

Table of Contents

List of Figures	xiii
List of Tables	xix
List of Contributors	xxi
Foreword	xxiii
1. Introduction to the Archaeology of Pacbitun	1
<i>Terry G. Powis, Sheldon Skaggs, and George J. Micheletti</i>	
Project History of Pacbitun	2
Trent University-Pacbitun Archaeological Project (1984-1987).....	2
Trent University-Preclassic Maya Project (1995-1997).....	2
Pacbitun Preclassic Project (2008-2010).....	3
Pacbitun Regional Archaeological Project (2011-present).....	3
Investigations in the Site Epicentre.....	5
Investigations in the Site Periphery.....	7
Acknowledgements.....	8
2. Ancient Pacbitun: An Introduction to the Archaeological Site and Early Research	9
<i>Paul F. Healy</i>	
Environmental Setting.....	9
Chronology.....	13
Excavations of the Site Epicentre and Core Zone (1980-1997).....	13
Plaza A.....	14
Structure 1	14
Structure 2	14
Structure 4 and Structure 5.....	15
Plaza B	15
Structure 8 and Sub-Structures B1 to B5	15
Structure 23	16
Plaza C	17
Plaza E.....	17
Structures 14 and 15.....	17
Eastern Court.....	17
Structure 38	17
Monuments of Pacbitun	18
Investigations of Settlement and Population Estimates	20
Final Remarks	24
Acknowledgements.....	24
3. Middle Preclassic Maya Community Organisation at Pacbitun, Belize	25
<i>Terry G. Powis</i>	
Terminal Early Preclassic (1200-900 BC)	25
Middle Preclassic Period (Mai Phase 900-300 BC).....	25
Early Mai Phase	26
Plaza B.....	26
Court 2.....	28
Late Mai Phase.....	30
Plaza B.....	30
Plaza A.....	31
North Side	31
South Side	35
Major Transformations in Plazas A and B.....	36

Periphery	37
Discussion	37
Conclusions	39
Acknowledgements	39
4. Middle Preclassic Faunal Utilisation at Pacbitun, Belize: Evidence for Ritual Practice, Exchange, and Craft Specialisation.....	41
<i>Arianne Boileau and Norbert Stanchly</i>	
Previous Zooarchaeological Work at Pacbitun	41
Archaeological Contexts	42
Methodology	42
Field Methods and Sample Recovery.....	42
Methods of Zooarchaeological Analysis	42
Sample Description	43
Plaza B.....	43
Plaza A.....	46
Modified Remains	46
Animal Resource Use.....	48
Habitat Use and Trade.....	50
Crafting	51
The Emergence of Ritual Practice.....	52
Conclusions	54
Acknowledgements.....	54
5. The Defining Attributes of Pacbitun’s Belize Valley E Group Variant	55
<i>George J. Micheletti</i>	
The E Group Complex and the Belize Valley Eastern Triadic Assemblage (ETA)	55
The Ceremonial Assemblage at Pacbitun.....	58
A Ceremonial Precursor: The Mai Phase (900-300 BC).....	59
Initial Construction: Puc Phase (300-100 BC)	59
Construction Episode 2: Ku Phase (100 BC-AD 300).....	60
Construction Episode 3: Tzul Phase (AD 300-550).....	60
Construction Episode 4: Coc Phase (AD 550-800).....	61
Construction Episode 5: Tzib Phase (AD 800-900).....	61
Discussion	62
The Mai Phase (900-300 BC) Attributes.....	62
The Puc Phase (300-100 BC) Attributes	62
The Ku Phase (100 BC-AD 300) Attributes.....	63
The Tzul Phase (AD 300-550) Attributes.....	63
The Coc Phase (AD 550-800) Attributes	64
The Tzib Phase (AD 800-900) Attributes.....	64
Summary	65
Acknowledgements.....	66
6. Palace Courts at the Ancient Maya Site of Pacbitun, Belize.....	67
<i>Sheldon Skaggs, Michael Lawrence, Karen Pierce, and Peter Cherico</i>	
Background	67
Excavations	67
Structures 22 and 33.....	67
Court 1.....	68
Court 2.....	70
Court 3.....	72
Discussion	74
Conclusions	79
Acknowledgements.....	79
7. Modelling Pacbitun: Experiments in Spatial Data	81
<i>Andrew J. Vaughan, Brian Gil, Peter Cherico, and Jeffrey A. Powis</i>	
Theoretical Framework	81
Methodology	83

Data Acquisition: Photographic Data.....	84
Data Acquisition: Spatial Data.....	85
Data Processing: Photo Pre-Processing.....	85
Data Processing: Modelling Software Processing.....	86
Results.....	87
Archiving Photogrammetric Data.....	88
Conclusions.....	89
Acknowledgements.....	90
8. Music, Performance, Rituals, and Ceramic Music Instrument Production at Pacbitun, Belize.....	91
<i>Kong F. Cheong</i>	
Musical Instruments from the Maya Region.....	91
Pacbitun’s Musical Instruments: Assemblage and Contexts.....	94
Made in Pacbitun.....	95
Gendered Production in the Domestic and Public Domains.....	99
The Soundscape at Pacbitun.....	100
Conclusions.....	101
Acknowledgements.....	102
9. Writing Pacbitun into the Historic Record of the Southern Maya Lowlands.....	103
<i>George J. Micheletti, Christophe Helmke, and Paul F. Healy</i>	
Pacbitun, Belize.....	104
Epigraphic History of Pacbitun.....	105
Physical Examination of Pacbitun Monuments.....	109
Contextual Analysis of the Pacbitun Monuments.....	111
Discussion.....	112
Conclusion.....	113
Acknowledgements.....	113
10. The Ceremonial Karstscape of Pacbitun.....	115
<i>Jon Spenard, Michael J. Mirro, and C. L. Kieffer</i>	
History of Research.....	115
Theoretical Overview.....	116
Surveying the Karstscape.....	117
Phase I Investigations in the Pacbitun Karstscape: Actun Lak, Rocky Crab Cave, and the Nohoch Tunich Bedrock Outcrop Complex.....	118
Rocky Crab Cave and Actun Lak.....	118
The Nohoch Tunich Bedrock Outcrop Complex (NTC).....	121
Actun Nohoch Tunich.....	122
Actun Xtuyul.....	122
Actun Subuul.....	123
Actun Ch’e’ehem Zotz.....	123
Javier’s Cave.....	124
Actun Ku’uk.....	124
Actun Ak Ha.....	124
Actun Naj Che.....	124
Phase II Investigations: Crystal Palace, Tzul’s Cave, and Slate Cave.....	126
Crystal Palace.....	126
Tzul’s Cave.....	127
Slate Cave.....	129
Cave Ceramics from a Broad Perspective.....	131
Conclusions.....	131
Acknowledgements.....	132
11. Ritual Plant Use in Pacbitun’s Caves: A Social Paleoethnobotanical Approach.....	133
<i>Megan D. Parker and Jon Spenard</i>	
Paleoethnobotanical Investigations.....	133
Methods.....	134
Results and Discussion.....	134
Supporting Case Studies and Interpretations.....	137

Conclusions	139
Acknowledgements	139
12. Exploring Maya Ritual through Absorbed Residues in the Belize Valley	141
<i>Adam King, Terry G. Powis, Jon Spenard, and Nilesh Gaikwad</i>	
Analytical Methods	141
The Sample.....	141
Caves, Pots, and Bone Tubes	141
Datura , Cacao, Vanilla, Chili, and Salicylic Acid	143
Impacts of Contamination	144
Results.....	144
Discussion	145
Conclusions	146
Acknowledgements	147
13. The Pacbitun Causeway System: Investigations of a Ritual Landscape	149
<i>Jennifer U. Weber and Jon Spenard</i>	
A Different World – The Pacbitun Periphery	149
The Pacbitun Causeway System	149
Ancient Maya Causeways and the Ritual Landscape	149
Causeway Symbology and the Ritual Landscape.....	150
Investigating the Pacbitun Causeway System.....	152
Periphery Zone Investigations.....	152
Tzul and Tzib Causeways.....	152
Crystal Palace Mound	154
Site Core Excavations	155
Structure 10 and Mai Causeway.....	155
Tzul Causeway in the Site Core	155
Conclusions	155
Acknowledgements	157
14. Identification of an Ancient Maya Groundstone Production Site in the Periphery of Pacbitun, Belize	159
<i>Sheldon Skaggs, George J. Micheletti, Michael Lawrence, Nicaela Cartagena, and Terry G. Powis</i>	
Tzib Group Site Description	159
Tzib Group Excavations: 2012 to 2017	161
Ethnohistorical Production of Manos and Metates in Mesoamerica	164
The Assemblage	167
Preforms	167
Production Tools.....	168
Debitage: Roughing Flakes, Chert Flakes, and Granite Sand	168
Discussion: Implications of the Mano/Metate Production at Pacbitun.....	171
Acknowledgements	173
15. Geochemical Sourcing of Granite Artefacts	175
<i>Tawny Tibbits</i>	
Background	176
Methods.....	176
Results.....	179
Conclusions	184
Acknowledgements	184
16. The Terminal Classic at Pacbitun: Evidence from Moulded-carved Ceramics	185
<i>Christophe Helmke and Carmen Ting</i>	
Comments on Type, Mode, and Paste	185
Context and Ceramic Associations.....	188
Dating.....	189
Function.....	191
Status	191
Production and Technology.....	192

Raw Material Selection and Paste Preparation	192
Forming	192
Surface Finishing	192
Firing	193
Specimen Descriptions	194
17. Contextualizing the Archaeology of Pacbitun, Belize: An Epilogue.....	201
<i>Arlen F. Chase</i>	
References Cited.....	205