



Hello!

In August I joined a group of Far Horizons intrepid travelers to hike the ancient Inka Road (it should be called Inka Staircase!). We trekked over 25 miles in four days, from Chilca (near Ollantaytambo) to Machu Picchu, over three mountain passes (the highest over 13,000 feet) with views of glacier covered mountains reaching 22,000 feet and higher towards the heavens. We were on top of the world and the views were stupendous! I loved it and hope to do the trip again next year.

For 2004 we are offering several trips that are led by scholars either with whom you have enjoyed traveling in the past, or renowned scholars new to Far Horizons. In June, 12 fortunate people will join Drs. Jeremy and Maud McInerney onboard a private yacht to cruise along the Turquoise Coast of Turkey. In late October next year, you may again join Yale's Professor Emeritus, Dr. Michael D. Coe, and travel to the land of the Khmer (Angkor and Laos). Dr. Steve Fischer will take a group to Easter Island in January, and Stanley Guenter again leads our Capital Cities of the Ancient Maya tour in May. Our March 2004 trip to Egypt with Professor Bob Brier is sold out; we've added a February 2005 trip that will be led by Dr. Rita Freed of Boston's Museum of Fine Arts. And join the Teaching Company's esteemed lecturer, Professor Kenneth Harl, on Riches of Turkey in May. I am finalizing two new trips - Sardinia and Malta (finally) with Dr. Nicholas Vella that will depart in September, and Micronesia (visiting the islands of Kosrae, Pohnpae, and Palau) with Dr. Felicia Beardsley scheduled for the end of the 2004. Ask for brochures!

Some of our trips tend to fill quite rapidly. The best way to keep up with new trips is through our weekly email newsflashes. If you have email and have not been receiving our newsflashes, please email us with your address. Our newsflashes will keep you up to date not only on our tours, but also special events such as museum exhibits and conferences. Check our web page www.farhorizon.com/conferences.htm to stay up to date.

Happy traveling,

 Mary Dell Lucas
 Director

New Names, Old Faces

By Adam Sellen

Visiting the archaeological ruins of Oaxaca, Mexico, has never been more exciting. Recent epigraphic discoveries make possible the readings of many inscriptions that cover the ancient monuments, shining a light onto a past that was shrouded in darkness. Two thousand years ago, the hieroglyphic writing was carved on stone and incised in clay by the Zapotec, a cultural group who continue to inhabit their ancestral lands in the Central Valleys of Oaxaca. The recent breakthrough came with a Mexican archaeologist's detailed reconstruction of the Zapotec calendar. As a result of his work, the stucco faces over a tomb entrance in Lambityeco now have identities. Loosely translated into English, this conjugal pair may be known as Lord "One Hair-Tied-in-a-Knot" and Lady "Ten Corn". The odd names respond to the

Lady "Ten Corn"

old Zapotec practice of naming their children after the day they were born, which in our present day society would be the equivalent of calling little Billy "Friday the Thirteenth". The scribal tradition of the Zapotec may be one of the oldest on the American continent, and we are just beginning to unlock the ancient voices contained in those texts. **Adam Sellen leads our Christmas in Oaxaca trip.**

To read more about the ancient Zapotec and their writing system go to www.rom.on.ca/pub/an/archns3-8.html.





Angkor Wat

Saving Cambodia's Past

By Michael D. Coe, PhD

Now that Cambodia is back on its feet following the horrific Khmer Rouge era, archaeologists from many nations (France, Germany, Japan, Hungary, the US, Australia, New Zealand, and Cambodia itself) are at work excavating, conserving and reconstructing ancient Angkor and other national treasures. Visitors to this wonderful country should know that several international organizations are involved in coordinating many of these efforts, and are worthy of their support.

One of these is the Center for Khmer Studies, located in the beautiful Wat Damnak in Siem Reap (the town adjacent to Angkor). Directed by Dr. Philippe Peycam, the task of the Center is to foment international scholarship on Khmer studies, to sponsor a program of research fellowships, and to cooperate with and help Cambodian institutions of higher learning. At the Center scholars - Cambodians and foreigners alike — can participate in seminars and use their ever-growing library. There is a close association with such institutions as the World Monuments Fund (known to many as the restorers of the great Preah Khan complex in Angkor). More information can be found on the Center's Web site: www.khmerstudies.org.

Another is the recently established Friends of Khmer Culture. Their priority project is to help the National Museum of Cambodia, located in Phnom Penh (Cambodia's capital). This magnificent museum, which contains some of the greatest works of art ever produced in Southeast Asia, was founded by the French in the early 20th century, and housed in a beautiful building in traditional style. During the Indo-China conflict and under the Khmer Rouge, it suffered not from actual damage, but from severe neglect. When my wife and I visited it in 1992, the museum's tile roof was leaking, and there was guano everywhere from a huge population of bats that roosted in its attics. These problems have been cleared up, but there is much still to do regarding the rest of the infrastructure and the installation and lighting of the incomparable sculptures and bronzes.

The Friends of Khmer Culture have a Web site: www.khmernculture.net. They can also be contacted at P.O.Box 164, Norfolk, CT 06058-9998. **Travel with Dr. Michael Coe on Far Horizons tours to Angkor** (www.farhorizon.com/southeast_asia/cambodia.htm).

The Royal Road of the Persian Empire

By Holly Pittman, PhD

Beisitun is the crux of the Persian Empire, which dominated all of the Middle East from the sixth century B.C. until its spectacular collapse at the hand of Alexander the Great. Located on the road from Kermanshah to Susa, Darius the Great placed his famous monumental relief high on the sheer rock face so that all could see this billboard proclaiming his victory over rebellious vassals and his unification of the lands of Iran and West Asia under his suzerainty. And Beisitun is only the beginning of the fabulous monuments of the Persian Empire in southern Iran. From Beisitun the Royal Road leads to Susa, where the palace of Darius is currently being excavated by an Iranian team who is delighted to give an informed tour of the site. From there the Royal Road moves out on to the Iranian plateau, heading south toward Shiraz, the city of Nightingales and Roses. Outside of Shiraz, in the heartland of Persia, (originally the name of the province was Pars, the homeland of the Persians), lies Pasargadae, the residence and capital of the founder of the Persian Empire, Cyrus the Great. His tomb rising in pristine white above the fertile fields sums up the peaceful and clear philosophy that underlay his vision of Empire. And finally the Royal Road takes us to the literal heart of the Empire, to Persepolis, the glorious ceremonial capital of Darius, at which in the most splendid setting he received the "gifts" of his subjects. Travel to Iran in May with Dr. Holly Pittman (www.farhorizon.com/middle_east/iran_empire_of_everlasting_fires.htm).



*(Left)
The gates of
Persepolis.*



*(Below)
Rock relief
at Beisitun.*

The Murals of San Bartolo

By Stanley Guenter

In 2001 a fascinating new discovery was made in the jungles of Peten, Guatemala. At the small and very remote archaeological site of San Bartolo, dozens of miles east of the famous ruins of Tikal, scholars from Harvard University came across an otherwise unremarkable set of badly looted mounds. Looking for carved stone monuments rumored to be at the site, archaeologist William Saturno was disappointed and frustrated when a long day's trek into the jungle appeared to have been for naught. Stepping into one of the looters' tunnels for shade from the Central American sun, Saturno's flashlight revealed one of the most important discoveries of the ancient Maya civilization made in the last few decades.

The looters had tunneled inside a pyramid, and exposed a number of earlier phases of construction. The tunnel in which Saturno now found himself led inside a large room, the walls of which bore a long, painted mural, amazingly preserved in still bright colors. The style of the mural clearly corresponded to the Late Preclassic period, and is now dated to ca. AD 100, if not earlier, two centuries or more before the rise of the Classic Maya. So far, only a small portion of this mural has been uncovered, but test excavations indicate that many meters of painted wall still remain inside the room.

The one wall that has already been uncovered portrays a mythological scene that has been interpreted by iconographer Karl Taube as one already known from Maya ceramic vases of the Late Classic period; the dressing of the Maize (corn) God in the underworld by a number of young, semi-nude women. The Maize God has his head turned to the right, to view the women, but has his body facing left. To the right of the Maize God are shown arriving two young men, carrying sacred bundles over their heads. All of this action takes place atop a feathered serpent, which emerges from a cave portrayed to the left of the Maize God. The feathered serpent, although famous in the Quetzalcoatl myths of the Aztecs and other Postclassic cultures of Mesoamerica, is rather rare in images of Classic Maya

mythology, and shows that at this early date Maya mythology still had much in common with the rest of its cultural neighbors.

The mountain cave from which the feathered serpent emerges, and in front of which the Maize God was being dressed, is portrayed as an almost Garden-of-Eden type of primeval mountain, covered in flowering plants and trees, with jaguars, birds and snakes poking out of the foliage. Most Mesoamerican groups had origin myths that involved their ancestors emerging from such places, and while evidence to this effect has so far been weak for the Classic Maya, the San Bartolo murals conclusively show that this belief was present in the earliest period of Maya civilization.

At the far left of this wall, a number of infants are shown bursting forth from a gourd, in another well-known allusion to origins. Only a slight portion of the adjoining part of the next wall has so far been uncovered, but it depicts a human seated upon a scaffold, and is the prototype for well-known Classic period images of Maya accession. It seems likely that further parts of the mural will contain more historical information, and that the mythological section of the murals so far uncovered was used by the San Bartolo kings to associate their origins with the Maize God and proclaim their own divine descent. A number of hieroglyphic captions have been found in the mural, but their very early style has made decipherment difficult, and little information has yet been gleaned from these enigmatic texts.

Dr. Saturno is continuing his excavations at San Bartolo, and further sections of this magnificent mural, arguably rivaling the famous murals of Bonampak in terms of preservation and importance, will be uncovered in the coming years. It is not possible yet to visit San Bartolo, given its remote location and the ongoing state of the excavations, but those interested in further information can see the San Bartolo Project's website: www.sanbartolo.org. *Travel with Stanley Guenter on Far Horizons' Maya Capital Cities, May and July 2004.*



Karnak Temple

Nefertiti Mummy Found?

By Dr. Bob Brier

Recently Egyptologist Dr. Joanne Fletcher announced on a Discovery Channel Documentary that she has identified the mummy of Queen Nefertiti, icon of beauty and the wife of the monotheist pharaoh Akhenaten. The mummy was discovered among a cache of royal mummies more than 100 years ago in a tomb in the Valley of the Kings. Most of the royal

mummies could be identified by the writings on their coffins or wrappings, but several, including the mummy in question had no coffin or wrappings.

Fletcher claims that based on the position of the mummy's hands, doubly pierced ears, and a wig found near

the mummy that she must be Nefertiti.

Most of the Egyptological community says no. X-rays of the mummy show unerupted molars, suggesting an age of around 20 at the time of death. Nefertiti ruled for 14 years and must have been at least in her 30s when she died. It is also known that Nefertiti gave birth to six daughters but the pelvis of the mummy shows no indications of childbirth.

Fletcher's claims so outraged Dr. Zahi Hawas, Chairman of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, that she has been banned from future research in Egypt. The Supreme council of antiquities plans on opening the tomb where the royal cache of mummies was found to tourism and there is a good chance we will be able to visit it. *Dr. Brier leads several Far Horizons' trips to Egypt, including one for second time visitors that will explore the oases of the western desert and will be in that country for the full solar eclipse on March 29, 2006.*

TUNISIA: *Studying an Island Through Time*

Shallow glimmering seas surround the enchanting island of Jerba located off of the southeastern coast of Tunisia. Over the millennia these seductive seas have protected the island and its diverse inhabitants. Roman ships ran aground during the first Punic War in the third century B.C.E., while the famed Barbarossa used the island during his daring sixteenth century escapades. This intriguing and unique history of the island recently attracted the attention of several scholars.

Initiated in 1996 the Jerba Project sought to understand the complex settlement history of the island through time. Archaeological field survey, coupled with select excavations, elucidated the island's fascinating history. Famous in antiquity for its purple dye production, the Roman city of Meninx was a focal point of the Project's research. While no standing buildings remain, numerous marble fragments at Meninx indicate the wealth, diversity and polychromatic nature of the architecture. Over thirty different types of stone were used to decorate the city! The stunning architecture was not limited to the ancient world; rather, the medieval and early modern architecture is equally alluring.

The miniature medieval mosques, which ring the island, captivate the visitor and scholar alike. In contrast to the overwhelming great mosques in Tunis and Kairouan, the whitewashed mosques on Jerba are far more intimate - only fifteen or so people could fit into the mosque at any one time. Since the importance of Jerba in the Mediterranean economy did not decline during the medieval and early modern periods and since the mosques were so small, one wonders upon what did the Jerbis (people from Jerba) spend their money. Since there are no natural springs on the island and sweet water is scarce, the creation of a lush landscape with extensive gardens and cultivated fields, especially around one's villa, can be viewed as part of the complex display culture of the citizens of Jerba during this time.

The architecture of Meninx, the medieval and early modern mosques, the gardens, and the sea, are just a few of the things visitors can experience when the Far Horizons tour to Tunisia stops in Jerba.

Thomas J. Morton was the assistant director of the Jerba Project and will lead a visit to Jerba during the March 2004 tour of Tunisia (www.farhorizon.com/africa/tunisia.htm).

'Ain Ghazal: *One of the First "Towns" in the World*

In 1974 the new highway built between Jordan's capital of Amman and the country's industrial center of Zarqa cut through the edge of a slumbering giant. For 7,500 years soil and rocks had cloaked the remains of 'Ain Ghazal, one of the first experiments society conducted in residential sprawl. Bulldozer cuts exposed the entire history of the settlement, from its beginnings more than 10,000 years ago to its last whimpers of human occupation at about 5,500 BC. Initially, comfortable single-family dwellings of around 400 ft² floor area were clustered in a density of housing that would be familiar to residents of row houses in Philadelphia or pueblos in New Mexico a hundred years ago. A strong connection of family and homes was reflected in the burial of selected family members beneath house floors, a burial that was disturbed just once in order to remove the skull for a special ceremonial reconstruction of the individual's face. The newly modeled image was probably put on display in the house (at least at certain times of the year) to emphasize the importance of the ties between the living family members and past ancestors. This profound concern with genealogy was expressed on a broader scale through statues made of plaster molded around skeletons of reeds bound with twine, representing an ancestral line that stretched far back into the mist-clouded past beyond any time range human memory could deal with. Dated to 7,750 BC, the meter-tall figures represent the oldest "monumental" statuary that we know of.

Still early in the new evolving process of producing their own food instead of hunting and gathering it, the Neolithic farmers and herders cleared land to support the rapidly growing number of inhabitants, which appears to have doubled about every 400-500 years, reaching a population of around three thousand people by 7,000 BC. The size of the settlement was unprecedented, probably four to five times the size of con-



temporary Jericho. But the success of the new way of life was tainted with the seeds of its downfall: demands on the local environment were degrading it in increasing measure, and competition for farmland was as strong between families as between farmers and flocks of sheep and goats. The discordant strains that the exploding size of the population had on the social fabric of the community must have been tremendous, so much so that social life and religious rituals changed from that early emphasis on individual families and far-reaching ancestral identities to corporate residential groups of related households that lived in communal, multifamily apartment buildings and who celebrated rituals and ceremonies in community-focused "temples", as well as in kin-centered residential shrines.

Ultimately, the incessant demands on the ecology became irreversibly devastating, and by 6,500 BC the number of residents at the once vibrant town of 'Ain Ghazal plummeted, probably to less than a sixth of the former size within just a few generations. Fields that had supplied tons of grain and legumes gave out, and by 5,500 BC even the localized pockets of productive soil could no longer sustain a community of any size, and 'Ain Ghazal was abandoned to nomadic groups of herders to use its powerful spring of fresh water for their sheep and goats.

A visit to the site of 'Ain Ghazal, led by its principal excavator Prof. Gary O. Rollefson, will put the size of the settlement into visual perspective as well as to reveal the changing architectural features through time, including the shrines and temples used by the later inhabitants. The National Museum in Amman will also provide the opportunity to view some of the most impressive aspects of Stone Age religion that have ever been discovered. *Join Gary Rollefson and tour Jordan, including 'Ain Ghazal, in May 2004 (www.farhorizons.com/middle_east/grandeur_of_petra.htm).*

Schedule of Trips

TURKEY

May 21 - June 5, 2004	Eastern Turkey with Dr. Jennifer Tobin	\$5,495.00
May 7 - 24, 2004	Riches of Turkey with Professor Kenneth Harl	\$5,895.00
June 5 - 19, 2004	Sail the Turkish Sapphire Seas with Drs. Jeremy & Maud McNerney	\$5,995.00
Aug 27 - Sept 13, 2004	Turkish Treasures with archaeologist, Umit Isin	\$5,895.00
Sept 17 - Oct 4, 2004	Elegant Turkey including a week on a yacht	\$5,995.00

THE MIDDLE EAST

May 14 - 30, 2004	Iran with Dr. Holly Pittman	\$5,895.00
May 21 - June 5, 2004	Hidden Splendors of Syria with Dr. Philip Stanley	\$4,395.00 + air
May 29 - June 11, 2004	Grandeur of Petra, Splendors of Jordan with Dr. Gary Rollefson	\$3,995.00 + air

INDIA, CHINA and SOUTHEAST ASIA

Dec 2 - 20, 2003	Angkor Wat and Laos with Dr. Michael D. Coe	\$6,695.00
Dec 26, 2003 - Jan 13, 2004	India with Dr. Daniel Ehn bom	\$6,495.00
Jan 17 - Feb 2, 2004	Thailand with Richard Ruth	\$3,995.00
Sept 12 - Oct 2, 2004	Himalayan Kingdoms: Ladakh and Bhutan	\$7,395.00
Oct 30 - Nov 17, 2004	Angkor Wat and Laos with Dr. Michael D. Coe	\$6,895.00
Dec 2004 - Jan 2005	Vietnam with Dr. David Eckel	CALL
Dec 31, 2004 - Jan 18, 2005	India with Dr. Daniel Ehn bom	\$6,795.00
Jan 8 - 26, 2005	Angkor Wat and Laos with Dr. Michael Coe	\$6,995.00
Summer 2005	Himalayan Kingdoms: Ladakh and Bhutan with Dr. David Eckel	CALL

EUROPE

June 5-19, 2004	Isles of Greece, including a week on a yacht	CALL
July 24 - August 7, 2004	The Riches of Scotland with medievalist, Christopher Bowles	\$4,195.00 + air
Aug 28 - Sept 12, 2004	Mediterranean Crossroads: Sardinia & Malta with Dr. Nicholas Vella	CALL
Sept 16 - 28, 2004	An Archaeological Pub Crawl of Great Britain with Christopher Bowles	\$4,195.00 + air
Oct 2 - 16, 2004	Sensational Sicily	\$5,695.00

AFRICA

March 6 - 21, 2004	Wonders of Tunisia with Tom Morton	\$4,595.00
March 15 - 31, 2004	The Majesty of Egypt with Prof. Bob Brier and Pat Remler	Wait List Only
April 7 - 23, 2004	Ethiopia & Easter Festivities with Dr. Michael DiBlasi	\$4,495.00 + air
Feb 7 - 23, 2005	The Majesty of Egypt with Dr. Rita Freed	\$6,995.00
Dec 23, 2005 - Jan. 8, 2006	The Majesty of Egypt with Prof. Bob Brier and Pat Remler	CALL
March 2004	The Oases of Egypt for the Solar Eclipse with Prof. Bob Brier	CALL

SOUTH AMERICA and POLYNESIA

Jan 9 - 25, 2004	Peru: The Inkas and their Ancestors with Dr. Bill Sapp	\$5,195.00
Jan 30 - Feb 8, 2004	Easter Island and the Tapati Festival with Dr. Steven Fischer	\$4,495.00 + air
July 9 - 25, 2004	Peru: The Inkas and their Ancestors with Dr. Bill Sapp	\$5,195.00
July 23 - Aug 8, 2004	The Archaeology of Bolivia with Dr. Clark Erickson	CALL
Aug 12 - 25, 2004	Hike the Inka Trail in Peru with Dr. Clark Erickson	\$4,995.00
Dec 30, 2003 - Jan 16, 2004	Micronesia with Dr. Felicia Beardsley	CALL

MEXICO and CENTRAL AMERICA

Oct 24 - Nov 2, 2003	Trail of the Shaman, including Day of the Dead in Guatemala	\$3,995.00
Oct 25 - 2, 2003	El Dia de Los Muertos in Oaxaca with Salvador Gonzalez	\$2,995.00 + air
Oct 31 - Nov 10, 2003	Hidden Maya Cities of the Yucatan	\$3,795.00
Nov 7 - 16, 2003	Capital Cities of the Ancient Maya with Dr. Marc Zender	\$4,095.00
Dec 20 - 28, 2003	Christmas in Oaxaca with Dr. Adam Sellen	\$2,895.00 + air
Jan 8 - 18, 2004	Hidden Maya Cities of the Yucatan	\$3,895.00
Feb 13 - 22, 2004	Capital Cities of the Ancient Maya with Dr. Armando Anaya	\$4,095.00
Mar 27 - Apr 6, 2004	Hidden Maya Cities of the Yucatan	\$3,895.00
April 3 - 12, 2004	Lost Cities of the Maya with Federico Fahsen	\$3,995.00
May 21 - May 30, 2004	Capital Cities of the Ancient Maya with Stanley Guenter	\$4,095.00
July 3 - 12, 2004	Capital Cities of the Ancient Maya with Stanley Guenter	\$4,095.00
July 10 - 20, 2004	Hidden Maya Cities of the Yucatan	\$3,895.00
Oct 24 - Nov 2, 2004	Trail of the Shaman, including Day of the Dead in Guatemala	\$4,195.00
Oct 30 - Nov 9, 2004	Hidden Maya Cities of the Yucatan	\$3,895.00
Nov 5 - 14, 2004	Capital Cities of the Ancient Maya with Dr. Marc Zender	\$4,095.00
Dec 18 - 26, 2004	Christmas in Oaxaca with Dr. Adam Sellen	\$2,995.00 + air

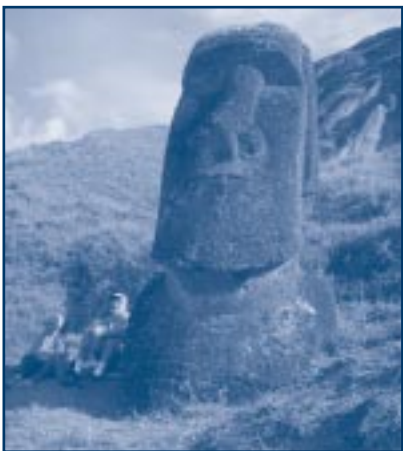
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RECENT PUBLICATIONS:



Statue on Easter Island.

Angkor and the Khmer Civilization by Dr. Michael D. Coe (Thames and Hudson) is due out in October.

The Enigmas of Easter Island (Oxford University Press) 2003. The new book by Paul Bahn and John Flenley, is now available. Their previous book, *Easter Island, Earth Island*, was the definitive study of the catastrophic environmental degradation perspective on Rapa Nui prehistory. Though controversial, their work has become both a milestone and a touchstone for most subsequent research.

Easter Island by Jennifer Vanderbes (Dial Press) 2003. A well-researched novel based on the Rutledge Expedition to Easter Island.

Both of the above books are reviewed in the October issue of *Rapa Nui Journal*. In the upcoming issue of the *Journal*, we feature a paper by two researchers who have found some amazing evidence for a huge forest of giant palm trees on Easter Island. The paper, "The Key Role of Jubaea Palm Trees in the History of Easter Island" is by Hans-Rudolf Bork and Andreas Mieth of the University of Kiel. Their estimates, based up archaeological fieldwork, suggest that the island's palm forest once exceeded 16 million trees. Readers who wish to receive a complimentary copy of the journal should contact rapanuibooks@att.net and/or go to the following website - www.islandheritage.org.

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Brier, Professor Jeremy McInerney, Professor Kenneth Harl, and others.

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