

Vampire Exorcism ■ Nefertiti's CT Scan ■ Maya Diet

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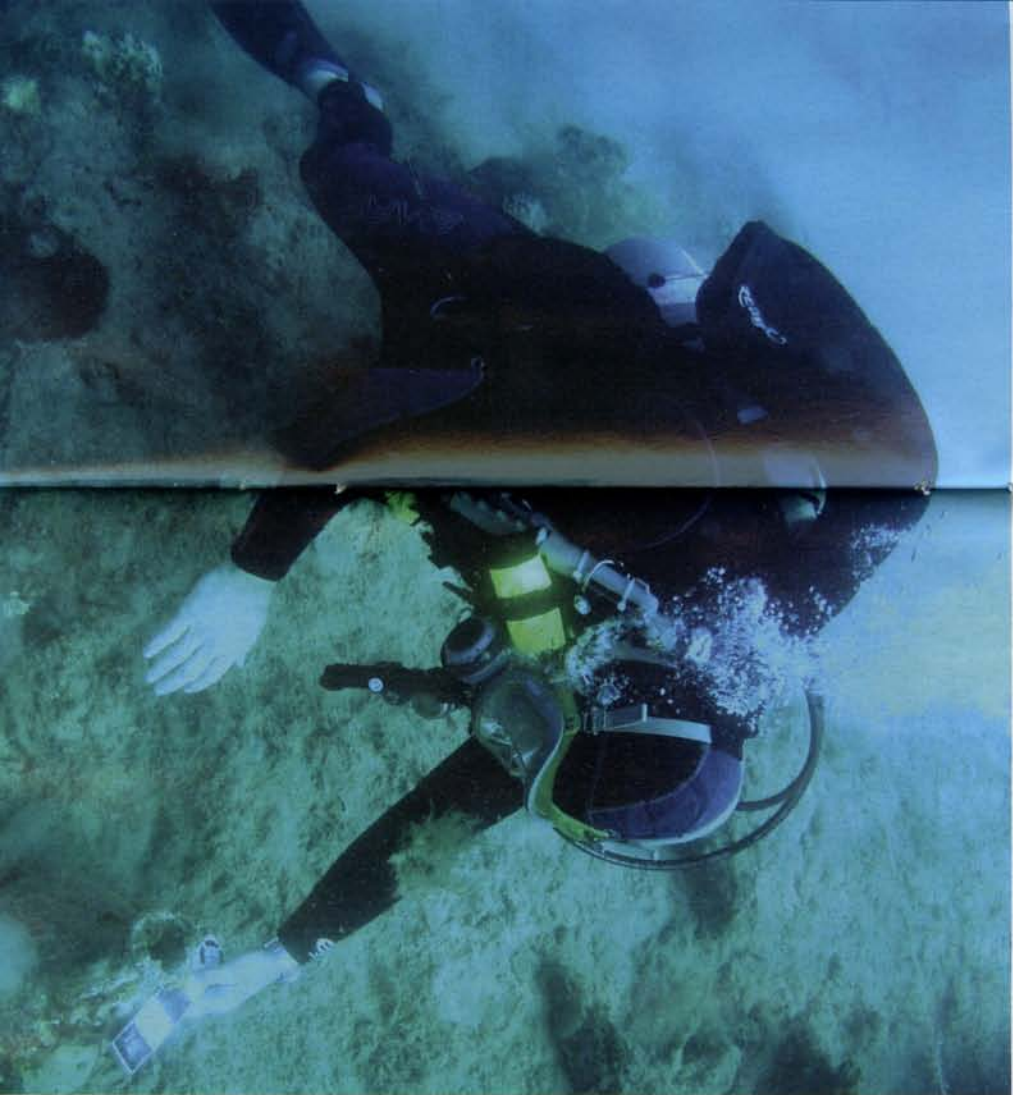


Archaeologist Kim Rash
recovers an amphora from a
first-century B.C. shipwreck
off the coast of Turkey.

bound for an army fort with supplies when it sank in 1838, after being hit by a “snag” or submerged log.

“The earliest steamship plans are from the 1850s,” says Crisman. “So this is our first real look at one of these early ships, which revolutionized commerce in the American Midwest by making upstream travel feasible.” Working in strong currents and with visibility never more than a foot, Crisman and his crew mapped and excavated the site largely by feel. “The wreck had its paddle wheels and much of its machinery intact,” he says. “It was just a trove of information on early steam propulsion.” The team eventually hired a helicopter to remove *Heroiné’s* machinery (right), which is now undergoing conservation.

Two barrels of well-preserved pork were also brought to the surface. “Our nation was built on pickled pork,” says Crisman, but until now, no intact barrels have ever been recovered. Their contents give scholars direct evidence of meatpacking practices of the period. “It was the first time we’d seen anything like this,” says University of Georgia zooarchaeologist Elizabeth Reitz, “and I don’t think we’ll see anything like it again.” —ERIC A. POWELL



▶ Corinthian Shipwrecks

ADRIATIC SEA, ALBANIA

THANKS TO DECADES of political isolation under the reign of paranoid Communist dictator Enver Hoxha, Albania’s coastline has long been off-limits to divers of all kinds.

“Virtually nothing is known about the cultural resources in the waters off Albania,” says Jeff Royal (left), archaeological director of the nonprofit RPM Nautical Foundation. Together with Adrian Anastasi of the Albanian Institute of Archaeology, Royal is now directing a survey of the area, one of the last unexplored coastlines of the Mediterranean world.

Though only two years into the project, the team has already made numerous finds. “There are all kinds of sites down there,” says Royal, “from ancient Greek and Roman cargo ships to a modern ferry that sank just a few years ago with cars aboard.”

So far, the most significant sites are artifact scatterers from ships that sank while transporting cargo from the Greek city of Corinth to its colonies on the Adriatic coast. “We’re finding a high concentration of Corinthian goods,” says Royal, “including those from an amphora carrier and a vessel that was shipping roof tiles to the colonies. Once we’ve analyzed these wrecks we’ll know much more about how trade worked between Corinth and its colonies from the sixth to second century B.C.”

The team is continuing to use sonar to survey the coast from Greece to Albania’s northern neighbor of Montenegro. “We’ve got at least another decade of work, minimum,” says Royal. —ERIC A. POWELL