

November 17, 2016

Aztlan: The Northernmost Outpost of Mississippian Civilization

By Michael Ruggeri, PhD

Aztalan is the site of an ancient Mississippian culture settlement that flourished during the 10th to 13th centuries. The indigenous people constructed massive earthwork mounds for religious and political purposes. They were part of a widespread culture with important settlements throughout the Mississippi River valley and its tributaries.

Their trading network extended from the Great Lakes to the Gulf Coast, and into the southeast of the present-day United States. Aztalan was first settled around 900 by a Native American culture known as the Middle Mississippian Tradition. The chief center of a Middle Mississippian settlement is at Cahokia, in present-day Illinois, a city that at its peak had 20,000-30,000 people. This was not surpassed by Europeans in North America until after 1800. These settlements are characterized by the construction of mounds, stockades, and houses, by decorated Mississippian culture pottery and agricultural practices. There are also elements of the Woodland culture found here. Dr. Ruggeri will present the archaeology, history and iconography of this Wisconsin site.

Unearthed

1908—What a year!

A lot has been said about the year 1908 because of the length of time a certain Chicago baseball team went with a losing record. To provide an archaeological perspective, consider the following moments in time.

- In 1908, British archaeologist Harold St. George Gray, excavates at Avebury, a [Neolithic](#) “[henge](#)” containing three stone circles in southwest England.
- Also in 1908, a 40,000-year-old Neanderthal boy skeleton is found at Le Moustier in southwest France.
- Rediscovered in 1908 was the Ulugh Beg Observatory in Uzbekistan after having been destroyed in 1449. “Built in the 1420s by the Timurid astronomer Ulugh Beg, it is considered by scholars to have been one of the finest observatories in the Islamic world.”
- Also rediscovered, but in 1910, was Machu Picchu, Peru, by Hiram Bingham III, after being abandoned for about 350 years.

Discovered on Wikipedia, November 5, 2016:

- The Chicago Cubs win the 1908 World Series defeating the Detroit Tigers in Game 5. They would not win again until November 2016, which stands as the longest championship drought in sports history.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1908_in_archaeology

Business Meeting Notes

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 3, 2017, at 7:30.

The November 17 lecture is the last one of the year. There will not be another one until January 19, 2017, with Kiersten Neumann, PhD, talking about Persepolis. The rest of the programming for 2017 looks to be quite stimulating. Please look for details in future monthly newsletters, Arkyfacts, or online at the SSAS website: <http://southsuburbanarchsociety.weebly.com>

The election of officers for 2017 will be Thursday, November 17. Additional nominations can be made and are encouraged, as are **volunteers!!!** Please help out by volunteering.

All SSAS members are welcome to attend the business meetings held once a month in the home of a member. Dates and locations appear in the monthly newsletter, ArkyFacts. The general membership is encouraged to volunteer to serve on a committee, either as a chairperson or co-chair.

Bookmarks!

South Suburban Archaeological Society

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

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

South Suburban Chapter Facebook

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

Around Town

Community Scholars Program at Acorn Library, Oak Forest

Sponsored by Oriental Institute

Magic and Medicine in Ancient Egypt

November 21, 2016, 7:00-8:00 pm

Joey Cross, PhD student in Egyptology and Hebrew Bible

Magic and medicine are two of the great legacies of Egyptian civilization. To us, these two concepts are completely at odds with each other. When it comes to the Ancient Egyptians, however, how can we make sense of the fact that the same Egyptian word meant both “prescription” and “magic potion”? We will also see how their legacy impacted the wider Mediterranean world, with examples in Greek, Hebrew, and Christian thought and practice.

Oriental Institute’s Community Scholars Program provides presentations on themes ranging from exhibition highlights to our archaeological research and discoveries.

Acorn Public Library District

15624 Central Avenue, Oak Forest, IL



Schedule of Events

Lecture meetings are at 7:30 p.m. at

The Irwin Center

18120 S. Highland Avenue, Homewood

2016

November 17

☰ Michael Ruggeri, PhD

Aztlan: The Northernmost Outpost of Mississippian Civilization

2017

Tues., Jan. 3

☰ Officer's meeting

January 19

☰ Kiersten Neumann, PhD

Photographs of Persepolis