

TCAS BENCHMARK



FEBRUARY 2009

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 2

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Winter always puts a big damper on our society's opportunity to participate in some outside archeological events; so let's focus on the indoors. That said; I hope most of you have already signed up for the TCAS indoor society event this month for the King Tut exhibit in Dallas. Many of us are making a trek to the Dallas Art Museum on February 28th to see this once in a lifetime experience. Dallas is the first

of only three places in the US to host this exhibition of over 130 extraordinary artifacts from the tomb of Tutankhamen and other pristine Egyptian sites. Your last chance to sign up is at our meeting this month. Don't miss this show and outing with fellow friends.

If you did not attend our TCAS monthly meeting last month you did miss a great presentation by Don.Wycoff about "Tool stone in Southern Oklahoma". Thanks Don, for giving all of us a much better idea of the wide resources of imported raw stone materials that we should be looking for in our local archeological environment.

This month we are, once again, fortunate to our good friend Michael Donohue as our guest speaker. Some of you may remember his wonderful talk and video last fall about the chronological events that happened at the Battle of Little Bighorn. This month he will be revealing what the archeological research and digs have exposed about this historic battle. This too, should be a most entertaining evening.

Jay Hornsby

A FRIENDLY REMINDER

THAT TCAS AND TAS DUES WE'RE DUE IN JANUARY. PLEASE SEE KATRINA OR CHRIS AT THE NEXT MEETING OR MAIL YOUR DUES ALONG WITH THE FORM ON THE LAST PAGE OF THE NEWSLETTER

THANKS TO LAUREL AND JOHN WILSON AND LARRY BORNE FOR THIS MONTH'S REFRESHMENTS

Calendar of Activities

FEBRUARY

TCAS and TAS 2009 Dues Due

12	TCAS Meeting 7:30pm UNT-HSC
20-22	TAS Archeology Academy - Big Bend in Context Study Butte
28	Teaching Discovery & Exploration of La Salle in Texas San Antonio

MARCH

7-8	TAS Archeology Academy - Historic Archeology: In Pursuit of the Past Lake Jackson
12-14	51st Annual Caddo Conference Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, Norman, OK
12	TCAS Meeting 7:30pm UNT-HSC

APRIL

9	TCAS Meeting 7:30pm UNT-HSC
----------	-----------------------------

MAY

11-29	Field Methods in Rock Art SHUMLA, Comstock
14	TCAS Meeting 7:30pm UNT-HSC
18-22	Current Archaeological Prospection Advances for Non-Destructive Investigations in the 21st Century Natchitoches, Louisiana

TCAS Board Members

Jay Hornsby
President
817-496-5475

jhornsby@sihometheater.com

Bryan Jameson
Vice President
817.249.5242

bryanjameson@sbcglobal.net

Mike Shannon
Vice President for Projects
817.444.2211

mshanno@wmconnect.com

Katrina Nuncio
Treasurer
972-978-2413

ksnuncio@aol.com

Chris Meis
Secretary
214.704.2328

lptmeis@sbcglobal.net

Glynn Osburn
Immediate Past President
817.571.2727

gosburn@comcast.net

David Opper
Editor
214.535.5496

dmopper@att.net
david.opper@tccd.edu

Gen Freix
Librarian
817.581.1645

gendigs@yahoo.com.au

Jim Blanton
Historian
817.451.6321

jimblanton2000@yahoo.com

Sandy Osburn
Hospitality Chair
817.571.2727

Editorial Committee
Glynn Osburn
Paula Vastine
David Opper

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

MICHAEL DONAHUE

"Archeological Excavations at The Little Big Horn"

Little Big Horn may be one of the most examined events in American history. From being a battle that "never should have happened" to continuing, exhaustive research, the battle and battlefield are still yielding conflicting information about what really happened in the Montana wilderness.

Michael Donahue visited us last October at which time he talked about his work at Little Big Horn which led up to the BBC/Discovery docudrama entitled "Custer's Last Stand."

This month Mr. Donahue will fill us in on the archeological excavations that were accomplished at the site during the years of 1984 and 1985. He will show us the artifacts that were recovered and how the archeological data recovered has changed the story of what actually happened on that historical day of June 25, 1876.

About Michael

Michael Donahue chairs the art department at Temple College and is also an award winning artist and teacher. He has spent 18 summers in Montana, serving as a Park Ranger and Historical Interpreter at the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument.

His book "Drawing Battle Lines: The Map Testimony of Custer's Last Fight," is based upon Mr. Donahue's 35 years of research and over seven years of writing and collecting information about the important and tragic battle.



"As a romantic, my love of the tragedy in a particular San Antonio mission was replaced with that of a hillside in Montana."

QUIPS AND QUOTES THANKS TO PAULA, BOB SKILES, AND KRIS HIRST

It takes very special qualities to devote one's life to problems with no attainable solutions and to poking around in dead people's garbage: Words like 'masochistic', 'nosy,' and 'completely batty' spring to mind.
Paul Bahn. 1989. *Bluff Your Way in Archaeology*

The greatest contribution archaeology has ever provided to society is the simple fact that everybody is destined to become a feature.

From the verbal wit of an archaeologist who wishes to remain anonymous.

We ask questions of the dirt. I don't trust people. I trust the dirt. The dirt is always truthful.

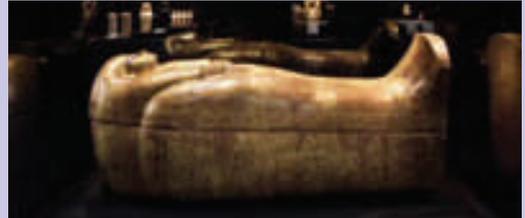
As quoted in the April 2005 obituary of Edward F. "Ned" Heite, from the *Delaware State News*



UPCOMING EVENTS

KING TUT FIELD TRIP

Mike Shannon has purchased 25 tickets for the King Tut Exhibit at the Dallas Museum of Art on Saturday, February 28th. Twenty tickets have already been spoken for by members. Five remain available at the time of this printing. Mike will need to collect everyone's money no later than the TCAS meeting on February 12th. On the day of the trip, Mike will disburse the tickets at the entry to DMA.



Plans are also in the works to make reservations at the 1717 Restaurant at the museum for anyone who would like eat following the tour.

Please call Mike Shannon, 817-444-2211, or see him at the February meeting for more information.

Date: Saturday, February 28th,

Time: 1:00 p.m. (must be in line at 12:30 p.m.), tour approximately 90 minutes long

Price: \$24 per ticket

Where: Dallas Museum of Art

Transportation: Everyone on their own ... we will not be carpooling as previously discussed.

TAS Archeology Academy - Historical Archeology

Historical Archeology, March 7 & 8 in Lake Jackson, will be one of the most comprehensive offered in this continuing series of weekend workshops. Archeologist Joan Few brings a vast experience of field work and research to her presentation that covers many topics of interest to history buffs, teachers and archeologists.

The manual mailed to all participants is over two hundred pages with one hundred pages of text to complement the Academy and one hundred pages of ready-to-use appendices. Presentations at the Academy will include recognizing patterns in historical archeology and a review of the time periods for Texas – Spanish and French exploration, American colonial, antebellum Texas agriculture, plantation, slave and freedman history and urban archeology. Discussion and hands-on activities will feature excavation techniques, laboratory, curation, and artifact types. Members of the Brazosport Archeological Society will lead sessions on historic ceramics illustrating their field work of early coastal settlements. Appendices illustrate obscure historic documents, ceramics assemblages, nail chronology, button analysis and antique farm equipment.

Few's experience surfaces throughout the narrative as she explains broad concepts with personal archeological investigations. She relates the stories of early French and Spanish conflicts along the Trinity River, Champ d'Asile (a colony for Napoleon), Glorianna Plantation (a typical small agricultural holding), the Jackson Plantation (a traditional southern plantation), and the Darragh House in Galveston.

This fast-paced academy will give everyone the opportunity to think like an archeologist and will supply the tools to tackle research in the field of historical archeology.

Teachers receive CPE credit for class hours.

Go to www.txarch.org to register or call 800 377-7240.

LOOTING!

5 indicted for American Indian artifact looting

By Carson Walker, Associated Press February 3, 2009

EAGLE BUTTE, S.D. – The pottery, stone knives, arm bands and other American Indian items sitting in a vendor's booth or posted online look innocent enough, but the centuries-old artifacts taken from South Dakota's rugged Missouri River banks don't belong to the sellers.

The U.S. Attorney's Office has indicted five men, accusing them of looting or trading the ancient items.

The river's banks are "supplying the rest of the country the artifacts they want for their collections," said Richard Harnois, senior field archaeologist with the Army Corps of Engineers in Pierre. "There isn't anywhere else in the country that is like this. You have a huge drainage system populated by people for 12,000 years and banks that are eroding."

Federal laws prohibit the removal of human remains, funerary items and other sacred items from public and Indian land, and bans anyone from knowingly buying those items. It is legal for landowners to take items from their own property.

"It sure seems to be the Missouri River trenches is the honey pot," Harnois said. "It's just one huge artifact mine for some of these folks."

Those indicted each pleaded not guilty in federal court in Pierre to charges that include excavating and trafficking in archaeological resources and trafficking in Native American cultural resources.

Among the items: copper arm bands and bracelets, beads, stone knives, bone tools, pipes, pottery, bone fish hooks, antler arrow points, hammers, cannonballs and British and French gun flints.

The illegal taking and trading of artifacts from public and Indian land has been fairly constant among collectors, but online auction sites give people with an interest in ancient items the chance to profit from it, Harnois said.

"It really opened up the market and enabled these folks to sell stuff," he said.

"It's the money they want," said Halley Maynard, a tribal cultural preservation monitoring enforcement officer for the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation.

Richard Lofton, a cultural preservation technician with the tribe, said that besides the loss of artifacts, the looters also speed river bank erosion by digging holes that fill with water.

The artifacts belong to everyone and are invaluable for learning about past cultures, he said.

"These are lost for future generations," Lofton said. "It's just history. This may not be our (tribal) band. But it's still Native American culture."

U.S. Attorney Marty Jackley said the government must try to preserve historic pieces and not just catch those responsible for illegal trade.

"The artifact cases currently under indictment and investigation involve a significant number of items. An important aspect of the ongoing investigation is to preserve and respectfully return these objects to their rightful places," he said.

Federal, state and tribal agencies and governments are trying to educate people about laws that prevent the taking of items from public and Indian land, which can be reported by calling (866) NO-SWIPE.

Bass says Treasure Hunters, Shipwrecks Don't Mix

Media-NewsWire.com

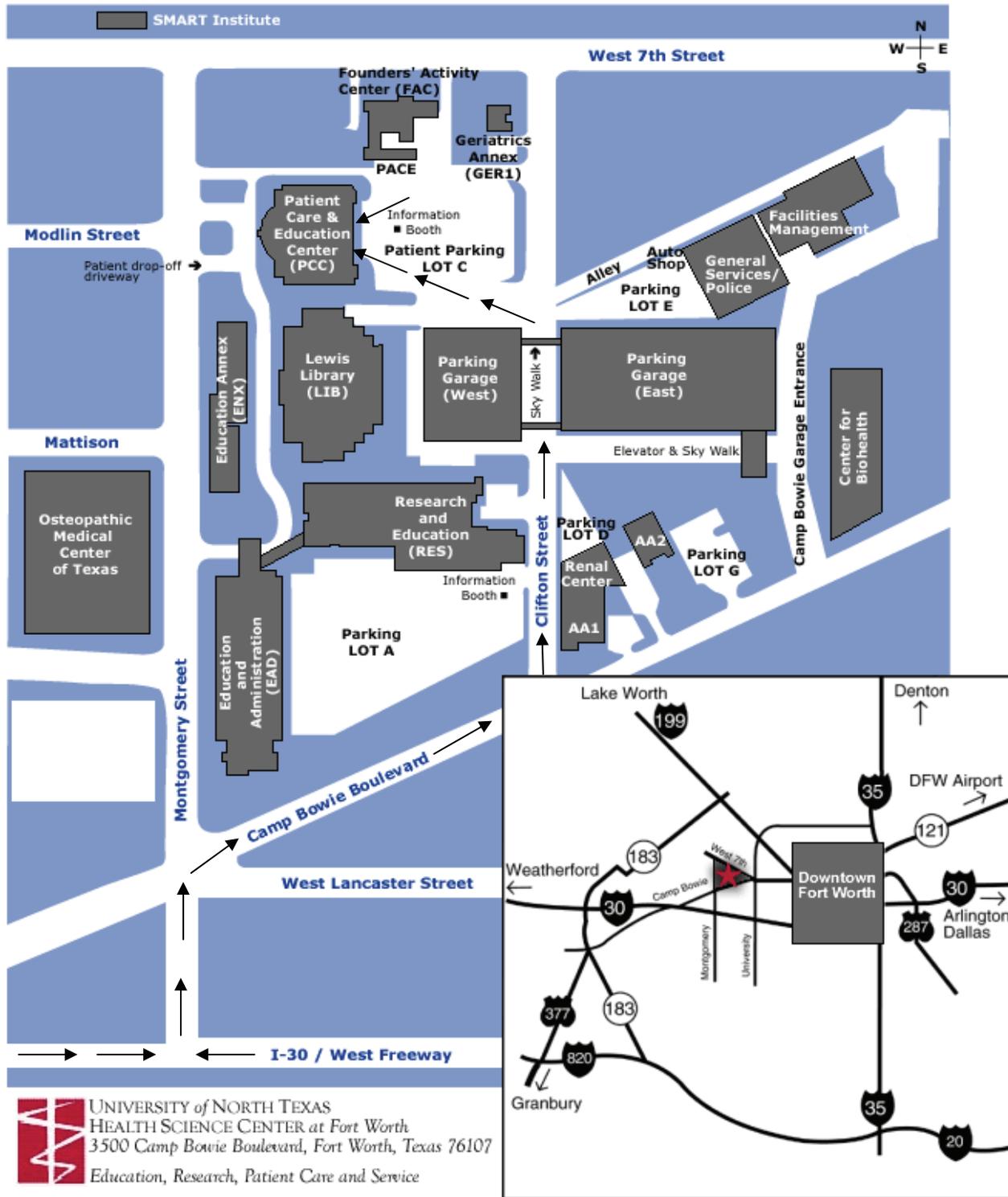
The recent discovery of "HMS Victory," a British warship that sank in the English Channel in 1744 and was considered the most powerful ship of its era, should be a time of celebration but not for profit, says a Texas A&M University researcher and world-renowned underwater archaeologist.

George Bass, who was instrumental in the establishment of the Institute of Nautical Archaeology at Texas A&M in the early 1970s and is a leader in underwater excavations, says the historical significance of a shipwreck should be a priority, not monetary gain that could be realized from such a find. The Victory reportedly was carrying

up to \$1 billion in gold and silver, although none of it has been found.

"We should treat any shipwreck as a historic site," Bass says. "I have stated many times that I am very much against treasure hunting. I have testified before House and Senate committees several times on the subject. Just the fact that a site is underwater should not make a difference regarding its treasure. If we don't allow it on land, why would it be allowed on the ocean floor? If someone discovered a similar find to that of King Tut, the looting of its treasure would cause an outrage. But for some reason, people think it's acceptable to do so underwater."

TCAS meets at 7:30PM, the 2nd Thursday of each month at the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC), 3500 Camp Bowie Blvd., in Fort Worth. The location is centrally located in Tarrant County near the intersection of Camp Bowie and Montgomery Street about two miles west of downtown. Take Clifton Street off of Camp Bowie (one block east of the Montgomery intersection) to Parking Lot “C” on your left (west). Park in the patient spaces (after 5PM) and go past the information booth into the underground parking garage. Turn left down the corridor at the double doors in the center. Proceed down the hallway until you come to room 110.



 UNIVERSITY of NORTH TEXAS
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER at Fort Worth
3500 Camp Bowie Boulevard, Fort Worth, Texas 76107
Education, Research, Patient Care and Service

TARRANT COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

NAME(S) _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____

EMPLOYER _____

E-MAIL _____

RENEWAL _____ NEW MEMBER _____

INDIVIDUAL \$20.00 _____

FAMILY \$25.00 _____

STUDENT \$10.00 _____

(H.S. , ACTIVE UNIV. DEGREE CANDIDATE THROUGH AGE 25)

CONTRIBUTING \$30.00+ _____

I WANT MY NEWSLETTER DELIVERED BY E-MAIL _____ POST OFFICE _____

CODE OF ETHICS (SIGNATURE REQUIRED)

I PLEDGE THAT I WILL NOT INTENTIONALLY VIOLATE THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ANY FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOGAL ANITQUITIES STATUTES CONCERNING CULTURAL RESOURCES, OR ENGAGE IN THE PRACTICE OF BUYING OR SELLING ARTIFACTS FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES, OR ENGAGE IN THE WILLFUL DESTRUCTION OR DISTORTION OF ARCHEOLOGICAL DATA, OR DISREGARD PROPER ARCHEOLOGICAL FIELD TECHNIQUES. I UNDERSTAND THAT FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES WILL PROVIDE GROUNDS FOR EXPULSION FROM THE SOCIETY

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

TARRANT COUNTY ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 24679

FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76124