



Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS)

OUR 41st YEAR

March 2021 Newsletter

<https://swflarchaeology.org/>

PRESIDENT'S CORNER *By John F. Furey M.A., RPA*



Hello to everyone from SWFAS. On February 18, 2021 I had the honor to present the FAS 2020 Certificate of Achievement Award to Betsy Perdichizzi. The award was presented in a small ceremony at the Marco Island Historical Museum (MIHM) with her husband Bill, our Treasurer Charlie Strader and three members of the museum present. It was originally planned to be presented at the May 2020 FAS 72nd Annual Meeting in Naples but the meeting was cancelled because of the pandemic. The full text of her nomination by SWFAS is listed below. Congratulations Betsy.

Before March Madness takes over the airways this month, we are straying from the archaeology of Florida, and even the USA, and focusing on Europe and the Middle East for a change. We have four interesting and diverse topics for our articles this month: the scandal of the dead sea scrolls, how climate warming is exposing reindeer hunting arrows lost in the snow in Norway, Neanderthal burial practices, and Stonehenge. Certainly a diverse set of topics, however, they are all related to archaeology and we should be aware of these new developments. Enjoy!

The first article on the dead sea scrolls I found most interesting. There is obviously a major market for early biblical artifacts in Western museums. The extent of forgery of these artifacts has been common knowledge in the industry and is extremely widespread. This extends back in history when Christian churches in the middle ages wanted 'holy relics' to exhibit for prestige and to draw visitors to their church. A sliver of wood from the 'true cross', a chalice that was used at the last supper, or the Shroud of Turin have all been treasured and adored over the years; are we truly shocked that ancient religious scrolls would befall the same fate today? Enjoy the articles JFF, Ed.

PROJECT GRANTS

The Florida Humanities announces \$36,000 in project grants to support the projects of 8 Florida Organizations. Please be aware that there is additional funding available for other community humanities projects. The 2021 submittal deadlines are at 12:00 noon on, April 14, July 21, and October 12. If your organization is interested, please go to <https://floridahumanities.org/funding-opportunities/community-project-grants/> for more information.

SWFAS 2021 NEWSLETTER AND ZOOM SCHEDULE

April 2021 - SWFAS Zoom Newsletter

April 2021 - SWFAS Newsletter

May 2021 - SWFAS Zoom Newsletter

May 2021 - SWFAS Newsletter

May 2021 - FAS Virtual 73rd Annual Meeting May 21-23

Go to the Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) website annual conference site at <https://fasweb.org/annual-conference/> for information.

Happening Now: Call for papers (abstracts due March 31) and posters (due May 1)

SWFAS NEWS

2020 FAS CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT TO BETSY PERDICHIZZI

The following is the writeup of the recommendation to FAS for the Certificate of Achievement for Betsy Perdichizzi:



The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS) nominates Elizabeth (Betsy) Perdichizzi for a Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) Certificate of Achievement 2020 Award. Betsy joined SWFAS in 1993 and has served as 2nd Vice President for two years, 1st Vice president one year, President for two years and as a Trustee for seven years. During this time, she participated in several SWFAS salvage excavations. In 1991 SWFAS had been instrumental in assisting Collier County form the Historic Archaeological Preservation Board (HAPB), and the preservation of historic and archaeological sites in Collier County is controlled by this board. Betsy has served many years on this board in various roles, and continues to serve today to preserve our local heritage in Collier County.

Betsy was instrumental in spearheading the 1995 loan of the 'Marco Cat' to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 1896 Cushing excavation and, again, in 1999 to celebrate the millennium. This was through a local bank where 'the Cat' was exhibited in the bank during the day and kept in the bank vault overnight. She and her husband Bill, were founding members of the Marco Island Historical Society and became active in the quest to build the Marco Island Historical Museum. This museum and the attached Rose Auditorium were eventually incorporated into the Collier County Museum group and, for two years, hosts the return of "The Marco Cat" and other items from the famous 1896 Frank Hamilton Cushing excavation. While her interest in pre-history was served through SWFAS and the HAPB board, she had an overriding interest in the local history of Marco Island and Collier County, Florida. Betsy, through the Historical Society, inspired the creation of the Marco Island Re-enactors in 1998 and began a series of historical pioneer reenactments that gave performances for the public and in the schools and this continues to this day.



In 1999 she founded the Caxambas Press and wrote and published four non-fiction books on early pioneer people and families on Marco Island. In 2004 she was awarded the Golden Quill Award from the Florida Historical Society for these stories. Betsy continues to contribute to the community through her membership in SWFAS, serving on the HAPB board and the Marco Historical Society. With this award SWFAS recognizes her contributions to archaeological and historical preservation in Collier County as well as her many other accomplishments.

Update: the Marco Island Historical Museum has been granted an extension to exhibit "The Cat". If you haven't had an opportunity to view it yet we recommend a visit to the museum.

BONITA SPRINGS HISTORY WALK



For those of you who would like to do something “in person”, please consider going to the Bonita Springs History Walk – Land of the Calusa, Saturday, **March 27**, 10am to 12pm. Cost is \$20 in advance, \$30 the day of. It is sponsored by the Bonita Springs Historical Society and guided by SWFAS Treasurer, Charles Strader and John Paeno of Calusa Ghost Tours.

Learn about the archaeology of the first peoples to live in Bonita Springs. Hear the stories of the mighty Calusa, who ruled all of Southwest Florida and whose capital was Mound Key in Estero Bay, including their contact with the Spanish starting in 1513. See demonstrations of the tools the Calusa used to prosper: the atlatl (an ancient device to throw a spear for fishing and hunting), shell tool making, weaving, and more.

Walk through Depot park over the Imperial River to Island park and learn about our native plants and ecology. Afterwards, enjoy a picnic lunch or eat at one of the nearby restaurants (lunch not included). Start/End at Liles Hotel History Center in Riverside Park. Total walk distance is about 1 mile and tour duration of 2 hours. Meet at 10am at the Liles Hotel in Riverside Park, 27300 Old 41 Road, Bonita Springs, FL 34135.

For History Walk reservations and more details please go to:

<https://bonitaspringshistoricalsociety.org/Happenings/tours/index.html>

ARTICLES

DEAD SEA SCROLLS AT THE MUSEUM OF THE BIBLE ARE ALL FORGERIES

‘All you need is a deceiver and a believer’ M. Greshko

A recent article by Michael Greshko in National Geographic Magazine documented the physical and chemical analysis that was done on the 16 sea scroll fragments declared forgeries at the Museum of the Bible. The Museum of the Bible is a privately funded museum in Washington, D.C. that opened on November 17, 2017. It is a 500 million-dollar, 430,000 square foot building that has been plagued with controversy and scandal and heavily criticized for shady dealings, questionable claims and a lack of academic integrity. The Museum of the Bible was founded by Steve Green, president of Hobby Lobby, who spent a fortune buying up biblical manuscripts and artifacts with which to form the Museum of the Bible’s collections. In 2017 U. S. Officials forced the Museum to return 5,500 illegally imported clay tablets from Iraq and was fined \$3 million dollars. This story is fascinating, and National Geographic science desk writer Michael Greshko details how the illegal trade in these antiquities has worked and now names some of the players in these forgery scandals.

‘DEAD SEA SCROLLS’ AT THE MUSEUM OF THE BIBLE ARE ALL FORGERIES

by Michael Greshko

March 13, 2020

at <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/museum-of-the-bible-dead-sea-scrolls-forgeries>



WASHINGTON, D.C. On the fourth floor of the Museum of the Bible, a sweeping permanent exhibit tells the story of how the ancient scripture became the world’s most popular book. A warmly lit sanctum at the exhibit’s heart reveals some of the museum’s most prized possessions: fragments of the Dead Sea Scrolls, ancient texts that include the oldest known surviving copies of the Hebrew Bible. But now, the Washington, D.C. museum has confirmed a bitter truth about the fragments’ authenticity. On Friday, independent researchers funded by the Museum of the Bible announced that all 16 of the museum’s Dead Sea Scroll fragments are modern forgeries that duped outside collectors, the museum’s founder, and

some of the world’s leading biblical scholars. Officials unveiled the findings at an academic conference hosted by the museum. “The Museum of the Bible is trying to be as transparent as possible,” says CEO Harry Hargrave. “We’re victims—we’re victims of misrepresentation, we’re victims of fraud.”

In a report spanning more than 200 pages, a team of researchers led by art fraud investigator Colette Loll found that while the pieces are probably made of ancient leather, they were inked in modern times and modified to resemble real Dead Sea Scrolls. “These fragments were manipulated with the intent to deceive,” Loll says. The new findings don’t cast doubt on the 100,000 real Dead Sea Scroll fragments, most of which lie in the Shrine of the Book, part of the Israel Museum, Jerusalem. However, the report’s findings raise grave questions about the “post-2002” Dead Sea Scroll fragments, a group of some 70 snippets of biblical text that entered the antiquities market in the 2000s. Even before the new report, some scholars believed that most to all of the post-2002 fragments were modern fakes. “Once one or two of the fragments were fake, you know all of them probably are, because they come from the same sources, and they look basically the same,” says Årstein Justnes, a researcher at Norway’s University of Agder whose Lying Pen of Scribes project tracks the post-2002 fragments.

Since its 2017 opening, the Museum of the Bible has funded research into the pieces and sent off five fragments to Germany’s Federal Institute for Materials Research for testing. In late 2018, the museum announced the results to the world: All five tested fragments were probably modern forgeries. But what of the other 11 fragments? And how had the forgers managed to fool the world’s leading Dead Sea Scroll scholars and the Museum of the Bible? “It really was—and still is—an interesting kind of detective story,” says Jeffrey Kloha, the Museum of the Bible’s chief curatorial officer. “We really hope this is helpful to other institutions and researchers, because we think this provides a good foundation for looking at other pieces, even if it raises other questions.”

Under the microscope

To find out more about its fragments, the Museum of the Bible reached out to Loll and her company, Art Fraud Insights, in February 2019 and charged her with conducting a thorough physical and chemical investigation of all 16 pieces. Loll was no stranger to fakes and forgeries. After getting her master’s in art history at George Washington University, Loll went on to study international art crime, run forgery investigations, and train federal agents on matters of cultural heritage.

Loll insisted on independence. Not only would the Museum of the Bible have no say on the team’s findings, her report would be final—and would have to be released to the public. The Museum of the Bible agreed to the terms. “Honestly, I’ve never worked with a museum that was so up-front,” Loll says. Loll quickly assembled a team of five conservators and scientists. From February to October, the team periodically visited the museum and pulled together their findings. By the time their report was finalized in November 2019, the researchers were unanimous. All 16 fragments appeared to be modern forgeries.

First, the team concluded that the fragments were seemingly made of the wrong material. Nearly all the authentic Dead Sea Scrolls fragments are made of tanned or lightly tanned parchment, but at least 15 of the Museum of the Bible’s fragments were made of leather, which is thicker, bumpier, and more fibrous. The team’s best guess is that the leather itself is ancient, recovered from scraps found in the Judean desert or elsewhere. One tantalizing possibility is that they come from ancient leather shoes or sandals. One of the fragments has a row of what look like artificially made holes, somewhat similar to those found in Roman-era shoes. In addition, testing led by Jennifer Mass, the president of Scientific Analysis of Fine Art, showed that the forger soaked the fragments in an amber-colored concoction, most likely an animal-skin glue. The treatment not only stabilized the leather and smoothed out the writing surface, but it also mimicked a signature, glue-like feature of the real Dead Sea Scrolls. After millennia of exposure, collagen in the ancient parchment broke down to form gelatin, which hardened to give some parts of authentic fragments a gummy, glue-soaked appearance.

Most damningly, careful microscopic analysis showed that the fragments’ scripture was painted onto already ancient leather. On many of the pieces, suspiciously shiny ink pools in cracks and waterfalls off of torn edges that wouldn’t have been present when the leather was new. On others, the forgers’ brushstrokes clearly overlie the ancient leather’s bumpy mineral crust. “The material is degraded, it’s so brittle, so inflexible,” says team member Abigail Quandt, the head of book and paper conservation at Baltimore’s Walters Art Museum. “It’s no wonder that the scholars were thinking these were untrained scribes, because they were really struggling to form these characters and keep their pens under control.”

Possibly to correct for the anachronism, the forged fragments also look like they were dusted with clay minerals consistent with sediments from Qumran, where the original Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Even more detailed chemical analyses led by Buffalo State College conservation scientist Aaron Shugar raised additional red flags. By shining x-rays on the fragments, the researchers could map different chemical elements across the fragments' surfaces, which revealed that calcium had soaked deeply into the leather pieces. The element's distribution strongly hinted that the leather had been treated with lime to chemically remove its hair. While recent evidence suggests at least a few authentic Dead Sea Scrolls may have been prepared with lime, scholars have long thought that the technique caught on only after the authentic Dead Sea Scrolls were made.

The forgeries' missing source

Though the report delves into the fragments' makeup, it does not investigate their provenance, or the proven chain of ownership tracing back to their place of origin. For Justnes, the post-2002 fragments' missing backstories pose a greater concern than any chemical evidence of forgery. "We should perhaps really hope that [the post-2002 fragments] are fakes ... If they are fakes, we have been duped," he says. "But if they are authentic, unprovenanced artifacts, they must have been looted, they must have been smuggled—they were tied to criminal acts in some way."

The authentic Dead Sea Scrolls trace back to 1947, when Bedouin herders found clay jars in Palestine's Qumran caves that held thousands of parchment scrolls more than 1,800 years old, including some of the oldest surviving copies of the Hebrew Bible. "The Dead Sea Scrolls are inarguably the most important biblical discovery of the last century," Kloha says. "That pushed our knowledge of the biblical text back one thousand years from what was available at the time, and showed some variety—but especially the consistency—of the tradition of the Hebrew Bible."

Through the 1950s, a Bethlehem-based antiquities dealer named Khalil Iskander Shahin, better known as Kando, acquired many fragments from local Bedouin and sold them to collectors around the world. But in the 1970s, a new UNESCO convention on cultural property and a new Israeli law on the antiquities trade restricted sale of the looted scrolls. Today, private collectors bid for the scraps grandfathered into current law, mostly fragments that entered the private market in the 1950s and 1960s.

However, the landscape suddenly shifted around 2002, as antiquities dealers and biblical scholars started to unveil snippets of biblical text that looked like long-lost pieces of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Many of the shriveled brown fragments—most no bigger than large coins—reportedly traced back to the Kandos, who were rumored to be selling pieces they had long ago spirited away to a vault in Switzerland. By decade's end, the trickle of post-2002 fragments turned into a flood of at least 70 pieces. Collectors and museums jumped at the chance to own the oldest known biblical texts, including Museum of the Bible founder Steve Green, the president of Hobby Lobby. Starting in 2009, Green and Hobby Lobby spent a fortune buying up biblical manuscripts and artifacts to seed what would become the Museum of the Bible's collection. From 2009 to 2014, Green bought a total of 16 Dead Sea Scroll fragments in four batches, including seven fragments he bought directly from William Kando, the elder Kando's son.

Initially, some Dead Sea Scroll experts thought the post-2002 pieces, including Green's, were the real deal. In 2016, leading biblical scholars published a book on the Museum of the Bible's fragments, dating them to the time of the Dead Sea Scrolls. But months before that book's publication, doubt had started to creep into some scholars' minds. In 2016, researchers including Justnes and Kipp Davis, a scholar at Canada's Trinity Western University who co-edited the 2016 book, began discussing signs that some post-2002 fragments in Norway had been faked. Davis then published evidence in 2017 that cast doubt on two Museum of the Bible fragments, including one that was on display when the museum opened in 2017. One fragment's lettering squeezed into a corner that wouldn't have existed when the writing surface was new. Another appeared to have a Greek letter alpha where a 1930s reference Hebrew Bible used an alpha to flag a footnote.

In the wake of the new report, researchers say they must next focus on the fragments' convoluted routes through the global antiquities trade. "When you have a deceiver and a believer, it's an intimate dance," Loll says. "You don't need as much of a knowledge of the materials as you need a knowledge of the marketplace." Despite being purchased at four different times from four different people, the report finds that all 16 of the Museum of

the Bible's Dead Sea Scroll fragments were forged the same way—which strongly suggests that the forged fragments share a common source. However, the identity of the forger or forgers remains unknown. It's possible that the fragments' sellers were themselves duped when they originally acquired the pieces from other dealers or collectors.

National Geographic tried to contact the three Americans who sold Dead Sea Scroll fragments to Green. Bookseller Craig Lampe, who sold Green four fragments in 2009, did not respond to requests for comment sent through his business partner. Neither did collector Andrew Stimer, who sold four of the fragments to Green in 2014. Michael Sharpe, a book collector formerly based in Pasadena, California, sold one Dead Sea Scroll piece to Green in February 2010. In a Thursday interview with National Geographic, Sharpe expressed shock and disbelief that the piece he had sold—and that he had bought earlier for his own collection—was inauthentic. “I feel kind of sick,” he says. “I had zero idea, none!”

Sharpe was first introduced to the world of Dead Sea Scrolls by William Noah, a Tennessee-based physician and exhibit curator, because of a lawsuit involving the late manuscript dealer Bruce Ferrini. In late 2003, Noah sued Ferrini, alleging that Ferrini had embezzled funds related to Noah's attempt to buy a 1,700-year-old papyrus piece of the Gospel of John for a traveling exhibit he was curating. Ferrini eventually went bankrupt from Noah's and others' lawsuits. In the fallout, Noah acquired two fragments in Ferrini's possession that belonged to the Kandos: a tiny portion of the Book of Jeremiah, and a small fragment of rabbinic commentary about the Book of Genesis. “Dead Sea cornflakes' we used to call them, they were so small,” Noah says. Noah attempted to return the fragments to the Kando family, but the Kandos instead agreed to sell the fragments at a discount to Noah and Sharpe. According to Noah, the transaction is how Kando and Sharpe met. Years later, Kando directly sold to Sharpe the larger Genesis fragment that made its way to the Museum of the Bible.

Noah and Sharpe both say that leading scholars threw their support behind the fragments they bought. Records provided by Nat Des Marais, Sharpe's former business partner, say that Dead Sea Scrolls scholar James Charlesworth, who retired from the Princeton Theological Seminary in 2019, helped validate the Genesis fragment's authenticity. “How could these be phony? How could these be fraudulent?” Noah says. “That's really the story. How did this happen? How did all these world experts miss this?”

In an email, Charlesworth noted that when he described the fragment to other scholars in the past, he reported that it was probably authentic but not from the same time and place as the Dead Sea Scrolls found in Qumran. But after another look at a picture of the fragment, Charlesworth voiced fresh skepticism. “I am bothered by the handwriting; it now seems to be suspicious,” he says. Charlesworth also says he has seen pieces of blank, ancient leather in circulation. “In the past, when I told the Bedouin that a piece was worthless because it had no writing, I inadvertently suggested how to make it valuable,” he says.

At press, William Kando, who sold seven pieces to Green, did not respond to an email request for comment. In a past interview with National Geographic contributing writer Robert Draper, Kando denied that any fragments he had sold were inauthentic. (Read more from Draper's story in National Geographic magazine.) The Kandos' many alleged connections to the forged fragments have not escaped scholars' attention. “All roads lead to Bethlehem,” said Lawrence Schiffman, a Hebrew scholar at New York University and adviser to the Museum of the Bible, at the Friday conference.

Turning the page?

Fallout from the report could land far and wide. Not only does the report correct the Dead Sea Scroll corpus, but it also defines a procedure to test other post-2002 fragments' authenticity. Other such fragments reside at academic institutions around the world, such as California's Azusa Pacific University and Texas's Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. “Talk about making lemonade, right?” Loll says. The report may also lead to a reevaluation of Dead Sea Scrolls Fragments in the Museum Collection, the 2016 book that introduced the museum's fragments to the scholarly community. Leading biblical scholar Emanuel Tov, one of the volume's main editors, reviewed the new report for National Geographic and provided the following statement:

I will not say that there are no unauthentic fragments among the MOB fragments, but in my view, their inauthenticity as a whole has still not been proven beyond doubt. This doubt is due to the fact that similar

testing has not been done on undisputed Dead Sea Scroll manuscripts in order to provide a base line for comparison, including the fragments from the Judean Desert sites that are later than Qumran. The report expects us to conclude that abnormalities abound without demonstrating what is normal.

Brill, the book's publisher, is standing by to learn more. "If it is confirmed that all fragments are forged, the volume will be retracted and no longer offered for sale," Brill said in a statement. In the meantime, scholars also called for more dramatic action. "All the material has documentation proving that the documents were exported previously under relevant antiquities laws," Schiffman said on Friday. "So the victims—despite the fact that it's embarrassing to admit that you were duped—have to go and explore all criminal and civil remedies with U.S., Israeli, and international authorities."

The announcement also draws the spotlight back onto how the Museum of the Bible assembled its collection in the first place. In 2017, U.S. officials forced Hobby Lobby to return 5,500 illegally imported clay tablets to Iraq and pay a \$3-million fine. In 2019, museum officials announced that 11 papyrus fragments in its collection had been sold to Hobby Lobby by Oxford professor Dirk Obbink, who is accused of stealing the fragments from a papyrus collection he oversaw.

Green and museum officials have long maintained that they received poor advice at the time of the purchases and that they assembled their collection in good faith. Now, a humbled Museum of the Bible is working to reset its relationship with scholars and the public. In 2017, Kloha joined the museum to oversee its collections, and in November 2019, the museum brought in Hargrave, who helped direct the museum's construction, to serve as its third CEO in two years.

In interviews with National Geographic, the Museum of the Bible's new leadership team voiced hope that the analysis would help Dead Sea Scrolls scholars around the world. Kloha and Hargrave add that the museum is considering a revision of its Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit to focus on how researchers uncovered the forgery. "I was hoping to have one real [fragment], because then you could show, Okay, here's a real one, here's a fake, can you tell the difference?" Kloha says. "Our job as a museum is to help the public understand, and this is a part of the history of the Dead Sea Scrolls now, for better or for worse."

The museum is also reevaluating the provenance of all the material in its collection, and it is prepared to return any stolen artifacts to their rightful owners. In 2018, the Museum of the Bible determined that a manuscript in its collection sold several times beforehand had in fact been stolen from the University of Athens in 1991. The museum promptly returned the artifact to Greece.

Christopher Rollston, a specialist on Semitic texts at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., welcomes the effort to set things right. "The Museum of the Bible did some really bad things eight to 10 years ago, and they were rightly criticized severely," he says. "I believe that they've made a number of attempts in recent years to right the ship. "If there's any theme that's present in the Bible, it's the theme of forgiveness and the possibility of redemption, after someone finally comes clean," he adds. "There's true penitence there."

CLIMATE WARMING AND RETREATING ICE REVEAL ANCIENT ARTIFACTS: NORWAY ICE MELT REVEALS 'FROZEN ARCHIVE' OF ANCIENT REINDEER-HUNTING ARROWS

by Harry Clarke-Ezzidio, CNN

November 26, 2020

at https://www.cnn.com/2020/11/26/europe/ancient-norwegian-arrows-found-scli-intl-scn/?hpt=ob_blogfooterold



London (CNN)Archaeologists have uncovered a haul of ancient artifacts from a melted ice patch in Norway, including a record number of arrows used for reindeer hunting from more than 6,000 years ago. The team found 68 arrows at the Langfonne ice patch in the Jotunheimen Mountains, tracing the artifacts back to various periods of time across thousands of years, from the Stone Age all the way through to the Medieval Period. The discovery, published this week as a study in *The Holocene* journal, also included the

remains of reindeer antlers, Iron Age scaring sticks used in reindeer hunting and a 3,300-year-old shoe from the Bronze Age. The arrows mark the earliest ice finds in Northern Europe, according to the study's authors.

Norway's Jotunheimen Mountains are located more than 200 miles (in excess of 320 kilometers) north of the capital, Oslo. The Langfonne ice patch, where the arrows were found, has retreated by more than 70% over the past two decades as global warming has caused dramatic ice melt, the study says. "With the ice now retreating due to climate change, the evidence for ancient hunting at Langfonne is reappearing from what is in essence a frozen archive," said Lars Pilø, the study's lead author and an archaeologist from the Innlandet County Council, in a statement. "The ice melt, sad as it is, provides an unprecedented archaeological opportunity for new knowledge."

The oldest arrows, dating back to 4000 BC, are in poor condition. But surprisingly, the arrows from the Late Neolithic period (2400-1750 BC) were better preserved in comparison to those from the following 2,000 years, according to the study. Using ground penetrating radar (GPR) technology, researchers believe that the bad state of the oldest arrows may be due to ice movement. GPR data revealed ice deformation deep inside of the patch may have broken the old, brittle arrows, but it also helped to bring them to the surface to be discovered. "Ice patches are not your regular archaeological sites," Pilø said. "Glacial archeology has the potential to transform our understanding of human activity in the high mountains and beyond."

PREHISTORIC BURIAL FUNERARY PRACTICES BY NEANDERTHALS

Here in Florida, we talk about burials at various archaeological sites, Native American cemeteries, and burial mounds without thinking about when did humans start burying their dead and how did they go about it? Prehistoric peoples had to cope with the loss of their loved ones as we must do today, but when did it start and how did they go about it? Here is an example from 41,000 years ago.

NEANDERTHAL CHILD'S SKELETON BURIED 41,000 YEARS AGO MAY SOLVE LONG-STANDING MYSTERY

By Katie Hunt, CNN

January 5, 2021

at https://www.cnn.com/2021/01/05/Europe/neanderthal-burials-skeleton-study-scn/?hpt=ob_blogfooterold



(CNN)Is burying the dead a practice unique to Homo sapiens? Or did other early humans such as Neanderthals lay their loved ones to rest under the earth? It's a topic of long-standing debate among archaeologists. Now, evidence of funerary behavior could shed light on the cognitive abilities and social customs of Neanderthals and whether, like modern humans, they were capable of symbolic thought. Dozens of buried Neanderthal skeletons have been discovered in Europe and parts of Asia over the course of 150 years.

The most well-preserved ones, however, were found at the beginning of the 20th century and weren't excavated using modern methods. This has led to skepticism about whether Neanderthal burial practice was deliberate.

A new analysis of a 41,000 year-old skeleton of a Neanderthal child, found in a French cave in the 1970s, provides fresh evidence that the Stone Age hominins intentionally buried their dead. French and Spanish researchers re-examined the remains using modern high-tech methods, re-excavated the original archaeological site where the bones were found in La Ferrassie, southwestern France, and reviewed the notebooks and field diaries from the original dig. Their conclusion? The corpse of a 2-year-old Neanderthal was deliberately laid in a pit dug in the sediment.

The absence of marks from carnivores who may have tried to scavenge an uncovered body and the fact that the bones were relatively unscattered with little weathering suggested that the body was rapidly covered, the researchers said. The remains were also well preserved (better than the bones from animals found in the same layer of earth) despite belonging to a child. Children's skeletons typically have more delicate bones. The

position of the skeleton also suggested the child had been placed there intentionally. The head, which pointed to the east, was raised higher than the rest of the body even though the land inclined to the west. "The origin of funerary practices has important implications for the emergence of so-called modern cognitive capacities and behaviour," the study said. "These new results provide important insights for the discussion about the chronology of the disappearance of the Neanderthals, and the behavioral capacity, including cultural and symbolic expression, of these humans."

The researchers from the French National Centre for Scientific Research, the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris and the University of the Basque Country in Spain identified 47 bones belonging to the child's skeleton that hadn't been previously identified. One piece of bone was carbon dated and found to be 41,000 years old. Researchers confirmed the bone belonged to a Neanderthal by analyzing the fragment's mitochondrial DNA. The child was one of eight sets of skeletal remains found at the site.

Death rites

Potential evidence of burial has also been found in one of the most famous Neanderthal sites, the Shanidar cave in Kurdistan, located in northern Iraq. This site was home to the remains of 10 Neanderthal men, women and children. They were found with ancient pollen clumps, suggesting that Neanderthals may have included flowers as part of their funeral rites.

More recent excavations of the Shanidar cave have turned up more Neanderthal remains, which early research has suggested were deliberately buried. Other research has suggested that there was considerable diversity in how European Neanderthals treated their dead kin in the period immediately preceding their disappearance roughly 40,000 years ago -- including cannibalism. The team of researchers said today's analytical standards should be applied to the other skeletal remains at the La Ferrassie site to assess whether they too were buried.

The research was published in the journal *Scientific Reports* in December.

STONEHENGE

Recent research in England and Wales provides new information on the actual source of the bluestones and that the stones were originally in a different stone circle.

STONEHENGE MAY BE A REBUILT STONE CIRCLE FROM WALES, RESEARCH SUGGESTS

by Katie Hunt, CNN

February 12, 2021

at <https://www.cnn.com/2021/02/11/europe/stonehenge-wales-stone-circle-scn/>



Shown here is the arc of former standing stones at Waun Mawn in Pembrokeshire, Wales, during trial excavations in 2017, viewed from the east. Only one of them is still standing. (CNN)

(CNN) Five thousand years after Stonehenge was built, archaeologists have finally pinpointed exactly where the bluestones that form part of the imposing UK monument came from and how they were unearthed. The researchers revealed in 2019 the stones came from an ancient quarry on the north side of the Preseli Hills in western Wales, which meant the 43 huge bluestones had been moved a staggering distance of 150 miles.

Now, archaeologists have said they think some of the bluestones first formed another stone circle close to the same area as the quarries and were dismantled and rebuilt as part of Stonehenge on the Salisbury Plain. The identical 110-meter

diameters of the stone circle, known as Waun Mawn, and the enclosing ditch of Stonehenge, suggest that at least part of the circle was brought from its location in Wales to Salisbury Plain, according to new research published in the journal *Antiquity*. What's more, both stone circles are aligned on the midsummer solstice sunrise, and one of the bluestones at Stonehenge has an unusual cross-section that matches one of the holes left at Waun Mawn, the paper said. Chippings in that hole are of the same rock type as the Stonehenge stone, it added.

Telltale stone holes

Stonehenge is made of two types of stone: larger sarsen stones and smaller bluestone monoliths. Some 43 bluestones survive today at Stonehenge, though many of these remain buried beneath the grass. They were thought to have been the first to be erected at Stonehenge 5,000 years ago, centuries before the larger sarsen stones were brought over just 15 miles from the monument.

The Stones of Stonehenge research project is led by Mike Parker Pearson, a professor at University College London. Discovering the dismantled stone circle at Waun Mawn happened through trial and error, the news statement said. Only four stones were visible at the site. It was thought in 2010 that they were part of a stone circle, but initial geophysical studies were inconclusive and the team decided to focus their energies elsewhere.

A trial excavation at the site in 2017 found two empty stone holes, but ground radar surveys were still unsuccessful, leaving the team with no choice but to do it the old-fashioned way and dig. Excavations in 2018 revealed empty stone holes, confirming that the four remaining stones were part of a former circle. Dating of charcoal and sediments in the holes found the Waun Mawn stone circle was erected around 3400 BC, the study said.

The paper also suggested that the stones may have been moved as people migrated from that part of Wales, with the first people to be buried at Stonehenge thought likely to have once lived in this region. "My guess is that Waun Mawn was not the only stone circle that contributed to Stonehenge," said Parker Pearson in a news statement. "Maybe there are more in Preseli waiting to be found. Who knows? Someone will be lucky enough to find them."

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SWFAS AND FAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

We encourage those interested in Florida archaeology to become members of The Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) and The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS). Annual dues are due in January and membership applications to both organizations are attached. Membership in the FAS provides you with four annual volumes of *The Florida Anthropologist* and occasional newsletters on anthropological events in Florida in addition to the annual statewide meeting. More information on FAS can be found online at: www.fasweb.org. Membership in SWFAS offers you a local series of talks on archaeological and anthropological subjects that you can attend. The SWFAS monthly newsletter keeps you up to date on local events as well as other important archaeological topics. We urge you to support both with your membership. All of the SWFAS Lecture Series are open to the public at no charge.



JOIN US!

The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society

<http://swflarchaeology.org/>

The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS) was founded in 1980 as a not-for profit corporation to provide a meeting place for people interested in the area's past.

Our goals are to:

- Learn more of the area's history
- Create a place for sharing of this information
- Advocate for preservation of cultural resources

Its members include professional and amateur archaeologists and interested members of the general public. Members come from all walks of life and age groups. They share a lively curiosity, a respect for the people who preceded them here, and a feeling of responsibility for the conservation of the places and objects they left behind.

The Society holds monthly meetings between October and April, attracting speakers who are in the forefront of archaeological and historical research. Occasionally members join in trips to historical and archaeological sites.

A monthly newsletter, Facebook page, and website keep members abreast of our events and happenings.

The organization is a chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society, a statewide organization that publishes quarterly newsletters and a journal, *The Florida Anthropologist*, and holds an annual conference.

I want to help The Southwest Florida Archaeology Society preserve and interpret Florida's heritage!

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

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Membership in the Society is open to all interested individuals who are willing to abide by the Florida Anthropological Society Statement of Ethical Responsibilities, which can be found on our website fasweb.org. *Membership is for one year.*

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Send Membership Form and Dues Payment to:

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You can join online or pay Membership dues renewals via PayPal on our website fasweb.org.

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