



Dr. Randolph Widmer to Speak on Mayan Ritual Craft Production

Dr. Randolph J. Widmer, Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Houston, will be the speaker at the Thursday, May 17th meeting of the Houston Archeological Society. The topic of Dr. Widmer's program is Elite Craft Specialization at 9N-8, Patio H Copan, a Maya ritual craft production site and the only Late Classic Maya lapidary workshop ever found.



The program will begin at 7:00 pm in Room 103, Anderson Hall, The University of St. Thomas, 3800 Montrose Houston, Texas 77006.

According to Dr. Widmer, craft specialization to include lapidary production artifacts of shell, greenstone, and other metamorphic stones, weaving, and feather working has been identified in Patio H of 9N-8 utilizing micro-artifact analysis and map overlay. Of particular interest are the organization of social distinctions within the patio and the spatial differentiation of this craft production. Craft and lapidary production are clearly elite and

take place in secular and sacred contexts within the patio group. This lapidary activity is not purely an economic activity but instead functions primarily in a purely sociopolitical and religious context. Dr. Randolph J. Widmer has been teaching at the University of Houston since 1983. He received a B.S. degree in anthropology from Florida State University, and Master's and PH.D degrees in anthropology from the Pennsylvania State University. He



Bas-relief at the Copan site in Honduras

May 17: This Day in Houston History

On May 17, 1956, the current mayor of the city of Houston, Annise Parker, was born in Spring Branch. Ms. Parker attended Jones College at Rice University, and obtained a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, Anthropology, and Sociology in 1978. Prior to entering politics Ms. Parker was employed in the oil and gas industry for 20 years as a software analyst. Ms. Parker was elected to City Council in 1997, and then City Controller in 2003, and in 2009 (and again in 2011) was elected Mayor of Houston under the Democratic ticket. Source:

<http://www.citymayors.com/mayors/houston-mayor-parker.html>

has considerable research experience in the archaeology of North America and Central America. In North America he has directed archaeological excavations at sites in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. In Central America he has directed excavations at Teotihuacan and at the Late Classic Maya site of Copan.

The business portion of our May meeting will be a members-only closed meeting. See Karen Belvin's President's Message on page 2 for more information.

For a campus map, go to www.stthom.edu and look for the Interactive Map, Building 20. Paid parking (\$2) in Moran Center at the corner of West Alabama and Graustark.



President's Message

Meeting Reminder

Place: University of St. Thomas (UST)

Where: Anderson Hall; Room 103

When: May 17, 2012

Time: 7:00-9:30 P.M.

Greetings to all!

In the April President's Message, I made it a point to include the HAS mission statement as reminder of our purpose in the Society. Much like similar organizations having a focus on historic preservation, we must work together as a team to make the Society work harmoniously, especially in our efforts to preserve and protect our non-renewable past.

Unfortunately, over the past several months, the Board has faced some very difficult unexpected challenges, which has forced the Board to make some hard decisions regarding membership. Owing to the sensitive nature of the Board's decisions, we will be discussing the issues with the general membership at the regular membership meeting May 17, 2012. Because the meeting will be conducted as - *closed* - for members only, should you bring a guest, we would appreciate it if you would make prior arrangements for your guest during the membership meeting.

Although we are very excited to have Dr. Randolph J. Widmer present, the question and answer session that usually follows our presentations will be kept to a tight timeline. This will allow for a question and answer session that I am sure will follow the membership meeting. I will be giving a short PowerPoint to assist in presenting the issues the Board has had to contend with in protecting the credibility of Houston Archeological Society. Please come and support the Board as we try to work through these issues as professionally and as expeditiously as possible.

Organizational Updates:

Any and all data or suggestions for updates to the website must be completed by the membership meeting date. Please email, type or provide in handwritten form your suggestions and deliver them to me at the membership meeting. If you cannot attend but would like to share your thoughts please forward them to the HAS address.

If you haven't already taken a peek, please take some time prior to the meeting to review the new website at www.txhas.org.

Hope to see you there!

--Karen Belvin, President

Lab Schedule for May

The Archeology Lab in Room 103, Sewall Hall, at Rice University will be open for HAS lab work on Monday, May 14. There will not be a second lab in May due to the Memorial Day holiday. Reminder: the Founder's Court/Visitors Lot requires a credit card; you may access a map at www.rice.edu/maps.

-- Beth Aucoin

Remember—No Meeting or Lab in June! See you in July!

Mother's Day Has Deep Roots

Much to the surprise of this author, Mother's Day is not just a day of celebrating contemporary American women who have taken on the role of mother. Rather the earliest known historical record of this celebratory event is rooted among the ancient festivals commemorating goddesses reprecient Greeks.



In filtering down through the ages, Britain whereby women of the working class were known as "Mothering Day" to visit with

Egyptians. In addition, the Romans held sending the *Mother* figure, as did the an-

executed a clerical decree in the 1600's excused from their duties on what is their families.

The first American concept of Mother's Day was introduced by Julia Ward Howe (author of the Battle Hymn of the Republic) in 1870, which was subsequently re-conceptualized by Anna M. Jarvis in 1908. By 1914 Woodrow Wilson declared Mother's Day as the second Sunday in May. Today, there are over 70 countries around the world that observe Mother's Day.

For the full article, see <http://www.mothersdaycentral.com/about-mothersday/history/>

Happy Mother's Day to all.

--Karen Belvin

HHA Conference on Houston History is June 2

The Houston History Association (HHA) is sponsoring its 2nd Annual Houston History Conference on Saturday, June 2, 2012 from 8:30am to 3:30 pm at the Hilton-University of Houston Hotel and Conference Center. This year's theme is "Building Houston: From Allen's Landing to the Moon."

Houston was founded on the banks of Buffalo Bayou in 1836 as a real estate venture by brothers John and Augustus Allen. During the 176 years since, the city served as the capitol of the Republic of Texas and as grown to become the "energy capital" of the world and the fourth largest city in the United States.

The conference will explore with experts how Houston emerged from the primitive settlement of its founding in 1836 to become the international city it is today. All are welcome to attend.

Registration fees, which include lunch and parking are as follows: Early Bird Registration (until midnight on May 15) is \$50.00. Late Registration (until midnight on May 25) is \$65.00. If space allows, on-site registration the day of the conference is \$75.00. You can register online at www.houstonhistoryassociation.org, or contact Katy Butterwick at info@houstonhistoryassociation.org

New Book: *Climate and Culture Change in North America AD 900 to 1600*

The TAS online listserve notes that there is a new book out that puts climate change in context with culture change, an interesting concept for modern readers. Its title is *Climate and Culture Change in North America AD 900 to 1600*, by William C. Foster, award-winning historian and fellow of the Texas State Historical Association.

The book points out that, while climate change is today's news, it isn't a new phenomenon. Centuries-long cycles of heating and cooling are well documented for Europe and the North Atlantic. There also is extensive evidence that Europe's heating and cooling cycles occurred in North America as well, and they significantly affected the cultural history of Native peoples of the American Southwest, Southern Plains, and Southeast.

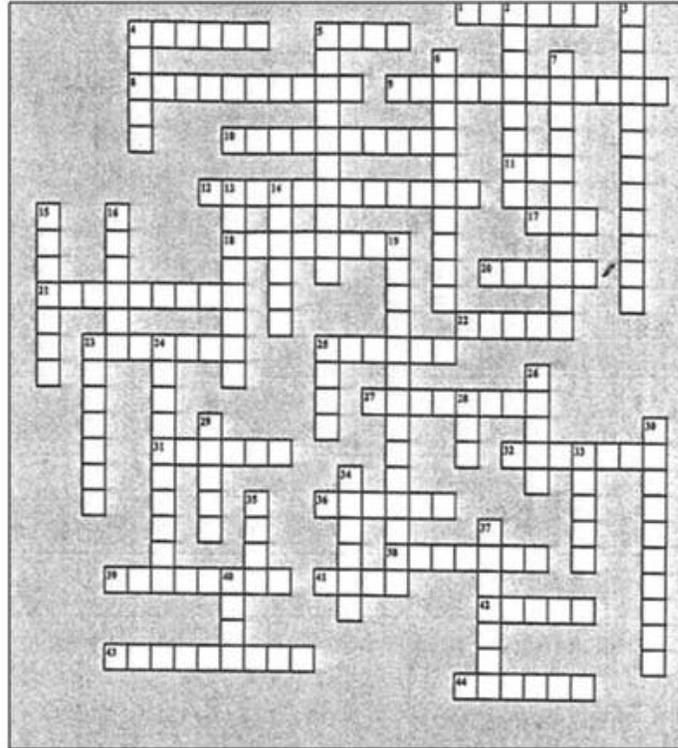
Published by the University of Texas Press, the book is available in hardcover and paperback and can be purchased at their web site, <http://www.utexas.edu/utpress/books/foscli.html>.

Archeology Crossword

By Karen Belvin

Across

- 1 A small hand tool with a handle and flat metal blade. This is similar to a shovel and is used for scooping or spreading materials.
- 4 You can use this to clear snow from your sidewalk.
- 5 narrow cylinder with bowl for burning
- 8 A hole in the ground made by excavating.
- 9 examination of strata
- 10 A graphic character used in picture writing.
- 11 creates dead fall fall
- 12 The activity perpetuation protecting something from loss or danger.
- 17 _____ test
- 18 stone tool used to remove skin
- 20 a pile of earth, gravel, sand and rocks
- 21 Upper Texas Gulf Coast people
- 22 A hidden storage space (for money or provisions or weapons).
- 23 An artifact made of hard brittle material produced from nonmetallic minerals by firing at high temperatures.
- 25 a deep furrow
- 27 Large and brightly colored handkerchief; often used as a neckerchief.
- 31 molds around artifacts
- 32 A graph representing the extent to which something exhibits various characteristics.
- 36 having two faces
- 38 The set of facts or circumstances that surround a situation or event. "the historical context"
- 39 An example regarded as typical of its class.
- 41 locations of occupation
- 42 a group of people connected by a common culture
- 43 writing board
- 44 A heavy tool of stone or iron (usually with a flat base and a handle) that is used to grind and mix material (as grain or drugs or pigments) against a slab of stone.



Down

- 2 Acid or granitic glass; usually dark, but transparent in thin pieces.
- 3 Study of the human element
- 4 broken piece of clay
- 5 mirror image
- 6 Study of subsurface remains
- 7 a source or origin of something
- 13 Systematic investigation to establish facts.
- 14 A strainer for separating lumps from powdered material or grading particles.
- 15 built conical dwellings constructed of poles interwoven with vines
- 16 tabular use ware
- 19 non penetrating sampling
- 23 rose
- 24 A system of components assembled together for a particular purpose.
- 25 Measuring instrument consisting of a narrow strip (cloth or metal) marked in inches or centimeters and used for measuring lengths. "the carpenter should have used his tape measure"
- 26 a pile of stones
- 28 ax like tool
- 29 concreted earthy or mineral matter
- 30 a carving or line drawing in rock
- 33 A small fragment of something broken off from the whole.
- 34 Relating to or composed of stone. "lithic sandstone"
- 35 under your skin
- 37 to have unique function
- 40 rectangular reciprocal use

(Answers will appear in the July issue of the *Profile*)

El Camino Real de los Tejas Workshops to be Held in June

Registrations are now being taken for the El Camino Real de los Tejas Education Workshop to be held at two different locations in June. Sponsored by the Stone Fort Museum at Stephen F. Austin State University, the workshop will explore the natural and cultural history of El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail. Each workshop will feature one and one-half days of intensive learning that will give participants the knowledge and know-how to interpret and teach the trail.

The workshop will be presented once in Natchitoches, Louisiana, on Thursday, June 7 and Friday, June 8, and again in Victoria, Texas, on Thursday, June 14 and Friday, June 15.

Teachers, museum educators, interpretive planners, natural resource managers, volunteers, and members of the public interested in better understanding trail history are welcome. Faculty, staff, and researchers from across the region will provide instruction on the history of the trail's development, the historic landscape, and research methods currently in use to document trail resources. Participants will take a field trip and tour a remnant of the trace and historic sites associated with the trail.

Participants earn 12 hours Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credits. Registration is \$60 per person and includes all sessions, a field trip, a resource manual, and four meals. To reserve a place at one or both workshops, visit the Museum's website at: <http://www.sfasu.edu/stonefort> or contact them by phone at 936-468-2408, or email at stonefort@sfasu.edu.

AIA/HMNS Titanic Event on May 15

Saturday, May 15, 6:30 p.m. "Night of the *Titanic*," at the Burke Baker Planetarium, Houston Museum of Natural Science, 5555 Hermann Park Drive. Experience the *Titanic's* last day - April 14, 1912 - to discover what went wrong. The evening ends with a screening of the planetarium film "Night of the *Titanic*." Co-sponsored by Archaeological Institute of America-Houston. Admission: \$18, or \$12 for HMNS and AIA members. For More Information call 713-364-6344. Website – www.aia-houston.com. Facebook – www.facebook.com/houstonarchaeology.

Deadline for TAS Field School Registration is May 31

The Texas Archeological Society's 2012 Field School will be held June 9-16 at the Devils River State Natural Area north of Del Rio. Investigations will focus on the south unit of Devils River State Natural Area, a new state park that is not yet open to the public. TAS members will help to identify the most significant sites on this property, which will include rock shelters and rock art as well as two historic ranches. This is being done so that the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) can protect them before the park opens to the public in 2013. Margaret Howard and Luis Alvarado will serve as Co-Principal Investigators for this project, assisted by additional archeologists from the TPWD Cultural Resources Program. Experienced TAS members will serve as crew chiefs and direct some aspects of the Field School.



Online registration is available until May 31. See the 2012 Field School home page at <http://txarch.org/Activities/fschool/fs2012/index.php> or go directly to the registration page at <http://txarch.org/forms/fieldschool/index.php>.

Please submit articles for publication to *Profile* Editor Linda Swift at swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net.

Submit articles no later than July 5 for the July 2012 issue. No Profile in June.

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

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