



THE

Albuquerque Archaeological Society

Newsletter

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ANNUAL HOLIDAY MEETING AND POTLUCK

6:30 PM, Tuesday, December **13**, 2017

Albuquerque Museum of Art and History

2000 Mountain Road NW

Note that the meeting date is one week earlier than usual and the time is one hour earlier, too.

For the potluck, bring a ready-to serve “finger food” appetizer or dessert for about 10; the doors open and setup starts at 6:00 PM. Beverages, eating utensils, and plates are provided. The meeting will be in the Ventana Room off the main lobby, which has very limited kitchen facilities. Please bring your contribution ready to serve, including whatever serving utensils may be needed—and remember that there is no table seating.

After appetizers, we will have our business meeting and program. The main item of business is the election of Board members for 2017. The slate presented by the Nominating Committee was approved at the November meeting by the membership with no additional nominations from the floor. The slate is: President, Carol Chamberland; First Vice President, Gretchen Obenauf; Second Vice President, Ethan Ortega; Treasurer, John Guth; Secretary, Ginger Foerster; and Directors-at-Large Evan Kay and Marc Thompson.

The program, as usual, will feature short talks by AAS members. Helen Crotty will talk about the story of the Anasazi blanket she recently saw in the Telluride Museum. Carol Chamberland will present a program of slides from her recent trip to see the Baja rock art. Steve Patchett will talk about his walk along the entire Camino de Santiago de Compostela in Spain. John Guth will show slides of Manzanares Pueblo, the site near Santa Fe that AAS helped buy through a donation to The Archaeological Conservancy. And we'll close the program out with Dick Harris showing his slide show created for the 50th Anniversary party, this time set to music. Desserts will follow the program.

AAS DUES FOR 2017 ARE NOW PAYABLE

Please fill out the attached membership renewal form and mail it with your check to Treasurer, Albuquerque Archaeological Society, PO Box 4029, Albuquerque NM 87196, or bring both to the meeting. Don't be shy about showing interest in working with a committee or serving on the Board. Wider membership participation is needed and encouraged.

MINUTES OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

November 15, 2016

The meeting was called to order by President Carol Chamberland at about 7:30 pm. Visitors and new members were welcomed and invited to join us for refreshments after the meeting. There was one visitor and one new member. Refreshments were provided by Ann Carson and Donna Rospopo.

The minutes of the October meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT

John Guth announced that we have \$2500 in our checking account. All bills have been paid. He also reminded the group that it is time to renew our memberships for the coming year. He mentioned that it was really nice when people became sustaining members by paying a little more than the basic \$25 membership fee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Newsletter: Helen Crotty reported that another book, *The Ceramic Sequence of the Holmul Region, Guatemala*, from Arizona University Press, had arrived for possible review. She asked anyone interested to contact her. The reviewer gets to keep the book.

Archiving: In the absence of Karen Armstrong, Joanne Magalis reported that the group continues to work on the material from the West Mesa. They are also aiding a graduate student who is studying fingerprints on ceramics from Pottery Mound for his dissertation. He hopes to be able to determine the sex of the potters from the ridges in fingerprints. The crew will be on holiday break starting next week.

Membership: Carol Chamberland announced that that Judy Fair-Spaulding has agreed to be our new Membership Chair. The group expressed their thanks to her for taking on this important role.

Rock Art: Carol Chamberland reported for Dick Harris that, thanks to beautiful weather, the crew was able to go out every Tuesday since the last meeting. They are currently scouting some new sites.

Field Trips: In the absence of Pat Harris, Carol reported that her scheduled field trip to Tomé Hill was rained out for the fourth time. She has considered not scheduling the trip again, but it has been pointed out that we do need rain! On January 28th, there will be a field trip to the Socorro-Magdalena livestock trail, which was in use from 1885 to 1970, when it was finally replaced by the railroad. A signup sheet was available in the lobby.

Website: Evan Kay, webmaster, reported that the web site was working and was being improved with time.

50th Anniversary Committee: The members of the committee, Marc Thompson, Lou Schuyler, and Carol Chamberland, were thanked for their roles in organizing and providing the party.

Elections: The nominating committee consisted of Nancy Woodruff, Ann Carson and Arlette Miller. Nancy reported that the nominations for the 2017 officers were: Carol Chamberland for President, Gretchen Obenauf for First Vice President, and Ethan Ortega for Second Vice President, Ginger Forester for Secretary, John Guth for Treasurer, and Marc Thompson and Evan Kay for Directors-at-Large. Carol Chamberland if there were any additional nominations from the floor or if anyone else wished to be considered for election to these offices. There being no additional nominations, Helen Crotty moved that the nominations be closed. The motion was seconded and approved. The election will be held at the December 13th meeting and the new officers will take over after that meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The December meeting will be held on December 13th. The election will be held and there will be a short program and a potluck. Participants should bring finger foods, either appetizers or desserts. The doors will be open at 6:00, so there will be time to set up. The meeting will begin at 6:30. There will be 2 or 3 short presentations by members.

Fieldwork: Gretchen Obenauf reported for Michael Bletzer that the Spanish church at the Piro site near Socorro has finally been located. He will be tracing walls at the site December 10 and 11. Anyone interested in helping should contact Michael.

SiteWatch: Jessica Badner, SiteWatch coordinator for New Mexico, announced that she is looking for people who are interested in monitoring archaeological sites in the Albuquerque area. Interested people were encouraged to speak with her after the meeting.

SPEAKER

Gretchen Obenauf introduced Elizabeth Oster, whose subject was Spaceport America, Cultural Resources Protection and Mitigation, and the Cultural Landscape of the Jornada del Muerto. Muerto. A synopsis of her talk was not available at press time.

Respectfully submitted

----*Joanne Magalis*, Secretary

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2017

Election of officers for 2017 will take place at the December meeting. No additional nominations to the slate presented by the Nominating Committee were made at the November meeting. Running unopposed therefore, are: Carol Chamberland for President; Gretchen Obenauf, First Vice President; Ethan Ortega, Second Vice President; Ginger Foerster, Secretary; John Guth, Treasurer; and Evan Kay and Marc Thompson, Directors at Large.

FIELD TRIP TO MAGDELENA CATTLE TRAIL PLANNED FOR JANUARY 28

Pat Davis, Field Trip Chair announced that the January field trip will be hosted by Brenda Wilkinson, BLM Socorro Office Archeologist. The first destination is the Socorro BLM Office to see a PowerPoint presentation of "The Magdalena Trail." The trail ranks in importance with the famous Chisolm and Goodnight-Loving Trails; what set it apart is its continued use into the 1970s. It was established in 1885, when the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad completed its branch line from Socorro to Magdalena. Ranchers from a vast area of western New Mexico and Eastern Arizona began driving their cattle and sheep to the Magdalena railhead, sometimes a distance of 120 miles.

Following lunch at the Bodega Burger in Socorro, the tour will continue to Magdalena to see the Magdalena stock yards and the railroad station. An optional side tour on the way back will visit "The Box," a ruggedly beautiful canyon with adjacent rhyolite and andesite-extrusive volcanic rock formations, a favorite for climbers for more than 40 years.

Participation in AAS field trips is open to current members only. Signups will be available at the December and January meetings or by contacting trips@abqarchaeology.org.

BOOK REVIEW

The Ceramic Sequence of the Holmul Region, Guatemala by Michael G Callaghan and Nina Nievens de Estrada. Anthropological papers of the University of Arizona No. 77, 2016. University of Arizona Press, Tucson. 262 pp. \$19.95 (paper). ISBN-13: 978-0-8165-3194-3

Reviewed by R. G. Wakeland

Admittedly more descriptive than interpretative, this tome pounces on ceramic taxonomy. Like the crouching jaguar, it attacks beneath the jungle canopy. Preying on the dearth, or vacuum, of classification typologies among these artifacts, it seeks to create indicia applicable to cultural, spatial and temporal conclusions. As it were, a reference book emerges, composed of a list-like section for each proffered or adopted category. This format comports with archaeological precedent, in George Pepper's field notes from Pueblo Bonito, Chaco Canyon.

Artifacts from 198 rooms filled 381 pages, including illustrations, charts and tables. Apologetic for not containing comparative studies, Pepper hoped his “unembellished field note data” would be useful for future investigations¹.

Yet, like the scarlet macaw screech interweaving among undergrowth and tangled vines, cultural context intertwines among empirical data and the abandoned civilization radiates throughout. The introduction (27 pages) chronicles the history of the region, and its ecosystem, including maps and aerial photos. Consistent with twenty-first century graphics technology, the maps are full-page sized, concise-lined, and readable. Likewise, here the history of glyph reading, typological methods and terminology establishes the context for the new nomenclature.

The extensive literature review, citations, and references engender an academics’ wellspring worthy to novices, novitiates, Maya fanatics, angst-occupied undergraduates, dedicated graduate students, and of course the target audience, future investigators. The bibliography is 10 pages. In addition to a general index, three separate indices track varieties, surface and decoration, and associated complexes/groups. Here, one can track the contribution of stelae and frieze reading (epigraphics) to Mayan pre-historic archaeology. Indeed, the time line of excavations in the region outlines our debt to archaeologists toiling in discovery.

Although recent digs catapulted the impetus of the compilation, the authors also utilized the Peabody Museum collections. Following the earliest ceramic collections unearthed in 1911, the primary source for these ceramics flowed from efforts of the Holmul Regional Archaeological Project from 2001–2013. The Holmul region comprises eight major and several interspersed architectural sites whose uniqueness derives from their upland plateau orientation. The time span encompassed between 1000 B.C.E. through 900 C.E. Situated midpoint between Tikal and ruling dynasties further northeast, Holmul’s location imparts to ceramic analysis a pivotal point which “has the potential to refine and reshape” (p. 1) interpretation of Mayan culture.

A total of seven classification groups are proposed, each with its own chapter. Some are newly originated by the authors. Other, pre-existing, categories are adopted. Detailed criteria set forth the expected ceramic traits: slipped or unslipped, polished or unpolished, paste content, temper, firing, surface and surface decoration, incised, wall thickness, rim flare, jars, bowls, mushroom stands, sources, and interregional relationships. Drawings and/or photos accompany each section. Given the avalanche of identifying markers, the publishers could influence research, and its use as a reference, by releasing a digital version, allowing for word searches.

Further, the book tests the reader’s knowledge of Mayan languages, as place names and pottery types retain their indigenous sources. In fact, the entire compilation presents a polylingual test, as Spanish, English, Mayan languages and Nahuatl coalesce. For example, Joventud Red: Ixtoc variety; Aac Red-on-Buff; Real, Aguila Orange. From this fusion, a new form arises: tecomate, the Spanish derivation of Nahuatl tecomatl. This is a species of narrow-necked squash with a thick rind which itself was used as a vessel. Now enshrined as a ceramic vessel, K’awil Complex.

While the color photos on the cover are striking, the black and white photos inside are not distinct. Their black background creates eyestrain and the images lack contrast. Fortunately, the photos supply a minority of the illustrations. Extensive black and white pencil and ink drawings invoke sheer awe. Obviously traced from enlarged photos of the artifacts, nevertheless the artists’ discerning eyes convey form and surface decoration, surpassing photography in content and detail. Because the ceramics are not themselves high contrast, in fact because the ceramics’ inherent brown, earth and neutral pigments diffuse the design composition, drawings optimally transfer the compositional intent of the original artists. And indeed the illustrators in this book succeed, with soft pencil graphite shading, as well as solid black lines. It remains for the publisher to realize enlarged reproductions as their own art form. Photogravure as well as photo-offset could both supply the media.

¹ George H. Pepper. Pueblo Bonito. *Anthropological Papers of the American Museum of Natural History*, Vol. 28, 1920, p. 381. American Museum press, New York.

FIELDWORK OPPORTUNITY DECEMBER 10 AND 11 AT PIRO SITE NEAR SOCORRO

Michael Bletzer is planning another weekend session of additional wall tracing around the convento complex at the Tzelaqui/Sevilleta Pueblo site near Socorro December 10 and 11 (weather permitting). Anyone interested in participating, should contact Michael at michael.bletzer@gmail.com.

ASN M 2017 ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN MORIARY MAY 5–7

The Torrance County Archaeological Society will host the 2017 annual meeting of the Archaeological Society of New Mexico in Moriarty. Bob Berglund, Annual Meeting Chair, reports that the committee has selected “The Peopling of Central New Mexico: Paleo to Pueblo” as its theme. Festivities begin on the evening of Friday May 5 at the Moriarty Civic Center, with presentations and banquet there on Saturday May 6, and field trips on Sunday. Calls for papers and posters and vendors and information tables will be announced soon.

NEWS AND NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

New Data on the Domestication of Maize. According to an international team of scientists who have sequenced the genome of a 5,310-year-old maize cob from the Tehuacan Valley, the maize (*Zea mays*) grown in central Mexico more than five millennia ago was genetically more similar to modern maize than to its wild counterpart. Scientists have long debated how and why ancient people domesticated maize, in large part because the wild ancestor of maize—a wild grass called teosinte—provides little nutrition. Each teosinte ear produces only 5 to 12 kernels, and each kernel is surrounded by a hard casing that must be removed prior to eating.

“Around 9,000 years ago in modern-day Mexico, people started collecting and consuming teosinte. Over the course of several thousand years, [human-driven selection caused major physical changes, turning the unproductive plant into modern maize](#), commonly known as corn,” said Dr. Nathan Wales of the [Natural History Museum of Denmark](#), who is the senior author on the study, published in the [journal Current Biology](#). “Maize as we know it looks so different from its wild ancestor that a couple of decades ago scientists had not reached a consensus regarding the true ancestor of maize.” <http://bit.ly/2g7vQdM> [Excerpted from *Science News* via Southwest Archaeology Today, a service of Archaeology Southwest.]

ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

PO Box 4029, Albuquerque, NM 87196

www.abqarchaeology.org

www.facebook.com/abqarchsoc

Annual Dues: For emailed Newsletter: Student no charge (provide copy of current ID); Basic \$25; Sustaining \$35+. Print Newsletter by First Class Mail: Basic \$30; Sustaining \$40. Institutions/Libraries: \$10 for print Newsletter by First Class Mail, emailed Newsletter at no charge.

2016 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIR

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Vice Presidents:
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Standing Committee Chairs

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Webmaster:
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2017

ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Renewal ____ New ____

Name(s): _____

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Email Address(es): _____

(Please print email in capital letters to avoid confusing lower case letters, "r" and "v" for example)

Please check this box if you do **not** wish your information to be printed in our annual directory. (Federal law prohibits disclosing members' contact information to anyone outside of the organization.)

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I/We would be interested in working with the following committees:

- Greeters (name tags & guest signup at meetings);
- Membership (keep track of membership lists and send renewal notices) and/ or---
- Assist Membership chair with display and signups at archaeological events;
- Field Trips (arrange for trip or assist chair with signups and follow up);
- Laboratory (assist with Hibben Center archival work);
- AAS *Newsletter* editorial assistant/trainee;
- AAS 50th Anniversary Volume Editor, assistant, researcher;
- Board of Directors and position desired;
- Other (describe on back).

Under the **Join AAS** tab on our website abqarchaeology.com please click the upper right Pop-out icon to print this form, fill it out, and mail the form and your membership dues check (payable to the Albuquerque Archaeological Society or AAS) to:

Treasurer, Albuquerque Archaeological Society, P.O. Box 4029, Albuquerque, NM 87196

Questions about Membership? (address or email changes, current dues verification, etc.): Email info@abqarchaeology.org