



# MARCH - 2021

PRESERVATION ♦ EDUCATION ♦ RESEARCH ♦ INSPIRE

Dear Member:

The Spring season will be presented on ZOOM. The Selby Library will not be available before the Fall (maybe).

This month we are proud to present all the way from the University of California, Rebecca Davis who is going to talk to us about **“French Colonial Plantations in St. Dominique”**.

Please don't forget to pay your dues, they help us to continue to bring you exciting speakers and programs. Thank you for being a Time Sifters member.

Darwin “Smitty” Smith, President

hmsbeagle22@gmail.com

March 17 - at 6:00 PM - ZOOM.

## Walking Through French Colonial Plantation Landscapes: Navigating the Sugar & Coffee Plantations of Pre-Revolutionary St. Dominique



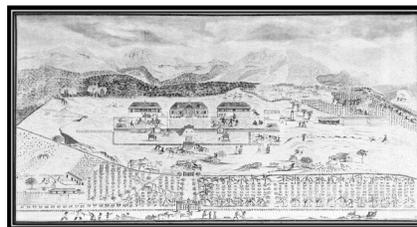
**Rebecca Davis**  
*UCSC PhD Student*  
*University of California, Santa Clarita*

Rebecca Davis will discuss ideological elements of plantation landscapes present in Pre-Revolutionary St. Dominique, their physical manifestations, and how both the Enslaved and Euro-American inhabitants would have walked through and manipulated their "space," in addition to creating a sense of "place."

The Euro-American colonial experience is well documented both historically and archaeologically, often presenting a clear understanding of various motivations for creating the plantation landscape. However, these records also reveal ingenuity,

adaptation, and survival strategies of Enslaved individuals trapped in those plantation landscapes.

The analysis of plantation landscapes offers the opportunity to understand the landscape's development and function for both its Enslaved and Euro-American inhabitants.



### Instructions for real time viewing:

Go to [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com)

Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZ0of-2uqDMrE9RCgWJrbKb5Xmv11O\\_QGEFQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZ0of-2uqDMrE9RCgWJrbKb5Xmv11O_QGEFQ)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

# Notes from a Time Sifter

## TV Time with Archaeology During Covid Isolation

By Evelyn Mangie - Time Sifters Board Member

TV has become a favorite way to pass the time during this long, lonely time of isolation. A little searching on the boob tube will find some interesting archaeology documentaries on Amazon Prime. Go to “search”, type in “archaeology” and hundreds of offerings will appear. Most are free, some are new films, and some are repeats of earlier presentations on PBS and the History Channel. Some are done well and are worth watching but others are poorly done, and even contain false information. The following are tips to help you choose.



**The Lost City of the Cloud People** follows a German archaeologist up 4000 meters into the mountains of Peru in search of information about the little-known

Chachapoya people who lived between 1000 and 1450 CE in the forested region on the eastern slopes of the Andes mountains. *Not bad, but no new discoveries.*

### The Kingdom of the Nabateans

Two French archaeologists explore and discuss the camel caravan empire that once stretched from the city of Hegra in the western Arabia peninsula, north across the desert and through Tigris and Euphrates valley to Damascus. They focus on Hegra (modern Mada'in Saleh) instead of the better-known Nabataean capital city, Petra, because Hegra is better preserved and clearly shows the international influence in the Greco-Roman, Egyptian, and Mesopotamian architectural styles. *Good film and worth watching.*



**The Egtved Girl: Life of a Bronze Age Teenager.** Research on the contents of an ancient oak coffin in Egtved, Denmark in

reconstructed image

1921 CE as construction crews were building a road. In the coffin were the hair, brain tissue, teeth, nails, and skin of a, 5'2”

blond, female who lived between 1390-1370 BCE. The find is now in the National Museum of Denmark in Copenhagen where studies have continued since its arrival. The documentary discusses the modern study of the artifacts that show the girl was not indigenous to the area. *Interesting study with good photography that brings her to life.*

**Mystery Beneath.** British documentary of treasure hunters who discover a strange object 300' below the surface of the Baltic Sea. *Don't waste your time on this one.*



**Urartu, the Forgotten Kingdom** Review of the evidence for the kingdom that

was first discovered 200 years ago. Its history has not been studied as much as the other Near Eastern empires even though Urartu played a major role in the ancient period (they conquered 22 powerful Assyrian cities in 715 BCE). This study was done by Armenian scholars whose pride in their history is evident. *Interesting and reasonably believable.*



**The Curse of the Axe - Rewriting American History.** This

2015 documentary discusses the discovery of a Huron village near Toronto, Canada. There, archaeologists excavated the largest number of artifacts (2,000,000) ever found at one site. One of those objects is an iron axe head that dates to at least 500 years before the Europeans arrived. They claim that this object reveals contact between North American people with Europeans long before Columbus, and they spend a whole hour doing that. *They may be right, but they probably could have done it in 15 minutes.*



**The Tomb of the Scythian Prince.** A

2017 documentary of an international team of French, Italian, and Kazahkan archaeologists excavating on a 2000-year-old Scythian kurgan (tomb) to uncover the remains of a man who died in 294 BCE. A woman and several horses with their trappings were buried with him. The film follows the artifacts from their removal from the frozen ground to the climate-controlled lab where research could be done. There, they discovered that the man was in his 40s, was a decorated warrior (shown by the fabulous artifacts buried with him). The woman was probably his mother who died later and was interned sometime after his death. *Lots of beautiful artifacts, the film is well-done.*



**Secrets of the Dead: The Lost Gardens of Babylon.** This 2014 PBS film follows historian

Stephanie Dalley of Oxford University as she searches for evidence of the legendary “hanging gardens of Babylon.” She uses written evidence, satellite photos, and the biology of plants as she travels from the British Museum to the Tigris and Euphrates valley (ancient Assyria) to find on-site evidence. She believes that the fabulous garden did exist but was built by Sennacherib (722-705 BCE), not King Nebuchadnezzar (627-562 BCE), and was in ancient Nineveh, not in Babylon. She explains her ideas well but admits that more evidence is necessary. *Interesting, but suffers from restrictions to sites (it's a war zone).*

Or you can go to Netflix to watch “**The Dig**”, a great feel-good story that is based on a real 1939 excavation of a Viking burial in England. *Be sure to read the credits at the end!*

Get involved...

# Invitation to participate in a survey about NAGPRA

By Sherry Svekis, Vice President, Time Sifters

## What is NAGPRA? "Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act"

From the National Park Service: "Since 1990, Federal law has provided for the repatriation and disposition of certain Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony. By enacting NAGPRA, Congress recognized that human remains of any ancestry "must at all times be treated with dignity and respect." Congress also acknowledged that human remains and other cultural items removed from Federal or tribal lands belong, in the first instance, to lineal

descendants, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations."  
<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nagpra/index.htm>

For a beautifully written book on the subject: "Plundered Skulls and Stolen Spirits" by Chip Colwell

## What is the survey?

Emily Tarantini, a graduate student in the Museum & Field Studies M.S. program at the University of Colorado, Boulder, is conducting research about voluntary return of private collection objects between private individuals and Native American

communities for her thesis. Ms. Tarantini contacted *Time Sifters* about distributing a survey on this subject; Dr. Laura Harrison, a Time Sifters board member, reviewed the research design and the board okayed sharing it. Your voluntary and confidential participation in this approximately 10 minute survey will contribute to her research.

Please click the link below to participate in the survey. (If you received a paper or pdf copy of the newsletter and would like to participate, email [ssvekis@gmail.com](mailto:ssvekis@gmail.com) for the link.)

Link to survey: [https://proxy.qualtrics.com/proxy/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fboulder.qualtrics.com%2Fjfe%2Fform%2FSV\\_2365Fcr7f9OTTiR&token=VnrqX14x4TmdqZ%2ByfkAqC3cWvn1nvKa8lCdkXcjHf%2FI%3D](https://proxy.qualtrics.com/proxy/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fboulder.qualtrics.com%2Fjfe%2Fform%2FSV_2365Fcr7f9OTTiR&token=VnrqX14x4TmdqZ%2ByfkAqC3cWvn1nvKa8lCdkXcjHf%2FI%3D)



Photos: [Ksut.org](http://Ksut.org), [Penn Museum](http://Penn Museum), [National Park Service](http://National Park Service), [heritage coalition.org](http://heritage coalition.org), [dos.myflorida.com](http://dos.myflorida.com).

# UNESCO World Heritage Sites

## #836 - Volubilis, Morocco

by: Dr. Steven Derfler, Time Sifters Member

The Roman city of **Volubilis**, in Morocco, is situated about 18.5 miles SW of Fez. In 1997 the site was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, stating that it is "an exceptionally well preserved example of a large Roman colonial town on the fringes of the Empire".

It was the administrative center of the province in Roman Africa called **Mauretania Tingitana**. It was abandoned in 285 CE. It appears to have been destroyed by an earthquake in the late 4th Century CE.

Later, Volubilis' structures were damaged by the 1755 Lisbon earthquake, while in the 18th century part of the marble was taken for construction in the nearby town of Meknes. In 1915, archaeological excavation was begun by the French and continued into the 1920s. Excavations started again in 2000.

Under the Romans, the city was about 100 acres in size and consisted of the older, core city and a "suburb" expansion. Most of the city's public buildings were constructed in the older part of the city. The stunning villa-style houses for which Volubilis is famous are in the newer part,

behind the **Decumanus Maximus** (main street), which bisected the Roman-era part of the city. Beneath its pavement was a sewage/water disposal system that ran out of the city under the **Tingis Gate** to the north. The Decumanus also had sidewalks on either side, lined with arcaded porticoes.

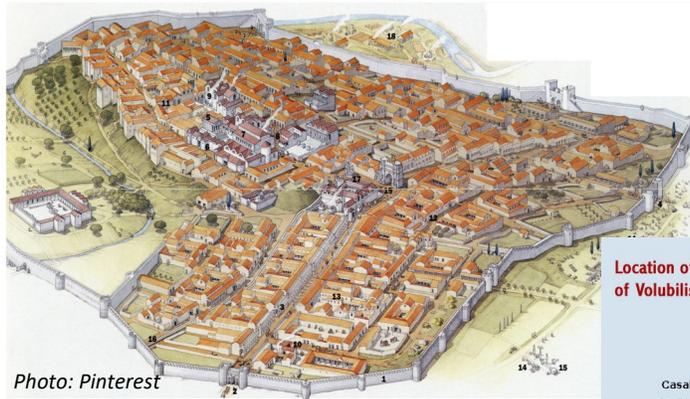


Photo: Pinterest



Photo: Barbara Blanchard



Photo: Smitty



Photo: Barbara Blanchard



Photo: Jean-Jacques Gelbart

Dozens of shops then flanked the street. **The Arch of Caracalla**, dated to 217 CE, marks the point at which the old and new city suburbs merge.

The wealth of the city is indicated via the excavation of many of its villas belonging to wealthy merchants.

For example, **House of Four Seasons** was so named due to the central mosaic subject matter. One beautiful mosaic "carpet" had four medallions installed in the corners- each dedicated to one of the goddesses of the four seasons. (No, not Frankie Valli's boys!) Yet other rooms were as lavishly decorated. The mosaic

on the dining room floor was dedicated to the goddess Diana, goddess of the hunt. But these houses also supplied evidence of Roman

engineering genius. In the large private villas, the best of Roman technology could be seen as a response to the seismic activity of the region.

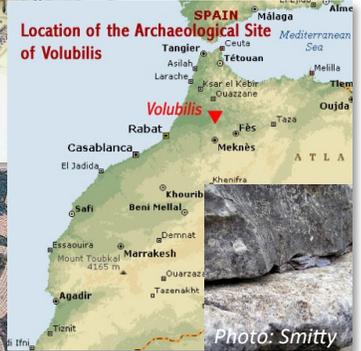


Photo: Smitty

Inserted between the column bases and the columns themselves were inch-thick pads of lead. The Romans appreciated the softness of lead.

So they installed these pads to serve as shock-absorbers for the columns. Any slight tremor would be offset by the soft lead pad and the way that it "soaked up" the vibration, preventing the column from collapsing and thus destroying the house.

Finally, **several bathhouses** were scattered around the city. **The Thermes of Gallien** was the largest at over 3000 square feet. All of the elements of Roman bathing luxury were found in each complex - the Apoditerium or changing room; the Fridgiderium or cold room; the Tepidarium or warm room; and the Calderium or Hypocaust that served as the steam room.

All in all, this border outpost was nearly as luxurious as the Empire's capital, Rome.

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