



JULY-2025

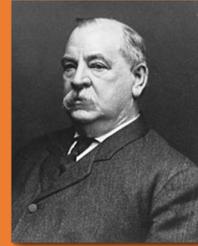
PRESERVE ♦ EDUCATE ♦ RESEARCH ♦ INSPIRE

Dear Member:

We hope you are enjoying your summer, we are spending time traveling and visiting friends.

Our Fall calendar is coming together nicely. Dr. Denise Cali of USF who talked to us about Roman Villas will return on November 19 to talk about Gladiators and a recent excavation on the Danube River in Germany of a Roman estate that was a training center for Gladiators. The dormitories and arena have been excavated. This should be really interesting.

Darwin "Smitty" Smith, President  
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**Historical Trivia**

*Name the President who dedicated the Statue of Liberty in 1886.*

*Answer on page 4.*

*Archaeologists You Should Know*  
**Maria Reiche Grosse-Neumann**  
*Lady of the Lines - Nazca Lines*

*By Smitty, Time Sifters Board Member. Sources: Wikipedia, Ancient Origins, and Smithsonian Magazine*



**Maria Reiche Grosse-Neumann** was a German-born Peruvian mathematician, archaeologist, and technical

translator. She is known for her research into the Nazca Lines, in Peru. The "Lady of the Lines", Reiche made the documentation, preservation and public dissemination of the Nazca Lines her life's work.

Reiche was born in Dresden, German Empire on May 15, 1903. She studied mathematics, astronomy, geography and foreign languages (she spoke five languages) at Dresden Technical University.

In 1932 as a young woman of 29, she went to Peru to work as a governess and tutor for the children of the German consul in Cusco.



*Photos: Wikipedia*

In 1939, she became a teacher in Lima and also worked on scientific translations. When World War II broke out, she stayed in Peru. In 1940, she met the American researcher Paul Kosok who was researching ancient irrigation systems in Peru. The Nazca Lines had recently been discovered by the Peruvian archaeologist Toribio Mejia Xesspe and Kosok

wondered if they might be part of an irrigation system. Together they arranged a flight in 1941 to see the Nazca site, which is located on a desolate plain, some 250 miles from Lima. They collaborated for years on studies of these earth-works, trying to determine how they were made and for what

**Continued on page 4 ...**

# Notes From a Time Sifter

## National Statuary Hall

by: Evelyn Mangie, Time Sifters Board Member



Photos: Wikipedia, Architect of the Capitol

The iconic **United States Capitol**, the seat of our Congress, is on **Capitol Hill at the east end of the National Mall in Washington, D.C.** (the Lincoln Memorial at the west end, the obelisk is in the center).

President George Washington laid the building's cornerstone on September 18, 1793. The Supreme Court and the Library of Congress moved into their chambers by late 1800, and the House of Representatives occupied its rooms in 1807 even though construction continued through 1811.

The British set fire to the building on August 24th, 1814, during the War of 1812 destroying the dome, but a hard rainstorm saved the rest of the building. Repairs were begun in 1815, the House and Senate Chambers were restored by November of 1817, and the last section was finished by 1826. The old wooden dome over the rotunda was replaced with a cast iron dome (8,909,200 pounds!) and the bronze Statue of Freedom (19.5 feet tall, 14,985 pounds) was put on top in 1863. Construction was finally completed in 1866. It has been restored several times since

then, the last time in 2013.

Under the dome is a large, round space, 96 feet in diameter with a height of 180 feet, 4,664 square feet that sat empty for years until the members of the House of Representatives recognized its potential and passed a resolution to study the issue. They decided that the room under the Capitol dome was the perfect place to display statues to honor deceased Americans that were known for outstanding military or civic duty.

On July 2, 1864, President Abraham Lincoln invited each state to submit no more than two statues to display at the Capitol. He hoped it would promote unity, reminding everyone that we are united as a "people" as stated in the Constitution, "We, the people of the United States...". The resolution passed both the House and Senate, and the work began in 1870.

Each of the 50 states chose two people to represent them. Rhode Island was the first to submit a nomination to the Commission for Historical Statues. They chose Nathanael Greene, an American

military officer who served in the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War.

Notable statues, from left to right above are **George Washington, Amelia Earhart, Chief Standing Bear, Gerald Ford, Astronaut Jack Swigert, Helen Keller**. Others include Sam Adams, Jefferson Davis, Abraham Lincoln, Daniel Webster, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Will Rogers, Harry Truman, Johnny Cash, King Kamehameha, Ronald Reagan, and many more. The first statue of a black American, Mary McLeod Bethune was added by Florida in 2022.

There are now 100 statues in the hall, but it is still a "work in progress". Some would like the statue of Robert E. Lee replaced, and Florida is accepting nominations for a new representative to replace a statue of John Gorrie (1802-1855), who invented an ice making machine.

You can take virtual tours by googling: *Virtual U.S. Capitol Tour* or *A Walk Through National Statuary Hall*. Both the Capitol Visitors Center and Capitol Architect have great websites to explore.

*In the News*

## **Roman Horse Cemetery Discovered in Stuttgart**

*By Smitty, Time Sifters Board Member. Sources: Archaeology News and Ancient Origins.*



In the area of Bad Cannstatt, a historic district in Stuttgart (southwestern Germany), a remarkable archaeological discovery has unearthed more than 100 horse skeletons that date to the second century CE, when the site was a key military hub for Roman forces. The exploratory digs were undertaken in anticipation of a new housing project by the Stuttgart Housing and Urban Development Company. The dig was conducted during July 2024 by the archaeology firm ArchaeoBW.

It is believed that the horses belonged to a Roman cavalry unit known as an “Ala” that was stationed at nearby Hallschlag between 100 and 150 CE. The unit would have had 500 riders with at least 700 horses. The excavation provides new information on the Roman military’s cavalry use and the relationship between soldiers and their horses.

Most of the horses were laid on their sides, in shallow graves, with limbs either stretched out or bent, suggesting deliberate placement. The area was likely marked above ground in some way, since few burial pits overlap,

even in the more densely packed sections. Radiocarbon dating shows they were buried over time rather than in the direct wake of a single catastrophic event. They died due to illness, injuries, or other reasons, or were no longer able to fulfill their duty as military horses.

In one grave, a horse was buried with two jugs and a small oil lamp, carefully placed in the crook of its leg - grave goods typically reserved for humans. This poignant detail shows that at least one Roman soldier did not regard his horse as military equipment, but as a good companion.

Now that the fieldwork is finished, further archaeozoological analysis is underway to study the age, sex, size, and health of the horses at the time of death. These investigations aim to discover more than simply how the

**Photos:** Pinterest and State Office for Monument Preservation in the Stuttgart Regional Council / ArchaeoBW

animals were used, but also how they were fed, bred, and cared for. Scientists also wish to determine whether the first horses were imported from elsewhere or bred here, a question with particular relevance to Stuttgart, whose name comes from the Old High German *stutgarden*, meaning “mare’s garden.”

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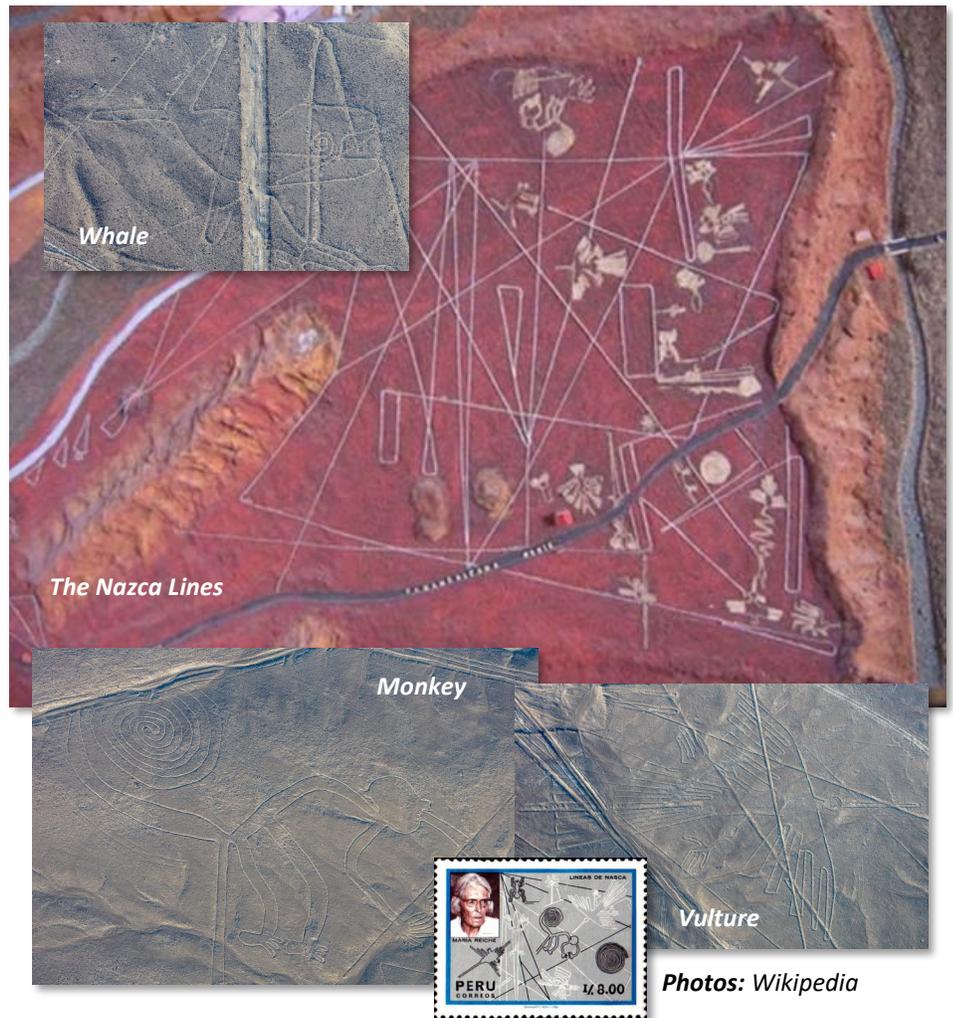
## Maria Reiche ...

purpose. From this moment on, study and preservation became her life's mission. When Kosok left Peru in 1948, she continued her work using her mathematical training to scientifically measure all the Lines, for the first time.

**The Nazca Lines** are associated with the Nazca culture who flourished from c. 100 BCE to 800 CE on the southern coast of Peru in the river valleys of the Rio Grande de Nazca and the Ica Valley. Strongly influenced by the preceding Paracas culture, which was known for extremely complex textiles, the Nazca produced an array of crafts and technologies such as ceramics, textiles, and geoglyphs.

The Lines are images of various birds, plants and animals, including **the famous hummingbird and monkey**, as well as expansive and elaborate geometric patterns. They are traced in the arid soil of the desert, **covering an area, some 170 square miles**, and they are thought to be over 1,500 years old. The designs are best appreciated from the air, and this has added to their mystery, as to how they were traced and what is their purpose.

Reiche dedicated her life to pursuing answers to their origin, construction and purpose. Through her efforts to gain national and international attention, Peru established protection for the site, and UNESCO designated the Nazca Lines as **the World Heritage Site. #700** in 1994. She was widely



Photos: Wikipedia

recognized as the curator of the lines and lived nearby to protect them. She received recognition as *Doctor Honoris Causa* by the National University of San Marcos and the Universidad Nacional de Ingeniería in Lima. In the 1980s a **postage stamp** bore her picture. In 1992 the Peruvian government granted her citizenship and in 1993 she was honored with the *Medal of Merit, "Orden del Sol"* in the degree of Great Cross by the Peruvian Prime Minister. In the same year, at the age of 90, she

published her complete findings concerning the site in a book entitled, *"Contributions to Geometry and Astronomy in Ancient Peru"*.

Reiche's health deteriorated as she aged. She used a wheelchair, suffered from skin ailments, and lost her sight. In her later years, she also suffered from Parkinson's disease. On June 8, 1998 Reiche died of ovarian cancer in Lima, Peru. She was buried with her sister, Dr Renate Reiche-Grosse, near Nazca with official honors.

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*Historical Trivia: President Grover Cleveland*