

JUNE - 2026

PRESERVE ♦ EDUCATE ♦ RESEARCH ♦ INSPIRE

Dear Member:

Well, that's a rap for another fantastic season, our 39th!!! We are going to take a break over the summer to travel, visit friends & family, see some World Cup Soccer Games and try to exercise!!!

Our Fall Calendar is on page 5 ... we are still working on the Spring 2027 but it is starting to look really good too!

See you on September 16.

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

Historical Trivia
Name this historic site.



Answer on page 6.



Thank you to all the speakers and their excellent lectures.

Thank you to Ken Woodworth for keeping the books straight and setting up the chairs.

Thank you to Marion Almy and Sherry Svekis for making the Cornelia Futor Research Grant a success.

Thank you to Mary Maisel for remembering all the things we said we were going to do. We will miss you!

Thank you to Jack Brown for the coffee and cookies.

Thank you to Karen Jensen & Evelyn Mangie for all their help and support.

Thank you to new Board Members Joan Bachrach & Uzi Baram for all their help.

And a huge thank you to Sherry Svekis for all her help, ideas, and support, I couldn't do it without her.



Smitty

In The News

Coronado's Cannon unearthed in Arizona.

By Smitty. Sources: *Live Science*, *Archaeology News*, *Science News Today*, & *PHYS ORG*.

Independent researchers Deni J. Seymour and William P. Mapoles while conducting a systematic metal detector survey at the site of San Geronimo III, or Suya, unearthed a "wall cannon". The site is believed to have been the short-lived settlement founded in the Santa Cruz Valley in Arizona by members of the expedition led by **Spanish conquistador Francisco Vázquez de Coronado**.

Inspired by reports of golden cities, Coronado set out northward from Compostela on February 23, 1540, with more than 150 mounted soldiers, 200 infantrymen, and many hundreds of native recruits. **The settlement of San Geronimo III**, where the cannon was discovered, served as one of Coronado's temporary bases and was ultimately abandoned after an attack by the local Sobaipuri O'odham people.

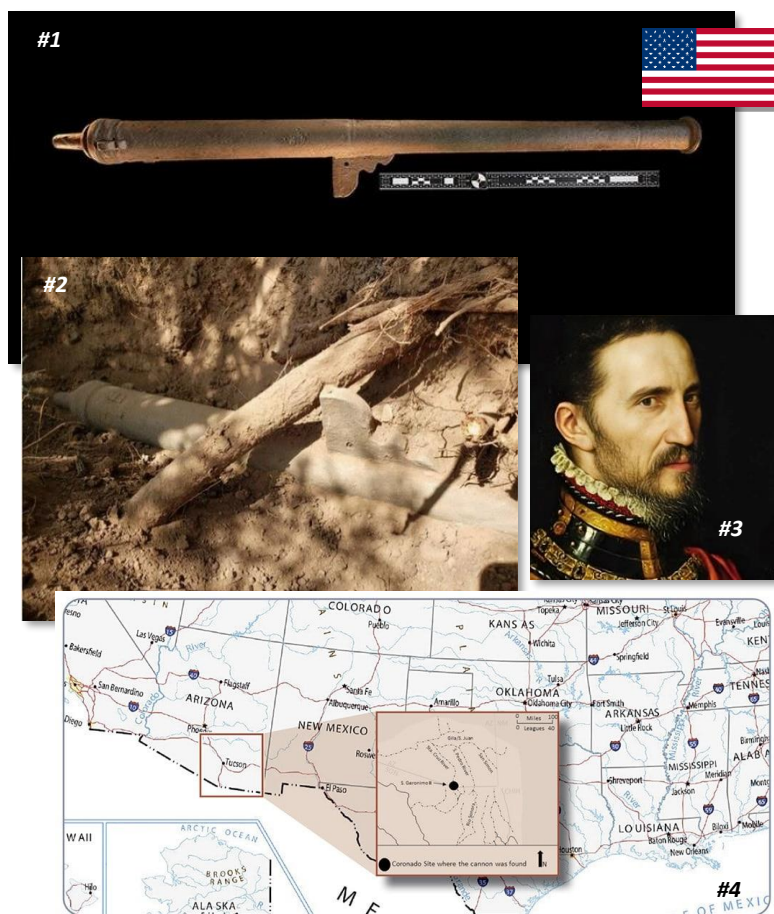
The cannon, a sand-cast bronze piece measuring 42 inches long and weighing approximately 40 pounds, is also known as a hook gun. The cannon was a versatile piece of artillery used in both defensive and offensive operations. It could breach wooden or adobe walls, projecting lead balls or buckshot with devastating power over a range of up to 700 yards. However, evidence suggests this cannon was never fired; researchers noted the absence of black powder residue. The cannon's plain, unadorned design suggests it was likely cast in Mexico or the Caribbean, as opposed to Spain, where firearms typically featured ornate decorations.

In addition to the cannon, other items recovered from the site, including European pottery, olive jar shards, glass fragments, and parts of weapons, align closely with the materials and tools used during the Coronado expedition.

Historical accounts from the time suggest that the local people, the

Sobaipuri O'odham, launched an attack on the Spanish settlement that coincided with Coronado's departure from the area. Evidence found at the site, including clusters of lead shot and distinct arrowheads from the Sobaipuri, provide physical proof of the violent confrontation. These remnants of indigenous resistance reinforce the accounts of local hostilities that led to the Spaniards' eventual retreat from the area.

For more information look up the study, "Coronado's Cannon: A 1539–42 Coronado Expedition Cannon Discovered in Arizona," published in the *International Journal of Historical Archaeology*.

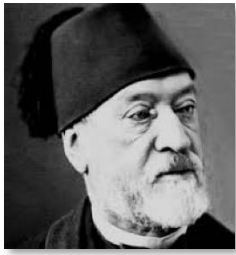


Photos: #1 - A bronze medieval-style wall or rampart gun, believed to have been part of the Francisco Vázquez de Coronado expedition found in southern Arizona. Credit: Deni J. Seymour.

#2 - The wall gun was resting on the floor of a Spanish structure. This figure shows it while under excavation, held firmly in place by roots. Credit: *International Journal of Historical Archaeology*.

#3 - Francisco Vázquez de Coronado. Wikipedia.

#4 - www.zmescience.com

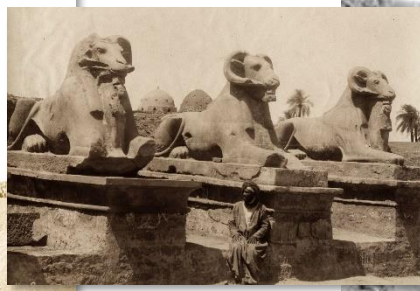
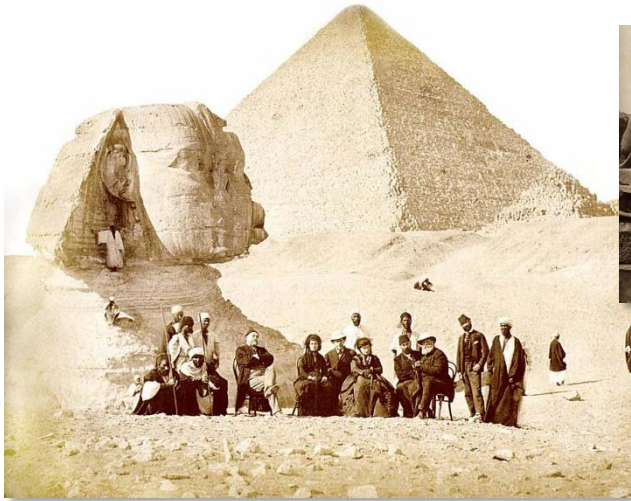


Archaeologists You Should Know

François Auguste Ferdinand Mariette

Egyptologist, founder of the Egyptian Museum

By Smitty, Time Sifters Board Member. Sources: Wikipedia, Britannica, and New World Encyclopedia



Photos: Wikipedia, explore luxor, facebook, & pinterest.

François Auguste Ferdinand Mariette was a French scholar, archaeologist and Egyptologist, and the founder of the Egyptian Department of Antiquities, the forerunner of the Supreme Council of Antiquities.

He was born on February 11, 1821 in Boulogne-sur-Mer, France, where his father was town clerk. Educated at the Boulogne municipal college, after graduation he went to England in 1839 and at the age of 18 became a professor of French and drawing at a boys' school at Stratford-upon-Avon.

In 1840 he became pattern designer to a ribbon manufacturer in Coventry, England. He returned to Boulogne, and in 1841 took a degree at the University of Douai. Mariette proved to be a talented draftsman and designer.

His cousin Nestor Hippolyte Antoine L'Hôte, an Egyptologist, painter and graphic artist who had published hundreds of

sketches and drawings of Egypt and its monuments, passed away and the task of sorting his papers filled Mariette with a passion for Egyptology. This exposure to the Egyptian culture inspired him to devote himself to the study of hieroglyphs and Coptic. His 1847 analytic catalogue of the Egyptian Gallery of the Boulogne Museum got him a minor appointment the Egyptian department at the Louvre Museum in 1849.

The following year he was entrusted with a government mission for the purpose of seeking and purchasing high-quality Coptic, Syriac, Arabic and Ethiopic manuscripts for the Louvre. In this pursuit, he befriended a Bedouin tribe, who led him to Saqqara where he noticed the head of one sphinx from **the reputed avenue of sphinxes**. He was permitted to excavate the site. During the

excavation they uncovered the **avenue along with many more of the sphinxes** as well as the subterranean tomb-temple complex of catacombs which contained **sarcophagi of the Apis bulls**. Although they found thousands of statues, bronze tablets and other treasures, but only one intact sarcophagus within the complex. However, they did find the intact **tomb of Prince Khaemweset, Ramesses II's son**. The next four years were spent excavating, discovering, and dispatching archaeological treasures to the Louvre. The French and Egyptian governments agreed a 50/50 split of the finds with 50 percent staying in Egypt. This was the foundation the Egyptian Museum's collection.

After a year in France organizing the artifacts, he returned

to Egypt at the insistence of the Egyptian government as the Conservator of Egyptian monuments in 1858.

In 1859 Mariette succeeded in persuading the Ottoman viceroy of Egypt to establish a museum near Cairo, to house what would become the world's foremost repository of Egyptian antiquities, **the Egyptian Museum.**

The following is a list of some of Mariette's notable explorations and discoveries:

- Gaining government funds to open the museum in Cairo in 1863, in order to take the pressure off the sites and stop the trade in illicit antiquities.
- The pyramid-fields of Memphis and **the tombs of Saqqara.**
- The necropolis of Meidum, and those of Abydos and Thebes.

- Disinterred the great temples of Dendera and Edfu.

- Mariette implemented the first full Egyptian use of stratigraphic methods and the photographing of every object prior to its excavation as carried out at the excavations of Karnak, Medinet Habu and Deir el-Bahri.

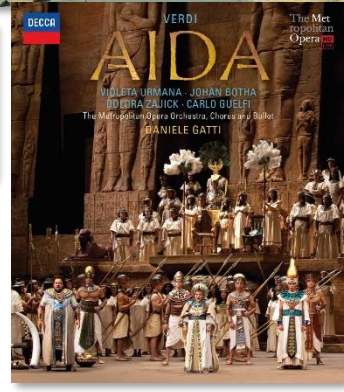
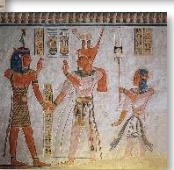
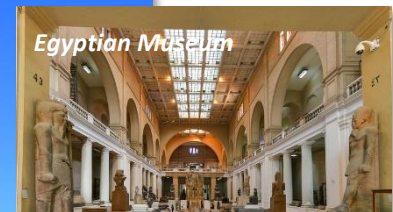
- He cleared the sands around **the Sphinx** down to the bare rock, and in the process discovered the famous granite and alabaster monument, the "*Temple of the Sphinx*".

In 1869, at the request of the Ottoman ruler, he wrote a brief plot for an opera. The following year this concept, worked into a scenario by Camille du Locle, was proposed to Giuseppe Verdi, who accepted it as a subject for the opera "**Aida**". Mariette and Du Locle oversaw the scenery and costumes,

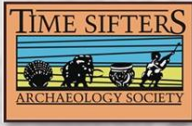
which were inspired by the art of Ancient Egypt.

By the end of 1889, he had prematurely aged and was nearly blind, so he arranged for the appointment of the Frenchman Gaston Maspero as his successor. He died on January 19, 1881 in Cairo and was interred in a **sarcophagus which is on display in the Garden of the Egyptian Museum, Cairo.**

Mariette is remembered as one of the most renowned and well-known archaeologists. He believed that Egyptians should be able to keep their own antiquities, and founded **the Museum of Cairo**, which hosts one of the biggest collections of ancient Egyptian artifacts in the world.



Photos: Egypt tours, Giza Legacy, Trip Advisor, Wikipedia, Ancient Origins, amazon, and flickr.



Speakers for 2026/2027

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

Time Sifters Archaeology Society is pleased to announce our 2026 - 2027 Fall schedule of presentations. All lectures will start at 5:45 PM and are free. Each presentation will be about one hour with time for questions and answers. Please come and join us.

September 16

"Crusader Castles: Protecting the Holy Land"
Dr. Matt King

October 21

**"Smoking Tobacco, Sipping Coffee, and
Subjected to the Sultan: Insights from the Archaeology
of the Ottoman Empire"**
Dr. Uzi Baram

November 18

**"Tracing the Footprints of Imperial Expansion
at Monte Lima, Peru"**
Dr. Sarah Taylor

January 20, 2027

**"Year in Review: What's been Discovered &
What's being Talked About"**
Dr. David Miano



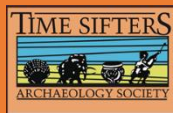
Photos: Wikipedia, Britannia, Pinterest, twitter, Wikipedia, Vindolanda Trust, & Pinterest.

Time Sifters Archaeology Society - A Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society - P. O. Box 5283, Sarasota, FL 34277
www.timesifters.org President: Darwin "Smitty" Smith - HMSBeagle22@gmail.com

Board of
Directors

Officers:

- Darwin "Smitty" Smith, President
- Sherry Svekis, Vice President
- TBA, Secretary
- Ken Woodworth, Treasurer
- Marion Almy Joan Bachrach
- Uxi Baram Jack Brown
- Karen Jensen Evelyn Mangie



- Lifetime: \$500
- Individual: \$35
- Family: \$45
- Student: \$10
- Supporting: \$50

Pay online at:
WWW.TimeSifters.org
Or mail checks to:
Time Sifters, Inc.
PO Box 5283
Sarasota, FL. 34277

Copyright © 2026 Time Sifters Archaeology Society, Inc. All rights reserved.

Historical Trivia: Masada, Israel.