



The PROFILE

April 2006

Jerolyn Morrison to Lecture on Pottery Traditions in Viking Age Denmark

Jerolyn E. Morrison, 2006 American Scandinavian Fellow, will give a presentation on pottery traditions in Viking Age Denmark at the April 14 meeting. Ms. Morrison states, "I'll be discussing how potters in rural North Jutland Denmark used local materials to create their pottery traditions from AD 800-1100. This is an interesting time in history, because there is a political, social, and cultural transition that is happening as chiefdoms are turning into states." Jerolyn Morrison brings a broad background in both anthropology and fine arts to her archeological pursuits. She is a professionally trained potter who is currently getting her MA in archaeology at the University of Houston. Since 1997 she has been working with archaeological teams in Europe (Crete and Denmark). The nature of her current research is interdisciplinary, involving aspects of geology, ecology, history, anthropology, and archaeology. Additionally, she draws heavily upon her experience and skills in the fine arts and as a professionally trained potter to provide a practical and informative context for artifacts from past

cultures. Ms. Morrison finds that pursuing this sort of holistic approach to research allows for the exploration of both the technical and functional aspects of an object, as well as the aesthetic ones. This results in a more complete understanding of the philosophical and humanitarian aspects of a culture.

Her Master's research is associated with Dr. T.L. Thurston's *The North Jutland Survey and Excavation*, which is funded by the National Science Foundation (Grant #SBR0314407). Ms. Morrison's contribution is groundbreaking and novel ceramic research, which has resulted in her appointment as an American Scandinavia Fellow for 2006.

As always, the April 14 meeting will be held in Anderson Hall on the quadrangle of the University of St. Thomas at 7:30p.m. For a detailed map, visit the HAS website at www.houstonarcheology.org (Anyone wishing to deliver a presentation at a future meeting should contact Michael Bailey at mbailey@beamans.com.)

The Month of April

April is the month for regeneration. The name is believed to come from the Latin word *apertum*, meaning the "open" season or beginning of warmth for the body and spirit. This month the ancient Romans honored the goddess, Venus, the giver of life, and celebrated sacred rebirth and the return of spring. Eggs have symbolized this time of year since prehistoric times and the tradition is carried on today during Easter celebrations. —Fred Kelly



Fresco of Venus in a Shell, found in a Pompeian garden, at the House of Venus Marina, 62 C.E.

Opportunities Abound

Opportunities to serve the cause of archaeology, as well as the Houston Archeological Society, are coming up this spring.

One project that promises to have great impact on Houston schoolchildren is a joint effort in cooperation with the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA), Houston Chapter. The AIA is going after grant money to create a multi-week educational unit on archaeology for third-grade students in the Houston Independent School District. The program would end with some type of field work suitable for this age group, and AIA has asked HAS to plan and participate in the field work unit. The first year for the program will be spring semester 2007 at one or two elementary schools, with gradual expansion to other schools each subsequent year. We would expect to train a core group of HISD personnel to carry out the program in future years, with HAS acting in an advisory role after the first year or two. We already have three people who have volunteered to help plan this event, but we could use more. If interested, please don't hesitate to let me know.

A second opportunity is the annual audit of HAS books for the year 2005. If you did not serve on the Board last year, and you know how to balance a checkbook, then you are a candidate to serve on this committee. It doesn't require that you be an accounting whiz or a bookkeeper, and it will take only a couple of hours of your time. We need three volunteers for this opportunity, so please come forward!

A third opportunity is coming soon: the opportunity to be a member of the Nominating Committee. We need at least three people to serve in this capacity as well. There are no special qualifications noted in the Constitution or Rules, but it helps if (1) you know a number of HAS members and their skills, and (2) you don't plan to run for office yourself for the 2006-07 year. The slate of nominees must be presented to the membership in September, so this committee will likely start its work in July. Please let me know if you are interested in this important committee.

I look forward to being deluged with volunteers in the near future! -- *Linda Swift*

Leland Patterson to Receive the Friends of Archaeology Trowel Award

The first annual Trowel Award of the Friends of Archaeology will be presented to Leland Patterson. The award, in memory of late Friend Hugh Goodrich, is being awarded to an outstanding Texas Archeologist for achievement and dedication to the discipline. Join the Friends of Archaeology for the

presentation on April 23rd at 7:00 PM prior to the **18th Annual Shiffick Distinguished Lecture, Celebrating Archaeology: An Engine of Ingenuity**, by Dr. John Lienhard, of the University of Houston and National Public Radio fame, at Jones Auditorium on the Mall. --*Beth Aucoin*

LABORATORY SCHEDULE: April Labs:

Mondays, April 17 and May 1, 7:00 pm., Rice U. Archeology Lab, Sewall Hall, Room 103. **May Labs:** Mondays, May 15 and May 29.

HAS LIBRARY: Open on Friday, April 14 from 6:30PM to 7:20PM, 3907 Yoakum Blvd.

March 10 Meeting Minutes: Linda Swift, HAS President, announced there will be no business meeting. The program featured Dr. Vaughn Bryant Jr. of Texas A&M University, on using paleobotany in archeology.



ARCHEOLOGY. . . LIFE IN THE *PAST* LANE

- "Links to Teotihuacán" by Dr. Dirk van Tuerenhout of the Houston Museum of Natural Science, Archeological Institute of America, 7:00 PM, Thursday, May 11th, at the Italian Cultural Center, 1101 Milford.
- **New!!! TAS Student Scholarships** for the annual meeting. The annual meeting will be held in San Angelo, October 20-22, 2006. To apply for the \$275 scholarship, visit www.txarch.org for an online application or to download the application in a PDF format for mail-in. The deadline is September 1st.
- **The 2006 Colorado Rock Art Association Symposium** will be held May 5-7 in Monte Vista, CO. For registration information contact Suzi Martineau, Symposium Coordinator at susanmartineau@gmail.com.
- **Deep in the Heart of Texas: Preservation Makes Cents**", Texas Historical Commission, 2006 Annual Historic Preservation Conference, April 20- 22, the Tremont House, Galveston. Visit www.thc.state.tx.us for details.
- **FROM THE EARTH: Photography and Archeology**, Little Archaeology Gallery Exhibit. The Gallery, located at 3907 Yoakum Boulevard adjacent to the library, is open weekdays, 12-6 PM, and will be open prior to this month's meeting.
- **Texas Tech Field School** will be held May 31- June 29, 2006 at Presidio San Saba in Menard County. The application deadline is May 15. For information contact Dr. Tamra Walter at twalter@ttacs.ttu.edu.

San Jacinto Day Festival and Battle Reenactment

The Festival celebrates the 170th anniversary of the battle. San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Park, April 22, 10 AM-6 PM, Houston/LaPorte. Members of **HAS & TAS** will assist with displays and a "mock dig" for kids. **Buttons** are **needed to**

salt the dig; please bring them to the meeting. A volunteer sign-up sheet will be available at the meeting. For more information, www.sanjacinto-museum.org, 281-479-2421, or Beth Aucoin, 281-480-6151.

University of St. Thomas Appreciates HAS Gift

In March, HAS donated \$500 to the University of St. Thomas Archaeology Program to further archeology related studies and the Friends of Archaeology program. In a letter to HAS President Linda Swift, Fr. Edward Bader, CSB wrote,

"Dear Linda,

I wish to thank you and the members of the Houston Archeological Society for the check of \$500 to support the work of the Archaeology Program here at the University of St. Thomas.

We are very pleased that you have found a "home" at UST, and that we can be of assistance and encouragement to your endeavors. Your generous gift is greatly appreciated."

Linda Swift notes, "HAS has enjoyed a long and mutually beneficial association with the University of St. Thomas, and we are appreciative of the use of their facilities."

Rare Painted Amazon Warrior Head Unearthed

On March 31, 2006, Discovery News reported that a painted marble bust of an Amazon warrior has been discovered near Herculaneum's Basilica. After it was almost completely destroyed in an earthquake, Marcus Nonius Balbus rebuilt the Basilica just 17 years before the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius covered the area in up to 20 feet of hot ash and volcanic rock.

The statue is a rarity because few painted Roman statues remain. This Amazon warrior has detailed

painting on her hair, pupils, and eyebrows. Jane Thompson, project manager of the Herculaneum Conservation Project, told Discovery News that while the nose and mouth are missing, "It has incredibly well -preserved orange-red coloring on the hair and eyes." To see the stunning color and detail on this bust and to learn more about the Herculaneum Conservation Project, visit http://dsc.discovery.com/news/briefs/20060327/popeii_arc.html. (*Discovery News*)

**Please submit articles for publication to Sara Guillote, sguillote@hotmail.com
Submit articles no later than April 30 for the May issue.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ARCHEOLOGY IN THIS AREA, CONTACT THE FOLLOWING:
HAS BOARD MEMBERS**

Linda Swift, President, linda.swift@sbcglobal.net
Michael Bailey, Vice President, mbailey@beamans.com
Karen Acker, Treasurer, tkacker@aol.com
Tom Nuckols, Secretary, annesullivan@andrewskurth.com

Fred Kelly, Director-at-Large, fwkelly@aol.com
Diane Baird, Director-at-Large, diba@houston.rr.com
Richard Carter, Director-at-Large,
richardandwanda@sbcglobal.net

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION STEWARDS

Elizabeth & Pat Aucoin, ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net
Frank Binetti, fkbinetti@houston.rr.com
Bev Mendenhall, bmend2@yahoo.com
R. L. Gregg, rlgregg@worldnet.att.net
Marilyn & Walter Horton, wmhorton@ev1.net
Bob Crosser, 281-341-5251

Don Keyes, keyes_don@hotmail.com
Sheldon Kindall, kindall@mcleoudusa.net
J. D. Hudgins, manso@jdhudgins.com
Sandra & Johnny Pollan, jpollan@brazosport.cc.tx.us
Sandra Rogers, sojourne@consolidated.net

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Pat Mercado-Allinger, pat.Mercado-allinger@thc.state.tx.us

Jeff Durst, jeff.durst@thc.state.tx.us

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Beth Aucoin, Region V Director, ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net
Pam Wheat, Executive Director, pwheat@vmpius.com

Glynn Osburn, President, gosburn@comcast.net
Web Site: www.txarch.org

The Profile

Houston Archeological Society
P O Box 6751
Houston, TX 77265-6751

Return Service Requested