

SOUTH SUBURBAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
PRESENTS A *FREE* ILLUSTRATED LECTURE

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Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation and SNA International

**MYTHS, ULTERIOR MOTIVES,
AND PESKY DATA** WHICH FINALLY GIVE CREDIT
WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

Atlantis, Mound Builders, and Stonehenge

Myths abound about the past and are frequently created or used to explain the seemingly “unexplainable.” In the process, such explanations rob cultures of their complexity and achievements. While some myths such as those about Atlantis date back thousands of years, others are more recent. For example, that of the Moundbuilders of North America, which beginning during the late 18th century provided an explanation for the origins of North American mounds as well as served ulterior motives. Popular belief and political purposes kept the Myth of the Moundbuilders alive until the late 19th century, when research and data finally laid it to rest, recognizing Native Americans as the creators of the mounds.

Although much older, the idea of Atlantis, which Plato discusses during the 4th century B.C., has been more difficult to dislodge from public belief and has actually grown in popularity while becoming more embellished through time. Atlantologists make strong cases for Atlantis being the “fountain-head” of numerous civiliza-

tions or sites around the world while twisting or simply ignoring the facts presented by Plato and archaeologists.

A case in point is the site of Stonehenge where recent archaeological work reveals the site to have been built over several centuries by a local work force. While invoking Atlantis and other imagined traditions to explain sites such as Stonehenge may seem satisfying and persuasive, scratching below their surface quickly reveals their shortcomings.

In addition, these explanations make past human achievements much less interesting in terms of the technological innovations, social interactions, political practice,

and belief systems that allowed groups to create architectural wonders and complex societies.

Dr. Gregory is an archaeologist who has worked in a variety of academic, research, and cultural resources management settings during the past 35 years. He is employed by ANC International, which is a forensic science consulting firm.



THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2018 AT 7:30 PM

Marie Irwin Community Center* • 18120 Highland Avenue, Homewood, Illinois

For more information call 773-268-6705 or visit <http://southsuburbanarchsociety.weebly.com>

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All are invited to attend this free lecture