

# SMITHSONIAN

## CONTENIDO

VOLUMEN 41, No. 6, OCTOBER 2010

### FEATURES

- 36 **Defying the Godfather.**  
Fed up with extortion and violent crime, Sicily's citizens are rising up against the Mafia.  
*Joshua Hammer.*  
Photographs by *Franscesco Lastrucci.*
- 48 **Before There Was Life.**  
A mineralogist believes he's discovered how the basic building blocks of life formed and found each other four billion years ago.  
*Helen Fields.*  
Photographs by *Amanda Lucidon.*
- 56 **Body of Work.**  
Chris Rainier travels the globe in search of tattoos and other examples of the ancient urge to embellish our skin.  
*Abigail Tucker.*  
Photographs by *Chris Rainier.*
- 64 **A Viking Mystery.**  
Archaeologists digging at Oxford University have unearthed a mass grave — one they think holds victims of a key medieval massacre.  
*David Keys.*
- 70 **Running Dry.**  
Dams, irrigation and now climate change have drastically reduced the once-mighty Colorado River.  
*Sarah Zielinski.*  
Photographs by *Peter McBride.*
- 76 **A Walk Through Old Japan.**  
An autumn trek along the Kiso Road wends through mist-covered mountains and rustic villages graced by timeless hospitality.  
*Thomas Swick.*  
Photographs by *Chiara Goia.*

### DEPARTMENTS

- 6 **Letters.**  
Survival of the Fittest.

- 7        **From the Editor.**  
Walks of Life.
- 8        **Wild Things.**  
Caterpillar Propulsion.
- 10       **Indelible Images.**  
SURE SHOT.  
For Bill Owens, 4 – years – old Richie Ferguson was the picture of suburbia.  
*Owen Edwards.*
- 14       **My Kind of Town.**  
WINNER TAKE ALL.  
The Pulitzer Prize-winning writer left Las Vegas richer for the experience.  
*J. R. Moehringer.*
- 23       **This Month in History.**  
“PEANUTS” KICKS OFF.
- 26       **Your Smithsonian.com**  
GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA.
- 27       **Around the Mall.**  
Unsung Heroes.  
28 **From the Castle.**  
Show and tell.  
32 **The Object at Hand.**  
Woven Garters.  
33 **Q&A** *Kirk Savage.*  
34 **What’s Up.**  
Indigenous American Art.
- 86       **Presence of Mind.**  
GOD AND COUNTRY.  
The idea that America has always been a land of religious freedom is a myth.  
*Kenneth C. Davis.*
- 104      **The Last Page.**  
My Big Hang-Up.

#### ON THE COVER

Traditional shaman tattoos adorn the body of Aman-Nippon (Mentawai Islands, Indonesia, 2009).  
Photograph by *Chris Rainier.*