

# THE FORGOTTEN HISTORY OF ROLLINS' BAKER MUSEUM

## ZACK GILMORE

After a devastating fire destroyed the original Rollins Museum in 1909, the college made a broad public appeal for donations of “museum quality” specimens. Individuals and institutions across the country responded generously, and by 1920 almost 10,000 specimens had been received, forming the nucleus of the Thomas R. Baker Museum. This presentation relates the story of the eclectic Baker Museum collection by highlighting the life histories of a selection of its remaining archaeological artifacts, which collectively span four continents and more than 5,000 years of the human past. The disparate origins and trajectories of these individual works help to illuminate a remarkable entanglement of historical events, individuals, and objects whose paths intersected at Rollins during the first half of the 20th century.