

sci.archaeology: Re: New subjectline: Valid and invalid arguments; former: Cocaine in ancient Egypt?

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From: Joe Jefferson (jjstrshp_at_mindspring.com)

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Doug Weller wrote:

>

> *Absence of evidence is evidence (indication) of absence.*

This is true if and only if the evidence is actually absent. It does not apply if one has never looked for evidence, or if one does not possess the ability to find the evidence if it does exist. For example, I can take the fact that no plastic bottle were found in King Tut's tomb as evidence that none were buried with him. I could not, however, take the fact that no microbes have ever been observed on Callisto as evidence that there aren't any living there, because nobody has ever looked at Callisto with instruments sensitive enough to detect microbes.

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"Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked." - Psalm 82:3-4