



SEPTEMBER - 2025

PRESERVE ♦ EDUCATE ♦ RESEARCH ♦ INSPIRE

Dear Member:

With the start of the 39th season we want to welcome our new Board members. Welcome Joan Bacharach who retired as Senior Curator with the National Park Service (NPS) Museum Management Program. Welcome to lifetime member and frequent presenter, professor Dr. Uzi Baram.



This is our first all digital edition of our newsletter. To keep our expenses low, we are no longer printing the newsletter.

Darwin "Smitty" Smith, President hmsbeagle22@gmail.com

Historical Trivia

Who's tomb did Howard Carter discover in 1922?



Answer on page 4.

September 17th - at 5:45 PM at the Selby Library in downtown Sarasota



"A Tale of Two Shipwrecks: What shipwrecks can tell us about Dominica changing maritime cultural landscape during the Colonial Era"

Marie Meranda, M.A, ABD

**Marine Geoarchaeologist/Qualified Maritime Archaeologist/
Dive Safety Officer at R.C. Goodwin and Associates**

The Caribbean Island of Dominica can be described as dangerous beauty. If Jurassic Park was real, it could be this island. With jagged cliffs, and boasting the most volcanic peaks in Caribbean archipelagoes, it is easy to understand the challenges in both the past and present living in such a beautiful, but fierce place. Today, still one of the most remote islands of the West Indies, much of Dominica's history remains buried either on land or under the sea. This presentation discusses the first maritime archaeological research conducted on Dominica's Atlantic (Windward) coast. During initial survey investigations, two intriguing shipwrecks from the historic era were uncovered in the small bay, offering



Photos: Marie Meranda

fascinating insights into the evolving coastal landscape and how maritime activities of the region have changed over time. These wrecks, likely from the 19th and 20th centuries, illuminate dramatic shifts in marine technology and reveal how human interaction with the marine and coastal environments has

transformed over the centuries.

Marie Meranda is a PhD Candidate at the USF in Anthropology with a focus on Caribbean Maritime Archaeology and Geoarchaeology. She has a Master's degree in Maritime Archaeology from the University of Southampton and Bachelor's degrees in Humanities, Fine Arts, and Anthropology from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She works in the private sector as a professional Maritime Archaeologist/Geoarchaeologist and Dive Safety Officer. She is a recreational and Scientific Scuba Instructor and has worked on a variety of underwater and terrestrial projects in the Caribbean, Mediterranean, Black Sea and the Southeastern U.S.

In the News

8,000 year old fortress discovered in Siberia

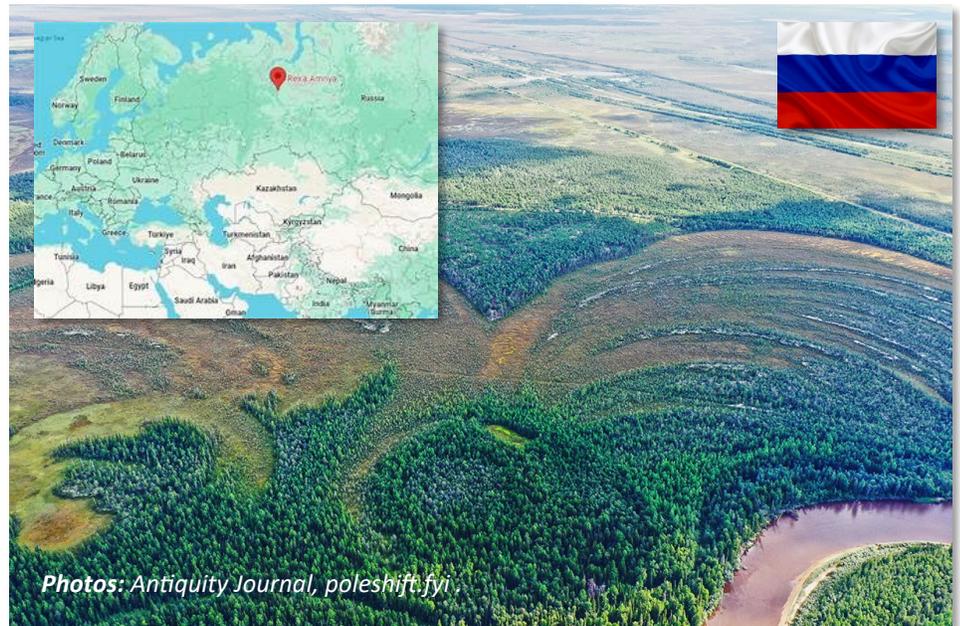
By Smitty, Time Sifters Board Member. Sources: Science.org, Newsweek, & Archaeology News.

An international team of archaeologists from *Freie Universität Berlin*, has unearthed fortified prehistoric settlements in the remote Siberian region of Russia. The fortified settlement of *Amnya*, situated in Siberia's Lower Ob' region, stands as the northernmost Stone Age fort in Eurasia.

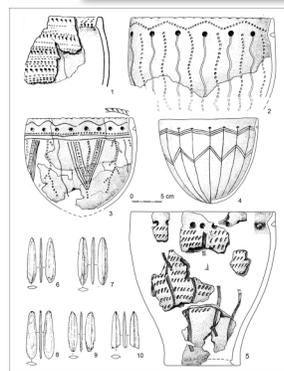
The team including Professor Henny Piezonka and Dr. Natalia Chairkina, has conducted extensive fieldwork, revealing ten house pits encircled by earthen walls and wooden palisades. The findings suggested advanced architectural and defensive capabilities challenging the traditional view of the extent of permanent settlements in this period in time. This is the first site that supports the idea that hunter – gatherers settled down in a permanent location. The current narrative tells us that this did not happen until the rise of agriculture. There is no indication of extensive agriculture at this site.

The prehistoric fortified settlement is one of several in the region. The fortress is ringed by earthen walls several feet high and topped with wooden palisades. It includes an area large enough to house dozens of dwellings each sunk six and half feet deep for warmth in Siberian winters. At some point, the fortress was burned to the ground, a possible sign of hostile neighbors. At least one set of structures was built startlingly early: 8000 years ago, 2000 years before the mighty walls of Uruk and Babylon in the Middle East and thousands of years before agriculture reached parts of Europe and Asia.

The abundance of natural resources in the Siberian taiga, including fish from the Amnya River, elk,



Photos: Antiquity Journal, poleshift.fyi



For additional reading - <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/antiquity/article/worlds-oldest-known-promontory-fort-amnya-and-the-acceleration-of-huntergatherer-diversity-in-siberia-8000-years-ago/90559E4105F93528A6552B36C7236259>



and reindeer made for an excellent area to settle down. Elaborately decorated pottery used to preserve surplus fish oil and meat was excavated as well as bone and stone-tipped spears.

No burials have been found yet but the team is going to concentrate next season on locating the burial ground.

This site challenges previous assumptions about the capabilities and complexity of hunter-gatherer societies. Competition for resources likely played a key



role in influencing the construction of the fortified settlements.

The study was published in the journal *Antiquity*.



What is the Florida Anthropological Society (FAS)?

Florida's Statewide organization of Archaeology and Anthropology.

Founded in 1947, the main objective of the *Florida Anthropological Society (FAS)* is to provide a formal means by which individuals interested in anthropological and archaeological studies in the State of Florida, may come together.

FAS embraces and encourages the study of Florida from ancient times to the present.

Our Chapters and their members strive to bring attention to the on-

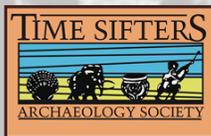
going need for preservation of archaeological and historical sites.

Through special events, chapter meetings, speaker presentations, public education programs, and the Society's professional publications, FAS educates the public about the people, places, and cultures of the past in Florida.



FAS is made up of 12 chapters, located around the state.

- Archaeological Society of Southern Florida
- Broward County Archaeological Society
- Central Florida Anthropological Society
- Central Gulf Coast Archaeology Society
- Palm Beach County Anthropological Society
- Panhandle Archaeological Society at Tallahassee
- Pensacola Archaeological Society
- Southeast Florida Archaeological Society
- Southwest Florida Archaeological Society
- St. Augustine Archaeological Association
- **Time Sifters Archaeology Society**
- Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society



Speakers for 2025/2026

All are at 5:45 PM live at the Selby Library, 1331 First St., Sarasota.

September 17

**"Two Shipwrecks off of Dominica:
18th and 20th Century Vessels"**

Marie Meranda

November 19

**"Roman Gladiators:
The Original Ultimate Fighters"**

Dr. Denise Cali

October 15

**"The King Street Shipwreck:
17th Century Shipwreck in the Heart of St. Augustine"**

Dr. Sam Turner

January 21, 2025

**"Year in Review: What's been Discovered
& What's being Talked About"**

Dr. David Miano

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Historical Trivia: Pharoah Tutankhamun's (King Tut)