



ARCHAEOLOGY NEWS

Science Wins Ancient Bones Battle

A US appeals court has given permission to scientists to study a 9,000-year-old skeleton, despite the objections of some Native American tribes. The bones were found by two teenagers near Kennewick, Washington, in 1996. Native Americans want to bury what they call the remains of a distant relative, but scientists say the unusual features of the skeleton need further study. Appeal judges ruled it was impossible to establish a relationship between the Indian tribes and "Kennewick Man".

Bonney Lake Skystone

The large, flat-topped stone, apparently used by forebears of the Puyallup Indians to track constellations and the seasons, once sat in a rolling meadow surrounded by woods near Bonney Lake. Now progress has caught up with Skystone, as it was dubbed by the experts who determined its function. It's on the edge of a 46-home development called Naches Terrace, now under construction. Soon it will be part of a new community.

The city has already required the Naches Terrace home developer to build a gated fence around the parallelogram-shaped stone, which is 41 1/2 feet high and about 12 feet across. It was likely deposited in the meadow by a glacier.

Ancient Persian Fleet Discovered

Canadians help to uncover relics from an ancient disaster that was a major turning point in world history and saved Greece at the dawn of Western civilization. A Canadian scientific expedition appears to have discovered the site of the massive Persian invasion fleet, that sunk in a fierce storm in 492 BC. The destruction of the ill-fated fleet of nearly two hundred ships and over

twenty thousand men, is recorded in the historical writings of Herodotus. Discovered off the country's Northwest coast, near Mount Athos, the armada originally sunk above the rocks and is now buried in sediment. Further search expeditions are planned for this summer.

Ancient Writing in South America

An ancient rock covered in carved symbols has been discovered in a South American jungle by an archaeologist from Cornwall. Julien Chenoweth, from St Mawes, said a date test showed the carvings were as old as ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs. The rock was discovered by Mr Chenoweth after he led an expedition through the Darian area of the Panama jungle, with a party which also included medic Jo Lloyd-King, from Camborne.

The thirty tonne stone, which dates back to 3,000 BC, is believed to have been a ceremonial place or a boundary marker for a tribe's territory. A previous archaeologist had been told about the sacred stone by a native Indian, but until now attempts to locate it had failed.

Indian 7th Century Townsite

The Archaeological Survey of India has stumbled upon an ancient residential complex near the Buddhist structures in the tiny town of Sirpur, on the banks of the Mahanadi.

The ASI took up restoration of the excavated 7th century township three months ago but now, it has, in its own words, struck upon a "goldmine of archaeological remains". For the first time, the excavations carried out at a site near previously discovered Lord Rama's twin temple has exposed a residential complex. Sirpur was the centre of power through the Surabhpuriyas and Panduvamsi periods.

Excavation Aswan Egypt

An ancient administrative city of "Alphanteen" island, in Aswan Egypt, that dates back to late 4th Dynasty and early 5th Dynasty about 3500 years ago has been unearthed, said Farouk Hosni Minister of Culture. The Egyptian-German joint mission found square chambers with different sizes that housed the prints of the sealings used in the official bodies in the city. The mission also found a part of a door with inscriptions indicating one of Thebes senior officials named "Horus" and dated back to early 1st Century, said Dr. Zahi Hawas the Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities.

Mission Era Murals Rediscovered

Two young men, one an artist, the other an archaeologist, crawled over the ancient redwood beams of San Francisco's Mission Dolores earlier this month, opened a trap door, lowered an electric light into a space behind the main altar — and stared into the 18th century. There, in a space thick with the dust of centuries and dark as a tomb, is a wall of nearly forgotten religious murals, painted in red, black and yellow by Native Americans in 1791 and hidden from public view for 208 years. The two have rediscovered the old murals, have taken digital photographs of them, and are projecting the images on the inside of the dome of the modern Mission Dolores Basilica next door for all to see.

Teotihuacan Ruins near Chapultepec

Archaeologists say they have discovered an ancient Teotihuacan settlement in central Mexico City, 30 miles from the pyramids where the culture flourished nearly 2,000 years ago. The discovery of structures and tools on a hill just behind the landmark

Chapultepec Castle in December suggests the Teotihuacan culture spread and influenced the area around Mexico City even earlier than previously thought. The ancient city of Teotihuacan lies north of modern Mexico City. It remains largely a mystery, and was so even for the Aztecs, who are credited with founding Mexico City in the 1300s.

Ancient Flints Found in Scotland

Archaeologists are excited by a discovery which they say proves that early Scottish settlers travelled through the Cairngorms 7,000 years ago. More than 80 pieces of worked flint and quartz dating from the Mesolithic period have been found at a site in Glen Dee near Braemar. The finds were made by chance during conservation work on footpaths. Experts say it proves people moved through the landscape in seasonal cycles gathering and hunting for food. Most of the knowledge of the period so far has come from sites on the coast. This is believed to be the first find from such an early date in the Cairngorms.

Tempest Brewing over Stonehenge Tunnel Plan

The British government wants to bore a \$450-million highway tunnel under Stonehenge, and the pagans are not pleased. Britain's Pagan Federation, which groups more than 5,000 Druids, Wiccans and assorted followers of pagan ritual, has joined up with environmentalists, archeologists and even the august National Trust in a broad coalition opposing the plan to run a four-lane highway under the country's most famous prehistoric monument.

Darwin's Beagle ship 'found'

The mystery of what happened to the ship that ferried Charles Darwin around the world may have been solved. A team led by Dr Robert Prescott of the University of St Andrews has located what they believe are the remains of HMS Beagle beneath an Essex marsh. To explore the site further, technology designed for the UK's recent ill-fated mission to Mars is being considered. The two quests are linked by Colin

Pillinger, who named his Red-Planet craft Beagle 2 after its 200-year-old predecessor. Sophisticated radar technology was used to detect signs of wood and metal that may belong to the bottom of HMS Beagle, on which Darwin gathered the natural specimens he used to develop his theory of evolution. The ship's remains are embedded in five metres of mud at a site near Potton Island.

Archaeologists in Ethiopia Hope for Older 'Lucy'

Archaeologists studying human origins in eastern Ethiopia said on Wednesday a wealth of new finds meant they could hope to discover even older and more complete specimens than the famous fossil "Lucy." The scientists excavating fossils in Ethiopia's eastern region of Somali for the last two years said they had unearthed 1,000 specimens of archaeological finds which included stone tools, fauna remains and elephant tusks. Also uncovered were 400 fauna and primate remains in Galile, a village 215 miles east of the capital Addis Ababa.

Ancient Inca Mummies Discovered

Archaeologists in Peru have uncovered an Inca burial site intact outside Lima containing adult and child mummies dating back to the 15th Century. A team working on the site on a barren hill outside the capital located 26 tombs containing an unknown number of mummies and funereal artefacts. The team was allowed to search the area, part of a known ancient cemetery, ahead of the construction of a new road. One archaeologist described the graves as being "middle class... Inca".

Space Dust to Unlock Mexican Pyramid Secrets

Remnants of space dust that constantly showers the world are helping unlock the secrets of a 2,000-year-old Mexican pyramid where the rulers of a mysterious civilization may lie buried. Deep under the huge Pyramid of the Sun north of Mexico City, physicists are installing a device to

detect muons, sub-atomic particles left over when cosmic rays hit Earth. The particles pass through solid objects, leaving tiny traces which the detector will measure, like an X-ray machine, in a search for burial chambers inside the monolith. Since there are fewer muons in an empty space than in solid rock or earth, scientists will be able to spot any holes inside the pyramid, a sacred site in the city of Teotihuacan, which rose and fell around the same time as ancient Rome.

Bones Hint at First Use of Fire

Human-like species living in Africa up to 1.5 million years ago may have known how to control fire, scientists say. US and South African experts analysed burnt bones from Swartkrans, just north of Johannesburg, using the technique of electron spin resonance. It showed the bones had been heated to high temperatures usually only achieved in hearths, possibly making it the first evidence of fire use by humans. The results will be presented at the 2004 Paleoanthropology Society Annual Meeting in Montreal, Canada, in March.

Stone Age Child's Bones Found in Aukra

Norwegian archaeologists were ecstatic this week after making a rare discovery at Aukra in Romsdal, north-central Norway. They've confirmed finding bone fragments from a child who must have lived in the area around 6,000 years ago. Archaeologists have confirmed that this fragment was part of a Stone Age child's chin. The discovery was made in connection with excavations underway for the new land-base for the Ormen Lange gas field in the North Sea. Industrial concern Norsk Hydro is developing the gas field but its excavations are being conducted in cooperation with archaeologists. Researchers know that the area around Aukra featured ancient settlements, and several thousand items already have been found and recorded.