

9-21-2004

Dr. Walter Pitman Lecture

Hudson Museum

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**THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS/DISTINGUISHED
LECTURE SERIES COMMITTEE
GRANT APPLICATION**

PROVIDE 10 (TEN) COPIES, INCLUDING THE ORIGINAL.
PLEASE PLACE A COPY OF THIS COVER SHEET ON TOP OF EACH COPY

I. Applicant/Organization: Hudson Museum

II. a. Responsible Organization Officer: Gretchen Faulkner

b. Title: Director

c. Campus Address (include EMail and Telephone): Hudson Museum, MCA
email: gretchen@umit.maine.edu phone: 581-1904

III. Summary of program requiring funding (title; featured artist(s); speaker(s); scheduled date (s):

"Evidence for and implication of the Black Sea Noah's Flood: Geology, Archaeology, Language and Myth." by Dr. Walter C. Pitman
Friday, October 8, 2004 at 7:00pm in the Minsky Recital Hall

Expand in fuller detail, a supporting statement with detailed, itemized budget. Funding for current application is contingent upon submission of detailed budget and attendance report for any previous years' grants.

IV. a. Total funding required for program:	\$ 1396.00
b. Amount committed by applicant organization:	\$ 498.00
c. Amount committed by Climate Change Institute	\$ 200.00
d. Amount requested from other funding sources	\$
e. Amount requested of Cultural Affairs/DLS Committee:	\$ 698.00

Signature of responsible organization officer/date: *Gretchen Faulkner* 9/21/04
SIGNATURE DATE

\$ 698.00

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION TO: CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
C/O PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
200 ALUMNI HALL, CAMPUS

Walter C. Pitman, "Evidence for and Implication of the Black Sea Noah's Flood: Geology, Archaeology, Language and Myth."

On Friday, October 8, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Minsky Recital Hall in the Class of 1944, Dr. Walter Pitman will present a special Hudson Museum lecture marrying science and myth. Pitman is a Special Research Scientist at the Lamont Doherty Observatory at Columbia University. Along with Dr. William Ryan, he has scientifically documented a cataclysmic flood 7,600 years ago in what is today the Black Sea. The end of the Cold War provided the Pitman and Ryan with an opportunity to explore the region and to conduct research. The pair used sound waves and coring devices to probe the sea floor. Their investigation of the floor of the Black Sea revealed an abrupt transition from a freshwater, ice age lake to a saltwater sea—a major flood event.

In this flood, the Atlantic Ocean burst through the Strait of Gibraltar and refilled the Mediterranean basin and turned a "Garden of Eden" into a sea of death. The Black Sea people fled, never to return, migrating as far as Western Europe, Central Asia, China, Egypt, and the Persian Gulf. Evidence of the flood and the diaspora are to be found in flood mythology. Sumerian and Babylonian texts, as well as the Hebrew version in Genesis include similar themes, such as advance warnings, the building of a boat to rescue seeds and animals, and the bursting of dikes and fountains in the sea, and landing of a boat on the side of a mountain. Pitman speculates that Flood myths were passed down by the Black Sea peoples and their descendants over many generations, preserving the memory of this traumatic event and perhaps serving as the source of Noah's Flood.

The lecture will be held in the Minsky Recital Hall, which will accommodate approximately 250 people. We expect a large audience for this event based on the topic. In addition to his public lecture, Dr. Pitman will meet with students from the Anthropology Department and the Climate Change Institute during his visit.

Information about this event includes a postcard announcement, which will be sent to all faculty and staff at UMaine; a listing on the events page of the Museum's website; and an article in the Museum's School Newsletter, the Totem, which is distributed to 1,500 teachers state-wide. George Manlove with the Department of Public Affairs is preparing a press release on this lecture and an event listing has been included in publicity related to Maine Archaeology Month.

Expenses for this event total \$1,396. Our request to the Cultural Affairs Committee is for \$698. Match (\$698) for these expenses will be provided by the Hudson Museum \$398; \$100 from the Hudson Museum Friends organization and \$200 from the Climate Change Institute.

Budget for Walter Pitman lecture 10-8-04

	Hudson Museum & Hudson Museum Friends	Climate Change Institute	Cultural Affairs Request
Transportation			
Airfare-New York City to Portland, Maine and return		200.00	
Lodging			145.00
Meals \$30/day x 3 days			90.00
Rental Car			100.00
Printing			
Postcard announcement	277.00		
Postage for postcard announcement .168 x 500			
Honorarium			
	221.00		363.00
Totals	498.00	200.00	698.00 (\$1,396)

Walter C. Pitman, "Evidence for and Implication of the Black Sea Noah's Flood: Geology, Archaeology, Language and Myth" Report

On Friday, October 8, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Minsky Recital Hall in the Class of 1944, Dr. Walter Pitman presented a special Hudson Museum lecture supported by the Cultural Affairs Committee. The event was well publicized and over 150 attended the lecture, including UMaine students, faculty and members of the general public. A summary of event expenses is attached.

Pitman's illustrated presentation focused on a cataclysmic flood 7,600 years ago in what is today the Black Sea. In this flood, the seawater burst through the Strait of Gibraltar and refilled the Mediterranean basin and turned a "Garden of Eden" into a sea of death. The Black Sea people fled, never to return, migrating as far as Western Europe, Central Asia, China, Egypt, and the Persian Gulf. Evidence of the flood and the diaspora are to be found in flood mythology. Sumerian and Babylonian texts, such as Gilgamesh, as well as the Hebrew version in Genesis include similar themes, such as advance warnings, the building of a boat to rescue seeds and animals, and the bursting of dikes and fountains in the sea, and landing of a boat on the side of a mountain. Pitman speculated that Flood myths were passed down by the Black Sea peoples and their descendants over many generations, preserving the memory of this traumatic event and perhaps serving as the source of Noah's Flood.

In his presentation, the audience saw maps and diagrams, as well as printouts from sound wave and core sampling of the ocean floor, presenting the scientific evidence for the flood. He entertained numerous questions ranging from explanations of the techniques used in his research to theological questions.

**Walter Pitman Lecture
October 8, 2004**

Funding Sources

Hudson Museum	\$ 552.70
Climate Change Institute	200.00
Cultural Affairs & Distinguished Lecture	698.00
Total	<u>\$ 1,450.70</u>

Expenses

Airfare	\$ 405.20
Car Rental	71.05
Taxi	45.00
Postcard Announcement	317.33
Postage .168 x 500	84.00
Honorarium	500.00
Dinner 10/8/04	28.12
Total	<u>\$ 1,450.70</u>

**Walter Pitman Lecture
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