

# THE FIRST KINGS OF EUROPE

*A Presentation by William Parkinson, Ph.D.*  
*Curator and Associate Director of Anthropology, Field Museum*

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The northern part of the 'Balkan Peninsula,' ranging from Bulgaria and southern Romania west to Croatia and Slovenia, has some of the earliest archaeological records of the emergence of human social complexity, hierarchy, and centralized authority, particularly in Europe. But they are scattered across different countries. For the first time the Field Museum has been able to assemble these collections in a way that reveals, in material form, the narrative of this transformation from stone-age farming villages to The First

Kings of Europe. It includes pieces from the Varna Treasure, the oldest known examples of worked gold, and other items that mark moments in a process that unfolded over a time span of 6,000 years. Dr. Parkinson, the curator of this exhibit, will describe some of what had to be done in order to bring these artifacts together, and what can be discovered once they are all in one place.

Dr. Parkinson specializes in European and Eastern Mediterranean Prehistory. He earned his doctorate from the University of Michigan. He is now American Director of the Körös Regional Archaeological Project, which seeks to understand social changes on the Great Hungarian Plain over the last 12,000 years, and Co-Director of the Diros Project, which studies earlier changes in far southern Greece.



*William Parkinson*

**Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023, 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