



AUGUST - 2024

PRESERVATION ♦ EDUCATION ♦ RESEARCH ♦ INSPIRE

Dear Member:

We are enjoying our summer, traveling, spending time with family and friends. So far we have been to Gettysburg and Washington DC. Hiking on the battlefield and visiting museums.

The 2024 - 2025 Season (page 4) is coming together with Hittites in Turkey; Anthropology of Vampires and Zombies; The Heritage All Around Us; Year in Review; and 3D Imaging of Pompeii.

Darwin "Smitty" Smith, President
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Archaeologists You Should Know

Tatiana Proskouriakoff

Deciphered Mayan Hieroglyphics

By Smitty, Time Sifters Board Member. Sources: Wikipedia, Penn Museum, Expedition Magazine, and Archaeological Institute of America.



Tatiana Proskouriakoff was born in Tomsk, in the Tomsk Governorate of the Russian Empire. Her father was a chemist and her mother was a physician. The family

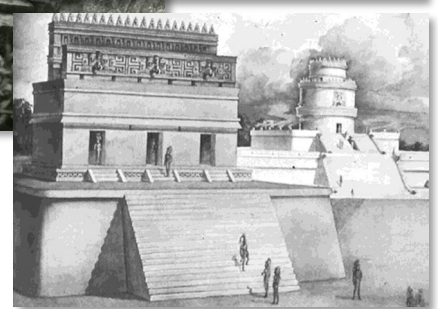
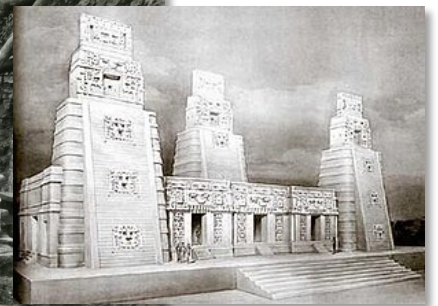
traveled to the United States in 1915, but the Russian Revolution forced the family to remain permanently. She visited Russia only once. She could read proficiently at age 3 and showed a talent for drawing. The family lived for a while in Ohio, before moving and settling down in Lansdowne, Pennsylvania. She graduated valedictorian of her high school and was the editor of the school yearbook.

She was the only female in the class of 1930 at the College of Architecture at Pennsylvania State University. While enrolled in graduate studies at the University of Pennsylvania, she prepared archaeological illustrations at the University Museum. Through her



work with the museum's Assistant Curator, Linton Satterthwaite, she received an invitation to join the museum's 1936 - 1937 excavation work at the Maya site of *Piedras Negras*, which lies on the border of Mexico and Guatemala.

Specializing in architecture, Tatiana's first assignment at Piedras Negras was to illustrate the architectural ruins of the site. These reconstruction drawings of the acropolis



caught the attention of archaeologist Silvanus Morley of the Carnegie Institute. Unable to get the Institute to hire her, Morley raised funds to enable Proskouriakoff to travel with his crew to *Copán and Yucatán* in 1939. Upon seeing the finished drawings from this excavation,

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Proskouriakoff ...

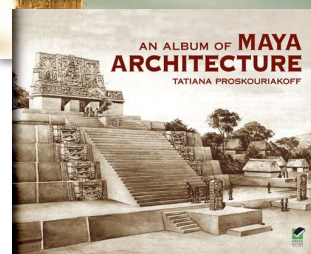
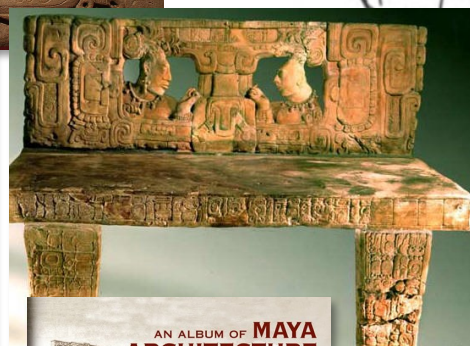
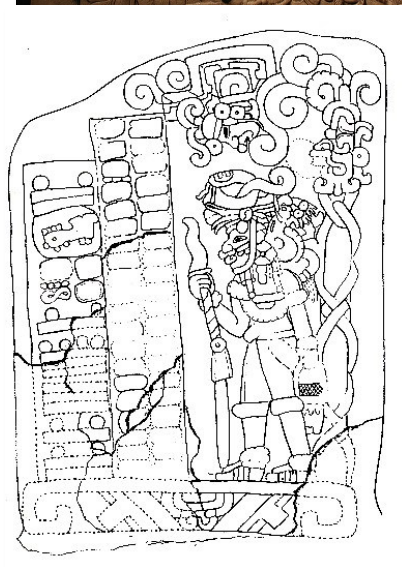
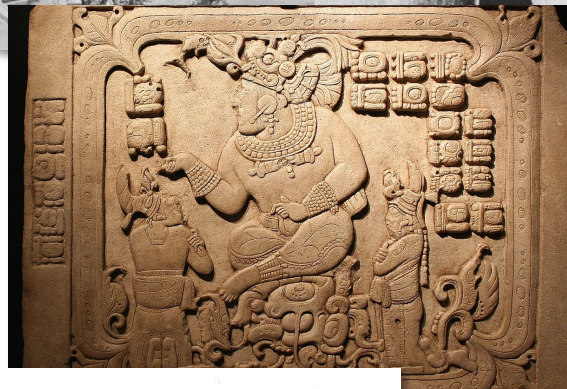
she was given the post of a research associate at the Institution in the early 1940s.

Her 1942 scholarly analysis of the hieroglyphics at the *Takalik Abaj* ruins in Guatemala established that the site was in part Maya, settling a debate at that time. Her greatest contribution was the breakthrough for Maya hieroglyphic decipherment in the late 1950s/60s. While researching the chronology of changing styles of Maya sculpture, she discovered that the dates shown on the monumental stelae were historical, the birth, accession, and death dates for Maya rulers. Analyzing the pattern, she was able to demonstrate a sequence of seven rulers who ruled over a span of 200 years. Her work was the foundation on which Maya archaeologists built the political history of the ancient Maya.

From 1950 to 1955, she worked at the excavations of *Mayapan*. In 1958, Proskouriakoff moved to the Peabody Museum at Harvard University, where she worked until her retirement in 1977.

In 1971, she was named Woman of the Year at the Pennsylvania State University. In 1974 she cataloged the Peabody Museum's collection of over 1,000 jade products from *the sacred cenote at Chichen Itza*. Proskouriakoff also worked for over 20 years on the consolidated history of the Maya, which was published posthumously in 1994. She was a full member of the American Anthropological Association. Proskouriakoff is an Honorary Doctor of Tulane University (1977). She was awarded the Alfred V. Kidder Medal (1962) and Order of the Quetzal from the Guatemalan government in 1984.

Tatiana Proskouriakoff died in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on August 30, 1985. She was 76 years old. In 1998 her close friend and



Photos:
yucatanmagazine,
Wikipedia, Penn
Museum,
pinterest.



colleague David Stuart carried *Tatiana's ashes to Piedras Negras*. There near the banks of the mighty Usumacinta river, her ashes were interred at the summit of the Acropolis, the group of structures in Tania's first and perhaps most famous reconstruction drawing, the same one that launched her career.



In the News

Megalithic Standing Stones Discovered in Spain

By Smitty, Time Sifters Board Member. Sources: Sources: Archaeology Magazine, The Guardian, Live Science.



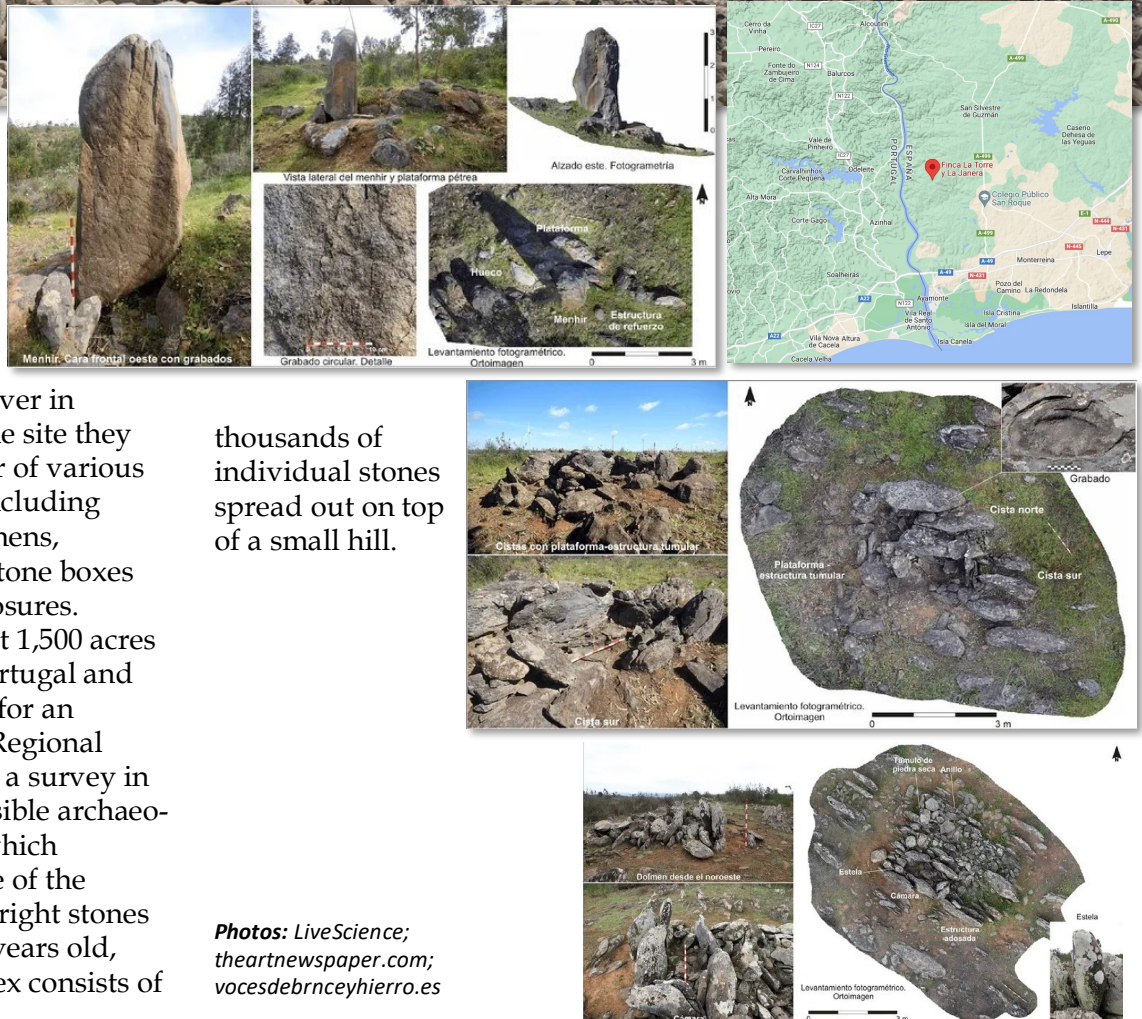
A megalithic complex of more than 526 standing stones was discovered during a survey at **La Torre-La Janera**, in Huelva province

near the Guadiana River in southern Spain. At the site they found a large number of various types of megaliths, including standing stones, dolmens, mounds, coffin-like stone boxes called cists, and enclosures.

The site spans about 1,500 acres near the border of Portugal and had been earmarked for an avocado plantation. Regional authorities requested a survey in light of the site's possible archaeological significance which revealed the presence of the stones. The oldest upright stones could be up to 7,500 years old, and the entire complex consists of

thousands of individual stones spread out on top of a small hill.

Photos: LiveScience; theartnewspaper.com; vocesdebrnceyhierro.es



A Time Sifters Book Review

To Wake the Giant: A Novel of Pearl Harbor

by Jeff Shaara ... Ballantine Books; Published May 19, 2020; ISBN: 9780593129623 - Source: Amazon.com

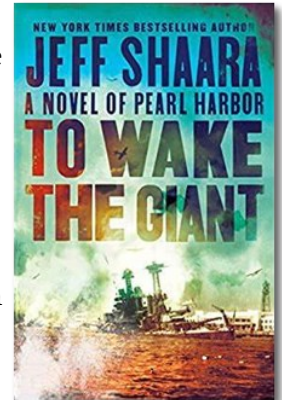
In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt watches uneasily as the world heads rapidly down a dangerous path. The Japanese are waging an aggressive campaign against China, and they now begin to expand their ambitions to other parts of Asia with the ultimate goal of total conquest over the region. Plus the Japanese have aligned themselves with Hitler's Germany and Mussolini's Italy, who wage their own war of conquest across Europe.

Told through the eyes of widely diverse characters, this story looks at all sides of the drama. In Washington, **Secretary of State Cordell Hull** must balance his own concerns between President Roosevelt and the Japanese ambassador, Kichisaburo Nomura,

who is little more than a puppet of his own government. In Japan, **Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto** wins skeptical approval for his outrageous plans in the Pacific, yet he understands more than anyone that an attack on Pearl Harbor will start a war that Japan cannot win. In Hawaii, **Commander Joseph Rochefort's** job as an accomplished intelligence officer is to decode radio signals and detect the location of the Japanese fleet, but when the airwaves suddenly go silent, no one has any idea why. And from a small Depression-ravaged town, 19-year-old **Tommy Biggs** sees the Navy as his chance to escape and happily accepts his assignment, every sailor's dream: **the battleship USS Arizona**. With you-are-there immediacy,

Shaara opens up the mysteries of just how Japan—a small, deeply militarist nation—could launch one of history's most

devastating surprise attacks. In this story of innocence, heroism, sacrifice, and unfathomable blindness, Shaara's gift for storytelling uses these familiar wartime themes to shine a light on the personal, the painful, the tragic, and the thrilling—and on a crucial part of history we must never forget.



Speakers for 2024/2025
All are at 5:45 PM live at the Selby Library
1331 First St., Sarasota

September 18

Hittite Rock Monuments:

Their Relationship with Landscape in Central Anatolia
Atakan Atabas

October 16

Anthropology of Vampires and Zombies:

From History to Speculation
Dr. Maranda Almy Kles

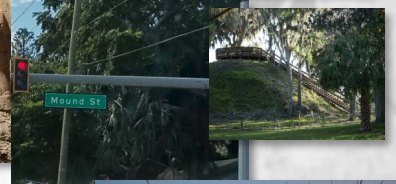
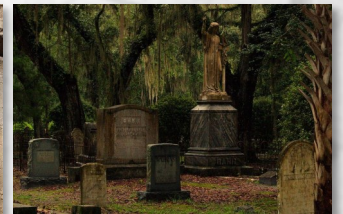
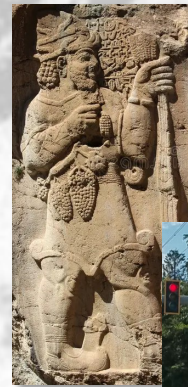
November 20

The Heritage All Around Us, if we look:

Ancestral Seminole History in Sarasota/Manatee
Dr. Uzi Baram

January 15, 2025

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



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