



# MARCH - 2023

PRESERVATION ♦ EDUCATION ♦ RESEARCH ♦ INSPIRE

Dear Member:

The information for *The Cornelia Futor Memorial Student Research Grant* application and qualifications are on page 3. Spread the word to all who would like to apply for a Field School Grant. Deadline is March 15th.

The *September/October 2023 trip* to Turkey is coming along nicely. Dorothy is in touch with our agent at Friendly Planet voicing our concerns for the people digging out from the two earthquakes. The quakes are nowhere near the area of our tour but never the less they are having a major impact on the country. Stay tuned for more information.

*The Florida Anthropological Society (FAS)* is holding their *75th Annual Meeting and Conference* this year in St Augustine on May 12 -14. We encourage you to attend. There will be a whole day of very interesting lectures, archaeological exhibits and guided tours of the local sites. See webpage for more information.

Darwin "Smitty" Smith, President

hmsbeagle22@gmail.com

*March 15 - at 6:00 PM at the Selby Library in downtown Sarasota*

## **Archaeology in Israel:** *A Review of Current Projects and Insights*

**Dr. Uzi Baram,**  
*Professor of Anthropology,  
Director of the New College Public Archaeology Lab,  
New College of Florida*



*Archaeology in Israel* receives tremendous attention because of its potential for revealing insights into some of the great questions on the Abrahamic faiths. The interest over the last two centuries has generated data, insights, and debates on human history from some of the earliest ancestors to venture out of Africa through the development of agriculture and domestication and the nature of cities and empires.

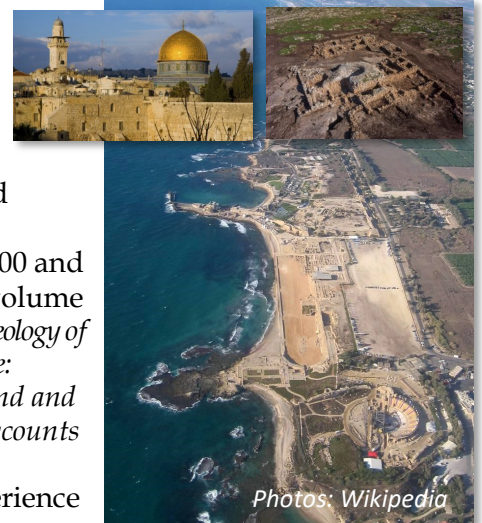
This presentation will review some of the current projects in the State of Israel and offer entry to the debates from analysis and interpretation of the archaeological finds and findings. Since the history at 3000 years ago is continually raised in popular discussions, new insights into the Kingdom of David will be offered for consideration.

Dr. Uzi Baram is a member of Time Sifters Archaeology Society. Best known for his research on the early 19th-century maroon community of Angola on the Manatee, Dr. Baram has focused on community-based archaeology and the politics of the past for projects in the USA and eastern Mediterranean. His

career includes a University of Massachusetts dissertation on Material Culture, Commodities, and Consumption in Palestine, 1500-1900 and a 2000 co-edited volume *The Historical Archaeology of the Ottoman Empire: Breaking New Ground and analysis of travel accounts to the Holy Land*.

Excavation experience includes Tel Dan, Shiqmim, Ramat HaNadiv, and Tel Zeitah and research on Jerusalem, Akko, and Gaza.

In 2020, he presented on *Politics, People, and Pots: Historical Archaeology in Israel, and Beyond* for a conference at Tel Aviv University.



# Notes from a Time Sifter

## Spies in the Sky - 2.0

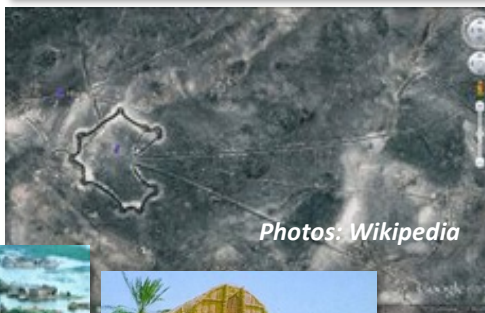
By Evelyn Mangie, Time Sifters Board Member

News of a “spy” balloon over the U.S. should not be a surprise. World nations spy on each other in any way they can, and it is not new. The French used balloons for battle reconnaissance during their revolution in 1793 in the 2nd Seminole War (1840), the U.S. Army used balloons to locate Seminoles hiding in Florida’s swamps; in 1861, President Abraham Lincoln endorsed the establishment of a Balloon Corps for the Union Army to relay Confederate positions, and the Confederates launched their own balloons to observe the movements of the Union troops. Kites, carrier pigeons, satellites, drones, and more have all been used to survey activities from above.

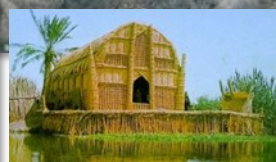
During the Cold War of the 1950s and 60s, American U2 spy planes photographed key Soviet military targets. They also captured pictures of many ancient sites from Europe and Asia. The films were not declassified until 1997 and were not studied or indexed until recently.

Archeologists Emily Hammer from the University of Pennsylvania and Jason Ur of Harvard knew that these pictures might reveal some archaeological features because large patterns on the landscape can be seen only from above. So, Hammer and Ur got permission to look at the thousands of frames now available. They already had photos taken by the CORONA spy satellite program from the late 1960s and early 70s that showed lost cities and ancient trade paths, but *the U2 pictures* are of higher resolution and so are much clearer than the photos taken by the CORONA program. It was a rewarding

surprise that the U2 photos also showed many new ancient sites especially in the Near East. For example, *the U2 photos revealed an Assyrian canal system built in the first millennium BCE, and desert kites, stone structures used to trap wild gazelles in 5000 BCE.* One of the most fascinating areas photographed is *the Marsh Arab villages*



Photos: Wikipedia



*at the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers* in southern Iraq.

Marsh Arabs had a unique culture that is believed to have changed little for the last 6000 years. It was of value to anthropologists because it resembled the descriptions of life found in ancient Sumerian literature.

*Houses were built using only long reeds* harvested from the

marsh and tied together without nails, wood, or glass. Many of these villages were destroyed by recent hydro-electric dams built by Turkey, Syria, and Iraq in the upper reaches of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. That reduced the flow of both rivers by 80% and increased the salinity making it difficult to live there. *The marsh*

*was totally drained by Saddam Hussein* who believed the villages were sheltering Shi’ite rebels during the Iran-Iraq war (1980-88). Some of the villages were rebuilt after the war but few villagers returned and much of

the culture is lost because returnees had been exposed to modern life. They now zip through the canals in motorboats and the young have little interest in reviving their heritage. The U2 photos preserved the record of these ancient villages.

Other U2 photos recorded ancient monuments that have since been destroyed by the recent

**Continued on page 4 ...**

# Time Sifters Presents

## Cornelia Futor Memorial Student Research Grant



*Time Sifters Archaeology Society* is pleased to announce ...

*The 2023 The Cornelia Futor Memorial Student Research Grant, providing up to \$2000* to eligible students to attend field school. This grant is open to students currently enrolled at a Florida university or college who have begun their junior year of undergraduate studies at the time of application, MA students, and Ph.D. students who are pursuing a major in anthropology with a focus on archaeology.

The 2023 grant cycle is specifically funding participation in field schools that include training in excavation techniques. There will be more than one award made.

### *Key Dates*

- Request application from [ssvekis@gmail.com](mailto:ssvekis@gmail.com) by: **March 7, 2023.**
- Application submittal deadline: **March 15, 2023.**
- Award will be announced: **March 30, 2023.**

### *Grant Guidelines*

- All questions and applications must be sent to [ssvekis@gmail.com](mailto:ssvekis@gmail.com). Include **"Time Sifters Student Research Grant"** in the subject line.
- Grant request requires submission of an Application, which includes a statement of request, a brief bio, two photos, and a line-item budget. In addition, a **letter of support from an academic advisor** must be submitted along with the application. **We recommend you speak to your professor as soon as possible.**
- Upon conclusion of the funded project, a written report (500 words), at least two photos, and an expense report including receipts must be submitted within 60 days.

# A Time Sifters Book Review

## Cleopatra: A Life

by Stacy Schiff ... November 1, 2010 by Little, Brown and Company, ISBN10: 0316001929, Source: Goodreads.com

The Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer brings to life the most intriguing woman in the history of the world: Cleopatra, the last queen of Egypt.

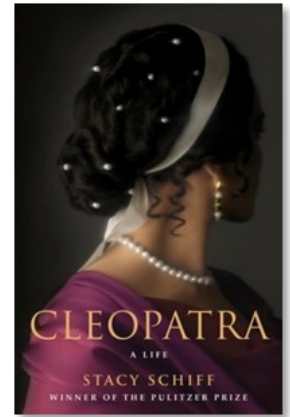
Her palace shimmered with onyx, garnets, and gold, but was richer still in political and sexual intrigue. Above all else, Cleopatra was a shrewd strategist and an ingenious negotiator.

Though her life spanned fewer than 40 years, it reshaped the contours of the ancient world. She was married twice, each time to a brother. She waged a brutal civil war against the first when both were teenagers. She poisoned the second. Ultimately she dispensed with an ambitious sister as well; incest and assassination were family specialties. Cleopatra

appears to have had sex with only two men. They happen, however, to have been Julius Caesar and Mark Antony, among the most prominent Romans of the day. Both were married to other women. Cleopatra had a child with Caesar and after his murder -three more with his protégé. Already she was the wealthiest ruler in the Mediterranean; the relationship with Antony confirmed her status as the most influential woman of the age. The two would together attempt to forge a new empire, in an alliance that spelled their ends. Cleopatra has lodged herself in our imaginations ever since.

Famous long before she was notorious, Cleopatra has gone down in history for all the wrong

reasons. Shakespeare and Shaw put words in her mouth. Michelangelo, Tiepolo, and Elizabeth Taylor put a face to her name. Along the way, Cleopatra's supple personality and the drama of her circumstances have been lost. In a masterly return to the classical sources, Stacy Schiff here boldly separates fact from fiction to rescue the magnetic queen whose death ushered in a new world order. Rich in detail, epic in scope, Schiff's is a luminous, deeply original reconstruction of a dazzling life.



Continued from page 2 ...

### Spies in the Sky - 2.0

wars such as the great Umayyad Mosque in Aleppo built between the 8th and the 13th centuries, and the 3000-year-old ziggurat at Mosel (ancient Nimrud) that was

leveled by ISIS.

Aerial photography from balloons or kites has long been an archaeological tool. China is using drone photos to identify ancient irrigation systems along the Silk Road and the U.K. is collecting its aerial imagery to

build a photographic archive of archaeological sites in Egypt and the Arabian Gulf area. But the U2 pictures were a surprise by-product of military practice. A new source that is good news for archaeology.

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

April 6, 2023



### Obsidian Use & Open-water Travel in the Prehistoric Mediterranean

Dr. Robert Tykot - University of South Florida



Board of Directors

#### Officers:

Darwin "Smitty" Smith, President  
Sherry Svekis, Vice President  
Mary S. Maisel, Secretary  
Laura Harrison, Treasurer  
Marion Almy Dorothy Cascio  
Karen Jensen Jean Louise Lammie  
Evelyn Mangie Ken Woodworth



Lifetime: \$350  
Individual: \$25  
Family: \$35  
Student: \$10  
Supporting: \$50

Pay online at:  
[WWW.TimeSifters.org](http://WWW.TimeSifters.org)  
Or mail checks to:  
**Time Sifters, Inc.**  
PO Box 5283  
Sarasota, FL. 34277

Copyright © 2023 Time Sifters Archaeology Society, Inc., All rights reserved.