

SOUTH SUBURBAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS A FREE ILLUSTRATED LECTURE



MIKE RUGGERI, Ph.D.

Professor Emeritus

City Colleges of Chicago

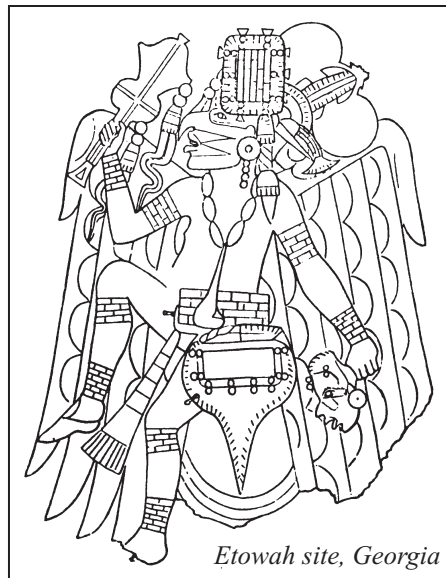
THE BIRDMAN COMPLEX of the Mississippian Civilization

The Birdman is the most revered deity of the 500-year-long Mississippian civilization. Iconography of Birdman's presence stretches as far north as Minnesota, as far west as Oklahoma and Texas, as far south as Louisiana, as far east as the Southern Atlantic seacoast and into Florida. (A Birdman stone tablet at Cahokia is shown above.) Dr. Ruggeri will introduce us to the exotic symbolism of the Birdman religion that has components from Mesoamerica, the Adena and Hopewell cultures and elements that became a major religion across the vast expanse of this civilization.

The cultural "Big Bang" at Cahokia in 1050 AD led to its becoming the most powerful city of the Mississippians. This resulted in trade and missionary activities that spread the Cahokian concept of the Birdman in all directions culturally and artistically.

Stunning, major art pieces of

the Birdman religion include finely crafted copper works, gorgets, and engravings incised on whelk shells imported from the Gulf of Mexico from 1000-1400 AD. Ruggeri will describe the complex meaning of these art pieces. He will end his discussion with the powerful site at Mound 72 within Cahokia that showed in real political ways the power of the Birdman in this culture.



Etowah site, Georgia

The Birdman complex lived on in the post-contact era with the Red Horn cycle of the Sioux, Onecota, Osage and other major tribes in the present USA.

During his 33-year teaching career, Ruggeri taught courses on Mesoamerica, Mexican and Latin American History among other subjects. He maintains 52 different web pages on all aspects of the Ancient Americas, the largest repository for the Ancient Americas on the world wide web.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 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>

*ADA-accessible

All are invited to attend this free lecture