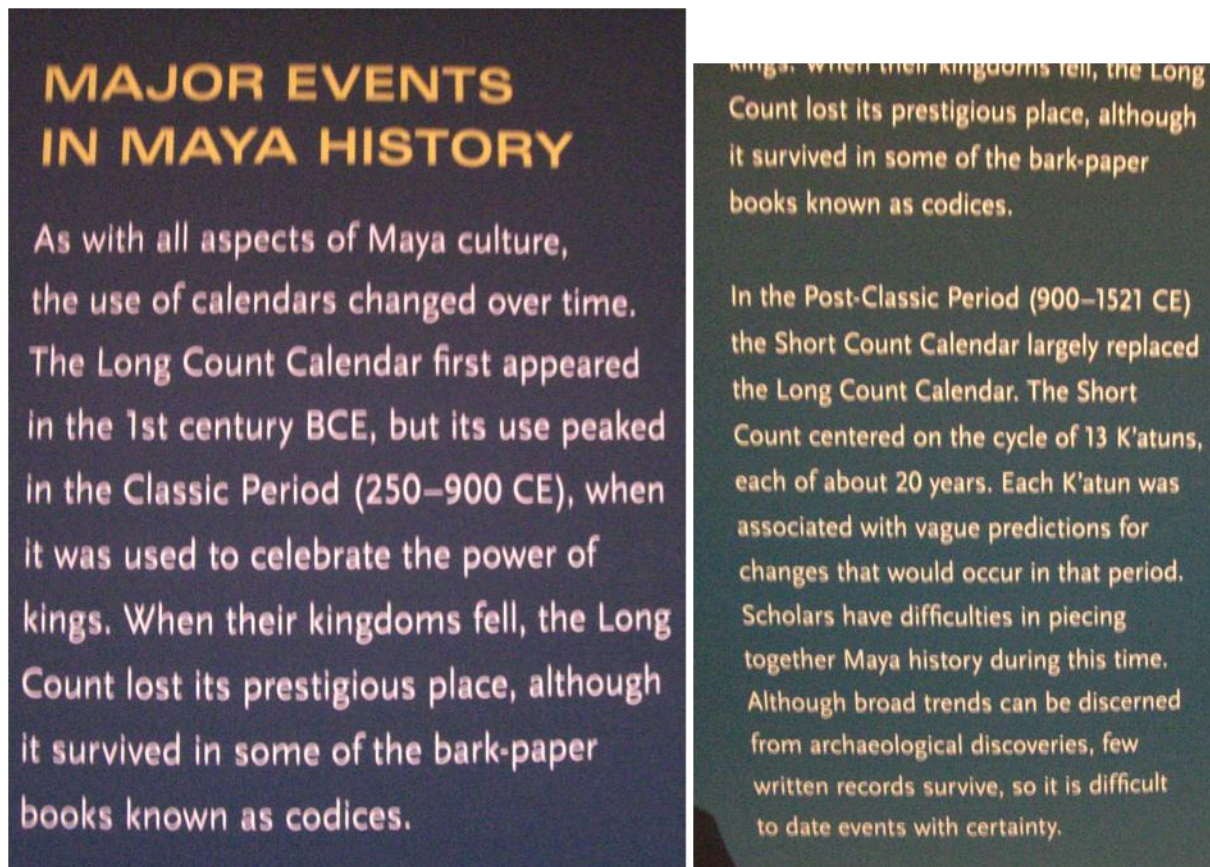


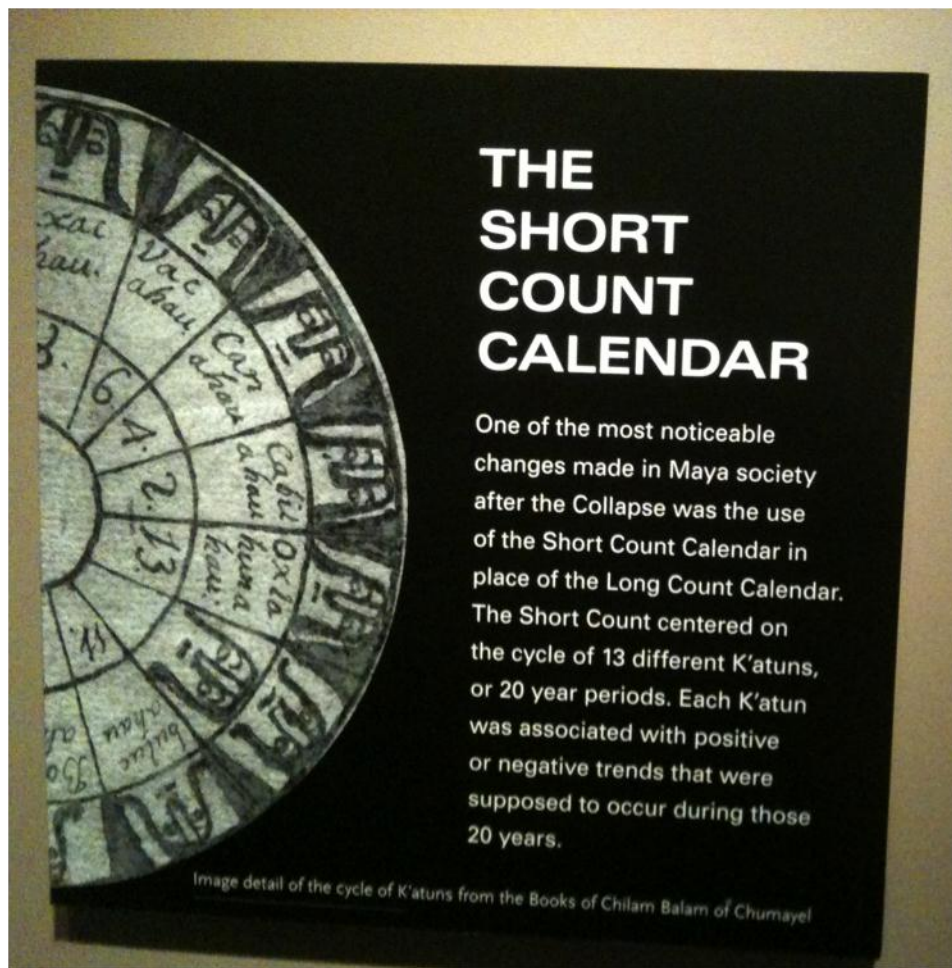
Mayan Calendar and December 21, 2012
submitted by Sheila Nelson

While my husband, Jerry & I were visiting Philadelphia this summer, there was a Mayan exhibit showing at the Penn Museum.

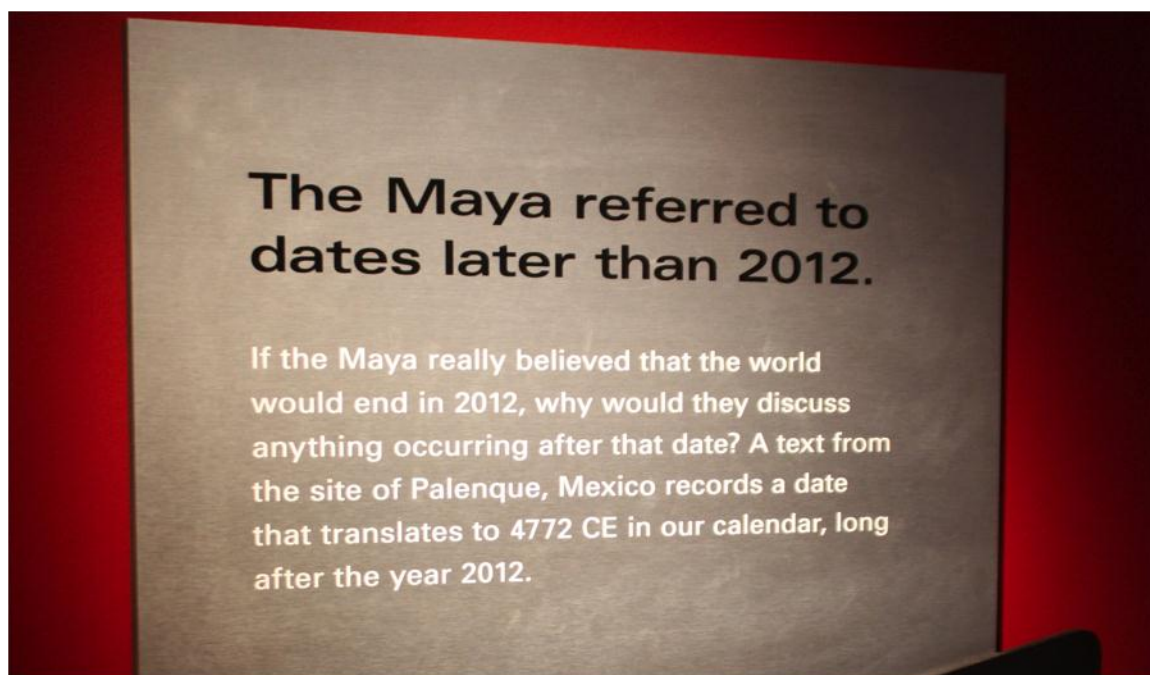
Like most people in metaphysics, we've heard a lot about the Mayan calendar ending on December 21, 2012. We've heard that it has somehow predicted an "end" for our society, or "life as we know it". Some believe it predicts the end of the world. So we were really interested in seeing the exhibit and finding out what all the scientists had to say.

We were very surprised to learn that there are two Mayan calendars. The Short Count Calendar, and the Long Count Calendar. The Short Count Calendar largely replaced the Long Count Calendar in the year 900-1521 CE. See photos:

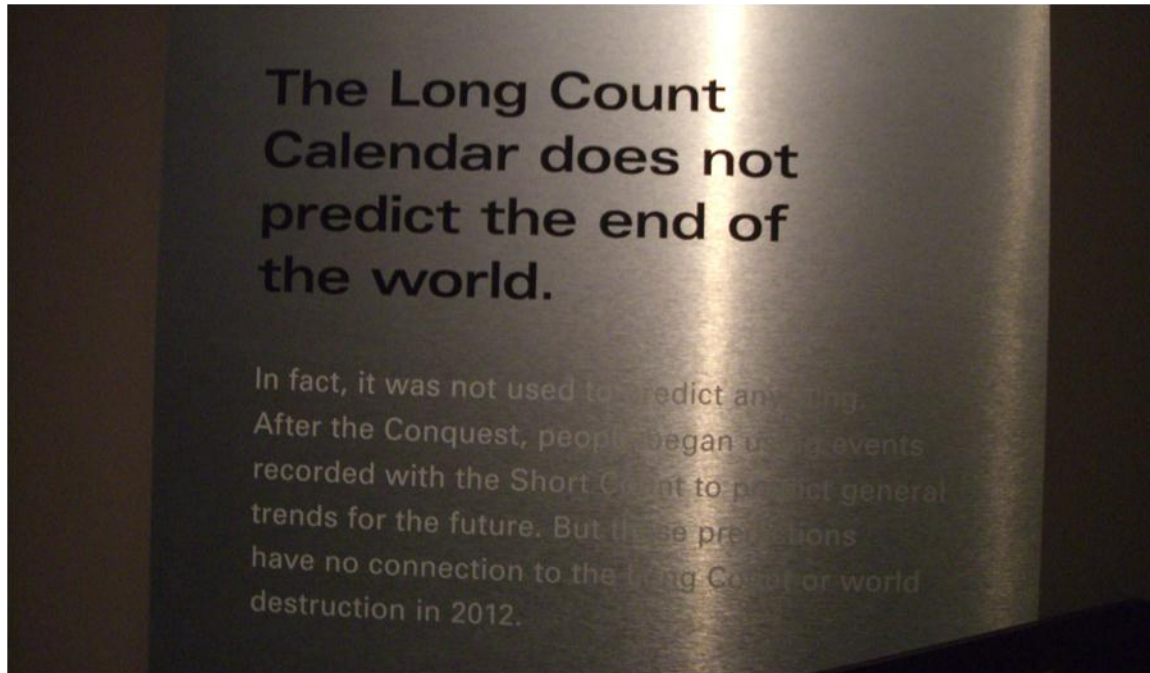




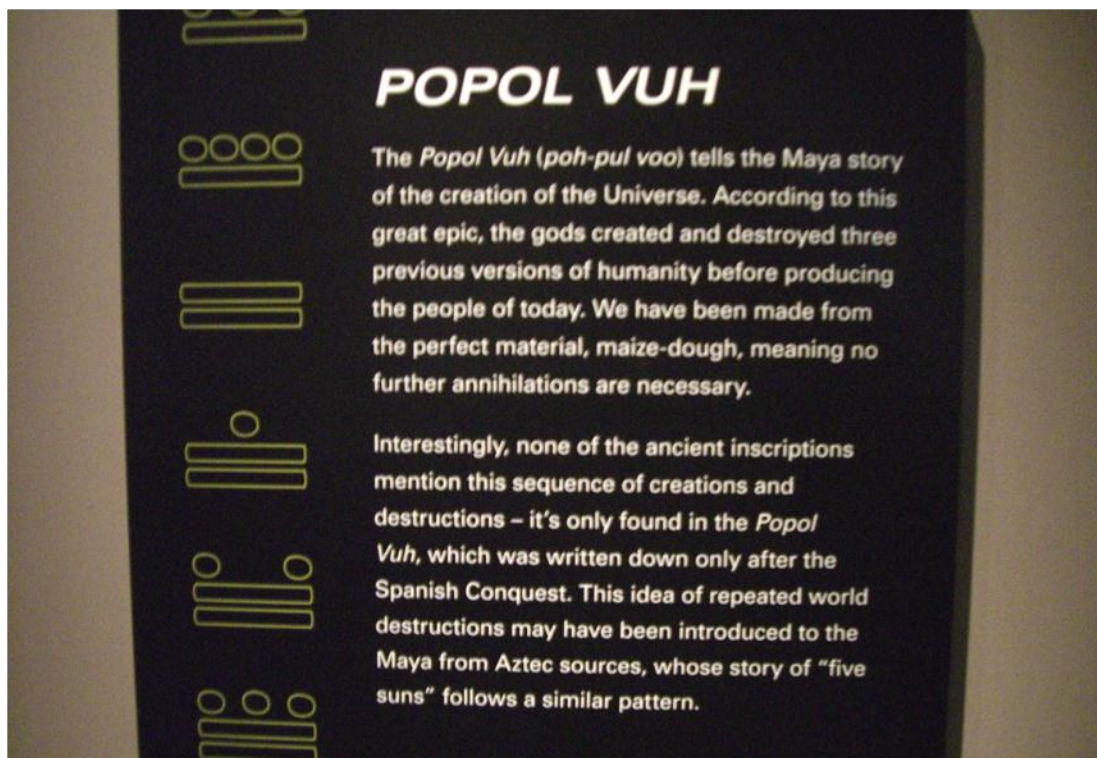
The Long Count Calendar has a completion date of December 21, 2012 that denotes the end of a cycle. However, the Maya refer to dates well beyond 2012. A text from the site of Palenque, Mexico records a date that would be 4772 CE in our calendar.



The Long Count Calendar was not used to predict future events, so it did not predict the end of the world. The Short Count Calendar, centered on cycles of about 20 years, did include predictions for changes that would occur in each period. The Short Count Calendar, is cyclical, and is continuous. Therefore, it has no end date.



In the Popol Vuh (poh-pul-voo), the Maya tell a story of the creation of the universe. The photo attached, explains that the Maya believed the gods created and destroyed three previous versions of humanity before producing the people of today. They believe the people of today have been made of the perfect material, maize-dough, meaning no further annihilations are necessary.



Dr. Loa Traxler, archeologist and curator of the exhibit, has excavated at the Copan, and other Mayan sites. She states, "So many people think that the Maya disappeared after the entry & conquest by Europeans. Throughout the Americas there are millions of Mayan speakers today. We have in the United States, in fact, many communities of Maya people. And for the Maya, 2012 is a time of great excitement. It's like our celebration of the turn of the millennium. It's an opening of a new time, a new era, and they look forward to the future." YouTube video link: [Interview with Dr. Loa Traxler](#)

After seeing the Mayan exhibit, it was clear to both of us that the Mayan Calendar doesn't end and that it doesn't predict the end of the world. I find it curious that there is so much misinformation regarding December 21, 2012. I hope that this article sheds some light on factual information that has been discovered.

If you are in Philadelphia, the exhibit is wonderful and really worth seeing. It is a beautiful arrangement of artifacts and information supported by audio and video content. It is showing through January, 2013.

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