

ArkyFacts

Monthly Newsletter of the SOUTH SUBURBAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

JANUARY - 2024

Thursday,
January 18 Claudia Brittenham, PhD ~ 7:30 PM
 "Unseen Art in Ancient Mesoamerica"
 (In-person and via Zoom.)

Monday,
January 29 Officers' Meeting ~ 6:00 PM
 1044 185th Place, Homewood

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

For more information about South Suburban Archaeological Society, or if you have a special need
because of a disability, contact SSAS President Will Kelley





ArkyFacts

January 2024

Thursday, January 18 ~ 7:30 PM

“Unseen Art in Ancient Mesoamerica”

Dr. Claudia Brittenham, University of Chicago

Many works of Mesoamerican sculpture were difficult to see in their original contexts. For over three thousand years, from the earliest moments of Olmec civilization, around 1500 BCE, to the Aztec empire at the time of the Spanish invasion in 1519 CE, people in the region of modern Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, and Honduras made works of art whose initial conditions of display were radically different from the ways that we encounter them in museums or photographs today. Yet in order to understand these challenges to visibility, we have to consider visibility: the ways that ancient Mesoamerican people understood the nature of sight and the embodied process of seeing. The difficulty of seeing these visually elaborated things also focuses attention on the moment when

they *were* visible: during the process of making, an act imbued with generative significance in many Mesoamerican cultures. In this talk, Dr. Brittenham will consider how works of art help us understand the dynamics of vision and power in Olmec, Maya, and Aztec societies.

(Photo by Justin Kerr: Lintel 25, Structure 23, Yaxchilan, Maya, 723-726 CE. British Museum Am1923,Maud.5.)

Dr. Claudia Brittenham is Professor of Art History at the University of Chicago. Her research focuses on the art of Mesoamerica, with interests in the materiality of art and the politics of style. She is the author of *Unseen Art: Making, Vision, and Power in Ancient Mesoamerica*, as well as *The Murals of Cacaxtla: The Power of Painting in Ancient Central Mexico*; *The Spectacle of the Late Maya Court: Reflections on the Murals of Bonampak* (with Mary Miller); and *Veiled Brightness: A History of Ancient Maya Color* (with Stephen Houston and colleagues). Her next book focuses on the interconnectedness of the ancient Mesoamerican world.



Please join us for light refreshments before the program! (For remote viewing, see our insert page.)



Search: “South Suburban Archaeological Society” or

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

SSAS on Tumblr: <http://southsuburbanchapter.tumblr.com>

South Suburban Chapter on Facebook:

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



SSAS programming is made possible through generous contributions from our members of time, effort and financial support.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA (AIA)
JANUARY LECTURES AVAILABLE ONLINE

January 21 @ 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM PST

*“Recent Work at Memphis & the Fayum:
An Overview of Methodologies and Results”*

Raghda (Didi) El-Behaedi, PhD Candidate, University of Chicago

January 29 @ 5:00 PM EST

*“Self-Fashioning in a Roman Province: Gender, Dress and
Difference in the Isiac Funerary Reliefs from Athens”*

Dr. Lindsey Masurek, Indiana University (Bloomington)

Visit the AIA website (“Events”) for details/registration information.

EXHIBITION



The Museum of
Science & Industry
“Ships Gallery”

Anchors aweigh on a journey
across millennia of seafaring
with the authentic models of
the *Ships Gallery*!

The ageless quest to cross the world’s waterways - to trade, travel, war or explore - required the right ship to fit the purpose. *Ships Gallery*, presented by Captain Dave Truitt, features a collection of scale models showing how ships were shaped by tasks and technologies for thousands of years.

This “all ages” exhibit is included in general museum admission. For further information, visit the museum website or call (773)684-1414.

How to Remotely View our January 18th Program:

Interested in participating via Zoom?

- 2023 and 2024 SSAS members for whom we have an email contact address will automatically be sent the program’s Zoom access information.



- For all other Zoom inquiries, send a request to the email link shown below. **Please submit your request as soon as possible.** Include enough information in the email to verify your identity.

southsubarkyzoom-request@yahoo.com

1-2 days before the event, the host will respond with an invitation to attend through Zoom. For questions about remote viewing, contact Will Kelley.



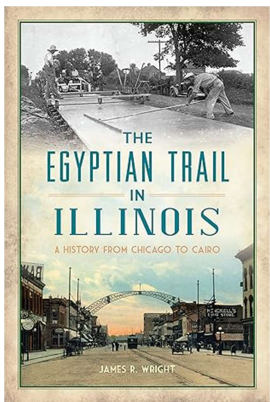
Business Notes

2024 Officers were elected at the November 16th program. Officers and chairpersons for 2024 are: Will Kelley (President/Archivist), Warren Hastings (Vice-President/Treasurer), Susan Saric (Recording Secretary), Dave Swanson (Trustee), Lisa Nicholson (Trustee), Matt McDonald (Trustee), and Milan Saric (Membership Chairman).

A heartfelt “Thank you!” goes out to all of these dedicated member volunteers.

Our next business meeting will take place on **Monday, January 29 – 6:00 PM**, and be hosted by Warren Hastings at his home.

Please remember to renew your SSAS membership for 2024! You may renew in-person at our reception desk during any lecture program or via mail. Questions? Contact Milan Saric (708)870-0333.



“The Egyptian Trail in Illinois”

by James R. Wright

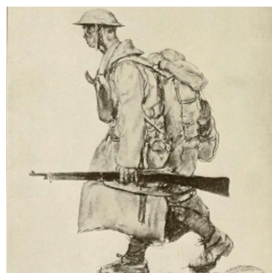
Stretching from Chicago to Cairo, the Egyptian Trail was one of the earliest “improved” roadways in Illinois. Dating to 1915, it was the longest road in the state, running four hundred miles through 20 counties and over 60 towns.

The project was the brainchild of two Mattoon men, Dr. Iverson Lumpkin and Ernest B. Tucker, who realized the southern reaches of the state should be linked with Chicago along the same path as the Illinois Central Railroad. Though long forgotten today, the trail also served as the basic template for the route of Interstate 57. Author James R. Wright takes a road trip through the fascinating heritage of the Egyptian Trail. (This book is currently available through the Homewood Historical Society (708)799-1896 or through Amazon Books.)

Saturday, January 13 (1:00 – 2:00 PM)

Palos Park Public Library
12330 S. Forest Glen Blvd., Palos Park IL

“Uncle Sam’s Mud Crunchers: The American Soldier in WWI and WWII”



Immerse yourself in the history of World War I and World War II as tribute is paid to the brave soldiers of the past. This captivating presentation will delve into the lives of the iconic doughboys and G.I.s, exploring their gear, uniforms, and cherished personal items that evolved across these pivotal eras.

Through an engaging blend of visuals and artifacts, this unique event brings history to life. The presenter will showcase authentic uniforms, equipment, and mementos that accompanied these soldiers on their journey through the tumultuous times of two world wars.

To register, call (708)448-1530 or visit the library website.

EXHIBITION

The Art Institute

“Architectural Fragments from Chicago” (Ongoing Exhibit)



For the first time in over 30 years, the Art Institute of Chicago unveils an elegant and thought-provoking display of architectural fragments from buildings in and around Chicago.

Since the 19th century, Chicago’s urban landscape has experienced continuous change. Over time, many transformations of the city’s streets and neighborhoods have become invisible, preserved only in collective memory and archival photographs. Architectural fragments provide another avenue to understanding our urban past, including historical building practices and technologies, our dynamic communities, and evolving ways of life.

Sculptural elements from building facades and interiors are displayed in groups that allow visitors to learn about many architecturally or culturally significant structures and moments in Chicago. These range from celebrated buildings by well-known architects like Frank Lloyd Wright and Louis Sullivan to important local histories related to the South Side neighborhood of Bronzeville, labor, and preservation.

Featuring well-loved works from the permanent collection alongside important new acquisitions—such as a stained-glass window by Marion Mahony Griffin and a terracotta bust of an Egyptian pharaoh by Walter Bailey—this installation, designed by the Chicago-based practice Norman Kelley, offers dynamic encounters with the museum’s rich holdings of architectural fragments, an integral part of our shared material history.

For further reading, visit the website of the *Art Institute of Chicago*.

(Photo: Circular Ventilator Grille, Francis Apartments, Chicago-1895, Frank Lloyd Wright)