



WORLD HISTORY

INSIDER

Members' Magazine

January 2023



New Medieval burial changes history

Engaging with cultural heritage and improving history education worldwide

2,341

definitions

1,203

articles

14,909

illustrations

2,142

videos

4,909

translations

5.6 million

page views
in
December

33,188

registered
users

“History is a cyclic
poem written by
time upon the
memories of man.”

Percy Bysshe Shelley
English Poet (1792-1822)

Welcome



Happy New Year! I do hope it is a good one for us all, with common sense prevailing in all corners of the world which will lead to a safe, peaceful and successful year for everyone.

This issue sees a look back at 2022 by Jan and a call to arms from Josh: Let's not be Stick Figures! I won't give away his editorial here, but I think this is something we should all take to our hearts and have t-shirts printed with the phrase on too!

We have two exhibitions for you this month - both are Egyptian, but that was unintentional. The first is all about Amarna at the Ny Glyptotek Museum in Copenhagen. I loved the 3D reconstructions that they have used. I didn't realise there was a [whole](#)

[website](#) dedicated to these 3D images - do have a look as it's fascinating. Our second exhibition is on at the Neues Museum in Berlin, and looks at the expedition led by Richard Lepsius to Egypt from Prussia in 1842, and the extraordinary work they produced in the four years they were there.

We also have some exciting news items from around the world, which include a medieval burial in England, which archaeologists think will change our perspective of history at this time, as well as the latest news on the opening of the sarcophagi discovered at Notre Dame after the fire and finally, how LiDAR research has discovered a huge number of new archaeological sites in Guatemala.

We all know that times are very tough at the moment, so your continued support for WHE this year means so much to us. Thank you for ensuring that we can continue in our work, putting history in the forefront of our lives today.

Wishing you all a fantastic January and hope it is a good start to a new year. Until next month!

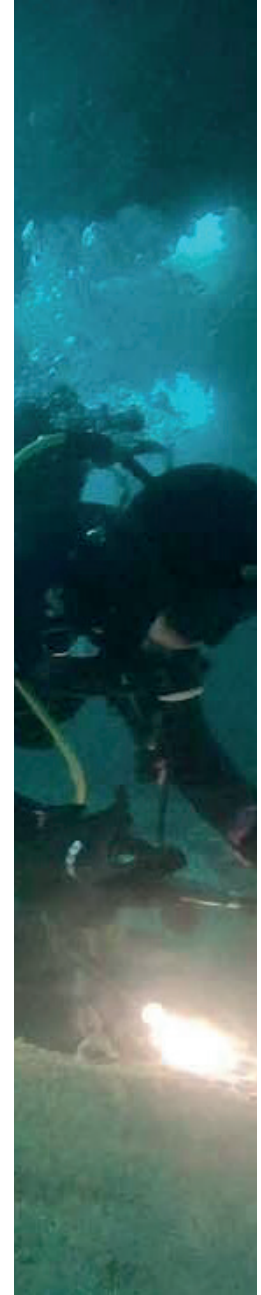
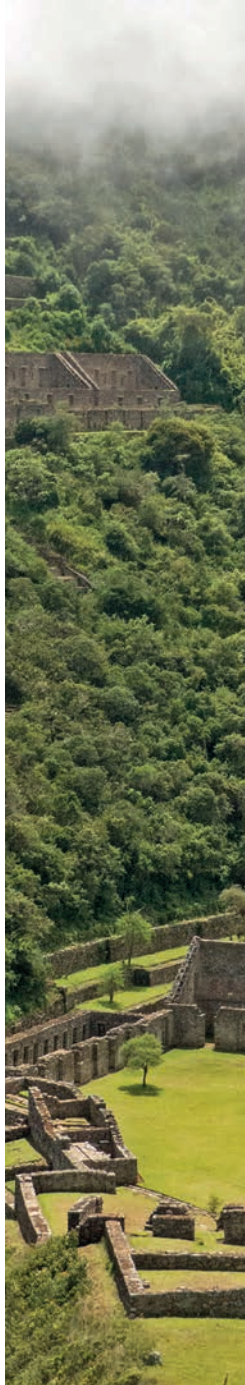
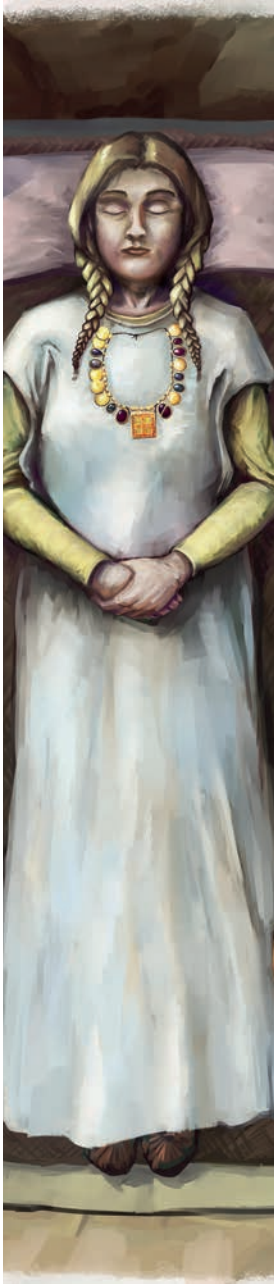


Dr Fiona Richards
Editor, *World History Insider*



Strange Dog Found in Ancient Blanket.

A late entry for our photos from the last issue. This is Sammie, who is in charge in Professor Marks' household.



Click on content to jump to the page

- Looking Back and Forward • Content Highlights • Dear Members • Media News
- From the Cartographer's Desk • Monthly Trivia • Object of the Month: Thracian Gold Wreath
- Interview • Exhibition Focus: Amarna: City of the Sun God & Adventures on the Nile News • Beyond Machu Pichu, Choquequirao • Books

Mark reports: We're in the process of setting up a new internship programme, this time for candidates in the department of history at the University of North Georgia, USA. We hope, too, to gain academic credit for our internship programme.

As for the encyclopedia, 2022 was a bumper year. We set a few monthly visitor records and have published more new content than ever. We've just passed the 3,500 mark for articles and definitions on the encyclopedia. Through 2022, we have published 450+ new articles and definitions, as well as having revised and improved a good number of older articles. In

2022 we had over 72 million pageviews, the most we have ever had in a single year. Since we started the encyclopedia we've now had an incredible 400 million+ pageviews. Congratulations to the editorial team, that's amazing! Mark also sent in this comment (see circle) from happy school teacher, Hannah Foreman, in the USA.

"I'm just emailing because I genuinely love this website. I use it all the time in my work and school for citations."

Hannah, USA

Jan sent us this information (right), from the Stripe team that he wanted to share with you. Here is the [link](#) if you'd like to know more.

DID YOU KNOW? By Joshua J. Mark

January's birthstone is the garnet, associated with health, love, fidelity, and friendship. In ancient Persia, the garnet was worn as an amulet to protect one from hazards associated with storms. It was understood that the garnet would turn a lighter shade at the approach of lightning storms, and this is thought to have led to its various associations: like a true friend, the garnet would always be at hand to warn and protect against dangers.



Inset: c. 8th century CE, Anglo-Saxon sword hilt fitting – gold with gemstone inlay of garnet cloisonné. From the Staffordshire Hoard, found in 2009, and not fully cleaned. (Image: Daniel Buxton, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, CC BY 2.0)

Thank you, World History Publishing Ltd

Since July 28, 2021, your **US\$1,718.30** contribution has helped new carbon removal companies make significant progress. Watch the stories of these companies you helped fund and the people behind them in this new Frontier video series.

Stay tuned for more to come in 2023!

The Stripe Climate team

Meet the founders you're supporting



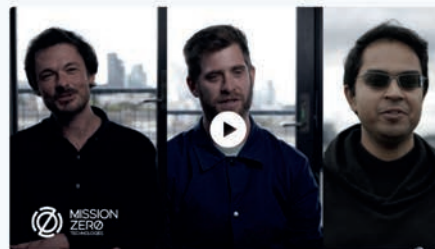
Shaun from Charm Industrial
Chief Scientist & Co-founder

"Often, when I'm asked to describe the climate challenge to someone, I talk about how we have to get to such an enormous scale in such a short period. But I see that more as an engineering challenge than as a daunting challenge."



Laura from Travertine
CEO

"One of the key motivators of Travertine is taking one of the major waste products that humans make, which is sulphate waste, and trying to turn it back into something valuable to help promote this clean energy transition."



Gael, Nick and Shiladitya from Mission Zero
Co-founders

"There are tonnes of things you can do with CO₂. One of the largest opportunity areas, and our commercial thesis, is that you're going to achieve both the most economic growth and environmental progress by injecting CO₂ into building materials and in synthetic aviation fuels."

Looking Back & Forward



Every January we like to look back at the past year, like looking at a crystal ball to figure out what might happen in the coming year. The last year was pretty amazing, but we're aware of some headwinds in 2023.

In the first half of 2022, we were still recovering from our rebranding, specifically from changing our domain name from *ancient.eu* to *worldhistory.org*. It took Google a little over a year to fully transfer our old domain's authority to the new one, and with the June 2022 Google Core Algorithm Update we saw a significant uptick in user numbers again. Consequently, we set a new annual record with over 72 million pageviews on our site (up from 58 million in 2021).

It's not just Google we have to thank for that, though: Our contributors and our editorial team have produced more articles in 2022 than in any year before with 450 articles published. We've covered a plethora of important topics such as Spanish colonization, early United States history, the French Revolution, the British in India, the Protestant Reformation, Impressionism, and various British monarchs. Our writers also filled some gaps in ancient Mesopotamia, early Christianity, Greek mythology, and classical Greece.

Our multimedia team started producing more professional videos (bringing our Youtube subscriber count to over 60,000), as well as detailed historical maps, which are very popular with our readers (and some of which are now also available as [posters](#)).

The translation department was not idle, either: We now have over 4900 translations into 41 languages, translated by our two staff translation editors and a large number of volunteers. Translated content now makes up for about a quarter of our readership, which

we are extremely excited about: Previously, these people may not have had access to our publication in English, but now they can learn about history in their own language.

Meanwhile, we focused on improving our writing to become more useful to our readers, as well as technological improvements that allow us to better signal to Google and other search engines what our content is about, what it relates to, which books it references, and so on. We've made great strides regarding improving the loading speed of our website, which particularly mobile users will likely thank us for.

As we are a completely independent non-profit organisation (we are not affiliated with a university and do not receive government or institutional funding) all of this was paid for through our revenue, generated primarily through advertising (67% of revenue), membership subscriptions (24% of revenue) and donations (6% of revenue). Unfortunately, advertising revenue has decreased in the last few months and we expect this trend to continue with the global recession that is predicted for 2023. We are therefore extremely grateful for the financial support of our members and donors, which allows us to count on a stable revenue stream even as economic uncertainty affects the world. Thank you!

Even though we forecast somewhat diminished revenue in the next year, we expect to set new records in the amount of content we produce and the numbers who will read and watch it - for free, as always, and increasingly in their own language.

We wish you, dear readers, that your 2023 will be prosperous, full of health and of course plenty of history reading!

Best regards,
Jan van der Crabben

Fall of the East India Company

The British East India Company (1600-1874) was the largest and most successful private enterprise ever created. Founded in 1600 by royal charter, the East India Company was established as a joint-stock trading company to exploit opportunities east of the Cape of Good Hope where it was granted a trade monopoly. All-powerful wherever it colonised, the EIC's use of its own private army and increasing territorial control, particularly in India, meant that it faced ever-greater scrutiny from the British government in the late 18th century. Restricted by several successive acts of Parliament over many decades because of allegations of corruption and unaccountability, the EIC's independence ended with the chaos of the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857-8. The British Crown replaced the EIC's board of directors as the rulers of British India, and Parliament officially dissolved the EIC in 1874. [Read more>](#)



An 1808 coloured print showing the docks of the East India Company, known as the East India Docks, at Blackwall in London. (British Museum, London).

An infographic illustrating the exchange of diseases, animals, plants, populations, and technology between the Americas, Africa, and Eurasia in the wake of Christopher Columbus' 1492 voyage across the Atlantic, known as the "Columbian Exchange"



Columbian Exchange

The Columbian exchange is a term coined by Alfred Crosby Jr. in 1972 that is traditionally defined as the transfer of plants, animals, and diseases between the Old World of Europe and Africa and the New World of the Americas. The exchange began in the aftermath of Christopher Columbus' voyages in 1492, later accelerating with the European colonization of the Americas. The Americas had been isolated and cut off from Asia at the end of the last Ice Age approximately 12,000 years ago. Apart from occasional contact with Vikings in eastern Canada 500 years prior to Columbus and Polynesian voyages to the Pacific Ocean coastline of South America around 1200, there was no regular or substantial contact between the world's peoples. But by the 1400s, due to rising tension in the Middle East, Europeans began the search for new trade routes. [Read more>](#)

Pre-Colonial North America

Pre-Colonial North America (also known as Pre-Columbian, Prehistoric, and Precontact) is the period between the migration of the Paleo-Indians to the region between 40,000-14,000 years ago and contact between indigenous tribes and European colonists in the 16th century CE which eradicated the Native American culture, replacing it with what became Canada and the United States of America. Christopher Columbus (l. 1451-1506) initiated European colonization of the Americas in 1492 when he landed in the West Indies, and this encouraged efforts by the Dutch, French, and, finally, the English to establish colonies in North America beginning in 1534 through 1620 which led to rapid colonization for the next 100 years. Prior to the arrival of Europeans, the Native Americans lived as autonomous nations across the continent from present-day Alaska, across Canada, and throughout the lower 48 United States. [Read more>](#)



Model of Cahokia Mounds, Illinois, which flourished between c. 650 - c. 1350 CE.

A Korean king who left a legacy in everything from military campaigns, scientific advances and literature to medicine, time keeping and cartography.

King Sejong the Great (15 May 1397 - 8 April 1450 CE) ruled Korea from 1418 to 1450 CE as the fourth king of the Joseon Dynasty (also spelled Choson). One of only two Korean kings called 'the Great' today, Sejong had a major impact on Korea and Koreans. His greatest achievement was creating Hangul, the Korean alphabet, but his patronage of science, technology, literature, and medicine all had a large impact on Korea and Koreans.

Sejong, born as I Do, had an unusual path to the Joseon throne. He was the third son of King Taejong, which put him third in line at birth. However, his father favored him as opposed to his older sons, Yangnyeong and Hyoryeong. Yangnyeong was removed from succession, either voluntarily abdicating the title of prince or having it removed by his father; historians are not yet sure which is true. Taejong's second son Hyoryeong took up life in a monastery after Yangnyeong's removal as prince, leaving Sejong to be the heir.

Taejong retired to allow his son to rule in 1418 CE. As a ruler, Sejong grounded his decisions and policies in Confucian thought, suppressing Korean Buddhism and Islam in the process. Sejong quickly saw a need for resident scientists in his court, and two years after becoming king, in 1420 CE, he created the Hall of Worthies (Jiphyeonjeon). The Hall of Worthies acted both as advisors to the king and as an academic research engine. Many of the inventions and scientific writings from Sejong's reign came from the scientists he appointed to the Hall of Worthies.

King Sejong inherited his father's advancements in moveable type printing and expanded its capacity to become the leading East Asian nation in printing at the time. While the Chinese ignored this new technology, the Joseon Koreans

embraced it and increased printing speeds by 20 times upon finalizing the design in 1434 CE. This increased capacity for printing would help Sejong publish and circulate his other scientific and medical advancements throughout his reign.

Other technological advances patronized by Sejong included devices to measure meteorological events. Sejong oversaw the invention of rain gauges and water marks as a way to objectively measure and record the



rainfall in different parts of the kingdom. The invention of a device for measuring wind speed and direction with a cylindrical cloth added an extra layer of data for Sejong-era scientists.

To further astronomical knowledge, Sejong ordered the building of an observatory platform in the royal Gyeongbok Palace where state-of-the-art instruments were available for scientists to use. Other inventions of the time include a portable sundial with a built-in compass and a precise water clock.

Cartography was another science Sejong supported. With the addition of land taken from the Japanese and Mongols by his grandfather, father, and the Gihae Expansion, Korean maps needed

updating. Sejong's cartographers used astronomical observations measured with new inventions to create maps which, even today, are exceptionally accurate. Scientists also moved the prime meridian on their maps to Seoul, the capital, instead of Beijing or Nanjing, the Chinese capitals of the time. This allowed the maps of Korea to be much more accurate than before.

Sejong also instructed his scientists to compile an agricultural book, the *Nongsa Jikseol* which included descriptions of materials and best practices from all the regions of Korea. Sejong wanted to help Korean farmers learn the best ways to enhance crop yield. Further, Sejong revamped taxes for farmers so that in poor crop years the farmers would pay less in taxes. This allowed them to focus on growing their food for the kingdom.

Sejong's biggest legacy is the creation and introduction of the Korean language's native alphabet, *Hangul*. Before its introduction, the Korean language was written with Classical Chinese characters, abridged with notes to account for the differences in languages. (Korean and Chinese, while both

languages of East Asia, are not related). This meant that only those able to afford education - the ruling and upper classes - could read and write. Sejong wanted to change this so that even peasants could learn to read and write. Sejong died in 1450 CE after ruling for 32 years. His reign saw unparalleled scientific and technological advancement in Korea and brought about a period of political stability. His greatest achievement was creating Hangul, the Korean alphabet, but his patronage of science, technology, literature, and medicine all had a large impact on Korea and Koreans. So much so that South Korea's new administrative center, Sejong City is named after him.

[Read more>](#)

Dear Members

LET'S NOT BE STICK FIGURES

BY JOSHUA J. MARK

W

When I was teaching, and especially in the years after 9/11, students would periodically ask if I thought we were living in the worst of times. The world seemed so chaotic and random to them and, when we would discuss current events, they had plenty of questions which suggested no easy answers. But I would remind them that humans had these same questions and concerns in the ancient past and this was why one studied history: to recognize, as Ecclesiastes phrases it, that there is nothing new under the sun.

From ancient Mesopotamia, we have the Sumerian records of the Gutian Period (2218-2047 BCE) describing a bitter wasteland following the Gutian invasion, the breakdown of traditional rituals and beliefs, ineffective leadership, and economic hardships. The Egyptian scribes of the Middle Kingdom looked back on the time of the First Intermediate Period

These are Aurelius' stick figures, even in an age when we have unprecedented access to information and 5,000 years of history, literally, at our fingertips and yet so many of us fail to make any use of this or apply the lessons of the past to the present.

(2181-2040 BCE) as a chaotic time of anarchy when rulers failed to keep the peace, trade faltered, and lawlessness was so widespread it was almost expected daily. These same kinds of accounts come from China describing the incessant strife of the Warring States Period (481-221 BCE), from Athens during the reign of the oligarchy of the Thirty Tyrants (404-403 BCE), and from Rome in addressing the Crisis of the Third Century (the Imperial Crisis, 235-284 CE). These are only a few of the best-known events and eras during which people had the same concerns and faced the same uncertainties as my students, and the rest of us, have been struggling with for the past twenty-odd years and longer.

There are no easy answers to these challenges but one thing the above cited events have in common is that those who lived through them believed they were the worst of times and, no doubt, to them they were. History, however, offers perspective and insight. In his *Meditations*, Marcus Aurelius writes:

Forget everything else. Keep hold of this alone and remember it: Each of us lives only now, this brief instant. The rest has been lived already or is impossible to see. The span we live is small – small as the corner of the earth in which we live it. Small as even the greatest renown, passed from mouth to mouth by short-lived stick figures, ignorant alike of themselves and those long dead. (Book III.10)

The “short lived stick figures”, for the purposes of this conversation, can be understood as those who have no knowledge of the past and are therefore “ignorant alike of themselves and those long dead.” Knowing nothing of the past, they

interpret the present as something wholly new and act accordingly and, often, ineffectively. At the same time, Aurelius says, there is always only now – all we have is the time given to us – and in this time we can choose another course, can refuse to be stick figures, by drawing on the lessons of the past to inform our choices in the present.

The challenges of the New Year are the same as those of the year just ended but, even here at the very beginning, it doesn't seem many people have learned from what they lived through even recently, never mind from ancient history, epitomizing the line from T.S. Eliot: “*We had the experience, but missed the meaning.*” These are Aurelius' stick figures, even in an age when we have unprecedented access to information and 5,000 years of history, literally, at our fingertips and yet so many of us fail to make any use of this or apply the lessons of the past to the present. Aurelius addresses this same problem in his era:

Remember how long you've been putting this off; how many extensions the gods gave you, and you didn't use them. At some point you have to recognize what world it is that you belong to...and that there is a limit to the time assigned you, and if you don't use it to free yourself, it will be gone, and you will be gone, and will never return again. (Book II.4)

As a New Year's Resolution – and one we can actually keep and build on – I propose we all refuse to be stick figures. Let's draw on the lessons history offers us and make the most of the time and resources we have, before both have gone and we wind up not only missing the meaning of the problems the modern world is posing, but contributing to them. 📌

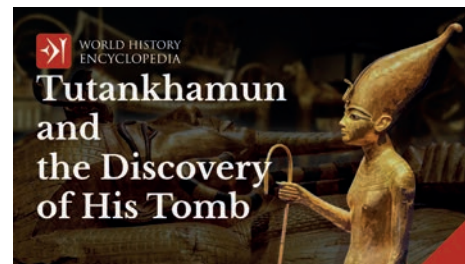
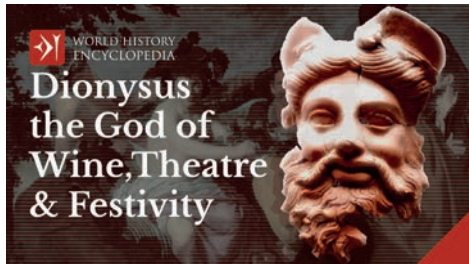


EDITOR'S CHOICE OF THE MONTH:

A map illustrating the First Bulgarian Empire at its greatest extent during the reign of Simeon I the Great (the first one to use the title tsar derived from the Latin caesar). The Bulgarian Empire was a medieval kingdom established as a union between the Bulgars and Slavs that adopted Christianity in 864. Simeon I's ambition to ascend to the imperial throne in Constantinople was the dominant driver of Bulgarian foreign policy leading to numerous wars (seemingly, the greatest success was his coronation by the Orthodox Patriarch as "Emperor and Autocrat of all Bulgarians and Romans" outside the walls of Constantinople in 913, although this arrangement did not survive long). At the same time, the disintegration of the Avar Khaganate north of the Danube allowed the country to expand its influence and territory into the Pannonian Plain, which was a mixed blessing as Bulgaria was confronted by the advance of migrating Pechenegs, Cumans, and Magyars.

Map by Simeon Netchev.

Media | Latest videos



Click on the illustrations to go to the videos



Kelly's roundup for the year:

We have had over 2,000,000 views this year and were watched for over 109,000 hours. We gained over 31,000 subscribers and hit 60,000 by the end of the year. Our most watched video was our video on Ancient Babylon with over 400,000 views. Congratulations Kelly!

10 January 1863: World's First Underground Railway Opens in London



The nickname "Tube" comes from the circular tube-like tunnels through which the small profile trains travel.

As the population of London grew during the 19th century, travel became increasingly difficult due to the high numbers of people using public transportation. The proposed solution was an underground railway system to lighten the number of passengers traveling daily. At a cost of 1.3 million pounds in 1862, this became the Metropolitan Railway which opened to the public on 10 January 1863 – the world's first underground railway system carrying both commercial goods and passengers. It ran continuously from 1863-1933 before becoming the London Underground in 1935, better known today as The Tube.

23 January 1849: Elizabeth Blackwell Becomes First Female Physician in the USA



Elizabeth Blackwell by an unknown photographer

Elizabeth Blackwell (l. 1821-1910) was a British schoolteacher who had emigrated to the USA in 1832 and then devoted herself to the study of medicine. She was denied admittance to every medical school she applied to, based solely on the fact she was a woman, until her acceptance by the Geneva Medical College, Geneva, New York in 1847. As the faculty had never had a female applicant before, they had no policy in place to deny her admittance and so put the question to a vote by the all-male student body who unanimously voted for her acceptance. On 23 January 1849, Elizabeth Blackwell received her medical degree, becoming the first female physician in the United States.

Object of the Month | Thracian Gold Wreath

A golden wreath from the burial of an Odrysian aristocrat at the Golyamata Mogila tumulus (mid-4th century BCE).

The Odrysian kingdom was a state grouping of many Thracian tribes united by the Odrysae, which arose in the early 5th century BCE and existed at least until the late 1st century BCE. It consisted mainly of present-day Bulgaria and parts of Southeastern Romania (Northern Dobruja), Northern Greece and European Turkey. Dominated by the eponymous Odrysian people, it was the largest and most powerful Thracian realm and the first larger political entity of the eastern Balkans. Before the foundation of Seuthopolis in the late 4th century it had no fixed capital.

The Odrysian kingdom was founded by king Teres I, exploiting the collapse of the Persian presence in Europe due to failed invasion of Greece in 480–79. Teres and his son Sitalces pursued a policy of expansion, making the kingdom one of the most powerful of its time. Throughout much of its early history it remained an ally of Athens and even joined the Peloponnesian War on its side. By 400 the state showed first signs of fatigue, although the skilled Cotys I initiated a brief renaissance that lasted until his murder in 360.

Afterwards the kingdom disintegrated: southern and central Thrace were divided among three Odrysian kings, while the northeast came under the dominion of the kingdom of the Getae. The three Odrysian kingdoms were eventually conquered by the rising kingdom of Macedon under Philip II in 340. A much smaller Odrysian state was revived in around 330 by Seuthes III, who founded a new capital named Seuthopolis that functioned until the second

quarter of the 3rd century BCE. After that there is little conclusive evidence for the persistence of an Odrysian state, with the exception of a dubious Odrysian king fighting in the Third Macedonian War named Cotys. The Odrysian heartland was eventually annexed by the Sapaean kingdom in the late 1st century BCE, which was converted into a Roman province of Thracia in 45–46 CE.

Archaeological evidence confirms that by the middle of the 5th century BCE, a new and powerful elite had emerged that accumulated a wealth of precious artefacts of both local and regional origin. Burial practices were changing after the Persian

withdrawal and a new type of elite burial emerged in central Thrace in the form of tombs with ashlar masonry, sometimes with stone sarcophagi. The tomb of Rouets from the late 5th century even contained traces of wall paintings. The earliest of these new elite tombs can be found in the necropolis of Duvanli, with the oldest tombs dating to the mid-5th century. Their inventory is exceptional not only by contemporary Thracian, but even Mediterranean standards. According to the archaeologist



Tonkova they contained “splendid sets of head and body ornaments, consisting of numerous hoop or boat-shaped earrings, pendants for earrings, a necklace, a torque, bracelets, finger-rings, chains with pendants and fibulae, and pectorals.” Most Thracian elite tombs have been identified as warrior burials as they contained weapons and gold pectorals. Two burials from Svetitsa (second half of the 5th century BCE) and Dalakova (early 4th century BCE) also contained finely crafted and rather impressive gold funeral masks. >

How Croatia's Many Borders Influenced the History of the Croats

Interview with Dr. Domagoj Perkić, Curator at the Dubrovnik Archaeology Museum by Meg Pier.
First published on [People Are Culture](#).

The history of the Croats has always been influenced by its location as one of Europe's most major cultural crossroads. In this interview with Dr. Domagoj Perkić, a curator with the Dubrovnik Archaeology Museum, it is clear that the history of the Croats is ongoing and ever-evolving. Indeed, my conversation with Domagoj reveals his own profound personal experiences as a citizen of a country with many borders.

Domagoj began his career in 1997 as a conservator with Croatia's Ministry of Culture, working in the Karlovac region, where he headed up excavations on more than forty archaeological sites. Karlovac is in central Croatia, 35 miles southwest of the country's capital of Zagreb, and not far from the border with Slovenia, which was a sister state of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia under former president Tito from 1946 to 1980, along with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

Karlovac, like much of Croatia, has long been a cultural crossroads, given its location at the junction of Western, Central and Southeastern Europe. In fact, Karlovac was named after its founder, Charles II, Archduke of Austria, who built the city from scratch in 1579 in order to strengthen their southern defences against Ottoman encroachments.

Charles II was just one of many travellers, traders and invaders who left their mark on the region over the course of more than a millennia, so perhaps not surprisingly, Domagoj's work

has spanned a tremendous breadth. He has explored sites ranging from hilltops to caves to churches from eras that include the Palaeolithic, Neolithic, Halcolithic and Bronze ages, as well as the Roman and Medieval periods, up to and including the 19th century.

Because of a geographic position that encompasses important sea channels north and south, and river routes between the east and west, Croatia represents a blend of four different cultural spheres. It was an intersection of influences from the Western Roman Empire and the Byzantine Empire—as well as a meeting point of the Middle European and Mediterranean cultures. The relics of those ancient byways make for intriguing insights and since 2002, Domagoj has been a member of a research project examining settlements and communications in the context of the connections between the Adriatic coast and Croatia's interior.

In 2001, Domagoj experienced some professional serendipity when he was asked to become a senior inspector for underwater cultural heritage with the Ministry of Culture in Zagreb, allowing him to combine his passion for diving with his livelihood. In 2006, he had more synchronicity, with the opportunity to serve in that capacity in Dubrovnik, his hometown. In 2014, he assumed his current role as a curator with the Dubrovnik Archaeology Museum. Enjoy this enriching take on the history of the Croats from someone who is part of it himself!



Meg: Can you explain what being a conservator involves?

Domagoj: I studied archaeology at the University of Zagreb. In Croatia, and in many other countries, there is a problem to find a job when you graduate, especially in archaeology. I couldn't find a job here in Dubrovnik where I had lived since I was a child, but I found a position with the Conservation Department in Karlovac, a town 50 kilometers southeast of Zagreb, the country's capital.

At that time, from 1997 to 2001, infrastructure was being built in the Karlovac region, and in Zagreb, the capital town, as well as on the coast. My first assignment was rescue excavations on a route on which a highway was going to be built. Before a highway is built, archeologists have to go into the field and look for archeological sites so they will not be damaged by the building of the highway. In the Karlovac region there were many, many minefields from the war. The mine sweepers were the first in the field, and the archeologists were the second.

We found many archeological sites on the route of the future highway and there were various excavations, and I was the leader of archeological excavations on that route. We excavated about 20, 25 sites from different periods, from the Paleolithic period to the Modern Age. My job was to do everything. I couldn't be a specialist for just one 50-year period, so my range of interests has been very

wide. There are good things about it and bad things, but that is a conservation archeologist's job. Of course, I have some preferences, but I have to do everything. If something is endangered, I have to excavate and to protect that site.

Meg: So the job market at the time you were beginning your career meant you got exposure to all different periods of history and activities as an archaeologist. Can you share what some of those different activities are?

Domagoj: A highway is built section by section. Before the building of a highway they send a map of the route. With that map, we walk on the fields and look for any sites. Some sites are known, so we have to read articles and books to research and find documented sites. But we found many archeological sites along the route that were previously unknown. I walked about 150 kms, a few days at a time, for about five years. I like to walk on the fields to explore. So it was very nice for me, especially because at that time I didn't know anything about that region, so it was nice to learn about a new countryside, new customs and new people.

Meg: Were you by yourself or with a team?

Domagoj: Sometimes I was alone, sometimes with my colleagues. Many team members changed during that five years, and

Above, left: Archaeologist Dr Domagoj Perkić.

Above, right: The exhibit at Narona Museum showcases the remains of a Roman temple.

Both photos by Meg Pier.

many archaeology students participated in the excavations. The university in Zagreb was just 50 kms away.

Meg: *How were you able to recognize a potential archaeological site?*

Domagoj: It's my job. I participated in many excavations while in school because I liked it, so I had some experience with discerning what a site looks like. For example, in areas where there were wars in the past, archaeologists look for hills that are a good strategic position for defense, or, on the surface you look for some pottery.

Archaeological sites are often near natural communication routes, so you look for features of the environment that can be "read" and offer information and a means of communication. You look for sites near that communication, so you have to be very aware of your surroundings. And because the topography is karst, or limestone, we look for caves, because we know caves were often used for shelter, so a cave is potentially an archaeological site. So, what we look for changes. Sometimes we look for a cave, sometimes we look for a hill, and sometimes we look for a field. Fields are needed for agriculture, and on the edge of the field we can expect to find a settlement. Of course, as you have more and more experience,

it's much easier to read the environment and find a site.

Meg: *Can you describe a site that was particularly interesting?*

Domagoj: Every site is interesting for me because it's all archaeology. If I had to choose, I would single out some caves in the Karlovac region: Zala Cave, which is near the town of Ogulin, Jopića Cave near Brebornica and Lipa Cave near Protulipa. At the time I became an archaeologist, some members of my team were speleologists and I started to go with them into caves. We excavated these caves and found finds from the Paleolithic era, which means early Stone Age, maybe 15,000 years ago.

In some cases, we found Roman necropolises from the 3rd century; the term necropolis means cemetery, and translates as "city of the dead." Later I used the excavations from the caves with the Roman necropolises to do my PhD. Finding a Roman necropolis in a cave was something new in archaeology, because they are always outside the communications, meaning the Roman roads, never in caves. But in the Karlovac region, we found Roman necropolises in the caves--and just from one short period. For maybe 10 to 15 years that cave was used for necropolises. Never before, never later, and just in that region. In this part of the

Below: Domagoj and colleagues investigating a cave. Photo: Domagoj Perkić



Right: Roman necropolis
from inside the Bubi Cave.
Photo: Domagoj Perkić



Roman world, they didn't use caves for their own necropolises. It was something new.

Meg: Why did they do it?

Domagoj: Of course, we can't be sure, but one possibility was the Plague. It was just a short time between 250 – 270 A.D. that these caves were used as a necropolis. I found in historical sources that at that time all over the Roman world there was a big influence of the plague. It's called the Cyprian Plague. Cyprian was a bishop in Carthage and a notable Early Christian writer. He wrote some letters to Rome about the plague from that specific time period, so there are some historical sources about the influence of plague.

I found from other books and articles that the influence of this plague was all over the Roman world and almost half the population died from it. We know from some other archaeological sites that the Adriatic coastline was affected by this plague and that in the hinterlands there was plague. The Roman emperor Claudius II Gothicus died from this plague in 270 A.D. while he was in battle with Barbarian people on the Danube, 200 kilometers from my region. So we know the influence of the plague was in that region. We suppose that because it happened at that time that was a possible reason.

Of course, you can ask 'Why didn't the other regions use caves for burial during this plague?' because in other high-risk situations,

people had different practices, but this was the custom in this area.

The most important thing with the necropolis was the evidence of burial rituals like those used all over the world at that time. When people were buried, everything you usually have to do was done. For example, you have to put a coin, pottery, food, and drink with the remains. If you do not do it, the spirit will not be satisfied. It's a kind of a ritual. The standard ritual was observed for every person in these caves--the coins, pottery, food--but the place is unusual. The act of practicing rituals is so important for people, especially in the past, they will do everything they can to maintain the ritual, even stupid things, from today's point of view.

Meg: I understand it was the plague but do you have any ideas why they were burying in the caves instead of the fields? Was it to keep the death away from the population?

Domagoj: I read some books about the Black Death from the Middle Ages. When the plague came to cities, the first feeling was fear. The second impulse was to escape, go away as far as you can go. The size of the necropolises in the Middle Ages are changed. There were so many people dying they couldn't put them in a normal cemetery. In Constantinople during the 6th century A.D. there was a big plague again and there were so many dead that they

Below: Member's of Domagok's archaeological team on site. Photo: Domagoj Perkić.

used a whole tower in one day for the remains of 1,000 people. So, the location of cemeteries or necropolis changed under the circumstances.

All the caves which we excavated, their entrance is small, maybe two to five meters. Some are very, very tiny holes. You have to go down into some small holes, then at the end of the main chamber they put on the dead people of the floor of the cave. The fear of infection was very strong. By putting the bodies so far away from the entrance, that fear was lessened. The people who carried the bodies had fear, of course, but they had to do their ritual. Rituals are so strong. During all of history, from our point of view people do very strange things just for a ritual. It's strange from our view, but from their view the ritual is the most important thing in their life.

Meg: *How many bodies did you find?*

Domagoj: Thirty-five. We found some coins,

and based on their markings, we knew the time the necropolis was created and the bodies were interred. Later we did some anthropological analysis and C-14 carbon dating to be sure, which confirmed the necropolis was from the 270s. The anthropologists' analysis showed there were 16 males, 10 females, and 9 children, a ratio between the males, females, and children that could be considered standard for Roman necropolis. If it had been only males, or only children, that would have been unusual.

If they had died in a conflict there would have been some cut marks in the bones from battle. Because there were no scars, we knew there was no violence. If you die over the course of a few months or a year from an infection, there will be a trace of the on the bones. But if you die from the plague or some other infection that killed you within 15 or 20 days, there will not be traces on the bones. Of course, there is the possibility of DNA analysis, but the problem is that it is very expensive. The second problem is that DNA testing can be unreliable. For example, like in the Middle Ages the scholars took two teeth from one skull from a person in the Middle Ages who died of the plague, and one tooth showed the DNA of the plague and the other didn't show it. As a result, if there is no influence indicated, that does not prove that there is no influence. I couldn't be sure if the result is negative. And it's so expensive, I couldn't do it.

Meg: *Did you immediately know the necropolis was highly unusual?*

Domagoj: Yes, but it took us three or four years to deduce that there was a plague at that time. Because we didn't excavate the four caves in a few months, it took a few years. You have to clean the pottery, you have to conserve the coins--all the steps take a lot of time. Maybe a few months later, you can see that coin is from the 270s. I recognized some Roman pottery too, and I realized, we are in a Roman necropolis. We are the first people to see this in more than 1500 years.

During the next few years, we found three more caves with a similar archaeological context – a Roman necropolis. We made some small excavation in these others caves, and in all of them were entombment from just a small period 250-270 A.D. In each cave we found human bones, and almost the same archaeological finds: pottery, coins, fibulae, Roman needles, axes, everything from the same time period. I saw that I have found a



unique moment in history and of archaeology in this area, and it represented new scientific knowledge, so I decided to use it for my dissertation.

It is important to say, in the area around the caves, I found a few Roman settlements and more than 40 small quarries where the material for Roman sarcophagi were produced. Because the settlements and the quarries were from the same time period--the 3rd century--it was possible to connect the caves with those sites with caves. It meant that we could presume to know where the people who were buried in the caves lived and what their main job was--working in the quarries.

Meg: Can you describe what the Romans were doing in Croatia at the time the Plague occurred and the necropolis was created?

Domagoj: The Roman Republic, later the Roman Empire, traded across almost all of the Mediterranean and the hinterlands. In expanding from the Italian peninsula, step by step they occupied this region. Why? Because they needed the silver, iron, plants for food, and other things.

At the time, Croatia as we know it today didn't exist, the people here were known as the Illyrians. There were different tribes in different areas. It depends on the region. For example, in Karlovac region there was the Colapiani tribe. They were called Colapiani because there was a river named Colapis, which means curved river, from which Colapiani came.

The Romans wrote about the Illyrian tribes in the 2nd or 1st century B.C. The only information from historical sources we have is from this period, and so we only know about the Illyrians from the Roman point of view, which is negative because they were at war with them. The first battle between the Romans and Illyrians was in the 3rd century B.C. But from the 1st century B.C. and 1st century A.D. , this region was a Roman province.

Meg: You left the Conservation Department in Karlovac to become a senior inspector for protection of cultural heritage. What led you to this role, and what has it revealed to you about the history of the Croats?

Domagoj: In 2001, the Ministry of culture founded Office for Cultural Heritage Protection Inspection Activities, and one area that department had responsibility for

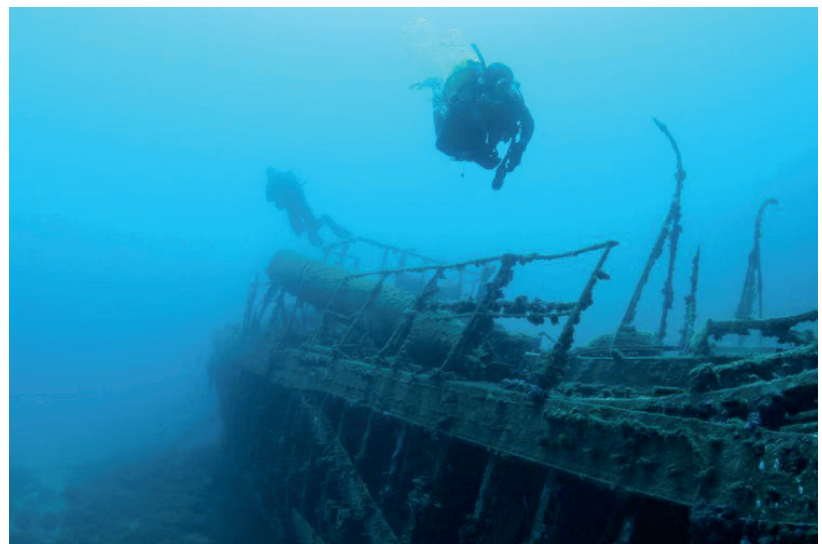
supervising was protecting underwater sites. The chief in that Office for Cultural Heritage Protection Inspection knew me when he was the chief of underwater excavations in which I participated. He asked me would I change my job from the Karlovac Conservation Department to become the supervisor of underwater excavations department in Zagreb. My job would be diving underwater for archaeology. I said "Of course, why not"?

Meg: Has anyone ever attempted to steal artefacts from an underwater site?

Domagoj: Yes. In 2002, we found on the Internet that some people from Austria had organized illegal excavations on an underwater archaeological site with a late Middle Age shipwreck; on the surface you can see the iron guns, some pottery, small wooden parts of ship and many, many pearls in the sand bottom. The site is situated on the peak of the Istria peninsula, near the town of Pula. The Austrian excavation was commercial, but commercial for themselves. According to the Croatia laws, you can dive on underwater archaeological sites only with licensed diving centers, and there are no commercial excavations. Treasures hunting is forbidden. We let them continue with their dive in order to catch them in the field to get the proof that they were doing something illegal.

With the police special diving forces, we organized an ambush of them and arrived at the site on speedboats. We dove down to the site and the policemen showed their badges and signaled "Police! Go up!" It was like a scene from a movie. People who were there,

Below: Underwater Excavation - Photo: Domagoj Perkić.





they didn't know they worked for an illegal operation, just the organizer, who wanted to take money. He knew what he was doing was illegal.

The others did not know it was illegal, and when we arrived, they were drawing the map of the site, they did not start to take the artifacts. The organizer went on trial and he had to pay punishment for illegal activities. Other people lost their diving equipment, because all equipment which used for illegal activities can be confiscated, but they did not receive any punishment.

If you want to dive on the underwater culture heritage in Croatia, you can do it only with licensed diving center. To be a member of archaeological team on excavations, it does not matter land or underwater excavations, you have to check who is organizer of excavation. In the Croatia, organizer of archaeological excavation can be only Croatian institution, like Museum, University, Conservation department, or a contracted archaeologist firm, but again, only from Croatia. There are possibility of cooperation between Croatian institutions and some foreign institutions, but a Croatian institution has to be included into archaeological excavation.

Meg: Your career has included work both on Croatia's coast and in the hinterlands, such as the Karlovac region. Not surprisingly, you are a member of a research project examining communications and connections between the Adriatic and Croatia's interior. Can you talk about that project and your role?

Domagoj: If you want trade, you need proven communications. In Roman Times, Middle Age, until 50 years ago, the nature of communications was very important. If you want trade, you need roads. In Prehistoric and Roman times and the Middle Age, until almost 50 years ago, all roads were natural routes.

For the last 50 years, there has been communications industries and highways; you don't need to follow natural communications routes. But before that, during the thousands of years of trade between the coastline and the hinterlands; there were natural communication routes discovered and used. Trade existed all over the Mediterranean between different regions on the coastline and the hinterlands, because in the hinterlands you have silver, gold, iron, cattle, and crops like cereals. At the time, the main trading routes were by sea, because it is much cheaper and easier but to get to the hinterlands, you have to pass through big mountains.

Above: A team from The International Centre for Underwater Archaeology in Zadar monitors a dolia shipwreck from 1st century AD in the most visited underwater site of Cavtat. Photo: International Centre for Underwater Archaeology in Zadar / Facebook.

In this area, for example, the Dubrovnik region, the first trading was between Greeks and Illyrian tribes from the hinterlands. Because of the opportunities presented by trading, the Greeks founded colonies here in the 5th, 4th, and 3rd centuries B.C.

On the Croatian coast there were a few Greek colonies. Possibly as early as the 6th century B.C. there was the colony Corkyra Melaina, somewhere on the today island of Korčula—we know of that colony from some historical sources, but we have not found that site. Later, between 397-390 B.C., Dionysius the Elder founded colony Issa (today the island Vis) and after that, between 385 – 384 a colony called Pharos was founded on what is today the town of Starigrad on the island of Hvar.

Dionysius was a Greek tyrant from Syracuse, in what is now Sicily, southern Italy. He conquered several cities in Sicily and southern Italy, and opposed Carthage's influence in Sicily and made Syracuse the most powerful of

the Western Greek colonies. He was regarded by the ancients as an example of the worst kind of despot—cruel, suspicious and vindictive. Later, in the 3rd century B.C., Greek colonists from Issa and Pharos founded new colonies on the coast: Tragurion (today the town of Trogir) and Epetion (today the town of Stobreč), both of which are near Split. Also, we know from historical sources and from archaeological excavation of colonies in Lumbarda (today the island of Korčula) and Sikuli (today Resnik at Kaštela Bay between Trogir and Split).

Meg: *And the relationships between the Greeks and Illyrian tribes were friendly relations whereas the relationship between the Romans and Illyrians were not...?*

Domagoj: It depends. Relationships are different. We can't say any relationship is always good or always bad. But if trade is our main point of reference, we should find some common language, because trade is good for you and for me. But during trading, sometimes

Below: The island of Korčula was home to an ancient Greek colony. Photo: Carineo6 / Flickr.



you can be angry and then we shall fight. Like today. There are no differences between ancient times and today when we talk about trade.

With the beginning of Iron Age in 8th century, but specially at 5th century BC, social differentiation at Illyrian tribes is much more pronounced. Some communities became stronger, especially because trade. From that time we can talk about Illyrian tribes in full sense. In the Greek area, there is much more advanced civilization, it's the beginning of classical and, later, Hellenistic civilization. In the Illyrian tribes, some tribal chiefs became much stronger and more important, and they wanted to have some nice and expensive things from the Greek area. Because if the chief wanted to show his people that he is boss, he had to have the most expensive pottery, for example, or some other objects that are a matter of prestige, such as helmets, weapon, and armor. So, the implication is 'I have the items of most prestige, so everybody can see I am the chief.' Very often the Greek colonists brought the most expensive pottery to this area

and they brought some other things to trade with the tribes here.

For trade with the Illyrians, the Greeks had to find a way to go over the hills because you can't go over the hills wherever you want; you have to find the easiest ways. On the communication routes that were established, settlements were founded. For example, during the prehistoric times and Roman times, from late Bronze Age, 1000 B.C. until the 5th or 6th century A.D., the main trade center was Epidaurum. Today it's Cavtat, about 15 kilometers to the east of Dubrovnik in Župa Bay. It's a quite nice small town. Why was it a base for such a long time? Because there were communications to the hinterlands. It was the main center for trade during Greek times and, later, Roman times.

But also, while the 7th century is the end of Epidaurum, it's start of the rise of Ragusa or Dubrovnik town. According to some legends, refugees from Epidaurum came to Dubrovnik and founded a new town. We know that the certain kind of settlement already existed, so we can not say that they founded a new town,

Below: Domagoj holds a piece of pottery in the collection of the Dubrovnik Archaeology Museum. Photo: Meg Pier

Next page: Meg interviews members of a choral group on the Estonian island of Saaremaa in 2011. She was reporting on the 20th anniversary of Estonia's "Singing Revolution" and independence from the Soviet Union.



but its very possible a new population came and the town started to fortify.

The town of Dubrovnik was founded on a place where the Illyrian tribes had a hill fort before. When you read about Dubrovnik's history, you will read that it was founded in the 7th century. That's not true, because on a hill where the Old Town of Dubrovnik now it was an Iron Age Illyrian settlement. There were some excavations and we found finds from the 2nd century B.C. and forward. That told us the harbor was used in Roman and pre-Roman times, so the settlement was much earlier than the 7th century. In the Middle Ages, Dubrovnik grew up and the fortified walls were built. The reason for a settlement being located here for different people through the ages is that the spot is defensible, and there is natural communication routes inland. For almost 1,000 years, the same communication route was used from Dubrovnik to the hinterlands.

Meg: *In all the topics we've covered, you've repeatedly said there are good things and bad things. Has that always been a philosophy of yours, a choice to be detached?*

Domagoj: Yes, it is a kind of philosophy but usually I want to enjoy the good things in every moment. I like to be aware that now is a good and I have to enjoy the good things, because I had some bad experiences and I want to put them far away. At that time, I was 19 years old, a boy, and at that age you don't know a lot about life. When you are a teenager you think you know everything and you are the most important person in the world and in that situation, when you experience some bad things, everything collapses. But I learned that I have to enjoy the good things and enjoy life generally speaking. From that time on, I have been enjoying life every day.

Meg: *A lot of people who have been through trauma get very stuck.*

Domagoj: I know I didn't feel so lucky at that time, but that was a crossroads. Then I realized I'm happy. I had to be happy because there is no reason to be unhappy.

To read the whole interview, [click here>>](#)



This article comes from the website *People Are Culture*, founded and curated by Meg Pier



People Are Culture (PAC) presents more than 250 interviews and feature stories that reveal what makes places and different cultures unique. PAC shines a light on the traditions, customs, crafts and lifestyles of more than 30 countries in North, South and Central America, as well as Armenia, Europe, India, and the Middle East.

In each piece, people share powerful insights about their heritage, while also revealing their own transformational life lessons and spiritual practices, world-changing ideas, dramatic adventures, and hard-won wisdom. PAC's stories take you deeper into the world's different cultures and also remind us that we all share the human condition.

PAC celebrates the unique cultures of the world as well as our shared humanity. Founder Meg Pier invites you to become a subscriber - just visit www.peopleareculture.com.

EXHIBITION FOCUS

Amarna: City of the Sun God

Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek, Copenhagen, Denmark
Showing from: 26 January - 18 June 2023





The Glyptotek is providing a rare glimpse not only of the absolute monarchy and lifestyle of a famous pharaoh, but also of the lives and dreams of the people of ancient Egypt. The special exhibition 'Amarna – City of the Sun God' will run from 26 January to 18 June 2023.

What happens when a new pharaoh takes over as ruler and sets a completely different agenda? He replaces magical animal gods with the sun god Aten, heralding the start of a brand new religion and social structure. The year is 1350 BCE, and we are in ancient Egypt. The pharaoh Akhenaten and his wife Nefertiti are in power. The sun god Aten is now the sole permitted god, and the new cult leads to major social upheaval. The royal couple move 250 km along the Nile and build a magnificent new royal seat - Amarna.

“For about 15 years Amarna reflected a vision of the ultimate society, dedicated to the ideal of the sun as the paramount, life-giving god. The newly founded city housed temples for the new god, palaces for the royal family, residential areas, workshops and burial grounds for the people. However, following the death of Akhenaten, Amarna was destroyed and abandoned, and Egypt turned its back on the new religion. It also meant that the city was forgotten for posterity. No new buildings were constructed on top of the ruins, so they are very well preserved,” says Tine Bagh, the Glyptotek’s Egyptologist.

Previous page: A digital 3D representation of the City of Akhetaten. Paul Docherty. Available at www.amarna3d.com 1.

Below: A digital 3D representation of the City of Akhetaten. Paul Docherty. Available at www.amarna3d.com 3.

Next page, clockwise from top left: Block with the name of Amarna, sandstone; Head, Akhenaten, limestone; Wall painting, North Palace. (Photo Anders Sune Berg); Sphere, showing Akhenaten, Nefertiti and Aten; Princess head, reddish-brown quartzite. All images: Ole Haupt © Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek, unless stated otherwise.







Unique work connected for the first time in more than 3,000 years

The age of Amarna is also the story of a city's sudden collapse. It was barely 20 years before the dream city turned into a ghost town. Because, when the pharaoh Akhenaten died, the city was destroyed and abandoned, and those that followed attempted to erase all traces of the period. But the brief life of the city makes Amarna a treasure trove for archaeologists, and excavations have revealed countless fragments of the city's history.

Amarna had to be built quickly, using small blocks of stone covered in decorative motifs. As the city disintegrated, the blocks got scattered all over the place, and it was not until 2015 that the Egyptologist Raymond Johnson discovered that one of the blocks on display at the Metropolitan Museum in New York matched a block and a motif in the Glyptotek's collection. One block features Kiya, Akhenaten's second wife; the other Akhenaten himself. The exhibition reunites them for the first time since c. 1350 BCE.

The Glyptotek's special Amarna exhibition recreates parts of the city using photos, drawings and a 3D video, providing insight into the magnificent city, its history and the dreams and way of life of the people of ancient Egypt. But it also reveals how tough life was for many of the inhabitants, who slogged away during the construction of the city.

Above: Talatat, Talatat, Akhenaten sacrifices a duck. Courtesy of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1982.328.2

Next page, top: Statue fragment of Tutankhamon, diorite. Image: Ole Haupt © Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek.

Next page, bottom: A digital 3D representation of the City of Akhetaten. Paul Docherty. Available at www.amarna3d.com 4.



Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun

The exhibition will spotlight the distinctive visual style of the period, while solar anthems, the development of a new musical style and ordinary everyday objects will provide a sense of religious and secular life at the time. A presentation of the protagonists in their familiar setting will paint a vivid picture of Amarna. The Amarna era ended with the spotlight on the child king Tutankhamun. As the son of Akhenaten, he grew up in Amarna. During his reign, the decision was made to return to the ancient deities and the former residence in Thebes. So, the exhibition also commemorates the 100th anniversary of the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun on 4 November 1922.

The Glyptotek has an impressive collection of artefacts from Amarna, which will bring the place and its fascinating history to life. They will be accompanied by selected loans from abroad - including museums in New York, Paris and Berlin - and from the National Museum of Denmark and the Royal Cast Collection in Copenhagen. [➔](#)





Above: "View of Saccara from the palm grove", pencil drawing, Georg Erbkam, February 1843, © Berlin State Museums, Art Library.

Saqqara in northern Egypt is the oldest cemetery with royal pyramids and hundreds of private tombs. Here and in neighbouring Abusir, the expedition spends three months documenting 31 tombs. The number is small because Saqqara lies buried under sand drifts up to 15 m deep. Architect Erbkam's plan of the cemetery, the first ever made which shows every structure then visible, remains useful when excavations are planned today.

Saqqara lies in immediate proximity to ancient Memphis, one of the important Egyptian cities at all times. For over 3000 years, the cemetery was the preferred burial place of the city's residents. Younger tombs were built between older ones and burials were sometimes made in rooms of older tombs and in deep burial shafts driven into the floors.

Adventures on the Nile Prussia and Egyptology 1842–45

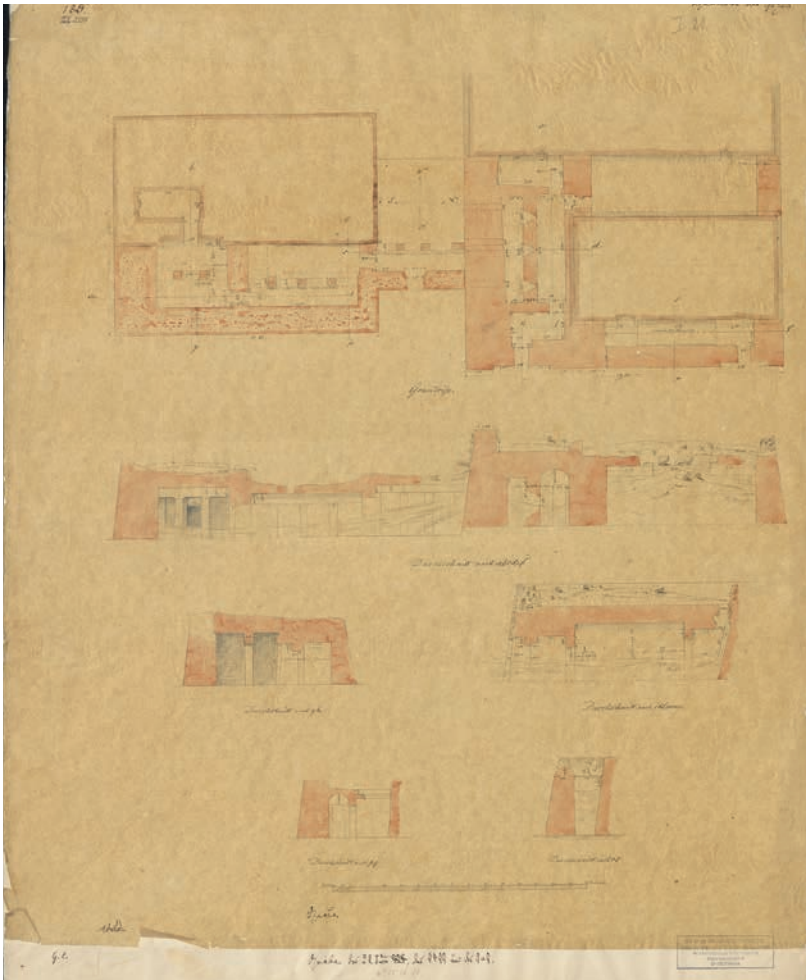
Neues Museum, Berlin
Showing until: 7 March 2023



Above: *The members of the expedition on the Cheops pyramid, watercolour, Johann Jakob Frey and Max Weidenbach, October 1842, © State Museums in Berlin, Kupferstichkabinett*

This exhibition provides a new perspective on the famous Prussian expedition down the Nile, which set out from Alexandria in 1842. The show revolves around a range of objects and materials that were brought back from the trip, and looks at the influence they had on the development of the new discipline of Egyptology. Particular attention is paid to everyday working practices, the methodologies applied, and the problems associated with such an undertaking.

Frederick William IV, King of Prussia, was interested in science, art, and the emerging field of Egyptology. During a politically peaceful phase in Central Europe, he commissioned the young Egyptologist Richard Lepsius, to organise an expedition to Egypt. With clear scientific goals, a letter of recommendation, and gifts from the king, Lepsius and other experts set off for the south in 1842. Mehmet Ali Pasha rules Egypt at the time. Striving for independence from the Ottoman rulers in Constantinople, he seeks allies, but not the colonial powers France and England, who want to increase their influence in Egypt. Prussia, the small European power, is by contrast very welcome to him. In September 1842, he grants the expedition a special permit for excavations and the export of antiquities.



Left, top: Old Kingdom tombs near the Pyramids of Giza, ink on tracing paper, Georg Erbkam, 1842/43, © Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences

Left, bottom: Wall from Prince Merib's tomb, watercolor drawing, © Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences

On 9th November 1842 the expedition left Cairo and set up a tented camp at Giza. In this cemetery 106 burials are documented in three months. Located at the foot of the great pyramids of the kings Khufu, Khafre, and Menkaure nearly all date to the Old Kingdom (c. 2600–2200 BCE).

At Giza, the expedition members learn the harshness of camp life. The performance of their work is all the more remarkable. Georg Erbkam draws a map of the entire huge site. The draftsmen record the tombs wall by wall. This type of documentation is new and remains to this day standard for tomb and temple decorations. Max Weidenbach takes on the special task of adding the hieroglyphic inscriptions to all drawings, guaranteeing an equally high quality for the copies.

Ten men – from Prussia, England, and Switzerland – form the core of this expedition up the Nile. Their special skills and personalities must combine to complete the work ahead successfully. Egyptologist Lepsius takes two architects, five draftsmen, a plaster shaper, and a clergyman with him on the journey.

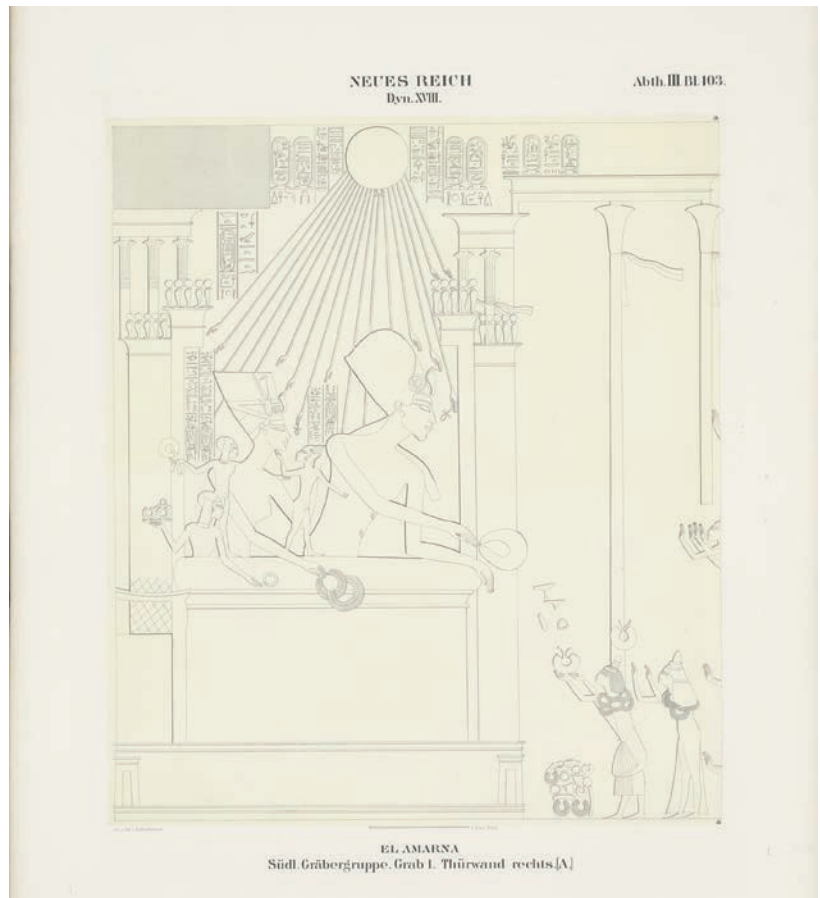
On 18 September 1842, all the members of the Royal Prussian Expedition met up at the harbour of Alexandria, before diving into the world of the Orient. For the next three years, they would investigate the antiquities to be found along the Nile. Their mission was to lay the foundations for a new scholarly discipline. It had been 20 years since Jean-François Champollion's had deciphered Egyptian hieroglyphics, making the inscriptions of this ancient culture on the banks of the Nile legible and comprehensible again.

At the time, Egyptology was still in its infancy. But that would soon change – in no small part thanks to the findings of this expedition. From




Right, top: Akhenaten and Nefertiti in the window of appearance, Amarna, lithography, © Lepsius, Denkmäler III, 103

Right, bottom: "Memorial stele", Otto Georgi and Georg Erbkam, December 1844, pen drawing, © State Museums in Berlin, Kupferstichkabinett / Dietmar Katz



1849 to 1859, the groundbreaking scholarly documentation of the research trip was published in 12 enormous volumes, featuring 894 illustrated plates; a monumental project that was funded by Frederick William IV. And from 1850 onwards, the Egyptian objects brought back by the expedition were displayed to the Berlin public at the Neues Museum.

Before this expedition, no other major national venture had been able to advance so far south. Lepsius and Abeken followed the course of the Blue Nile past Sennar into the tropical regions of present-day Sudan. They were searching for Egyptian artefacts, but also collected animals and acquired everyday objects from the region.

This special exhibition is organised by the Ägyptisches Museum und Papyrussammlung – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin in collaboration with the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities's Ancient Egyptian Dictionary Project Archive and the Ernst-Litfaß-Schule – OSZ Mediengestaltung und Medientechnologie. 



“Once-in-a-lifetime” 1,300-year-old gold and gemstone necklace discovered within internationally significant female burial

Artefact in Early Medieval female burial dating 630-650 CE in Northamptonshire is thought to be a major discovery

Archaeologists from MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) have uncovered an astonishing 1,300-year-old necklace in Northamptonshire. The discovery was made during excavations that took place ahead of a Vistry Group housing development, supported by Archaeological Consultants, RPS.

This necklace is the richest of its type ever uncovered in Britain with at least a staggering 30 pendants and beads made of Roman coins, gold, garnets, glass and semi-precious stones. It was found as part of a high-status female burial containing other intriguing grave goods that are still being investigated. The collection of finds has been dubbed the ‘Harpole Treasure’, based on the name of the local parish. Experts believe this is the most significant female burial from the era ever discovered in Britain.

MOLA Site Supervisor, Levente-Bence Balázs, who led a team of 5 that made the discovery says: “When the first glints of gold started to emerge from the soil we knew this was something significant. However, we didn’t quite realise how special this was going to be. We are lucky to be able to use modern methods of analysis on the finds and surrounding burial to gain a much deeper insight into the life of



this person and their final rites.”

A rectangular pendant with a cross motif forms the centrepiece of the necklace and is the largest and most intricate element. Made of red garnets set in gold, MOLA specialists believe it was originally half of a hinged clasp before it was re-used.

The burial also contained two decorated pots and a shallow copper dish. However, x-rays taken on blocks of soil lifted from the grave revealed a further tantalising find - a striking and elaborately decorated cross, featuring highly unusual depictions

of human faces cast in silver. The soil blocks are currently being micro-excavated by MOLA Conservators, but this large and ornate piece suggests the woman may have been an early Christian leader.

The skeleton itself has fully decomposed (with the exception of tiny fragments of tooth enamel). However, the combination of grave goods suggest this was a very devout high status woman such as an abbess, royalty, or perhaps even both.

RPS Archaeology Consultant Simon Mortimer says: “This find is truly a once-in-a-lifetime discovery – the sort of thing you read about in textbooks and not something you expect to see coming out of the ground in front of

you. It shows the fundamental value of developer-funded archaeology. Vistry’s planned development provided a unique opportunity to investigate this site. Had they not funded this work this remarkable burial may never have been found.”

Painstaking work is being undertaken by MOLA Conservators to examine and conserve the finds. This includes identifying and recording traces of organic remains within the burial and on the surface of the artefacts. It is possible the deceased was placed on a bed within the grave



Right: Harpole burial reconstruction. © MOLA (Hugh Gatt).

Left: Collection of pendants from the necklace © MOLA (Andy Chopping)

Below: Necklace layout with artefacts (left) and Necklace reconstruction (right).© MOLA (Hugh Gatt).

and traces of soft furnishings may be found. Analysis could also detect residues that show how artefacts were used in life or in the burial ritual.


Surprisingly, the area surrounding the elite burial was completely unremarkable. One other burial was present nearby but did not contain any high-status grave goods nor has been firmly dated. Having surveyed the entire site, archaeologists are confident there is nothing else to find.

A handful of similar necklaces from this time have previously been discovered in other regions of England, but none are as ornate as Harpole. The closest parallel is the Desborough necklace, found in Northamptonshire in 1876 and now in the British Museum's collections.

Daniel Oliver, Regional Technical Director at Vistry West Midlands says: "Vistry are pleased to confirm that these internationally important artefacts will be gifted to the nation and any rights to the Treasure have been waived. We are very conscious of the legacy that we leave amongst the communities that we build. Having personally seen this Treasure on site I couldn't be more excited to see how

much more has been learned already – it is amazing."

The Harpole Treasure will be featured in BBC Two's *Digging for Britain*, where Professor Alice Roberts will be getting an exclusive look at this extraordinary find and delving deeper into the ongoing conservation and analysis. The new series starts on BBC Two in early January 2023.

Liz Mordue, Archaeological Advisor for West Northamptonshire Council concludes: "This is an exciting find which will shed considerable light on the significance of Northamptonshire in the Saxon period. It also serves as a reminder of the importance of archaeology in the planning and development process." 



Notre Dame's uncovered tombs start to reveal their secrets

Two sarcophagi discovered after the fire of Notre Dame were opened and examined in December 2022



Above: A lead sarcophagus surrounded by 19th century heating flues.

Next page, clockwise from top left: The plaque on the sarcophagus of Chanoine de la Porte; The two sarcophagi were transported to the forensic institute of the Toulouse University Hospital for expertise by its staff and its state-of-the-art medical imaging equipment allowing for rapid studies (histology, microscopes, CT scans, X-rays); View of unnamed body with the sawed skull; The contents of the coffins are studied in detail; Remains of flowers were found inside the coffin.

In December 2022, a report on the excavations of the transept intersection of the Cathedral of Notre Dame, which took place between February 2nd and April 8th 2022, was published.


Two lead sarcophagi had been discovered, and the report provided initial information about them, along with data on the construction and evolution of the cathedral - including elements of the medieval rood screen - and the burials.

One sarcophagi had an inscription “cY EST LE CORPS DE MESSIRE ANTOINE DE LA PORTE CHANOINE DE L’EGLISE [word deleted] DECEDE LE 24 DECEMBER 1710 EN SA 83E ANNEE. RESQUIETCAT IN PACE”. Nicknamed the “Canon Jubilee”, this rich prelate participated financially in the reorganization of the choir enclosure of Notre-Dame he was buried surrounded by the remains related to the destruction of the medieval rood screen. On his sarcophagus were placed three medals in his effigy representing him in profile.

His coffin was not intact and the oxygen supply had decomposed the organic tissue over the years. However, all his bones were preserved as well as his hair and beard. More rarely, archaeologists were able to collect textile remains. For archaeologists and anthropologists, this rare identification made it possible to compare his biography with the observations of his bone remains.

The individual in the other lead coffin brought to light during the excavation remains anonymous for the moment. Also subject to the destructive effects of oxygen, this sarcophagus did not yield any organic tissue. Surprisingly, the sarcophagus seems to have been moulded onto the body of the deceased.

As revealed by an endoscopic camera, the coffin contained remains of the shroud as well numerous remnants of leaves and flowers near the skull, probably originating from a crown of flowers. Other leaves were found near his abdomen. His funerary treatment differs radically from that of the canon of La Porte and suggests an aristocratic status. In effect, while all the bones are preserved, the skull is sawed, indicating a different mortuary treatment: he was embalmed, which will perhaps be confirmed by the analysis of the foliage, which contains several embalming plants. The skeleton is that of a man between 25 and 40 years of age, an equestrian since his youth, with marked physical activity of the upper limbs.

More information will be revealed later this year. 



Archaeologists Discover Huge Lost Civilization in Guatemala

A new survey has revealed nearly 1,000 Maya settlements, with pyramids, that date back more than 2,000 years.

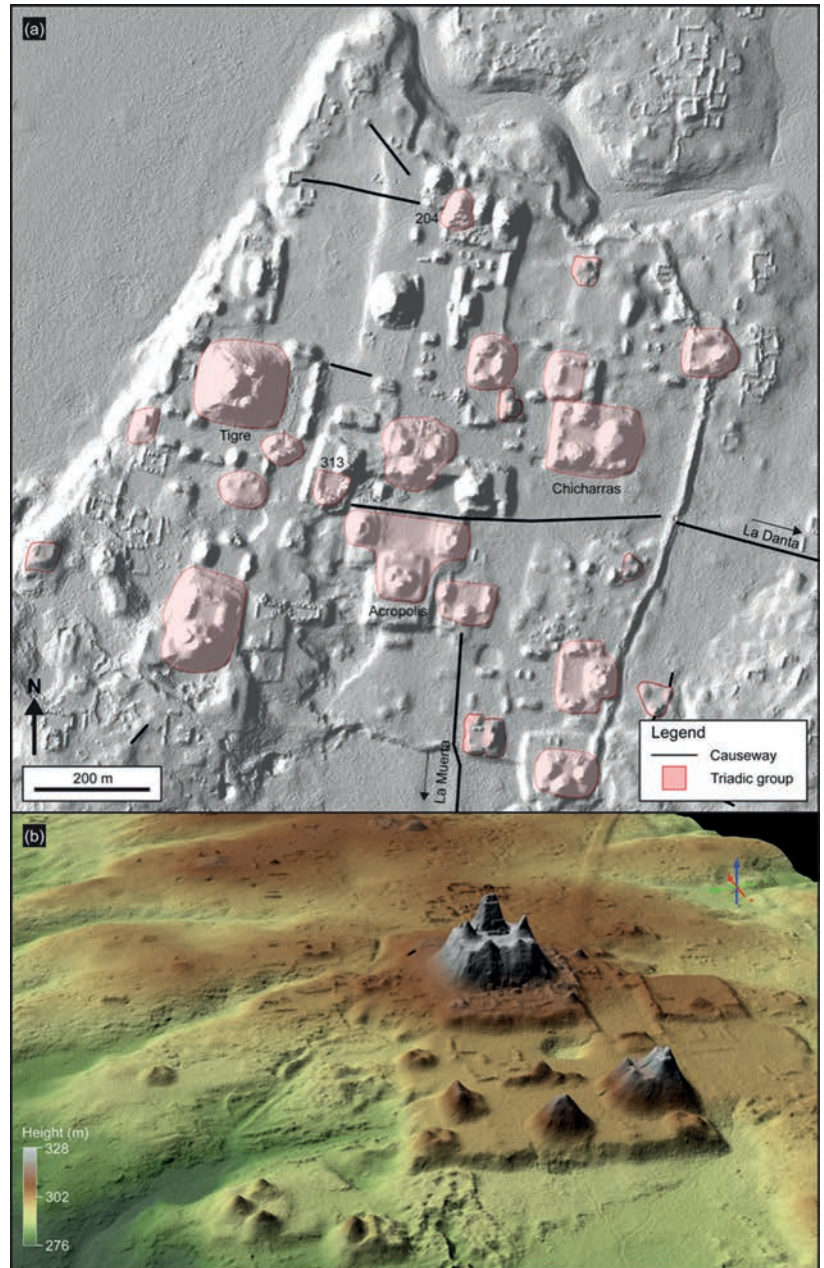
Archaeologists have discovered the ruins of a vast ancient Maya civilization that flourished more than 2,000 years ago in northern Guatemala, reports a new study. This long-lost urban web encompassed nearly 1,000 settlements across 650 square miles, linked by an immense causeway system, which was mapped out with airborne laser instruments, known as LiDAR.

The results of the LiDAR survey “unveiled a remarkable density of Maya sites” in Guatemala’s Mirador-Calakmul Karst Basin (MCKB) that “challenges the old notion of sparse early human occupation” in this area during the “Preclassical” period spanning 1,000 BCE to 150 CE, according to a study published this month in the journal *Cambridge Core*.

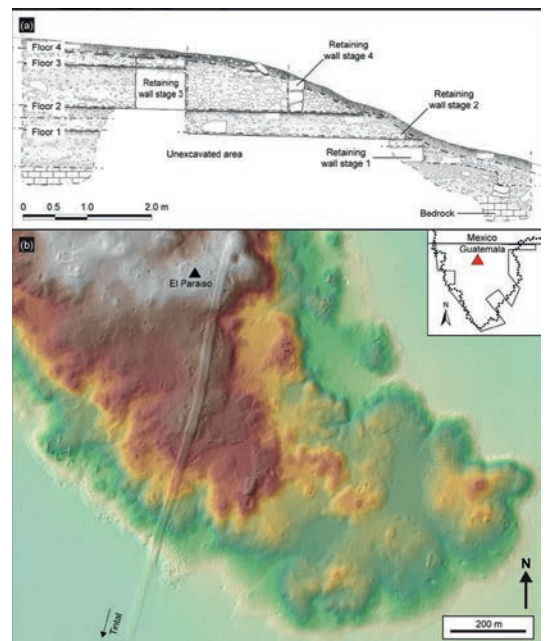
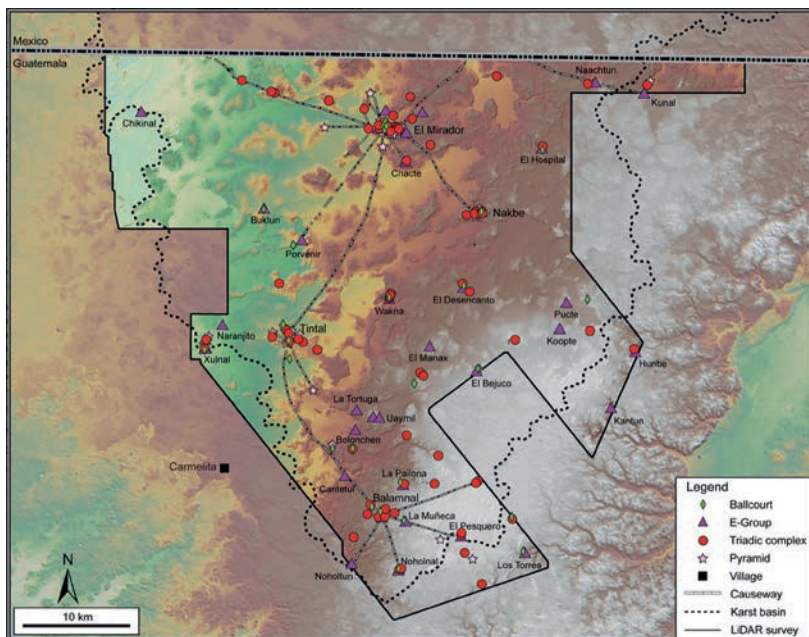
Scientists led by Richard Hansen, an archaeologist at Idaho State University and the director of the Mirador Basin Project, offer “an introduction to one of the largest, contiguous, regional LiDAR studies published to date in the Maya Lowlands,” a region that covers parts of Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize, according to the study.

“The LiDAR survey revealed an extraordinary density and distribution of Maya sites concentrated in the MCKB, many of them linked directly or indirectly by a vast causeway network” that includes 110 miles of raised roads, the researchers continued, noting that the sprawling civilization hints at “labour investments that defy organizational capabilities of lesser polities and potentially portray the strategies of governance in the Preclassic period.”

LiDAR is a remote-sensing technology that bounces lasers off of surfaces in order to generate detailed maps that are based on the time it takes for the pulses to return to a receiver.



Above: Triadic structures in El Mirador: (a) LiDAR image showing triadic structures in the civic center of El Mirador (Tigre pyramid is the largest in this section of the city); (b) LiDAR 3D view showing the pyramidal complex of La Danta, located on the east side of the civic center at El Mirador.



This method has revolutionized archaeology, among many other fields, because it can expose signs of past human activity that may be buried under dense vegetation—a very common problem for Maya researchers—or is otherwise undetectable to traditional fieldwork on the ground.

Hansen and his colleagues flew airborne LiDAR devices over the MCKB for years at altitudes of about 2,000 feet to search for hidden traces of ancient settlements. To their delight, the survey uncovered “dense concentrations of new and previously unknown contemporaneous sites” including “massive platform and pyramid constructions” that suggest the presence of a centralized and complex political structure, according to the study.

These constructions include dozens of ballcourts for playing Mesoamerican sports and a complex water management system of canals and reservoirs. The team also probed the remains of the 230-foot-tall pyramid of Danta, located in the Maya metropolis of El Mirador,

which served as a major public attraction and the epicentre for several causeways.

“Depending on the natural configurations of the bedrock below the structure, the entire building could have had as much as 6,000,000 to 10,000,000 person-days of labour, exceeding the capacity of polities of lower hierarchical political and economic status, and suggesting a high level of organization as the socio-political and economic patron of such prodigious growth,” Hansen and his colleagues said in the study.

The dazzling new discovery sheds light on the people who lived in the bustling cities of this forested basin for more than 1,000 years. Hansen and his team hope that future research will continue to unlock the secrets of this ancient civilization, and perhaps discover new settlements that have remained hidden for many centuries.

“The skeleton of the ancient political and economic structure as a kingdom-state in the Middle and Late Preclassic periods has a tantalizing presence in the Mirador-Calakmul Karst Basin,” the team concluded. 📄

Above, left: Monumental architecture map of the southern MCKB with ballcourts, E-Groups, triadic complexes, causeways, pyramids, and modern villages. Background color represents terrain elevation with lowest elevations in light blue-green, gradually increasing to higher elevations in browns, and highest elevations in white. Digital elevation data: ALOS World 3D (AW3D30), Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (<https://www.eorc.jaxa.jp/ALOS/en/aw3d30/>), and FARES LiDAR.

Above, right: Detailed LiDAR image of the Mirador-Tintal causeway: (a) profile of Op. 500-A, excavation of the Mirador-Tintal causeway, showing the stratigraphic sequences of the construction phases with four floors (after Hernández-Salazar Reference Hernández-Salazar2021:129; Hernández et al. Reference Hernández, Schreiner, Morales-Aguilar, Arroyo and Salinas2013:950); (b) LiDAR image of Gavilan “El Paraiso” Island in the Bajo Carrizal, located south of El Mirador, showing the large Preclassic causeway. Background color represents terrain elevation with lowest elevations in light blue and gradually increasing to highest elevations in browns and white.



Beyond Machu Picchu, Choquequirao:

Lost City
in the Clouds

Choquequirao is truly the lost city of the Incas and little sister to the more well known Machu Picchu. Whilst this site is new to the tourist map, **Gary Ziegler** has been exploring the area for over twenty years.

The first rays of morning sunlight illuminate the great stone altar, streaming through a square opening over my head. “Inti camac sumac” chants the priest. Soaked in sweat, I fight the bindings holding me to the stone as the grinning, looming, scarlet-cloaked figure slowly brings down a gleaming, bloodstained bronze knife toward my heaving chest.

“Jefe, buenos dias - cafe” ?

Startled suddenly awake, I thankfully greet a smiling Pancho, our camp cook handing a cup of wake up coffee through the tent door. Whew - I make a silent oath to myself to avoid the second round of Piscos that we had passed around the campfire last night.

We are on our way back to the mysterious and magnificent, mountain Inca city that has been the focus of my research and explorations in the remote cloud-forested Andes of Peru for many years and numerous expeditions. I am travelling with an interesting group of ethno-botanists. Our objective is to identify plants and trees that may have been introduced by the Inca residents and may still live on in the tangled vegetation surrounding the recently cleared stone walls and buildings.

There is always something more to learn at the Inca’s second Machu Picchu.

The Inca royal estate and ceremonial complex, Choquequirao is perched majestically at 9,800 feet of elevation on a cloud-forested ridge of a glaciated 17,700 foot peak.

The traditionally sacred, Apurimac River, reportedly the longest headwater source of the Amazon, roars through a deep canyon some 5000 feet below. The site lies 61 miles west of Cusco in the rugged, remote Vilcabamba range of the Peruvian Andes, far distant from roads, trains

and the tourist hordes that mob Choquequirao’s famous sister estate, Machu Picchu.

Lost city

Choquequirao remains one of the great, rewarding travel destinations of the Americas which still retains some of the excitement and discovery experience of the past.

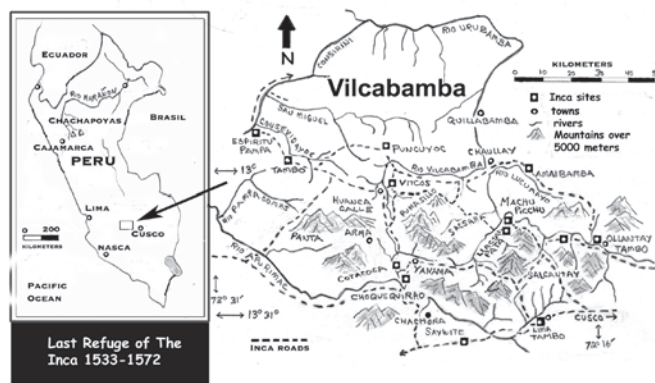
It is a truly ‘lost city’ abandoned sometime around 1572 when the holdout last Inca ruler, Tupac Amaru was captured in the distant jungles, dragged back to Cusco and executed by Spanish colonial authorities. The ancient houses, temples, canals and walls were soon reclaimed by the silent, green, primeval forest only to be rediscovered and revealed in recent times. Located on the far, unpopulated and geographically hostile side of the immense Apurimac Canyon, the region remained disconnected from the farms, villages and roads of developing Peru.

It is little known that Yale professor Hiram Bingham, the now famous scientific discoverer of Machu Picchu in 1911, was inspired to launch his return to Peru and archaeological explorations

Left: Choquequirao, lost city in the clouds

Right: Map showing Vilcabamba area and sites

(All images © Gary Ziegler)





after a visit to Choquequirao in 1909. Bingham visited Choquequirao twice, the second time with a crew of surveyors, cartographers and specialists to produce the first map and scientific description.

During the early 1990s, the Peruvian government took an interest, beginning a careful archaeological and restoration project that continues today. In 1995, a new trail and foot bridge crossing the Apurimac was completed giving more access to adventurous travellers and pack horse supported, small tour groups contributing to the income and employment of enterprising local families.

The previous year I had arrived for the first time with a filming expedition, reopening the long, multi-day trail across the rugged highlands from Machu Picchu with picks, shovels and machetes. Now twenty years later, I am returning yet again to contemplate Choquequirao's mysteries and matchless beauty, trekking in by the shorter, two day route from the road head near the community of Cachora.

University of Colorado archeoastronomer, Kim Malville and I recently published my life's work in the Andes and our studies together of Choquequirao in a new book entitled *Machu Picchu's Sacred Sister's, Choquequirao and Llactapata*. The book focuses on similarities with Machu Picchu concluding that Choquequirao was modelled and geo-cosmically located after its older ceremonial sister.

We describe our collective findings and contributions of colleagues in detail with a few adventures thrown in from journeys as well. The chapters cover main and outlying groups, architectural features, construction techniques, probable usage, function and how the Inca design

incorporates Andean astronomy and the sacred landscape.

In brief, we suggest that Choquequirao was designed and constructed during the reign of the Inca, Topa Yupanki, sometime in the late 15th century, modelled after his father, Pachachuti's estate, Machu Picchu.

Topa Inca's own Machu Picchu

Topa Inca had Choquequirao built as his own Machu Picchu. Experience from field investigations indicates Inca monumental sites were carefully planned and designed according to astronomical alignments, precisely placed in relationship to sacred rivers, mountains, and celestial phenomena. Choquequirao fits this view. It was uniquely located at a convergence of sacred terrain features with celestial events most important to the Inca state religion and Andean tradition, in particular, the June and December solstices.

Like Machu Picchu, important, high-status construction is centred on a ridge top with a higher mountain behind and a lower distinctive promontory in front with a sacred river flowing below in view. Each hosts a series of fountains or baths passing through ridge top groups.

During the height of the Inca empire, 1450-1526, both Choquequirao and Machu Picchu would likely have served as a provincial administrative centre. There is reasonable evidence that Machu Picchu and Choquequirao may have also provided a seasonal pilgrimage destination for regional state-sponsored ceremonial events.

It is easy to envision a great procession of corn beer, chicha drinking pilgrims singing and chanting,

Above: Hurin temple with gateway leading to the Usnu hill

Right, top: Detailed map of Choquequirao

Right, bottom: Close up of Llama terrace

Overleaf, left page: Houses at Casa de Cascada

Overleaf, right page, top: Main group of houses at Sacerdotes

Right, middle: The position of Choquequirao in the mountains.

Right, bottom: The trail to Choquequirao

Only a few hundred visit during the dry season as compared to more than two thousand daily at Machu Picchu

conchs blowing, melodic flutes forlornly playing, drums reverberating from the canyon walls as the outer gate is approached. Pots and cups are ritually broken and offerings, borne in for the mountain spirits, apus, are piled about as the ceremony starts, carefully choreographed by richly dressed attendant priests.

Evidence that coca was widely grown, coca store houses, llama pens and a unique llama train mural, support Choquequirao as an important coca growing and distribution centre. Intensive cultivation, ongoing construction and maintenance would have required a large resident population.

Remains of a large settlement of simple, round, wood dwellings contained by low stone walls is situated on a several square mile area above an outlying temple water shrine, Pinchaunuyoc. These would have housed the needed workers well away from privileged resident Inca administrators, attendants, and main group temples.

Visiting Choquequirao

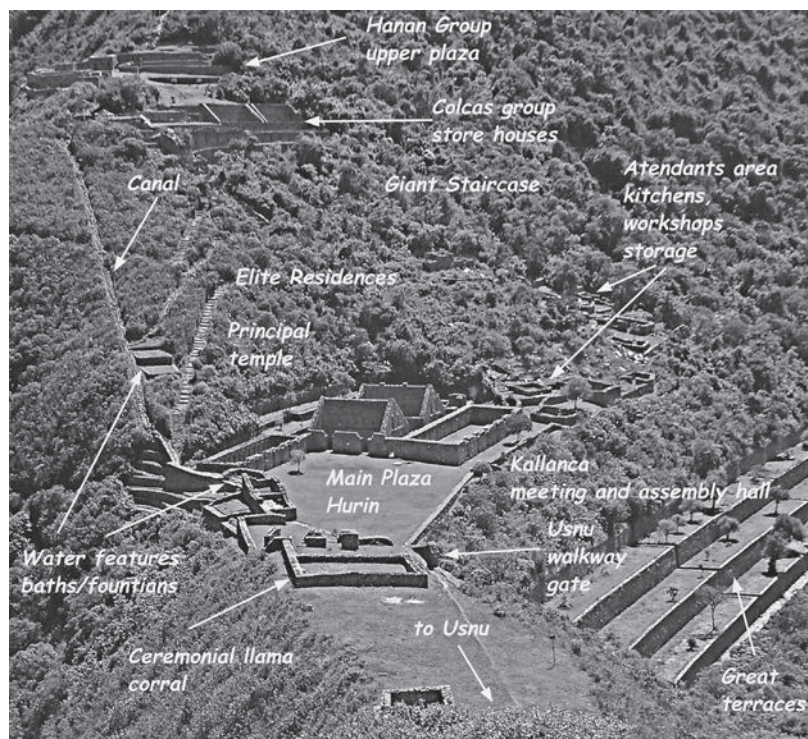
One of the rewards of visiting Choquequirao is that it has remained well off the beaten path. Only a few hundred visit during the dry season as compared to more than two thousand daily at Machu Picchu. Arriving by the shortest route requires two days of strenuous hiking.

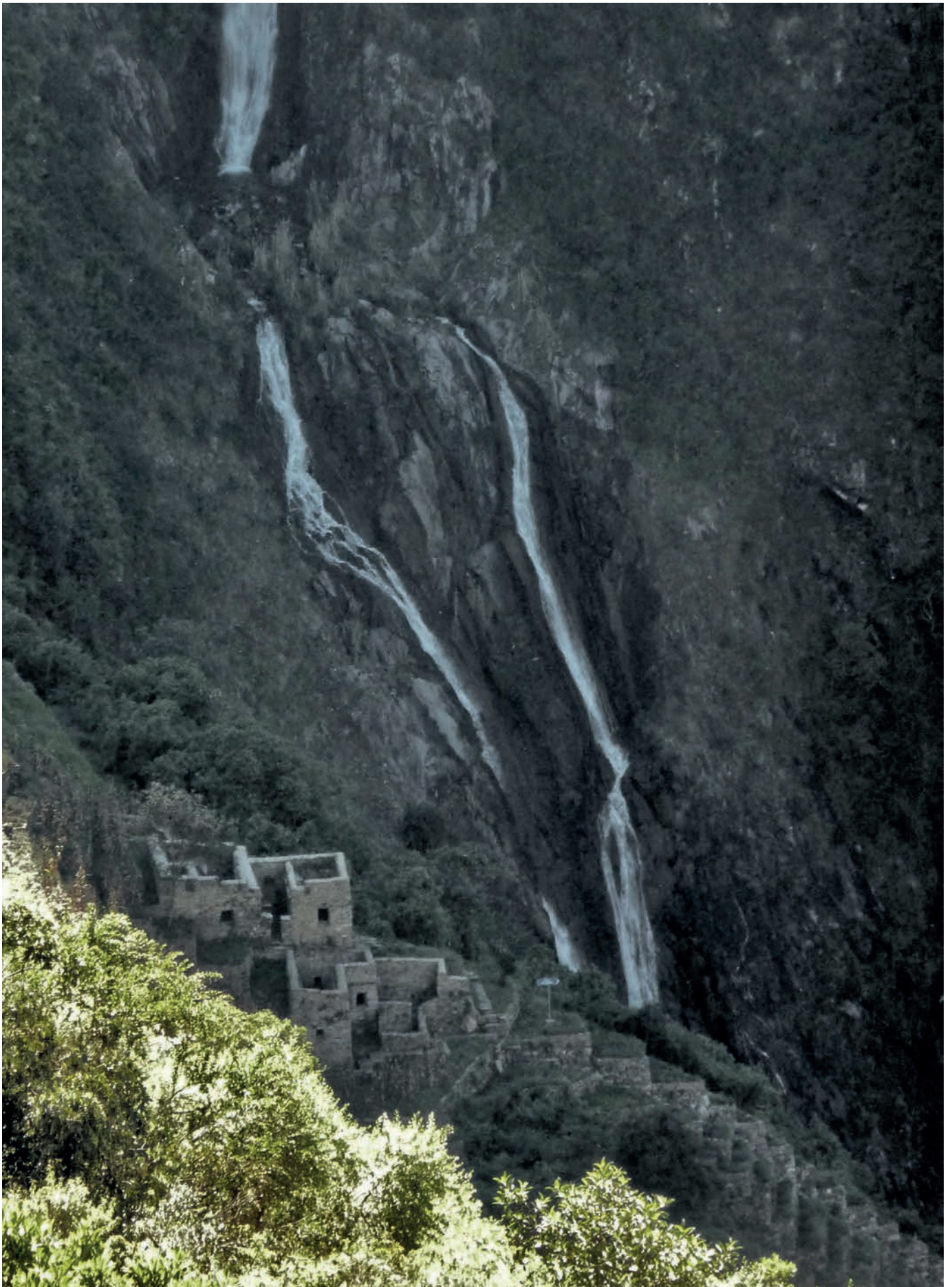
Descending into the deep Apurimac then back up some 4,500 feet to reach the site is like crossing Arizona's Grand Canyon.

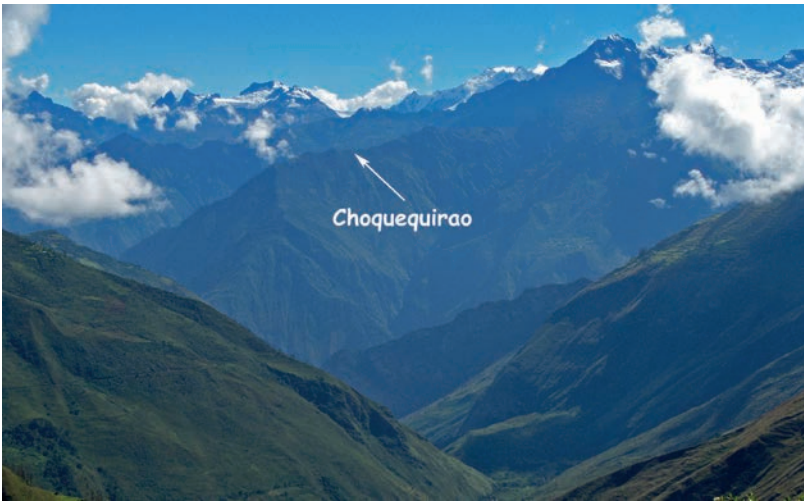
One either carries a heavy backpack or hires local packers to bring the needed supplies with horses or mules. The best solution is to sign on with one of the Cusco based trekking agencies that regularly take small groups of 2-6 there during the dry season months of April into December.

It is possible to ride a horse most of the way but good horses are hard to come by. Most of the local packer stock is not up to standards of safety and dependability nor well cared for. Some trekking agencies are marginal. A good test is the cost. If it seems really cheap there is a reason. Carefully researching and checking references before signing on is recommended.

Travelling from Cusco, allow the better part of a







day to arrive at Cachora. As of this writing, it takes five to six hours. The highway access regularly slides away with slow, repair-created detours and hosts increasing heavy truck traffic. Some of the route has returned to pot holes and extreme dust. No solution has appeared to solve these delays. Highways can't be built to hold on steep, unstable, Andean mountain slopes. Of course the Inca knew this and carefully placed their foot and pack llama-travelled roads up, down and around where modern roads won't work.

The Cachora road turns off the mostly-paved Central highway just past the Inca monument, Saihuite to wind down several thousand feet to the community. There are a few small, rustic places to stay with basic Andean food; chicken, soups and beer.

The small community of Cachora is set in a lush, broad valley leading down to an immensely steep drop to the Apurimac River. Agriculture and travel in the valley goes back to pre-Inca times. The present colonial-period community was established as a part of Hernando Pizarro's holdings or *encomienda* in the mid 1500s. Life here was pretty much unchanged until the Maoist terrorist group, Sendero Luminoso took violent control in the 1980s. Many villagers with training or education were rounded up and executed as a preliminary to establishing absolute control.

I heard these horror stories when visiting there just after government troops and national police evicted the Senderos following the capture of Sendero leader Abimael Guzman in 1992. Work at Choquequirao and growing tourism has put the community back on track.

Two day trek

Although serious trekkers can reach the camp at Choquequirao in one horrendous, long day, two days is the reasonable norm. A minimum of six days should be allowed for a visit and round trip from Cachora. The usually well-maintained trail follows along the rim of the Apurimac canyon with considerable up and down before finally dropping steeply to the river and bridge.

There are two suitable places to camp. The first is high up before the drop to the river. Someone has built a couple of shelters there, cold showers



Above: View of fabulous Llama terrace

and piped in water. There are ample, flat places for tents.

Usually someone is there to sell beer or Inca Kola. The second camp is at the river. The government agency, COPESCO built a structure for housing workers while building the bridge. As of this writing it has been renovated and is serviceable. There are plenty of tent sites and one can cool off in the river. It is hot at an altitude of around 5000 feet.

The vegetation looks like Sonoran Desert, cactus and thorny acacia trees. Small biting gnats lurk in ambush so bring repellent, long sleeves and a closable tent. The trail switchbacks steeply up after the bridge, climbing steadily until arriving at Choquequirao. Several small farms, chacras, are passed along the way and higher up are small clusters of houses, fields and corrals. A campsite with water and a latrine has been built about an hour or so from the archaeological complex where one can camp for a small fee.

Just before reaching the edge of the designated zone, the government INC, now renamed the

Ministry of Culture, (MC), has placed a small toll booth where a fee is collected. As of our last visit, it was forty Soles which is probably justified by the new camping site with flush toilets and a cold water shower house. From the camp, It is easy to follow the pathways around the main groups which are marked by signs.

Upon arrival at Choquequirao, one should allow several days to explore the site and visit the two most important outlying groups. Our guide book, *Machu Picchu's Sacred Sisters*, [published by Johnson Books] will help to identify the structures and alignments of the various buildings, walls and features. Llamayoc, the llama mural, can be seen in an hour or two as it is close down from the Lower Plaza.

Visiting the distant groups of Capullyoc, Hurincancha or the Casa de Cascada may require a guide. Pinchaunuyoc, several miles away, requires several thousand feet of climbing down and back up for a round trip. The waterfall group, Casa de Cascada uses up the better part of a day to visit and return. Both are well worth the time.

Choquequirao remains one of the great, rewarding travel destinations...which still retains some of the excitement and discovery experience of the past

Heading for Cusco

The flora study completed we are homeward bound. The day breaks bright and clear, despejado as we say in the equatorial Andes. After a brilliant Andean sunrise, our sunrise photographers return and camp is packed. All mount the rested, energised horses to trot cheerfully along good, near-level, trail traversing high above the roaring Apurimac River below. Later today, we must descend to the river and cross on a swaying cable-suspended box. Some seem to greet this expectation with limited enthusiasm.

Today's journey is comparable to a crossing of the Grand Canyon but by now all are fit and comfortable with long descents and slow, steady climbs. We ride what we can but like me, some walked much of the way, particularly on steep difficult trail. Anyway, it is good to have a trusty, calm mount to hop on when the need moves you. More, we carry no burdensome day packs or gear which is stashed in the saddle bags travelling nearby when needed.

I travel light, wearing running shoes with legs protected for riding by leather gaiters called in the riding trade, half chaps. These serve well for hiking through brush and snake country as well. Several hours travel downhill places us at the trail's end, bridge abutments with forlornly sagging cables and alas, no flooring. The bridge is gone.

An immense rock slide had dammed up the Apurimac just downriver, creating a dam which backed up water to the bridge, destroying planking and lower supports. Choquequirao was effectively closed except for hardy travellers coming and going by the long arduous route in and out via Yanama or by the swinging cable car. This reflects millennia of hard life in the Andes. It has never been easy and the natural environment is cruel to the careless or unfortunate. Civilisations have come and gone here, even for the privileged.

We are happy to just cross the river on whatever means available. That means is an *oroya*, a long cable and a small box-like contraption attached on pulleys with a pull rope to haul one across above the raging rapids. Our trusted horses and pack stock are necessarily left behind. New mounts, sturdy mules and saddle horses await us on the far

bank if we successfully survive the cable crossing which I can happily report we do.

We face bonding with a new wrangler crew and unknown new equines but, this is the stuff of adventure. All rise admirably to the occasion.

We are soon sharing tales in a comfortable camp some distance up from the boggy river bottom on an ancient, pre-Inca, breezy plateau with running water and bottled beer, recently developed as a tourist encampment. They even have a flush toilet marginally in operation although several of us opt for the nearby woods. In any case, the local mosquitos relish the opportunity for exposed bottoms.

Enough time in the wilds - "the bright lights of Cusco are shining like diamonds, like ten thousand jewels in the sky".

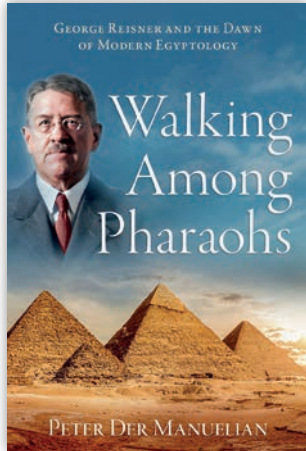
The next morning, we mount up or strike out walking. It is a mere four thousand feet up hill and ten miles to our awaiting transport near the village of Cachora. We get it done without mishap. Evening finds us enjoying a late meal in Cusco's favourite pub, noted British ornithologist Barry Walker's *Cross Keys*. It was a great, successful adventure...

Maybe I will have that second Pisco? ●

This article first appeared in *Timeless Travels* Magazine. Dedicated to those who love history, archaeology, travel and art, the magazine was published between 2014-2020. All issues can still be downloaded and read today.

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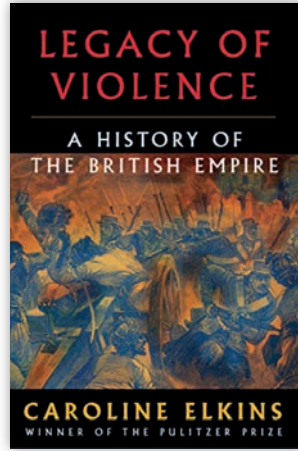
Walking Among Pharaohs:
George Reisner & the Dawn
of Modern Egyptology

Peter der Manuelian
OUP
Published: December 2022

In this expansive new biography of George Reisner, Egyptologist Peter Der Manuelian examines the life and work of America’s greatest archaeologist. Manuelian presents Reisner’s undeniable impact and considers his life within the context of Western colonialism, racism, and nationalism.

Reisner (1867-1942) had a most remarkable career that revolutionized archaeological method. Leading the Harvard University-Boston Museum of Fine Arts Expedition, Reisner put American Egyptology on the world stage. His uniquely American success story unfolded despite British control of Egyptian politics, French control of Egyptian antiquities, and an Egypt yearning for independence.

This large volume, filled with photographs, draws expertly on a range of sources, which enables Manuelian to bring George Reisner, his ideas, and his times, brilliantly to life. This is a ‘must have’ volume for anyone interested in Egyptology.



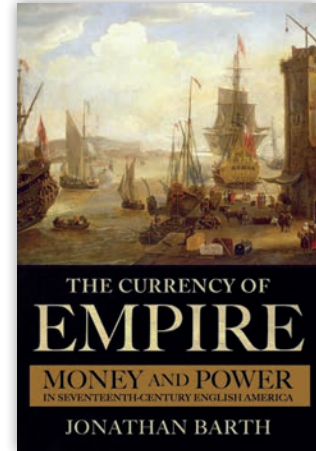
Legacy of Violence:
A History of the British Empire

Caroline Elkins
Knopf
Published: 2022

This book is an impressive and sweeping history of the British Empire from the late 18th to the early 21st centuries. Because Caroline Elkins proposes that British imperial rule relied on the legalisation and state-sanctioned violence, this book functions as an essential and timely intervention into contemporary conversations about the legacy of British imperialism.

This book tells the history of what historians call the “second British Empire” - the imperial developments that took shape after the disastrous loss of the rebellious American colonies in 1783 - through the lenses of imperialism and the violence that it has caused. Elkins analyzes imperial violence in Ireland, Palestine, Kenya, India, Jamaica, Cyprus, South Africa, and many other regions, and starts with the trial of Warren Hastings in 1787 and ends in the 21st century. In this regard, *Legacy of Violence* is a remarkable synthesis of two decades of scholarship about the British Empire.

[Read full review>>](#)



The Currency of Empire:
Money & Power in 17th
Century English America

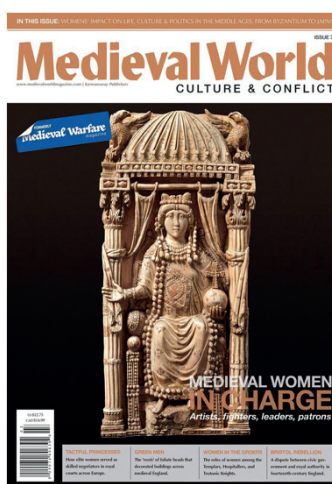
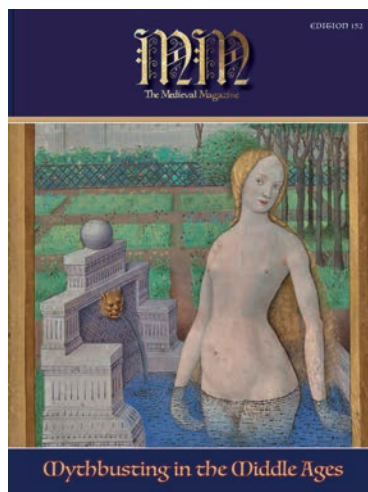
Jonathan Barth
Cornell University Press
Published: 2021

Barth shares new research on England’s imperial policies and the colonists’ responses to them during the first 100 years of the empire between the 1600s and the 1700s.

He argues that England expanded its empire overseas throughout the 1600s in order to collect precious metals and wealth, and that colonists tolerated economic subordination to England as long as they had political rights.

To prevent the American colonists from secretly trading with French, Dutch, or Spanish merchants for better prices, both the English Crown and Parliament regulated colonial trade through the Navigation Acts of 1660. The Crown also strengthened trade regulations and increased taxes, but won over the colonists by returning political representation to their colonial governments. Using primary sources throughout, this book fills the gap in the historiography regarding the colonists’ acquiescence and resistance to England before the American Revolution in the 1760s. [Read full review>>](#)

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