

## The most significant Jurassic discovery made in the Arctic

It has been announced in Oslo today that an international team of paleontologists have unearthed the partial skull of a 50 ft marine reptile on the remote Arctic archipelago of Svalbard . Dubbed 'Predator X', the marine reptile is a new species of pliosaur, an apex predator that patrolled the Jurassic oceans 147 million years ago. The skull, 'the jewel in the crown for paleontologists', was excavated from the Arctic permafrost during a 2-week field expedition in June 2008, led by Dr. Jørn Hurum from the Natural History Museum, University of Oslo. He was joined by eleven other expedition members, including Dr. Patrick Druckenmiller, a world authority on marine reptiles from the University of Alaska Museum of the North.



Read more at: <http://www.nhm.uio.no/pliosaurus/english/>



## Nero's rotating banquet hall unveiled in Rome

Archaeologists unveiled what they think are the remains of Roman emperor Nero's extravagant banquet hall, a circular space that rotated day and night to imitate the Earth's movement and impress his guests. The room, part of Nero's Golden Palace, a sprawling residence built in the first century A.D., is thought to have been built to entertain government officials and VIPs, said lead archaeologist Francoise Villedieu. The emperor, known for his lavish and depraved lifestyle, ruled from 37 A.D. to 68 A.D.

Read more at: [http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/33077263/ns/technology\\_and\\_science-science/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/33077263/ns/technology_and_science-science/)

## Dr Granville's mummy was killed by TB, not a tumour

When Augustus Bozzi Granville stood up to speak to the Royal Society in 1825, he caused a scientific sensation. The Italian-born doctor had conducted the first medical autopsy of an ancient Egyptian mummy, and pronounced its cause of death. The mummy, from about 600BC, belonged to a woman in her 50s whose remains had been recovered six years earlier from the necropolis at Thebes, and brought to the British Museum. Hieroglyphics on the mummy's wooden cabinet identified it as belonging to Irtyersenu, the "lady of the house". She had died, Dr Granville asserted, of an ovarian tumour, and became popularly known as "Dr Granville's mummy".



Read more at: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/science/article6854146.ece>

## NASA, university scientists uncover lost Maya ruins - from space

Spotting ancient Maya ruins - a challenge even on the ground - has been virtually impossible from the sky, where the dense Central American rainforest canopy hides all but a few majestic relics of this mysterious civilization. Now, NASA archaeologist Dr. Tom Sever and scientist Daniel Irwin of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., and archaeologist Dr. William Saturno of the University of New Hampshire in Durham are using advanced, space-based imaging technology to uncover the ruins.



Read more at:

[http://www.thepanamanews.com/pn/v\\_12/issue\\_04/science\\_06.html](http://www.thepanamanews.com/pn/v_12/issue_04/science_06.html)



Read more at:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/32901151>

## Alexander the Great, you sexy thing

An unprecedented miniature portrait of a young, resolute, sexy Alexander the Great has emerged during excavations in Israel. Engraved on a brilliantly red gemstone, the finely carved tiny head portrait is estimated to be 2,300-year-old, possibly dating to after the Macedonian king's death in 323 B.C. Less than a half-inch long, the gemstone was found by a University of Washington student in the remains of a large public building from the Hellenistic period at Tel Dor, an archaeological site that once was a major port on Israel's Mediterranean coast.

## Hardening of the arteries has been found in Egyptian mummies

A team of US and Egyptian scientists carried out medical scans on 22 mummies from Cairo's Museum of Antiquities. They found evidence of hardened arteries in three of them and possible heart disease in three more. All the mummies were of high socio-economic status and would have had a rich diet. Details of the study by the University of California, the Mid America Heart Institute, Wisconsin Heart Hospital and Al Azhar Medical School in Cairo appear in the Journal of the American Medical Association.



Read more at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/8363200.stm>