

ArkyFacts

Monthly Newsletter of the
South Suburban Archaeological Society
Lecture meetings are at 7:30 p.m. at
The Irwin Center
18120 S. Highland Avenue, Homewood

Schedule of Events

2017

February 16 ⌘ Laura Gawlinski, PhD
Athenian Agora Excavations

February 27 Officers Meeting

March 16 ⌘ Mark Madsen
Native American Trails

Deadline for material to be included in the next
Arkyfacts is two weeks before the monthly meeting.

For more information about SSAS, or if you have a special
need because of a disability, call Will Kelley:

South Suburban Archaeological Society

ArkyFacts February

February 16, 2017

Engaging History: The Athenian Agora Museum in the Stoa of Attalos

By Laura Gawlinski, PhD



When the excavators of the Athenian Agora were unable to find a location for an on-site museum to hold the material they were uncovering, a radical solution was proposed: reconstruct one of the ancient buildings on its foundations. Today, the Stoa of Attalos not only provides ample space for storage, research, and the display of objects, but also allows the visitor to experience the function and form of this common type of ancient public building. The highlights of the museum collection are the unique objects illustrating civil life and the institutions of the Athenian democracy. The history of the city from the Neolithic to Byzantine periods is told through burial gifts, domestic decoration, and marble portraits.

Laura Gawlinski's publications and teaching focus on Greek religion and sacred space, classical archaeology, and Greek inscriptions. She began working in Greece at the excavations of the Athenian Agora as a student in 1995 and is now a senior field supervisor. She wrote the most recent edition of the guidebook to its museum, published in 2014.



Business Meeting Notes

The next business meeting will be Monday, February 27 at 7:30.

SAVE THE DATE—August 5

SSAS is planning an outing for Saturday, August 5 for our members. Mike Ruggeri will take participants on a tour of Aztalan in Wisconsin. Aztalan is a National Historic Landmark and an important archaeological site. Save the date; more information to follow.

Bookmarks!

South Suburban Archaeological Society

<http://southsuburbanarchsociety.weebly.com/>

See also <http://southsuburbanchapter.tumblr.com>

South Suburban Chapter Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/SouthSuburbanChapter2015>



Artifaque replica-plaque

Two donated two ceramic plaques to SSAS will be raffled off at an upcoming meeting. Figure 1 depicts Kokopelli, a figure that originated in the Southwest United States, but is now seen all over. The flute-playing, heel-kicking archetype has several iterations, with this one probably being the most common. It is embossed onto a terracotta colored clay material. The second plaque (Figure 2), in an ivory color, is a stony-faced Mayan warrior in profile with a pierced ear lobe and a ribbon in his hair.

Kokopelli measures about 5"x7" and Mayan about 4"x6".



Figure 1 Kokopelli



Figure 2 Mayan

Lifelong Learning, the Coursera Way

Coursera is a MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses) that offers a great variety of classes in all the disciplines. Of interest to avocational archaeologists, are the following courses.

- **Archaeoastronomy**, Politecnico di Milano, starts February 13, six weeks. “... studies the relationships between the ancient monuments and the sky, in order to gain a better understanding of the ideas of the architects of the past and of their religious and symbolic world.”
- **Osteoarachaeology: The Truth in Our Bones**, Universiteit Leiden, starts February 17, five weeks. “This course is about what we can learn from examining the human skeleton, and how we can use this knowledge to reconstruct the lives of people who lived in the past.”
- **Roman Art and Archaeology**, University of Arizona, starts February 20, six weeks. “... an overview of the culture of ancient Rome beginning about 1000 BCE and ending with the so-called Fall of Rome.”

I want to emphasize the variety of courses offered. For example, The History of Rock is not a geology course, but a music course. And it has subtitles for our Chinese and Serbian friends. You can also take language courses (Korean, Chinese). There is a wine class: Wine Tasting: Sensory Techniques for Wine Analysis, University of California, Davis, starts February 6. My favorite is Chicken Behavior and Welfare offered by University of Edinburgh.

<https://www.coursera.org/>