

Time Sifters

March 2014



A Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society

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NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, March 19, 2014, 6:00 PM

Selby Library, Downtown Sarasota

Meet the Cornelia D. Futor Student Grant Award Winners

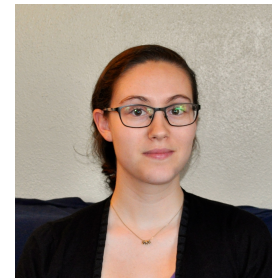
Katie O'Brien is a third year anthropology student at New College of Florida in Sarasota aiming to specialize in the bioarchaeology of Africa. Her advisor is historical archaeologist Dr. Uzi Baram, and she is formulating this paper based off of a comic strip she created for her Archaeology of Florida course in the Fall 2013 semester.



The Findings of the Vero Site: How Old Are They? – A Comic: An Analytical Survey of Comics in Archaeology

Many facets of archaeological research require tangible objects and their visual assessment. Considering this fact, the idea of sharing research through the medium of graphic comic strips is appropriate in conveying certain results. Not only do comic strips relay information in a succinct, comprehensive manner, but they are also entertaining and are often amusing. Here, the web-generated comic showcases the controversy surrounding the faunal remains recently discovered in Vero Beach, Florida. The engraving on this bone would represent the oldest and only existing example of art depicting a mastodon in the Americas, providing groundbreaking changes in history. In this eight-panel comic, complex archaeological material is condensed into somewhat of a story while it simultaneously describes archaeological methodologies, demonstrating what this method of visual representation can offer in exhibiting archaeological undertakings.

Nancy Shipley “I am a third year student at New College of Florida (NCF) studying anthropology and biology. During a gap year after high school I participated in a youth-exchange program to Istanbul, Turkey where I lived for 11 months with a host family and attended a local school. The following fall, at NCF, a class with Dr. Uzi Baram, “Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East”, permanently instilled a love for anthropology. Biology, with a focus in medicine, had been my interest up to that point, but I feel anthropology has broadened my understanding of what practicing medicine can mean, and perhaps what its true goals should be. I intend to complete the anthropology work at NCF and continue on to medical school. I hope that my experiences in both fields can lead to a better understanding of each.”



The Taphonomy of a Landscape: Anthropogenic and Ecological Processes Following Abandonment at Forest Lakes Country Club Golf Course

Opened for business in the 1960's, the golf course at Forest Lakes Country Club was once one of the most prestigious in Sarasota, home to a full 18 holes and a two-story clubhouse. It eventually went out of business in the early 2000's and was foreclosed on by the bank and the landscape has remained largely untouched since then. This area provided a unique opportunity to study the processes of abandonment on a manufactured landscape. The goal of the project was to apply the concept of taphonomy to a landscape, observing both the ecological and anthropogenic changes that occurred since its abandonment.

Notes from a Time Sifter

There is abundant evidence that humans have been traveling since they stood upright. The very robust Neanderthal leg bones indicate that they spent a lot of time walking (or running). We know that Egyptians navigated the Nile very early in their history, and in the first century b. c. e., the Phoenicians sailed the entire Mediterranean and down the west coast of Africa. Even though travel in ancient times was uncomfortable, dangerous, and expensive, people still traveled. The easiest way to travel was by boat but there were not any passenger boats, only military or commercial boats on which individuals could book passage. Odysseus and his companions were returning from the Trojan War when they encountered his dangerous challenges, and Saint Paul made arrangements with commercial cargo ships to carry him on his ministries through the eastern Mediterranean. One of Paul’s voyages ended in a shipwreck and he had to swim to shore (Acts 27.33-44). Land travel was even worse. After getting off the ship, Paul walked nearly 200 miles through Anatolia from Perga to Pisidian Antioch on very rugged terrain through precipitous mountains and deep canyons. (Fairchild, “Paul’s Perilous Passage Through Pisidia”, BAR, December 2013, vol. 39 no. 6). In addition, travelers could be kidnapped and sold into slavery.

Travelers sometimes could depend on hospitable villagers to give them food and a place to sleep. First century Strabo says it was “barbaric to refuse hospitality to strangers,” and the Middle Kingdom Egyptian Tale of Sinue describes the hero sleeping in open fields or in the homes of villagers. But there were pirates and robbers everywhere and travelers could not carry many supplies with which to barter. Road travelers had to gather food or beg. There were no fresh provisions on ships. Meat could be salted to preserve it, but storage was bad and it quickly became infested with rats and maggots (Marine Insights).

There were no maps so the ancients used the stars to guide their way. Strabo writes that camel merchants traveled at night so they could “direct their course by observing the stars.” Other travelers made records of landmarks. For example, some of the trials of Odysseus probably record actual places in the Mediterranean, such as the home of Calypso which seems to describe the Straits of Gibraltar. Major roads had names, so following “the road to Damascus” would probably get you there. But roads were built for the military, not for travelers so they did not always take you where you wanted to go. Roman roads were a great improvement over footpaths but thieves still prowled the countryside and walking on the stones was difficult. It helped if you had a horse or an ox to pull a cart but wooden wheels would have made it a very bumpy ride. American Indians never developed carts with wheels, so they walked everywhere until the Spanish arrived with horses. Mayans built canals for easier travel, and the Aztecs carried the elite on litters, but generally, people walked. The Inca roads give some indication of how difficult travel was through the Andes Mountains. Many Inca roads are constructed as steep steps up the mountainside, and the bridges that the Inca built are awesome evidence of the dangers of travel, so it would not be surprising if some people did not return home. In the 5th century b. c. e., Plato criticized Socrates for not traveling when Plato wrote, “you never went out from the city to a festival, or anywhere else, except on military service, and you never made any other journey, as other people do ...but you were contented with us and our city” (Crito, 52b). Socrates was just smarter than everyone else.



inca road by Adventure Rider



Bridge by natali 2013

Your Time Sifters Board:

Board member Alfonz Llengyel (on left) received the AWARD of the US-China People Friendship Association for his help to establish the first Chinese Museology Institute and Museology Master Degree Program at Fudan University in Shanghai. Furthermore for the establishment in Xi'an in partnership with the Archaeological Institute of Shaanxi Province, the Sino-American Field School of Archaeology (1980 through 2009), which offered annual Summer semesters for Field Archaeology. The Award was presented by the Sarasota Chapter.



Many Histories by the Manatee Mineral Spring

Uzi Baram

New College of Florida

Driving down Manatee Avenue (State Road 64), it is easy to assume all is recent. Yet going from Holmes Beach on Anna Maria Island eastward through Bradenton and then across the Braden River and on to Arcadia, the road passes impressive history, if one knows to look. Just north of Manatee Avenue in east Bradenton, Reflections of Manatee, Inc., has preserved and interpreted the past around the Manatee Mineral Spring. The historic marker might seem out-of-place but much history is beneath the surface.



A View of the Manatee Mineral Spring, and new interpretive signs (photographs by Uzi Baram)

The history around the Manatee Mineral Spring is impressive, complicated and engaging. Reflections of Manatee, Inc., the stewards of the property, has collected a tremendous amount of information on those histories and has been generous in sharing the knowledge with scholars and community members. What is today a field with interpretative signs, a historic marker, sugar cane fields, and gardens was, many times over the centuries, a thriving center of social activities. From evidence of the Native American presence to suggestive insights into the modern period, archaeological excavations have informed the history, expanding understandings for many chapters and revealing new ones.

Piecing together the past, going beyond the simplifications and assumptions that muffle history in order to repair our understandings of what happened around the Manatee Mineral Spring is the goal of the research and studies. The individual chapters include stories of successes as well as destruction; the sweep of history illustrates the adaptations and significance of the spring to many peoples and times, but the goal is not to simply have a collection of historical facts. Rather delineating the many histories moves us to recognize the cosmopolitanism of the past, a thousand years of history of different peoples coming together at or near the Manatee Mineral Spring. Whether lives of pre-Columbian Native Americans, the Spaniards recording the coastline, the various peoples of African heritage coming together as a maroon community with help of British filibusters and Cuban fishermen, or the women and men of the Village of Manatee, the past was socially complicated and dynamic with each epoch having its own variation and several aspects of the built environment and modifications of the ecology leaving legacies for the next generation. The many histories around the spring are a reminder of those cosmopolitan eras with their diversity, and even if they are not visible on the surface now, we can appreciate the rich heritage that is beneath our feet.

➡ **Read Dr. Baram's full article about the various histories and the archaeological research that has informed the history at www.reflectionsofmanatee.com.**

➡ **Join Dr. Baram for a dynamic tour and interactive discussion of the historical events that took place around the spring. A Time Sifters Florida Archaeology Month event - March 15th (full details on the next page)**



Membership

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

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TimeSifters.org

Or mail checks to:
Time Sifters, Inc.
PO Box 5283
Sarasota, FL. 34277

We're on the Web!

www.TimeSifters.org

FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH EVENTS OF INTEREST!

Field Trip to Portavant Temple Mound, Emerson Point Preserve

Saturday, March 8th - noon

5801 17th Street West, Palmetto, FL 34221 - meet just inside the entrance gate.

Join Sherry Svekis for an easy walk around the largest temple mound in the Tampa Bay area. If you bring a picnic lunch we can enjoy it by the river after the tour.

Many Histories by the Manatee Mineral Spring

Saturday, March 15th - 10am-12pm

1320 2nd Ave. East

Bradenton, FL 34208

At 10:30, Professor Uzi Baram will lead a dynamic walking tour and interactive discussion of the historical events which took place around the spring. Archaeology has revealed a rich heritage of many histories, covering thousands of years.

SPRING 2014 MEETING CALENDAR

March 19, 6pm: Student Grant Winners

April 16: Curt Bowen, Advanced Diver Magazine Foundation - Hidden Relics

May 21: John Jaffer and Valerie Jackson Bell - The Holocaust and The Lost Synagogue of Gargzdai

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

Go to www.TimeSifters.org
for more information!

First Last Name
Address
City, St Zip

Renewal Date

Your renewal date is above; please remit if due.