

Ancient Cities of the New World

A New Book Series Published by the University Press of Florida

Series editors:

Michael E. Smith,	Arizona State University, mesmith9@asu.edu
Marilyn A. Masson,	University at Albany, SUNY, massonma@albany.edu
John W. Janusek,	Vanderbilt University, john.w.janusek@vanderbilt.edu

Updated: February 21, 2005

The book series, “Ancient Cities of the New World,” is designed to accommodate the impressive growth of archaeological fieldwork at ancient urban sites in Mesoamerica and South America and the need for dissemination and comparison of new knowledge about New World urban patterns. Advances in cross-cultural urban studies contribute to the timeliness of this series, which responds directly to a demand for popular books and textbooks that synthesize aspects of New World cultures. Books in the series will combine scholarly rigor with readable prose and an attractive production style. Authors will be archaeologists and other scholars with a first-hand knowledge of the subject matter. Three primary audiences will be targeted:

- Scholars and advanced students who need up-to-date information on key archaeological sites in the New World
- Undergraduates in lower- and mid-level regional courses on the New World, ancient civilizations, or comparative urbanism who need case studies.
- Members of the interested public who want accessible and authoritative information on ancient Mesoamerican and South American cities.

Background

There are surprisingly few books available on the major archaeological sites of the Americas, given their scholarly importance and avid public interest in ancient cultures of the New World. Many thousands of tourists visit sites like Teotihuacan, Chichén Itzá, Tikal, Monte Albán, Macchu Pichu, and Tiwanaku each year, but they find few publications that are not highly technical (the professional literature) or simple and outdated (guidebooks). Our book series will occupy a crucial niche in the literature on ancient Mesoamerican and South American societies. The individual books will be united by a focus on the study of urban patterns and polity organization, and an emphasis on timely synthesis within one or more of the frameworks we suggest below. Due to the prolific art and historical traditions of New World civilizations, research in these areas crosses the disciplinary lines of archaeology, art history, and ethnohistory, and contributions to the series may thus draw on these complementary avenues of investigation.

The theme of urbanism will integrate the various books in the series. New World complex societies exhibit a range of urban forms, including the vast, nucleated, highly planned metropolises of Teotihuacan and Tiwanaku, smaller city-state capitals like those of the Guatemalan or Mixtec highlands, the sprawling jungle cities of the Maya, and ceremonial centers

of the Amazon. This variation is important, and provides an opportunity for contributors to our series to document and explain the array of urban configurations in ancient Latin America.

Although any archaeological study of an ancient urban center can be said to be about “cities” or “urbanism,” the focus of this book series is on studies that employ theories, models, and approaches from the scholarly literature on cities and/or ancient urbanism. The criteria for “urbanism” are hotly contested today, and books in this series will advance understanding of its highly variable dimensions by documenting differences in the size, organization, function, and significance of cities throughout the New World. An explicit focus on the analysis of urbanism and urbanization is seeing increased attention in Mesoamerica and the South American Andes. Nevertheless, analysis of ancient New World urbanism lags behind research in other areas, where scholars have developed more detailed knowledge of the origins and nature of ancient cities.

Books in this series will relate to a growing body of worldwide archaeological and historical scholarship relates to contemporary social science research on cities and urbanization. Such social science research provides important contextual and theoretical frameworks for archaeological study of ancient cities, and archaeological investigation provides crucial data on the earliest cities that contribute to contemporary social science. The case studies of New World urban sites will contribute intellectually to all of these areas of scholarship: urbanism in a specific region, ancient urbanism worldwide, and theoretical and comparative perspectives on urbanism generally.

Authors will be encouraged to address one or more key issues in the body of scholarship on ancient cities and urbanism. These can be in the area of urban form (e.g., city size, housing, spatial patterns and planning), urban life (e.g., social variation, households and neighborhoods, urban economy or religion), urban functions (i.e., urban activities and institutions that affect a wider hinterland), or urban meaning (e.g., cosmology, monumentality and power, or other built environment issues). Although the specific foci of each volume will vary, books in the series will be linked together through their explicit attention to these and other conceptual issues. We will also ask authors to include an overview of the research history of the city and geographic area, reproductions of maps of the site and key buildings, artistic programs or objects, and drawings or photographs of the most important sectors and features of the city or cities.

In addition to books focused on a single key ancient city, there is also a need for synthesis at the regional level. Regional synthesis has been most hampered by the lack of uniform techniques of investigation and reporting, with a few notable exceptions. Comprehensive analyses and interpretations of the distributions of cities and towns within their regional contexts will be valuable contributions to our understanding of New World urbanism.

Book Format

Our books will be single-author (or multiple-author) books, not edited collections. Most will focus on a single city, but some books will cover a series of related cities. We envision a published length of ca. 250-300 pages, which will include numerous illustrations and necessary tables, notes, bibliography, and index. Our target is 75,000 to 87,000 words (300 to 350 manuscript pages, double-spaced with 12 point Courier font), with 10 tables and 50 black-and-white illustrations (line drawings and photographs). Citations will be done with in-text format. The University Press of Florida will provide rigorous copy-editing of all manuscripts.

Procedures

Authors interested in submitting a manuscript for the series should contact one of the series editors. The first formal step is preparation of a prospectus draft, which should be sent to one of the editors; see the prospectus guidelines below. One or more of the series editors will work with authors to refine the prospectus, which will then be submitted to the University Press of Florida with endorsement from the series editors. If accepted by the press, a contract will be issued at that point. Completed book manuscripts will be reviewed by one (or more) of the series editors and by two outside readers commissioned by the University Press of Florida.

Prospectus Guidelines

Authors should submit the following materials:

- Prospectus
- Curriculum vitae
- Writing sample

The prospectus should have the following sections:

1. Book title
2. Annotated table of contents
3. What is your purpose in writing this project? What are your goals for the work?
4. What is the reasoning behind the scope and organization of the topics presented? How does this organization help you achieve your purpose?
5. What unique and/or notable features does your project offer? How does your work differ from other similar projects? Please give a short synopsis of two or three works of a similar nature.
6. Who is the intended audience for the project? Please take a moment to describe the intended audience and their reaction to your project.
7. What is the current status of your manuscript? What is your expected completion date? Please provide some of the physical characteristics of the project: Is it on disk? What hardware/software? Approximately how many pages in the final draft? How many photographs, illustrations, maps or tables do you plan to include?