



Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc. Newsletter

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January/February - 2024

HAPPY NEW YEAR

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Please note that the following calendar for the next six month has some preliminary dates.

January 2024

January 13, 2024 - Saturday 2:00 – 4:15 PM PT- **SAS Meeting**: UCD Scholar presentations: **Lauren Castaneda-Molin**, “Blue Oaks Ranch Field School”; **Edgar Huerta**, “Seasonality, Subsistence, and Population Pressure: Archaeological Insights from Two San Francisco Bay Archaeological Sites Using Stable Isotopes” and **Diane Malarchik**, “Isotope analysis of teeth from Santa Clara” at UCD, Young Hall, Room 224

January 13, 2024 - Saturday 4:15 PM PT- **SAS Board Meeting** UCD, Young Hall, Room 224

February 2024

February 10, 2024 – Saturday 2:00 – 3:30 PM PT - **SAS Webinar**: **Dr. James M. Adovasio**, archaeologist, Introduction by **Phil Fitzgibbons**, archaeologist, “Meadowcroft Rockshelter: Archaeological Excavation Challenged Clovis-First Peopling Model”

February 19, 2024 - Monday, 10:00 – 11:30 AM PT- Big History/Renaissance Society: **Ruth McElhinney**, “*Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa - A Mystery for the Ages*”

February 26, 2024 – Monday, 10:00 – 11:30 AM PT - Big History/Renaissance Society: **Jan Johansen**, “*Çatalhöyük – A 7500 BCE City*”

March 2024

March 9, 2024 – Saturday 2:00 – 3:30 PM PT **SAS Webinar** Scholar presentation Zoom: **Briana Ramirez**, Blackfriary Archaeological Field School and **Noor Sullivan**, Gallina field school

March 11, 2024– Monday, 10:00 – 11:30 AM PT- Big History/Renaissance Society: **Lynette Blumhardt**, “*Heraklion*”

April 2024

April 13, 2024 - Saturday 2:00 – 3:30 PM PT - **SAS Webinar** Scholar presentation Zoom: Emily Johnson, Soil analysis in Guatemala

April/May TBD - **SAS Tour** Chinese American in Lock

April 15, 2024 - Monday, 10:00 – 11:30 AM PT - Big History/Renaissance Society **Martha Lewis**, *“The Wilderness and its consequence”*
April 30, 2023 – **Scholarship Applications due**

May 2024

May 11, 2024 – Saturday 2:00 – 3:30 PM PT - **SAS Webinar** UCD Scholar presentation:
Roxanne Lamson, Isotope analysis of Ban Non Wat, Thailand

June 2024

~June 8, 2024 to ~June 15, 2024 **SAS Tour** Mogollon Culture

See announcements: <https://sacarcheology.org/announcements/> for **webinar access information** and calendar: <https://sacarcheology.org/archaeology-activities/calendar-of-events/> for the complete set of events in our website: www.sacarcheology.org.

For all SAS Webinars friends are welcome and also invited to join our organization. There is no participation fee.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAS Meeting – UCD Scholars

Saturday, January 13, 2024

at UCD, Young Hall, Room 224

2:00 – 2:30 PM PT - “Blue Oaks Ranch Field School” by **Lauren Castaneda-Molin**, University of California, Davis student

2:45 – 3:30 PM PT – “Seasonality, Subsistence, and Population Pressure: Archaeological Insights from Two San Francisco Bay Archaeological Sites Using Stable Isotopes” by **Edgar Huerta**, University of California, Davis PhD candidate

3:30 – 4:15 PM PT – “Isotope analysis of teeth from Santa Clara” by **Diane Malarchik**, University of California, Davis

If you are unable to attend in person, the webinar will start at 2:00 PM PT. It is recommended that you join a few minutes prior to 2:00 PM PT. A board meeting will follow the presentations.

“Blue Oaks Ranch” by Lauren Castaneda-Molin

This past summer, the UC Davis Field School went to Blue Oaks Ranch Reserve in Santa Clara County to perform initial research on historical ranching in California. The team identified homesteads and activities associated with Mexican ranchers to understand the impact of increased immigration, severe drought, and farming practices on. For this presentation, Lauren will be describing her involvement in the field school and the ongoing research.



Boor site block at Blue Oaks Ranch Reserve

“Seasonality, Subsistence, and Population Pressure: Archaeological Insights from Two San Francisco Bay Archaeological Sites Using Stable Isotopes” by Edgar Huerta

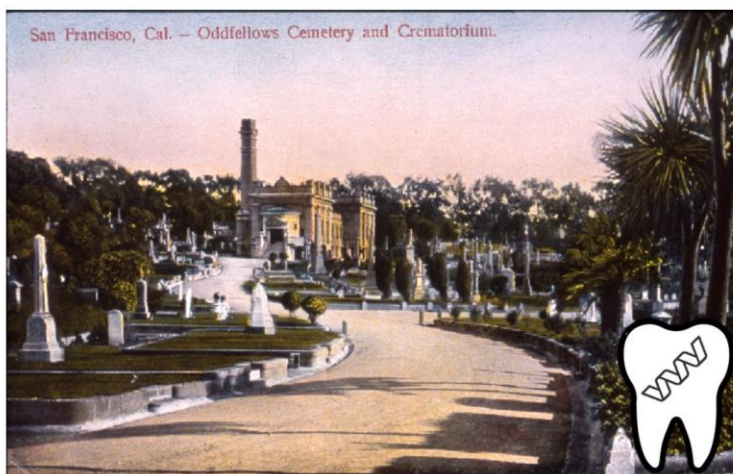
In collaboration with the Him’Ren Ohlone, Edgar Huerta has been examining carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen stable isotope analysis from two archaeological sites in the San Francisco Bay region, one in Fremont (CA-ALA-695) and one in Pleasanton (CA-ALA-554). This isotope analysis suggests changes in subsistence practices under the effects of seasonal change, drought, and population pressure during the Middle (2,100-930 cal BP), Middle-Late Transition (930-685 cal BP), and Late Phase 1 (685-450 cal BP) periods. Edgar will discuss this research and his findings.



Alameda Creek - Niles Canyon

“San Francisco’s Forgotten Cemetery: Proteomic Insights of Burials from Odd Fellows Cemetery” by Diane Malarchik

Odd Fellows Cemetery, a private cemetery located in what is now the Richmond District of San Francisco, operated from 1864 until 1902 before its exhumation and relocation to Colma in 1933. Due to multiple factors - time, money, human error, and/or human indifference – many burials were left in place and later forgotten. Many of these skeletal remains are encountered today during construction projects. Here, Diane reports on archaeometric analyses of skeletal remains from ten individuals recently discovered during construction work in Rossi Park. Proteomic analyses of dental enamel from individuals with poor skeletal preservation were used to estimate sex. Understanding sex demographics, particularly at a time of intensive migration, will provide a better understanding of San Francisco at the time of its founding and growth.



SAS Webinar

"Meadowcroft Rockshelter: Archaeological Excavation Challenged Clovis-First Peopling Model"

by

Dr. James M. Adovasio, Archaeologist, Primary Investigator

Introduced by Phil Fitzgibbons, Archaeologist

Saturday, February 10, 2024

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. PST

The year 2023 marks the 50th anniversary of initiation of excavations at Meadowcroft Rockshelter in southwestern Pennsylvania. Meadowcroft was the first serious challenge to the Clovis-first peopling model that had dominated American archaeological thought for decades. Generations of students have passed through graduate schools since the early excavations at Meadowcroft and most, regrettably, have never read any of the primary literature on the site. This presentation summarizes the salient aspects of the prehistoric record from Meadowcroft Rockshelter and discusses the role(s) it has played in the history of American archaeology.

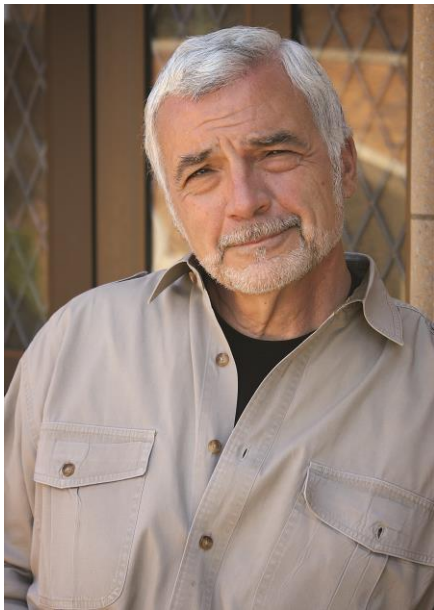
James. M. Adovasio, Ph.D., D.Sc. achieved world acclaim as an archaeologist in the 1970s with his excavation of Pennsylvania's Meadowcroft Rockshelter. Meadowcroft is widely recognized as one of the earliest well-dated archaeological sites in North America, with evidence of human habitation dating to ca. 16,000 years ago. Perhaps, more importantly, Meadowcroft is considered to be one of the most meticulous excavations ever conducted, anywhere. During his career, he has specialized in the analysis of perishable materials (basketry, textiles, cordage, etc.) and the application of high-tech methods in archaeological research. In recent years, his research has confronted another of archaeology's mysteries by delving underwater to seek submerged evidence of early Americans off the coast of Florida in the Gulf of Mexico. Recently, he was the principal investigator of the re-excavation at the Old Vero Man Site in Florida. This Late Ice Age locality has figured prominently in the history of American Anthropology and promises to yield new insights into the behavior of the First Floridians.

He is the author of more than 500 books, book chapters, monographs, articles, and papers which include "The Invisible Sex: Uncovering the True Roles of Women in Pre-History," "The First Americans: In Pursuit of Archaeology's Greatest Mystery," and "Basketry Technology," and most recently "Strangers in a New Land." Adovasio received his undergraduate degree in anthropology from the University of Arizona and doctorate in anthropology from the University of Utah. He is formerly the Director of Archaeology at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, Florida Atlantic University and currently Director of Archaeology at Senator John Heinz History Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Professor Philip T. Fitzgibbons, who will introduce Dr. James Adovasio, was involved from the outset in the Meadowcroft Rockshelter excavations in southwestern Pennsylvania. Beginning as an undergraduate in 1973 and continuing through his graduate studies until 1979, he participated in the initial excavations at Meadowcroft Rockshelter and various sites from the

Cross Creek Survey Project. His work extended to the University of Pittsburgh's Archaeology Lab, where he processed and analyzed lithic artifacts from these sites. He is currently engaged in analyzing and re-analyzing these artifacts for a comprehensive final report, marking over 50 years of archaeological research at Meadowcroft Rockshelter and its surrounding areas.

Philip Fitzgibbons has been Professor of Anthropology/Archaeology at Franciscan University's History and Anthropology Department since 1988 and Director of their Archaeological Field Program since 1990. He earned his B.A. and M.A. in Archaeology from the University of Pittsburgh in 1974 and 1979, respectively, mentored by Dr. James Adovasio. Fitzgibbons holds ABD status at the University of Pittsburgh, with his dissertation focusing on lithic assemblages from the Palo Blanco Project in Tehuacan Valley, Puebla, Mexico.



Dr. James M. Adovasio



The webinar will start at 2:00 pm PDT and formally conclude at 3:30 pm. You may join starting at 1:45 pm to say “Hello” and participate in a social time.

PAST EVENTS

SAS Webinar - “Glittering and Glassy: Understanding the Intersection of Colonial Mineral Extractivism and the Production of Late Rio Grande Lead Glaze-Painted Pottery in Seventeenth-Century New Mexico”

On Monday, November 11, 2023 Danielle Huerta, PhD candidate at UC Santa Cruz discussed her dissertation topic related to changes in the production of pottery in Seventeenth-century New Mexico. She related the influence of the Spanish mining interests during the period of investigation (1250 to 1700 AD) and discussed how glazing of pottery changed and material sourcing of lead for the glazing changed for three New Mexico sites (LA 20,000, Patokwa and San Marcos). Lead isotope analysis was used to assess this change.

She determined that Pueblo potters were using two main ore sources during the 17th century: Cerrillos and Magdalena. Pottery from LA 20,000 made for Spanish consumption was painted using only Magdalena lead ore. Pottery from Patokwa, made for Pueblo consumption, and occupied after the Pueblo revolt showed use of only Cerrillos lead ore. Pottery from San Marcos, a large production center for glaze ware, showed evidence for both sources. But they were also the ones making the pottery for LA 20,000 residents. Pottery from Paa-Ko also showed evidence for both ore sources, but they were smelting here. Relative to the chemical characterization of glaze paint recipes, the percentages for lead oxide remained high and consistent with ancient and contemporary lead glaze recipes. Late Glaze Wares appear to be much higher in aluminum oxide than earlier forms.

SAS Meeting and Webinar - “SAS Annual Meeting”

On Saturday, December 2, 2023 a group of 20 SAS members met at UC Davis campus (Young Hall, room 224) for the SAS Annual Meeting. President, Jan Johansen conducted the meeting which was extended by Paul E. Davis to remote members via Zoom. Jan reviewed of the activities of year, previewed 2024 and conducted the election of officers for 2024.

Patricia McNeill, UCD PhD candidate delivered a presentation on Varsche Rivier 003 - A rock shelter in southern Namaqualand, South Africa. In this presentation she discussed the landscape and excavation findings from Varsche Rivier sites, especially VR-003. The focus of her ongoing research is ostrich eggs and how they can be used to assess past human lifeways; hence, she discussed ostriches in South Africa and their eggs today and 70,000 years ago.

MEMBER'S CORNER

2024 Board of Directors

During the Annual Meeting the 2024 Board of Directors were elected.

The elected board is as follows:

Candidate	Office	Candidate	Office
Jan Johansen	President	Rae Ann (Ranny) Eckstrom	Member at Large
Paul K. Davis	Vice-President	Kim Frasse	Member at Large
Debra Brinson	Secretary	Jeremy Johansen	Member at Large
Tori Lyon	Treasurer	Martha Lewis	Member at Large
Tom Johansen	Past President	Ruth McElhinney	Member at Large
Lynette Blumhard	Member at Large/Membership	Carolyn McGregor	Member at Large
		Lydia Peake	Member at Large
		Roger Peake	Member at Large
		Knuti VanHoven	Member at Large

Major Donors for 2023

We are pleased to acknowledge our major contributors for 2023. These donations support our scholarship program.

Patron (\$1000 or more)

Dennis Fenwick and Martha Lewis
Jan and Tom Johansen
Carolyn and Gordon McGregor

Sponsor (\$100 - \$999)

OSISoft a division of AVEVA
Paul K. Davis and Knuti VanHoven
Roger and Lydia Peake
Diane Sangster

Annual Memberships

All memberships are renewable on **January 1** annually except for those who joined recently (after September 1 of the previous year). Please support the society by promptly paying your **2024** dues. **Remember your dues help make scholarships possible.** We keep overhead low so that the funds can be used to support students. You may now use our web site <https://sacarcheology.org/society-membership/pay-dues/> to renew and make payment using a

credit card or Paypal. Remember a membership benefit is email receipt of archaeological/anthropological articles and notices of related events.

The annual dues are:

Student/Limited Member	\$15
Individual Membership	\$30
Family Membership	\$40
Sponsor	\$100 - 999 (individual)
	\$500 - 999 (business)
Patron	\$1000

Alternatively, please make out your check to “**Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc.**” and mail it to:

Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 163287

Sacramento, CA 95816-9287

We really appreciate your support.

Annual Dues for 2024

Name(s): _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

_____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address:

Student/Limited Member	\$15	_____	\$_____
Individual Membership	\$30	_____	\$_____
Family Membership	\$40	_____	\$_____
Sponsor	\$100	_____	\$_____
Scholarship Donation			\$_____

Total enclosed \$_____

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REFERENCES

Recent Articles

The reviewed article(s) chronologically presented (oldest subject first) are:

- “Evidence for the earliest structural use of wood at least 476,000 years ago”
- “Early *Homo erectus* lived at high altitudes and produced both Oldowan and Acheulean tools
- “Ancient DNA yields traces of Europe’s first humans”
- “Extreme glacial cooling likely led to hominin depopulation of Europe in the Early Pleistocene”
- “The world’s oldest story is flaking away Can scientist protect it?”
- “A 27,000 year-old pyramid? Controversy hits bold claim”
- “Genetic continuity and change among the Indigenous peoples of California”
- “Maize has an unexpected wild ancestor”
- “Oldest forts challenge views of hunter-gatherers”
- “Spy satellites find Roman forts”
- “Correcting the record of a cold case”
- “Restricting use of Indigenous funerary photos splits society”

“Evidence for the earliest structural use of wood at least 476,000 years ago”

“Wood artifacts rarely survive from the Early Stone Age since they require exceptional conditions for preservation; consequently, we have limited information about when and how hominins used this basic raw material. The researchers reported on the earliest evidence for structural use of wood in the archaeological record. Waterlogged deposits at the archaeological site of Kalambo Falls, Zambia, dated by luminescence to at least 476 ± 23 kyr ago (ka), preserved two interlocking logs joined transversely by an intentionally cut notch. This construction has no known parallel in the African or Eurasian Paleolithic. The earliest known wood artifact is a fragment of polished plank from the Acheulean site of Geshter Benot Ya’aqov, Israel, more than 780 ka. Wooden tools for foraging and hunting appear 400 ka in Europe, China and possibly Africa. At Kalambo the researchers also recovered four wood tools from 390 ka to 324 ka, including a wedge, digging stick, cut log and notched branch. The finds show an unexpected early diversity of forms and the capacity to shape tree trunks into large combined structure. These new data not only extend the age range of woodworking in Africa but expand our understanding of the technical cognition of early hominins forcing re-examination of the use of trees in the history of technology.” (L. Barham *et al.*, *Nature*, V 622, 2023-10-5 pp. 107-111)

“Early *Homo erectus* lived at high altitudes and produced both Oldowan and Acheulean tools”

“In Africa, the scarcity of hominin remains found in direct association with stone tools has hindered attempts to link *Homo habilis* and *Homo erectus* with particular lithic industries. The infant mandible discovered in level E at Garba IV (Melka Kunture) on the highlands of Ethiopia is critical to this issue because of its direct association with an Oldowan lithic industry. In this article the researchers used synchrotron imaging to examine the internal morphology of the unerupted permanent dentition and confirmed its identification as *H. erectus*. Additionally, they used revised paleomagnetic ages to show that the mandible in level E is ~2 million years old and represents one of the earliest *H. erectus* fossils and that overlying level D, ~1.95 million years old, contains the earliest known Acheulean assemblage. ” (Margherita Mussi *et al.*, *Science*, V 382, 2023-11-10 pp. 713-718)

“Ancient DNA yields traces of Europe’s first humans”

“Ancient human genomes from the Crimean Peninsula fill in a missing link between Europe’s first *Homo sapiens* and later groups living on the continent.

H. sapiens had reached Europe by 45,000 years ago. But studies of ancient genomes have so far suggested that these pioneers vanished without a genetic trace as Europe enters a long glacial period. Starting roughly 38,000 years ago, as temperatures rose, a new wave of immigrants arrived in Europe and populated the region.

Andrew Bennett at the French National Centre for Scientific Research in Paris and his colleagues studied two skull fragments unearthed in the Crimean Peninsula. They found that the fragments came from separate male individuals who lived 36,000 – 37,000 years ago.

Both individuals’ genomes are most similar to those of hunter-gatherers who lived in southwest Europe some 7,000 years later and were associated with Gravettian culture famous for its ‘Venus’ figurines of women. But both individuals also carried DNA sequences linking them to Europe’s earliest *H. sapiens*, hinting that the first arrivals did in fact, leave a genetic legacy by interbreeding with some of the people who followed them (*Nature Ecol. Evol.* <https://doi.org/k23c> (2023)).” (*Nature*, V 623, 2023-11-2 p. 11)

“Extreme glacial cooling likely led to hominin depopulation of Europe in the Early Pleistocene”

“The oldest known hominin remains in Europe (~1.5 to ~1.1 million years ago (Ma)) have been recovered from Iberia, where paleoenvironmental reconstructions have indicated warm and wet interglacials and mild glacials, supporting the view that once established, hominin populations persisted continuously. The researchers reported their analyses of marine and terrestrial proxies from a deep-sea core on the Portuguese margin that show the presence of pronounced millennial-scale climate variability during a glacial period ~1.154 to ~1.123 Ma, culminating in a terminal stadial cooling comparable to the most extreme events of the last 400,000 years. Climate envelope—model simulations reveal a drastic decrease in early hominin

habitat suitability around the Mediterranean during the terminal stadial. They suggest that these extreme conditions led to the depopulation of Europe, perhaps lasting for several successive glacial-interglacial cycles. ” (Vasiliki Margari *et al.*, *Science*, V 381, 2023-8-11 pp. 693-703)

“The world’s oldest story is flaking away. Can scientist protect it? Ancient humans painted scenes in Indonesian caves more than 45,000 years ago, but their art is disappearing rapidly. Researchers are trying to discover what’s causing the damage and how to stop it—before the mural are gone forever”

“In southwestern peninsula of Sulawesi in Indonesia, a vast series of karst mountains harbor hundreds of caves, crevices and rock shelters. Rustan Lebe, an archaeologist at the Cultural Preservation Office, an Indonesian government agency in Makassar has been systematically documenting the caves and artwork inside them since 2016. He has recorded 654 caves and identifies that 65% of the sites contain cave images, some of which were drawn more than 45,000 years ago—making them some of the oldest pictures in the world. But as fast as Lebe is finding the paintings, he is seeing others vanish before his eyes. The big problem is the peeling of the surface of the rock. Lebe and other are convinced that dust from Semen Tonas’s mine and others are a major cause of this exfoliation. ” (Dyani Lewis, *Nature*, V 624, 2023-12-7 pp. 26-30)

“A 27,000-year-old pyramid? Controversy hits bold claim Gunung Padang would be much older than Egypt’s great pyramids—if it is even human-made at all.”

“A paper claiming that a structure in Indonesia is the oldest pyramid in the world has raised the eyebrows of some archaeologist—and now prompted an investigation by the journal that published it. The paper, published in *Archaeological Prospection* on 20 October, claimed that a pyramid lying beneath the prehistoric site of Gunung Padang in West Java, Indonesia might have been constructed 27,000 years ago (D.H. Natawidjaja et al. *Archaeol. Prospec.* <https://doi.org/k657>;2023)) Although the paper presents “legitimate data” (using ground-penetrating techniques) Flint Dibble, an archaeologist at Cardiff University, UK says, its conclusions that the buried layers were built by humans and were not the result of natural forces over time is unfounded. Also the 27,000 year old soil samples from Gunung Padang, although accurately dated, do not carry hallmarks of human activity, such as charcoal or bone fragments.” (Dyani Lewis, *Nature*, V 624, 2023-12-7 pp. 15-16)

“Genetic continuity and change among the Indigenous peoples of California”

“Before the colonial period, California harbored more language variation than all of Europe, and linguistic and archaeological analyses have led to many hypotheses to explain this diversity. The researchers report genome-wide data from 79 ancient individuals from California and 40 ancient individuals from Northern Mexico dating to 7,400 – 200 years before present (BP).

Their analyses document long-term genetic continuity between people living on the Northern Channel Islands of California and the adjacent Santa Barbara mainland coast from 7,400 years BP to modern Chumash groups represented by individuals who lived around 200 years BP.

The distinctive genetic lineages that characterize present-day and ancient people from Northwest Mexico increased in frequency in Southern and Central California by 5,200 years BP, providing evidence for northward migration that are candidates for spreading Uto-Aztecan languages before the dispersal of maize agriculture from Mexico.

Individuals from Baja California share more alleles with the earliest individual from Central California in the data set than with later individuals from Central California, potentially reflecting an earlier linguistic substrate, whose impact on local ancestry was diluted by later migrations from inland regions.

After 1,600 years BP, ancient individuals from the Channel Islands lived in communities with effective sizes similar to those in pre-agricultural Caribbean and Patagonia and smaller than those on the California mainland and in sampled regions of Mexico. This result suggests that people in southern parts of northwest Mexico might have had more access to fertile land and water, and have been able to sustain bigger populations.” (Nathan Nakatsuka *et al.*, *Nature*, V 624, 2023-12-7 pp. 122-129)

“Maize has an unexpected wild ancestor

Genes from second wild grass may have helped propel its success—but scientist don’t know how”

“It took more than a century for scientists to agree that corn was domesticated about 9000 years ago in the lowlands of Mexico from a wild grass: a subspecies of teosinte called *parviglumis*. Now a team of geneticists lead by Jeffrey Ross-Ibarra, University of California, Davis reported by Nig Yang in *Science* (<https://doi.org/10.1126/science.adg8940>) that maize has a second wild ancestor. Between 15% and 25% of the genes in all existing maize varieties came not from *parviglumis* but from a highland subspecies of teosinte called *Mexican*, which hybridized with maize some 4000 years after people first domesticated the plant. ” (Lizzie Wade, *Science*, V 382, 2023-12-1 pp. 983-4)

“Oldest forts challenge views of hunter-gatherers

8000 year ago—long before farming arrived—people in Siberia built defensive structures”

“People who lived in central Siberia thousands of years ago enjoyed a comfortable lifestyle despite the area’s cold winters. They fished abundant pike and salmonids from the Amnya River and hunted migrating elk and reindeer with bone and stone-tipped spears. To preserve their rich stores of fish oil and meat, they created elaborately decorated pottery. And they built the world’s first known fortresses, perhaps to keep out aggressive neighbors. With room inside for dozens of people and dwellings sunk almost 2 meters deep for warmth in Siberian winters, the fortresses were ringed by earthen walls several meters high and topped with wooden palisades. At some point, they were consumed by flame, a possible sign of early battles. And at least one set of structures was built startlingly early: 8000 years ago.” (Andrew Curry, *Science*, V 382, 2023-12-1 pp. 982-3)

“Spy satellites find Roman forts”

“Flying over the Syrian Desert in the 1920’s, a French aviator spotted the square and rectangular outlines of Roman forts. He eventually counted 116, in an acre 1000 kilometers long. For decades, historians assumed they were the remains of a defensive network used to fend off the Sasanian Empire, Rome’s rival to the east, starting around 200 CE. Archaeologists report a new interpretation in *Antiquity* this week. In declassified U.S. satellite imagery from the 1950s and ‘60s, they found 396 more forts scattered across what is now Iraq and Syria, many far to the west of the border between the ancient empires. Rather than a defensive linear screen like Hadrian’s Wall, erected on the Roman frontier in England, the Syrian forts were put in place to protect and tax caravans and traders moving along the Silk Road, the authors suggest. Recent development has likely destroyed some forts: Eighty percent of those identified in the old satellite images are no longer visible.” (*Science*, V 382, 2023-10-27 p. 354)

“Correcting the record of a cold case”

“In 2012, the low-coverage genome of the Tyrolean Iceman, or Ötzi, was published. The Iceman is one of the oldest human glacier mummies originally discovered in the Alps, likely living between 3350 and 3120 BCE. Wang *et al.* resequenced this individual using the latest sequencing techniques and found that recent human contamination introduced error into the original study. In contrast to the earlier work, their results showed that Ötzi had no Steppe-related ancestry, and probably came from an isolated Alpine community more closely related to Anatolian farmers, with some gene flow from hunter gatherers.” (*Science*, V 382, 2023-10-13 p. 183)

“Restricting use of Indigenous funerary photos splits society – Journal policy aims to boost tribal ties, but critics fear loss of academic freedom”

“As editor-elect of journal *Southeastern Archaeology*, Rob Beck helped choose a cover photo for the penultimate issue of 2020. It showed about 20 ceramic vessels, some painted with colorful patterns. They had been excavated in the early 1900s from the Crystal River Archaeological State Park in Florida, home to some of the region’s oldest ancient Indigenous earthworks. The vessels had been excavated from a funeral mound, and Indigenous members of Southeastern Archaeological Conference (SEAC) objected to the publishing of the images. A policy for handling publishing of representations of Indigenous objects is being discussed.” (Lizzie Wade, *Science*, V 382, 2023-10-20 pp. 248-9)

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