



# The Archaeological Society of Southern Florida



Volume 26, Issue 7

Newsletter of the Society

September 2000

President: Barbara Tansey

Editor: Lisa Weier

## Mario Ferrante to Speak on Ancient Greece

For over 27 years Mario Ferrante has been studying, writing and lecturing on the cultural, anthropological and archeological life styles of ancient civilizations as well as today's primitive societies.

Mario is the curator of Natural Sciences of the Miami Museum of Science, and a professor of Cultural Geography at Florida International University. He is an explorer, a world traveler and accomplished photographer. In his spare time Mario freelances for National Geographic and Epoca magazines.

This evening professor Ferrante will lecture and has arranged a slide presentation on the archaeology, architecture and culture of the ancient Greeks in the Mediterranean basin. This interesting journey will take the audience to southern Italy and Sicily, where it will explore the Archeological sites of Paestum, Segesta, Agrigento, Taormina and Syracuse.

Mario has most recently returned from a trip to Angkor in Cambodia and Bagan in Burma. If pressed, he may provide us with some highlights from his most recent adventure. Please join us on Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m., Atlantic Radio Telephone, 2495 NW 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Call Barbara Tansey at (305) 633-9636 for directions.



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## PURPLE GLASS

submitted by ASSF member Bill Lyons

There are three basic ingredients used in making glass. They are sand, soda and lime. Sand contains traces of different minerals and also iron oxide. The iron oxide results in the glass taking on a greenish color.

Glassmakers were always experimenting with different additives trying to make clear glass. It was finally discovered that with the addition of manganese the glass would come out clear. However, upon exposure to the sun or ultraviolet rays the glass will turn purple. The degree of purple would depend on the amount of manganese added and the length of time exposed to the sun.

Years ago when there were bottle clubs in Miami, and quite a few collectors, it was common for people to put their finds on the roof of their house or shed in order for them to turn purple. Of course this was the clear glass finds which were mostly medicine bottles along with some soda bottles and jars. There were others who built boxes with an ultraviolet light inside. I've been told it works although a bottle cannot turn a dark purple if there is not enough manganese in it.

During World War 1 the importation of manganese was cut off. The glassmakers now turned to selenium to produce clear glass. Upon exposure to the sun, the selenium gave the glass a pinkish brown or amber cast.

Purple glass is generally dated before World War 1 (1918) and is often found on many archaeological sites.

Note: Radiation is now used on bottles and they will turn a dark color. Some of the purples are real dark, and the amber has been referred to as smokey amber but not a true brown amber.

**Bottle:** Acker's English Remedy for the throat & Lungs.  
W.H. Hooker & Co, made in New York, U.S.A  
Very light cobalt blue glass, late 1800's through the 1920's.



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## Continuing Site Restoration of Indian Key

Restoration work will continue at the Indian Key site, starting again sometime this fall or winter.

The park service will supply transportation to the island each day, shovels, wheelbarrows, drinking water, etc.

Additional shovels and screens will be needed. Each person should bring with them each day - lunch, water or any other liquid you like (please - no alcohol), gloves and any tools you can lend us for this project. (Screens are greatly needed).

Please contact Seth Lefkow at (305) 868-2828 or you may contact Pat Wells or Bob Rose directly at Lignumvitae Key State Botanical Site (305) 393-4039 to volunteer and for directions.

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The May 2000 **FAS Conference** was a great success, with ASSF President Barbara Tansey and ASSF Treasurer Brian Conesa both receiving awards of appreciation for all of their hard work.

Mark Your Calendar:

The next FAS meeting is scheduled for May 11-13, 2001 in St. Augustine. Look for more information in coming newsletters.

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### Upcoming Conference:

The 2000 Southeastern Archaeological Conference (SEAC) will be held in Macon Georgia November 8-11, 2000. Call Dr. Adam King or the Savannah River Arch. Research Program at 803-725-1130 for registration information. Their website is: [www.uark.edu/campus-resources/seac/index.html](http://www.uark.edu/campus-resources/seac/index.html)

## Screen like a Banshee!

Please come out and help screen artifact-rich dirt rescued from the Bamboo Site, located at the Everglades Outpost in Florida City. Although we've been screening for sometime, there are plenty of piles left to sift, and we now have a tarp covering the screening area for shade. Any help is appreciated and no experience is necessary!

**Address: 35601 S.W. 192 Ave.**

**Call 305-247-8000 for directions.**

**(PS - wear something that can get very dirty)**

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### Retraction

Please Note: The June newsletter may have been unclear about artifacts and reproductions being displayed at the June meeting by Stanley Kiem. No artifacts were sold at this meeting to benefit ASSF.

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### Make time to check out...

#### **DINOSAURS! Journey Thru Time**

at the Miami Museum of Science.

This exhibition will feature a variety of robotic dinosaurs including a Woolly Mammoth, a hands-on T-Rex, two adult Protoceratops with a nest and an entire Smilodon Family with two adults and two young.

This exhibition runs  
May 27 - Sept. 10, 2000

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**Florida Anthropological Society**  
**FAS membership application/renewal form**

YES, I want to join **FAS**. I enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- INDIVIDUAL, \$25    FAMILY, \$30    INSTITUTIONAL, \$25  
 SUSTAINING, \$40 OR MORE    PATRON, \$100    LIFE, \$500

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (H) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: FAS Membership  
Terry Simpsons, CGCAS  
P.O. Box 82255  
Tampa, Florida 33682

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA**  
**ASSF membership application/renewal form**

I have read and will abide by the Objectives and Code of Ethics of ASSF listed below, and I wish to apply for membership.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (w) \_\_\_\_\_ (h) \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECK ONE:**    New Member    Renewal

**CHECK ONE:**    Individual (\$20)    Family (\$25)

Mail to: Barbara Tansey  
ASSF Membership  
2495 N.W. 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Miami, FL 33142

**ASSF CODE OF ETHICS:**

- Members of the Society agree to promote archaeological site preservation and conservation, to excavate only endangered sites as part of a qualified research group, to not excavate archaeological sites for the unscientific collecting of artifacts.
- All artifacts and material recovered from Society projects are the property of the Society.

**ASSF OBJECTIVE:**

To provide a formal means by which individuals and institutions interested in archaeological and anthropological studies in South Florida and related areas may come together for mutual benefit.

**RETURN ADDRESS:**

The Archaeological Society of Southern Florida  
Barbara Tansey, President  
2495 NW 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Miami, Florida 33142

**FIRST CLASS**



PLACE STAMP  
HERE

**NEXT MEETING:** September 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.

**SPEAKER:** Mario Ferrante, Curator of Natural History, Miami Museum of Science. **Topic:** Ancient Greeks in the Mediterranean basin

**OFFICERS:**

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comments, submissions or (oops!) corrections.