



# Maya Ruins Revisited

## *In the Footsteps of Teobert Maler*

By William Frej

Contributions by Alma Durán-Merk, Stephan Merk,

Jeremy A. Sabloff and Khristaan D. Villela

This stunning, substantial volume documents William Frej's forty-five year search for remote Maya sites primarily in Guatemala and Mexico, inspired in large part by his discovery of the work of German-Austrian explorer Teobert Maler, who photographed them in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Many of Frej's magnificent photographs are juxtaposed here with historic photographs taken by Maler, and reveal the changes in the landscape that have occurred in the intervening century.

This unique pairing of archival material with current imagery of the same locations will be a significant addition to the literature on this ancient civilization that continues to captivate scholars and general readers alike. The book provides extended captions for all of the photographs, including their historical context in relation to Maler's images, which are archived at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology at Harvard University, the Ibero-American Institute in Berlin, Brigham Young University, the University of New Mexico, and the Getty Museum in Los Angeles.

The author's introduction covers the challenges of finding and photographing remote Maya sites. Alma Durán-Merk and Stephan Merk contribute a biographical sketch of Teobert Maler, while Khristaan Villela addresses the historic role of photography as a tool for documenting and presenting the history of significant Maya sites. Jeremy Sabloff provides essential background on the Maya and their built environment, and a chronology of the principal periods of Maya culture. The book includes a listing of all the sites featured and their locations as well as two maps.

*Maya Ruins Revisited* offers an engaging and stimulating visual journey to many remote and seldom-seen Maya sites, and also will serve as valuable documentation of places that are rapidly being overcome by forces of nature and man.

**William Frej** has spent decades photographing remote cultures around the world. **Alma Durán-Merk** has published extensively in the field of migration ethno-history. **Stephan Merk** is considered one of the foremost experts on Teobert Maler. **Jeremy A. Sabloff** is Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, Emeritus, at the University of Pennsylvania. **Khristaan D. Villela** is the Director of the Museum of International Folk Art, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

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