

AFA UPDATE

A PROJECT OF THE ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY

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BURIALS FOR OUR DEAD IN ENGLAND?

The Museum of London is considering burying the 17,000 skeletons that make up its collection. While some scholars are opposed to the move, the museum director considers reburial “an ethical issue” and the idea has gained momentum.

But there is a part of this story that concerns all of us who follow Germanic religion (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/london/3371371.stm>) . The museum wants to give the remains a Christian burial - at least, those that can be identified as Christian by the artifacts contained in the graves, or because they were found in consecrated ground. Museum officials concede, however, that “The fate on non-Christian skeletons will also have to be considered.”

We agree. And more than that, we think that some group in England should be encouraged to ask to perform proper rites over the heathen dead.

An American-based group could in theory agitate for reburial rites, but it makes more sense for an English group to do so. They are, after all, English. They're also on the scene and thus able to interact with the Museum staff in person. If this came off well it could considerably advance the cause of Germanic religion in the British Isles, and everywhere else too.

The AFA feels very strongly that any such rites must be done in private and with full dignity. This is not an occasion to wear Norse garb or carry archaic weapons. While news releases can and should be issued, the press should not be invited to the actual ceremonies. What is needed is that sense of “holy reserve” we've written about in the past (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AFA_Bearclaw/message/18). But properly done - not as a gimmick, not as a stunt, not as a freak show with people wearing horned helmets and waving swords - this could be a significant accomplishment for those of us who follow indigenous European religion. Besides, it's the right thing to do.

The AFA will support any English group that wants to petition the Museum of London, assuming we have assurances that this sensitive mission will be carried out in a dignified and appropriate manner. If any of you reading this missive are members of such a group, or if you are interested in making this happen, please contact us. The AFA would prefer not to spearhead the effort, but we'll be glad to get things rolling and then to help as the situation develops.

Anyone interested?

ADDITIONAL TIME SLOTS FOR "ODIN LIVES!"

Chris Larson's "Odin Lives!" shortwave program out now has an additional broadcast time. Tune in to 7.415 Mhz. on your shortwave dial on Tuesdays at 12:15 AM Eastern Time, or to 5.105 Mhz. on Saturdays at 9:00 PM Eastern Time.

Visit the web site at <http://www.odinlives.org> for information on how to listen over the Internet - and how to access the archives for any programs you may have missed!

AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN WRITES...

The following email was definitely the most interesting of the week:

"I'm an African-American man who came across your site and I was excited by the information presented. In the African-American community there are groups who adhere to ancestral traditions. I know people will call your traditions 'racist' but that's only their own ignorance. The real issue is that there are groups in society who don't want ANYONE to regain their spiritual power. I know the Ancestors will bless your efforts."

I was impressed by the writer's ability to critically examine evidence rather than reacting emotionally - in short, his open-mindedness. Over the years I've noticed that people of non-European ancestry often understand my message more quickly than my blood kin, and this man is one more example of that phenomenon.

My reply to him ran, in part,

"Thank you for your kind comments...The 'system' wants us to be cut off from our ancestral roots. If we have no past, no continuity with a line of ancestors, no depth - we become interchangeable, produce/consume/obey "units" and hence easier to control.

I've checked out some of the African diaspora religious sites over the years, and some of them are quite impressive. I wish them all the best!"

This little exchange through cyberspace gives me one more opportunity to regale you with one of my favorite rants: It is better for everyone, not just people of European

descent, to follow the ways of their ancestors. It's better for them, and it's better for all the rest of us simply because it subverts the monoculture. The ancestors matter...yours, mine, his, everyone's.

A BUDDHIST MONK COMMENTS

Along similar lines, I was cruising a new (or new to me) Tibetan site the other day. I found it fresh, youthful, and apparently staffed by real Tibetans. One of the articles was an interview with Lama Agha, a 29-year old Tibetan monk (<http://phayul.com/news/article.aspx?c=5&t=1&id=5810>).

Toward the end of the article, the interviewer asks: "Where should Americans start if they develop an interest in the Buddhist religion?" Agha's response was "Maybe better to follow one's own heritage..."

I think we'd agree with that!

IMPORTANT DATES

January 22 - Thorrablot. Coming in the depths of winter, when we all need our spirits lifted, Thorrablot is our obvious antidote to the blues. Thor, most approachable of the Northern deities, is its cheery, gregarious patron. Build a snow statue of the hammer-wielding God, or go winter camping, or have a party. Take a walk without your coat, mentally accepting winter, and go home for a shot of brandy.

February 9 - Day of Remembrance for Eyvind Kinnrifi. Eyvind was another martyr to the old faith of Northern Europe. King Olaf tortured him to death by placing a bowl of red-hot embers on his stomach. Eyvind died, and Valhalla received another hero. Salute his courage by doing some deed to promote the Way of our Ancestors.

Hail the Holy Ones!

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Next update January 28!