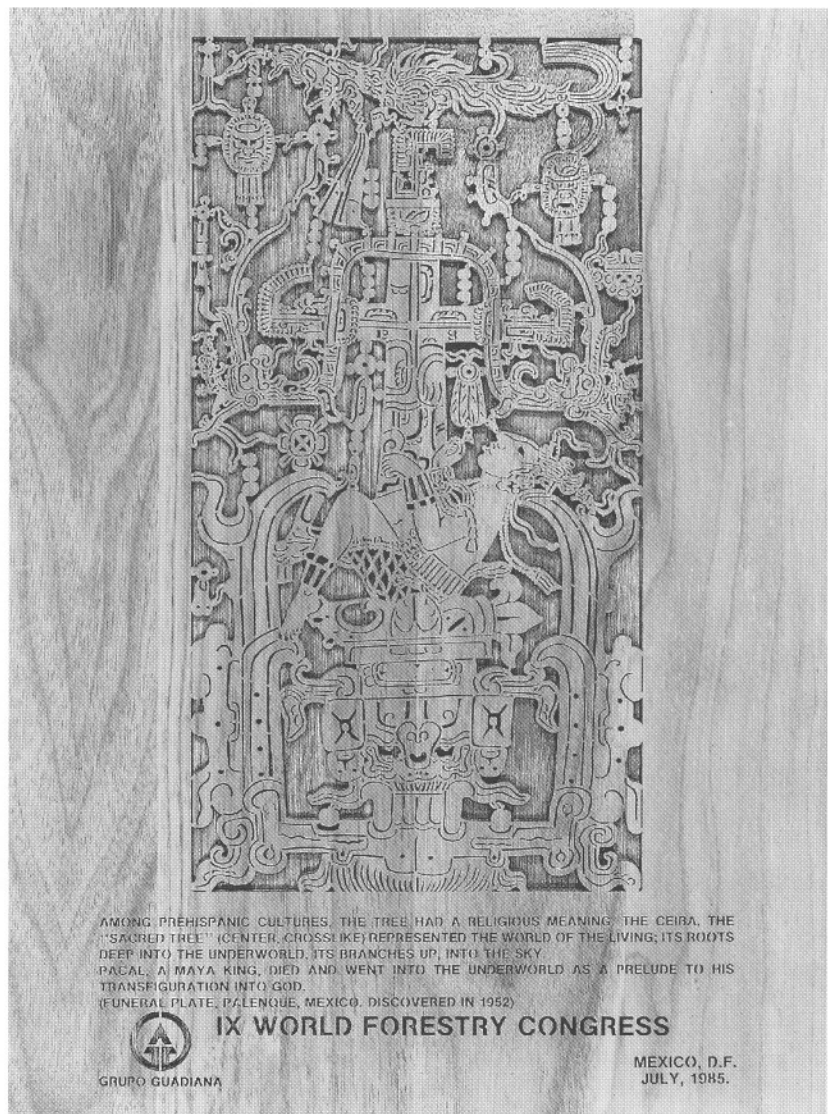


# Archives: History's Foundation

Archival collections are the basic foundations upon which historians construct the past. Appropriately, the Alvin J. Huss archival program is the Forest History Society's oldest activity, dating back to 1946. Through this program over the past fifty years, large quantities of irreplaceable materials related to forest and conservation history have been located, evaluated, and permanently deposited in archives across the U.S. and Canada. Typical materials include correspondence, memos, ledgers, scrapbooks, maps, reports, and diaries. In addition to this broad effort, the Society maintains a rich archive at Durham that includes a large photo collection.

The Forest History Society also serves researchers on-line, through the use of an annotated bibliography that offers citations to more than twenty thousand books and articles, and allows convenient searches of nearly six thousand collections held by four hundred archival institutions across North America. Society staff members are available to provide advice to individuals, institutions, and companies on how to establish an archival program or how to find a suitable repository for their records.

Another important component of the archival program is the oral history collection. Since 1952, the Society has been interviewing forestry leaders both from the public and private sectors, recording their remarks on tape, and transcribing the interviews. Over 250 such interviews are available for research.



AMONG PREHISPANIC CULTURES, THE TREE HAD A RELIGIOUS MEANING. THE CEIBA, THE "SACRED TREE" (CENTER, CROSS-LIKE) REPRESENTED THE WORLD OF THE LIVING; ITS ROOTS DEEP INTO THE UNDERWORLD, ITS BRANCHES UP, INTO THE SKY. PAGAL, A MAYA KING, DIED AND WENT INTO THE UNDERWORLD AS A PRELUDE TO HIS TRANSFIGURATION INTO GOD.

(FUNERAL PLATE, PALENQUE, MEXICO, DISCOVERED IN 1952)



**IX WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS**

MEXICO, D.F.  
JULY, 1985.

*This is a reproduction of a carved wooden funeral plate, discovered in 1952 in Palenque, Mexico. The plaque, a laser cut reproduction of the original plate commemorating the ninth World Forestry Congress in Mexico City, July, 1985, is in the collection of former Forest Service chief Edward P. Cliff.*

*Robey Mfr. of  
Haisland etc.  
Chicago, Ill.  
C. L. Willey Co.  
C. L. Willey & Wm. Willey, Jr. Managers.  
Visited. 3. June 1915.*

*Mahogany and oak are the principal veneers cut. etc. 2 3 ply panels are manufactured at all. 2 rotary machines by the Capital Co. 2 Veneer saws by Smith, Myers & Schmir and 2 slicers of the Capital Co. are installed here.*

*The rotary machines also cuts 1/2 round veneers and the log is then cut as sketch and attached to a "stay log."*

*section thro' stay-log both going with 1/2 log attached. 1/2 log. Veneer. Knife.*

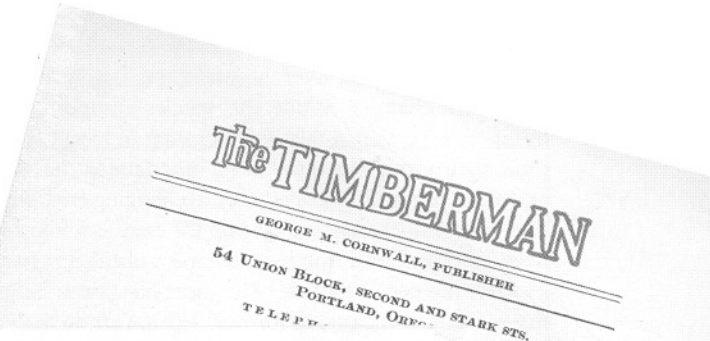


*Bolts are screwed about 6" apart for 1/2" into the log. These machines rest on a cement concrete foundation on which a wooden platform is bolted. This machine will cut 20 logs 8 ft. long 2 ft diam a day or about 35000 feet a day.*

*35 horse-power drives the machine, using only about 1/2" logs. etc. but via the m the log*

In 1915, Erik O. Romcke of the Melbourne, Australia, firm of Otto Romcke and Co., timber merchants and operators of planing and molding mills and a sash and door factory, visited the United States. During his travels, he called on various forest products firms, recording his observations of manufactur

ing processes and techniques in a journal and collecting business cards from many of the companies. Both the journal and the cards, some of which are shown here, are among the thousands of items in the Forest History Society's archive. The items were donated in 1996 by John Polich, a professor of history at San Diego State University's Imperial Valley campus.



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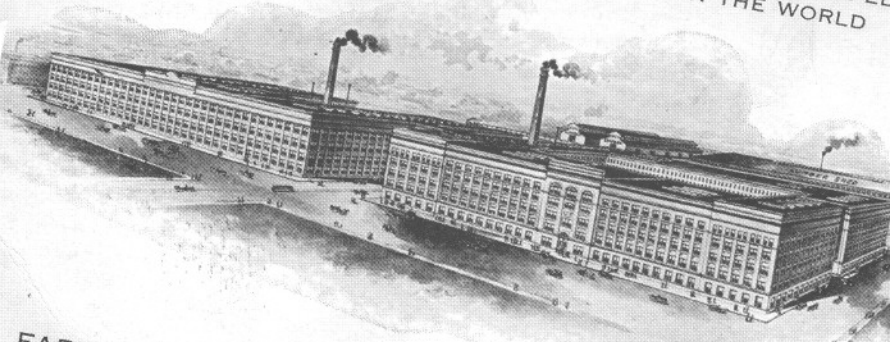
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