning the general use of hieroglyphics, began transcribing their work in Latin script.

The material compiled in this book is that portion of the various pieces of Yucatecan Mayan colonial literature that has a basis in hieroglyphs or Pre-Columbian oral narrative. There are problems of nonuniformity in orthography, punctuation, and word division, along with carelessness, ignorance (or both) on the part of the scribes.

It is fortunate that much of the material presented here comes from more than one of the extant Yucatecan Mayan colonial manuscripts, making it possible to compare parallel passages, and—even where the text is not clear—to be able to suggest an intelligible edited version.

Comprehensive introductory material is in English, but the Mayan literature itself is not translated.

8½ x 14 in., 348 pp., paper cover, glyphic illustrations, ISBN 911437-55-X (2003)
postpaid \$75.00

ALSO BY DAVID BOLLES

A Grammar of the Yucatecan Mayan Language (Revised Edition), with Alejandra Bolles \$30.00
Book of Chilam Balam of Na: Complete Facsimile & English translation, with Ruth Gubler \$35.00

LABYRINTHOS, 3064 HOLLINE COURT, LANCASTER, CALIFORNIA 93535

For further information and a catalogue of books published by Labyrinthos contact Frank Comparato.

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