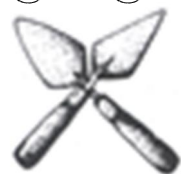


ArkylFacts



South Suburban Archaeological Society
Corresponding Secretary

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

OCTOBER – 2018

October 18 **2019 SSAS Officer Nominations**
Michael Ruggeri, Ph.D. ~ 7:30 PM
“The Birdman Complex of the
Mississippian Civilization”
October 29 Officers’ Meeting ~ 7:30 PM
Mama & Me Pizzeria, Homewood
Host: Will Kelley
November 15 William Iseminger, MA ~ 7:30 PM
“Telling Time in Ancient North America”

Deadline for material to be included in the next
Arkylfacts is two weeks before the monthly meeting.
Contact Susan Saric

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

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Sponsorship, making it possible ...

Thursday, October 18 - 7:30 PM

THE BIRDMAN COMPLEX OF THE MISSISSIPPIAN CIVILIZATION

By Michael Ruggeri, Ph.D.



The Birdman is the most revered deity of the Mississippian civilization. Iconography of his presence stretches as far north as Minnesota, as far west as Oklahoma and Texas, as far south as Louisiana, and as far east as the southern Atlantic seacoast and on to Florida. Visual symbols detailing the Birdman are found across a large swath of America on shell and copper works. His evolution as a major deity in North America reaches back to the BC era in both the Adena and Hopewell cultures.

Despite the fact that the Mississippian civilization lasted for 500 years in the heartland of America, this is one of the least studied cultures in academia. Only now are scholars beginning to do serious research into this civilization as a whole, and notable books and publications are few.

Mike Ruggeri will take us on a journey through the Mississippian culture and introduce us to the exotic symbolism of the Birdman religion. We will discuss its Mesoamerican elements, elements from the Adena and Hopewell cultures, and the elements that became a major religion across a vast territory with the cultural ōBig Bangö at Cahokia, where trade and missionary activities spread the Cahokian concept of the Birdman in all directions culturally and artistically. We will view stunning and finely crafted major art pieces of the Birdman religion, and discuss how the complex lived on in the post-contact era with the Red Horn cycle of the Sioux, Oneota, Osage and other major tribes in the present USA.

Dr. Ruggeri is Professor Emeritus-City Colleges of Chicago, and serves as a Director on the Boards of the IAAA and CAS. He is President of the Friends of Harold Washington College, and maintains 52 different web pages on all aspects of the Ancient Americas, the largest repository of its kind on the World Wide Web. (See <https://mikeruggerispages.tumblr.com> and <https://mikeruggerissmissippianbirdman.tumblr.com>)

Save the Date! The Chicago Archaeological Society (CAS) will host the 2019 IAAA Annual Meeting on Saturday/Sunday, June 1-2. Further details coming soon!

Our Final Business Meeting of 2018..... will be on Monday, October 29, 7:30 PM, at Mama & Me Pizzeria, 18219 Dixie Hwy., Homewood. Host will be Will Kelley.

Bookmarks! Find us online.....

Search: "South Suburban Archaeological Society on Weebly"

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

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South Suburban Chapter Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/SouthSuburbanChapter2015>



IN THE NEWS—Discovery of World's Oldest Cheese!

Archaeologists have identified a substance found inside an ancient Egyptian tomb: 3,200-year-old cheese!

Several years ago, a research team found a solidified whitish mass on a collection of jars in the tomb of Ptahmes, a high-ranking Egyptian official in the 13th century B.C. (*BBC news*).

The discovery was significant, as no cheese had previously been found in Ancient Egypt, and could be the oldest cheese residue on earth. The revelation was published in the journal *Analytical Chemistry*.

The material analyzed is probably the most ancient archaeological solid residue of cheese ever found to date, said Dr. Enrico Greco, of the University of Catania. Greco worked alongside colleagues at the Cairo University in Egypt to identify the substance.

We know it was made mostly from sheep's and goat's milk, but for me it's really hard to imagine a specific flavor, he said.

Professor Paul Kindstedt, University of Vermont cheese historian and chemistry professor, explained that the cheese would have had a really, really acidic bite to it.

Also found in the cheese were traces of a bacteria behind an infectious disease called brucellosis, which comes from consuming unpasteurized dairy products. If confirmed, it would be the oldest evidence of the disease, which still exists today.

The tomb is located at the Saqqara necropolis near Cairo. After being first unearthed in 1885, it was lost to shifting sands until its rediscovery in 2010.

Time News

IN THE NEWS—Lost City Emerges From Kansas Farm Field!

Donald Blakeslee, an anthropologist and archaeology professor at Wichita State University, has used freshly translated documents written over 400 years ago by Spanish conquistadors and an array of high-tech equipment to locate what he believes to be the lost city of *Etzanoa*, home to perhaps 20,000 people between 1450 and 1700.

These people lived in thatched, beehive-shaped houses that ran for at least five miles along the bluffs and banks of the Walnut and Arkansas Rivers. Blakeslee believes that the site is the second-largest ancient settlement in the U.S. after Cahokia.

Francisco Vazquez de Coronado came to central Kansas in 1541 chasing stories of gold. Instead, he found Native Americans in a collection of settlements he dubbed Quivira. In 1601, Juan de Onate led 70 conquistadors from the Spanish colony of New Mexico into south-central Kansas in search of Quivira, riches, tribute, and converts for the Catholic Church.

They were ultimately ambushed by 1,500 Escanxaques and withdrew back to New Mexico, never to return. French explorers arrived in the area a century later, but found nothing.

The early Great Plains has long been imagined as a vast empty space populated by nomadic tribes following buffalo herds. But if Blakeslee is right, at least some of the tribes were urban. They built large towns, raised crops, made fine pottery, processed bison on a massive scale and led a settled existence. Their trade connections ran all the way to the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan in Mexico.

Los Angeles Times