Two Readers Meet at a BAR

At least two individuals read BAR in the small town of Houston, Minnesota—population 979.

In the July/August 2018 issue of BAR, we announced Ronald Burfield of Houston, Minnesota, as a runner-up for our November/December 2017 cartoon caption contest. Shortly after, James Little—another resident of Houston—wrote a letter to the editor of the town’s newspaper, the Houston Banner, commending Burfield on his achievement. Although not acquainted with Burfield, Little celebrated the fact that another person in Houston shared his love of Biblical archaeology!

Burfield read Little’s letter in the June 28, 2018, edition of the Houston Banner and shared it with us. We hope BAR continues to connect people—both near and far, past and present!

EXHIBIT WATCH

Devotion and Decadence

Luxury arts of ancient Rome are the focus of a unique exhibition hosted by New York University’s Institute for the Study of the Ancient World. Titled Devotion and Decadence, the show presents a spectacular collection of ancient Roman silver artifacts found buried near Berthouville, France.

The Berthouville treasure, as it has come to be known, was discovered in 1830, when it emerged from under the plow of an unsuspecting farmer in rural Normandy. It consists of about 90 silver objects (statuettes and decorated vessels), some of the finest ancient Roman silver pieces to have survived to modern times.

Produced in the first through third centuries C.E. and deposited at the site of a Gallo-Roman sanctuary of Mercury during antiquity, this temple treasure is rich in religious imagery. The most prominent are representations of the local version of Mercury—the Roman inventor of all the arts and patron of trade and merchants. He is represented by two statuettes and numerous reliefs, as well as votive inscriptions. Other vessels are decorated with relief scenes from Greco-Roman mythology and the Trojan War.

Many of the artifacts were apparently made locally, in which they exemplify the local silversmiting tradition and attest to interactions between Roman and indigenous Gallic culture. The Gallic and Roman names of donors engraved in the objects that were offered to the god Mercury underscore that the Berthouville shrine was a key place of interculturation.

Organized originally by the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles—in collaboration with the National Library of France, which owns the treasure—the exhibit additionally showcases about 75 other luxury objects from the collections of the Bibliothèque nationale de France that aid the presentation of the diverse contents and contexts of the Berthouville treasure.

biblicalarchaeology.org/exhibits For more on this exhibit and others, visit us online.

WHO DID IT?

Which archaeologist first discovered the ancient city of Troy?

ANSWER ON P. 66