

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

SEPTEMBER - 2021

Thursday, ZOOM Presentation ~ 7:30 PM
September 16 Dr. Morag Kersel

"Pots from the City of Sin -
The Consequences of Buying
Holy Land Antiquities"

(NOTE: Dr. Kersel will NOT be appearing in person at the Irwin Center.)

Monday, Officers' Meeting ~ 6:00 PM
October 4 Mama & Me Pizzeria, Homewood

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

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

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Thursday, September 16 – 7:30 PM – via ZOOM

“Pots from the City of Sin- The Consequences of Buying Holy Land Antiquities” With Dr. Morag Kersel

Whatever the motive, the demand for archaeological artifacts from the Holy Land (modern Jordan, Israel, and the Palestinian Territories) results in archaeological site destruction, theft from museums, and a compromised understanding of the past. Critical to understanding the mechanics of the antiquities trade and the motivations of the associated actors is the recognition of the commonality of demand--everyone wants to own a piece of the Holy Land. “Who doesn’t want a pot from the city of sin?” declared an interviewee when asked why they were purchasing an Early Bronze Age (3600-2000 BCE) artifact, possibly from the site of Bab adh-Dhra’ (identified by some as biblical Sodom).



Over 15 years of investigation have led to interesting insights related to why individuals and institutions want to own artifacts from the Holy Land. Tracing how pots move from the mound to the market to the mantelpiece or museum involves archaeological survey, aerial investigations using unpiloted aerial vehicles, archival research, and ethnographic interviews in order to better understand the competing claims for these archaeological objects and the deleterious effects on the landscape.



Dr. Morag Kersel is Associate Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Museum Studies Minor program at DePaul University. She is currently co-director of the *Galilee Prehistory Project* and the *Follow the Pots Project* – tracing the movement of Early Bronze Age pots from the Dead Sea Plain in Jordan.

PLEASE NOTE: Dr. Kersel will NOT be appearing in person at the Irwin Center. This lecture will be presented via ZOOM; however, you may choose to view the program with other SSAS members and guests at the Irwin Center in Homewood, where it will be broadcast into our usual meeting room. Masks will be required. For those who wish to view this ZOOM program remotely, please see our insert page.

Bookmarks! Find us online.....

Search: “South Suburban Archaeological Society”

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

OR: <http://southsuburbanchapter.tumblr.com>

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



SSAS programming is made possible through generous contributions from our members of time, effort, and financial support, and through the valued sponsorship of our friends at  nitel

How to Remotely View our September Presentation:

Time: Sep 16, 2021 07:30 PM Central Time
(US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84188408369?pwd=eK1KMEJQangxcTFzcHc5OUVrZWl5dz09>

Meeting ID: 841 8840 8369
Passcode: 836370

One tap mobile:

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Meeting ID: 841 8840 8369
Passcode: 836370

Business Meeting..... Our next business meeting is scheduled for
Monday, October 4 - 6:00 PM at Mama & Me Pizzeria, Homewood.



Exploring Downtown Chicago This Fall ?



You might want to check out **Wood Block Alley!**

Alleys may not be the first place you'd think to take a stroll, but in Chicago, they hold surprises.

At one time, Chicago and other cities paved their streets and alleys with wood rather than asphalt or stone. In the 1850's, Chicago lumber was cheap thanks to Wisconsin's nearby forests, and the city began experimenting with a wood block known as "Nicholson pavement."

The wood block pavement promised to be durable, clean and quiet. When pine blocks proved to wear out quickly, the city switched to the more durable white oak and cedar. By 1891, 62% of Chicago's 774 miles of road were paved with wood. That wood even survived the Great Chicago Fire. An 1872 report stated that "the wooden block pavement, although considerably damaged on all streets, withstood the fire much better than was expected."

Unfortunately, the life of a wood block was only about a decade. The pavement fell out of favor by the turn of the century as wood resources were depleted and stone became more affordable.

Chicago's wooden streets have disappeared, but there are miles of wooden pavement remaining under city streets that were simply paved over. You can still find crumbling wood block alleys around 2100 N. Hudson south of Webster, and on Roscoe west of the Inner Drive.

The best-known **Wood Block Alley** lies in the Gold Coast between State Parkway and N. Astor St., behind the residence of the Archbishop of Chicago. Built in 1909, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2002. In 2011, the alley was restored using both original and used blocks.

Excerpted from *Urban Explorer*