



The PROFILE

July 2007

July Meeting is a Double-Header: TAS Field School in Menard and HISD “Time Travelers” Project

The July 13 meeting program will feature a unique “double-header”: reports from two recent field excavations in which members of the Houston Archeological Society participated.

First up will be HAS members reporting on their experiences at the Texas Archeological Society’s 2007 Field School at the Presidio San Sabá near Menard, Texas. This year, Menard is celebrating the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the Presidio and Mission de San Sabá.

Presidio San Sabá was established in 1757 to protect the Mission San Sabá, which had been founded by the Spanish in an effort to Christianize the Lipan Apache. Their efforts failed after only 10 months, and the mission was abandoned. In March of 1758 the mission was destroyed by several non-Lipan tribes. The presidio remained open for another 12 years, however, serving as a buffer against Indian raids on San Antonio until it was abandoned in 1770. During its time, some



Photo by Doug Taylor, courtesy of TAS at www.txarch.org

Stone walls under excavation at Presidio San Sabá

100 soldiers and their families, as well as 200-400 civilians, were frequently confined to the compound due to native hostilities.

Second part of the double-header will be a pictorial report on the Time Travelers project held at Askew Elementary in May. This project was sponsored by the

Houston chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA), with HAS as a key partner.

Time Travelers was the brain-child of our speaker, **Becky Lao**, President of AIA-Houston and a member of HAS. Geared to third grade students, the program consists of classroom units on ancient cultures such as Greece, Roman Pompeii, and the Maya. Students had workbooks which they filled out by visiting hands-on study areas covering different aspects of the culture (language, religion, material culture and customs, etc.). Along the way, they learned a few fundamentals of the practice of archaeology.

On the last day of the program, students participated in a mock “dig” that was planned and directed by HAS. Designed to emulate an actual excavation as much as possible, the kids dug, screened, washed, weighed, measured, and documented the “artifacts” they found. The dig portion of the program was wildly popular with these 9-year-olds, in spite of the fact that they weren’t allowed to keep their “artifacts”.

The July 13th meeting will be held at our usual location in Anderson Hall on the quadrangle of the University of St. Thomas, at 7:30 p.m. For a detailed map, visit our web site at www.houstonarcheology.org. Parking: use the Moran Center Parking Garage at the corner of West Alabama and Graustark (\$2 fee), or park in Faculty Parking Lot S at Montrose and Branard after 7:00 PM (no charge).



AIA-Houston President Becky Lao shows replica Egyptian statues to Askew third-graders.

President's Column

Welcome to New Members and Thanks to Our Time Travelers

New Member Greetings: Quite a few newcomers have joined HAS since the first of the year. I would like to recognize and welcome all of you who have become members so far in 2007, and I encourage all of us “old” members to seek out and get to know these great people at our meetings. New members include **Lucia Bonno** of Houston; **Floyd Burton** of Livingston; **Frank and Jackie Deffes** of Robert, LA; **Denise Duling** of Houston; **James and Cherie Engle** of Pearland; former members **Robert and Linda Hickey** of Houston; **Bob Harris** of Houston; **Becky Lao** of Houston; **Lenore Psencik** of Kingwood (a former member); and **Christine Moor Sanders** of Woodville.

There will be an opportunity to meet Becky Lao soon, for she will be a featured speaker at the July meeting. Frank and Jackie Deffes may not always be able to get to Houston for meetings, so I'll tell you an interesting fact about Frank: he is the great-great-great grandson of Elizabeth Powell, and he and Jackie have enjoyed reading our reports on the Elizabeth Powell site. Welcome, all, to HAS!



Photo by Bob Shelby

Frank and Jackie Deffes at the Elizabeth Powell site.



Photo by Fred Kelly

Askew third-graders “hit the dirt” with great enthusiasm.

Time Travelers Salute: HAS and AIA members came out in force to make the Time Travelers dig at Askew Elementary a success. Our efforts included setting up the dig pits on Saturday, May 12, and then working with four shifts of enthusiastic third-grade “archeologists” on May 16 and 18, for a total of 160 children. It was hot, and the work was laborious, but it proved to be a rewarding endeavor. Kudos to these HAS members: **Karen Acker, Beth Aucoin, Diane Baird, Kathleen Barry, Richard Carter, Fred Kelly, and Becky Lao**. Even with this fine crew, we never would have made it without the help of the AIA teachers and facilitators who stuck it out through the dig portion. Many thanks to **Maurita Carrejo, Jose Garcia, Kiki Hummel, Philip Lao, Ruth Milburn, Mark Picus, Daniel Picus, John Standish, Rodney Stephen and J.C. Whitney**. --Linda Swift

Houston Archeological Society Meeting Minutes, May 11, 2007

Linda Swift, HAS President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Twenty-nine people were in attendance.

- The joint AIA/HAS project to teach 3rd grade students archeology is in progress. Volunteers are needed.
- Due to the Texas Archeological Society field school, there will be no HAS meeting next month
- No HAS lab in June.

After the program there was a refreshment break followed by the business meeting with twenty-two people in attendance.

- The April HAS meeting minutes were approved.
- Treasurer Karen Acker stated that HAS has gained three new members.
- Editor Sara Guillote asked for articles for the Profile.
- Librarian Diane Baird said that copies of Joan Few's book “Sugar, Planters, Slaves and Convicts” are for sale in the lobby.
- HAS needs a new Outreach and Refreshment Chairman.
- Two more people are needed for the nominating committee. Elections for HAS board positions are held in September.
- HAS received a thank you letter for its donation to the Brazoria County Historical Museum.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Submitted by Tom Nuckols, Secretary

78th Annual Texas Archeological Society Annual Meeting

Abstracts and creative ideas are sought for papers, symposia, and posters to be presented at the 78th Annual Meeting of the Texas Archeological Society on October 26-28, 2007, in San Antonio, Texas. TAS encourages presentations by avocational, student, and professional archeologist members on any topic of archeological interest. The final **deadline for receipt of paper abstracts is September 1, 2007.** Contact Dr. Harry Shafer, 2007 TAS Annual Meeting Program Chair – papers@txarch.org more information.

Houston to Host 2008 TAS Lithics Academy

It's time to get working on the TAS Lithics Academy, to be held in Houston after the first of the year. The first order of business is to find a location for this event. Who among you would like to work on this? We need a core group of 3-4 people to do the planning and arrangements; others will be needed at the time the Academy actually takes place. Please contact Linda Swift to help make this a successful academy.

Archeology... Life in the Past Lane!

LABORATORY SCHEDULE: July Labs:

Monday, July 16 & 30. We will continue washing artifacts from the Barnhill site (41WH17) in Wharton County. This site was recorded by Joe Hudgins in December 1979 and excavations took place during the first quarter of 1980. 7:00 pm, Rice U. Archeology Lab, Sewall Hall, Room 103.

August Program: Max Blankfeld from familytreedna will speak on DNA and the state-of-the-art DNA Lab in Houston. Anyone wishing to deliver a future presentation should contact Michael Bailey at mbailey@beamans.com

Rock Art Recording – PAINTED CANYON, JULY 14-21, 2007. Join us for a spectacular trip back in time as we explore and record rock art from this ancient site in the Lower Pecos region of Texas. Contact: Teddy Stickney, stick711@sbcglobal.net

10-Story Building Found Buried With Chinese Terracotta Warriors

From Reuters News Service: The tomb of China's first emperor, guarded for more than 2,000 years by 8,000 terracotta warriors and horses, has yielded up another archaeological secret. After five years of research, archaeologists have confirmed that a 30-meter-high building (98 feet, or about 10 stories tall) is buried in the vast mausoleum of Emperor Qinshihuang near the former capital, Xian, in the northwestern province of Shaanxi.

The Chinese government has put a 100-year moratorium on excavations at this site, hoping that by then archaeological techniques and science will have progressed to a point where the artifacts can be excavated with no damage and maximum preservation. As a result, archaeologists have been using remote sensing technology since 2002 to study the internal structure of the unexcavated mausoleum.

The life-size terracotta army, buried in pits near the mausoleum to guard the emperor in the afterlife, was accidentally unearthed in 1974 by farmers who were digging a well.

Ancient Roman Technology – Cement and Concrete



The concrete in the Pantheon varies a heavy gravel mixture at the bottom with a lighter pumice mixture at the top.

In about the third century BC, Roman builders discovered huge deposits of sandy volcanic ash near Mt. Vesuvius and elsewhere in Italy. When added to lime mortar, this ash made cement that dried hard as a rock, even under water. By mixing this cement with sand and gravel they made a very strong and waterproof concrete. This soon became the typical building material for large structures around the Roman Empire. They continued, however, to face their concrete walls with brick, stucco or marble slabs for appearance sake even though these facings added nothing to the strength of the walls. Recent analysis of Roman concrete has shown it to be harder than natural rocks would be after so many centuries of weathering. *-Fred Kelly*

Please submit articles for publication to Sara Guillote, sguillote@hotmail.com

Submit articles no later than July 30th for the August issue.

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

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The Profile

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