

# ANTHROPOS

Department of Anthropology

VOL. 29, ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 2004

## GENGHIS KHAN'S MAUSOLEUM FOUND

Archaeologists have unearthed the site of Genghis Khan's palace and believe that the long sought grave of the 13th century Mongolian warrior is nearby.

A team of Japanese and Mongolian archaeologists announced their discovery on October 7, 2004. Genghis Khan (1162-1227 AD) united the Mongolian tribes in 1206. He created a conquest empire that stretched

by the time of his death from China to Hungary.

The archaeologists were able to identify the site from pottery unearthed at the site; the outlines of the site and its buildings also matches a description of it by a Chinese official in 1232.

The palace was built in the shape of a square tent supported by wooden columns

Documents from the 13th century say

that court officials walked daily from the palace to Genghis Khan's tomb. This leads archaeologists to believe that the tomb is near the excavated palace. If discovered, the tomb may contain more than Genghis Khan's remains. By tradition, 14 great Mongol warriors were buried in the tomb, including Genghis' son, Kublai Khan. Archaeologists have sought the site for decades.

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Chinese & Tibetan Medicine*—p. 2
- *Anthropology Club News*—p. 3
- *Archaeology in Eastern Europe*—p. 4
- *Thracian Burial Site*—p. 7
- *Lice May Reveal Human Interaction*—p. 7
- *Peoples of the Caribbean course*—p. 7
- *Anthropology Courses for Spring 2005*—p. 8
- *About Us*—p. 8

## COMMON ANCESTOR LIVED JUST 3500 YEARS AGO?

Douglas Rohde of MIT recently announced the results of a mathematical calculation to determine when a common ancestor of modern humans lived. The re-

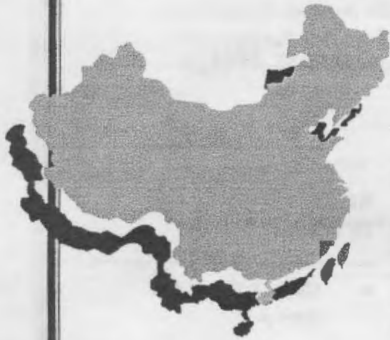
sults appeared in the September 29 issue of *Nature*. Rohde assumed that migration occurred in the pre-historic past and that all modern humans

are linked. Based on those assumptions, Rohde traces modern humans to someone in East Asia 5400 years ago—someone with a big family!



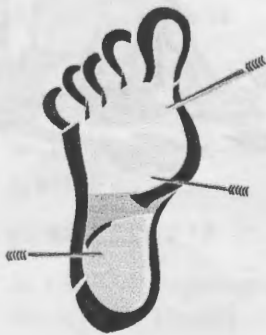
## CHINESE &amp; TIBETAN MEDICINE EXPOSED BY TARA INVIDIATO

"Ni Hao," fellow anthropologists and friendly readers! You might wonder what "Ni Hao" means and what language it is from. But first let me tell you about the trip I took along with 18 other people from Bloomsburg that explored Dali, Beijing, Hong Kong, Changria-La, Kunming, X'ian and Zhong-dian in China this past summer. You see, "Ni Hao" means "Hello" or "How Do You Do?" in Han Chinese. Why don't you yell it out on campus to some of your friends to see their reaction? It should be fun. During my stay in China, I came across many different ethnic groups. There were the majority Han people, but there were also Moso, Tibetan, Dai, Bai, Yi, and Wa people, each with their own language. One country, but many different ethnic groups with different beliefs on social life, family, education, government and medicine coexist there.



19 PEOPLE FROM  
BLOOMSBURG  
VISITED CHINA  
AND TIBEST THIS  
PAST SUMMER.

Speaking of medicine, our explorers, as I like to call them, went to two hospitals or medical facilities to get a better understanding of how the different ethnic groups handled illnesses. One was the largest Han Chinese hospital, and the other was a small Tibetan monastery/healing place. You'll be shocked when you hear this. When we all stepped into the large Chinese hospital, we were surprised to see how dark it was and how many patients were crowded into the halls. The doctors were yelling out in Chinese and passing out bundles of sage incense to the waiting patients. The bundles were lit and smoking, and as they waited, the patients breathed the smoke in and out to ease their pain or discomfort. A Chinese doctor gave us a tour,



showing us massage therapy, acupuncture and acupressure, and the preparation of herbal teas from grinding plants (and some insects) into powders. We were surprised at how the doctors violated the patients' privacy by allowing strangers to enter a room where acupuncture was going on to see how it was done. There the patients sat, half-naked with acupuncture needles sticking in them and talking about what was wrong with them with us. To an American used to privacy, this was shocking.

The Chinese rely heavily on acupuncture, tai-chi and holistic medicine in

## CHINESE MEDICINE (CONTINUED)

Western antibiotics and surgeries. The Chinese doctors looked like American doctors—white lab coats, stethoscopes around their necks, etc.

By contrast, the Tibetan system was very different. The monks or medicine men wear long cranberry robes with no protection such as gloves or surgical masks. They do not use medical equipment to analyze the ills of their patients. They would say “Do you believe in Tibet’s way?” If we said yes, they would take your hands and read your palms. From this they would predict and analyze whatever was inside of you—your troubles, your pain, and what’s causing them. After the palm reading session, they said prayers over us and offered us expensive pills of their own creation. They refused to discuss what the pills contained, unlike the Chinese doctors who talked will-



-ingly about what was contained in their medicines and medicine rooms—the insects, the dried leaves, the ground animal bones, poppy seeds, etc. The Han Chinese and the Tibetans may have had their differences, but what matters is their clients. Their patients seem to gain satisfaction from their treatments no matter how unorthodox their treatments seemed to us. What matters is that the Chinese and the Tibetans still practice their traditional healing practices today, and their patients accept it as part of their culture and beliefs. But I think that you, the readers, will stick with your American doctors after reading this. Well, what matters is what you believe.


BUT I THINK  
THAT YOU, THE  
READERS, WILL  
STICK WITH  
YOUR AMERICAN  
DOCTORS AFTER  
READING THIS.

## ANTHROPOLOGY CLUB NEWS

The Anthropology Club is promoting a Support the Troops effort as one of its service projects for 2004-2005. Donations are sought to support the 814th Battalion, a local unit, as it deploys in Iraq. Donations of the following are sought: disposable cameras, AT & T prepaid phone cards, batteries, puzzle and word game books, commercially wrapped and individually sized trail mix, beef jerky, nuts, energy bars, sunflower seeds, candy, packets of powdered cold beverages, commercially sealed lip balm, individual packets of moist towelettes (non-alcohol based kinds), and many other items. You can take your donations to 146 CEH by November 5 for collection. Thanks!

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN EASTERN EUROPE BY STEVE CONFAIR

(Steve submitted this article last spring, but it didn't make it into ANTHROPOS then. Sorry, Steve)



In the summer of 2003, I spent three weeks in Bulgaria and participated in a field school with archaeologists from the History Museum in Blagoevgrad, a city of about 78,000 located about sixty miles south of the capital of Sofia. Students from a university in Blagoevgrad also participated in the excavation of a Neolithic site from about 5200 B.C. The site was near the village of Drenkovo, eight miles west of Blagoevgrad and about sixty miles north of the border with Greece. The topography of the area surrounding the site was primarily rolling hills covered with fields, some of which were being worked by a neighboring farmer with a scythe and a horse-drawn cart. Tall mountains about four miles to the west formed the border with the

Republic of Macedonia.

I arranged this trip through the VIR Society, an NGO based in Sofia. I stayed on the third floor of a house in Blagoevgrad with Elana, a representative of VIR who was pursuing her Masters degree in archaeology at Sofia University; Hana, a Turkish girl pursuing a Masters in archaeology in England; and Dinah from New York City who had lived and worked in Macedonia for the past three years; Dinah had no archaeology background. Each morning were awakened about 5 AM by rooster calls throughout the city and the sound of the gypsy (Roma) horse-drawn carts on the street outside

IN THE SUMMER  
OF 2003, I  
SPENT THREE  
WEEKS IN  
BULGARIA  
PARTICIPATING  
IN A FIELD  
SCHOOL.

windows. We met our ride to the site about 6:15 AM each day so we could beat the mid-day heat which was a sweltering 105 F the first several days, but tolerable thereafter. With the lack of communist government funding, corporate sponsors are now being sought for archaeological projects. So, each day before we started work at the site, we would erect a large "Victory" banner for our sponsor, the Victory Cigarette factory located in Blagoevgrad, even though there were very few passersby who would see it. We would usually finish our work on the site in the early afternoon, return to Blagoevgrad for a late lunch, shower, and then go to the museum to sort

## BULGARIA (CONTINUED)

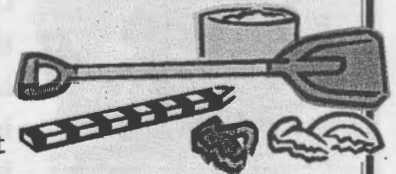
and catalog the artifacts we were finding at the site. On some afternoons we were given tours of the museum or lectures by the archaeologists. Friday afternoons were reserved for barbecues, one at a Roman site also being excavated by the museum, and another (which featured freshly slaughtered lamb and lamb's head soup) at the town hall at the invitation of the mayor.

With preliminary surveys having been done the summer before, 2003 was the first season of excavation at the site which was along an ancient route connecting the Aegean world with Central Europe. We had a few slow days, but generally I was elated by what we found. We found, for instance, the remains of structures, specifically postholes and "dope," a clay-like mortar which still showed the negative impressions of the timbers used in house

construction. The dope would not normally have survived, but it was hardened by fire, of unknown origin, which had destroyed these structures. We also found charcoal, large quantities of pottery sherds and anthropomorphic figures. I had the particular pleasure of excavating a portion of a finely decorated stone altar which was approximately five inches in size with a full leg and part of a bowl. Numerous seeds were bagged for paleobotanists to analyze, and finely worked bone—possibly used as a tool—was found as well. A grinding stone we excavated may have been used to make paint for the inside of the structures which are believed to have had plaster floors and ceilings. I found it to be a fantastic, though somewhat eerie or spiritual,

feeling to unearth and be the first to handle these artifacts of daily life used by families that lived 7200 years ago.

Our weekend excursions were also great. We visited Roman ruins previously excavated by the museum, remote villages not accustomed to seeing tourists (one still had communist era propaganda posted on signs throughout the village; one translated to "every collective, every month, should achieve their plan"), and two impressive monasteries. One was the Rila monastery which is situated in a spectacular mountain setting; its earliest building dated to 1334. One day five of us hiked to the summit of 9560'



## BULGARIA (CONTINUED)

Mt. Vihren in the Pirin Mountains, taller than any other mountain in the other Balkan peninsula countries (Greece, Romania, and the countries of the former Yugoslavia) where we enjoyed a tremendous 360 view. Another day we visited another Neolithic site that the museum has been excavating for the past seventeen years; we spent the night at their base in a three story former school building located in a nearby village which offered great views of mountains in Greece about six miles away.



I also enjoyed spending some time in Sofia before and after the field school. The city is surrounded by mountains, has a population of 1.3 million and has architecture that is a mix of lovely European buildings and very bland and somewhat dilapidated, communist-era high rise apartments. I visited the Archaeological Museum, located in a former mosque built in 1496.

THIS PROJECT  
CERTAINLY MET  
MY GOALS OF  
BEING IN AN  
INTERESTING  
PLACE AND  
PARTICIPATING  
IN AN  
INTERESTING  
PROJECT.

I also visited the National History Museum and the Ethnographic Museum, all three of which I highly recommend. I went to the market and also visited historic churches, including a second century A.D. Roman structure converted to a church in the Middle Ages and the Alexander Nevski Cathedral, the largest cathedral in the Balkans.

Overall, I had a tremendous experience and found everyone to be very friendly despite the language barrier. Except for a few of the archaeologists and some students, I rarely encountered anyone who could speak any English, and I had trouble with Bulgarian. I originally came across this project

In the Archaeological Fieldwork Opportunities Bulletin published by the Archaeological Institute of America. This trip, which was done as an internship) certainly met my original goals of going to an interesting place, one I had not been to and was not necessarily likely to go to; participating in an interesting project; and being inexpensive—the total cost was \$610 including lodging, meals, and airfare.

## THRACIAN BURIAL SITE UNEARTHED IN BULGARIA

A team of Bulgarian archaeologists have announced the discovery of a large, intact mausoleum dating to the 5th century BC near the Bulgarian town of Chipka. The mausoleum is Thracian—modern Bulgaria is seen as the cradle of Thracian civilization, which extended from the Caucasus to southwestern Europe from the 4th century BC to the 3rd century AD. The mausoleum is huge and contains a host of gold, silver, bronze, and earthenware artifacts. Among the artifacts was a golden crown of oak leaves and acorns and a complete set of bronze body armor. The armor was decorated with engravings of goddesses and accompanied by a sword with a gold-studded pommel. Very little is known about the Thracians. Since 2000, Bulgarian researchers have discovered a temple and the palace of a king, both in southern Bulgaria. Thousands of other sites wait to be excavated.

## LICE MAY REVEAL EARLY HUMAN INTERACTION

Researchers looking into the genetic structure of human lice have announced that the two contemporary types of human lice had a common ancestor dating to 1.18 million years ago. The fact that two types exist today suggests to researchers that the types lived on and adapted to two different kinds of humans, presumably *Homo erectus* and *Homo sapiens*. The two types are very different, making it extremely unlikely that they evolved to their current state on the same species. But there must have been some kind of interaction between *H. erectus* and *H. sapiens* for both types to be found on modern humans today. David Reed of the Florida Museum of Natural History believes that the interaction occurred only 25 to 50,000 years ago.

HOMO ERECTUS  
MAY HAVE  
TRANSFERRED  
LICE TO MODERN  
HUMANS.

## 46.320 PEOPLES & CULTURES OF THE CARIBBEAN

This spring semester, Dr. Minderhout will be offering 46.320, Contemporary World Cultures TuTh 3:30-4:45. Despite the generic title, the content of the course will be the peoples and cultures of the Caribbean. The course will look at the ecology of the Caribbean; the colonial and modern history of the region; language and the popular arts; social patterns in the area; and tourism and economic development in the region. The approach will be topical and will include everything from Columbus' voyages to the Caribbean to the modern histories of Haiti and Cuba to Rastafarians and reggae music. See Dr. Minderhout for more details.





**BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY OF  
PENNSYLVANIA: THE STATE  
SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Dr. David Minderhout, Editor  
Department of Anthropology  
Room 150 Centennial Hall

Phone: 389-4859  
Fax: 389-5015  
Email [dminderh@bloomu.edu](mailto:dminderh@bloomu.edu)

---

**WE'RE ON THE WEB:  
[WWW.BLOOMU.EDU/  
DEPARTMENTS/ANTHRO](http://WWW.BLOOMU.EDU/DEPARTMENTS/ANTHRO)**

---

**ANTHROPOLOGY IS THE STUDY OF  
HUMANS**

**ANTHROPOS**, the Anthropology Newsletter, is published six times during the academic year and is mailed to interested students, faculty, administrators, and alumni. It is also distributed in anthropology classes on campus and made available on the department's home page. If you would like to be on the newsletter mailing list, please contact Dr. Dave Minderhout at the address and numbers on the left.

The Department of Anthropology offers a 36 credit B.A. degree and an 18 credit minor in anthropology. If you would like to see details, please see any of the anthropology faculty.

**ANTHROPOLOGY COURSE OFFERINGS FOR SPRING 2005**

**Dr. Dauria:**

**46.101 Introduction to Anthropology—MWF 10**

**46.200 Principles of Cultural Anthropology—  
TuTh 8, TuTh 2**

**46.333 Ethnic Identity in the U.S.—TuTh 11**

**Dr. Froemming**

**46.102 Anthropology & World Problems—MWF 1, MWF 3**

**46.200—MWF 12**

**46.470 Anthropological Thought & Theory—M 6-9**

**Dr. Minderhout:**

**46.200—MWF 9, Tu 6:30-9:30**

**46.220 Human Origins—MWF 11**

**46.320 Contemporary World Cultures—TuTh 3:30**

**Dr. Warner:**

**46.200—TuTh 2, MW 4-5:15, TuTh 11**

**Dr. Wymer:**

**46.102—TuTh 9:30**

**46.210 Prehistoric Archaeology—MWF 2**

**46.311—Archaeology of NE North America—  
TuTh 2**

