

## **CoOI S12 E22 Knight After Knight**

**Aired April 29, 2025**

**Synopsis by Jan Anderson**

### **War Room**

The team is meeting in the War Room to discuss what they need to accomplish in the swamp before the winter weather forces them to stop their work for the year. Marty says he would like to have a surprise for Rick when he returns from Malta. Craig says he would like to find an artifact in the swamp that could tell them who and when. Marty says he would like to know why there was so much going on in the swamp. Craig tells the group they still have a large area left to explore and asks Steve to show the group the area where they will be expanding the search to. Steve shows them an area that will be west of the area they have been searching in. Marty says there is still about 80% of the swamp that they have not explored.

### **Lot 5**

The archaeology team is continuing the search for artifacts at the round stone feature. While digging, Ethan finds a large piece of pottery with a slipware-like decoration. Helen tells him the piece is glazed, and then they put the slip on it, and then would trail and object through it. She says this type of pottery has a wide date range, and it would fall into the late 1700s. The next day, as the archaeology team continues to search for artifacts, Ethan finds several pieces of creamware pottery that should date to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Ethan continues to dig and finds a button that has a shank and a design that resembles a flower. The button will go to the lab to be scanned.

## **Swamp**

Steve, Charles, Gary, and Billy are continuing to search for features and artifacts in the swamp. Billy starts to dig and uncovers a piece of timber. Marty arrives, and they tell him about the timber. Billy continues to dig, and they find more logs, one of which is notched like it is part of a structure.

## **Malta**

Rick, Alex, Peter, and other team members are in Valletta to visit Fort St. Elmo, which was built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century by the Knights of Malta. They are meeting with Matthew Balzan, an archaeologist who specializes in Hospitaller studies. Matthew explains that the knights came to Malta in 1530 and transformed Malta into an island fortress. He also tells the group that the Knights of Malta worried that they would face the same issue as before at the hands of the papacy. Doug asks if they can show Matthew some artifacts and get his opinion. First, Doug shows Matthew a pickaxe that was found 6 years ago below a depth of 145 feet in RF1. Matthew examines the pickaxe, says they were used locally, and says, "I can tell you, no different than the ones used hundreds of years earlier". He also tells them it is called a baqqun and was used for digging and the word baqqan means digging in the quarrying process.

He also tells them that pickaxes were used to dig underground tunnels for centuries. Rick asks if the pickaxe would have been used in limestone, and Matthew tells him it was the predominant tool for cutting hard or soft rock. Alex then asks if clay was used as part of the fortifications, and Matthew tells him that clay is found mostly in the northern part of the island. Deffun is made out of broken pottery and limestone and used for waterproofing. The next day, the group meets with journalist Jean Paul Mifsud. Jean Paul will be taking the group on a tour of one of Malta's most renowned features. They will be touring the underground part of the city that was built by the Knights of Malta. He tells the group how the knights took Mount Sciberras and designed all the fortifications. The Knights of Malta began a major renovation of the city after

an attempted invasion by the Ottoman Empire in 1565. This renovation included underground tunnels that were dug into the limestone bedrock. The tunnels not only offered protection but also were used for storage and included cisterns for water collection. The team goes down into the tunnels, and they notice a blue-gray clay that Jean Paul says was used as a sealant. Scott tells Jean Paul that blue clay was used for waterproofing in the Money Pit. The next day, the team is heading to the island of Gozo, where the Knights of Malta established a stronghold in 1565. They will be visiting the Citadel of Victoria and meeting with Maltese historian Denis Darmanin, who is an expert on military artifacts and buttons. The team brought the starburst button for Denis to look at in the hopes that he could provide information about its origin. Denis tells them it is probably a Spanish pattern. Doug mentions that some of the Knights of Malta came from Spain, and Denis agrees. Denis tells them he found a similar pattern, and according to the sizes, they were either worn on a waistcoat or on a coat. Denis then tells them he would date the button from 1650 to 1675. He also tells them these types of buttons were more trendy among the aristocratic level. Doug then shows Denis a picture of a uniform with a button that is similar to the one found on the island. Denis agrees it is similar to the one found on the island.