

# The PROFILE

August, 2009

## Dr. Dirk Van Tuerenhout to Speak on Terra Cotta Warriors

The program for this month's HAS meeting will feature Dirk Van Tuerenhout, PhD, Curator of Anthropology at the Houston Museum of Natural Science (HMNS), speaking on "Terra Cotta Warriors: Guardians of China's First Emperor."



This exhibit, named one of the top five "must see" exhibitions in the country by Time Magazine, will run through October 20 at HMNS.

Considered one of the most extraordinary archaeological finds of the 20th century, the terra cotta warriors

are from the tomb complex of China's First Emperor, Qin Shi Huang. Intended to protect him throughout eternity, the warriors stood guard over a vast necropolis commissioned by the Emperor when he was only 13 years old.

Dr. Van Tuerenhout joined the Museum full-time in 1999, and his responsibilities curation, maintenance, and growth of all the museum's collections and exhibits dealing with human culture. "Our anthropology holdings span many continents and range from prehistoric stone hand axes to modern American Indian pottery from the Southwest United States. In all, there are about 50,000 objects in our anthropology collections. I am particularly proud of our Amazonian holdings; they are among the best in the world," he states in his biographical materials.

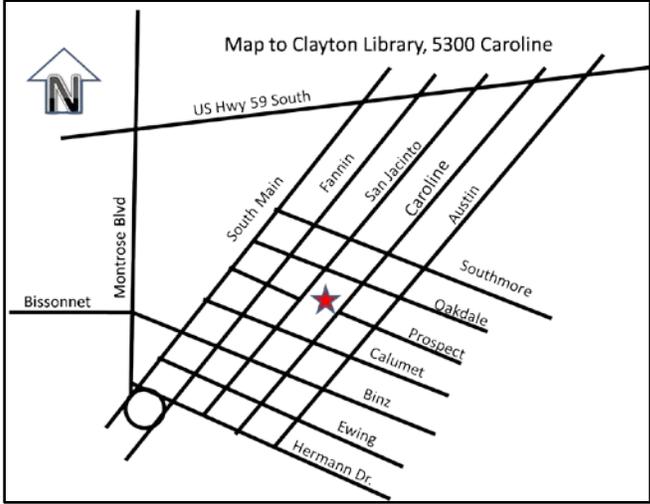
Dr Van Tuerenhout holds several degrees, including two MAs, in Ancient History and Art History and Archeology, from Katholieke University in Bel-

gium, and an MA and a PhD in Anthropology from Tulane University.

## This Month's Meeting is Thursday, August 20 at Clayton Library

At the July HAS meeting the membership voted to meet once again in August at the proposed new meeting place and time, and to take a final vote at that time on whether to make the move or continue meeting at the University of St. Thomas.

Consequently, **the August meeting will be at 7:00 pm on Thursday, August 20, in the Carriage House at the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, 5300 Caroline, Houston, TX 77004.**



**Lab Schedule:** August 17th and 31st, 7:00 p.m., Room 103, Sewall Hall, Rice University. Due to our arrangement with Rice, lab schedules will remain the same, regardless of any change to the regular monthly meeting night.

For a map, visit [www.houstonarcheology.org](http://www.houstonarcheology.org).

## The Prez Sez

All right everyone. Take a collective breath in and out. Feel the cool air? I have talked to the "person in charge" at the Central Library. He thanked me for complaining about the air conditioner, because if I hadn't, they wouldn't have known it wasn't set up right. It now has been corrected and I've been encouraged to double check a day or so before our meeting. And I will.



We have been through a lot the last year or two. The Board and I have decided we need to kick back and do something different in September. We will meet at a restaurant, eat, visit and enjoy ourselves. There will be no speaker, and other than relaying the nominations for the Board to be voted on at the October meeting, there will be no business meeting. I'll announce which restaurant we'll go to at the August meeting.

FINAL VOTE ON OUR MEETING LOCATION WILL BE TAKEN AT THIS MEETING.

See ya at the meeting!

--Diane Baird, President

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## Minutes of HAS Meeting July 16, 2009

President Diane Baird called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm on Thursday, July 16, 2009.

Presenters were Tom Williams, who showed pictures taken at the TAS Field School held near Perryton, Texas in June; Dick Gregg, who talked about his experiences at Field School; and Linda Swift, who showed pictures of Viking exhibits visited while on a vacation in Scandinavia.

Approximately 30 persons were present. A quorum of the members was present.

Announcements:

- There will be an opportunity for us to participate with in a Bernardo Plantation site visit soon.
- Volunteers are needed to sign up for refreshments for the coming months, and a roster is being circulated.
- Beth Aucoin and Linda Swift have been named to the Nominating Committee, and one other member is still needed. If interested, contact Diane. Also, if anyone has suggestions for nominees, contact Linda or Beth.
- Also needed are volunteers for the Awards Committee; HAS awards will be presented in October.

Diane called for discussion about making a permanent move to the Clayton Library location. Most of the comments centered around the lack of air conditioning which we have experienced both times we have met at this location. The problem seems to be a matter of communication between the Clayton Library and the downtown control center.

Muriel Walker moved that we meet once again at the Clayton Library in August and make a final decision at that time, depending on whether the A/C problem gets resolved. Motion seconded by Beth Aucoin and carried by a vote of 18 for, 4 opposed, and 1 abstention. Diane said she would convey our concerns to the library staff and get their commitment to having the A/C on for the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

--Submitted by Kathleen Barry

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## Local Stewards Receive Annual Texas Historical Commission Awards

The following local individuals were honored, among others, at the annual meeting of the Texas Historical Commission Stewards held in Austin in July:

- Norman G. Flaigg Outstanding Performance Award: Sandy Rogers
- Jim Word 10 year Service Award: Beverly Mendenhall
- Certificates of Appreciation: Beth Aucoin, Pat Aucoin, Bob Crosser, Dick Gregg, Don Keyes, Sheldon Kindall, Sandra Pollan, and Sandy Rogers.

Congratulations and appreciation to each of these individuals for their dedicated service to the people of Texas, past, present, and future.

# FOUR TEXAS CANNONS

Or

## The Tale of an Alleged Midget, a Giant, and Two Missing Ladies – Part 4 of 4

By John M. Keahey

The final cannons of note in the Texas Revolution were two in number. They were the gift of the people of Cincinnati to the Texas revolutionaries and suitably engraved. These were 6 pounder bronze cannons named the Twin Sisters. The citizens of Texas should always be grateful to the citizens of Cincinnati, because their gift to us was the right thing, at the right time in the right place. When Sam Houston's Army attacked the Mexican army across the soggy low ground of San Jacinto on the afternoon of April 21, 1836 they dragged the Twin Sisters with them. The Twin Sisters were wheeled and fired into the barricade hastily thrown-up by the Mexican soldiers as a defensive work. The loads of langrage shredded the barricade and the soldiers behind it, leaving a gap in the defense of the Mexicans through which the attacking Texians flowed unimpeded. The result was a one sided massacre and a Texian victory. Following the victory at San Jacinto the Twin Sisters became the property of the Republic of Texas. When statehood was achieved in 1845, the artillery of the republic was turned-over to the United States Army. The U.S. Army stored the Twin Sisters at the nearest army arsenal at Baton Rouge, Louisiana. There they stayed until Texas seceded from the Union in 1861. Texas formally requested the return of the Twin Sisters from Louisiana and they were returned to the land in which

they had won renown. Both guns were subsequently emplaced in the Confederate fort opposite Galveston Island. With the end of the Civil War in 1865, the Twin Sisters were seized by Federal troops and were stored in Harrisburg area of what is now Houston near the train station prior to being transported north. There they were recognized by returning Confederate soldiers who considered it insupportable that these two icons of Texas independence and victory be taken from Texas (again) by the U.S. Army. Texas patriots liberated (stole) the two cannons at night, buried the barrels nearby and rolled the gun carriages into a (Brays?) bayou. With time the location of the burial site became lost. Decades later, when one of the now elderly participants in the theft was brought to Houston to identify the site of the burial, he could/did not. Things had changed too much. So, to you reading this who are of an archeological mind, I present a challenge; Find the Twin Sisters! They should be buried within a short distance of a bayou in the Harrisburg area near the 1865 train station site. A short distance because each cannon barrel may have been about five feet long and weighed around 884 pounds. This assumes that they have not been lost to us by being excavated previously and dumped as junk in a landfill.

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## Preliminary Bernardo Plantation Work is Underway

On the morning of July 28, over 20 volunteers from over the state met at the Bernardo Plantation for a very successful day of work. The surveying crew of Cotton Surveying Company established base line points at each major location of interest which will be used to lay out grids for the magnetometer and GPR work being done in August. The volunteers were organized into three teams to perform scouting duties. Their objective was to locate concentrations of buried metal objects by using handheld metal detectors. As objects were detected, they were flagged and recorded with GPS coordinates. Attention was also given to the finding of surface artifacts, but few were found. The areas of major interest during this reconnaissance were (1) the slave quarters around the oxbow of the now dry Lake Bernardo; (2) the area of the overseer's house; (3) the blacksmith and gin area; and (4) the kitchen and nursery area. All these areas were around the location of the lake. One of the teams recorded in excess of a hundred metal hits along

the north shore of the lake. In the afternoon, the surveying crew continued establishing base lines at the site of the Pleasant Hill plantation home. Around the home site, evidence of a cistern was noted as well as several hits of non-ferrous metal were detected. Surveying was also done at the ferry crossing, the Groce cemetery, and the Texian army camp site on the west side of the river.

Our next planned work dates are for August 17 thru 21. We will need at least four volunteers per day. Another reminder has just been sent to those on the contact list. If you are not on our contact list (if you have been receiving email communications from me in regards to Bernardo, then you are on the list) and you desire to be included on the list for future volunteer requests and reports, please contact me at [chasgordy@yahoo.com](mailto:chasgordy@yahoo.com) and give me your contact information as well as inform me as to any special talents you have or work preferences.

–Charlie Gordy, Volunteer Coordinator

## ARCHEOLOGY... LIFE IN THE PAST LANE

The Fort Bend Archeological Society will view a program titled "More Than Bows and Arrows" at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, August 12th, in Room 2B of the George Memorial Library, 1001 Golfview in Richmond. The public is cordially invited to attend.

**Archeological Field Crew Certification Program at Museum of the Coastal Bend** is a series of three courses offered through The Victoria College Continuing Education - Lifelong Learning Institute: **Course 1 - Introduction to Archeology (Saturdays; Sept. 19, Oct. 3, Oct. 17, 2009; 10am – 4pm each day)**. Tuition is \$165.00 per person. Dr. Harry Shafer will teach the academy, and Pam Wheat-Stranahan will facilitate. Class limit: 20 students. Register with VC Continuing Education – see page 25 in the fall schedule of classes: [http://www.victoriacollege.edu/images/files/continuingedu/ce\\_fall\\_schedule\\_2009.pdf](http://www.victoriacollege.edu/images/files/continuingedu/ce_fall_schedule_2009.pdf). **Course 2 - In the Archeology Lab (Jan/Feb 2010); Course 3 - On an Archeology Site (Mar/Apr 2010)**. Dates to be announced. For more information, contact **Sue Prudhomme, Museum of the Coastal Bend Director**, at **361-582-2436** / [www.museumofthecoastalbend.org](http://www.museumofthecoastalbend.org) / [MCB on facebook.com](#).

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Please submit articles for publication to Profile Editor Linda Swift, [swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net](mailto:swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net)  
Submit articles no later than August 31 for the September issue.

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