



Archaeology of China

*Our March Meeting will be held at
The Toledo Museum of Art
Friday, March 17th, 5:30 & 7:00.*

Menu :: Before the discussion, we will gather in the **Museum's Café for Dinner at 5:30 pm.** Join us!

Program :: "The First Emperor of China" When the First Emperor of China unified large parts of continental East Asia for the first time under a centralized bureaucratic régime, he imposed a unified script, currency, legal code, and system of weights and measures. Thanks to recent archaeological discoveries, we have come to realize that these imperial innovations were the outcome of a centuries-long process of development by the First Emperor's ancestors within the Qin kingdom. The First Emperor's mausoleum, with its unprecedented terra cotta figures, was an exaggerated manifestation of a tomb type that had been evolving since at least 500 BCE. In addition to revealing the deep local roots of the unification of China, recent archaeological finds also highlight the importance of Qin's contact with Inner Asia and beyond. The finds also posit the importance of external influences that gave shape to what we now regard as the distinctive civilization of Imperial China. **Lecture begins at 7:00 pm.** You should plan to take your seat well before this time as this program will likely pack the house. Presented by the Toledo Archaeological Institute of America, Toledo Society, in collaboration with the Toledo Museum of Art. Lecture by Lothar von Falkenhausen.

Location :: The **Toledo Museum of Art**, in the **Little Theater**. Park behind the TMA in their partially covered lot, which costs \$7 when you exit unless you are a TMA member. Parking in the church lot next door is allowed if they're not using their lot, but it is not monitored by TMA security. Lecture is free.

Reservations :: No reservations this month, but if you would like us to keep an eye out for you, contact our treasurer, Kris Johnson, at cjohnson143@woh.rr.com or at 419-836-7637.

Bun Day! (Bolludagur!)

ICELAND — To mark the beginning of Lent, **Icelanders** celebrated with three days: **Bolludagur** on Monday, **Sprengidagur** on Tuesday, and **Öskudagur** on Wednesday. **Bolludagur**, or Bun Day, is a day to feast on cream-filled buns. The custom is believed to have originated from Danish and Norwegian bakeries in the middle of the nineteenth century. The tradition in Iceland is for young children to make a bolluvöndur, a home-made spanking stick with colorful paper tassels, and on the morning of bolludagur the children wake up their parents by spanking them. The number of spanks they are able to give amounts to the number of bollur (buns) they will receive throughout the day. To complete "bolludagur", other types of bolla are eaten for dinner, including fiskibolla (with fishballs) and kjötbolla (with meatballs). Fish balls are made from minced haddock, chopped onion and egg and are fried in butter and eaten with potatoes. Meatballs in Iceland are traditionally served with red cabbage, potatoes and gravy, with a dollop of jam on the side. **Sprengidagur** is a day when a hearty soup of split peas and salted meat is eaten. On **Öskudagur** (Ash Wednesday), children dress up in fancy dress. —from *Iceland Monitor*

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well the President and his lovely wife have now pretty much recovered from their sojourn to Europe, having spent two weeks in Italy for her birthday, and are now recovered sufficiently to participate in the Club once again.

I highly recommend visiting Venice, Florence and Rome if given the opportunity, and while it is not a Nordic country, the age of the monuments is almost daunting. We have sufficient photos that we could provide the Club with a tour at some future time if anyone is interested. However, that is slightly off topic for the Scandinavian Club.

There is a sad note to convey, that was in the recent news, the Swedish Bakery in Andersonville, Chicago, has closed its doors. This was the place where I got the great limpa for the Julfest 2015. I assume that the population of Swedes in Chicago is diminishing.

The Club will be meeting at the Toledo Museum of Art on March 17 for a lecture on the terra cotta Chinese figures. Those attending can meet in the restaurant before hand. I believe the lecture is at 7:00. The Book Club meets again on April 18 to discuss the book, *The Long Ships*, a story of the Viking Age. Those of you who do not receive *National Geographic* may want to obtain a copy of the March issue with its cover story on the Vikings and the range of their travels, in line with *The Long Ships*. Hope to see you at the meeting.

Tack så mycket, John



Bollur (pastries) can have different fillings, such as custard, jam, strawberry or chocolate whipped cream, or elegant rhubarb and ginger. The bun is usually topped with a chocolate or caramel glaze.

Sweden Brings Back Conscription

DRAFT PROMPTED BY RECENT RUSSIAN AGGRESSION

During the Cold War, the Baltic region was tense and on high alert. Military service was the norm for young Swedish men (85% served) because of the Soviet threat, and defense spending was at 2.5% of GDP.

When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, the Baltic suddenly became a region of apparent stability. Military spending waned, and conscription declined until it went all-volunteer in 2010. Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania all joined NATO. Norway and Denmark are NATO members. Finland and neutral Sweden are not, though both cooperate closely with NATO under the Partnership for Peace program. Sweden has contributed forces to NATO-led peacekeeping missions, including ones in Afghanistan and Kosovo.

There has been talk in Sweden and Finland of joining NATO, despite the US President's recent talk of backing away from the treaty organization. But Russia's Putin has pointedly cautioned both Sweden and Finland not to join the Western alliance. Russia's aggression, with the annexation of Crimea three years ago and their support for the insurgency in Ukraine has ignited fears in Sweden of old times. Russian warplanes carried out a mock bombing run on Sweden in 2013 and caught air defenses napping. In 2014, when a foreign submarine violated Swedish territory by entering the Stockholm archipelago, fingers quickly pointed to Russia, citing the Soviet nuclear submarine U-137 that beached outside of Sweden's Karlskrona naval base in 1981.

In November, just before the U.S. presidential elections and during NATO exercises in the Baltic, Russian planes repeatedly veered into both Finnish and Estonian airspace.

Because of this posturing, Sweden has been forced to rethink its own defense policy: military spending was up 11 percent last year from a low of 1.1% of GDP in 2015. And troupes are now being redeployed to Gotland, Sweden's largest island, which serves as a forward defense. It lies about 55 miles east of the mainland, and about 80 miles from Latvia, a former Soviet republic and neighbor to Russia's militarized enclave of Kaliningrad. "We see a lot of activity in the Baltics and a lot of training, provocative flights, and military exercise going on in our neighborhood," said a spokeswoman for the Defense Ministry.

Visby, Gotland's main town, is no stranger to hostile foreigners. The city's fortified walls and towers date back 850 years because of the threat of warring Danes. Sweden and Russia then spent centuries fighting over control of the Baltic Sea, so there's real history here. But Sweden has not fought a war since a 12-day skirmish with Norway, back in 1814, and signs of the lack of military preparedness have cropped up. By the end of 2016, the Swedish armed forces were short about



Visby, Gotland's main town, has seen centuries of military history.

1,000 full-time soldiers and sailors, and about 7,000 part-timers for its 17,000-member force, said Swedish Defense Minister Peter Hultqvist. He pointed to a deteriorating security environment: "The all-volunteer recruitment hasn't provided the armed forces with enough personnel."

But wages for professional soldiers run well below the national average, and unemployment is near zero for the talented youngsters targeted by the armed forces. Reinstating the draft was the only answer.

And in doing so, the ruling Swedish Social Democratic party was supported by the opposition Moderate Party as well as the Liberal Party, with 70% of parliament in favor of it. From a pool of 12,000 men and women born in 1999, 4,000 conscripts will serve from nine months to a year. Defense Minister Hultqvist said he was inspired by Norway's gender-neutral policy. In 2013, Norway became the first NATO member to draft both men and women.

This coming May, in Sweden, Gotland will join all other municipalities in a "Contingency Week," when Swedes will be taught how to hunker down for 72 hours in case of an emergency. Soon, the authorities will begin to dust off public shelters that have not been inspected for two decades. Easy times appear to be ending.

—Read More Here: [BBC.com](#), [Bloomberg](#), [Huffington Post](#), [New York Times](#), [USA Today](#), and [Washington Post](#)

Nordic Foods

Rye grains, used to make hard and soft breads in Scandinavia, grows well in Russia, Finland, Sweden and Denmark. It needs a colder, harsher climate to flourish, and is popular in Scandinavian cuisine. Wheat, on the other hand, won't grow well at all — it just too cold there.

Sea Buckthorn, when marinated with sugar, tastes like mango, kumquat or mandarin. Each tiny orange berry has as much vitamin C as an orange.

—NPR News. Interview with a chef from New Scandinavian Cooking show, who has started a Danish restaurant in New York, 2-11-2017 (more on that another time!)

Iceland

City lights in **Reykjavik** were turned off Friday, March 3rd, for 45 minutes so that people in the city could enjoy the view of the dark starry night without light pollution. Northern lights might have been visible too, but they usually come later in the night.

—from [Iceland Monitor](#), March 2017

Terrorism in Sweden — Sweden!

Worry not. It's not true. Despite recent statements by US President Trump about what he believed was a huge wave of crime and terrorism in Sweden, **Swedish authorities** assure us that life is as calm as it's always been.

"You look at what's happening in Germany. You look at what's happening last night in Sweden," Trump said recently. "Sweden. Who would believe this? Sweden. They took in large numbers. They're having problems like they never thought possible."

Local authorities are mystified, actually, because nothing out of the ordinary happened that night in Sweden. And as far as "*rising crime and recent incidents in general*" that the US White House tweeted after the statement to try to clarify, in reality Sweden's crime rate remained roughly the same from 2015 to 2016. And Sweden did not "register hundreds of thousands of asylum seekers in 2016" as was said. In fact, Sweden only registered 30,000 people last year, down from 163,000 in 2015.

Although Swedish law enforcement does track ethnic origin of perpetrators, such figures aren't disseminated publicly, making it impossible to draw conclusions on the link between crime and immigration.

Two Swedish police officers featured in the Fox News report that Trump referenced have said their statements had been manipulated by a "madman".

—from [EU Observer](#)



Gotland (above) is Sweden's largest island, and is not far from the Baltic countries and Russia's Kaliningrad.

Club Contacts

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