



**Houston Archeological Society Meeting, Thursday, May 15, 2025 ~ Virtual Only
Featuring Amy Goldstein Discussing the Kirbee Kiln Site**

Greetings HAS members! The May members meeting of the Houston Archeological Society will take place virtually only on Thursday May 15, 2025, at 6 p.m. A Zoom link will be forwarded to HAS members via email as we get closer to the meeting date.



This month, we welcome as our speaker archeologist Amy Goldstein, of cultural resource management firm Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson in Austin. Amy will be speaking about her experiences as the primary investigator at the Kirbee Kiln site in Montgomery County from 2022-24, where she has worked alongside HAS members. Our group usually works at the site for a ten-day period each year. We hope to visit the site later this year or in the spring of 2026. Kirbee Kiln was one of the earliest commercial kilns to operate in Texas at a site just west of the town of Montgomery, producing alkaline-glazed products in traditional techniques brought from Edgefield, South Carolina. The large groundhog kiln and Kirbee family business operated from c. 1849-1860. The kiln was rediscovered and initially excavated in the early 1970s and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.



Amy holds an undergraduate degree in history and anthropology from Middle Tennessee State University and a master's degree in anthropology from the University of South Carolina. Since 2015, she has worked at several CRM firms in Texas, and has been with JMT for three years, serving as the section head for natural and cultural resources for Texas and neighboring states. We hope to see you at the virtual meeting, as well as the upcoming TAS Field School or at the several ongoing HAS area projects.

Frank Kozar, HAS Vice-President

Above: Amy Goldstein. Lidar work at Kirbee Kiln by Chet Walker of Archaeo-Geophysical Associates. Center right: Units at the Kirbee Kiln site. Source: [Amy Goldstein | LinkedIn](#). Far right: Collapsed jug found in Juggery Creek, October 1, 1985. [Portal to Texas History](#). Below: Two images of an alkaline-glazed stoneware jar attributed to Kirbee Kiln, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; [Jar | MFAH Collections](#).



More information at: [Kirbee Pottery of Montgomery County](#); [Kirbee kiln, a mid-19th-century Texas stoneware pottery](#); [Kirbee Kiln: Montgomery County archeological site](#); [Clay Connections: A Thousand-Mile Journey from South Carolina to Texas](#); [Portal to Texas History](#).

President's Message – Bob Sewell



Now that we are heading into the summer months, it is appropriate to revisit safety when working outside. We are all aware of how intense the Texas sun and humidity can be, so it is imperative to dress accordingly. This includes wearing cool light clothing and suitable head gear such as a sun hat, preferably with a wide brim. Remember to put on sunscreen, and if you are prone to insect bites, then mosquito repellent is a must.

When working out in the sun, it is very easy to become dehydrated. Even when the sun doesn't appear too strong, dehydration can still become an issue. So, make sure that you bring plenty of fluids to drink, especially those that contain electrolytes.

I briefly mentioned how to dress for the heat, but make sure that you dress for the physical environment. An excavation site has a lot in common with a construction site. The ground tends to be uneven, especially when working in a pasture. Sites are often full of holes; some are man-made, and others are the result of activities by gophers and the like. So, make sure that you wear sturdy shoes/hiking boots. Long pants are preferred. Gloves are required for screening activities.

Please also be aware that equipment such as trowels, shovels, and buckets may be lying around the site, usually near the units, and can become tripping hazards. So please be alert for scattered equipment and try to make sure that these items are stored tidily when not in use.

Be vigilant regarding critters. The cattle are usually not problematic, but snakes, scorpions, spiders, and ticks also are among the creatures that live in a pasture (see page 4!). Not all are poisonous, but some are.

These are some of the issues to watch out for—but don't let them put you off participating, just be aware that they exist, and have fun.



HAS members working at the Lone Oak Site in April.

Job Vacancy – Publications Editor

We have an open vacancy for a Publications Editor. Responsibilities will include collecting journal articles and/or report material, proofreading, liaising with the authors, and formatting into a document for publication. Skills should include proficiency with MSWord. Additionally, you will receive exposure to Kindle Direct Publishing/Amazon. This would be a wonderful opportunity for one of our student members to enhance their resume. Contact president@txhas.org if you are interested.

Bob Sewell, HAS President



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or renew your membership at
Membership - Houston Archeological Society!*

Houston Archeological Society Monthly Meeting Minutes – April 17, 2025

Welcome: Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m. – Bob Sewell, President. Welcome to all new and returning members. This meeting was held both in-person at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road, and virtually via Zoom.

Membership & Treasury – Louis Hebert, Treasurer. We have 140 members so far for 2025, which is a little low for this point in the year, but there will be plenty of opportunities to bring in new members this year! The treasury funds are looking healthy.

Newsletter – Betsy Wittenmyer, Newsletter Editor. Thank you to those who have contributed articles to the newsletter! We are always on the lookout for more articles or photos for upcoming newsletters. These can be related to any relevant topics including projects, excavations, research, classes or academies, historical or educational trips, or any other interesting experiences that you'd like to share – doesn't necessarily have to be Texas- or United States-related.

Projects – Bob Sewell, President.

- **Lone Oak** (41CD168)
 - We visited this site recently on March 29, and we plan to return on Saturday, April 19.
- **Goloby Site** (41WL3)
 - We last visited on March 22, and plan to return soon.
- **Walnut Tree Hill Site**
 - We last visited on March 20, and plan to return again soon.

All three of our active sites have planned upcoming visits and are still consistently yielding artifacts. Members interested in participating in site visits may look out for invitations from fielddirector@txhas.org.

Upcoming – Bob Sewell, President. TAS Field School is coming up! It will take place from June 14 – 21 in Milam and Robertson Counties. Field school this year is expected to consist mostly of survey activities of Red Mountain (also known as Sugarloaf Mountain), although there will probably be some excavations planned for the youth group.

Vacant Position – Bob Sewell, President. HAS is searching for a Publications Editor to coordinate publishing efforts such as reviving the HAS Journal, which has been on hold for a few years. Duties would include contacting authors for articles and facilitating the direct publication process through Amazon. Please email president@txhas.org for more information.

May 2025 Monthly Meeting – Next month's speaker will be Amy Goldstein discussing Excavations at Kirbee Kiln. Tonight's presenter, Alexandra Younger, will discuss data recovery at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site (41WT5).

The business meeting was concluded at 6:40 p.m.

Noah Newland, HAS Secretary



Registration for the Texas Archeological Society 2025 Field School is now open! Each summer, the Texas Archeological Society (TAS) sponsors a week-long archeological field school. The program provides training in archeological techniques to Society members and contributes important new data to the state's archeological and historical heritage. No prior archeological experience is necessary. Participants may register for a minimum of three days or for the full week. Several Field School Scholarships are also available. This year the 2025 TAS Field

School takes place from June 14-21 in Milam and Robertson Counties. Red Mountain (also known as Sugarloaf Mountain) is a very important place for the Tonkawa people, who recently reclaimed this ancestral land and will maintain it with the help of the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association. The 2025 Field School will be primarily survey-based, with limited excavation for the Youth Group and an exploratory team led by Dr. Tamra Walter. More information at [2025 TAS Field School](#).

Lone Oak Site ~ April 19-20, 2025

For over six years, the Houston Archeological Society has been excavating the Lone Oak site (41CD168) in northern Colorado County, in collaboration with the property owner. Well over 350 diagnostic artifacts have been recovered, which indicate the site was occupied from 13,000 years BP (Dalton) through the end of the Late Prehistoric (Toyah) period (400 BP). With its supplies of fresh water, hardwood, high-quality chert, and food resources, the location appears to have been a seasonal camp in frequent use by foraging hunter-gatherer peoples.

During the most recent workdays, instead of the Easter Bunny, our intrepid HAS crew was visited by an Easter Scorpion! And they were not searching for plastic eggs; instead they unearthed remarkable lithics, including two Angostura points and a broken preform. Though not in fancy spring attire, some folks wore bonnets (sunhats, baseball caps) and all wore smiles. HAS members are encouraged to join future workdates at this significant prehistoric site.



Photographs courtesy of Jay Durel, Louis Hebert, Geoff Mills, and Bob Sewell. Below right: Group photo includes John Swann, Kevin Risley, Frank Kozar, Garry Hartmann, Bob Sewell, Jay Durel, Jari McCoy, and Geoff Mills.

Thanks for your hard work, Adriana Cardenas, Jay Durel, Garry Hartmann, Louis Hebert, Frank Kozar, Geoff Mills, Jari McCoy, Kevin Risley, Candy Scott, Bob Sewell, John Swann, property owner Stan Theut, and everyone who has been participating!
All HAS members are encouraged to come out to future work days at this interesting prehistoric site!

HAS Visit to the Crying Woman Ranch ~ April 7-10, 2025

Garry Hartmann, Frank Kozar, and Geoff Mills

The Hill Country Archeological Association (HCAA) recently invited HAS and other Texas Archeological Societies to an invitational mini field school at the Crying Woman Ranch (CWR) located west of Kerrville. HCAA opened three new units. For Paleo Unit 14, HCAA employed a backhoe, accessing the lower layers of gravels in the stratigraphy so as to search for artifacts older than 10,000 years Before Present (BP). Units 40 and 41 (Archaic) were opened near a rock midden at the north end of the site, with a goal of finding charcoal to aid in carbon dating.

Glenn Butler (North Texas Archeological Society) and Frank Kozar have previously worked together in paleo soils on the CWR site and were assigned to excavate the ramp area leading to the bottom of Unit 14. They began on Monday morning, and within the first hour, Glenn uncovered a St. Mary's Hall lanceolate projectile point (9900-8700 BP) at a depth of 180cm below ground level. HCAA has collected over four dozen St. Mary's Hall points in their past six years of work at CWR. Frank later found another, uncovering a broken point in his last minutes of work on Wednesday before heading home (at 181cm). Other tools in various stages of completion were also unearthed.



Above left: Frank in Unit 14. Above right: Unit 14 before the water was pumped out. Below left: St. Mary's Hall projectile point. Below right: Possible earth oven. Photographs courtesy of Garry Hartmann, Frank Kozar, and Mike McBride.



Most of the ramp area was worked at a depth of 190-180cm, and surprisingly, Frank and Glenn discovered a large semi-circle of fired limestone that appears to be the second earth oven to be identified on the CWR site. The first oven is located 20m west of Unit 14. Carbon-dated charcoal samples place the first oven at 10,250 BP. Unit 14 also produced large quantities of Edwards chert, with some nodules larger than a fist. Some chert was a light-medium gray color and some, a root beer color.

The lower depths of Unit 14 will eventually be further explored now that HCAA has acquired two water pumps to minimize water intrusion from the natural springs on the site.

Left: Collection of chert nodules from Unit 14. Photograph courtesy of Frank Kozar and Mike McBride.

While Frank was working at the Paleo site, other HAS members excavated the new Archaic Units 40 and 41, to the north. We were pleased to welcome new HAS member Heather Bird to the crew, as well as Garry Hartman, Jay Durrell, John Swann, and Geoff Mills. HAS friend Roger Smith from CoBALT in Victoria joined us.



First, alternative units were excavated in 10cm increments down to 40cm. Excavation of the remaining units then followed. Among the interesting artifacts we found over the four days was a beautiful piece of altered quartz, possibly an indigenous decorative pendant.

Left: Units 40 and 41 as viewed from the north end of the site, looking south.
Right: The quartz artifact. Photographs courtesy of Geoff Mills and Mike McBride.



Far left: Montell Split Stem.
Left Center: Marcos Projectile Point.
Photographs courtesy of Geoff Mills and Mike McBride.

Additional lithics included Marcos and Montell projectile points, a perforator, an incised limestone tablet, a scraper with use wear, and a broken preform. An intriguing cobble brought speculations of hematite, which is often weakly magnetic when in pure form, although this cobble was not magnetic.



Above left: Scraper with use wear. Center: Broken preform. Right: Possible hematite cobble. Center left: Perforator. Center: Bone, cut slantwise at each end to create a scoop. Center right: Incised limestone tablet. Below left: Bison bone fragments; the darker piece is ankle bone. Photographs courtesy of Gary Hartmann, Geoff Mills, and Mike McBride.



This site also produced multiple bone artifacts, including bison ankle and a bone fashioned into a scoop.

HAS members will be invited again to the Crying Woman Ranch to participate in future invitational work sessions alongside other participants from various archeological organizations around the state. As you can imagine, visiting this site is a rewarding experience!



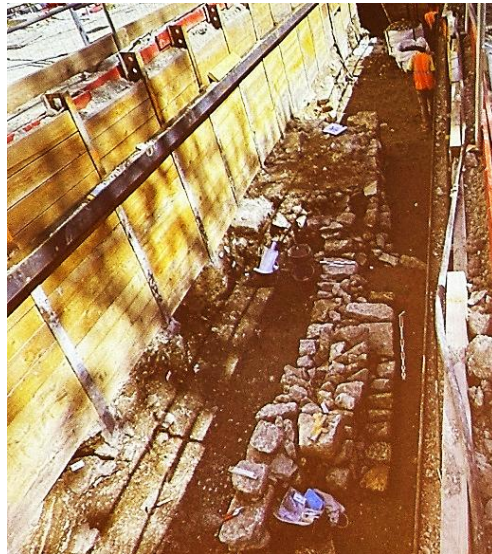
**Recent Excavations at Notre-Dame de Paris ~ Lectures by
Archaeologist Christophe Besnier, INRAP, and Jennifer Feltman, PhD, University of Alabama**

Gail Larsen Peterkin, PhD

The world watched in horror as Notre-Dame de Paris was consumed by fire on April 15, 2019. However, as the five-year period of reconstruction commenced, the disaster offered archaeologists unprecedented access to the cathedral. On March 20, head archaeologist Christophe Besnier discussed these excavations with a Houston audience, thanks to Archaeology Now (Archaeological Institute of America, Houston Society), the World Affairs Council, and the University of St. Thomas.



Besnier is employed by INRAP (Institut national de recherches archéologiques), and he coordinated a team of more than thirty archaeologists, alongside Dorothée Chaoui-Derieux from DRAC Île-de-France/service régional de l'archéologie. Excavations took place at a variety of locations, both outside and inside the cathedral. The excavations revealed over 2,000 years of history on the Île de la Cité (one of two natural islands in the Seine River), beginning with the earliest Roman occupation of the site. The discovery of the first century Pillar of the Boatmen in 1710 had previously revealed that there was a Gallo-Roman temple to Jupiter on the site. While the Roman artifacts recovered during the recent excavations were not as dramatic, they still shed important light on the Roman origins of Paris.



Archaeologists also discovered the remains of an ancient, burned house outside the cathedral's walls.

The first medieval occupation dates from the sixth to eighth centuries CE, during the Carolingian dynasty. Besnier and his team found the remains of a previously unknown Carolingian building outside the cathedral, as well as Romanesque elements of a basilica that was destroyed when construction began on Notre-Dame in 1163.



Above left: Head Archaeologist Christophe Besnier, INRAP, at St. Thomas on March 20, 2025. Right: Remains of a previously unknown Carolingian building outside the cathedral. Below left: Sections of the first century Gallo-Roman Pillar of the Boatmen, Musée de Cluny, [Pillar of the Boatmen I Musée de Cluny](#). Right: Romanesque features (c. 1153) from an earlier church. Photograph sources: Christophe Besnier, Agnes Poyeton, INRAP, Musée de Cluny, and Gail Larsen Peterkin.



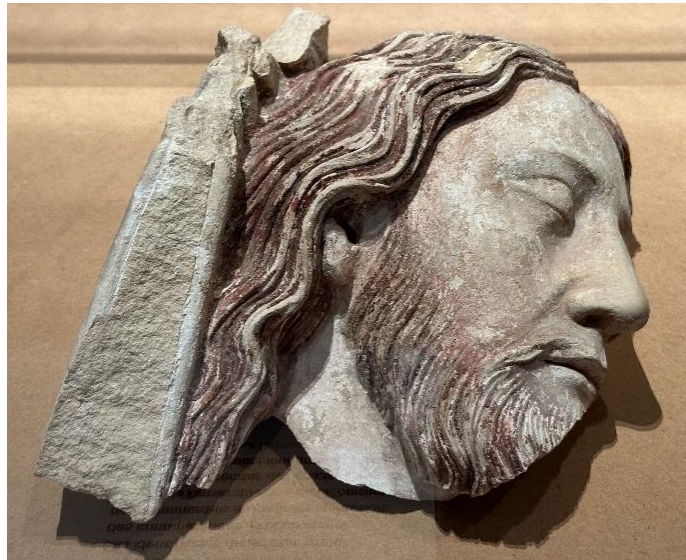
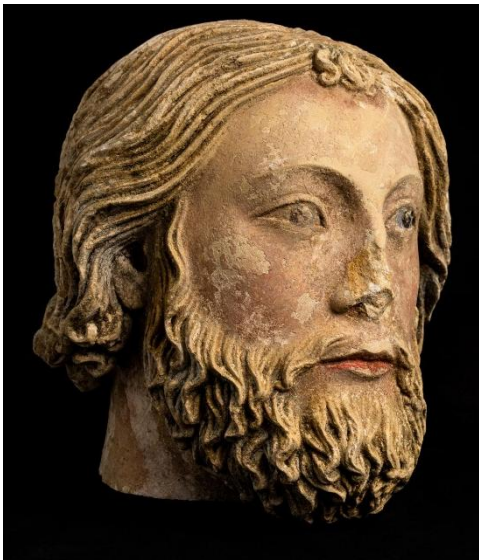
Left: Excavation work in the transept.
Right: A remnant of Notre-Dame's 13th c. rood screen, displayed at the Cluny Museum.
Photograph sources: Christophe Besnier, Denis Gliksman, INRAP, the Cluny Museum, and Gail Larsen Peterkin. [News | Archaeology of Notre-Dame de Paris](#) | INRAP.

Perhaps the most significant excavations took place inside the cathedral in the transept area separating the choir from the nave. Digging was challenging. The team only had a small open area to excavate. Scaffolding blocked adjacent areas, which will remain unexcavated. Conditions were demanding and uncomfortable. The team had to wear hard hats and protective gear—and they had to be wary of lead contamination. Besnier also confided that the integrity of the stone walls of the cathedral was in doubt for the first two years of work, so they were concerned about the possibility of a collapse. He said that the cathedral survived the fire because the spire collapsed straight down. If it had toppled to either side, it would have caused the building to fail.

In the transept, archaeologists discovered the remains of a thirteenth-century rood screen, a limestone sculptural screen that separated liturgical activity from the congregation. Rood screens in French churches were destroyed around 1700; traditions changed, and it was no longer customary to block the congregation's view. When the rood screen at Notre-Dame was dismantled, the pieces were carefully buried because it depicted the Passion of Christ and was considered sacred. Rood screen fragments had been recovered during earlier renovations and have been found scattered around Paris and even around the world. There were two main periods of looting: one during renovations around 1710 and another during the French Revolution around 1790. A Parisian woman recently surrendered a frieze of decorative foliage from the rood screen that had been in her family's possession. There is even a sculpted head at the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University that may fit one of the busts recovered during the recent excavations.

The new excavations yielded 1,035 fragments of the limestone rood screen. Amazingly, 700 of them still have vestiges of vivid polychrome paint, and some have gold leaf. A few of the sculptural elements were enormous (50 tons!) and had to be lifted mechanically. Over a hundred of the most spectacular pieces were displayed in a special exhibition (*Faire Parler les Pierres/Making Stones Speak: Medieval Sculptures of Notre-Dame*) at the Musée de Cluny; the exhibit closed on March 16. Besnier was in a hurry to return to Paris to deinstall the exhibition—and to begin new excavations in the courtyard of the Louvre!

Several sculpted heads were recovered during the dig, including some of Christ. When Christ was depicted alive, his cheeks were pink, and his eyes were open. When he was depicted after crucifixion, his skin tone was white, with closed eyes. Of course, all the painted fragments were carefully conserved by specialists, who cleaned them and used a fixative to make sure the paint continues to adhere to the stone. Conservation was completed this spring. Additional specialized studies will continue through 2027. In addition to the more artistic and figurative pieces, fire debris and rubble have also been preserved in the archaeological collections for future analysis and understanding of the blaze.



Above left: Face of Biblical entity after cleaning and stabilizing 13th century polychrome.
 Right: Depiction of Christ after crucifixion.
 Below left: Narrow rows of lead coffins, Soufflot Crypt.
 Below right: Dr. Jennifer Feltman at Rice University on April 10, 2025.
 Photograph sources: Christophe Besnier, INRAP, Gail Larsen Peterkin, and Becky Lao. [News | Archaeology of Notre-Dame de Paris | INRAP](#), [History of Notre-Dame - Notre-Dame de Paris](#).



Like most medieval European churches, Notre-Dame functioned as a cemetery. Clerics, nobles, and other important individuals were buried beneath the floor of the cathedral. During previous renovations, the identifying markers were removed, and surviving written records are incomplete. One hundred burials were encountered during the recent excavations. Most were tightly packed in narrow rows. Some still had lead plaques identifying the deceased, which had fallen onto the skeletons as the wooden coffins decomposed. Other burials were found in uniquely shaped lead sarcophagi. One individual was identified as an important cleric, Antoine de la Porte. An outside scholar provisionally identified another as Joachim du Bellay, a Renaissance poet, but Besnier finds this identification

“speculative” and highly unlikely. As Besnier pointed out, great care was taken to respect the integrity of the burials and to restore them to proper repose after scientific analysis.

Dr. Jennifer Feltman, an associate professor of Medieval Art and Architecture at the University of Alabama, spoke at Rice University on April 10. A member of the Chantier scientifique for Notre-Dame, she directs the Notre-Dame in Color project and researches the polychromy of the Gothic statuary at Notre-Dame. She mentioned some interesting facts relevant to archaeology during her presentation:

- Because they were smelted using charcoal, ¹⁴C dating was used to date the medieval iron pins that held the stone courses together.
- ¹⁴C was used to date lead white because the pigment contains atmospheric carbon dioxide; charcoal was also used in its production.
- While azurite was the most common blue pigment used on medieval statuary, the Virgin was colored with expensive lapis lazuli imported from Afghanistan—indicating the viability of global trade networks.



TAS Archeobotany Academy ~ April 5-6, 2025, Kerrville, TX

Frank Kozar

The Texas Archeological Society (TAS) held the first training academy of this calendar year in Kerrville on April 5-6, presenting an excellent learning opportunity about earth oven usage in past societies, both in the northern hemisphere and throughout the prehistoric world.

With this ancient cooking method, food is buried in the ground along with heated rocks and green vegetation to create a moist, slow-cooking environment. This process converts the complex carbohydrates within consumable plants into sugars, making them more digestible. Earth ovens, also known as hearths and ground ovens, have been studied by archeologists world-wide over the past century. Evidence confirms their use in many different cultures dating as far back as 30,000 years, and over 10,000 years ago in this hemisphere.

The TAS Archeobotany Academy was presented by an all-star cast of instructors led by Dr. Leslie Bush, Dr. Phil Dering, Dr. Kevin Hanselka, Dr. Charles Koenig, and archeologist Amanda Castaneda. The lighting of the oven was the first item on the class agenda, as they actually cooked the plants layered inside for twenty-six hours, in order to be ready for us to try just before the class ended on Sunday afternoon. Usually, baking time will vary depending on the quantity and type of food and the size of the oven.



Left to right: Prickly pear pads are positioned over the hot coals and rocks. Sotol roots before the hearts are exposed by cutting with stone tools. The oven burns down to leave coals and hot rocks, which are then covered with grasses and dirt. Photographs by Frank Kozar.

The instructors and host society members from the Hill Country Archeological Association had already prepared an oven pit at the Roberts Ranch YMCA property east of Kerrville. Academy students witnessed the lighting of the dried grasses and kindling. Limestone rocks placed atop the wood heated up during the firing of the pit.

After the kindling wood burned to embers and the hot rocks heated, the entire pit was covered with prickly pear pads and moist bear grasses to create steam and prevent the food from burning. Then sotol hearts, agave lechuguilla, yucca, wild onions, sweet potatoes, and carrots, plants typical in the diet of our area's ancient peoples, were spread across the prickly pear pads, covered with more cactus pads and grass, and finally layered with packed dirt ([The History of Indigenous Food Traditions in Texas](#)).

While the food was cooking, the class learned about various oven discoveries in Texas, neighboring states, and Mexico, how frequently they were utilized, and how ancient peoples used dry bear grass to construct sandals and cordage.

The finished food products were edible, with a smoky flavor you would expect. Similar to eating an artichoke, with sotol hearts, it is best to peel away a few leaves to reach the inner leaves that are less chewy ([About Sotol – Explore Texas](#)). The onions and carrots tasted normal for a roast.

I would recommend attending this excellent academy presentation and experience whenever it is offered again in the future.



Right: The feast from the earth oven. Photograph by Frank Kozar.



News from the American Journal of Archaeology, the Journal of the Archaeological Institute of America

Early Release Book Reviews ~ New [open access AJA book reviews](#) are now available. Early release versions of book reviews are available in PDF format, and the final versions with page numbers will be available in both PDF and HTML. You can find early release book reviews under the “Ahead of Print Book Reviews” tab at journals.uchicago.edu/toc/aja/0/0. Readers can sign up for the AJA e-Update at <https://www.ajaonline.org/#eupdate>.



[Historical Culture in Iron Age Italy: Archaeology, History, and the Use of the Past, 900–300 BCE](#), by Seth Bernard, reviewed by Davide Morelli.

[Illyrian World: Architecture, Rituals, Gods and Religion](#), by Apollon Baçe, reviewed by Therese Emanuelsson-Paulson.

[Markers of Military Mobility: Toward an Archaeology of the Sling in Ancient Thrace \(5th C. BC–4th C. AD\), with a Corpus of the Inscribed Lead Sling Projectiles from Bulgaria: Glandes plumbeae inscriptae in Bulgaria repertae](#), by Emil Nankov, reviewed by Angelos Boufalis.

[Greek and Roman Small Size Sculpture](#), edited by Giovanni Colzani, Clemente Marconi, and Fabrizio Slavazzi, reviewed by Sinclair W. Bell.

[The Chora of Metaponto 8: The Factory and Kiln Deposit at Pantanello](#), edited by Joseph Coleman Carter and Norma Ortíz Galindo, reviewed by Eric Del Fabbro.

[Senses, Cognition, and Ritual Experience in the Roman World](#), edited by Blanka Misić and Abigail Graham, reviewed by Jack J. Lennon.

Museum Exhibition Highlights ~ The AJA maintains a [list of current and upcoming exhibitions](#) about archaeology, the ancient world, and related themes. If you have an exhibition that you’d like to list, or if you have a suggestion for an exhibition review in the AJA, please email museumreviews@archaeological.org. The AJA is highlighting the following upcoming exhibition: [Seeing Red](#) (North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, North Carolina; 15 June 2024 to 9 November 2026). This exhibition traces the history of red pigments across cultures, periods, and artistic mediums. Visitors are invited to explore an interactive gallery featuring excavated artifacts, the oldest dating back to ancient Egypt (4000–3500 BCE), alongside contemporary art installations as recent as 2024. Seeing Red offers a comprehensive exploration of the cultivation, extraction, utilization, and perception of red pigments, reflecting our relationship with nature, technology, history, and culture. [More about the AJA](#); [Follow on Facebook](#).

Update from CoBALT Archeology, Victoria, Texas

The Coastal Bend Archaeological Logistics Team (CoBALT) is based in Victoria and is working at the long-term excavation McNeill Ranch site (41VT141) in a cooperative agreement with the landowner and the Museum of the Coastal Bend (MCB). While considered a significant Paleoindian site, 41VT141 was also regularly occupied by more recent prehistoric cultures over thousands of years.

Excavation Day, March 14, 2025: In the east unit and about 140cm below datum working near a caliche dome, Bill, Cameron, and OC finished level four and found a preform with slightly dulled basal edges and a bit of cortex near the tip. In the west unit, John and Mike were approaching Archaic elevations and found some interesting organics, including deer and turtle bone and a mandible from a small mammal. They also found what at first appeared to be reworked point but turned out to be a preform fragment that had been heated at some point. In the east unit, Bill, Cameron, and OC worked the next lower elevation approaching 150cm below datum and close to bedrock. In the screen, a quartzite reworked Clear Fork was found that was worked down to the nub. Found in situ were a Refugio-like preform with some severe manufacturing mistakes, a preform proximal, several preform fragments, and a small, tumbled scraper. We looked at it under the microscope in the lab, and it does appear to have scars from tumbling, but also showed evidence of some micro flaking.

Excavation Day, March 21, 2025: A sunny but agreeable day greeted the team at the excavation site, although it was during spring break week, so we had a skeleton crew. In the east unit Bill, Cameron, Roger, and OC worked a deep elevation with slow-going due to a caliche dome and large rocks. They had to carefully shovel to get below the caliche dome.



All photographs courtesy of O. C. Garza. Source: [CoBalt Archeology](#)

One large preform distal was found, but few organics and a diminishing amount of debitage signaled the approach of bedrock depth. Frank was retrieving a stadia rod from the storage building and found a large preform proximal on the way back to the site. In the west unit, Mike and John worked a mid-depth elevation that can be hit-or-miss. It was largely a miss this week, although they hit a small cache of hackberry seeds. In the material screen, a damaged hammerstone and utilized flake were found, and excavators uncovered a nice sampling of land snails. In the lab, they also found a small, unknown object split in two. At first it appeared to be a rock, but under the microscope in the lab we could not tell if it was a rock or perhaps something organic like a fossilized seed. Special thanks to Dr. Ken Brown who happened to be in Victoria and helped us identify the land snails we found.



HAS members are always welcome to join us at the site or in the lab. The archaeology lab at the Museum of the Coastal Bend is open to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Stop in at the museum's front desk for directions to the lab; [Archaeology | Museum of the Coastal Bend | Victoria, TX](#).

O. C. Garza

Artifact Fun ~ Baseball History

Whether you root for the Houston Astros (Go Stros!) or a local Little League team, being a history lover, you may be interested in the evolution of baseball gloves, developed from simple fingerless work gloves of the 1860s ([The Invention of the Baseball Glove by John Snell](#); [Mr. Mitt Collection | Baseball Glove Collector](#)).



Fans of professional baseball are aware of the long tradition of the sport in Japan. A remarkable human story lies behind that ([NPR/Japanese baseball began on my family's farm in Maine](#)).









The Library of Congress provides a lesson plan delving into the earliest ball and stick games ([Baseball in America, Origins and Early Days | C-SPAN Classroom](#)), including the English games of Rounders and Cricket (<https://www.history.com/articles/who-invented-baseball>).

And, there's baseball archeology: [Archaeology students dig into Bisbee baseball history](#); [The Archaeology of Baseball: Excavations at Warren Ballpark-Archaeological Record](#); [Baseball archeology: artifacts from the great American pastime](#); [Baseball Fields at Old Bethpage Village Restoration](#).

Above: 1920's baseball glove and ball. Leather, c. 1920s. Below: A timeline of the development of the baseball glove. Source: [Vintage Leather Baseball Glove and Baseball - Manhattan Art and Antiques Center](#).
Bottom: An historic bat used by Babe Ruth to hit the first home run in old Yankee Stadium in 1923, sold for \$1.265 million in 2004. Source: [Historic Bat Used by Babe Ruth](#).

So, while you are enjoying our All-American sport this summer, remember the history behind it! More sources and information at [Spring 2023 Baseball Research Journal](#); [Archaeology of Baseball: Landscape and the Power of Place](#); [Astros unveil City Connect uniforms for 2025](#); [How Baseball's Official Historian Dug Up the Game's Unknown Origins](#).

Table 1. A timeline of the development of the baseball glove

1880 to 1900	1901 to 1922	1922 to 1950	1950 to present
<p><i>Introduction of the glove and additions to padding</i></p>	<p><i>Introduction of webbing and leather tab to form the glove pocket</i></p>	<p><i>Refinement of the glove pocket</i></p>	<p><i>Introduction of the hinge and further refinement of the pocket</i></p>
 <p>No. 1-0 Glove, Spalding catalogue 1889</p>  <p>ARTHUR IRWIN'S PADDED GLOVE, from a Draper & Maynard advertisement circa 1885</p>	 <p>Spalding catalogue 1901, model X, web pocketed glove.</p>  <p>One inch web, circa 1919, image J Snell</p>	 <p>The Doak patent glove 1922</p>  <p>Split finger glove, circa 1938, image J Snell</p>	 <p>Heavily padded, laced finger glove circa 1950, image J Snell</p>  <p>Modern hinged glove 1974, image J Snell</p>



Hunting Kit Discovered in San Esteban Rockshelter, Big Bend Area

Be sure to read this article in the TPW Magazine reporting the discovery of components of a hunting projectile kit, estimated at 6,500 years old ([Texcetera: Secret of an Ancient Hunt | March 2025 | TPW Magazine](#)). The cache contains a boomerang and remains of darts that were perhaps poisoned. As described by and directly quoted from author Louie Bond, the tools discovered include:



Four dart nock ends: These contain shallow cups that fit against the actual throwing device, an atlatl. These were all broken in the same place.

Straight flying boomerang: One of the oldest-known finds of these lethal weapons, this device is deadlier than its early name – rabbit stick – would imply.

Six stone-tipped foreshafts: These connect knapped stone points to atlatl dart main shafts and are easily replaced, making a modular and repairable weapon. Stone points are still embedded in two foreshafts, broken bases of points in others.

Four hardwood foreshafts: These long wooden tips might have been used for poison delivery.

Partial atlatl or spear-thrower: This was considered the oldest in North America until a slightly older (30 years) atlatl was found in Utah. Devin Pettigrew, Center for Big Bend Studies assistant professor, has made replicas to test in the field to see how it might have been used for hunting and warfare.



Read more at [San Esteban Rockshelter | Kansas Geological Survey](#); [Center for Big Bend Studies](#); [CBBS Research](#); [6,500-year-old hunting kit found in Texas cave contains one of the oldest known weapon collections ever found in North America | Live Science](#).

Above: [Texcetera: Secret of an Ancient Hunt | March 2025 | TPW Magazine](#). Below: [6,500-year-old hunting kit found in Texas cave contains one of the oldest known weapon collections ever found in North America | Live Science](#).



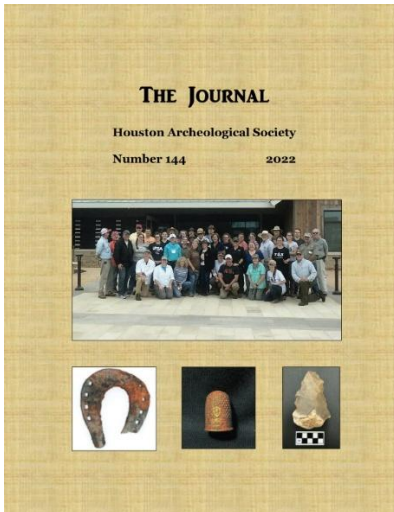
Feedback Requested! We want to hear from YOU!

How can we improve the HAS *Profile* newsletter? What ideas do you have for news items, features, or columns? Let us know about things such as your regular favorites, which articles and reports you most enjoyed, what you really read and what you skipped, topics you'd like to see in the future, what could be longer or what should be shorter, what could be omitted, and any other suggestions about how we can improve. Share your thoughts at newsletter@txhas.org.



Question Mark Dictionary Art Print

Houston Archeological Society Job Vacancy ~ Call for a Publications Editor

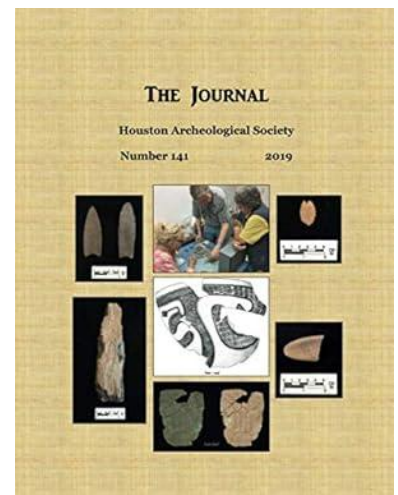


The Houston Archeological Society (HAS) is a non-profit organization that serves the professional, student, and avocational archeological community of Houston. HAS offers prehistoric and historic site assessments, archeological surveys, salvage efforts, excavation opportunities, education and outreach programs, and research publications. By supporting research and archeological projects, the Society is able to preserve this mission and promote a wider public understanding and appreciation of archeology and related fields of science. Many HAS members are professional archeologists, historians, researchers, and writers who offer unique glimpses into the history of local venues, area and regional histories, and the prehistory of the upper Texas Gulf Coast and adjoining states. Founded in 1959, the Society has been known and respected from its earliest days for contributions to the archeology community via published project reports and the Houston Archeological Society Journal.

Unfortunately, since the passing of our highly esteemed member Louis Aulbach, the position of HAS Publications Editor has remained unfilled.

This is a call for HAS members to step forward and help us reactivate this important segment of our work!

Responsibilities include collecting Journal articles as well as shorter Report material, proofreading, liaising with the authors, and formatting for publication. The HAS Board offers support in soliciting and suggesting topics and sources, as well as training on the use of Kindle Direct Publishing/Amazon. A shared co-editorship is possible. In addition to the academic and net-working benefits, this would be a wonderful opportunity to enhance a resume. Contact president@txhas.org to learn more or offer suggestions or nominations. Past publications are available at [Journal Archive - Houston Archeological Society](#).



North Texas Archeological Society Monthly Meetings Available Via Zoom



advance. The upcoming NTAS meeting on May 8 features Yonavea Hawkins, member of the Caddo Nation. For more information, see the [Calendar](#).

The North Texas Archeological Society invites us to attend their monthly meetings, held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m., except in June and December. The meetings are hybrid, held in-person at the University of North Texas Health Science Center in the Research & Education Building and also offered via Zoom. Guests are welcome at no charge. To receive the Zoom link, email info@ntxas.org in



Nominate a Historic Business as a Texas Treasure

Since 2005, more than 700 Texas businesses have been honored for their historic significance with a [Texas Treasure Business Award](#). Nominate your longtime favorite today!

Let us know what Houston area businesses you think might qualify – what suggestions do you have?



HAS Reference Desk

What research on archeology, anthropology, paleontology, or history have you been reading lately? The HAS Reference desk seeks your suggestions about interesting archeology and history news and links. Check out these interesting links:

Read more about Notre-Dame de Paris: [Archaeologists Say They've Solved the Mystery of a Lead Coffin Discovered Beneath Notre-Dame](#); [Inrap | Institut national de recherches archéologiques préventives French National Institute for Preventive Archaeological Research](#); <https://aleteia.org/2024/12/10/unearthed-secrets-the-medieval-wonders-beneath-notre-dame>; [Treasure found under Notre Dame Cathedral after shocking fire](#); [Notre-Dame revealed its secrets to archaeologists after it burned - The Jerusalem Post](#)
[Travois tracks, human footprints in White Sands National Park: 'A real chill': National park discovery rewrites human history](#); [White Sands fossil footprints suggest longer human history in Americas : NPR](#)
[13 Ancient Maps That Suggest Explorers Knew More Than We Thought](#); [Piri Reis World Map of 1513 incredibly precise](#)
[A rock used as a doorstep for decades turns out to be worth €1million](#)
[Women in ancient Pompeii](#); [Breakthrough in mystery of life-size sculptures in Pompeii tomb](#); [Rare statues discovered in Pompeii tomb](#)
[Historic Photos of Expeditions into Mesoamerica and South America](#); [Massive-circular-tomb-with-battle-scarred-people-Peru](#)
[Bronze Age arrowheads and bones reveal grisly insights into Europe's oldest known battlefield | Archaeology News](#)
[Williamsburg Peter Scott site.pdf](#)



Upcoming Events

Be sure to reconfirm details before making plans to attend.

VIRTUAL: Note that most events listed are free of charge but still require advance registration.

Archaeological Institute of America (AIA)

5/8-5/15 – Thursday – Thursday. Online conferences, Dokuz Eylül University, Izmir, Turkey. More at [Ergun LAFLI | Dokuz Eylül University - Academia.edu](#). More information at [AIA Event Listings](#).

Cotswold Archaeology

5/5 - Monday, 1 p.m. Central. [Stonehenge - Old Rocks, New Theories | Eventbrite](#). Cotswold Archaeology's Mick Aston Annual Lecture featuring Dr. Julian Richards.

Council for British Archaeology

5/1 – Thursday, 1 p.m. Central/7 p.m. BST. [This is Archaeology - Basque Oak and Portuguese Wine: A Medieval Merchant Ship Reveals Her Secrets](#) featuring Toby Jones, Curator of the Newport Ship Project.

Engelhardt-Moore Lecture Series

5/1 – Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Dr. Garth C. Clark, CEO of Indyme Genetics, presents [Understanding How Coinage Evolved Through Archaeometallurgy](#). Mankind has a 5000-year history of improving capabilities in the mining, purification, alloying, and use of metals. Metal items reveal aspects of ancient life and civilizations through the archaeological record and the use of technology. Every ancient piece of metal, although smelted and alloyed, still retains a signature of its origin. See <https://engelhardtmoores/lecture-series>. Join the Zoom meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85971389087?pwd=wNjRXWSnWdzkiwaRJXCgdCMI9fmuPL.1>.

North Texas Archeological Society

5/8 – Thursday, 7 p.m. Monthly meeting, featuring Yonavea Hawkins discussing her Caddo beadwork, <https://yonavea.com/about-the-artist>. Register for Zoom link in advance at info@ntxas.org.

Shumla Archaeological Research & Education

5/21 – Wednesday, noon. Kelsie Hart and intern Memphis Mallory present [Curating Rock Art Legacy Collections](#). Register at [Shumla Lunch and Learn Virtual Series: May 21, 2025 - Shumla](#).

Smithsonian Institution

A current calendar of Smithsonian virtual lectures presented for modest fees may be found at: [Events | Smithsonian](#).

Trust for Welsh Archaeology

5/8 - Thursday, 1 p.m. Central. [Maritime Archaeology in Wales - Tickets | Eventbrite](#).

West Essex Archaeological Group

5/12 – Monday, 2 p.m. Central. Fourth and Fifth Century Burials in East Anglia featuring Dr. Sam Lucy of Newnham College, University of Cambridge. [West Essex Archaeological Group - Rudge Lecture May 2025 Tickets | Eventbrite](#).

Some additional websites listing virtual events and resources: [Texas State Historical Association Events](#); [NTAS](#); [Bullock Texas State History Museum](#); [Virtual Lectures - Archaeological Conservancy](#); <https://www.archaeological.org/events>; [Virtual Events–Friends of THC](#); <https://www.thestoryoftexas.com/education/educators/professional-development> (On Demand Programs); [The Archaeology Channel](#); [Virtual Resources | PAST Foundation](#); [Archaeology Events & Activities Eventbrite](#)

ON-SITE:

Archeology Now, Houston Society of the Archaeological Institute of America

5/3 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Cemetery Preservation at Evergreen Cemetery, 5499 Market Street at Lockwood. Help restore an historic African American cemetery in Houston. Box lunch, training, and all supplies provided. [Register here](#).

Bryan Museum, Galveston

5/17 – Saturday, 4 p.m. Distinguished Speaker & Texas Frontier Gold Medal Award, honoring Stephen L. Hardin. Dr. Hardin recently retired following a thirty-five-year career as a university professor. He is the author of scholarly articles and eight books, including *The*

Texas Rangers (1991), the award-winning *Texian Iliad: A Military History of the Texas Revolution (1994)*, *The Alamo 1836: Santa Anna's Texas Campaign (2001)*, *Texian Macabre: The Melancholy Tale of a Hanging in Early Houston (2007)*, and *Texian Exodus: The Runaway Scrape and its Enduring Legacy (2024)*. Tickets \$75 and up.

Fanthorpe Inn State Historic Site

5/3 – Saturday, 5 – 8 p.m. [San Jacinto Ball](#). Living history event with stagecoach rides at Fanthorpe Inn in Anderson.

Houston Heritage Society

Through 6/30. [Karankawa Exhibit: An Enduring Culture of Texas — The Heritage Society](#).

5/7 – Wednesday, 7 p.m. Mister McKinney's Historic Houston presents author Dr. Kate Kirkland discussing her book, *Captain James A. Baker of Houston, 1857–1941*. Free, virtual on Facebook or Instagram Live. [Programs for Adults — The Heritage Society](#).

5/9 – Friday, 5 p.m. Karankawa panel discussion, \$5 fee.

5/13 - Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. Professor Hank Deslaurier who will speak about Jack Johnson: The Galveston Giant, North Shepherd Brewing, 4816 N. Shepherd Drive.

5/15 – Thursday, Noon. Author Dr. Jeremy Pedigo discusses the Life and Politics of United States Senator Sam Houston, \$10.

5/16 – Friday, 6 p.m. Speaker Event: Sam Collins of the Juneteenth Legacy Project, \$10 wine and cheese.

Kreische Brewery and Monument Hill State Historic Sites

5/17 – Saturday, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. [Bluff SchuetzenFest](#). Celebrate the history of the Bluff Schuetzenverein and the legacy of Texas craft brewing with this heritage festival and beer garden fundraiser.

Preservation Houston

5/18 – Sunday, 2 – 3:30 p.m. [20th Century Main Street Architecture Walk](#). Walking tour and history of Houston's downtown business district.

5/24 – Saturday, 10 a.m. Women of Glenwood Cemetery, two-hour walking tour telling the story of notable women in Houston history including Charlotte Allen, the wife of Houston co-founder Augustus Allen; suffragists Annette Finnigan and Florence Sterling; publisher and stateswoman Oveta Culp Hobby, who led the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps during World War II; and movie star Gene Tierney. Tickets are \$10 for Preservation Houston members and students and \$15 for general admission. Purchase tickets at [Architecture Walks](#).

San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site

5/3 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. [Textile Dyeing](#), including indigo and cochineal period dyes.

5/17 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. [Chinking and Daubing](#), learn and help out.

5/24 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. [Processing Fibers Part I: Carding](#).

5/25 - Sunday, 1 – 4 p.m. [Processing Fibers Part II: Spinning](#). 2 p.m. [San Felipe Nature Walk](#).

5/26 – Monday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. [Processing Fibers Part III: Textile Art](#).

5/29 – Thursday, 6 p.m. [History at Night - A Cotton Patch and a Memory: Washington-on-the-Brazos Rediscovered](#).

San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site

5/17 – Saturday, 5 p.m. [History Under the Star Lecture Series: Brave Boy and Good Soldier- John C.C. Hill with Mary Margaret McAllen](#). The story of John Hill's capture and subsequent adoption by President Antonio López de Santa Anna is one of the most fascinating and curious to come out of this extraordinary episode in Texas history.

Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site

5/17 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. [Gamblers, Horse Racers, and Sports of All Classes: Horse Racing in Washington](#). Experience the atmosphere of race day at Washington-on-the Brazos with a tent tavern, Faro gaming table, stick horse races, and live horse racing demonstrations at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m.

Some additional websites listing upcoming area events: [Archaeology Now](#); <https://texashighways.com/events/>; [State Park Events](#) [Texas Parks & Wildlife Department](#); [Upcoming Events | Texas Historical Commission](#).



Houston Archeological Society - Monthly Meeting Program Schedule

Please note that meetings vary between in-person, hybrid, or virtual (via Zoom). The meeting format may change; be sure to doublecheck the HAS website and your emails prior to each meeting for updates.

May 15 – Virtual meeting only via Zoom, 6 p.m. Featuring Amy Goldstein discussing the Kirbee Kiln site.

June - No meeting due to Field School, no newsletter. See you at Field School in Milam and Robertson Counties, June 14-21.

July 17 - Featuring Gary Pinkerton.

August 21 - Featuring Mike McBride.

September 18 – Featuring Chris Lintz discussing the Antelope Creek Middle Ceramic Period, Part II.

October 16 – Featuring Greg Dimmick.

November - Featuring Tori Pagano.

December – Come enjoy the HAS Christmas party, holiday treats, and a year-end recap.

Houston Archeological Society monthly meetings are customarily free and open to the public. Many previous HAS presentations are archived and available for public viewing on our YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/channel. For more information about HAS, visit www.txhas.org, email us at president@txhas.org, or join our Facebook page at [Houston Archeological Society | Facebook](#).

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

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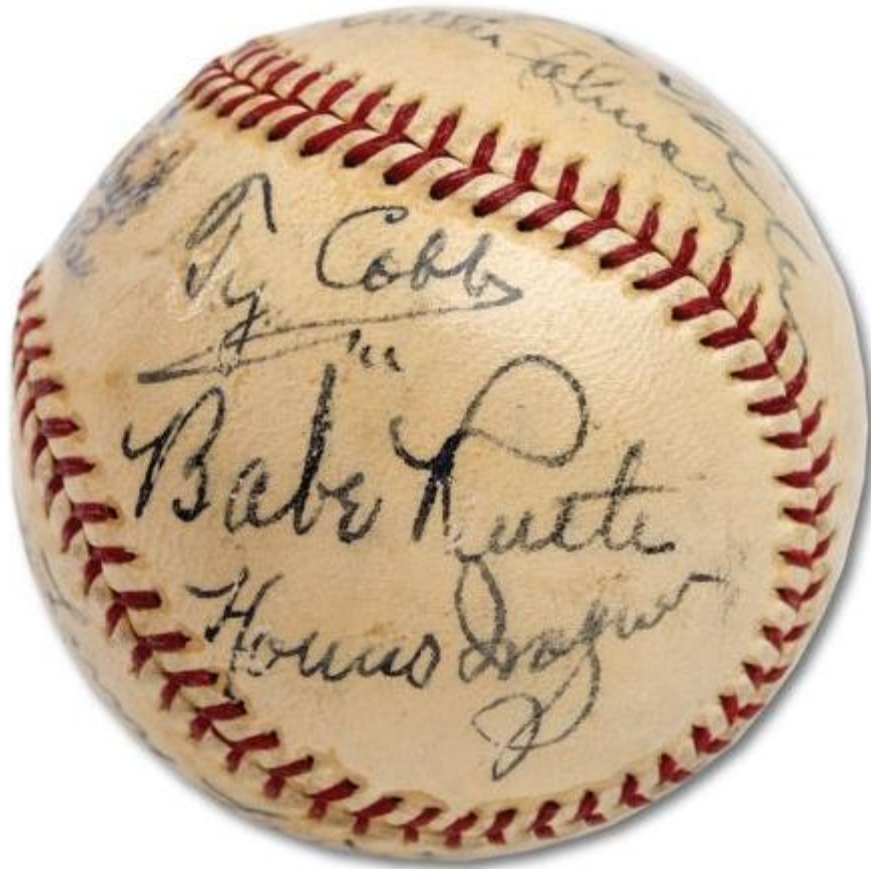
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1939 Hall of Fame Autographed Baseball, estimated value of \$623,369, featuring signatures from some of the most legendary figures in baseball history, including the first class of inductees: Babe Ruth, Ty Cobb, Honus Wagner, Christy Mathewson, and Walter Johnson. Source: [Most Expensive Signed Baseballs](#).