



the hieroglyph “hr,” engraved on a pillar. The glyph means “on,” “at,” or “because of,” and takes the shape of a head with unusually large ears. Video footage shows an enthusiastic Obama pointing it out to his entourage, saying, “That looks like me! Look at those ears!”

Meanwhile, back in the president’s hometown, the University of Chicago’s Oriental Institute Museum has put a face on the ancient

## Faces of Egypt

When President Obama visited the Giza Plateau this June, the highlight wasn’t the Great Pyramid, but the tomb of an Old Kingdom official named Qar, where the president spied



Egyptian mummy **Meresamun** (“A Mummy’s Life,” March/April 2009). Two forensic artists reconstructed Meresamun’s face using 3-D images of her skull. Michael Brassell, a Baltimore-based forensic artist for the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, produced traditional pencil sketches and Josh Harker, a forensic artist in Chicago, created digital models. See [www.archaeology.org](http://www.archaeology.org) for more on the reconstructions.



## OFF THE GRID

**Fore!** If you find yourself near Newark, Ohio, archaeologist Bradley Lepper suggests you check out the golf course at the Mound Builders Country Club, which suspends play four times a year so visitors can take in the ancient world’s largest geometric earthworks. (On the other days, a platform near the parking lot offers views of the site.)

3,000 acres. Lepper enjoys the earthworks for their grandeur, complexity, and rich history. “The monumental architecture creates a ceremonial landscape that encodes remarkably sophisticated geometrical and astronomical knowledge we’re only just beginning to decipher,” he says.

## Dig at the Wailing Wall

Construction of a visitor’s center has given archaeologists from the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) the chance to dig near the Wailing Wall, Judaism’s holiest site. While salvage excavations in Jerusalem are common, working so close

**The Mounds:** The Newark Earthworks were constructed between 100 B.C. and A.D. 500 by a people known today as the Hopewell Culture. Part temple, part astronomical observatory, and part cemetery, they originally covered

**Don’t Miss:** Take a 10-minute drive to the 200-foot-long Alligator Mound, located between Newark and Granville, in the midst of an upscale housing development called Bryn du Woods. According to Lepper, this mound may actually not represent an alligator, but rather the Native American mythological creature known as the “underwater panther.”

**Mark Your Calendar:** October 17, 2009, is Newark Earthworks Day, which will feature speakers, exhibits, crafts vendors, and native food. Visit [www.ancientohiotrail.org](http://www.ancientohiotrail.org) for more information on this event, as well as a seven-day, 60-mile group walk from the Hopewell National Historical Park to the Newark Earthworks (October 10–16).



to this sacred site—some 300 feet from the Temple Mount—is exceedingly rare.

The excavation has added to scholars' understanding of the layout of Roman-period Jerusalem (then known as Aelia Capitolina), when the city was rebuilt under Emperor Hadrian in the early second century A.D. The team unearthed a portion of the Eastern Cardo, a colonnaded street that served as one of the city's two main thoroughfares. The finds' excellent preservation astounded co-directors Shlomit Weksler-Bdolah and Alexander Onn. "This is the first time in the archaeology of Jerusalem that the whole width of the street has been unearthed," says Weksler-Bdolah.

The 36-foot-wide Cardo was flanked by 16.5-foot-wide sidewalks and lined with shops, all carved into 32 feet of bedrock. "There was a big debate about whether this area was even part of the city of Aelia Capitolina," says Weksler-Bdolah. Most thought it became part of the city in the Byzantine period, between the fourth and the sixth century A.D. "Today, not only do we know that it was included, we also see its monumentality."

—ETI BONN-MULLER



"Kopiaste" is a word you'll hear throughout Cyprus. It means "welcome, come in and join us." Welcome to the island that Mark Anthony gave to Cleopatra as a present. Welcome to Larnaca, ancient Kitium, a city continuously inhabited for 6000 years. Welcome to the impressive Tombs of the Kings near Paphos, carved out of solid rock. Welcome to Byzantine churches on the UNESCO World Heritage list, richly decorated with murals. So this year, if you want to travel back in time, welcome to Cyprus.

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