

# ArkyFacts

October

Monthly Newsletter of the  
South Suburban Archaeological Society

October 20, 2016

## The Untold Story of The Plague in Medieval Europe

By Sharon Quarcini



The plague in medieval Europe is a topic of curiosity and fascination. Afflicting millions of the general population in Europe and other parts of the world it changed the scope of humanity because of its effects. With the help of past and present day evidence we can investigate and understand the plague and its imprint on medieval Europe and the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Medieval Europe experienced a pestilence so horrific that it changed the world forever.

Sharon Quarcini is an art historian, interior designer, and college professor. Ms. Quarcini currently teaches courses in art history and humanities for Moraine Valley Community College and Governors State University. In addition, she has conducted numerous seminars and public speaking engagements for local libraries and other public interest groups. Ms. Quarcini possesses academic degrees in Fine Arts, Interior Design, as well as a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts in Art History.

## Unearthed

### The Plague and Archaeology

From the National Center for Biotechnology Information, by *Daniel Antoine*:

“The investigation of ancient “plagues” has always relied upon a multidisciplinary approach, involving fields as diverse as ancient history and zoology. Archaeology’s contribution to the investigation has the potential to be multifaceted, as it encompasses numerous sub-disciplines, many of which may be relevant to such studies.

- *Vertebrate and invertebrate zooarchaeology*: to investigate possible disease hosts or vectors.
- *Archaeobotany, geoarchaeology and palaeoecology*: to reconstruct the climatic conditions during plague epidemics, and the impact this may have had on potential disease hosts or vectors.
- *Urban archaeology*: to establish the “environmental” conditions and their impact on disease biology and disease transmission such as housing, population density, town size, water supply, transport, food supply and general facilities.
- *Material culture, burial archaeology and archaeological dating*: to ascertain the date of burial sites through scientific dating and/or by the presence of artefacts, as well as any cultural information found in the burial (such as the care with which the bodies were buried or the quality and quantity of any offerings).
- *Bioarchaeology and palaeopathology*: to analyse the physical remains of the victims of the plague. ”

For more, see this website of the National Institute of Health:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2632866/>



## Business Meeting Notes

The next meeting will be at 7:30 on Wednesday, November 2, at the home of Barb McDonough.

A rollicking good time was had at last month's SSAS banuquet. Will Kelley outdid himself with providing a trivia contest that was stimulating and educational. The winning table received a Egyptian jigsaw puzzle book donated by the Palmer's. The raffle prize was won most appropriately by Anne Schumacher, who has hosted many speaker dinners and refreshments for the society.

The nomination of SSAS officers will take place at the October meeting on the 20th. It is the sincere hope of the current officers and committee chairs that greater participation is seen from the membership. Current officers and chairs are doing double and triple duty to keep the organization running. Please feel free to contact any officer or chair to let them know you are interested in assuming a greater role in SSAS.

President	Will Kelley
Vice President	Warren Hastings
Treasurer	Warren Hastings
Recording Secretary	Susan Saric
Corresponding Secretary	Barbara McDonough
Archivist	Cathie Condon
Trustee	Walter Palmer
Trustee	Milan Saric
Trustee	Wayne McKee
Membership	Cathie Condon
Newsletter Editor	Cathie Condon
IAAA Liaison	Sharon Kramer
Grant	Susan Saric
Circulation	Susan Saric

## Bookmarks!

*South Suburban Archaeological Society*

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

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

*South Suburban Chapter Facebook*

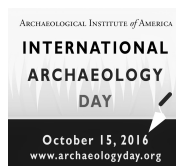
<http://www.facebook.com/SouthSuburbanChapter2015>

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## Around Town

### International Archaeology Day

October 15, 2016



International Archaeology Day is held each year on the third Saturday of October. It is a celebration of archaeology and the thrill of discovery. Every October the AIA and archaeological organizations across the United States, Canada, and abroad present archaeological programs and activities for people of all ages and interests. [www.archaeologyday.org](http://www.archaeologyday.org)

## International Travel Opportunities

### **Egypt and the Eternal Nile—a Smithsonian Journey**

Emily Teeter of the Oriental Institute, a regular SSAS speaker, will lead a tour of Egypt for the Smithsonian December 1-15, 2016. <http://www.smithsonianjourneys.org/tours/egypt/itinerary/>

### **MexiMayan Academic Travel—Caribbean Riviera**

MexiMayan has plans to visit the Caribbean Riviera January 17-27, 2017. The tour will include a visit to a new museum in Cancun that is an amazing conglomeration of everything Maya – the natural evolution of the Yucatan from dinosaurs to the art, the ethnology and the history. Contact Bob or Deb Stelton [by email: debandbob@meximayan.com](mailto:debandbob@meximayan.com), or call them at 630-972-9090.

## Schedule of Events

Lecture meetings are at 7:30 p.m. at  
The Irwin Center  
18120 S. Highland Avenue, Homewood

2016

October 20 ☰ Sharon Quarcini

The Untold Story of the Plague in Medieval Europe  
and the *Nomination of Officers*

Wednesday, November 2 Officers Meeting at Barb McDonough's

November 17 ☰ Michael Ruggeri, PhD  
Aztlán: The Northernmost Outpost of Mississippian Civilization

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

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For more information about SSAS, or if you  
have a special need because of a disability, call Will Kelley: 773-268-6705.