



MAY - 2023

PRESERVATION ♦ EDUCATION ♦ RESEARCH ♦ INSPIRE

Dear Member:

Join us in September for an amazing travel opportunity to Turkey. The information and registration is now available on our website ... WWW.timesifters.org for the *Best of Turkey Trip, September 21 through October 5, 2023*. Registration closes May 24th.

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

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Best of Turkey

September 21 - October 5, 2023

Information/registration NOW on The WEBSITE ... www.TimeSifters.org

May 17 - at 6:00 PM at the Selby Library in downtown Sarasota

Panama & Venezuela: Two Examples of the Role of Technology in the Spanish Colonial Frontier

Dr. Ana Maria Navas Mendez
Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology
New College of Florida



This presentation focuses on the differential impact of European commodities and technologies on the colonial frontier. The 1st example is from the **city of Panamá Viejo** (1519). This city was the first European occupation on the Pacific coast of the American continent and served as a crucial port and economic link receiving products from Spain, Asia, and Peru. The 2nd example is from **the Middle Orinoco river, Venezuela**, where members of the Jesuit Catholic Order aimed to achieve control of the fluvial route connecting the missions of the Andes, Orinoco, and Trinidad. Archaeological and scientific analysis of ceramics and metals recovered in these two regions allowed the study of production, distribution, and use of both technologies. The results

are used to discuss historical narratives that assume the replacement of native technologies to show the continuity of local practices, the creative incorporation of foreign materials, and the emergence of new forms of social organization.

Dr. Ana María Navas Méndez is interested in the study of the colonization processes in Latin America using methods of archaeological science to identify patterns analyzed via postcolonial interpretations. She has conducted multidisciplinary projects in Venezuela and Panama, analyzing the role of metals and ceramics in the Spanish colonization of both regions. Dr. Navas has also collaborated with Venezuelan Indigenous and rural communities in heritage nominations to

UNESCO. She received her degree in Anthropology from the Central University of Venezuela, her master's at the Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Research (IVIC), and Ph. D. at the University of Texas at Austin.



Notes from a Time Sifter

London Downunder

By Evelyn Mangie, Time Sifters Board Member

Archaeology is destructive.

Modern cities cannot be destroyed to see what is underneath. Sometimes, however, opportunities arise when new construction peels back the concrete and exposes a brief opportunity to peek underneath. That is what happened in one of Europe's capital cities, London, England where the modern metropolis of skyscrapers sits atop a 30 foot *archaeological layer cake, a tel.*

Beginning in 2000, the city began a building boom that included the construction of a massive subway network and modernization of buildings. That gave archaeologists a brief chance to dig below the modern surface and uncover millions of artifacts that date from the early Mesolithic period (ca 13,000 BCE) to the late Victorian Era (late 19th century).

The oldest artifacts, woolly mammoth bones from 68,000 BP, came from archaeologists working alongside the construction of a subway tunnel. They also found pieces of flint blades from 9,000 BP, evidence that nomadic hunter-gatherers occupied the area. *Pieces of pottery* reveal that pre-historic London must have been a gathering place for farmers as early as 3600 B.C.E.

Most of the artifacts are from the Roman period (43-410 CE). The Romans built Londinium in 47 CE.

They chose the spot because it was on a ford at the Thames River that gave them the ability to transport goods to and from the European continent. Romans

largest forum-basilicas north of the Alps, larger than today's St. Paul's Cathedral. *Beautiful frescoes and tile floors were uncovered.*

They also found smaller items like horseshoes, some still stuck in the rut of a Roman road, marble

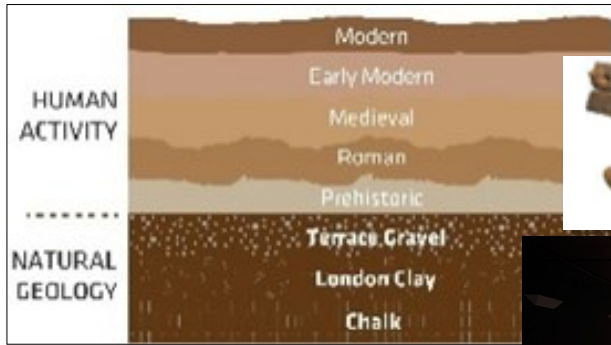
busts, coins, and a *leather bikini possibly worn by a gladiator or dancing girl.*

The Romans abandoned Londinium in the fifth century leaving it to local Britons and European migrants like Saxons and Vikings.

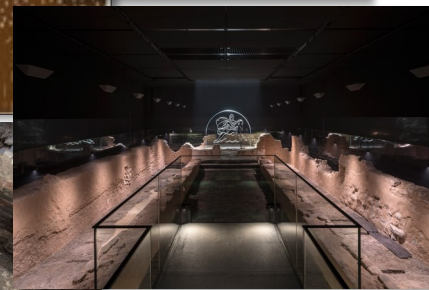
Saxon pottery shows their settlement, but they built only a few stone buildings and cremated their dead. Viking longboats were found in a mass Viking grave beside the Thames.

Under London's Charterhouse Square, archaeologists discovered skeletons and headstones in a graveyard dating from the Black Death plague that struck between 1547 and 1551

when more than half of the city's population died. DNA samples show that many of the skeletons show that they had not grown up in London, and most showed signs of malnutrition and back



Photos: Reddit; metalocus.es; users.stlcc.edu; trekway.com; ancient.edu



wrote of the local resistance (Tacitus, ca. 56-117 BCE) and archaeologists found a thick layer of ash, evidence of Celtic (Iceni) queen Boudicca's desperate revolt against Rome in 61 CE. Another ash layer from 122 CE shows that Londinium burned again but there is no written evidence, so historians assume that the second fire was accidental.

Londinium was rebuilt and grew into Roman Britannia's largest city with many public buildings. Archaeologists found a large *Roman temple to Mithras* and the remains of one of the

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London ...

injuries from heavy labor. Another cemetery was found under *Liverpool Street* that contained the remains of about **4,000 people** buried between 1569 and 1738. It was next to *the first psychiatric hospital in the world, Bedlam* (its name is a corruption of "Bethlehem").

Several prominent people were buried there, possibly including Robert Lockyer, a member of a 17th-century political movement called the Levelers. He was part of an army mutiny and was executed in 1649 by a firing squad.

Some *exquisite Victorian era (1837 - 1914) artifacts* found just under the modern city belie the fact that most people in London at that time were desperately



Photos: Wikipedia, National Geographic, Daily Mirror.



poor and lived in horribly overcrowded tenements near open sewers. This was "dirty" London where the soot of industry saturated the fog that rolled in from the sea.

All of the artifacts that came from this brief archaeological opportunity are in the Museum of London. An article in the February 2016 issue of the National Geographic has wonderful pictures of the excavations.



The 75th Annual Meeting & Conference St. Augustine, Florida, May 12 - 14, 2023



Photo: visitstaugustine.com

The St. Augustine Archaeological Association is excited to invite you to St. Augustine for the **75th Annual Meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society, May 12-14, 2023.**

Register for the Convention at FSWEB.org.

In the News

Repatriated Artifacts.

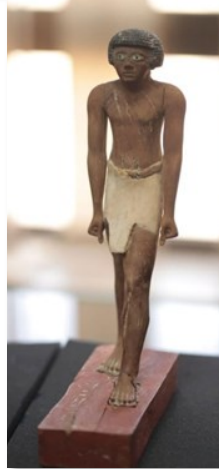
by Smitty, Time Sifters Board Member. Sources: Archaeology Magazine, Associated Press, DW, Ahrām Online, and News360.

During 2022, a total of 1,592 artifacts were returned by the governments of the United States, Germany and Belgium to Egypt, Africa, Colombia and Italy.

In January, according to an *Associated Press* report, U.S. officials handed over 200 looted antiquities recovered from **American museums and galleries** to Italy's culture minister. 40 of the objects will be on display in New York at the Italian Consulate General for several months.

In July, *DW* reported that Germany will return artifacts housed in more than **20 German museums** to Nigeria, Cameroon, Tanzania, and Namibia. Most of the more than 1,100 Benin Bronzes were looted by British forces who conquered Nigeria's city of Benin in 1897. A statue of Ngonnso, a mother deity of the Nso people, will be returned to Cameroon. An additional 23 objects will be handed over to Namibia, and an unnamed number of items to Tanzania that were taken during the Maji-Maji War, an uprising against German colonial rule from 1905 to 1907.

In September, *Ahrām Online* reported that Belgium has handed over two ancient wooden statues to Egypt. The objects were seized



B.C. limestone relief engraved with hieroglyphic text and an offering scene; five linen fragments; a bronze statue of a musician named Kemes; and a Roman-era Fayum portrait of a woman. Another nine artifacts recovered from an **American collector**, including a Ptolemaic-era coin will also be returned.

And finally, in September, according to a *News 360* report, the U.S. has

repatriated 274 artifacts to Colombia. Many of them belonged to a **U.S. citizen** who contacted the Colombian Embassy in 2019. Her husband collected the objects while living in Cali in the 1970s.

Unfortunately, looting will not end, but at least we are in an era where the antiquities trade, individuals, lofty institutions, and governments are being held to account for their complicity in stripping the cultural wealth of other peoples and nations.

Also in September, *Ahrām Online* reported that six artifacts recovered from the **Metropolitan Museum of Art** were handed over to Egypt following investigations into trafficking networks and the illegal antiquities trade by the Manhattan District Attorney's Office and U.S. Homeland Security Investigations. The objects include a coffin fragment painted with a woman's face; a seventh-century

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