

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY - NEWSLETTER -

Travis F. Doering, Editor

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AUGUST 1985

"SPECIAL MEETING" of the SWFAS will be held on Thursday, August 8, 1985 at 7:30 p.m. It will be held at B & B Builders Specialties Co. at 3800 North Tamiami Trail, on the second floor. Please meet in the south parking lot.

OUR speaker will be Robert Taylor of the Southeast Archeological Center of the National Park Service. Mr. Taylor will be speaking about the Archeological Survey work being done in the Everglades National Park. We will also see a demonstration of how infra-red satellite imagery can help in locating archeological sites.

MR. Taylor is also an expert on faunal analysis and promises to help us in our Society's use of faunal material. It sounds like an interesting program, so bring along a friend!

THE AUGUST MONTHLY MEETING of the SWFAS will be held at the First Federal Savings and Loan of Ft. Myers, (Community Room), 3201 Tamiami Trail North, Naples, Florida at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 15, 1985. The speaker will be your Newsletter Editor and my subject will be "MAYA—Treasures of an Ancient Civilization" which is a rare traveling exhibition of Maya Art. On display is an extensive selection of objects loaned by the governments of Mexico, Guatemala and Belize, most of which have never been seen outside their countries of origin. Also with famous pieces from the United States and Canadian museums, the show presents a comprehensive panorama of Maya art ranging from well-known pieces that are familiar to those with even minimal interest in the Maya, to spectacular finds that are so recent they have not even appeared in scientific literature.

THE presentation at the August meeting will show many of the objects on display as well as background material explaining the piece's origin, interpretation and views of the sights where the objects were found.

THIS exhibition is truly remarkable for its beauty, scope and the efforts required to bring these objects together. It took seven years of diligent work by the exhibition's coordinator, Charles Gallenkamp and others, to bring it to fruition. Financial backing, sponsoring institutions, and agreements with the lending institutions created a roller-coaster ride that ended in an extremely successful showing.

More details of the exhibition will be available at the SWFAS meeting.

"MAYA—Treasures of an Ancient Civilization" exhibit was viewed by my wife and I at New York's American Museum of Natural History. This portion of the tour ends on July 28th. It will reopen at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, August 27—Nov. 3, 1985; Dallas Museum of Art, Dec. 15, 1985 to Feb. 16, 1986; Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, March 22 to June 15, 1986; Nelson Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, July 19 to Sept. 7, 1986; and it ends its tour at the Albuquerque Museum, Nov. 16 to Feb. 8, 1987.

THIS exhibition is well worth viewing because of its historic value. In the meantime, come to the August meeting and get a glimpse of the art of the MAYA.

ANALYSIS SESSION August 18th at 10:00 a.m., J. Beriault Residence
SPECIAL meeting. The Naples Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society will be touring John's yard & plant collection. (J. Beriault, 261-0295)

SORTING SESSION August 27th at 5:30 p.m., J. Beriault Residence (# above)
GET first-hand experience of sorting and classifying materials from excavations, test pits, and other collections of SWFAS.

SITE FORM MEETING September 10th, at 6:30 p.m., (C. Strader Residence)
COMPLETION of site forms, and discuss future possible activities.
 (Call 992-6133)

SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING September 19th, at 7:30 p.m., First Federal of Ft. Myers, Community Room, Naples, FL.

JULY MONTHLY MEETING Many thanks to our guest speaker George Luer, who reported on his work at Big Mound Key at Cape Haze in Charlotte Harbor. Those in attendance learned about the exciting and valuable archeological remains that are being destroyed by treasure hunters and others on Big Mound Key and surrounding areas. The damage and destruction created by these misinformed people is staggering.
GEORGE had many kind words for SWFAS and its members and told us that his findings will be published soon. We are looking forward to that information.

A SPEAKER'S PLEA! When George Luer described his work at Big Mound Key, he also described the threatened loss of wetlands, mangroves, and wildlife that will be caused by commercial development at Cape Haze. Please help us preserve this fast vanishing area that can never be replaced. THE Rotunda Springs & Villas Subdivision by the Cape Caves Corp. is planning on developing this wetland area. Only individuals like you can prevent this loss. Mr. Luer asks that anyone interested, write a letter voicing your disapproval of this unnecessary development to:
 Secretary, Department of Environmental Regulation, Victoria J. Tschinkel, Twin Towers, 2600 Blairstone Rd., Tallahassee, FL 32301
 Honorable Robert Graham, Governor, The Capitol, Tallahassee, FL 32301
BE sure to mention the Cape Haze area and the subdivision and developer. Thank you for your support.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Welcome back to charter member, Steve Cox & his wife Susan of Naples
 New members — Ross & Mary Torbert of Clewiston

GENEROUS DONATION The M. A. Baviello Co. of Naples, a well-known & long established construction firm, has made a generous donation to SWFAS and we want them to know we are very appreciative of the gift. It will help toward preserving our areas archeological history. Thank you.

SPECIAL THANKS go to Bob Carr and George Luer for their help and assistance in analyzing the materials recovered from Addison Key. They helped shed new light on the interpretation and methods of analysis of this SWFAS project. It was a very productive session. Thanks also go to members — Art & Lynn Lee, Mary Ruth Winchell, Virginia Beville, and Anne Dobert who assisted in the sessions that were held on July 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, & 21st.

MUMMIES FOUND IN CHILE

Ft. Myers News Press, Friday, July 5, 1985
Arica, Chile Some 8,000 years ago, the occupant of Tomb 761 was a man of respect in the seaside settlement — perhaps because he excelled at hunting or fishing, scientists say. So when he died, he was made into a statue.

TODAY, archeologists have unearthed the fallen idol and restored some

of his former status. They believe it is mankind's oldest known mummy.

SCIENTISTS say the mummy, preserved by the Atacama Desert and an elaborate deathbed treatment, is 7,810 years old, about 2,600 years older than his senior Egyptian counterpart, Seker-Em-Sa-F, a 6th Dynasty prince.

"OCCUPANT TOMB 761" and 95 other mummified men, women and children are being examined for clues about the origin of an Indian society that lived along a 300 mile Pacific coastal strip of what is now northern Chile and southern Peru.

DR. Marvin J. Allison, a U.S. pathologist heading the team of mostly Chilean researchers, says the age of this so-called Chinchorro culture would help prove that advanced human society existed in the Americas far earlier than scientists commonly believe. The mummies were uncovered by accident in November 1983 during a water company excavation at the base of a sandstone mound in this arid port city. Allison, 64, announced his findings about the mummies last month to a seminar at the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond, from which he has retired to chronicle the Chinchorros.

THE culture was named by a German archeologist, Max Uhle, who dug up the first mummies here 70 years ago but lacked means to determine how old they were. Their ages were determined last year by Carbon 14 dating. IN an interview at the University of Tarapaca in Arica, where he now works, Allison said the mummies ranged in age from about 3,670 years to almost 8,000 years, challenging the assumption that the Chinchorros came into existence during the 16th century. "I think we found this society was a lot more complicated than originally believed. Their system of burial obviously required a well developed social structure," Allison said.

UNTIL now, scientists thought Mongoloid people reached Alaska 30,000 years ago and migrated slowly down the west coast of the Americas. But Allison says the Asian people could not have moved quickly enough to reach the Southern Hemisphere by the date of the earliest proven Chinchorro settlement here. "We really don't know where they came from," he said.

SILVIA Quevedo, an anthropologist at Chile's Museum of Natural Science, says the Chinchorro people's knowledge of anatomy "was much superior to that exhibited by the mummies of Egypt." The ancient Egyptians disemboweled the bodies of their royalty, salt dried them for up to 70 days, wrapped them in linen bandages and buried them with their gold and jewelry. The early Chinchorros, who possessed no such wealth, skinned their dead, removed major organs and muscles, fire dried the corpse, and reinforced the bones with straw matting and carved wooden struts. Then, tribal doctors pulled the skin back on like a glove and covered the head with a clay mask and a wig made from the dead person's hair. Next they painted the corpse and erected it as a statue. "Our theory is they believed that the body of an excellent hunter, for example, would emit spiritual guidance to the living in the matter of hunting," Allison said.

MORE recent mummies from the same cemetery were not skinned and were covered with a thin layer of cement, apparently to make a better statue the researchers reported. Most of the mummies had fallen and were damaged. The Chinchorros left no writings as clues to their origins, only their uniquely preserved bodies. But even those are in limited supply. Because of a lack of research funds, more than 100 bodies were left inside the cemetery at the Arica mound, and other known burial sites remain untouched. "The desert is a better preserver of these mummies than any museum, so they will stay buried until future generations can take care of them, said Rene Lara Quiroz, a university spokesman.

WHAT HAS SWFAS DONE LATELY? If this question has been burning in your brain, then put out the fire for only 75¢ (printing costs). At the next regular meeting, pick up a copy of the "Chronology of Events of the Southwest Florida Archeological Society", a comprehensive listing of the happenings of our Society. It will make a perfect addition to your growing collection of SWFAS Newsletters and other literature.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Send items of interest to the editor for inclusion in future newsletters:

"SWFAS" NEWSLETTER
P. O. Box 9965
Naples, Florida 33941

Membership Application

Mail To:

SWFAS
P.O. Box 9965
Naples, FL 33941



Check One:

- Individual — \$10.00
- Family — \$15.00
- Contributing — \$25.00
- Student — \$7.50

Yes! I want to support the Southwest Florida Archeological Society in their work of preserving and interpreting the prehistoric heritage of Southwest Florida.

Name _____

Address _____ Phone Number _____

Interests and Abilities: _____

I hereby agree to abide by the rules and bylaws of the Southwest Florida Archeological Society. I further release from any and all liability due to accident and injury to myself, dependents, and property, the Southwest Florida Archeological Society, its officers, members, and any property owners cooperating with the society.

Signature _____