



# The Canadian Society for Mesopotamian Studies La Société canadienne des études mésopotamiennes

c/o RIM Project, University of Toronto  
4 Bancroft Avenue, 4th Floor, Toronto, Canada M5S 1C1  
T: 416-978-4531, F: 416-978-3305, [csms@chass.utoronto.ca](mailto:csms@chass.utoronto.ca)  
[www.chass.utoronto.ca/csms](http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/csms)

*THE A.K. GRAYSON LECTURE ON ASSYRIAN HISTORY AND CULTURE*

*A free public lecture*

## Disregarded Royalty: An investigation of the bronze coffin burials in the Nimrud Queens' Tombs



***Tracy L. Spurrier***

*PhD Candidate, Department of Near & Middle Eastern Civilizations  
University of Toronto*

In the late 1980's, while clearing debris from rooms of the Northwest Palace in Nimrud, the Iraqi Department of Antiquities discovered luxuriously provisioned tombs belonging to the royal Queens of the Neo-Assyrian Empire. As the excavators began work on tomb III, they encountered a curious cache of bronze coffins sealed into the antechamber, most of which contained the fragmentary remains of numerous individuals. However, in one coffin recent research has identified a previously unknown young queen wearing a famous gold crown. This lecture will discuss the queen's identity and the evidence that shows these coffin burials date to the early 8th century BC – a period of internal strife and weakened royal leadership for the Neo-Assyrian Empire.

Wednesday, 15 January 2014, 8:00 pm  
Earth Sciences Auditorium B142, 5 Bancroft Avenue  
University of Toronto, St. George Campus