

Wednesday, March 5, 2008 → → Finding Culture in Veracruz move to the year 200 BC the historical dating

- change the idea that the peopling of Coatzacoalcos began in 1522: INAH

## Finding in Veracruz move to the year 200 BC dating historic

- When digging to build a tunnel, discovered two canoes coated chapopote reveals archaeologist
- Apuntala the assumption of trade between Olmec, Maya and teotihuacanos

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Enlarge image



One of the two dugouts coated chapopote, found on the right bank of the river Coatzacoalcos, during construction of a road in that part of Veracruz **Photo: Sergio Hernandez Vega**

Coatzacoalcos, Ver., March 4. The discovery of what would have been a commercial fishing port on the banks of the Coatzacoalcos River, which ran from the time of the Olmecs, that is, since the year 200 BC, amend historical data on the population of the area, until today is dated 1522.

During the execution of excavation works to build a tunnel crossing that tributary, were located vestiges pointing to the exploitation of fisheries, an important commercial activity carried out with teotihuacanos and Mayan peoples, as well as the exchange of goods produced in obsidian, serpentine almagre and, in addition to the extensive and varied use of chapopote.

Among the spectacular finds in the area, archaeologists from the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) managed to extract two canoes coated chapopote, confirming that physically River was a commercial fishing port-operated 400 for a thousand years.

"All this confirms--1522 with the founding of the so-called Villa of the Holy Spirit, as recorded in historical records, but for at least a millennium before it was a site with booming commercial and fishing. "

The founding of the Village of the Holy Spirit was made by Gonzalo Sandoval, lieutenant of the Spanish conqueror Hernan Cortes.

Delgado Calderon believed that the boom of the fishing port of Coatzacoalcos occurred in the late Classic period, namely the year 900 to 1200 AD. In other words, during three centuries was perhaps one of the most important pre-Hispanic ports in the Gulf of Mexico

### Fishing and sell a large scale

As part of the road projects that the government of Veracruz drives, since 2007 began excavation works to build a tunnel 140 meters long by 20 wide and 10 high crossing the riverbed Coatzacoalcos to communicate the municipal with the village of Villa Allende.

On October 4 workers in construction companies stopped excavation work because of the discovery of pre-Hispanic pieces on the right bank of the river, which prompted the INAH to send a team of archaeologists to the lifting of the remains.

What surprised the researchers found, because it was discovered material that will change the historical data on the population of the area and confirm trade links between cultures Olmec, Maya and teotihuacana since the year 200 BC, says archaeologist.

The material found during excavations which began on October 14, 2007 includes several periods ranging from late Formative -200 BC-until Classic and Posclásico early.

"It involves a number of historical actors: Olmec, Maya, Totonacas, teotihuacanos and some local cultures," he says.

Currently, some 200 pieces have been extracted and are qualifying round at the facilities of the Club de Pesca of Coatzacoalcos, which was authorized as a laboratory for restoration and analysis. The utensils are pots, jewelry produced in stone, flutes, figurines and pottery fragments.

The outstanding find molds are two canoes, boats which at the time were used to transport goods and confirming that the site was an old port where the fishing is exploited for commercial purposes.

The two vessels encountered, 5.45 and 7.10 meters long, respectively, were developed with wood and impermeable chapopote. Over time, the wood broke, but was blended with the protected, which preserved its shape for nearly two millennia.

"It is the first discovery in the coastal zone, which accredits the presence of ships in Coatzacoalcos, and not only that, but the site was a port of high fishing and trade. "

Also at the scene were found devices for fishing, dozens of knives produced in obsidian, as well as traces of containers and cookers, which were involved in the capture, dissection, salted and dried species extracted from the sea, river and the adjacent lagoons .

Among the products highlighted processed seafood, such as shrimp and crab, as well as marlin, huachinango, silly and even manatees, skeletal remains found.

"There was no fishing for local consumption but for a craft, trade, primarily with Maya and teotihuacanos; was specialized and intensive fishing, where the product is salaba and ahumaba to be sent by sea or river to other locations," Calderon Delgado abounds.

### **They used the hydrocarbon**

The obsidian which was used to develop knives were drawn from the centre of the country, and Oaxaca came a green stone known as serpentine, to elaborate jewelry and utensils ornamentation, also to be traded with other peoples as well as almagre, which is a mineral Reddish dealt for the decoration of ceramics.

The other important piece of information, the researcher stressed, is that since more than 2 thousand years and the villagers used the hydrocarbon, in this case chapopote, either to cover boats, as for the design and decoration of the pottery and utensils.

Among the material found on the banks of a tributary, also highlights two huge pots, whose content has not been removed, but archaeologists presume that might be religious offerings or funerary urns, perhaps some sacrifice ritual.

