



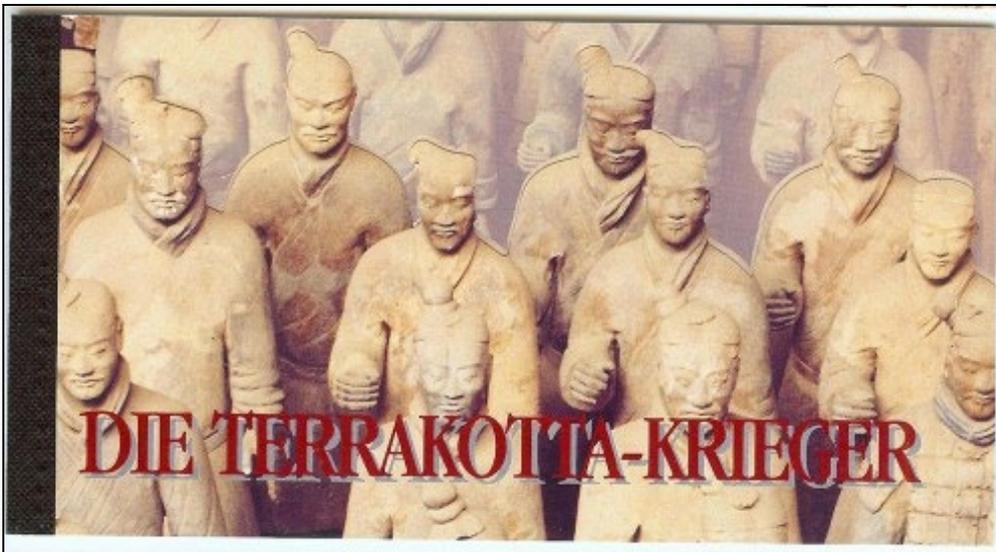
# The Old World Archaeologist

Journal of the Old World Archaeological Study Unit

Vol 27, no. 4  
Whole number 104  
October 2009

## Qin Shi Huangdi (The First Emperor) and his Terracotta Army

By Vincent Benkovitz



Front of booklet issued by U N Office in Vienna, Austria, Scott #232, Issued Nov 19, 1997

The First Emperor grew up as the eldest son of a local ruler. His story starts from the Warring States Period of Chinese history 491-221BC Emperor Qin, nee Qin Zheng (259-210BC); became king when his father died at age 13. The western state of Qin, for which China is named, was located in the Wei River valley in today's province of Shaanxi. Qin took over all territory 221BC after crushing and conquering his rival kings by 221BC.

A centralized system of tax collection, agricultural control and water management was already in place, the farmers paid their tax in grain and textiles, when Qin Shi Huangdi ascended the throne. But Qin Shi Huangdi created the canal system which is still in use today, transporting grain and supplies from the Yangtse River to Guangzhou.

Today we can still see technological and engineering firsts from his reign, the beginning of the building of the Great Wall, canals and irrigation systems, the First Emperor's Tomb and his Terracotta Army. The labor force consisted of conscripts and convicts, then farmers and slaves.

Work began on his tomb as soon as he took control of the Empire. The Qin territory was divided into 36 provinces, each with a governor, army commander and inspector.



Excavation Site, #1862, 6/30/83

(continued on page 3)

## Old World Archaeologist

Official Journal of The  
Old World Archaeological  
Study Unit

Caroline Scannell, Editor  
14 Dawn Drive  
Smithtown, NY 11787-1761  
Email: [editor@owasu.org](mailto:editor@owasu.org)

Old World Archaeological  
Study Unit

### President

Merle Farrington  
10 Clark Street  
Medway, MA 02053  
[bfcatt@aol.com](mailto:bfcatt@aol.com)

### Past President Emeritus

Eileen Meier  
Golden Living Center  
P O Box 167  
Clifton Forge, VA 24422

Address membership information to:  
The President or the Editor

### Board of Directors

Irene Moose  
1723 Merryhill Place  
McLean, VA 22101  
[moosel@erols.com](mailto:moosel@erols.com)

Caroline Scannell  
Smithtown, New York  
[editor@owasu.org](mailto:editor@owasu.org)

Hugh W. Johnston  
30 East Humboldt Drive  
Spokane, WA 99218  
[hjohnston@whitworth.edu](mailto:hjohnston@whitworth.edu)

Website: [www.owasu.org](http://www.owasu.org)

Webmaster: vacant

**WE URGENTLY NEED A VOLUNTEER!**

Dues are \$15.00 per volume and include membership.  
\$23.00 for delivery by international airmail.



ATA Unit since 1977



APS unit since 1979

For reproduction permission please contact the Editor

## From the Editor:

For those of you with tattoos, I found a very interesting piece about Oetzi and his tattoos! He's my favorite iceman! Every 3 or 4 months there is a story about some of the research being done on samples taken from his body.

As this is being prepared I am still to get to Albany. It's the sweltering heat of August but Albany is September 24-28<sup>th</sup>, since I don't want to get home 3am, so I'll stay until Monday and drive my State Senator crazy.

Has everyone heard about this summer's political tiff? Hey, don't laugh! You laughed when our Governor got caught with a call girl, well, how about that guy in South Carolina? Hate to say it, but you people in the other 49 states are following New York whether you like it or not. You people in Europe and the Mid-East, you really should check the U.S. news lines like [www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com) on the internet; if just for comic relief.

For those who take their politics seriously; at the OWASU table at StampExpo 400 you won a free bookmark if you could answer this question; "When President Obama went to Egypt, whom did he meet with?" For anyone reading this column and missed that – SHAME!

Afghan Gold, an exhibit co-sponsored by the National Geographic was at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC and I went July 18<sup>th</sup>. Well worth the trip! DVD is available, actually two are, but one is of the items in the exhibit and some of the background to putting it together. If you cannot see the exhibit, you might be able to obtain the DVD from National Geographic.

Thanks to contributions by some of our members, I put together 16 pages for a frame to advertise our existence and presence in Albany, back issues of the journal were also available.

By the time you get this, I will be totally stamped out! I have scheduled stamp shows to attend September 12<sup>th</sup> in NYC, September 25-27<sup>th</sup> in Albany, NY and the MEGA Show is October 8-11<sup>th</sup> this year. I expect to have this issue in the mail, complete with renewal notice, October 8<sup>th</sup>.

We need members! On our website we have a flyer you can print out and make photo copies to leave at your local show literature table. If you need table of contents copies, I can very easily email a set to you. Membership applications are also available on the website. We average getting 4 new members each year, but we lose more to nursing homes, illness and death each year.

*Caroline*

# Qin Shi Huangdi (The First Emperor) and his Terracotta Army

By Vincent Benkovitz

(cont'd. from page 1)

All weights and measures were standardized during Qin Shi Huangdi's reign, as well as standardization of the Chinese script. Their capital was Xianyang (Xi'an or ancient Chang'an), was the main city of the Silk Road.



Bronze chariot with rider, maximum cards issued by China June 20, 1990, Scott #2278 (left) #2276 (right)

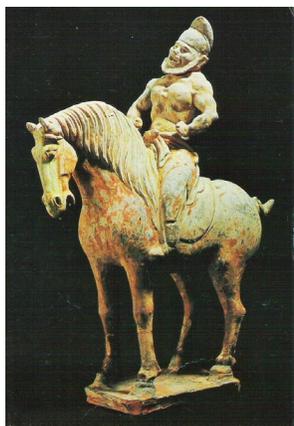
Around 215BC Emperor Qin sent his oldest son with General Meng to the northern frontier to begin construction of what would become known as the Great Wall to defend the borders against tribes of marauding barbarians (the Tartars).



Maximum card franked with #2277 June 20, 1990

Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi burned all the books except those of medicine, divination and agriculture in 213BC. All history books were burned so the people could not look back on the past and compare with the present. People would have no knowledge before his reign, and would not compare the present with the past.

700,000 convicts and forced laborers were sent to work on both his new palace and his tomb as soon as he took control of the empire. The tomb of rammed earth has not been excavated. Qin Shi Huangdi also began construction of a great wall to the north to keep out marauding tribes.



Postcard from exhibition in London, 1973.

Upon his death his eldest son was killed to allow a younger, more pliable son, to gain the throne. His first order was that all concubines who had no sons should be buried with the First Emperor. The workmen who built the tomb were also buried alive with the closing of the tomb. Magnetic scans reveal large numbers of coins or metal content along with mercury.

A terracotta figure of a woman was exhibited in London in 1973. According to the exhibition catalogue she was found in 1932. Details on the postcard at left from that exhibition state the piece shown was found in 1964 and stands 30.5cm high.

In 1974, this was all going to change.

# Qin Shi Huangdi (The First Emperor) and his Terracotta Army

By Vincent Benkovitz

(cont'd. from page 3)

When the village of Xiyang required a new well in 1974 Yang Zhifa and his neighbors digging in a field uncovered a pit containing the buried terracotta army. So far 4 pits have been found. Though the 4<sup>th</sup> was empty, the other 3 contained over 6000 life size warriors crafted in terracotta. The main pit measures about 210 meters (680 feet) by 60 meters (195 feet) and contained 3,210 warrior figures, each varied in armor, hairstyle and face.



United Nations Nov 19, 1997 (red) Geneva #314-5 (blue) NY #716-7 and (green) Vienna #230-1

The army consists of bowmen, crossbowman, archers, foot soldiers (infantry), charioteers, and cavalry with all their horses; all positioned as though awaiting the battle cry. It is assumed that the 4<sup>th</sup> pit was unfinished when the emperor died. Archaeologists estimate that there are over 7,000 soldiers (infantry to generals), 130 chariots with horses, and 110 cavalry horses.



China; Scott # 1859, 1860 & 1861, issued June 30, 1983 depicting soldiers in situ.

Most of the soldiers are made up of different parts molded separately then joined together; arms, legs, feet, hands, torso and head. Though they all look different, archaeologists have found only 2 types of feet, 3 types of shoes, 4 of

boots, 2 types of legs, 8 torso types and 3 types of armor. The most varied are the heads which consist of 8 types. It is a mix and match sort of variety; an extraordinary example of creative mass production. All wear the same basic costume of over the knee length gowns and trousers or leggings. This allowed movement. Originating during the Warring States period in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century BC, the costume was adopted from barbarian dress to facilitate cavalry battle.

All originally carried real bronze spears or swords, bows and arrows, crossbows, lances, daggers and axes. Many of these were carried off to use against the Han invaders when the tumulus was broken into in ancient times. The Qin dynasty was overthrown by the Han 206BC. Virtually none of the pigment with which the figures were painted remains; just enough for us to know they were painted.

The tomb offers us a look into the past, into the world of the First Emperor. With rivers of mercury, constellations of pearls on the ceiling, the mixture of real (soldiers with weapons, horses with straw, ceramic acrobats) and less real (half size servants and chariots), gives us a look into and an understanding of the world of Qin Shi Huangdi.

Today some of these soldiers, and some copies, tour the world to show the early development of civilization in China. In November 2009 a small group will be in Washington DC at the National Geographic Museum.



Monaco #2189, 2001

Discoveries continue to date. Much is still unknown about the First Emperor's tomb complex. Excavation halted until better excavation and conservation methods are found. []

# Carthage

By Caroline Seannell



Punic Stele to Sun God Baal Tunisia #603, May 6, 1973



Bronze bust of Hannibal, Volubilis (Morocco) Tunisia #488, Dec 1/1967

Carthage, from the Phoenician Kart-hadasht, meaning “new town”, was a great city of antiquity located on the northern coast of Africa, founded in the 9th century BC on the Gulf of Tunis by the legendary Phoenician Queen Dido of Tyre. From the 6th century BC onwards, it was a major trading empire, the dominant trading nation in Africa, with their own colonies covering much of the Mediterranean, and was home to a brilliant civilization.

Carthage was a maritime civilization with a mercantile economy rather than agrarian (farming), trading in metals such as gold and tin. They were the dominant trading nation in Africa. Through their maritime power, the Carthaginians were able to extend their settlements and conquests. Their empire was devoted to commerce.

Among their numerous commercial enterprises were the mining of silver and lead; the manufacture of beds and bedding. There was lumber industry in the Atlas Mountains (Morocco); they produced simple, cheap pottery, jewelry, and glassware for trade; and they exported wild animals from African jungles, of fruits and nuts, and of ivory and gold.



Tunisia #52, 1906 Carthaginian Galley



Woman, 5<sup>th</sup> Century BC Tunisia, #1372



Baal Amon, 1<sup>st</sup> Century Tunisia, #1373, May 18, 2005



Mosaics, Ostriches & Camels Tunisia #601, May 6, 1973

The earliest artifacts un-earthed by archaeologists at the site date from 800 BC. The city was known to its Punic or Phoenician inhabitants as the “new city.” Carthage had two splendid harbors, connected by a canal. Above the harbors on a hill was the Byrsa, a walled fortress.

Carthage conquered the Libyan tribes and annexed older Phoenician colonies so that by the 6th century BC Carthage controlled the entire North African coast from the Atlantic Ocean to the western border of Egypt, as well as Sardinia, Malta, the Balearic Islands, and part of Sicily. A Carthaginian admiral, Hanno, made a voyage along the Atlantic coast of Africa.



Tunisia Punic Coins. Silver Scott #1346 July 22, 2004



Tunisia Punic Coins Gold Scott #1347 July 22, 2004



Carthaginian Tristater Mali #244 Oct 13, 1975

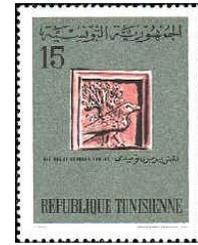
Though it is thought they invented mosaics, Carthage produced little original art. Most of the work of the Carthaginians was imitative of Egyptian, Greek, and Phoenician originals. In literature only a few technical works appeared. Because it was completely destroyed, little is known of everyday life of Carthage, its government, or its language.

# Carthage

By Caroline Scannell

(cont'd from pg 5)

Religion in Carthage is believed to have involved human sacrifice to the principal gods Baal and Tanit (the equivalent of the Phoenician goddess Astarte). The Greek gods Demeter and Persephone and the Roman goddess Juno were adapted to later religious patterns of the Carthaginians.



Punic Bird Carving  
Scott #489, Dec 1, 1967



Archaeological Sites and Monuments of Tunisia  
Ulysses & the Sirens      Water Temple  
Tunisia, Scott #1212 & Scott #1211, April 22, 2000

For more than 150 years Carthage was almost continually engaged in war with Greece and Rome. Wars with Greece, beginning in 409 BC, concerned the control of the island of Sicily, which was only about 100 miles from Carthage and formed a natural bridge between North Africa and Italy. It was over Sicily that originally pitted Carthage against Rome.

Carthage first encountered defeat in Sicily in 480 BC, when the Carthaginian general Hamilcar commanded a force that hoped to expand Carthaginian influence throughout Sicily and was defeated by Gelon, the ruler of Syracuse.

Further Carthaginian attempts to conquer Sicily were thwarted by armies under the command of the Syracusans Dionysius the Younger, Dionysius the Elder, Agathocles, and Pyrrhus, king of Epirus. After their final defeat in 276 BC the Carthaginians continued to hold territory in Sicily; 12 years later the first of the Punic Wars against Rome began.



Hannibal Barca 247-183BC,  
Carthaginian General  
Tunisia #1078, Nov 14, 1995

The First Punic War (264-241 BC) brought to the fore the Carthaginian general Hamilcar Barca. Defeated in Sicily, Hamilcar invaded Spain. His conquests in southern Spain were completed by his son-in-law Hasdrubal and by his son Hannibal.

During the Second Punic War (218-201 BC), Hannibal Barca marched eastward along the northern shore of the Mediterranean from Spain and finally crossed the Alps into Italy. Hannibal's final defeat, however, resulted in the loss of Spain and various island possessions of Carthage.

In the Third Punic War (149-146 BC), the Romans under Publius Cornelius Scipio Aemilianus Africanus Numantinus destroyed the city of Carthage, burning it to the ground. Hannibal advised his government to sue for peace.

The stamp at left was engraved by Czeslaw Slania and exists in perforated and imperforated souvenir sheets.

In a final gesture of contempt, it is said that the Romans spread salt over the ruins. The victors thus fulfilled the wish of the Roman statesman Cato the Elder. Due to the subjugation of the Carthaginian civilization by the Romans at the end of the Third Punic War, few historical primary sources survive.

Occupancy of the site was forbidden for 25 years. In 122 BC a new city, Colonia Junonia, was founded but lasted only 30 years. In 46 BC Julius Caesar visited the site and proclaimed that a city should be built there. His wishes were fulfilled by the Roman emperor Augustus in 29 BC when a city called Colonia Julia Carthago was founded.

# Carthage

By Caroline Scanzell

(cont'd from pg 6)



Hadrian's Aquaduct, Scott #48, 1920 Aquaduct #1184, Mar 31, 1999

This new city flourished until it was, once again, second only to Rome in prosperity and administrative importance. It is from this period structures like Hadrian's Aqueduct, and the Roman Amphitheatre were built.



Roman Amphitheater, #141, 1931



UNESCO (France) Scott #2030, 10/26/85

The stamps at left depict the Roman Amphitheater; built when the Romans decided to re-occupy the area.

The UNESCO issue also shows a Female Sculpture from Roman times.

With photogramatic surveys we are able to see beneath the Roman ruins to earlier structures. Many Punic sites have been found in Algerian territory. In Tangier (Morocco) coins have been found bearing pre-Roman characters.



Phoenician Trading Ship Ghana 413, Oct 2, 1980



Medusa, Tunisia #671, Feb 16, 1976



Vergil, Tunisia #1279 Mar 26, 2002



Spinner Feb 28, 2003 Africa



Tunisia Scott #1308 & #1309

Roman Carthage also became a center of Christianity, being the seat of a bishopric from late in the 2nd century. St. Cyprian was bishop there in 248; Tertullian, a Christian ecclesiastical writer, lived and worked in Carthage in the 3rd century; and St. Augustine was bishop of nearby Hippo in the early 5th century. The mosaics shown above are all from the Roman period of Carthage.

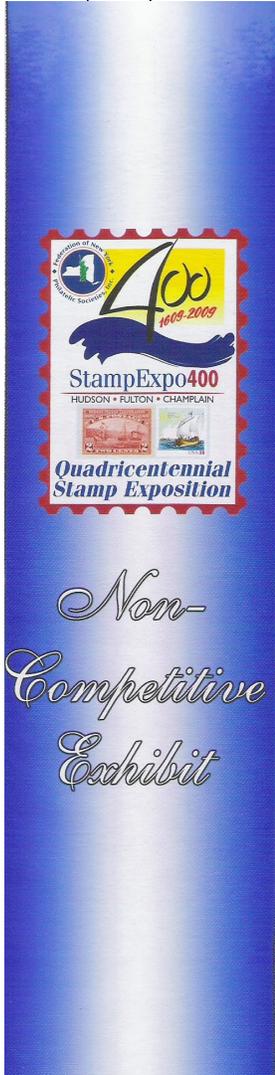


2800th Anniversary of the foundation of Carthage. Overview of Carthage today, rebuilt yet again. Tunisia, Scott #894, Oct. 18, 1986.

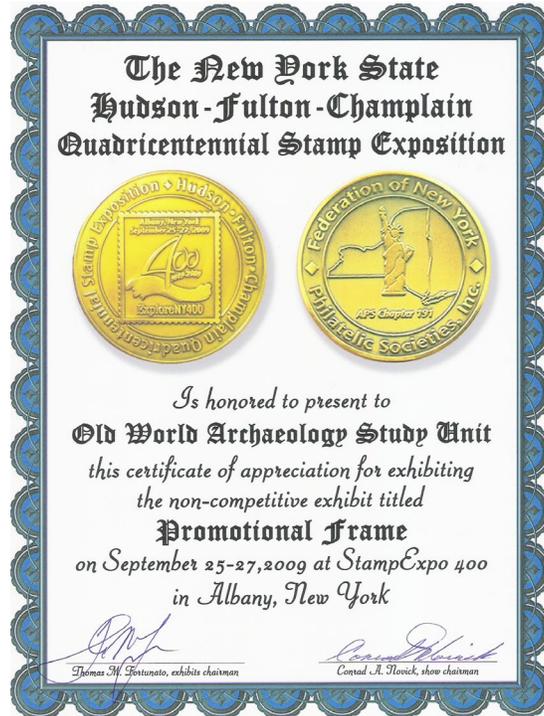
Carthage was fortified against barbarian attack in AD425. In 439 the Vandal king Gaiseric subjugated the city, which remained the Vandal capital until 533 when the Byzantine general Belisarius captured the city, renaming it Colonia Justiniana Carthago in honor of the Byzantine emperor Justinian I. Between 697 and 705 the city was captured by the Arabs and it was again destroyed. A great deal of archaeological activity was carried on at the site, particularly in the late 19th century, uncovering early Punic artifacts and Roman, Byzantine, and Vandal buildings.

Today Carthage is a wealthy suburb of Tunis. []

## StampExpo 400



As I write this I have just returned from StampExpo 400 in Albany, where OWASU had a table. I had put together a frame showing some archaeology items, starting with that Austrian Lady from 2008 mooning the viewers on the FDC.



When I went to take the frame down a woman was looking at it. Though she did not collect the topic she found it interesting. I also received a report that while I was away from the table someone had walked by; said to Merle Farrington "I get the newsletter but don't collect the stamps." I know there are several members who do not collect the topic; some use it in their class work.

There were about 80 dealers at the show, and as many societies. The society area was more crowded than the dealer area, a point that was made by several dealers. We had better lighting, too. The venue was long! About half a mile from end to end; which made shopping difficult. The exhibits were excellent and I am glad to report EVERY exhibitor got some recognition for their efforts. The OWASU frame was entered as non-competitive – I did not want to attend a critique telling me it was more like an advertisement and did not follow established exhibiting rules. I already knew that so I figured I'd save 5 people the headaches of dealing with me.

The cost for this effort on behalf of our society was \$25 for the frame and \$20 for the table. The \$20 was refunded on Saturday afternoon – which is why we took a table in the first place. We had a membership special; since it saved postage. I had journal back issues with me, including all 2009 until this one you are reading. Anyone joining for 2010 would receive all 2009 journals. We gained one new member. Same offer will be available at the MEGA Show.

If anyone is attending a stamp show and could put flyers on the table or run off some applications from our website, it would be very much appreciated. In the past 5 years we have added 4 to 6 new members every year, but have lost more to nursing homes and funeral parlors. We need members! The flyers print 2 to a page, the applications one page each. If you do not have web access, simply write to me, your editor, and I will send you a dozen applications and about 25 flyers to put out at a show.

On this page are ribbon and Certificate of Participation received.

## Merle's Musings (President's Message)

Caroline and I had a chance to visit while at the StampExpo400 Show in Albany. The last time we met was at the APS show in Hartford last summer. Thanks to all who stopped by the booth to visit. There were only a few dealers with topical materials. Mostly the dealers had postal history and country specific stamps.

Now is the time to obtain some collectible material to have on hand for those cold stormy days we know are coming. I have some coil line strips with partial plate

numbers that will need special pages drawn, so that I can add them to my US collection. I have been using Crystal Mounts for 40+ years, and now find that they are no longer available. Will try a couple of new products before finally moving to Plan B.

Enjoy the Fall Season and Holidays. The next issue of OWASU arrives after the New Year.

*Merle*

New Digs



Algeria, Archaeology, Roman Monuments 2009



Austria, September 11, 2009  
Carnuntum - Gerulata - Roman Excavations



Bosnia & Herzegovina  
Croat Admin. Archaeology  
Issued 2009



China Fenghuang - Ancient Town Strip of 3 Different



Greece, Monuments of World Cultural Heritage, issued 2009, stamps at left & souvenir sheet above



Guinea Bissau; Sheet/6: Prehistoric man, rock/cave paintings, prehistoric animals: Mammoths subplanifrons and africanavus, saber-tooth tiger. S/S Prehistoric man, rock/cave paintings, prehistoric animal: Hoplophoneus and unidentified in border. Issued 2009.



Peru, Peruvian Cultures; Huari & Chimú artifacts, 2009



Peru - Archaeology of Cumbemayo, 2009



Italy, Rock Art of the Camonica Valley (UNESCO) March 27, 2009



Sri Lanka, Historical Artifacts & Sculptures, 2009  
no other information known

Still Digging

The cover scan below was received from Mr. Fran Adams. He used the new stamp honoring Arminius issued by Germany and purposely short paid it in order to obtain auxiliary markings. Much to his (and my) dismay, the USPS delivered the cover without asking for the 15c owed. Fran diligently took the cover down to his local post office to get the 16c short paid marking. I would have liked to see the UPU "T" mark. Err, is the cover short paid by total 16c or is that double 8c short paid, or should the amount be 32c? UPU regulations require any short payment to be charges double the amount with half going to the originating country and half to the receiving country.



## Archaeology Today

### **5,000-year-old Venus Figure Found in Çanakkale, Turkey**



A 5,000-year-old Venus figure has been found as part of an excavation being carried out in Çanakkale's Ezine district. The excavation began in the field three weeks ago in cooperation with Germany's University of Tübingen. Assistant Professor Rüstem Aslan, who is vice head of the excavation, told the Anatolia news agency that the aim of the dig is to find settlements outside Troy from the Bronze Age.

Some interesting findings have been unearthed during the excavation, Aslan said. "We found a 5,000-year-old Venus figure, which used to represent woman at the time, as well as a seal with which people used to mark their belongings in prehistoric ages. Such a seal is a rare piece. In addition to these items, we also found stone axes, well-processed and embellished pots and spindle-whorls, which were used for spinning wool."

Today's Zaman September 25, 2009

### **Human Ancestors Conflicted on Monogamy**

When it comes to love, we Homo sapiens are a peculiar breed: We thrill at the thought of torrid affairs while dreaming about the perfect someone with whom we can spend the rest of our lives. According to a new study this never-ending tug-of-war for our hearts is encoded in the finger bones of Neanderthals and the upright walking primate Australopithecus.

Emma Nelson of the University of Liverpool and a team of researchers combed through literature on early human-like primates in search of fossils that contained hands with intact index and ring fingers. In humans and primates, the ratio between these two fingers is thought to be a telltale marker for how much of the androgen class of hormones and specifically testosterone someone was exposed to while in the womb. Extra androgen leads to longer ring fingers, the thinking goes, and therefore a lower index-to-ring finger ratio. Though highly contentious, studies indicate that men who receive high levels of androgen before birth are more likely to be stronger, faster, and more sexually competitive. Women who receive high levels of androgen may have similar traits.

Nelson's team wanted to see how our ancient relatives stacked up. They found two Neanderthals and one Australopithecus afarensis skeleton with the first bones of the index and ring fingers intact - enough detail to do the job. The Neanderthals had long ring fingers, suggesting they were a promiscuous bunch - like many primates alive today they probably lived in groups. Males may have likely either kept harems of female mates, or males and females each mated with multiple partners. A. afarensis lived between 4 and 3 million years ago, long before modern humans. Its short ring finger hints that it was faithful to a single mate, but Nelson says that doesn't sit well. "These were small creatures that probably lived in groups and were being eaten by predators," she said. "How do you keep from mating with different members of the group?"

"What they're seeing is very interesting," said Dean Snow of Pennsylvania State University in University Park. "The difference between being pair-bonded and non pair-bonded mating is a major watershed within primates. If a distinction is that Neanderthals weren't pair-bonded and modern humans were, that would be a major consideration in trying to figure out why modern humans out-competed Neanderthals in Europe." Pair-bonded males help feed and look after females while they're pregnant, while females and males both forage equally in non-pair bonded social structures, Snow added. But because the work involved such a tiny sample size, it is highly speculative. She stressed that firm conclusions about the sex lives of our ancestors can't be made until the team examines many more fossil hominids, not least of which should be skeletons of H. sapiens that lived during the same period as Neanderthals.

Discovery News September 24, 2009

### **Ancient Burial Mounds to be Razed in Bahrain**

Ancient burial mounds in a Bahraini village, which the government hoped to have recognized as a World Heritage Site, will be bulldozed to make way for a new road, houses and a public park. Councilors have successfully argued that 62 mounds in Buri, which date back as far as 4,000 years, were standing in the way of development, however, heritage chiefs are insisting on excavating the area, near Hamad Town, before allowing the bulldozers in. Any mound found to be of particular historical significance will be fenced off, but the rest will be flattened.

(cont'd next pg)

## Archaeology Today (continued from pg 11)

### Ancient Burial Mounds to be Razed in Bahrain

Northern Municipal Council chairman and area councilor Yousif Al Boori argued that building on top of the mounds was in the best interests of his constituents. "Finally, we will have our projects back on track after a year of waiting for the Culture and Information Ministry to meet us. The ministry will survey the area; fencing off mounds it believes should not be excavated, while giving permits to remove the others. This is not the first time mounds will be bulldozed - a clear example is neighboring A'ali, where urbanization has swept away most of the mounds."

Bahrain's mounds date back to the Dilmun civilization and can be traced back to the middle of the third millennium BCE. An application to recognize 11 mound locations, stretching 25km from the center of the country to the northern coast, as a World Heritage Site was submitted to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) last May. That included the Buri mounds, which along with those in Dar Kulayb and Karzakan were described in Bahrain's application as: "The highest level of density of burial mounds in one field and the highest density of mound fields in a relatively limited territory."

Bahrain was hoping the mounds would qualify for World Heritage Site status. It argued that each of the 11 sites "provides essential archaeological and scientific data defining the unique funerary practices of the Dilmun and Tylos civilizations". However, the Works Ministry has allocated a budget for a new road linking Buri with the Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Highway. A major project has been planned in the area by the Housing Ministry, while the Municipalities and Agriculture Ministry intends to build a public park. All three projects have been put on hold for over a year, but have finally been given the all clear by Culture and Information Minister Shaikha Mai bin Mohammed Al Khalifa.

Gulf Daily News August 23, 2009

### China's Founding Legend May Not Be True

China's founding dynasty may just be a myth, say archaeologists. In a news report published in Science magazine, writer Andrew Lawler surveys a decade's worth of discoveries suggesting ancient China sprang from distinct regions, rather than possessing a single national culture some 4,300 years ago. "How China became China is no mere academic topic; it goes to the very heart of how the world's most populous and economically vibrant nation sees itself and its role in the world," Lawler writes.

Since 2004, archeologists headed by Wang Wei of the Institute of Archaeology of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing have begun tying together a broader picture of China's origins. "Most of us accepted

that the Yellow River was the origin of Chinese civilization. But as we've done more research, we have found other cultural areas," Wei tells Science. In particular, the Xia dynasty - written about as the founder of the Chinese state by Confucius around 600 BCE - seems suspect. In 1959, Chinese archaeologist reported the discovery of the capital city of Xia, dating from 2100 BCE to 1600 BCE, but modern excavations and more recent dating, "challenge its status," writes Lawler. "Although not even half-complete, the project to define the origins of Chinese civilization has already laid to rest the notion of an imperial China rising from the central plains of the Yellow River to bestow its gifts on backward hinterlands."

USA Today August 20, 2009

### Cuneiform Tablets Found in 2,700-year old Turkish Temple

Excavations at the site of a recently discovered temple in southeastern Turkey have uncovered a cache of cuneiform tablets dating back to the Iron Age period between 1200 and 600 BCE. Found in the temple's cella, or 'holy of holies', the tablets are part of a possible archive. The cella also contained gold, bronze and iron implements, libation vessels and ornately decorated ritual objects.

"The assemblage appears to represent a Neo-Assyrian renovation of an older Neo-Hittite temple complex," said Timothy Harrison, professor of near eastern archeology in the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations and director of University of Toronto's Tayinat Archaeological Project (TAP). "The tablets, and the information they contain, may possibly highlight the imperial ambitions of one of the great powers of the ancient world, and its lasting influence on the political culture of the Middle East."

Partially uncovered in 2008 at Tell Tayinat, capital of the Neo-Hittite Kingdom of Palastin, the structure of the building where the tablets were found preserves the classic plan of a Neo-Hittite temple. It formed part of a sacred precinct that once included monumental stelae carved in Luwian (an extinct Anatolian language once spoken in Turkey) hieroglyphic script. Tayinat was destroyed by the Assyrian king Tiglath-pileser III in 738 BCE, and the temple was later burned in an intense fire and found filled with heavily charred brick and wood which, ironically, contributed to the preservation of the finds recovered from its inner chambers. "While those responsible for this later destruction are not yet known, the remarkable discoveries preserved in the Tayinat temple clearly record a pivotal moment in its history," said Harrison. "They promise a richly textured view of the cultural and ethnic contest that has long characterized the turbulent history of this region." Source: University of Toronto (7 August 2009)

## Archaeology Today (continued from pg 12)

### **Ancient Warrior's Skeleton Found Near Rome**

Italy's police squad for art says an ancient warrior's skeleton has been found floating in a tomb filled with sea water on a beach near Rome (Italy). The bones are believed to date from between 2,000BCE to 3,000BCE

Carabinieri art squad official Raffaele Mancino said that the warrior was likely killed by an arrow that was found among his ribs. He says there was also a hole in the back of the skull. The warrior is nicknamed 'Nello' after the archaeologist who found him in May as art hunters were making a routine check of the region's archaeological areas. The bones were found along with six vases and two daggers. Mancino says the tomb could be part of a wider necropolis lying just a few steps from the sea.

The tomb, hidden in the bushes on a public beach in Nettuno, about 65km south of Rome, was excavated in less than one day to preserve it from sea water erosion, Mancino said. Part of it has already been damaged. The warrior's bones will be examined and eventually put on display, officials said. The beach remains open, though the area of the discovery has been cordoned off.

Associated Press July 31, 2009, World News Australia

### **DNA Confirms Coastal Trek to Australia**

DNA evidence linking Indian tribes to Australian Aboriginal people supports the theory humans arrived in Australia from Africa via a southern coastal route through India, say researchers. The research, lead by Dr Raghavendra Rao from the Anthropological Survey of India, is published in the current edition of BMC Evolutionary Biology.

One theory is that modern humans arrived in Australia via an inland route through central Asia but Rao says most scientists believe modern humans arrived via the coast of South Asia. But he says there has never been any evidence to confirm a stop-off in India until now. Rao and colleagues sequenced the mitochondrial genomes of 966 people from traditional tribes in India. They report that several of the Indians studied had two regions of their mitochondrial DNA that were identical to those found in modern day Australian Aboriginal people.

The team compared Indian sequences with those from Aboriginal Australians collected in past studies. Rao and colleagues used special computer programs to predict that a common ancestor existed, between the Indian population and Aboriginal Australians, up to 50,000 years ago. Skeletal remains, dating back between 40-60,000 years from Lake Mungo in New South Wales, also support the theory that modern human arrived in Australia at least half a century ago.

Page # 13

Evolutionary biologist Dr Jeremy Austin, of the University of Adelaide, says the new data "definitely supports the coastal route hypothesis". He says that before this research was published, genetic markers from Aboriginal Australians were known to be closely related to markers from traditional Indian and South East Asian peoples. "But this is the first time people have been able to find these exact same mitochondrial DNA types inside and outside Australia," says Austin. ABC Science July 24, 2009

### **Human Stabbed a Neanderthal, Evidence Suggests**

The wound that ultimately killed a Neanderthal man between 50,000 and 75,000 years was most likely caused by a thrown spear, the kind modern humans used but Neanderthals did not, according to Duke University-led research. "What we've got is a rib injury, with any number of scenarios that could explain it," said Steven Churchill, an associate professor of evolutionary anthropology at Duke. Churchill's analysis indicates the wound was from a thrown spear, and it appears that modern humans had a thrown-weapons technology and Neanderthals didn't. "We think the best explanation for this injury is a projectile weapon, and given who had those and who didn't that implies at least one act of inter-species aggression."

Churchill is the first author of a new report on the long-ago incident in what is now Iraq. He and four other investigators used a specially calibrated crossbow, copies of ancient stone points and numerous animal carcasses to make their deductions. While narrowing the range of possible causes for the Iraqi Neanderthal's wound, and raising the possibility of an encounter between humans and a now extinct close cousin, the research does not definitively conclude who did it, or why.

The victim was one of nine Neanderthals discovered between 1953 and 1960 in a cave in northeastern Iraq's Zagros Mountains. Now called "Shanidar 3," he was a 40- to 50-year-old male with signs of arthritis and a sharp, deep slice in his left ninth rib. The wounded Neanderthal's rib had apparently started healing before he died. The researchers concluded that he died within weeks of the injury, perhaps due to associated lung damage from a stabbing or piercing wound. "People have been speculating about that rib injury for going on 50 years now," Churchill said. "Some said it was interpersonal violence. Others said it could have been an accident. Did it involve only Neanderthals? Now we, for the first time, have brought some experimental evidence to bear on these questions."

**Archaeology Today** (continued from pg 13)**Human Stabbed a Neanderthal, Evidence Suggests** (cont'd)

While scientists have been unable to precisely date the remains, Shanidar 3 could have lived and died as recently as 50,000 years ago. If so, he could have encountered modern humans who were just returning to the area then after a 30,000-year hiatus. Looking back at this Paleolithic cold case, the study's authors evaluated all the possible causes of the rib wound with the aid of contemporary tools. Drawing from studies aimed at improving police and prison guard protection, the researchers concluded that the downward sweep of a knife could have the correct trajectory to produce Shanidar 3's rib injury. "Knife attacks generally involve a relatively higher kinetic energy," the report said. However, "whatever created that puncture was carrying fairly low kinetic energy at a low momentum," said Churchill. "That's consistent with a spear-thrower delivered spear." Another clue was the angle of the wound. Whatever nicked his rib entered the Neanderthal's body at about 45 degrees downward angle. That's consistent with the "ballistic trajectory" of a thrown weapon, assuming that Shanidar 3 (who was about 5 feet, 6 inches tall) was standing, Churchill said.

LiveScience, Yahoo! News, Red Orbit July 21, 2009

**Oetzi's Tattoos Came From Fireplace**

The 57 tattoos sported by Oetzi, the 5300-year-old iceman mummy found in Italy, were made from fireplace soot that contained glittering, colorful precious stone crystals, according to an upcoming study in the *Journal of Archaeological Science*. The determination supports prior research that the tattoos were associated with acupuncture treatments for chronic ailments suffered by the iceman, whose frozen body was found remarkably well preserved in the Similaun Glacier of the Alps in 1991.

The findings also suggest how prehistoric people were tattooed in the days before commercial inks and electric tattooing machines. "I can imagine that they used some pointed material, maybe thorns, and dipped it into the soot and then pierced into the skin, or made scars and put the soot into the wound after insertion, allowing the wound to heal so that the colored material stayed there," lead author Maria Anna Pabst said. Using optical microscopy and various powerful electron microscopy techniques, Pabst, a professor in the Institute of Cell Biology at the Medical University of Graz, and her colleagues analyzed several of Oetzi's tattoos. Magnification of the skin designs revealed the tattoos consisted of soot, likely raked out of a fireplace, along with different silicate

page #14

crystals, such as quartz and almandine, a type of purple garnet.

"As there are only a few tiny crystals between the soot particles, I think that when the ancients took the soot from the stones of the fireplace, they got some crystals," Pabst said, explaining that the crystals likely were just naturally in either the dirt or the fireplace structure itself, and not intentionally added for their sparkle, color and value. "The tattoos have a dark blue color, deriving from the soot," she added. "There are groups of one, two, three, four and seven tattoo lines parallel to the longitudinal axis of the body, and so they're parallel to Chinese acupuncture meridians." The cross-shaped tattoo on his knee, and another one on his left ankle, also lay over Chinese acupuncture 'trigger points,' the researchers believe. Strengthening their argument is the fact that the soot-made markings are located on parts of the iceman's body not typical for tattoo displays, diminishing the notion that they served a more ornamental, aesthetic function.

Prior research shows Oetzi did suffer from a variety of ailments that might have benefited from acupuncture. These included a bad back, degeneration of the hip, knee and ankle, and 'severe abdominal disorders,' primarily caused by whip worm, an intestinal parasite that can cause diarrhea. Before the more recent studies on this mummy, historians believed the earliest acupuncture took place in China around 3,000 years ago. Since the iceman is much older, Pabst and her colleagues now think this therapeutic technique may have been independently discovered by many different prehistoric European and Asian cultures.

Frank Bahr, president of the German Academy of Acupuncture, first made the tattoo-acupuncture connection on the iceman after studying a drawing of the tattoos and their placement on Oetzi's body. "The most interesting thing about the whole iceman story is that even today I would treat a patient with about 90percent of the same points as the tattoos on the iceman, if this patient were to have the same diseases," Bahr said. *Discovery News* July 17, 2009

**Children Find Ancient Bones at Irish Golf Club**

An expert from the Irish National Museum was this week examining the site of an ancient grave found on Ballybunion golf course (County Kerry, Ireland) by children. A human skeleton nicknamed 'Sammy' was discovered by the children as they played among the sandhills at the far end of the course near the Cashen River. Deirdre Walsh, 11-year-old daughter of the

Secretary/Manager of Ballybunion Golf Club was with her friends Lilian and Vivien Nolan, aged 14 and 11,

**Archaeology Today** (continued from pg 13)

### **Children Find Ancient Bones at Irish Golf Club**

(cont'd)

when they stumbled on the remains. They found a complete human skeleton in a 'tomb' protected by a flat rock. The children rushed back to the golf course to tell of their discovery.

Mr Sean Walsh and his wife Colette were skeptical about the children's story as many animal bones had been found there in the past. And it was not until Deirdre's elder brother, Gerard, brought the skull and some other bones to the clubhouse that their story was believed. Mr Walsh then telephoned the Gardai who took the bones away and reported the matter to the National Museum.

The ancient site lies on a secluded place in the sandhills, where a large stone had been removed to reveal a small tomb, lined with stone and about the length of a human body. "We pulled back the stone and found all the bones. I didn't believe it for a second," said Deirdre Walsh. Miss Mary Cahill, an archaeologist with the National Museum's Irish antiquities section was at the site a few days after discovery. She said that the museum already had extensive records from the Ballybunion sandhills. Bronze pins had been discovered in the area in the 1930s, she said, and in 1972 an iron knife had been found there. "It could be Iron Age, which would make the date around 2000 BCE or, more likely from 2000 BCE onwards to 700 CE," she said.  
Source: Kerryman (15 July 2009)

### **Bronze Age Sanctuary Discovered in Bulgaria**

A team of Bulgarian archaeologists has uncovered a Bronze Age sanctuary near the village of Kran, close to the town of Kazanlak in Central Bulgaria. The team led by Professor Vasil Nikolov from the National Archaeology Institute has discovered the sanctuary, which dates back to the 3rd millennium BCE; the Bulgarian archaeologists also found a burial urn with remains of child bones.

Professor Nikolov believes that some 6,000 years ago there was a prehistoric settlement near Kran that was built of stone. After the village died off, it was turned into a sacred spot for sacrifice rituals. He is positive that by the end of the excavation season this summer the site in question would reveal

---

### **Member Ads**

Always looking for Stamp Exchange partners. Please write or email if interested. E. Alexander Gerster, P O Box 431852, Miami, FL 33243-1852 (Email: ealexg@yahoo.com)

Looking for covers with enclosures from or to anthropologists or archaeologists with corresponding content. Old or New World, also covers with corner ---- from antiquities dealers dated before 1970, Write first. Stan Raugh, 4217 8<sup>th</sup> Ave, Temple, FL 19560-1805. (Email: trex@bigplanet.com)

Looking to buy postcards with Black Cat design, all time periods, all themes especially Halloween.

Eileen Meier, c/e Golden Living Center, P O Box 617, Clifton Forge, VA 24422.

extremely valuable new information about the people who lived there several thousand years ago.

Source: Novinite (14 July 2009)

### **Stone Rings Unearthed at Prehistoric Sites in Java**

An archeological research team from the Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB) and the Purwokerto-based Jendral Sudirman University has discovered at least 50 new sites rich in prehistoric relics along the Kliwang River in Purbalingga, Central Java.

"We found stone relics made from green jaspers in the form of rings," team leader Sudjatismiko said. "We believe the stones are from the Neolithic period." He added the stones, which were prehistoric man-made pieces, had been found near a waterfall and in rice paddies in the village. Based on these findings, Sudjatismiko went on, the team concluded that humans at that time began creating aesthetic items, in addition to other items they made that served specific functions. He added the team and the regency administration would hold a workshop on the findings in Purbalingga next month.

Sudjatismiko said Bobotsari district, where the village was located, had been known among archeologists since 1983 as one of the richest sites for relics from prehistoric human civilization from the Neolithic period, following findings by local archeologist Harry Truman Simanjuntak. Besides the area along the Kliwang River, the team earlier discovered 15 new sites along the Tungtung Gunung stream, and along the Laban and Kuning rivers in the regency. The rings are believed to date from the Neolithic period and the Paleolithic period, and are now being housed at a workshop in Pasir Luhur, West Java. Purbalingga Regent Triyono Budi Sasongko said recently his administration would soon build a museum to house Neolithic relics, following the recent flurry of findings of sites that contained such relics in the regency. "We respect the researchers and interest in the findings, especially the finding of a precious stone called Le Sang Du Christ [Christ's blood stone], which locals call the Nogo Sui stone," Triyono said.

Source: The Jakarta Post (13 July 2009)

From the Web Site:

*Old World*



Founded 1977  
 ATA Unit since 1977  
 APS Unit since 1979

*Archaeological Study Unit*

We are still in need of a Webmaster. If anybody would like the position, please contact the Editor at [editor@owasu.org](mailto:editor@owasu.org) or [philate@ix.netcom.com](mailto:philate@ix.netcom.com). The job entails updating the site once or twice a month; putting the first page of the journal online and we would like to add a Table of Contents for each year, 2004 thru 2009. The webmaster will be sent the information by email and put it on the website. Most of our new members come from the website. It would be terrible to lose this great link.

Archaeology on Stamps Primer

**Lucy, Hadar, Ethiopia**

A reasonably complete 3.2 million year old skeleton was found in Hadar, Ethiopia by Donald Johanson in 1974. Says Johanson; "I glanced over my right shoulder, light glinted off a bone. I knelt down for a closer look. This time I knew at once I was looking at a hominid elbow. Everywhere we looked on the slope around us we saw more bones lying on the surface. Here was a hominid skeleton." The find was celebrated at the camp until the next morning. "We must have been a curious sight to the nomads in the desert, said Johanson, "Our work tent aglow with butane lamps and the music of "Lucy in the Sky with diamonds" blasting from a cassette player." Inspired by the song, they affectionately named the partial skeleton "Lucy".



**Nefertari's Temple, Abu Simbel**

The entrance to Nefertari's temple is flanked by six standing statues of Nefertari and Rameses II. On each side there are 2 statues of Rameses and 1 on Nefertari, each stands over 33 feet tall. Nefertari's temple also honors Hathor, the goddess of love and music. Inside the temple is a famous relief of Nefertari being crowned by goddesses Hathor and Isis, which is depicted on many stamps which were issued to publicize the plight of these monuments in the 1960s.



**Rameses II Temple, Abu Simbel**



The entrance to Rameses' temple is flanked by 4 seated statues of Rameses, 67 feet high. Built to venerate the divine nature of the Pharaoh on the outskirts of his Empire in upper Egypt. The temple is aligned in such a way that twice a year, summer and winter solstice, the sun's rays penetrate to the innermost sanctuary to illuminate statues of gods Ptah, Amun Ra, Rameses II, and Re-Horakhty.

More items like this should be added to the website but a new webmaster is needed to take over. Our former webmaster, Fran Adams will work with the new webmaster until he is settled in. We need a volunteer!

**Table of Contents**

- Archaeology Today page 11-15
- Carthage, by Caroline Scannell page 5, 6, 7
- Editor's Column page 2
- Member Ads page 15
- New Digs page 9, 10

- President's Message page 8
- Qin Shi Huangdi (The First Emperor) by Vincent Benkovitz page 1, 3, 4
- Stamp Expo 400 page 8
- Web Highlights page 16

