

Time Sifters

February 2013



A Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society

PO Box 5283, Sarasota FL 34277

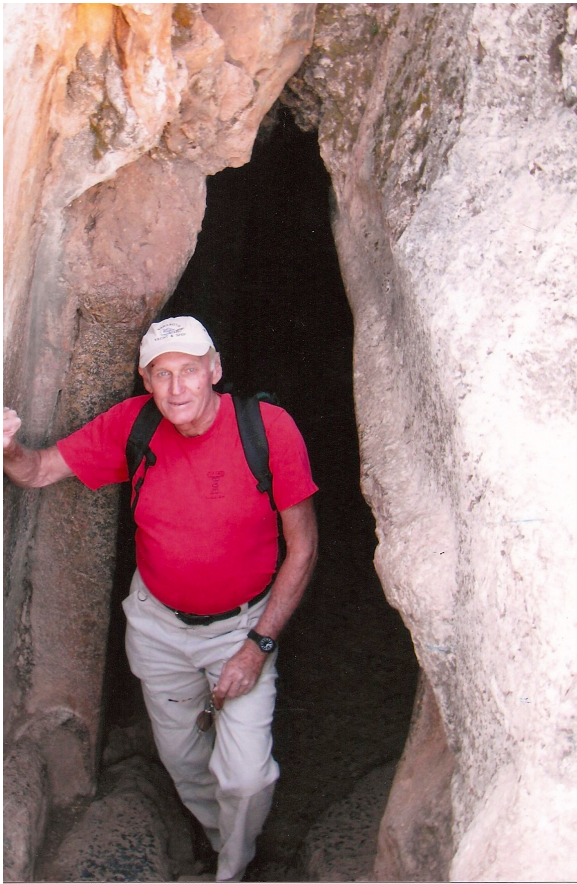
Editor: Sherry Svekis • ssvekis@gmail.com • (941) 359-0683

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, February 20, 2013, 6:00 PM

Selby Library, Downtown Sarasota

Robert Bopp, Time Sifters Board of Directors **The Sacred Valley of the Incas**



Nestled in the midst of high, forbidding, snow capped mountains with a harsh environment there lies a long, narrow, valley with fertile soil, abundant water supply, ample sunshine, and a warm climate. It is no wonder that this haven became the favorite place of the Incas. Almost every Inca emperor built estates there to escape the cold winters of Cusco, their capital city. Some of the oldest towns in the western hemisphere were built in the valley and numerous temples and shrines, the backbone of their religion, were centered in the valley. It was mostly a peaceful place, sheltered from the empire-building conflicts that surrounded it. The valley became the breadbasket of the empire and was on the trade routes for products coming from the eastern jungles and southeastern provinces around Lake Titicaca.

Join us as we explore this fascinating place and learn how the Incas turned it into their version of Shangri-La. Archaeology isn't just digging things up. It also explores how cultures cope with their environment, and learn to live with it and shape it to give themselves a successful and rewarding lifestyle without destroying what their creator has given them to work with. The Incas respected and worked along with nature better than most other cultures. One of their main endeavors was to keep their world in balance, because a world out of balance creates chaos. They were extremely close to nature, enjoying its bounty, respecting its needs, and learning from its moods.

As Robb says, "We might think of the Incas as an organic culture, blending in with their surroundings, rather than a mechanized culture such as ours, which sets itself apart from and often feels alienated from the natural world. In the end, Pachamama (mother nature) always wins." So explore with Rob Bopp how the Incas, basically a stone age culture, built the largest empire in the western hemisphere and still preserved the beauty of their surroundings.

Notes from a Time Sifter

Most people associate archaeology with bones, and archaeologists do find lots of them. Bones are one of the most important finds because we can learn so much from them and also because there are lots of bones to find. Bones preserve well, especially the thick bones like the skull and heavy long bones. Most human bone finds come from deliberate burials like those in the Egyptian tombs or high in the mountain caves of the Andes. Other bones come from accidental finds, like “Kennewick Man,” a man who lived more than nine thousand years ago in the Columbia River Valley of Washington State (Seattle Times, Oct. 9, 2012), and the “Ice Man” who lived about 5000 years ago found in the Tyrolean Alps between Austria and Italy (National Geographic, Feb. 2012). These bones reveal that King Tut was conceived through incest (National Geographic, Feb. 2010), that Kennewick Man was not related to the American Indians, and that the Ice Man spent most of his life just 37 miles from where he died.

Bones also tell us about the lives of these people. Poor King Tut lived with a club foot, slight cleft palate, scoliosis, malaria and epilepsy and died while still a teenager, probably because of the great number of maladies. “Ice Man” had Lyme disease, lactose intolerance and was murdered at age 47, and “Kennewick Man” had survived several injuries but evidently enjoyed robust health as he was well nourished and weighed approximately 170 pounds, significant for his height at 5 feet, 7 inches; yet he died at age 40 from unknown causes. Bones reveal evidence of hard physical labor or lack of much labor at all. The elite must have led a soft life and tended to be well-fed; others may have actually been worked to death. Many ancient people suffered from diseases such as tuberculosis, syphilis, cancer, leprosy and arthritis and must have lived in pain for part of their lives. But bones also show attempts at treatments to relieve pain such as surgeries and tooth extractions. Bones also show that some people had to have been cared for. Some skeletons show deformities and crippling that would have rendered the person unable to provide them self with life necessities or even the ability to walk, yet were able to survive for many years. Archaeologists have found several Stone Age skeletons that had severe disabilities and could not have been able to even feed themselves, yet they lived in that condition for several years. The conclusion is that they were carefully cared for by their community, a major hardship because the severely disabled would have had to have been carried as the community moved from place to place. We can only speculate about the reasons for this special care. Dr. Jane Buikstra of Arizona State University and director of the Center for Bioarchaeological Research is concentrating on the co-evolution of humans and their diseases. She believes that all this information from bones helps us to “get into the minds of ancient peoples” to better understand their cultures so that we can better understand them.



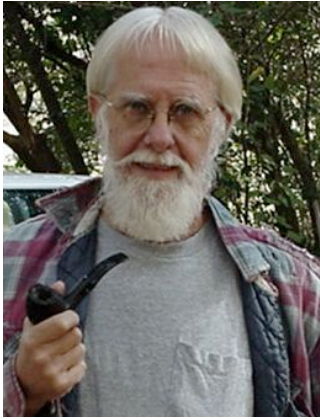
Photo credit: <http://www.dailyastorian.com>

On the Time Sifters website:

Bones Under Parking Lot Belonged to Richard III

OUR WEBMASTER, JIM MECKLER, POSTS THE MOST INTERESTING ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

LEICESTER, England — In one of Britain’s most dramatic modern archaeological finds, researchers here announced on Monday that skeletal remains found under a parking lot in this English Midlands city were those of King Richard III, for centuries the most widely reviled of English monarchs, paving the way for a possible reassessment of his brief but violent reign. Richard Buckley, the lead archaeologist on a project to identify the bones, told reporters that tests and research since the remains were discovered last September proved “beyond reasonable doubt” that the “individual exhumed” from a makeshift grave under the parking lot was “indeed Richard III, the last Plantagenet king of England.” For more of the story go to www.timesifters.org



Voices from Native Florida

C. Randall Daniels (Sakim), Carrier of Traditions for the Apalachicola will headline Archaeology Fest!

Saturday, March 16th 10am - 1pm

You won't want to miss this second lecture in our Voices of Native Florida series. Sakim is a dynamic speaker and an incredible presence. The lecture starts at 11 a.m. Archaeology Fest consists of free events that will be held in and around the New College Public Archaeology Lab, with a dozen archaeology, ecological, and historical preservation organizations presenting information on the region's heritage, showcasing archaeological artifacts, and offering hands-on activities. It is a celebration and exploration of regional archaeology and history, and a major Time Sifters outreach initiative, so tell your friends and please come and support us!
<https://www.facebook.com/NewCollegePublicArchaeologyLab>



Update from the New College Public Archaeology Lab

Looking for volunteers to help Felicia Silpa continue the re-examination of the Gamble Plantation archaeological assemblage this semester. Uzi Baram will be supervising on Wednesdays from 10 am to 11 am in NCPAL as we go through the historic materials. Once we finish with those artifacts, we'll move to the recently excavated artifacts from around the Manatee Mineral Spring Pictures of the excavation are below. Any/all NCF student and Time Sifters member welcomed.



Join other Time Sifters members attending the 65th Annual Florida Anthropological Society Meeting - May 10-11, 2013

The St. Augustine Archaeological Society is pleased to host the 65th Annual Meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society in St. Augustine, May 10-11, 2013 in connection with the statewide 500-year celebration of Florida's Spanish history. The theme Ponce to The Ponce has been chosen in recognition of Ponce de Leon's 1513 landing and the location of the meeting this year, the former Ponce de Leon Hotel, now home to Flagler College.

Further details about the events and a registration form will be available in the January FAS newsletter and online beginning in 2013 at www.FASWEB.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST!

23rd Annual Sarasota Historic Homes Tour- March 3rd

Presented by the Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation. Go to www.historicsarasota.org for complete information.

Archaeology Fest! Saturday, March 16th

Time Sifters' celebration of archaeology is growing each year. Join us on the New College campus at the Public Archaeology Lab for lectures, tours, displays by local archaeology and history organizations, and a special presentation by Sakim, Keeper of Traditions for the Apalachicola.

Membership

Individual:	\$20
Family:	\$30
Sustaining:	\$50
Student:	\$10

Pay online at:

TimeSifters.org

Or mail checks to:

Time Sifters, Inc.
PO Box 5283
Sarasota, FL. 34277

We're on the Web!

www.TimeSifters.org

SPRING 2013 MEETING CALENDAR

January 23, 6pm: Nathan Lawres, M.A.: Waging War the Seminole Way: An Ethnohistoric Perspective on the Evolution of Seminole Combat Behaviors

February 20, 6pm: Robert Bopp, Time Sifters Board member, The Sacred Valley of the Incas

March 13, 6pm: Short programs by winners of the Cornelia D. Futor Student Grant Competition

March 16, 10am - 1pm: Archaeology Fest! featuring Sakim, Carrier of Traditions for the Apalachicola. *

April 17, 6pm: Evelyn Mangie, Archaeology in Israel

May 15, 6pm: Maranda Almy Kles, M.A., M.S.: Bioarchaeology in Sarasota and Beyond

Selby Library: downtown Sarasota, Central Ave and 2nd Street

** New College Public Archaeology Lab*