



Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS)
OUR 42nd YEAR
March 2022 Newsletter
<https://swflarchaeology.org/>

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



March is Archaeology Month.

Plan to celebrate Archaeology Month with us by visiting the Calusa Coast 2022 venues that will take place each Saturday of this month and culminate with a talk by Dr. William Marquardt at the Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium on Saturday March 26th. SWFAS will be manning an informational table at Lovers Key on Saturday March 19th. Times of events were published in the March Zoom Newsletter and a flyer sent to you on March 5.

How Did Florida Get its Name? On March 27, 1513, 509 years ago this month, according to the historian Antonio Herrera, Ponce de Leon “saw an island that they did not recognize”. It was Easter Sunday that the Spanish call the Feast of Flowers (La Pascua Florida) and Juan Ponce de Leon was searching for the island of Bimini. You can imagine the Spaniards saw a lush scene of hickory trees on the shore covered in bromeliads and, after visiting the flower covered trees on the shoreline, Ponce decided to name the island La Florida. They then knelt, prayed, and claimed the island for Spain. This was how Florida got its name 94 years before Jamestown, Delaware, and 107 years before Plymouth Rock, Plymouth, Massachusetts.



Included in this newsletter, we have included a series of interesting articles on an array of topics you might enjoy.

What happened to the early bird specials in Florida? Is this ancient history, something we need to excavate to find the answer? Is it extinct? Do we require a cultural or social anthropologist to explain this phenomenon? Jaya Saxena writes an obituary of the early bird in Florida in her article Twilight of the Early Bird on the history and demise of this practice. It will put a smile on your face. Enjoy!

We have all heard of the Florida Highwaymen but, who were they? How did they get their name and where can we see their work today? There were 26 members of the original Florida Highwaymen inducted into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame in 2004. See the two articles about their history below.

Saudi Arabia is seldom mentioned regarding archaeological sites, which is why a recent discovery of a huge 4,500-year-old extensive highway network that was lined with well-preserved, tombs is real news. See below.

London, England continues to give up some of the most amazing artifacts and sites from the Roman occupation of England. Archaeologists from the London Museum of Archaeology (MOLA), recently announced the finding of a mosaic from the 1st century A.D. See the article below.



Last but not least, it is with great sadness that the President of Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta, recently announced the passing of 77-year-old Richard Leakey, in Nairobi on 2 January, 2022. Son of Louis and Mary Leakey, Richard, like his father, was a paleoanthropologist and was noted for his discovery of the almost complete 1.6-million-year-old ‘Turkana Boy’ skeleton. Richard was also a noted conservationist and was the Chairman of the Kenyan Wildlife Service. He leaves his wife Maeve and three children and will be “interred in a special spot on a ridge overlooking the Great Rift Valley that he so loved”.

SWFAS 2022 NEWSLETTER and ZOOM SCHEDULE

March – May: Zoom and SWFAS Newsletters Monthly

May 6-8: 74th FAS Annual Meeting Miami, Florida

ARTICLES

TWILIGHT OF THE EARLY BIRD DINNER

By Jaya Saxena, The Week Staff

May 31, 2018

From The Week at <https://theweek.com/articles/773710/twilight-early-bird-dinner>



The early bird dinner has long been a staple of American retirement. But the value meal has fallen out of favor with aging baby boomers, who don't want to be reminded they are old.

The east coast of South Florida feels like purgatory. There's Miami, and there are beaches, but drive for 20 minutes outside of either, and it's just vast plains of boxy, beige retirement villages, distinguishable only by their names, which all sound like euphemisms for a place you go when you die — Valencia Isles, Windward Palms, Mangrove Bay — and the relative elaborateness of their welcome fountains. The sky is a flat blue, and the temperature ranges from a chilled 62 degrees indoors to a muggy 85 degrees outside. Entire strip malls have been colonized by medical centers.

My husband and I ventured into this limbo a couple of years ago to visit his grandparents, Seymour and Isabel Lubchansky. Their retirement community, Majestic Isles, in Boynton Beach — located about two hours north of Miami, it's one of a cluster of towns that might sound as familiar to a Northeasterner with Jewish grandparents as to a Florida lifer — was built in 1996, and it's open to anyone 55 and up. The Lubchanskys' covered patio looked out on manicured crabgrass and a man-made pond, where an occasional visit from a snowy egret or a roseate spoonbill would remind you that the Everglades were only 25 miles away. Majestic Isles has a clubhouse where you can play cards, a theater where retirees put on plays, and a shuffleboard court that is used only by visiting grandchildren, and only ironically.

Struck by a vision of faded tropical button-ups, card games, and steam trays full of baby carrots, we decided to go full-old person for the weekend: We'd play shuffleboard, take a slow walk, find an early bird special, and be in bed by 7:30. I was especially charmed by the idea of living the early bird life. An emblem of South Florida's retiree culture, the early bird is the dietary aspect of the lifestyle one expects to buy into down there — a slice of comforting, if boring, heaven — a time and place where doing the same thing every day is a sign that you've got it made. More than an affordable meal, it's a fully packaged experience that brings elderly people together to gossip over poached sole and to complain about something being too salty before everyone returns to their identical homes in their identical developments.

The first stop on our early bird tour was Mamma Mia, an Italian restaurant in a strip mall whose large portions — perfect for cutting up and storing in the fridge for three days — made its special especially popular, according to Isabel. But at 4:30 p.m., there were no elderly in sight, just teens and young families ordering enormous platters of chicken Parmesan or personal pizzas to go. The hostess assured me that the early bird is always slow. The next day, we ventured to Scully's Restaurant, a place that seemed more in line with the "traditional" idea of the early bird — steaks and chops with a vegetable side. At 5 p.m., just three tables were

occupied. "You know, I'm surprised with our early dinner menu that we don't get more customers," owner Kevin Scully told me. A day later, we drove to a diner that multiple local guides said had the best deal in town, and we were warned to arrive early to fight for a seat. The parking lot was empty. Where were all of the old people? What happened to the early bird special?

The short answer, I learned, is that the retirees who heralded the early bird are going away, and that their replacements, while burdened by the overall decline of the middle class, have different expectations about what retired life should look like — mostly, they do not want to be reminded in any way that they're old now, especially if they can afford that luxury. Millennials might be killing chains, but boomers are driving the early bird to extinction.

The phrase "early bird" does come from the proverb about catching the worm, which dates to 1636, but the first appearance of "early bird special" isn't until 1904, when it shows up in a department store ad hawking a deal on "men's summer underwear" from 8 a.m. to noon. It pops up on menus sometime in the 1920s, according to Andrew Haley, an associate professor of American cultural history at the University of Southern Mississippi, due to a combination of the democratization of restaurants and Prohibition. "More people are dining out, the middle class is dining out on a regular basis, they have a broader audience," Haley told me. "But you have a problem with Prohibition. It hurts the existing restaurant model of fine dining as being the end-all of dining." Without alcohol to offer, restaurants had to find ways to target new audiences, and a family deal at non-peak hours filled seats. The economic disruptions in the 1930s and '40s kept these deals popular, and by the '50s, it was common enough to find an "early bird special" at restaurants of all stripes. In a 1952 ad for San Francisco's Goman's Gay 90's, a vaudeville nightclub, the early bird was advertised as a "dinner that includes a cocktail, fried chicken, hot biscuits, honey, shoestring potatoes, coffee, and after-dinner drink—all for a couple of bucks," Haley said. "The early bird idea means you have to come before 7:30."

Another Prohibition-era innovation to get people in the door was targeting specific demographics. In 1921, for instance, the Waldorf-Astoria introduced one of the first children's menus to reel in families, since liquor was no longer available. Throughout the Depression and into the postwar era, diners became particularly adept at pinpointing groups of people, and eventually they zeroed in on the old. "Diners were very sophisticated in thinking about filling the restaurant through the entire day," Haley said. "They still appealed to working-class men in the morning and at lunch — they just targeted families at dinner time. And they targeted the elderly as well as any segment that could fill in the afternoon hours."

Social Security benefits, which arrived with the New Deal expansion of the welfare state, ushered in a new category of personhood: the retiree, who could live independently, if frugally. In the 1950s, lured by the sun and low state taxes, retirees began flocking to South Florida, which had been terraformed by real estate developers into a paradise of wide roads, accessible beaches, and endless fields of tract housing. As the 20th century progressed, the Greatest Generation aged into a valuable consumer group. In 1980, 26.3 percent of Americans over 60 who moved chose Florida as their new home; in 1985, there was a joke about the early bird on Golden Girls. "It is popular with those on a budget, senior citizens, and especially in resort areas like Florida," the 1994 Encyclopedia of American Food & Drink said of the early bird. By 1995, Nation's Restaurant News reported that "senior citizens represent in reality an imposing discretionary spending bloc for food service operators," and that restaurateurs were adding amenities to make their restaurants more appealing to seniors.

For a moment, economic necessity even brought the gospel of the early bird to the young. In 2010, The New York Times reported that the early bird was booming in Florida, as the recession enticed younger diners to partake in off-hours eating. But as the economy recovered, they abandoned it, just like their parents and grandparents.

It's impossible to talk about retirement trends in America without talking about the Villages, the 115,000-person retirement community in central Florida. BuzzFeed described it as "a notorious boomtown for boomers who want to spend their golden years with access to 11 a.m. happy hours, thousands of activities, and no-strings-

attached sex." It's the epitome of what modern retirement can be for the wealthy and white (of which the Villages is 98 percent): wild, carefree, and not dictated by Social Security checks. The Villages spans 32 square miles, a retirement ecosystem deposited into the swamp as if by meteor blast, an incredible sprawl navigated by golf carts. There are 102 restaurants: national chains like Five Guys and Panera Bread, local chains like Beef 'O' Brady's, pubs, frozen yogurt shops, upscale Italian restaurants, Chinese takeout. Of those 102 restaurants, just three list an early bird dinner special, and two of those are separate locations of the same establishment.

"We do not offer an early bird just like most restaurants in the area," Ron Averbek, owner of Margarita Republic Caribbean Bar & Grill in the Villages' Spanish Springs Town Square, told me. Margarita Republic is a popular place for Villages nightlife — the kind of place that could be dropped into any college town without suspicion, a remnant of younger life that can be tasted again in a carefree retirement. "We are in a high-dollar commercial real estate market," Averbek said, and the early bird isn't popular or profitable enough in the wealthy enclave. In other words, where the old are rich, the early bird is pointless — it's a product for the middle class, an offering for people who eat out regularly but need to be a little savvy about it to stretch out their Social Security or IRAs. The rub is that the middle class itself is declining: Between 1970 and 2014, the share of income held by middle-class households dropped from 62 percent to 43 percent, while the ratio of American workers to American retirees has fallen for the past few decades, meaning that the system may not be able to pay retirees the full amount they were promised.

Whether rich, poor, or merely one of the declining middle class, though, few of the new Olds want to embrace their age. "Your generation is definitely not headed for bingo night," the actor Dennis Hopper said in a 2006 Ameriprise ad about retirement investment for boomers, backed by a soundtrack of "Gimme Some Lovin'." For boomers, a retirement of shuffling between kitchenless apartments and the local soup counter is hell, and you're not going to drag them there yet. "The baby boomers who are coming of age these days — in part they're healthier for longer into their lives — view old age in very different terms," Haley said, "and don't want to be seen as the men with the hiked-up pants, and the little old lady on a cane."

Rosie Ross, a snowbird — though she prefers the term "sunbird" — who spends summers in upstate New York and winters in South Florida with her husband, Bernard, told me that "the notion of early bird specials is something we attribute to older seniors, the same ones who sneak leftover rolls and sugar packets in their purses." When the new generation of retirees does pinch pennies, they're finding new ways of doing it. In 2014, Americans 65 and older ate out an average of 193 times a year, and 63 percent of those meals were at fast-food restaurants, where a cheap meal can be had no matter the time of day. "A lot of people will drive to the Wendy's, the burger place, for hamburgers," Isabel Lubchansky told me.

Where the early bird lives, it does so under a different name. Whenever I mentioned it to restaurateurs, they acted like "early bird" was akin to saying "Macbeth" at the theater. "It's not an early bird!" Kevin Scully, owner of Scully's Restaurant, practically yelled at me before I could finish asking a question about it. "It's an early dinner!" When I asked why the difference, he said, "Because [the early bird has] a strange, cheap context to it. Old people." A manager at Mamma Mia corrected me when I used the term, insisting it was their "sunset menu." "Twilight menu" is another favorite euphemism. The early bird was a touchstone of the middle class that may be unrecognizable a generation from now. It was also as much a tourist attraction as it was a thriving enterprise. But more than anything, it was a promise that there would be a retirement. You might have to eat at 4 p.m., but you wouldn't be sleeping in your son's basement.

On our last night in Florida, my husband, his grandparents, and I drove to a strip mall that looked like all the other strip malls, to eat barbecue. It didn't have an early bird, but Seymour had a coupon. We ate dry chicken and goopy ribs and corn, enough per plate to take home for a hearty lunch the next day. We drove home past the medical offices, past the Publix, past the shuffleboard court nobody had used that day, and we made it to bed by 8:30.

FLORIDA HIGHWAYMEN PAINTERS, CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY

From Florida Highwaymen Historic Artists at <https://highwaymenajbrown.com/original-highwaymen/>



The Florida Highwaymen Artists began to paint in Fort Pierce, Florida during the 1950s. The group of 26, all men and one woman has come a long way, but only because they are now aged and gray. In their journey, they have accomplished a list of accolades, but only over the years and decades. From the 1950s, times of turmoil, until 2004, that's the time it has taken twenty-six African-Americans to receive recognition, an induction into the Museum of Florida History, Artists Hall of Fame, in Tallahassee, Florida. The Highwaymen's most recent accolade is "the Smithsonian!" In 2016, with eighteen paintings, the group

was reaffirmed by the "National Museum of African American History & Culture (NMAAHC) in Washington D. C." From the side of the road to legends of the road, the history makers have earned state, national and international achievements. "But it hasn't always been that way," in reality, it has been a "struggle" that has taken decades, over a lifetime, for the group who became known as the Florida Highwaymen Original Artists.

Over Six Decades Ago, In Fort Pierce, Florida a group of unknown untrained African-American young men, documented authentic Florida through painting the landscapes serene natural beauty. The vision, encouragement, and training of black art instructor Zanobia Jefferson inspired A. E. "Beanie" Backus a prominent white landscape painter, to mentor her student Alfred Hair. In the 1950s, during Jim Crow Laws, the south was racially charged and segregated when Backus, began to teach Alfred Hair. Hair, an African-American high school art student who was eager to make a career in painting, and did not work as a field laborer as his colleagues did. Alfred Hair was the only artist, Backus taught to paint, their unlikely friendship and partnership began what would become known as the Florida Highwaymen painters.

Harold Newton was a young teenager when he established his life as a painter. By the early 1950s, Newton had a list of clients by the time he'd met A.E. Backus. Backus influenced Newton to paint Florida landscapes instead of the religious scenes, which Newton painted on black velvet. After Hair discovered his ability to make money and earn a living through art, Hair and Newton encouraged friends and family to join in. Hair invented the makeshift assembly-line easel and discovered his fast painting techniques generated quick money, and was convinced he could become a millionaire. Two icons are the founding fathers of the Highwaymen group, Harold Newton and Alfred Hair.

"The Heart Of The Highwaymen," they were in search of an escape from a system of poverty, a design tailored for blacks. With no formal art schooling, close friends and family joined them and took up painting Florida landscapes. Most of the painters would typically be seen throughout Southeast Florida, one would find them creating their Highwaymen paintings in parks, river edges, and along the roadsides.

Then tragedy struck, Alfred Hair was killed in 1970, at the young age of 29, in a juke joint called Eddie's Place in Fort Pierce. A famous hangout spot where the painters would meet to unwind for drinks and listen to the latest soul music hits, after a long day of selling their paintings on the road. Some of the men took a short hiatus to mourn the loss of their leader. Others who had families to support continued to paint and sell their work on the road. More friends joined in and the young entrepreneurs continued strong over decades.

Legends Of The Road, the name Highwaymen was earned because of the way they sold their paintings. Door to door, business to business, attorneys, and doctors alike, alongside US Highway One and A1A. From the trunks of their cars, lined side by side, they displayed their hand-painted creations, and for \$25 to \$35 dollars, sold to locals and tourists. They used crown molding as frames, Upson board as canvas, tree trunks as easels, garages, and backyards as studios, makeshift materials was the only game they knew. Signatures scratched in with nails,

colors of undeveloped Florida, vivid scenes in oils were still wet. Who sold paintings still wet? "The Highwaymen did!"

The Long Hard Road, shunned for the color of their skin, neither museums nor galleries would showcase the work of black artists during the Jim Crow Laws. The young men had no choice but to take to the road. Under the radar, they achieved success and fame! From the 1950s - 1970s, it is believed the Highwaymen created in excess of 200,000 paintings. A far better living than the hustle of working in packing houses or back-breaking fields. Picking oranges, tomatoes, and pineapples were a life designated for blacks. In the early 1980s, as sales dropped and interest in their art seemed to diminish many of the Highwaymen took a hiatus and pursued other careers. Then, in the early 1990s, because of quite a bit of written publicity, the Highwaymen realized a resurgence in collectors and public interest. With this renewed interest came a sharp rise in demand and value.

Entrepreneurs, today the Florida Highwaymen paintings remain wildly popular and again many of the Original 26 now earn a living through painting unique highly collectible, primitive Florida landscapes, valued at thousands of dollars. Harold Newton of Gifford, Florida was 59 when he died of a stroke in 1994. Most would agree, Newton, set the precedent for selling his paintings door-to-door that the rest would follow.

"The Florida Highwaymen Artists are "The History Makers," the earliest core Originals are eldest, Roy McLendon Sr., who painted before Alfred Hair and after Harold Newton. Livingston Roberts and James Gibson, followed by Sam Newton; Mary Ann Carroll, the only Original female. Willie Daniels, followed by his brother Johnny Daniels, George, and Ellis Buckner, all painted before Alfred Hair died, in 1970. Hezekiah Baker stopped painting after the death of Hair. The top salesman for the group, Al Black began to paint after the death of Alfred Hair. The legends started with two painters, and twenty-four joined in overtime. Blood and non-blood, the majority were close friends and a few families. Only three sets were brothers, Harold, Sam and Lemuel Newton, Willie, and Johnny Daniels, and George and Ellis Buckner. All others, nineteen were non-blood friends, some close-knit, others not as close.

"The story started with two dreamers, then twenty-six pioneered," the group is now known as the Florida Highwaymen. The Florida Highwaymen are sometimes called "The Last Great Art Movement of the 20th Century." Once labeled as painters, decades later earned the respect of artists. Worth repeating, in 2004 twenty-six artists, all men, and one woman, were officially recognized, and inducted into Florida's Artist Hall of Fame and a host of museums, nationally and internationally. The most recent affirmation in 2016, is the "Smithsonian." The National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) in Washington, D.C. A significant important African American Cultural achievement!

"The Florida Highwaymen artists story is for certain one of intrigue," a true "American Dream" based on real lives, some never lived to see their success. The legends used painting as a way out of a segregated life. An American story and Highwaymen history are told through the artist's narrated accounts. In 2001, author Gary Monroe, located, researched, identified, and wrote the narrative of twenty-six authentic Florida landscape painters. Today, many have written books and continue to write, as unknown discoveries are revealed. Extensive collections are owned by Highwaymen historians, art enthusiasts, promoters, and contributors. In 1994, a Florida art collector, Jim Fitch wrote an article and was credited for appointing the group's name, "The Highwaymen." A name was earned because of the way they peddled their artwork up and down the highways, and the art world took notice. Respectfully, several Highwaymen have ventured to write their own untold history of untold stories through books, websites, and social media platforms. But there is still much to discover!

The Florida Highwaymen Handed Down History, the Original's are not at the celebration alone. In 1973 "The Historic 2nd Generation Art Movement was established with family Roy McLendon Jr. and friend Jimmy Stovall. The 2nd Generation helped to create some 200,000 nostalgic paintings. The 2nd Generation is the most powerful extension of history started by "the Originals." History lives on, as the Historic 2nd Generation continues to create distinctive 1950s authentic Florida! "Highwaymen Art" is nostalgic, and unlike any other!

And yes, the magic and the memories are still worth it! As their story transcends time, those who are the chosen close friends "by the Originals," are indeed worthy of being recorded for history to remember. Blood, and selected hand-picked non-bloods, Jimmy and Johnny Stovall, Kelvin Hair, female AJ Brown, and Richard Edwards can exist under one name as did the Originals, as "the 2nd Generation." Support the African-American Florida Highwaymen Historic 2nd Generation Artists, as they journey the movement through Florida's highways and by-ways.

BLAZING THE TRAIL: THE STORY OF THE FLORIDA HIGHWAYMEN

From the A. E. Backus Museum at <https://backusmuseum.org/highwaymen>



In 1958, a young African American high school student named Alfred Hair met local artist A.E. Backus, and soon an idea was kindled: creating an artistic path beyond the prevailing racial barriers of the times and toward a brighter, self-made future.

The experienced artist recognized the emerging talent in Hair, and remembering the spirit of altruism that helped him start his own career, he became a mentor. With training in art, audience, and business, Hair launched a movement. He invented a new business plan for himself and a group of friends, whom he taught to paint and

to sell paintings up and down the Atlantic coast of Florida ... from the trunks of their cars.

Meanwhile, Harold Newton was trying to make his way as an artist. He had heard of the white painter who lived at the end of Avenue C, that he was welcoming to all, and in 1955 he thought it might be worth a visit. What he learned from Backus transformed him — mastering scenes of the Florida landscape, watching the older artist work especially with a palette knife, being encouraged to bring his paintings for helpful critiques — it all inspired Newton to paint like never before.

The roadblocks faced during the years of racial segregation in the 50s and 60s were significant, but these enterprising artists were creative and persevered. With success, their number grew to more than two dozen, painting tens of thousands of works to meet the demand. They later became known as the Florida Highwaymen.

The original Highwaymen blazed their own trail by way of the arts. In 2004, they were recognized in the Florida Artists Hall of Fame, and in 2016, the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture opened with 18 Highwaymen paintings in its collection, a testament to the inspiring story that began here.

4,500 YEAR-OLD AVENUES LINED WITH ANCIENT TOMBS DISCOVERED IN SAUDI ARABIA

By Jeevan Ravindran, CNN

January 16, 2022

From CNN at <https://www.cnn.com/style/article/saudi-arabia-discovery-scli-scn-intl/index.html>



Archaeologists have discovered a 4,500-year-old highway network in Saudi Arabia lined with well-preserved ancient tombs. Researchers from the University of Western Australia have carried out a wide-ranging investigation over the past year, involving aerial surveys conducted by helicopter, ground survey and excavation and examination of satellite imagery.

In findings published in the *Holocene* journal in December, they said the "funerary avenues" spanning large distances in the northwestern Arabian counties of Al-'Ula and Khaybar had

received little examination until quite recently.

Dalton said the funerary avenues, which he had seen from a helicopter, stretched for hundreds, "maybe even thousands of kilometers" and that the same routes were often followed by those traveling along the main roads of today. "Often you'll find main roads tend to follow the same routes as the avenues because they tend to be the shortest route between between the two places they're going to," Dalton said. "And actually, in some cases, the the tombs themselves are so dense that you can't help but walk on the ancient route itself, because you're sort of hemmed in by the tombs." The tombs themselves are mostly either pendant-shaped or ring burials. Ring tombs involve a cairn surrounded by a wall of up to two meters in height, while pendant tombs have "beautiful tails."

Using radiocarbon dating, the researchers determined that a concentrated group of samples dated back to between 2600 and 2000 BC, although the tombs continued to be reused until around 1,000 years ago. "These tombs are 4,500 years old, and they're still standing to their original height, which is really unheard of," researcher Melissa Kennedy told CNN. "So I think that's what particularly marks Saudi Arabia out from the rest of the region -- just the level of preservation is unbelievable."

Kennedy believes either single individuals or small groups were buried in the tombs, and the team have observed around 18,000 tombs along the funerary avenues while 80 of those have been sampled or excavated for research. The researchers think the use of the routes long preceded the tombs, and are still not sure exactly why the tombs were built along the route -- although Kennedy pointed to similar customs linked to land ownership in Greece and Rome in later history. "A way of showing ownership perhaps, could be one reason the tombs were built," Dalton said. "And there may be an element of, you bury your nearest and dearest alongside the route, because you'll be passing them frequently, and you have a place to remember them."

The next step for the team will be to do more radiocarbon dating and go back out on the field, before analyzing their data. And more discoveries are likely to follow, with Dalton saying the avenues may even stretch across into Yemen, especially as similar tombs are found in both that country and northern Syria. The third millennium is such an important period of time," Kennedy said. "It's when the Pyramids are built. And it's where lots of different cultures are interacting with each other for the first time on a wide scale. So to see the appearance of this monumental funerary landscape in this period is really exciting. And huge new avenues of research to basically follow."

MOLA ARCHAEOLOGISTS DISCOVER MAJOR ROMAN MOSAIC IN LONDON

By Andy Chopping

February, 2022

From Heritage Daily at [MOLA archaeologists discover major Roman mosaic in London - HeritageDaily - Archaeology News](#)



A team of archaeologists from MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) have announced the discovery of a Roman mosaic, one of the largest preserved mosaics discovered in London for over 50 years.

Roman London (Londinium) was established in AD 47 around a narrow point on the River Thames. By the end of the 1st century AD, Londinium had expanded rapidly and became one of the largest cities in Roman Britannia, replacing Camulodunum (Colchester) as the provincial capital.

During the 2nd century AD, Londinium had reached its peak with around 45,000-60,000 inhabitants. The city contained a large forum and basilica (one of the largest in the Roman Empire north of the Alps), several bathhouse complexes and temples, an amphitheatre, the Governors Palace (Praetorium), and many townhouses (domus).

The team from MOLA were excavating a site located near the Shard in preparation for the construction of the Liberty of Southwark, a new cultural space for offices and homes, where they discovered a mosaic with two highly decorated panels made up of small, coloured tiles set within a red tessellated floor.

The largest of the panels depicts colourful flowers surrounded by bands of an intertwining strand motif known as a guilloche, in addition to several geometric elements and patterns that Dr David Neal, an expert in Roman mosaics has attributed to the ‘Acanthus group’. The smaller panel is simpler in design, with Solomon’s knots, two stylised flowers and geometric motifs in red, white and black.

Archaeologists suggest that the mosaic might have been set in the dining room of a Roman mansio – an upmarket ‘motel’ offering accommodation, stabling, and dining facilities for state couriers and officials travelling to and from London. The complete footprint of the building is still being uncovered, but current findings suggest this was a very large complex, with multiple rooms and corridors surrounding a central courtyard.

Whilst the larger mosaic panel can be dated to the late 2nd to early 3rd century AD, the room was clearly in use for a longer period of time. Traces of an earlier mosaic underneath the panel suggests that the room has been refurbished over the years.

Henrietta Nowne, Senior Development Manager, U+I, said: “The Liberty of Southwark site has a rich history, but we never expected a find on this scale or significance. We are committed to celebrating the heritage of all of our regeneration sites, so it’s brilliant that we’ve been able to unearth a beautiful and culturally-important specimen in central London that will be now preserved so that it can be enjoyed by generations to come.”

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Find us on Facebook at Southwest Florida Archaeological Society!

Check out our website at <http://swflarchaeology.org/>

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!

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Check One:

Individual (\$20) _____ Sustaining Individual (\$50) _____ Family (\$35) _____

Student (\$5) _____ Life (\$500) _____

Donation to Support SWFAS Speakers and Programs _____

Skills, training, interests: _____

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.

Signature: _____ Date _____

Please make your check out to SWFAS and mail to:

Charlie Strader
SWFAS Treasurer
27655 Kent Road
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

REV. 12052017

FAS Membership Categories

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.*

Student *	\$15	Sustaining	\$100
Regular	\$30	Patron	\$1,000
Family	\$35	Benefactor	\$2,500
Institutional	\$30		

*Student membership is open to graduate, undergraduate and high school students. A photocopy of your student ID must accompany payment. **Add \$25 for foreign addresses.

Send Membership Form and Dues Payment to:

Florida Anthropological Society, P O Box 1561 Boynton Beach, FL 33425

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

THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC. IS A TAX-EXEMPT 501C3 ORGANIZATION. TAX ID#59-1084419.

Name: _____

Membership Category: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

FAS Chapter: _____

I wish to make a donation to:

\$ _____ Dot Moore/FAS Student Grant Fund \$ _____ Florida Archaeology Month Account

\$ _____ Florida Anthropologist Monograph Fund \$ _____ Florida Anthropologist Endowment Fund

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

_____ I agree to abide by the Code of Ethics of the Florida Anthropological Society.

Signature

Date