



EBAY AUCTION UNDERWAY TO BENEFIT TAS

By Linda Gorski

Since we normally do not have a newsletter or a program in June due to TAS Field School, we'll use Page 1 this month not to announce our speaker, but to announce an important project that is underway.

As most of you know, the 91st Annual Meeting of the Texas Archeological Society scheduled for October 29 – November 1, 2020 in Houston has been cancelled due to uncertain future effects of Covid19. This meeting is not just the annual gathering of the archeological clan in Texas, it is also the biggest fundraiser for the society. In order to offset some of the financial shortfalls as a result of cancelling this meeting, the Local Arrangements Committee in Houston is running an online auction to raise funds we would have raised at the Annual Meeting's Silent Auction. We will be doing this by placing items for auction on HAS Vice President Larry Golden's eBay site. You can see items we currently have on auction by going to eBay and then in the search box typing **TAS Auction 2020** and our items should come up. Larry will list new items every Sunday evening and that auction will run for a week, until the following Sunday evening.

Here's how the auction works and how YOU can participate.

1. Larry Golden and Linda Gorski currently plan to run this eBay auction each week until November 1 or as long as they have items to auction. Larry will put three or four items on his site every Sunday around 7 p.m. That auction will end the following Sunday. Then he will put three or four more items up for auction. That's where you come in. We need items to auction!
2. Please take photos of items you would like to offer to sell in this auction to benefit TAS. Smaller, quirky, interesting, easy to mail items are best. Any Texas-centric or western theme items sell especially well. Send photos to lindagorski@cs.com and goldenlarry58@gmail.com. They will let you know if they think your item will sell on eBay. If you have large or heavy items or boxes of books you might want to save them for the TAS Silent Auction at our 2021 TAS Annual Meeting on October 21 -24, 2021 which will be held in Houston.
3. Once Linda and Larry receive your photos, they'll decide if your item will sell on eBay and they will contact you and ask you to mail the item to Larry Golden if you live far away (address to be provided) or arrange a reasonable pick-up/drop-off place/time locally.
4. Larry will list the item on his eBay site for auction and the auction on that item will run for one week. Remember that your items are being seen by a worldwide audience so bidding can be fast and furious, and it can be very profitable! The winning bidder will pay for the item and for shipping from Houston. Larry will do all the shipping.
5. TAS will incur absolutely no expenses for this auction - but will receive all the profit. The donor (you) will receive a receipt for the sale price of the auctioned item(s) for your tax records.
6. Don't forget that you, too, can bid on the items!!! Keep in mind that gift list for family and friends for birthdays and the holidays. We have some really unique items to auction!!! All proceeds go to TAS!

As this newsletter goes to press, we were three weeks into our Auction and have already mailed checks totalling about \$1,300.00 to TAS! If the LAC can make \$200 - \$400 a week on this auction for six months until November 1 (the last day of the cancelled 2020 TAS meeting) TAS will receive well over \$6,000 from the auction! And if we get some really good items to auction, we'll earn much more! And here's the icing on the cake – an anonymous donor has just offered to match dollar for dollar what we raise up to \$6,000!!!!!! So please participate in this auction in any way that you can.

The response to the auction so far has been nothing short of remarkable. Check out some of the photos attached to see how HAS members have supported this important auction to benefit an important cause. Proceeds from this charitable auction

will benefit the Texas Archeological Society in its efforts to promote scientific archeological exploration and research, the preservation of archeological materials and sites, the publication of associated information, and public education and outreach programs for both adults and children throughout the State of Texas. (TAS is a non-profit organization with 501(c)(3) tax exempt status.)

If you have any questions about this auction please email Linda Gorski at lindagorski@cs.com. Thanks so much for your support.

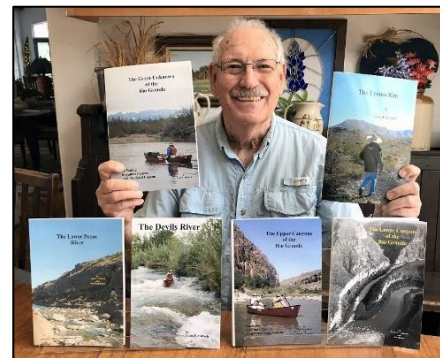


Dr. Carol McDavid, right, donating packing material to the eBay Auction with Linda Gorski, left,

In the coming weeks watch for these items coming your way from some wonderful HAS/TAS members:

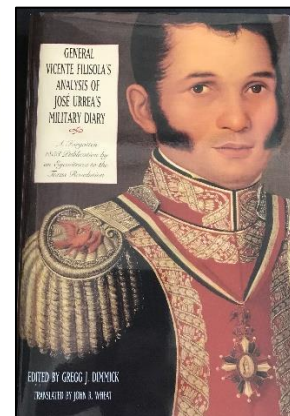
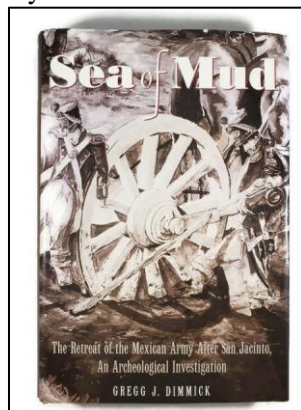


Stained glass artist and HAS member Mary Needham has donated three of her stained-glass creations!



Author and historian Louis Aulbach has donated a complete autographed set of his paddling guides to the rivers of Texas including the Pecos, the Devils and the Rio Grande and his hiking guide to Big Bend Ranch State Park.

Author and historian Dr. Gregg Dimmick is donating autographed copies of his two books AND offering a guided group tour of the Sea of Mud site in Wharton County.





HAS member Stan Theut designed and handmade these two terrific scoops to use in the Field.



Bill Birmingham has donated one of his handmade draw trowels - similar to this one.



HAS member John Lumb donated this vintage cotton Sampling knife marked "Southern Bagging Company, Long Reach, Houston, Texas"



HAS member Jack Farrell has donated several southwestern inspired items including this collection of five beautiful handmade arrows with metal and flint points.



Professional Archeologist and TAS member Lauren Miller with BGE designed and made these beautiful pieces of jewelry and donated them to our auction!



HAS member Betsy Wittenmyer has donated this beautiful Mexican sterling silver bracelet with seven precious stone cabochons.



HAS member Geoff Mills donated these two professionally framed 1800s prints. The upper one is of New York City and if you look closely you can see the American flag hanging from the building on the right and a parade of soldiers marching on the left. The bottom print is a very old Birdseye view of Washington DC. How that City has changed!!!!



This interesting old padlock was donated by HAS member Jack Farrell and you'll see it in the eBay auction soon.

We will update you on the status of future HAS monthly meetings in our next Profile.

President's Message – Linda Gorski



How are you spending your time during this COVID-19 virus event? Most of us are dutifully self-isolating, staying home and doing our best to flatten the curve.

Many of us who are in the “danger zone” age-wise have diligently practiced social distancing, mask wearing, glove wearing, and self-isolation. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate the consideration of others who, when in public places like the grocery store or the post office, will wear a mask. Thank you!!!

However, many of our members who are in the health care profession like Dr. Liz Coon-Nguyen have worked incredibly long hours taking care of those who are affected by the virus. Dr. Liz is a palliative care doctor and has seen so many patients in local nursing homes desperately ill with the disease. For several weeks, she herself was quarantined after having been exposed to a patient with COVID-19.



HAS member Lt. Joshua Farrar who just received his PhD in archeology from Texas A & M University is also an officer in the Texas National Guard. He is a member of the 294th Quartermaster Company, an Airborne Aerial Delivery Company. He was called to active duty on April 18th in response to the Covid-19 virus to run Mobile Testing teams in 26 counties in Texas including Harris County. “I am 2IC of the regional headquarters that manages 12 Testing Teams. Our area includes over 8 million people and incorporates 28% of the population of Texas. We have completed around 15,000 tests. We test at drive through testing centers, in meat packing plants and recently concluded testing in every nursing home in Harris County. I started orders on April 18th with orders ending May 18th. Orders were extended to May 31st and then June 24th. Now there are talks of extending to July 31st. I spent most of my days managing our supply lines, personnel management, and hotel reservations for 200 soldiers. I have a staff of 13 enlisted who I manage. I also work with the Texas Department of Emergency Management and Emergency Management Task Force on a daily basis as well as TEEX personnel from the fire school at Texas A & M. Other than that, I basically don’t sleep and live on trail mix!” said Josh.

Thanks to Liz, Josh and all the other health care providers and first responders for their service!

As you know, many of our events, activities, field projects and meetings have been cancelled since March and I miss seeing everyone! However, I congratulate HAS members like Dub Crook, Bob Sewell and Beth Kennedy who have kept our outreach programs going by giving online presentations to groups such as historical societies and the Texas Master Naturalist groups. We even ran our quarterly HAS Board meeting via ZOOM earlier this month and although it wasn’t the same as being together in person, it sure was good seeing everyone healthy and happy. I can’t wait until we can get beyond all this and get back to normal!

Recording



In the meantime, please know that members of the HAS Board are trying to come up with ways to present virtual programs to our members. Watch for emails in the next week or so about how you will be able to access HAS programs via ZOOM and other online services. We have also been sharing information about online programs that are being hosted by other groups including San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site and the Fort Bend Archeological Society on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/123659814324626>

Until we can finally get together again, stay safe, stay healthy --- and, please, wear a mask in public places!

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Houston Archeological Society

Monthly Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2020

There was no Monthly Meeting due to COVID-19 and thus no minutes

Beth Kennedy, Secretary

A Wealth of Historical Information: City Directories

by Louis F. Aulbach

For those who do historical archeology, the recovery of an artifact that mentions the name of a local person can be a thrill. Now, you have a direct connection to the site under excavation. But, where do you go find the information about a local resident of a city like Houston in the 19th century?

The census records are a good start, and the information is fairly reliable. Unfortunately, the census is only compiled every ten years, and the 1890 census records were all destroyed in a fire at the national archives storage facility. What do you do when you need information from the years in between the census years?

The solution for large cities, such as Houston, is found in the city directories. The compilations of personal data are generally updated bi-annually, and the accuracy of the data is actually better than that in the census records. A typical city directory record (in this case, from the Houston City Directory of 1889) looks like this:

276	[NIC]	City Directory-Morrison 1889. MORRISON & FOURMY'S	[NOL]
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Noble Zerviah M. (wid A. W.), r. w end Dallas, w of Bagby.

342	[SWE]	City Directory-Morrison 1889. MORRISON & FOURMY'S	[TAL]
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Szabo Alexander A., cotton gin and pickery, cor Montgomery ave,
Wood, r. 1 3 Dallas cor Fannin.
Szabo Eloise E. Miss, principal Taylor public school, h. Mrs. Z. M.
Noble.

Noble Zerviah M. (wid A. W.), r. w end Dallas, w of Bagby.

On another page in the same directory, there is this entry:

Szabo Eloise E. Miss. principal Taylor public school, h. Mrs. Z. M. Noble.

Linda Gorski and I were preparing a presentation on the Kellum Noble House screening project done by the HAS a couple of years ago. We needed more precise information about the Noble family and the house. By accessing the city directory we were able to fill in much of the information about Mrs. Noble and her granddaughter that was not readily available. The city

directories for Houston are available online from the Houston Public Library, and application tool permits you to search the directory by key words.

As you can see in our example, a search for "Noble" produced a hit for Zerviah Noble as well as for her granddaughter Eloise Szabo who lived with her.

Once you become familiar with the city directory search tool, you can quickly build a profile of information about your person. For more aspects of Houston's City Directories, check the Houston Public Library website:

<https://cdm17006.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/search/collection/citydir/searchterm/city%20directories/field/all/mode/all/conn/and/order/nosort/ad/asc>

Historical research from your own computer has never been easier.

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A TEA ALONG THE BRAZOS SAN FELIPE de AUSTIN

Rarely do the small dime sized sherds recovered from shovel tests at San Felipe present themselves with the opportunity for identification. The pictured shard with two deer was one of those rare opportunities. Identified on the Transferware Collectors Club site as "Man in Sleigh", also known as Napoleon's Sleigh Ride and Napoleon Fleeing with reference to his defeat in Russia. This tea set produced by Enoch Wood & Sons of Burslem, Staffordshire (1818-1846) consisted of a tea pot, tea bowl and cups, coffee pot, creamer and a sugar bowl. No cup plates were produced with this tea set. Most pieces seem to be crudely made as far as decoration is concerned, with random blue streaks and spatters across the white. The reference to Napoleon could possibly date production to the 1820s – 1830s, but no actual manufacturer dates are known.

One could only imagine a nice midday tea along the clear running Brazos in colonial Texas or that there would be time for a tea or even the possibility of a clear running Brazos.



Sherd found at San Felipe de Austin site



Example of "Man in Sleigh" pattern



Sugar bowl and teacup showing "Man in Sleigh" pattern

Notes on Munitions (What Came Before) the Minié Ball (Part 2) By Tom Nuckols

Introduction

After the battle of the Alamo on March 6, 1836, a Mexican citizen of San Antonio was pressed into service by Santa Anna's Mexican soldiers to carry the bodies of the slain Texas defenders to their funeral pyre. While engaged in this task, he found a flintlock Kentucky Rifle lying in the ruins. The rifle had an overall length of sixty inches, an octagonal (outside shape) barrel with a length of forty-five inches and a barrel bore diameter of a little over half an inch. The weight of the rifle was 8¼ pounds, with silver and brass fittings, and a curly maple wood stock. The rifle's barrel was engraved with the name "J. DICKERT" and its flintlock lock plate was engraved with the name "KETLAND"¹.

The man snuck off with the rifle and later gave it away. After changing ownership several times over the ensuing years, it was donated to the Alamo in 1947. It is currently on display in the Alamo's long barracks museum, and it is called the "Dickert Rifle" because it was made by gunsmith Jacob Dickert.

Jacob Dickert was born in Mainz, Germany in 1740, and he came to America in 1748. He was apprenticed to a gunsmith in Lancaster, Pennsylvania in 1758, where he later established his own gun shop in 1762 and made Kentucky Rifles. Dickert died in 1822.

Like many other American gunsmiths of his era, Dickert had the necessary skills to make his own flintlocks (the lock not the gun). However, crafting them was so time-consuming that the locks were often purchased by gunsmiths from people who specialized in their production. In the case of the "Dickert Rifle," Dickert used a lock made by Thomas Ketland (?-1816) of Birmingham, England.

Whether or not we believe that the Dickert rifle was used by a Texan in the battle of the Alamo is not important to this story about the Minié ball. What is important, however, is that the Dickert rifle represents the type of quintessential firearm used by civilians before the American Civil War, the muzzle-loading Kentucky Rifle (see Figure 1).

The Kentucky Rifle

In the early 1700s, Jaeger (anglicized from the German word for hunter: jäger) rifles were brought to Pennsylvania by German settlers. Jaeger rifles were heavy, short barrel hunting rifles, and the lead bullets they used were the size of a musket ball (see Figure 2). Once in America, German immigrant gunsmiths began making a new type of rifle based on the Jaeger design, but with modifications to fit the conditions of the New World.

These modifications, to name a few, consisted of wooden stocks made out of curly maple that were light, slender and delicate in construction, as well as ornately decorated. The butt stock (the rear of the stock) had a deep crescent butt plate and a recess carved into the right side called the patch box. The patch box, equipped with a brass lid, was used for carrying supplies such as bullet patches, patch grease or extra gun flints. The barrel length was

¹ To see a picture of the Dickert rifle, see Texas Monthly on line at <https://www.texasmonthly.com/the-culture/remember-the-long-rifle/>.

lengthened and octagonal in shape; a lengthened barrel gave the black gun powder more time to burn, thus increasing bullet velocity and requiring less gun powder per shot. The sight radius (the distance between the rear sight and the front sight) was lengthened which made it easier to line up the sights for faster target acquisition. And last, but not least, barrel bores were decreased which required the use of smaller bullets, usually .40 to .48 inches in diameter, so that more ammunition could be carried by settlers, explorers or hunters over vast distances.

By 1730, these improvements had resulted in a rifle that was capable of hitting a man size target at 200 yards when used by an experienced rifleman. It would become the primary weapon of the frontiersmen. Although it had its beginnings in Pennsylvania and was made in other states, the rifle acquired the name “Kentucky Rifle,” not for the eventual state by that name, but for the area in which it was widely used at the time, a vast wilderness area known as “Can-tuc-kee”, the vernacular for “Kentucky.” The rifle was used by men, such as Daniel Boone, when the frontier was moving west.

Kentucky Rifles were not mass produced. They were built one at a time. A skilled gunsmith working with an apprentice could make approximately fifteen to thirty rifles a year, by hand². Apprenticeship to a Kentucky rifle gunsmith could last up to eight years and was usually onerous since there were many things to learn, including carving wooden stocks, casting brass, making and assembling flintlocks, forging metal barrels, rifling barrels, and in some cases learning German.

English speaking youths were often apprenticed to German speaking gunsmiths. In 1795, gunsmith Christian Klein offered an eight-dollar reward in an ad in the September 16, issue of the *Lancaster Journal* for the return of his runaway apprentice John McCan. Klein stated in the ad that McCan spoke “both English and German, but English best”.

While gunsmiths usually made Kentucky rifles to their own preference, they were often made to a customer’s specifications.

To make loading a Kentucky rifle easier, bullets were smaller than the barrel's bore. For the bore's rifling to be effective, bullets were wrapped in a greased cloth or leather patch. The patch acted as an intermediary between the bullet and rifling allowing the bullet to spin when a gun was fired.

The word “caliber” was not a term in common usage when referring to the bullet size used in a Kentucky rifle. There was no standard size to which a Kentucky rifle was bored. When a gunsmith made a Kentucky rifle, he also made a bullet mold to go along with it. The bullet mold had a number stamped on the handle of the mold that indicated how many “balls to the pound” the rifle would shoot. An owner, if asked, would say that his Kentucky rifle shot “so many balls to the pound” or it “carries so many balls to the pound”³.

For example, an unfired spherical muzzle-loading bullet (Catalog #2157) was recovered at the Powell Site (41FB269), a Texas Colonial era (c. 1821-1836) site in Fort Bend County excavated by the Houston Archaeological Society in 1999-2000. The bullet exhibits a sprue nib and mold seam, an indication that it was mold made. It is slightly out of round and has a mean diameter of 0.484 inches. It has a grain (1/7000 of a pound)

² Research by this author has failed to determine how many gunsmiths in America were making Kentucky rifle or the amount produced. However, the website, K - Database of USA Gunmakers @ <https://www.earmi.it/USA%20Gunmakers/K.html>, lists those who specifically made them, including Jacob Dickert.

³ The bore in a Kentucky rifle if subject to frequent use, would rust due to constant exposure to the weather or would wear out due to corrosion caused by firing black gun powder. This caused the bore to enlarge requiring a thicker patch to wrap around the bullet or the bullet mold would be “cherried out” to enlarge the bullet diameter. A cherry is a rotary machine-tool cutting bit in the precise shape of a specific bullet, and it was used for cutting the internal cavity of a bullet mold.

weight of 152.7. If you “do the math,” you will find that 45.84 of these bullets will make one pound. Bear in mind however, that the added weight of the bullet’s sprue nib and mold seam, which cannot be determined, adds extra weight to the bullet, making the calculation slightly inaccurate. However, it is probably safe to say that if this Powell Site bullet was intended to be used in a Kentucky rifle, then that rifle fired at least 45 bullets to the pound.

To further illustrate the concept of “balls to the pound,” let us consider a chart made by gunsmith George Schalk. Schalk (1824-1892) of Pottsville, Pennsylvania, made Kentucky rifles. He also made a chart that shows the number of spherical lead bullets that could be obtained from a pound of lead, based on fraction-of-an-inch bullet diameters. Schalk’s chart lacks a grain weight column, probably because he did not have an accurate way to weigh bullets at the time. A portion of his chart is reproduced below. The Powell site bullet, inserted in the chart, is depicted in red.

No. of balls to the pound	Measurement in decimals of an inch
38	.491
40	.485
44	.474
45.84	.484
48	.463

Although they were made up until the 1850's, the period between 1785 and 1825 is considered the “Golden Age” of the Kentucky rifle. At the beginning of the American Civil War, in 1861, volunteers from both the North and the South, showed up with Kentucky rifles. These rifles were often referred to as “country rifles,” and some arsenals re-rifled them to fire Minié balls. Well into the 20th century, in rural areas of the Appalachian Mountains, people still used the Kentucky rifle as a hunting weapon.



Figure 1. A Kentucky Rifle. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long_rifle).



Figure 2. A Jaeger Rifle. Picture by Pinterest.

Next month: Part 3, Loading the Kentucky Rifle.

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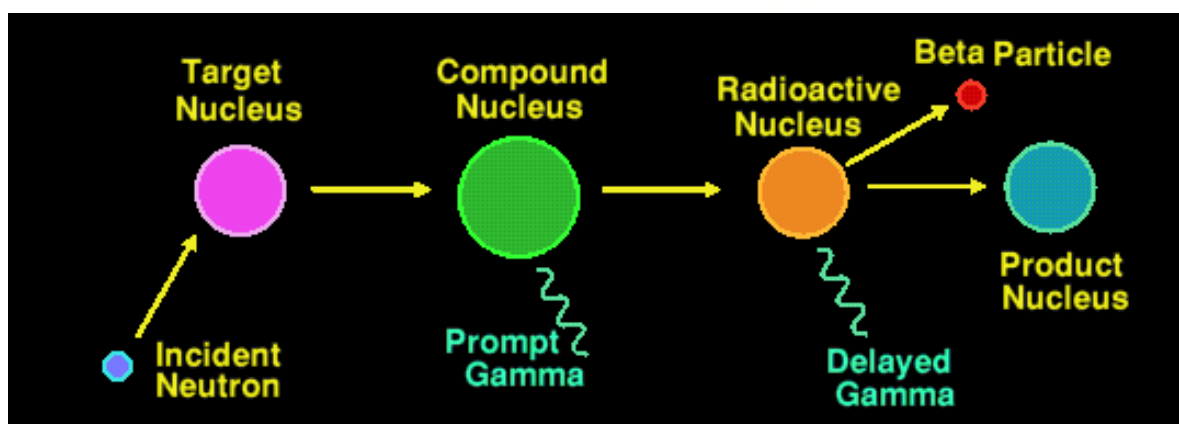
Archeo Corner: Neutron Activation Analysis

Wilson W. “Dub” Crook, III

Instrumental Neutron Activation Analysis (INAA), or more commonly referred to as Neutron Activation Analysis (NAA), is another analytical method for determining trace element concentrations in a wide range of natural or man-made materials. Samples are either whole or ground to a powder and then encapsulated in polyethylene and packed into an irradiation capsule (see photo below). The sample capsules are then placed in the core of a nuclear reactor.



The reactor produces neutrons which are used to bombard the sample. Irradiated elemental nuclei in the sample capture neutrons which then produces a radioactive isotope of the element. After irradiation, the newly produced radioactive nuclides begin to decay. The rate of decay of the elements of interest are measured by gamma ray spectroscopy using a high-resolution detector, usually germanium. The percentage of the various elements in the sample are calculated by comparison with standards usually irradiated along with the samples.

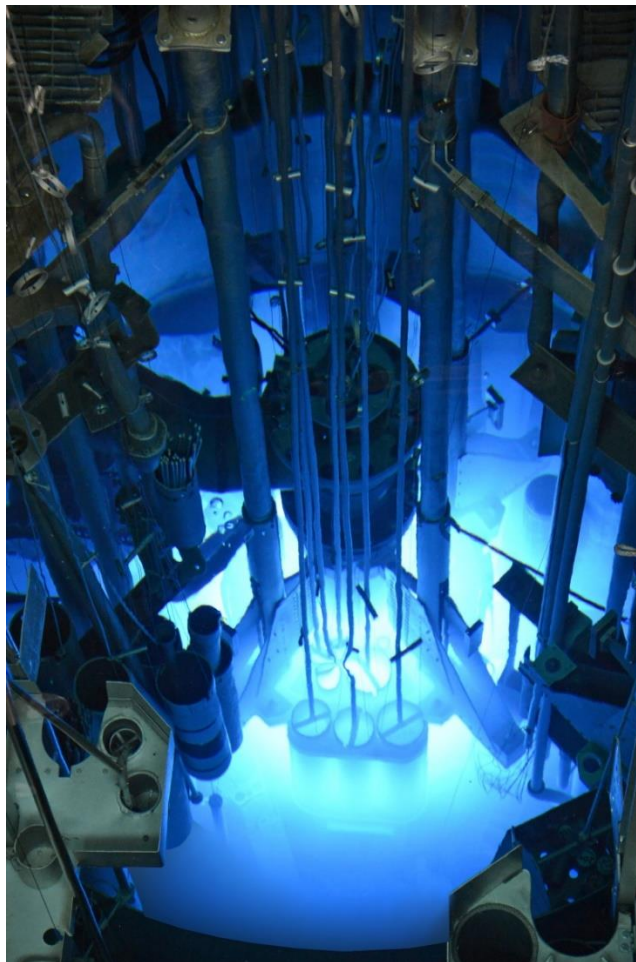


Process of Neutron Activation in creating a radioactive nucleus which emits gamma radiation which can be measured using a high-resolution germanium detector.

Applications to Archeology

Neutron Activation Analysis is used when detection of very low levels (parts-per-billion) of trace elements is needed to identify a particular geologic source. In archeology, NAA has been utilized to identify clay outcrops used to make pottery (in Texas it has been used very successfully to source many Caddo ceramics). Knowing the clay source can tell if a particular vessel was made locally or is the product of trade. NAA has also been used to source turquoise beads found in the American Southwest, notably at Chaco Canyon, New Mexico. The drawbacks of using NAA are the need for access to a nuclear reactor and the process typically destroys the sample. Even when samples are not ground, the intense radiation often turns the material to a black powder. Where you have abundant broken pottery sherds or, in the case of Chaco Canyon, where you have nearly 500,000 pieces of turquoise, this requirement is not a limiting factor. However, in sites where there are a limited number of samples, archeologists are more concerned about sample destruction.

In addition to sample destruction, analytical costs for NAA can be expensive (roughly \$300 or more per sample) and the wait times for access to commercial reactors can be many months, even years. One of the most frequently used commercial reactors is the Missouri University Research Reactor (MURR) located in Columbia, Missouri.



Archeological samples being irradiated in the commercial reactor at the University of Missouri in Columbia (MURR).

Houston Archeological Society

Monthly Meeting Programs for 2020

6:30pm Third Thursday of every month (except June)
Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road

June –Normally no meeting due to TAS Field School activities.

All **Houston Archeological Society** meetings are free of charge and open to the public. For more information about HAS then visit our website at www.txhas.org or email lindagorski@cs.com. You can also join our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/123659814324626/>

Please submit articles for publication to *The Profile* Editor Bob Sewell at newsletter@txhas.org. Please submit articles for the July 2020 issue no later than 24th June 2020.

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

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