



AUGUST-2026

PRESERVE ♦ EDUCATE ♦ RESEARCH ♦ INSPIRE

Dear Member:

Here is the August issue of our newsletter. It includes another in the series of "Archaeologists You Should Know". This month it is Duncan MacKenzie. We have done over 30 stories in this series. You can read the first 10 in the booklet that is on the webpage along with most of the back issues of the newsletter.

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
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Historical Trivia

Where was this 12.6 inch Roman shoe found?



Answer on page 5



Archaeologists You Should Know

Duncan MacKenzie

Knossos, Crete & Mycenaean pottery

By Smitty, Time Sifters Board Member. **Sources:** Wikipedia, Prabook.com, and Grokipedia.

Photos: fitj.club, ashmolean.org, Wikipedia, & pinterest.



Duncan MacKenzie was born on 17 May 1861 in the small village of Aultgowrie, in the highlands of eastern Scotland, 15 miles from the coastal town of Inverness. Duncan was the fourth of nine children of Alexander and Margaret Kennedy MacKenzie. He graduated from the University of Edinburgh with a first class degree in philosophy before

pursuing postgraduate studies that culminated in a PhD from the University of Vienna in classical archaeology.

In 1896, the British School at Athens appointed him the field supervisor of the excavation of Phylakopi, in the Cyclades islands, of Greece. His detailed diaries provide key insights into the site's

stratigraphy and artifacts. He was part of the team that included Arthur Evans and David George Hogarth. They were investigating the provenance of Mycenaean pottery.

After a few years, Evans and

Continued on page 4 ...

In The News

29 Antiquities Repatriated to Greece.

By Smitty. **Sources:** Hellenic Republic Greece in the USA, Oema, and The Greek Reporter.

The Manhattan District Attorney's Office, in collaboration with Homeland Security Investigations, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the archaeological documentation provided by Greece's Directorate for Documentation and Protection of Cultural Property repatriated 29 Greek antiquities to the Consulate General of Greece in New York.

Following months of meticulous investigation, they uncovered irrefutable evidence proving the illicit origin and trafficking of these antiquities through the New York gallery *Fortuna Fine Arts*. This is a major blow to the international trafficking of antiquities. These items, dating from the Late Neolithic period (5000–4000 BCE) to the Late Hellenistic era (2nd–1st century BCE), were returned to Greece, their place of origin. *Fortuna Fine Arts* Gallery and its associates had already been arrested in 2020 for fraud and forgery of provenance documents.

The collection includes exemplary works of sculpture, metallurgy, and ceramics. The items include:

- Two Neolithic stone axe heads (5000–4000 BCE),
- A Minoan agate seal depicting a goat (3100 BCE),
- Three marble Early Cycladic vessels (2700–2400 BCE),
- A Mycenaean stirrup jar (1200–1100 BCE),
- Two bronze belt fittings from Western Macedonia (7th century BCE),
- A bronze furniture foot shaped as a siren from a Laconian workshop (c. 600 BCE),
- A marble kouros head (mid-6th century BCE),
- A bronze Medusa Gorgoneion likely from a Corinthian workshop (late 6th century BCE),
- A bronze coiled serpent ornament (5th century BCE),
- A gold pendant (5th–4th century BCE),
- Two iron sacrificial knives (5th–4th century BCE),



Photos: Consulate General of Greece in New York Facebook page.

- Three silver conical cups (c. 300 BCE),
- A bronze attachment with the head of Atalante (2nd–1st century BCE).

The artifacts were formally handed over to Greek authorities during a ceremony held in New York.

This repatriation underscores the deep and ongoing collaboration between Greek and U.S. authorities in the fight against cultural property trafficking, and highlights Greece's leading role in global efforts to safeguard cultural heritage.

Ancient Sites

Dún Aonghasa (Ireland)

By Smitty, Time Sifters Board Member. **Sources:** Wikipedia and Irish Archaeology.

Dún Aonghasa, also known as Dun Aengus, is a prehistoric hill fort located on the Aran Islands of County Galway, Ireland. The fort is situated on Inis Mór, at the edge of the 330-foot-high cliff. It is an important archaeological site and is the best-known of several prehistoric hill forts on the Aran Islands.

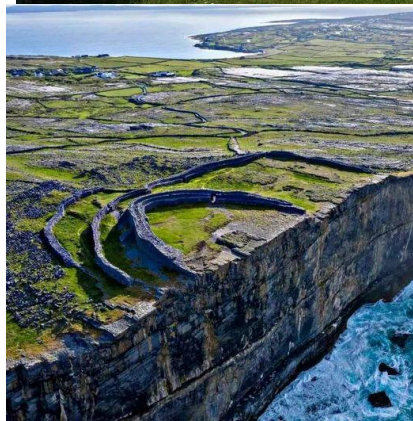
It is not known exactly when it was built, but excavations at the site indicate that the first construction goes back to 1100 BCE, when rubble was piled against large upright stones to form the first enclosure. Around 500 BCE, the triple wall defenses were probably constructed along the fort's western side.

Its name, meaning "Fort of Aonghas", may refer to the pre-Christian god of the same name described in Irish mythology, or the mythical king, Aonghus mac Úmhór. It has thus traditionally been associated with the Fir Bolg. The Fir Bolg also spelled Firbolg and Fir Bholg are the fourth group of people to settle in Ireland.

The fort consists of four concentric walls of dry-stone construction, built on a high cliff some 330 feet above the sea. Surviving stonework is 13 feet wide at some points. The original shape was presumably either an oval or D-shaped, but parts of the cliff and fort have collapsed into the sea. The outermost wall encloses an area of approximately 14 acres.

Outside the third ring of walls lies a defensive system of stone slabs, known as a *cheval de frise*, planted in an upright position in the ground and still largely well-preserved. These ruins also feature a huge rectangular stone slab, the function of which is unknown.

The walls have been rebuilt to a height of 20 feet and have wall walks, chambers, and flights of stairs. The restoration is easily distinguished



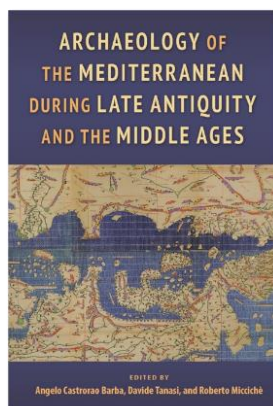
from the original construction because of the use of mortar in the restored sections.

Photos: National Monuments Service, sites.owu.edu, Wikipedia.

A Time Sifters Book Review

Archaeology of the Mediterranean During Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages.

Edited by: Angelo Castorao Barba, Davide Tanasi, and Roberto Micciché.



Varied approaches to an overlooked time period in the history and archaeology of the Mediterranean

"A comprehensive archaeological overview that will help to put Byzantium in a Medieval Mediterranean perspective." – Luca Zavagno, author of Cyprus between Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages: An Island in Transition

This book presents multidisciplinary perspectives on Greece, Corsica, Malta, and Sicily from the fourth to the 13th centuries, an often-overlooked time in the history of the central Mediterranean. The research approaches and areas of specialization collected here range from material culture to landscape settlement patterns, from epigraphy to architecture and architectural decoration, and from funerary archaeology to urban fabric and cityscapes.

Topics covered include late Roman villas; the formation of Byzantine and Islamic settlements in western Sicily; reuse of protohistoric sites in late antiquity and the Middle Ages in eastern Sicily; early Christian landscapes and settlements in Corsica; the transition from late antiquity through Byzantine rule to Muslim conquest in Malta; trade network trajectories of the Aegean islands and Crete; and cross cultural interactions in medieval Greece. Together, these essays show the potential of post-Ancient and post-Classical archaeology, highlighting missing links between the Roman world and medieval Byzantium and broadening the horizons of new generations of archaeologists.

Angelo Castorao Barba is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology at the Polish Academy of Sciences, Davide Tanasi is professor of history and director of the Institute for Digital Exploration at the University of South Florida, and Roberto Micciché is research fellow in anthropology at the University of Palermo.

Continued from page 1 ...

Mackenzie ...

Hogarth left Phylakopi to start work at Knossos, Crete. Mackenzie joined them later and served as the field director for the Knossos excavations from 1900 to 1910, with ongoing support until 1929, overseeing the day-to-day operations and implementing rigorous recording practices that became foundational to the project's success. He maintained 26 detailed daybooks spanning 1900 to 1925, comprising over 3,000 pages of onsite notes that meticulously documented stratigraphy, artifact finds, worker activities, and emerging structures. Mackenzie was Evans' second in command for the next 30 years.

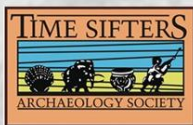
In addition to his work at Knossos, he worked with the Palestine Exploration Fund, where he directed excavations throughout Palestine including at 'Ain Shems (biblical Beth Shemesh) in 1910 and 1912. During World War I, he assisted Evans in Oxford, contributing to the preparation of The Palace of Minos and reorganizing the Ashmolean Museum's Cretan collection.

In his later years, Mackenzie faced financial hardships, deteriorating health, and professional conflicts, including his dismissal from the British School at Athens in 1929, after which he experienced a severe

mental decline, leading to institutionalization.

He died on 25 August 1934 in Pesaro, Italy, at the age of 73. In the years following his death, his pioneering excavation techniques (emphasizing stratigraphic precision and detailed field recording) gained wider recognition as foundational to modern archaeology.

His extensive archives, including daybooks from Knossos, continue to serve as vital resources for Minoan studies, underscoring his enduring impact despite his marginalized later career.



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

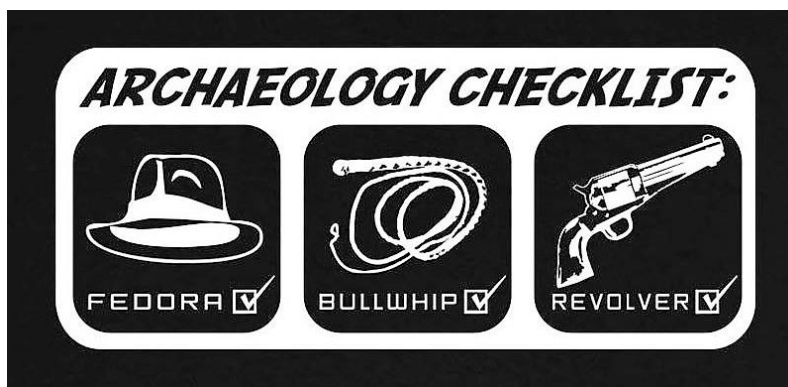
January 20, 2027

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



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

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Historical Trivia: Hadrian's Wall, England.