Second Xipe statue found in El Salvador
SAN SALVADOR (Karen Olsen Bruhns and Paul E. Amaroli). Continuing excavations at the archaeological site of Carranza, an outlier of the Early Postclassic city of Cihuatan in north central El Salvador, have uncovered a second near life-sized ceramic statue of the deity Xipe Totec. Unlike the first Xipe, which was smashed in situ in his temple (Mexicon 25 (1):10–12, February 2003), this second Xipe was carefully dismembered and buried in an elaborate offering in front of Structure 2 (Fig. 4). The piles of body parts were accompanied by more than 500 ceramic vessels and by abundant obsidian blades, mostly broken. Among the offerings were a Marihua Red on Buff ladle censer, large open bowls, a small clay statue of a feline with a warrior’s head emerging from the mouth, and hundreds of miniature vessels, including tripod bowls, cylindrical vases, small ollas of various sizes, and disks (Fig. 5). Many of the disks were painted with the signs of Xipe, including spirals and the circle and dot of Xipe’s shield. Other designs indicate that Xipe Totec, a new deity to earliest Postclassic El Salvador, was associated with Venus, the traditional harbinger of ill fortune in Maya culture. These designs include the Lamat sign, a red star, and a red star with an interior spiral. The discovery of this ceramic Xipe statue brings to a total of 7 the Xipes known to have been found in El Salvador and raises the number of scientifically excavated ceramic Xipe statues to 5, of which only the Xipe excavated by Erland Nordenskiold in the early 1930s at Teotihuacan, is of Early Postclassic date. The Xipe statues and the offering will be delivered to Concultura and the National Museum for conservation and eventual display.

Fig. 4. The dismembered Xipe statue.

Fig. 5. Painted ceramic disks.

New important archaeological findings at Cancuen, Guatemala
WASHINGTON D.C. (National Geographic News). Under the direction of Arthur Demarest, of Vanderbilt University’s Anthropology Department, Nashville, Tennessee, archaeologists have excavated from a royal ball court at the archaeological site of Cancuen, Guatemala a 100-pound (45 kg) stone panel with images and hieroglyphs carved in high relief. The panel is in perfect condition and depicts Taj Chan Ahk, the 8th-century king of the ancient Maya port city on the Pasion River. Cancuen, the “Place of the Serpents”, channelled the trade between city-states of the volcanic southern highlands of Central America and the Peten rain forest lowlands to the north. The panel, which is 80 cm wide, depicts the Maya king seated on an earth symbol and throne with a jaguar skin, installing subordinate rulers in the nearby city-state of Machaquila.

In a second discovery at Cancuen, archaeologists have uncovered a 500-pound (230 kg) stone altar from the stucco surface of the royal ball court used by Taj Chan Ahk. The elaborately carved altar is the third, and final, marker from the royal ball court recovered over the past century. The first was found in 1905. The second marker was looted and stolen in 2001. The altars were used as goal posts. All three depict Taj Chan Ahk in full royal regalia playing against the visiting ruler of a subordinate state. The investigation project of Vanderbilt University at Cancuen started in 1999.

Petition of the magazine Arqueología Mexicana
LOUISVILLE (Aztlan). The bimonthly journal Arqueología Mexicana has been co-published since 1993 by Mexico’s National Institute of Anthropology and History, and Editorial Raices. It is dedicated to promote the rich endeavours of Mexican archaeology, as well as those of other disciplines and subjects that allow for a more complete look at the Prehispanic past and its various cultural manifestations in the present. Regardless of this wide acceptance, the general economic crisis that Mexico is undergoing has seriously affected the journal’s publicity capacities, sales and subscriptions. In these circumstances, and with the will to continue forth with this project, the editors are urgently seeking the support of authors and readers to increase the number of subscriptions. A way of help for sustaining the publication is to ask or recommend Arqueología Mexicana to be acquired as a permanent reference resource by the libraries and periodicals stacks of the academic and research centres where readers and authors are active or with which they have ties. Also, this petition could be forwarded to other colleagues of similar national and international institutions. The petition is also available in Spanish and French.

The editors strongly believe that this is one of the viable paths that will permit them to continue developing this cultural project, as well as provide an information service to educational and research centres that are still unaware of the publication’s existence. The editors of Arqueología Mexicana would like to thank supporters in advance for their help and solidarity. For further information contact the Editorial Director of Arqueología Mexicana, Mónica del Villar, Email: <arqueomex@arqueomex.com>.