

NOVEMBER  
2016

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF ALBERTA



## NOVEMBER LECTURE

Wednesday, November 16th, 2016

University of Calgary

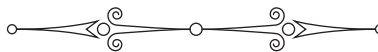
Tom Oliver Room, ES 162, 7:30pm

### *Before the Khans: The Archaeology of the Xiongnu Empire in Mongolia (209 BC-200 AD)*

Dr. Erik Johannesson

**ABSTRACT** - A prevailing view in anthropological and archaeological theory has been that nomadic societies are incapable of forming complex political polities that endure in the *longue durée*. Here, Dr. Johannesson challenges this view by presenting the results of over a decade of archaeological research on the Xiongnu Empire in Mongolia. According to Chinese texts, the Xiongnu Empire was formed when the charismatic leader Motun unified the nomadic steppe tribes of Mongolia and Siberia into a powerful confederacy that quickly

emerged as a regional enemy of the Han Dynasty. The formation of this polity is identified archaeologically with sweeping changes in material culture, technology, and funerary customs. Drawing on fieldwork from Baga Gazaryn Chuluu in the north Gobi and Shombuuzin Belchir in the Altai foothills, this presentation will explore the archaeology of the Xiongnu Empire and how political centralization manifests in mortuary practice. Adopting a diachronic perspective, Xiongnu mortuary monuments will be discussed vis-à-vis preceding funerary traditions to illustrate that Xiongnu tombs represent a conspicuous inversion of previous customs. A scalar landscape approach will then be used to demonstrate how mortuary ideology was manipulated by the Xiongnu elite to incorporate local lineages of leadership into a broader Xiongnu political economy. Finally, the reopening of tombs in antiquity and osteological evidence of violent trauma will be discussed to illustrate that mortuary contexts formed important loci of Xiongnu state-craft, and arenas in which political ideologies were both imposed and contested.



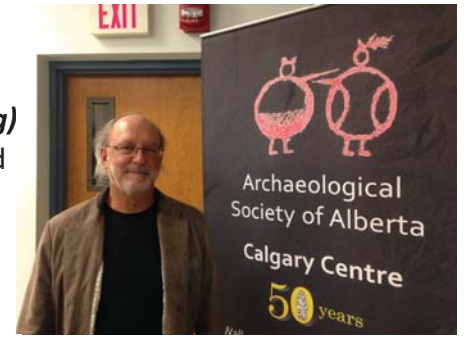
**Dr. Erik Johannesson** earned his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and specializes in landscape and mortuary archaeology. In particular, his research interests center on how mobile populations organize themselves across landscapes economically, politically, and ideologically, and how political centralization and belief-systems are represented in mortuary practice. Dr. Johannesson has pursued these interests in Mongolia, Russia, Greece, and most recently in Egypt's Valley of the Kings. He has also conducted fieldwork in southwestern and southeastern US, and has taught archaeology at North Carolina University, Meredith College, and Pacific Lutheran University. Having relocated to Alberta, Dr. Johannesson manages the Bodo Archaeological Site and Centre in East Central Alberta and also works for Lifeways of Canada.

## **OCTOBER LECTURE REVIEW**

### ***Nunataks and Valley Glaciers: the Icy Corridor***

**Bob Dawe (Royal Alberta Museum) & Dr. Marcel Kornfeld (University of Wyoming)**

The October talk entitled “Nunataks and Valley Glaciers: the Icy Corridor” presented by Bob Dawe of the Royal Alberta Provincial Museum saw a return to some of the themes touched on in the September presentation. In this talk Bob reviewed the concept of the ‘Ice Free Corridor’, an idea that has long been a focus of fascination and research for archaeologists in North America. Dawe reasons that arguments to discredit the concept may be premature as more and more evidence has come to light suggesting that people were travelling across the ice sheets 10 to 12,000 years ago. Assorted ethnohistoric examples of people travelling across glacial surfaces in the St Elias Range of Alaska and the Yukon and in Norway were cited to support claims such frozen glacial environments were not huge impediments to human populations adapted to such environments. Hard data supporting these claims include a Clovis point made from Anaheim Lake obsidian found near Fort Saint John, BC; assorted Clovis points found throughout the Canadian Rockies, a newly reported Clovis point and horse bone dating to circa 10,000 years ago found along the Brazeau Reservoir. While the Ice Free Corridor may not have been the first or only way human populations reached North America, Dawe makes a compelling case that the concept should not be discarded. All in all this was an informative lecture that provided much to ponder.



## **CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS & POSTERS**

If you are interested in presenting a paper or a poster at the Archaeological Society of Alberta joint meeting with the Saskatchewan Archaeological Association, April 27-30, 2017 please contact our Provincial Coordinator at [arkysocietyalberta@gmail.com](mailto:arkysocietyalberta@gmail.com) with your name and abstract

## **ONLINE MEMBERSHIP PURCHASE/RENEWAL**

*We Appreciate Your Continued Support*  
**Memberships can now be purchased/renewed online  
on our Calgary Centre webpage!!**

*Visit our website and it will walk you through the process-*  
<https://arkycalgary.com/membership/>

OR

*In person at one of our Lectures or Events.*  
*We can now take credit card payments in person*  
*(or cash or cheque if you prefer)*

### **MEMBERSHIP REALLY DOES HAVE ITS BENEFITS**

*Some of these benefits include:*

- monthly newsletters with lecture, event, fieldtrip, etc. notifications (min. 8 issues per/yr)
- free copy of the Alberta Archaeological Review
- priority registration in ASA workshops

# Archaeological Society of Alberta - Calgary Centre Student Awards

Did you know that the ASA - Calgary Centre has two student scholarships? We are very excited to support these scholarships. If you are interested in making a donation to these scholarship funds please let us know!

## Wes Johnston Student Award in Archaeology – University of Calgary

This Scholarship was created to support and encourage future archaeologists. Initially sponsored by the ASA Calgary Centre from 1966 until the 2003-2004 term when the award was renamed in honour of **Wes Johnston**, a long-time member and contributor to the ASA Calgary Centre. At the request of Wes Johnson the criteria now included that the recipient be interested in educating the general public and future generations about the importance of archaeology. The Wes Johnston scholarship is awarded to the top undergraduate student in archaeology at the University of Calgary.

*Wes Johnston's* interest in archeology began when as a young boy on the prairie he accompanied his father, Russell Johnston, as he visited ancient campsites after one of the huge "dust bowl: windstorms. Russell marked and recorded each artifact that was uncovered and amassed a substantial surface collection which is described in Dr. Wormington and Dr. Forbis' book and is still considered one of the most important artifact collections in Alberta. Wes became an avocational archaeologist and very active within the Archaeological Society of Alberta Calgary Centre, as an ASA Calgary Centre provincial representative to the ASA from 1988 to the spring of 2000 and then in the fall of 2000 was appointed a Lifetime Honorary Director, giving quiet counsel as needed. Wes took photographs his father's artifact collection, which consisted of the well know Alberta Point that is featured on the Speaker Series Pamphlet for the ASA Calgary Centre and on the Scholarship Award Plaque presented to the recipient.

## Humphreys Student Award in Archaeology - Mount Royal University

This Scholarship was first created by the ASA Calgary Centre in 2003 and in 2007-2008 the award was renamed to honour the lifetime contributions of **Jim and Doris Humphreys**, two of the founding members of the Calgary Centre.

*James Humphreys* was the original author of the Record in Stone booklet first published in 1967. Jim participated in the Archaeological Society of Alberta Calgary Centre for more than 40 years, during which he held the position of Treasurer from 1966-67, President from 1968-1970, Director from 1972-1975 and in 1984 he was appointed Honorary Director and subsequently a Lifetime Honorary Director. In 1996 Jim was presented the Distinguished Service Award for his contributions to Alberta Archaeology, the highest recognition to be gained within the Archaeological Society of Alberta. Jim also assisted in preparing the written groundwork for The Alberta Heritage Act of 1973 and had been on the Ward Committee of the Energy Resources Conservation Board since 1983.

*Doris Humphreys'* interests included archaeology, genealogy and most of all malacology (branch of zoology that involves the study of mollusks). Doris began gathering mollusks from all corners of the world at an early age and built up an amazing collection that became a real passion for her. Her vast collection and the many books were donated to the Department of Archaeology at the University of Calgary to be utilized as a teaching tool.

*We will be presenting this year's recipients  
their awards at our November lecture*

# UPCOMING EVENTS, LECTURES, and CONFERENCES

## Alberta Palaeontological Society

Exploring for Fossils in a Basement: My Misadventures in the University of Alberta  
Paleobotany Collection

Georgia Hoffman

Friday, November 18th, 2016, 7:30pm

Mount Royal University, Room B108



please check their website for further information <http://www.albertapaleo.org/>

## Chinook Country Historical Society

The People Who Made This Place: the Legacy of Lougheed House

Kirstin Evenden, Executive Director of Lougheed House

Tuesday, November 22nd, 2016, 7:30pm

Fort Calgary, Officers Mess, 750 9th Ave SE

Christmas Luncheon -

The HBC's Bow River Expedition 1822-23

Ted Binnema (Professor of History, University of Northern BC) &

Gerhard Ens (Professor of History, University of Alberta)

Saturday, December 10th, starts at 10:30 am, TICKETS REQUIRED

Danish Canadian Club, 727, 11th Ave SW

By Word of Mouth: Annie McDougall and the Writing of *Latch String Out*

George Colpitts, Professor of History University of Calgary

Tuesday January 24th 2017, 7:30pm

Fort Calgary, Officers Mess, 750 9th Ave SE

please check their website for further information <http://www.chinookcountry.org/>

## The 9th Canada's History Forum

Engaging Authentic Indigenous Histories

Listen to public historians, educators and storytellers reflect on the ways they engage with and share the histories of Indigenous peoples in Canada.

Join the Conversation on Sunday, November 27th, 2016 at the Canadian War Museum, 1 Vimy Place, Ottawa, Ontario OR Watch it LIVE ONLINE!

Opening Remarks 1:30pm, Concluding Remarks 5:30pm

Please RSVP - [CanadasHistory.ca/HistoryForum](http://CanadasHistory.ca/HistoryForum)

## SAVE the DATE

Annual General Meeting & Conference of the Archaeological Society of Alberta joint with the Saskatchewan Archaeological Society

April 27-30, 2017, Cypress Hills, SK.

MORE INFORMATION TO COME IN THE NEW YEAR!

## Canadian Archaeological Association

May 10-13, Ottawa Ontario

[www.canadianarchaeology.com/caa/annual-meeting](http://www.canadianarchaeology.com/caa/annual-meeting)