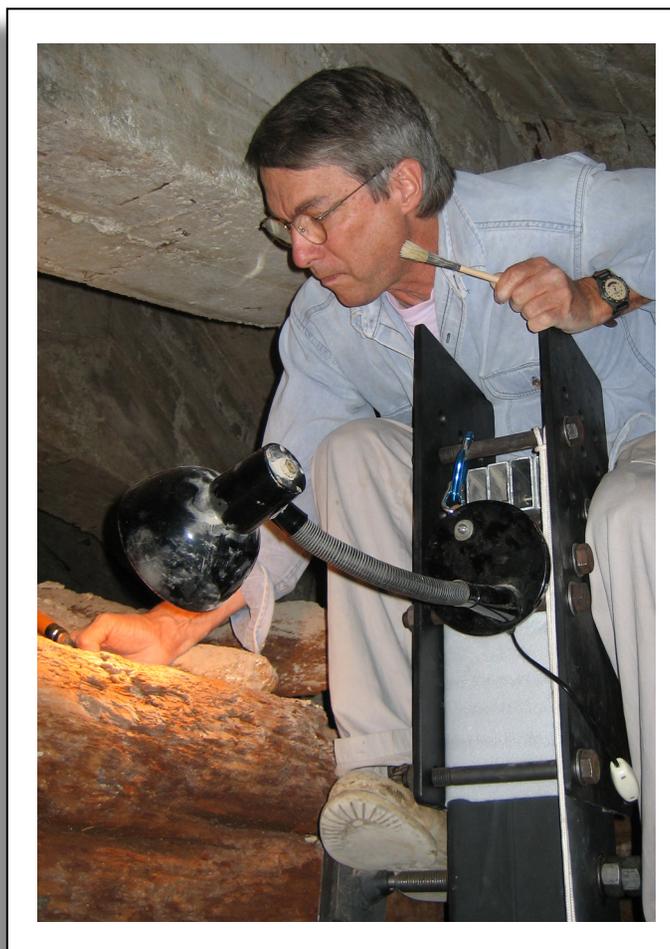


Preservation and Conservation of the Wooden Tomb Chamber in Tumulus MM at Gordion

Richard F. Liebhart, Ph.D.
University of North Carolina
at Chapel Hill

Tumulus MM at Gordion is the largest of the earthen burial mounds surrounding the ancient Phrygian capital of Gordion in modern Turkey. Excavations in 1957 revealed a 2,700-year-old tomb chamber built of squared pine timbers with an outer casing of roughly-trimmed juniper logs. The 53-meter-high mound had sealed the tomb and created cave-like conditions that protected the wood from normal fungal degradation. The archaeologists found a tomb chamber filled with grave goods surrounding the remains of the dead king: they also discovered the oldest standing wooden building in the world. The focus of the present discussion is the history of the preservation and conservation of the tomb, including the current environmental and structural studies.



MCI
Topics in
Museum
Conservation

10:45am
October 17, 2006

MCI Theater
Museum Support
Center
4210 Silver Hill Road
Suitland, MD 20746
301-238-1240



Smithsonian
Museum Conservation Institute