



OCTOBER - 2022

PRESERVATION ♦ EDUCATION ♦ RESEARCH ♦ INSPIRE

Dear Member:

We would like to apologize for the troubles with our September simulcast. We have identified and fixed the problem. **Our Calendar is complete** (see the web page) with all the lectures in person at the Selby Library in Sarasota and will be simulcast via ZOOM.

This month we continue with our trip around the world with a visit to China. Dr. David Miano will tell us about **"Ancient Chinese Voyages of Discovery"** on October 19th. Please join us. It should be really interesting.

Time Sifters is looking for **future Board Members**. If interested, please contact me.

Thank you for being a Time Sifters member.

Darwin "Smitty" Smith, President

hmsbeagle22@gmail.com

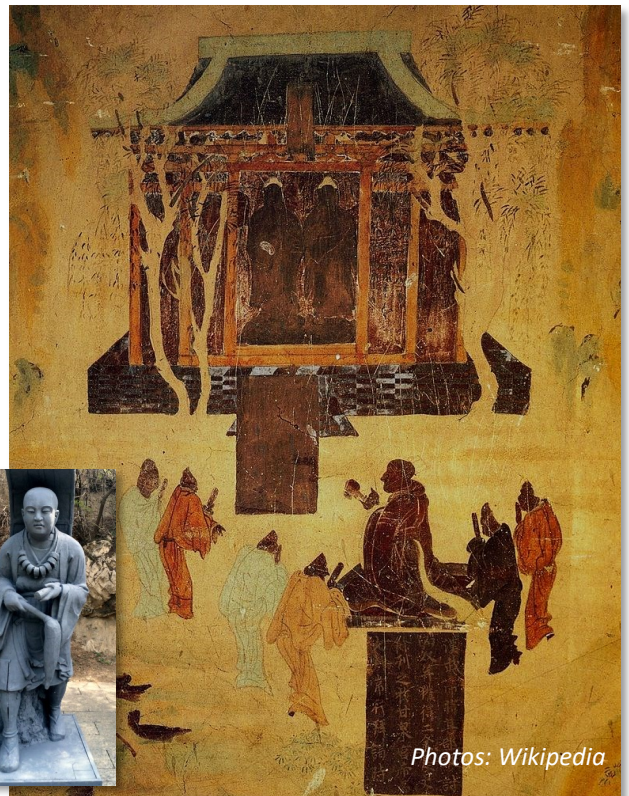
October 19 - at 6:00 PM at the Selby Library in downtown Sarasota



Ancient Chinese Voyages of Discovery

Dr. David Miano
*Professor,
State College of Florida,
Academy of Classical Arts
& Humanities*

An exploration of the great journeys of three Chinese adventurers, all which occurred before the year 650: **Zhang Qian**, imperial envoy of the Emperor Wu, who brought back important information about Central Asia; **Faxian**, the Buddhist monk who traveled to India in search of sacred texts and **Xuanzang** another Buddhist and scholar who made his way to India to find books. The firsthand accounts of the latter two explorers provide us with a window into these lands at the time and tell us much about ancient Chinese geographical knowledge.



Photos: Wikipedia

Instructions for real time ZOOM viewing:

Register in advance for this meeting:

Go to the Time Sifters website, www.timesifters.org and click on the registration url.

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

Notes from a Time Sifter

Man's Best Friend, No the OTHER One ...

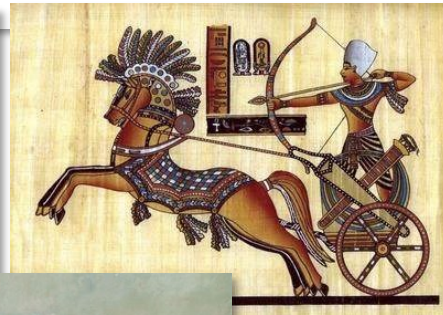
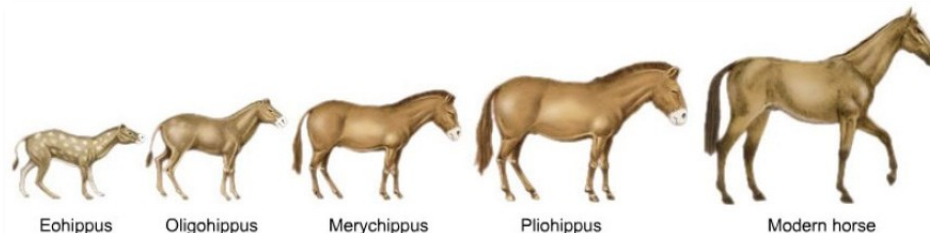
By Evelyn Mangie, Time Sifters Board Member

It is said that dogs are man's best friend but a close look at history reveals that **horses have made greater contributions to human civilization than any other animal.** They are large, powerful animals that live for 25 or 30 years and can work all day on a diet of grass.

The horses' brain gives them the ability to understand commands, they can recall training and human friends for 10 years or more, and they have the motivation to obey humans. These qualities are present even in wild horses, but trained horses became invaluable, playing a central role in the advancement of human societies for at least 5,000 years.

Paleontologists believe that **true horses evolved in North America about 35 million years ago** as small terrier sized animals that were adapted to the forests. Some migrated across the Bering land bridge to Asia about 2.5 million years ago. **The ones that stayed in America became extinct 11,000-14,000 BP.** Those in Eurasia and Africa grew larger and branched into several species such as zebras, donkeys, and asses, but none equaled the horse in usefulness. Selective breeding for size and endurance created breeds for specific tasks. There are more than 300 different breeds of horses today, yet a DNA study shows that nearly all modern breeds can be traced back to a few Arabian and central Asian stallions.

Horses were domesticated ca. 3500 BCE, probably in the steppes of central Asia, where mares were bred and raised for their milk. Harnesses were developed by the Chinese ca. 2400 BCE so they could pull wheeled carts that transported people and goods. That stimulated new forms of social



organization and expanded trade networks. Nomadic herders in the Mongolian steppes invented the bridle (ca. 1400 BCE) and metal bit (ca. 1200 BCE) that allowed humans to ride. More improvements such as saddles and stirrups were invented to give the rider more stability.

Training horses takes several months but once trained, horses became indispensable. **One horse can do the work of 50 men, giving us the term "horsepower".** A horse can cultivate land much faster than an ox. Horses can run ten times faster than a man. Fast communication between distant places was a motivation for human ingenuity. The Achaemenid Persians (550-330 BCE) developed a relay plan of mounted couriers that carried messages across their huge empire. That idea was adopted in **the U. S. by the Pony Express that carried ca. 35,000 letters** between Missouri and California for 18 months (1860-1861) until it was replaced by the

telegraph. Horses were a major part of the military in most societies. They were

trained to pull chariots and carry riders on the battlefield. A mounted cavalry was much more effective than foot soldiers and literally every society had one. The Scythians (ancient Iranians) became so adept at mounted warfare that they could shoot from horseback up to 150 arrows within 15 minutes allowing them to terrorize kingdoms in Europe and the Near East from 700 to 300 BCE. **Alexander's cavalry** was the decisive arm of his army. Pliny (v. 2) tells us that Alexander treated his horse, *Bucephalas*, like a close friend. The Roman army had 10,000 cavalrymen, 300 in every legion. Genghis Khan's light cavalry of excellent bowmen were followed by a heavy cavalry with spears and armor giving them the power to establish the largest empire in history. The list is long, as horses continued to be used in war until 1942 CE when they were replaced by tanks.

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CAPE CANAVERAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION PROJECT SEASON 7



When: Spring Semester 2023, Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:30 am to 2:30 pm (with possible volunteer days on Fridays or Saturdays)

Credit: This is a 3-credit-hour, 3-4000-level internship that counts towards the Anthropology major requirements or as general upper-division credit hours for non-majors.

Where: Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Brevard County, Florida

Sponsors: Cultural Resources Management Project, SLD 45, USSF/Department of Anthropology, University of Central Florida

What: The Cape Canaveral Archaeological Mitigation Project is a multi-year partnership between the United States Space Force and the UCF Department of Anthropology to conduct intensive archaeological research and documentation of sites threatened by sea level rise from climate change. This is an internship/field school in which you will be conducting intensive Phase I archaeological surveys and limited excavation of multicomponent archaeological sites. You will learn basic archaeological techniques and will be required to write papers and present posters on aspects of the sites.

The focus this year will be the Penny Plot Site (8BR158), a multi-component prehistoric and historic archaeological site and the NOTU Site (8BR1641) a Malabar Period midden site. Other locations may be tested as the schedule allows. Students are required to write a project report as well as present a poster/paper as part of the class.

There are no bathroom facilities. You are responsible for providing your own water, sunscreen, bug spray, lunch, etc. Field conditions are **HARSH** and you will be working in extreme heat/cold and dense vegetation; as well as possible encounters with wildlife and insects.

For More Information: For information regarding registration for the course and UCF requirements contact Dr. Sarah Barber at SarahStacy.Barber@ucf.edu. For technical questions contact Thomas Penders, SLD 45 Cultural Resources Manager at or pendarch@yahoo.com or thomas.penders@spaceforce.mil. Applications will be submitted via the UCF Handshake app beginning in September, 2022.

Application Deadline: Monday, October 17, 2022. **A security clearance is required to participate and due to security restrictions no foreign nationals can participate.** All security clearance forms **MUST** be submitted by Friday December 2, 2022.

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Best Friend ...

Horses were brought to the Americas by the Spanish explorers in the 15th century. They played a major role in the development of the United States by doing labor-intensive agriculture. **They pulled the covered wagons** and helped build and maintain cities. An example of urban dependence on horses was demonstrated when in 1872, horses in the Northeast contracted a virulent strain of equine influenza and cities shut down for six months. City governments were forced to limit services, shut down factories, and leave freight undelivered at the wharf. The headline of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* read **"The City Well Nigh Horseless"** and reported *"our business houses have been made to feel the important part played by the horse in the daily routine of business life"*.

Horses changed the life of the



Plains Indians between 1800 and 1850. They learned to hunt on horseback. That provided them with high-quality meat, hides and clothing. They hitched horses to wooden sledges that could transport people and possessions to follow the seasonal hunt.

Horses put Indians on equal footing with the settlers, making Indians a formidable opposition to European western expansion.

To eliminate that threat, the American Army slaughtered the Indians' horses to encourage Indians to stay on the reservation and become farmers. The white settlers



were allowed to keep their horses that were so important to them that, in the 19th century West, horse thieves were branded, whipped, or even hanged.

Horses are awesomely beautiful, but they are no longer essential. We have now replaced horses with machines, ending our more than 5000 years of dependence on them, but we have not lost our love for this

magnificent animal. They are still expensive and highly trained but now they are considered a luxury.

Some still do farm work or police work, but most are used for sports or just companionship as pets, especially in the U.S. where today, there are more than 7 million horses. That is more than any other country in the world. It is also more than when horses were the primary means of transportation.

Thankfully, horses are here to stay.

Speakers & Events Calendar

The following is the Archaeological Institute of America, Tampa Bay Society Lecture Series for the Fall. All are held at the USF Tampa campus in BEH 103 at 6:00 PM.

November 1, 2022



That Costly Extract of Poisonous Fish:
The Consumption of Fish in the Roman Diet.
 Dr. Benedict Lowe - University of North Alabama



November 29, 2022



The Ritualized Landscapes of Ancient Peru
 Dr. Charles Stanish - University of South Florida

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