



The PROFILE

November 2007

Dirk Van Tuerenhout Presents “Ethiopia as Cradle of Mankind”



The November 9th HAS meeting will feature Dirk Van Tuerenhout, Curator of Anthropology at the Houston Museum of Natural Science lecturing on Ethiopia as the cradle of mankind. This lecture will tie in with the museum’s new exhibit from Ethiopia titled *Lucy’s Legacy: The Hidden Treasures of Ethiopia*.

Dr. Van Tuerenhout is responsible for the museum’s collections and exhibits dealing with human culture. He graduated with M.A. degrees in Anthropology and Art History from Katholieke Universiteit in Belgium, and received his Ph.D. in anthropology from Tulane University. As a scholar and educator, Dr. Van Tuerenhout enjoys using the museum’s exhibits as a platform for outreach, to share insights in cultures that are on display. He believes that the people, not the objects in themselves are the story.

Lucy’s story and that of Ethiopia is the focus of the museum’s exhibit. According to the press release, the exhibition will include the original fossilized remains of the 3.2 million-year-old hominid known as Lucy. With 40 percent of her skeleton intact, Lucy remains the oldest and most complete adult human ancestor

fully retrieved from African soil. Joel A. Bartsch, president of the Houston Museum of Natural Science is quoted as saying, “The Lucy fossil in particular evokes a strong response from everyone who sees her, and as such, she is the ultimate goodwill ambassador for Ethiopia. Lucy not only validates Ethiopia’s claim as the Cradle of Mankind, she also introduces viewers to the rich cultural heritage that has flourished in Ethiopia over the course of the last 3,000 years, and to the vibrant country that Ethiopia is today.”

The November meeting will be held at our usual location in Anderson Hall on the Academic Mall of the University of St. Thomas, at 7:30 p.m. For a detailed map, visit our website 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 p.m. (no charge).

December Program: To be announced. Anyone wishing to deliver a future presentation should contact Michael Bailey at mbailey@beamans.com

HAS Library News: The library will be open on Friday, November 9th from 6:30pm-7:20pm, 3907 Yoakum Blvd.

LABORATORY SCHEDULE: Nov. 12 & 26; and Dec. 17 (1 night only). 7-9 pm in Room 103, Sewall Hall, Rice University. Check the HAS website, www.houstonarcheology.org, for a map.

TAS Academies 2008: Lithics (Houston) January 26-27; Deadline Jan. 16. Archeology 101 (Belton) February 8, 9, 10; Deadline Jan. 30. Rock Art (Van Horn) February 29, March 1-2; Deadline Feb. 19. The Fees for TAS Members 2007 are \$95, non-members \$135 (includes membership fee. Registration forms are available at the meeting. More information and online registration is available at www.txarch.org.

The Prez Sez

My comrades are back fresh (not the least bit stale!) from TAS Annual Meeting in San Antonio. Now that I've gone to one I never want to miss another. We had a great group attending from HAS - The Aucoins, Linda Swift, Diane Baird, Lucia Bonno, Dick Gregg, the Fewes, Dub Crook (who gave a paper), Marianne Marek, Bob Crosser and the Pollens. Flag us down at the next meeting and let us tell you what you missed.

There were outstanding speakers both nights. Michael Collins on the Gault Site, Kathleen Deagan on San Augustine, Florida archaeology and Dr. Doug Owsley on the hard life in the Jamestown Colony. Add to this many informative 15 minute papers, we came out of there much more informed.

Linda and I met with the committee in charge of the Lithics Academy in January and they were impressed with all the work that Richard has already done. Me too. Be sure and give him and his committee members pats on their backs.

The Meeting is lots of fun; you get to meet new people and friends and lots of entertaining activities take place. Ask us about the Church Lady.

Other news includes word that Robert Marcum needs volunteers at the Yates House Archaeology project. There will be more about this at the meeting.

The lab at Rice will be open on November 12 and 26. Work will continue on the artifacts from the Barnhill site.

Beth will bring applications for the Lithics Academy to the November meeting. I hope that many of us will attend.

I'm excited to report that 44 people will go with us to see "Lucy" on November 10. Be sure to attend the meeting the night before. It should be very good stuff.

We still need a refreshments chair, someone to help Richard with food at the Academy and someone to handle one or more outreach projects.

See ya Friday night!

-Diane Baird, HAS President

Houston Archeological Society Meeting Minutes, October 12, 2007

Diane Baird, HAS President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm, with 34 people in attendance.

Announcements:

- Outreach coordinators are needed for Stephen F. Austin Day - Nov. 2 & 3 and also for San Jacinto Day in April. These are both community outreach programs that HAS has done in the past.
- Richard Carter discussed the upcoming Lithics Academy which will be held at the University of St. Thomas on Jan 26 & 27. There are still a few volunteer positions left to fill.
- A refreshment chair is needed. Muriel Mueller will serve as backup.
- Beth Aucoin announced that Lab will be Oct.15 and 29 at Rice Un.
- Diane Baird announced that Dirk Von Tuerenhout will be the speaker on Nov.9 and the next day, the HAS group will be able to see the Lucy Exhibit at the HMNS for a discounted rate. Please let Diane know if you can go by Thursday Nov.8th.
- Sheldon Kindall presented the HAS Merit Awards to Wanda Carter and Pat Aucoin. The HAS Research Award went to Bob Shelby.

Program:

Diane Baird introduced the speakers – Sheldon Kindall and Jean Epperson who spoke on the “Champ d’ Asile.” There was no business meeting following the program and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

-Submitted by Muriel Walker

Archeology. . . Life in the Past Lane

The Houston Chapter of the AIA has two upcoming presentations. *Desert Queen - Gertrude Bell, Creator of Iraq* by Janet Wallach will be on November 6, 2007, 7:00 p.m. at Rice University. *Excavating the Sacred – Archaeology of Islamic Syria* by Dr. Ian Straughn of Brown University will be held on December 6, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at Christ Church Cathedral.

Center for Big Bend Studies Annual Conference will be held in Alpine, Texas November 9th and 10th. Presentations focus on prehistoric, historic, and modern cultures of the Borderlands Region of the United States and Mexico, with emphasis on the area encompassed by Trans-Pecos Texas and North-Central Mexico.

HAS 2007 Awards



Annual awards of the Houston Archeological Society were presented at the October 2007 meeting. Merit Awards were given to **Wanda Carter** for outstanding contributions as Refreshments Chair for five years, and to **Pat Aucoin** for outstanding contributions to HAS activities. The Southeast Texas Archeological Research Award was given to **Bob Shelby** for outstanding contributions to historical research for the Powell site.

The Southeast Texas Archeological Research Award has previously been given to William McClure, Richey Ebersole, Joe Hudgins, Lawrence Aten, Alan Duke, Lee Patterson, Grant Hall, Sheldon Kindall, Dee Ann Story, Richard Gregg, Etta Palmer, and Harry Shafer. The HAS Merit Award has previously been given to Etta Palmer, Pam Wheat, Fr. Edward Bader, Sheldon Kindall, Bob Etheridge, Richard Gregg, Don McReynolds, Bernard Naman, Beth Aucoin, Karen Acker, Linda Swift, Muriel Walker, Jeanette Siciliano, Jim Wells, Joe Hudgins, Tom Nuckols, Robert Shelby, Wanda Carter, Richard Carter, David Pettus, Mary Barbara Gold, and William Haskell. Other previous HAS awards include a special award to Alan Duke as HAS Journal Editor, and election of Alan Duke, Don Lewis, Richard Gregg, Evelyn Lewis, and Pam Wheat as Lifetime Members of the HAS. *-Lee Patterson*

Ancient Roman Technology – Aqueducts

From the fourth century BC to the second century AD, the ancient Romans built many aqueducts to supply water to their cities and industries throughout Italy and the Roman Empire. The city of Rome itself had eleven aqueducts built over a period of 500 years and the huge amount of water provided was not equaled until the late 19th century. The aqueducts were built both underground and elevated on columns and arches, or arcades; underground pipes helped prevent disease but above ground channels were easier to maintain. The water flow was dependent on gravity and therefore the channel had to have a slight but constant downward slope of two to three feet per mile. A table-shaped device with a



plumb bob and protractor was placed in the channel to measure the correct slope. When an aqueduct crossed a depression over 150 feet deep, a gravity pressurized inverted siphon was used to force the water uphill, as used by hydraulic engineers today. Arriving in a city, the water flowed into large holding tanks to let mud and pebbles settle out. Then, the water flowed to storage towers and finally to lead pipes that distributed the water to fountains, baths, industries and private users. Water for private users flowed to their homes through lead pipes and bronze faucets controlled the flow, much as in homes today.

-Fred Kelly (Image of Pont du Gard, France)

Scientists Retrace American Indian Trade Routes

According to Yahoo News, Idaho State University anthropologists are retracing American Indian trade routes by bombarding arrowheads and other stone tools with radiation that helps locate their origins.

The project at the Idaho Accelerator Center in Pocatello involves a process called photon activation analysis using a medical grade accelerator designed for cancer therapy. The accelerator shoots 25 million volts of electricity into a block that converts the current into gamma rays before it passes through the stone artifacts. This

process causes no damage to the artifacts and allows researchers to measure trace elements and use the data to match artifacts with their places of origin.

ISU anthropology professor Herb Maschner and other researchers have experimented with obsidian and rocks from lava flows, discovering that they could accurately match samples to particular volcanoes. They hope that matching artifacts with their place of origin will give evidence about how the items were passed among the West's tribes.

Please submit articles for publication to Sara Guillote, sguillote@hotmail.com
Submit articles no later than November 30th for the December issue.

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

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The Profile

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