

Archaeology comes to life in 'Lost Civilization' series

Members of Old World Archaeology Study Unit will find some interesting viewing in Time-Life's series "Lost Civilizations". While the series is copyrighted in 1995, it just turned up in the Siuslaw Public Library in Florence, Oregon.

While the series does not have much, if any, reference to stamps or their collection, it does provide many of us with actual scenes of the locales of our thematic collections. And different parts of the videos are hosted by prominent archaeologists. How often do you get to hear Brian Fagan speaking on Middle Eastern sites?

I've looked at eight of the tapes and reviewed them briefly. Our library has two more in the series — Inca and Maya cultures — but I've not previewed them yet. They all last about 48 minutes which fits them into an hour-long program with time left over for commercials.

China—Dynasties of Power

Tremendous scope in this video. It traces the rise of China's earliest dynasty, the Shang, with savage hunter-warriors and ritual human sacrifice, through the building of the Great Wall with all the sacrifices made by peasant masses. It ends with the discovery and opening of the tombs at Xian and the terra cotta soldiers and the modern museums and display areas built at the site.

Greece—A Moment of Excellence

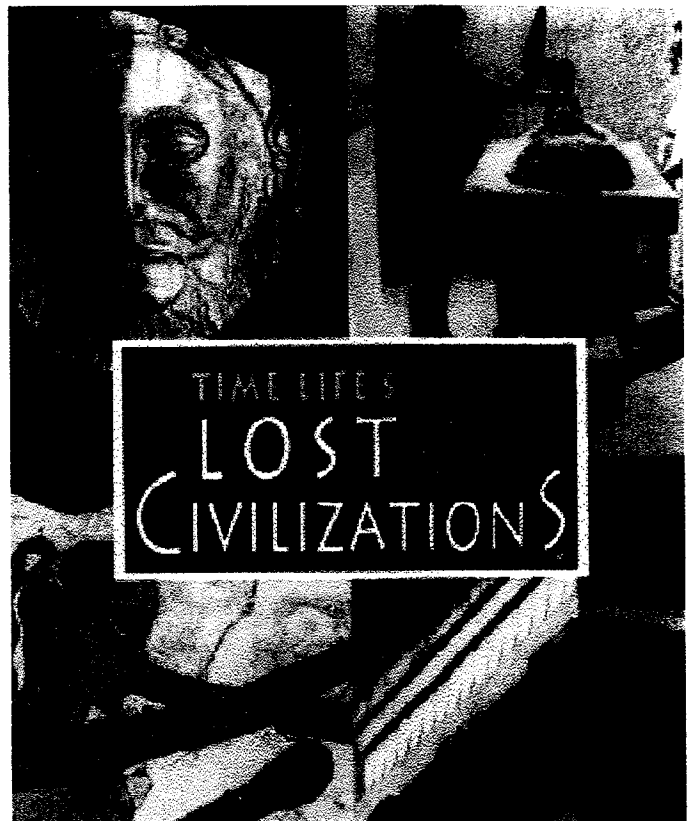
Half a millenium before the birth of Christ small city-states rose in Greece. Chief among these fiercely competitive enclaves was a group of warriors dedicated to the goddess Athena. The video reviews Pericles, the building of the Parthenon, and the eventual end to their "moment of excellence."

Mesopotamia—Return to Eden

The video takes the viewer on a 6,000-year journey through the river valleys of the Fertile Crescent in search for the Garden of Eden. On the way we see ruins of Assyrians, Sumer, Babylon, and a host of other sites.

Aegean—Legacy of Atlantis

Visit Thera and view the movie-like recreation of the mighty earthquake that destroyed the advanced culture 3000 years ago. The Battle of Troy and the Trojan Horse almost comes to real life. The video just might change your views of the "Lost City".



Rome—The Ultimate Empire

Trace the great empire from its humble beginning on the banks of the Tiber River to Hadrian's Wall in the north of England. Gladiators come to life in the Colosseum and the volcanic ash body-casts of Vesuvius' victims in Pompeii provide a pictorial view of life in the Roman Empire.

Africa—A History Denied

Considered the "dark continent" for ages, only now is the real archaeological record of Africa emerging. The video shows the site of Great Zimbabwe, a "lost city" from the 14th century and uncovers the splendid culture of the Swahili Coast.

Tibet—The End of Time

Follow the transition of a culture as it moves from fierce warlike tribes to peace-loving people who worship the Dalai Lama, and who try to survive as the world's last theocracy.

Ancient Egypt—Quest for Immortality

The video gives us a glimpse of what archaeology was all about in 1922 as Howard Carter opened the tomb of Tutankhamen. The mysteries of preparing the body of the dead for eternal life are discussed as well as methods used to build the super monuments, and the idea that death was a new beginning.