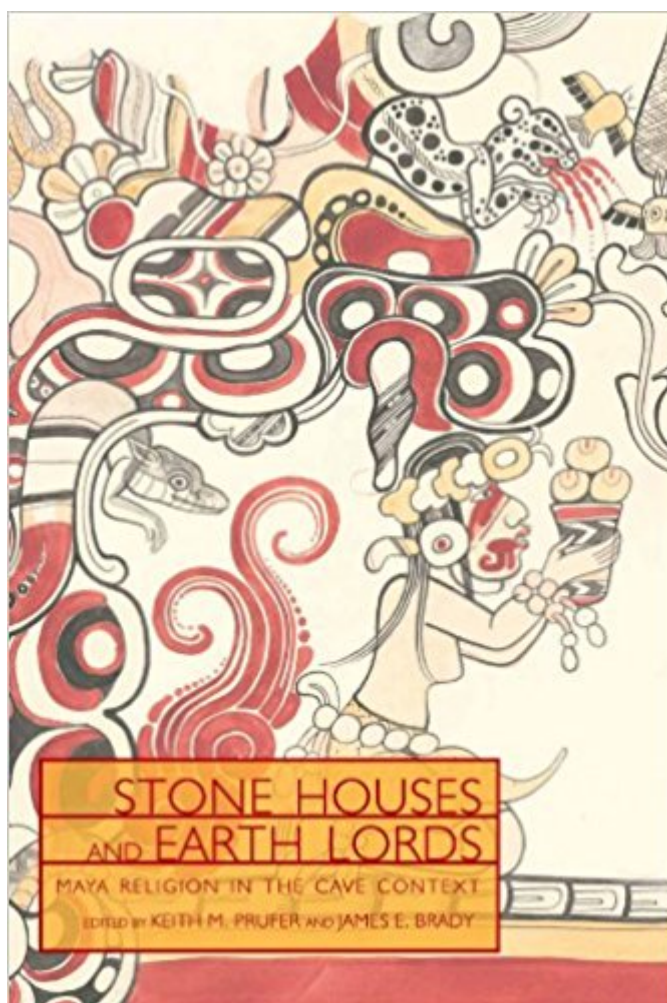


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Stone Houses And Earth Lords: Maya Religion In The Cave Context (Mesoamerican Worlds)



Synopsis

Cave archaeology in the New World, now a focus of intense research, was still a peripheral area of inquiry just fifteen years ago. *Stone Houses and Earth Lords* is the first volume dedicated exclusively to the use of caves in the Maya Lowlands, covering primarily Classic Period archaeology from A.D. 100 through the Spaniards' arrival. Although the caves that riddled the lowlands show no signs of habitation, most contain evidence of human use - evidence that suggests that they functioned as ritual spaces. Demonstrating the importance of these subterranean spaces to Maya archaeology, contributors provide interpretations of archaeological remains that yield insights into Maya ritual and cosmology. Compiling the best current scholarship in this fast-growing area of research, *Stone Houses and Earth Lords* is a vital reference for Mayanists, Mesoamerican specialists, and others interested in the human use of caves in the New World. Contributors include: Juan Luis Bonor, James E. Brady, Robert Burnett, Allan B. Cobb, Pierre Robert Colas, Cesar Espinosa, Sergio Garza, David M. Glassman, Christina T. Halperin, Amalia Kenward, Andrew Kindon, Patricia McAnany, Christopher Morehart, Holley Moyes, Vanessa A. Owen, Shankari Patel, Polly Peterson, Keith M. Prufer, Timothy W. Pugh, Frank Saul, Julie Saul, Ann M. Scott, Andrea Stone, and Vera Tiesler.

Book Information

Series: Mesoamerican Worlds

Hardcover: 432 pages

Publisher: University Press of Colorado (November 25, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0870818082

ISBN-13: 978-0870818080

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 1.4 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #3,843,512 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #53 in Books > History >

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Customer Reviews

"This book makes a very strong case that archaeologists can explore religion using rigorous theory,

ethnohistoric sources, and the intensive study of archaeological data. This book opens up a whole new venue in which to explore Maya religion and belief a"With Stone Houses and Earth Lords and another collection of broader scope (Brady & Prufer 2005), Maya cave archaeology has become one of the two best-studied traditions of subterranean achaeology in the world. Other than parts of France and Spain,"Destined to become a required book for all Mayanists. . . . The editors make a critical point that is only just being appreciated - that ritual is not ideology or religion, but action, and action leaves telling evidence in the archaeological record." <b

Keith M. Prufer is an assistant professor of anthropology at Wichita State University. James E. Brady is an associate professor of anthropology at California State University, Los Angeles.

This is an excellent book ! The work and results are very important not just for Mayanists, for whom it is revolutionary, but also for the rest of us archaeologists who consistently fail to think of anything other than surface sites and anything related to ritual locations. There is a section of papers dealing with the burials and sacrifices. One highlight in a stellar collection is the chapter by Brady on the economic importance of producing goods for cave rituals. You'll want to read the companion volume as well: In the Maw of the Earth Lord.

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