

Rolex Awards

The leaders of many archaeological projects — including Geoffrey Summers, who is unearthing an ancient city at Kerkenes in Turkey, high-altitude archaeologist Johan Reinhard, and Adli Qudsi, who is preserving the Old City of Aleppo — have won Rolex Awards for Enterprise. The Rolex Awards Journal reports on the work of these and other outstanding archaeologists, explorers, environmentalists and inventors who are making major contributions to mankind. To receive the complimentary magazine or to find out how to win a Rolex Award, contact rae@rolex.com or read the magazine on-line at www.rolexawards.com.



Camels await riders on the Silk Road.

Tell Umm el-Marra, Syria

In 1994, the Johns Hopkins University and the University of Amsterdam inaugurated a long-term program of archaeological research based at Umm el-Marra, located in the Jabbul plain of western Syria. The primary goal of the project is the investigation of the emergence, development, and episodes of decline of a west Syrian urban society from the Early to the Late Bronze periods (ca. 3000-1200 BC). In the 1970's, excavations at Ebla revealed that western Syria witnessed the birth of a distinctive urban civilization in the third millennium BC. Study of the development of this civilization furnishes an important new perspective on the rise of cities and states in the Near East, providing an alternative to the traditional paradigms from Mesopotamia and Egypt. Among the noteworthy results is the discovery of an apparent royal cemetery containing well preserved tombs with gold, silver, and lapis lazuli objects (www.jhu.edu/neareast/uem). **Join the Project Co-Director at Umm el-Marra for a private tour of the excavations on *The Hidden Splendors of Syria*.**

Dear Far Horizons travelers,

*I've just returned from traveling through the verdant desert oases and following the camel tracks along caravan routes of the ancient Silk Road in Western China. Although thousands of years of history are still visible - massive walled cities built of mud two thousand years ago, exquisite paintings in grottos carved by Buddhist pilgrims, mosques and minarets covered with delicate painted carvings, and incredible water systems that have been in use for millennia. Our 2006 trip will be led by MIT Professor Peter Perdue; please look for his new book on the Silk Road - *China Marches West: The Qing Conquest of Central Eurasia*.*

Do you want to escape the winter cold? We have several enticing itineraries to offer you. Join Dr. Rebecca Brown in late December in India, with its cacophony of sites, sounds, and smells! Journey to that remote speck of land - Easter Island - with Dr. Steven Fischer in January. Explore three countries - Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico - with Dr. Matthew Looper in February and experience the most stunning of the Capital Cities of the Maya - Copán, Quirigua, Tikal, Yaxchilán, Bonampak, and Palenque.

LIBYA! *Many of you have requested that we design an itinerary to this newly-opened country. I went to Libya in June to choose hotels and meet with specialists, and I am proud to announce that University of Illinois at Chicago Associate Professor Jennifer Tobin, a Roman specialist, will lead our trip departing on September 8, 2006. This trip will fill rapidly!*

For thousands of years, humankind has been awed by total solar eclipses. Centuries ago, astronomers built enormous stone monuments to mark eclipses at Stonehenge, and the ancient Maya laid out hundreds of years of eclipse predictions in the book we now know as the Dresden Codex. Like those who came before us, we still experience a primal response when the moon blocks the face of the sun, revealing the brilliant flare of the sun's surface. On March 29, 2006, the shadow of a full solar eclipse passes through the continent of Africa and then through Turkey as the moon moves directly between the earth and the sun. You can be there! Ask about our Solar Eclipse trips to Eastern and Western Turkey!

If you have email and have not been receiving our weekly email newsflashes, please contact us. Our newsflashes will keep you up to date when we announce trips to new destinations and special events such as museum exhibits and conferences.

Happy traveling,

Mary Dell Lucas, Director

Sambor Prei Kuk

By Michael D. Coe

I suppose every archaeologist has his or her likes and dislikes among the ruins that they study or guide tourists to, and these often have nothing to do with the size or accessibility of these sites. For example, like many other archaeologists I love Palenque and Copan, while the far larger and much more famous Chichén Itzá leaves me cold. Other sites grip me because they lead me to day-dream about just what I'd do there if I had a large project and unlimited funds to carry it out, as well as being 50 years younger...

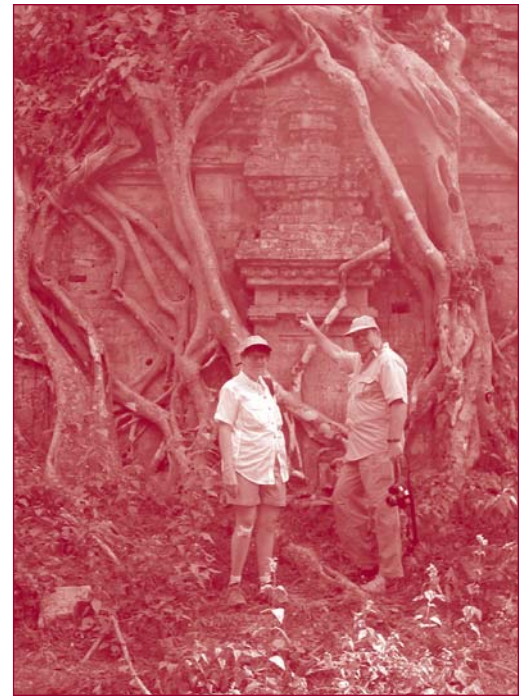
In Cambodia, Sambor Prei Kuk is just such a place, even though I know I'll never work there, certainly not in this life. To get there from Angkor, you have to sit in a bus or hired car for many, many hours over a road that varies from bad to ghastly; this is National Route 6, leading in a southeasterly direction to the city of Kampong Thom and thence to Siem Reap. Under the French regime, this was once the finest highway in Southeast Asia. While being jolted around by potholes, you may not realize that you cross bridge after bridge constructed of laterite during the heyday of the Angkor Empire. Halfway to Kampong Thom is Speam Prap Tos, the greatest of the ancient corbel-arched bridges, still carrying heavy traffic today. Don't miss it!

Another couple of equally poor roads take you 35 kms. north to Sambor Prei Kuk, "the hillock in the forest of Sambor". This was once the capital of the kingdom of Ishanapura, founded in the early seventh century A.D. by King Ishanavarman, "Protected by the Lord Who Is Big", i.e. by the god Shiva, lord of the royal house in ancient Cambodia. In that early age, long before the founding of Angkor, the country was divided into a number of contesting kingdoms, and Ishanavarman's was the greatest.

The huge site consists of over 175 brick towers arranged into four groups. Some of these are merely crumbling foundations, some are being grasped and apparently torn apart by the root systems of trees and others but low mounds. Inside each is usually a single shrine, the room rising impressively to a very tall corbel arch, as memorable as the Tomb of Atreus at Mycenae. The outer walls are equally striking, carved in bas-relief with so-called "flying palaces", each one a miniature palace façade with people or deities looking out the "windows". Over the door leading to the inner temple was always a sandstone lintel showing bands emanating from the mouths of water monsters and swagged garlands of flowers. Actually, all of the wonderful brick wall carving was once completely covered with stucco and painted, remnants of which can still be seen on the friezes of winged horses and other animals at the base of the "flying palaces".

Sambor Prei Kuk suffered grievous damage during the U.S. bombing carried out as part of the Nixon-Kissinger "Secret War" in Cambodia, and later during Pol Pot's reign of terror, but help is on the way. In the past few years, an archaeological team from a Japanese university has been mapping and conserving the buildings before they fall even further, and the Sumitomo Foundation has donated 2 million yen towards the city's restoration.

This was once one of Southeast Asia's glories, flourishing centuries before Angkor was even thought of. One can see its influence all over Cambodia and as far afield as Wat Phou in Laos; and some of the greatest sculptures in the



National Museum in Phnom Penh, such as the sinuous Goddess Durga, were carved at Sambor Prei Kuk.

By all means try and see this amazing place. **See Sambor Prei Kuk with Dr. Coe on a Far Horizons trip to Cambodia and Laos.** And don't miss his recently published, *Angkor and the Khmer Civilization*.

The Purochuco Mummy Bundles

By Bill Sapp

The past few years, travelers on Far Horizons' adventures to Peru have had the pleasure of visiting Purochuco, the location of an Inka period cemetery that has yielded a fantastic collection of Pre-Columbian ceramics along with more than 2000 bodies (see Inca Rescue, *National Geographic*, May 2002). The cemetery, the second largest ever discovered in Peru, is adjacent to a reconstructed Inka palace and a small site museum. Each burial consists of between two and seven individuals arranged in a sitting position, packed with raw cotton, and then wrapped in layers of textiles and bound with fiber cords. The bodies have mummified because of the dry climate on the Peruvian coast.

Guillermo (Willy) Cock Carrasco, the Peruvian archaeologist in charge of the excavation and analysis of the mummy bundles from the cemetery, has hosted Far Horizons groups at both the site and his laboratory. Along with the ceramics, we have had the opportunity to see several of the bundles opened by the research team. Many of the burials were well preserved and elaborate textiles have been recovered from several. Future trips should be just as interesting. Late in 2003 Willy announced the discovery of a second cemetery at Purochuco. This one is located several hundred meters from the first and has already yielded several hundred individuals. **In July, travel With Dr. Bill Sapp to Peru on *The Inkas and Their Ancestors*.**

Who Settled Easter Island?

by Dr. Steven Roger Fisher

The Egyptians? Phoenicians? Greeks? Vikings? Ancient Lemurians? Extraterrestrials? These are only a few of those ancient peoples—real or imagined—muted to have colonized the Pacific's loneliest terminus. Yet the truth is closer...and far more exciting. Once Easter Island's remarkable

culture was made known to the West after Dutchman Jacob Roggeveen's historic discovery on Easter Day, 1722, two principal origins for island settlement have prevailed: South America and Polynesia. South America suggests itself because of proximity. Polynesia always seemed more likely after Captain Cook, in 1774, identified only Polynesians living there. A compromise theory intrigued millions after WWII when Norwegian adventurer Thor Heyerdahl suggested that an original South American culture on Easter Island was later destroyed by Polynesian conquerors. The resulting "Easter Island controversy" raged for decades.

However, no reputable scientist or scholar any longer credits even a short-term prehistoric South American presence on Easter Island. For historical linguistics has proved that the current Rapanui language of Easter Island is wholly Southeastern Polynesian; there is no trace of it having replaced a pre-existent tongue there. Archaeologists have found on Easter Island not one piece of woven fabric, pottery, or maize—the three staples of prehistoric Andean societies. And modern DNA analyses have determined that no foreign admixture diluted the exclusively Polynesian genome in ancient Easter Island skeletal remains.

The jury's unanimous verdict: Polynesians alone settled ancient Easter Island. The Southeastern Polynesian culture they introduced around AD 600 proceeded to construct elaborate ceremonial centers called "ahu" and, in subsequent centuries, began erecting giant stone busts of venerated ancestors—the "moai" which have since become a Pacific icon.

With the Far Horizons tour to Easter Island you'll not only learn about this and so much more, but you'll wander the *ahu*, marvel at hundreds of mute *moai*, and thrill at the vibrant modern culture of the same settlers' direct descendants during their exciting Tapati Festival: a breathtaking celebration of colorful past and dynamic present. **Travel with Dr. Fischer to Easter Island departing January 31, 2006.**



University of Pennsylvania Archaeologists Return to Iran after 26 Years

Tehran, 22 August 2005 (CHN) – A newly signed memorandum of understanding foresees the cooperations of Iranian archaeologists and those of the University of Pennsylvania for carrying out joint excavations in Iran, exchanging students, and providing the opportunity for Iranian experts to participate in the archaeological studies of Pennsylvania University around the world.

The agreement brings the University's archaeologists back to Iran after 26 years, when they left their work in key Iranian historical sites including Hanslu in Western Azarbaijan due to the Islamic Revolution of 1979.

The agreement, signed by director of Iran's Archaeology Research Center, Masud Azarnush, and director of the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Richard M. Leventhal, foresees a five-year cooperation between Iranian and American experts, announced director of the International Affairs Office of Iran's Archaeology Research Center, Karim Alizadeh.

The University of Pennsylvania is the second American Institute, following the Oriental Institute of Chicago University, to sign an agreement for archaeological cooperation with Iran during the last two years.

Cultural Heritage and Tourism officials of Iran have been actively trying to reintroduce and revive the country's archaeology by welcoming foreign experts to the sites and studies in the past three years. One such attempt was holding a conference on archaeology of South West Asia in 2003 which was attended by some famous figures of the domain including Dr. Holly Pittman, curator of the Near East Section of the University of Pennsylvania Museum. **Join Dr. Pittman on Far Horizons' Tour of Iran, May 19 - June 4, 2006**



Teotihuacan at Monte Alban

By Stanley Guenter

One of the most fascinating of recent discoveries in Mesoamerican studies is the impact of the great Central Mexican city of Teotihuacan on the Classic Maya civilization. Breakthroughs in our ability to read ancient Maya hieroglyphs has revealed the importance of a number of warlords apparently from Teotihuacan who conquered or in other ways brought Maya cities under the political sway of the Central Mexican metropolis. This occurred in the late fourth and fifth centuries AD and corresponds to a period of intense cultural interaction between these regions. The Maya elite of cities such as Tikal, Rio Azul and Copan adopted Teotihuacan costumes and architectural and pottery styles following Central Mexican precedent as they proclaimed to all their cultural affiliations with Teotihuacan. These Maya cities are over a thousand kilometers from Teotihuacan as the crow flies, and the Teotihuacanos would have encountered many other Mesoamerican cultures long before reaching the land of the Maya. Unfortunately, unlike the Maya, none of these other cultures have produced a similarly large number of written texts that modern epigraphers can read. For this reason we will never be able to obtain the same amount of detailed information on their interactions with Teotihuacan as we have for the Maya. Nevertheless, there is one ancient Mesoamerican city with a not insubstantial corpus of hieroglyphic texts that is now shedding light on Teotihuacan's imperial ambitions in the Early Classic period and local reactions to these incursions.

This city is Monte Alban, ancient capital of the Zapotec civilization of Oaxaca, situated half way between Teotihuacan and the land of the Maya. It has long been known that a Oaxaca *barrio* existed in Teotihuacan, apparently the home of ex-patriot Zapotecs living far from their native home. Ceramics reflected the styles of their far-away home in Monte Alban and a tomb lintel from this suburb had a Zapotec glyph carved upon it. (The glyph is the calendar date 9 Earthquake, the birth date and name, presumably, of the Zapotec lord originally buried in the tomb.) There is also clear evidence for Teotihuacanos at Monte Alban but the evidence is of quite a different sort. Most interestingly, most of this evidence comes from tomb paintings and stone carvings that were hidden from sight shortly after their original carving. Tomb 105, for example, portrays an ancestor of an Early Classic lord of Monte Alban dressed in the costume of a Teotihuacan warlord. However, most of the evidence for Teotihuacanos at Monte Alban comes from a series of stone monuments that were ultimately set into the base of the South Platform of the central area of the site. A number of these stones portray a row of men in typical Teotihuacan costume walking towards a Zapotec lord, likely the local king of Monte Alban. The names of each of these figures are recorded in front of him, including both the personal name and the date in the Mesoamerican Sacred Calendar on which they were born, which functioned in ancient Mexico as the first name by which an individual was known after birth. These names appear on a number of other carved stones where they mark what are apparently funerary censors, topped off with Teotihuacan motifs, suggesting that these foreign lords were venerated posthumously at Monte Alban.

That this veneration occurred at Monte Alban and not at distant Teotihuacan is suggested by the fact that this list of names with associated images of funerary censors ends with the ancient name for Monte Alban itself, "Jaguar Mountain".

The stones on which these glyphs and images were carved appear, after a study done by the leading epigrapher of Zapotec hieroglyphic writing, Javier Urcid, to have been lintels of a temple that was dismantled or destroyed shortly after their original carving. Much damage occurred to the original hieroglyphs in the process and while the temple may have collapsed naturally (possibly because of poor architecture), it is also possible that the temple was deliberately destroyed, a not infrequent occurrence in the volatile world of ancient Mesoamerican politics. These monuments were subsequently reused as wall panels on Monte Alban's South Platform. However, the carvings of parading Teotihuacanos were buried face down and upon the underside of the former lintels (now panels) were carved a series of scenes. One portrays a lord seated atop a mountain, certainly a new ruler of Monte Alban, while the others portray captives standing atop mountains, symbolizing the locations where they once ruled. These captives presumably are those of the new Monte Alban lord who, befitting his status as lord of "Jaguar Mountain", is dressed in a full body jaguar suit. A relatively lengthy text is found in front of this lord's face and these hieroglyphs likely include his name. A specific glyphic collocation, "Hand-grasping-Voice-of-Heaven" is likely the personal name of this lord while his calendric name seems to be 7 Knot.

Did lord 7 Knot overthrow a Teotihuacan-allied dynasty to impose himself as lord of Monte Alban? Unfortunately, the undeciphered state of the Zapotec hieroglyphs preclude certainty in any interpretation we make from these monuments. However, it is interesting that the Zapotec *barrio* at Teotihuacan appears to have been isolated from Oaxaca during its later years, even though maintaining Zapotec culture, almost as if this area was home to a group of political refugees from Oaxaca. No monuments depicting Teotihuacanos survived in public view at Monte Alban. What little evidence that remains at the site attesting to a close relationship between the Zapotecs and Teotihuacan was found buried out of site of the Late Classic inhabitants. My own research in the Maya area has indicated that there were at least two major incursions of Teotihuacanos into the Maya area with the two groups opposed to one another. It appears that an early Teotihuacan dynasty was overthrown and the succeeding dynasty carried out a campaign against those foreign kingdoms that still supported or descended from the original Teotihuacan dynasty. How Monte Alban fits into this picture is not entirely clear but the fact that Teotihuacan influence at the site seems to have been eliminated by later Zapotec kings, and the fact that the inhabitants of the Zapotec *barrio* appear to have been isolated from their homeland, indicates that Oaxaca was deeply involved in these "international" intrigues. Continued research in Mesoamerica is sure to reveal yet further clues as to the intricate political relationships between the various regions of Mesoamerica. **Travel to Oaxaca with Stanley Guenter.**

Schedule of Trips

All Dates and Prices Subject to Change

TURKEY

March 20 - April 3, 2006	Solar Eclipse in Western Turkey <i>with archaeologist Umit Isin</i>	\$6,195.00
March 26 - April 13, 2006	Eastern Turkey for the Solar Eclipse <i>with Dr. Robert G. Ousterhout</i>	\$6,695.00
August 25 - September 11, 2006	Turkish Treasures <i>with archaeologist Umit Isin</i>	\$6,995.00
September 15 - October 2, 2006.	Elegant Turkey (includes a week on a yacht) <i>with archaeologist Umit Isin</i>	\$7,495.00

THE MIDDLE EAST

May 19 - June 4, 2006	Iran <i>with Dr. Holly Pittman</i>	\$6,495.00
May 20 - June 2, 2006	The Grandeur of Petra: The Splendors of Jordan <i>with Dr. Patrick McGovern</i>	\$4,795 + air
May 19 - June 3, 2006	The Hidden Splendors of Syria <i>with Dr. Thomas McClellan</i>	\$6,995.00

INDIA, CHINA and SOUTHEAST ASIA

Dec. 30, 2005 - Jan. 18, 2006	Gods, Temples, and Archaeology of Ancient India <i>with Dr. Rebecca Brown</i>	\$7,695.00
August 8 - 28, 2006	The Silk Route in China <i>with Professor Peter Perdue</i>	\$7,195.00
September 28 - October 14, 2006.	The Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan <i>with Professor Michael Coe</i>	\$8,495.00
Nov. 28 - Dec. 17, 2006	In Search of the Khmer: Angkor & Thailand <i>with Professor Michael Coe</i>	\$7,295.00
Dec. 31, 2006 - Jan. 19, 2007	Gods, Temples, and Archaeology of Ancient India <i>with Dr. Rebecca Brown</i>	\$8,495.00
January 8 - 26, 2007.	Angkor Wat and Laos <i>with Professor Michael Coe</i>	CALL

EUROPE

August 6 - 21, 2006	The Riches of Scotland <i>with Dr. Christopher Bowles</i>	\$5,695.00 + air
September 18 - 30, 2006	An Archaeological Pub Crawl of Great Britain <i>with Dr. Christopher Bowles</i>	CALL
September 16 - 30, 2006	Sensational Sicily <i>with Dr. Helen Dawson</i>	\$7,295.00

AFRICA

February 12 - 28, 2006.	The Majesty of Egypt <i>with Professor Bob Brier and Patricia Remler</i>	\$7,895.00
March 23 - April 8, 2006.	The Oases of Egypt <i>with Professor Bob Brier</i> (includes the solar eclipse).	\$6,995.00
April 18 - May 4, 2006	Ethiopia & Easter Festivities	\$4,695.00 + air
October 14 - 29, 2006.	The Wonders of Tunisia	\$6,995.00
November 3 - 19, 2006	The Majesty of Egypt <i>with Professor Bob Brier and Patricia Remler</i>	\$7,895.00
September 8 - 22, 2006	Libya: Archaeology and Culture <i>with Dr. Jennifer Tobin</i>	\$6,595.00
February 2 - 18, 2007.	The Majesty of Egypt <i>with Professor Bob Brier and Patricia Remler</i>	CALL

SOUTH AMERICA and POLYNESIA

January 31 - February 15, 2006	Northern Chile and Easter Island's Tapati Festival <i>with Dr. Steven Fischer</i>	\$6,795.00+air
July 7 - 23, 2006	Peru: The Inkas and their Ancestors <i>with Dr. William Sapp III</i>	\$5,995.00
August 18 - September 1, 2006	Hike the Inka Trail of Peru <i>with Dr. Anita G. Cook</i>	\$5,995.00

MEXICO and CENTRAL AMERICA

February 3 - 12, 2006.	Capital Cities of the Ancient Maya <i>with Dr. Matthew George Looper</i>	\$4,995.00
March 25- April 3, 2006	Lost Cities of the Maya	\$4,795.00
April 1 - 16, 2006	Hidden Maya Cities of the Yucatan <i>with Dr. Matthew George Looper</i>	\$5,995.00
October 25 - November 2, 2006.	Day of the Dead in Oaxaca	CALL
December 19 - 27, 2006.	Christmas in Oaxaca <i>with Stanley Paul Guenter</i>	CALL

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New Books by Far Horizons Study Leaders

...and you might be interested in *Xibalbá Gate: A Novel of the Ancient Maya* by Bob Swigart, a Far Horizons traveler.

Ancient Wine: The Search for the Origins of Viniculture
By Patrick E. McGovern
Leader of our 2006 trip to Jordan.

Lightning Warrior: Maya Art and Kingship at Quirigua
By Matthew G. Looper
Leader of our trips to Meso-America.

China Marches West: The Qing Conquest of Central Eurasia
By Peter Perdue
Leader of the 2006 Silk Road trip.

Art of the Kariye Camii
By Robert Ousterhout
Leader of the Eastern Turkey trip (with solar eclipse).

Local Boy Makes Good at Leptis Magna

By Jennifer Tobin

At the end of the second century AD, the Roman Empire was in chaos. Temporarily without an emperor, three generals pitted their armies against one another to gain control of the state. When the dust settled the victor was Septimius Severus. This man, unlike the previous Roman Emperors, did not hail from Italy or even civilized France or Spain, but was born in Leptis Magna in North Africa. The city had been settled by the Phoenicians, or *Punica*, as the Romans called them, a people who, led by the famous general Hannibal, had nearly conquered Rome four centuries earlier. Although Roman settlers colonized Leptis Magna in the first century BC, nevertheless the Punic presence was strong. It was even rumored that Punic blood ran in the veins of the leading citizens, including Septimius Severus.

When Severus came to the throne he took up residence in the Imperial palace on the Palatine Hill in Rome, and, like all good Roman emperors, beautified the capital city. Severus never forgot his hometown, however. He lavished attention on the city of Leptis Magna, renovating the city by building a new forum, basilica, bath building, market place and harbor. Severus also built a large temple to the *Genius* (spirit) of the Severan family and a 4-way arch decorated with reliefs depicting himself and his family, driving home the message that Severus had founded a new dynasty that would rule the Empire for many generations. His wife, Julia Domna, the

daughter of a Syrian high priest, was as exotic as Severus himself. Legend had it that he married her because a prophecy had declared that whomever she wed would become a king. They had two sons, Caracalla and Geta, and Severus planned that they would have joint-rule of Rome upon his death. However, destiny took a hand. Severus died suddenly on campaign in the north of England, Caracalla murdered Geta, and Julia Domna starved herself to death. Within thirty years of Severus' usurpation of the throne, Rome was once again thrown into civil war.

Although the dynasty of the Severans was short lived, the spectacular ruins at Leptis Magna, in today's Lybya, survive and can be visited today. **Join Dr. Tobin on our trip to Libya departing on Sept. 8, 2006.**



Severus Arch

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