



# DECEMBER-2023

PRESERVATION ♦ EDUCATION ♦ RESEARCH ♦ INSPIRE

Dear Member:

*Our Annual Holiday Party is December 16th* (see page 3). We hope you will join us. There will be food, historical trivia and good conversation.

Don't forget that your 2024 dues are due in January. We have two ways that you can pay: Via paypal on the webpage or mail a check to Time Sifters, Inc., PO Box 5283, Sarasota, FL. 34277.

While you are on the webpage, check out the old newsletters and videos of most of the past lectures. We also have the lectures on our YouTube channel.

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



*The Gladiator Lucius, Baiae, Italy*  
pinterest

## Notes from a Time Sifter

### Roman Mosaics.

By Smitty, Time Sifters Board Member

We have all seen these beautiful mosaics on the floors and walls of both Greek and Roman buildings. This artform is everywhere in the former Roman Empire from England to Morocco and from Spain to Egypt. They are a common feature of both private homes and public buildings. They are an invaluable record of such everyday items as clothes, food, tools, weapons, flora and fauna as well as revealing much about Roman activities like sports, agriculture, and hunting. Some even include humor like the famous "*Black Dog*" found in the doorway of a villa in Pompeii, that says "*Beware of the Dog*". We are in awe of the designs and the craftsmanship. They are truly amazing pieces of art.



London excavation 2023

Continued on page 2 ...

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## Mosaics ...

This art form is known as *opus tesellatum*. It is made with small black, white and colored squares measuring between ¼" to ½" but fine details are rendered using even smaller pieces as little as 1/8". They are made from materials such as marble, tile, glass, smalto, pottery, stone and

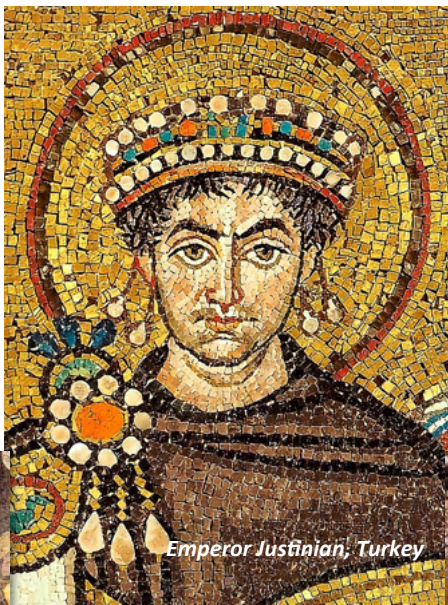
even shells.

The first step is to draw with charcoal an outline of the planned illustration. Then a base is prepared with fresh mortar and the chips positioned as close together as possible with any gaps filled with liquid grout. The finished piece is then cleaned and polished.

Sources: *World History Encyclopedia*, *Wikipedia*



Alexander the Great, Italy



Emperor Justinian, Turkey



Cirencester, England



Antioch, Turkey



Lod, Israel



Greece



Volubilis, Morocco



Tunisia

Photos: Naples National Archaeological Museum; Wikipedia; Corinum Museum of Cirencester; pinterest; Smitty; National Museum of Tunisia.

# Holiday Party

**December 16 - at 6:00 PM**

Fisherman's Cove Community Room  
9000 Blind Pass Road, Sarasota

***Come celebrate good friends, yummy food,  
and archaeology-themed fun.***

***What to bring:*** \$6 per person and a dish to share. Members are welcome to bring guests.

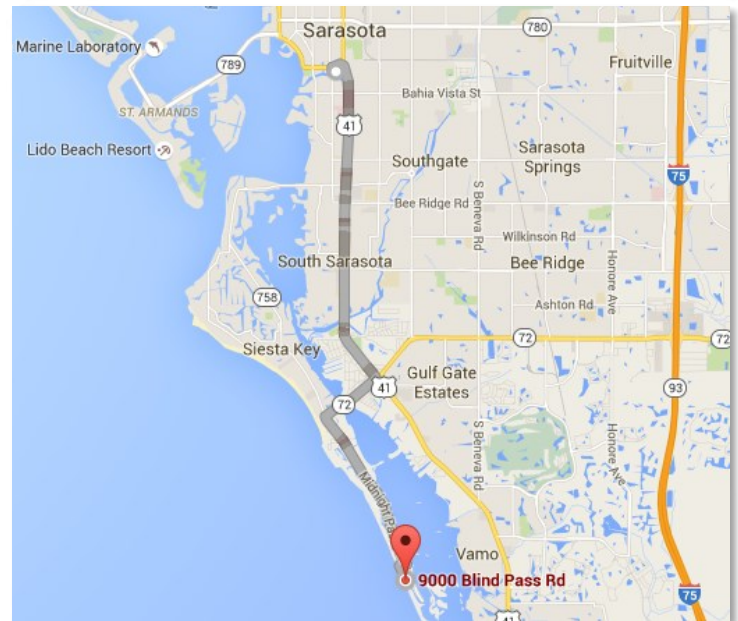
Email Sherry at [srobs@me.com](mailto:srobs@me.com)  
if you have any questions.



## Directions to Party

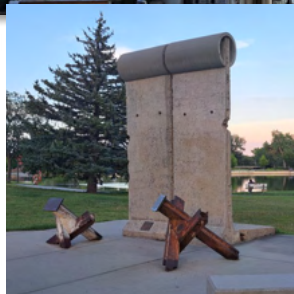
*Directions - including entrance and parking instructions:*

- US 41/Tamiami Trail to Stickney Point Road
- West on Stickney Point Road across the bridge to Siesta Key
- South approximately 4 miles on Midnight Pass Road
- Turn right on Turtle Beach Road (Turtles Waterfront Restaurant will be on your left)
- The road bends south and becomes Blind Pass Road
- At the end of the parking lot, approach the gate slowly and the bar will open (no password required)
- The party is in the room behind the pool, which is between the two long buildings.
- Park in any spaces with numbers ending in 15 and above (such as 115, 217, 320, etc.)

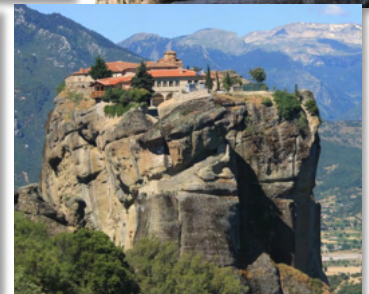


## Send us some pictures for the party!

Something a little different this year - we are going to showcase places that our members have visited. Please send us a photo or two. Here are some examples of pictures already sent in.



Photos: Sherry; Smitty



## A Time Sifters Book Review

# River Kings: A New History of the Vikings from Scandinavia to the Silk Road

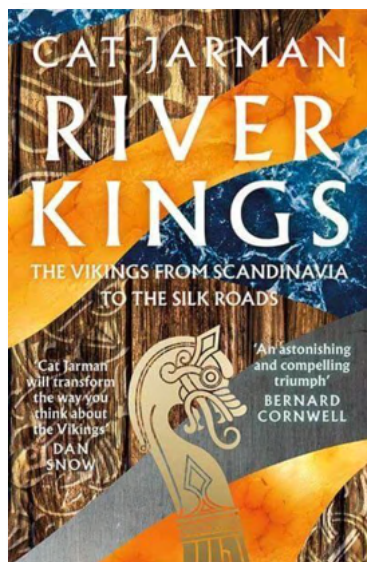
By: Cat Jarman ... Published by: Pegasus Books, February 2022, ISBN9780008353070 (ISBN10: 0008353077)

A brilliant new history that dramatically reassess how far the Viking world extended.

Dr. Cat Jarman exposes the unexpected routes that Viking travel and trade took - and how these kings of the river were frequent travelers of the Middle East and the Silk Road.

One June day late in the 8th century, Norse seafarers arrived at the English island of Lindisfarne. They waged a savage attack on its unsuspecting abbey, and with this, the Age of the Vikings was born. These roving pillagers spent the next few hundred years raiding and trading a path across Northern and Western Europe. *Except, that's not quite true.* It's just a convenient place to start the story - a story that has seen radical new discoveries over the past few years.

Dr. Jarman works on the cutting edge of bioarchaeology, using forensic techniques to research the paths of Vikings who came to rest in British soil. By examining teeth that are now over 1000 years old, she can determine childhood diet, and thereby where a specimen was likely born. With radiocarbon dating, she can ascertain a death date down to the



range of a few years.

In 2012, a *carnelian bead* came into her temporary possession. *River Kings* sees her trace its path back to 8th-century Baghdad, discovering along the way that

the Vikings' route was far more varied than we might think, that with them came people from the Middle East, not just Scandinavia, and that the reason for all this unexpected integration between the Eastern and Western worlds may well have been a slave trade running through the Silk Road, and all the way to Britain.

*River Kings* is a major reassessment of the Vikings, and of the medieval world as we know it.

Cat Jarman, PhD, is a bioarchaeologist and field archaeologist specializing in the Viking Age and Viking women. She uses forensic techniques like isotope analysis, carbon dating, and DNA analysis on human remains to untangle the experiences of past people from broader historical narratives. Dr. Jarman

has contributed to numerous television documentaries as both an on-screen expert and historical consultant, including programs for the BBC, History Channel, Discovery, among others. She lives in Britain.

Source: [GoodReads.com](https://www.goodreads.com)



Photos: Viking ship, Oseberg. National Geographic

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