WATER, COPPER, WAK’AS, AND EMPIRE IN THE HIGH-ALTITUDE ATACAMA

Frances Hayashida

7:30 pm Tuesday, January 19, 2021

At Your Computer, Tablet, or Smart Phone

How did prehispanic farmers make a living in the hyperarid, high-altitude Atacama Desert and how did their lives and landscapes change under Inka rule? Archaeologists from the University of New Mexico, the University of Chile and the Spanish National Research Council are collaborating to answer these questions for the upper Loa region of northern Chile. In this seemingly marginal landscape, Late Intermediate (ca. AD 1100–1400) communities herded llamas, irrigated terraced slopes with spring-fed canals, and mined copper. When the Inka took over this region in ca. AD 1400, they built roads and administrative centers, intensified copper mining, and expanded irrigation agriculture. An explanation for these changes requires acknowledging, as the Inka and local communities did, the role played by powerful landscape beings (wak’as) in local life and imperial politics. Inka claims to water, land, and labor were reinforced and legitimated through their control and use of copper minerals, a substance essential for offerings to mountain wak’as, the source of water and hence of life in this hyperarid environment.

Frances Hayashida is an archaeologist who studies late prehispanic societies in the Andes. She has worked primarily on the north coast of Peru. With colleagues from Chile and Spain, she currently co-directs an interdisciplinary, collaborative project on late prehispanic land use and the consequences of Inka rule in the high-altitude Atacama Desert. She is a professor of anthropology and the director of the Latin American and Iberian Institute at the University of New Mexico. Originally from Honolulu, Hawai, she received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Stanford University and her PhD from the University of Michigan.
Vice President Gretchen Obenauf called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm. She announced that President Evan Kay was delayed at work. So that he could join us for the business meeting, the general meeting would begin with the first half of the program.

**SPEAKERS**


**BUSINESS MEETING**

The business part of the meeting began with Evan welcoming everyone to the December meeting. He relayed the following reports.

**From Treasurer Tom Obenauf:** Income included membership renewals of $495, donations of $335, and Albuquerque Museum refunds for the rest of 2020 at $505. For costs, the Archaeological Society of New Mexico membership was $40, the monthly Zoom fee was $16.17, and printing was $5.60. The checking account balance is $4,978.56.

Members are urged to send in their membership renewals.

**Election of officers:** It was moved and seconded that the slate of officers nominated in October (and with no additional nominations from the floor in November) be approved, and the motion passed unanimously. Because all current officers agreed to serve for another year, continuing in office are: Evan Kay, President; Gretchen Obenauf, First Vice President; Ann Braswell, Second Vice President; Susan King, Secretary; Tom Obenauf, Treasurer; John Guth and Cindy Carson, Directors at Large.

**Internal Financial Review:** Steve and Donna Rospopo were thanked for agreeing again to review the books for the past year.

**SPEAKERS**

The meeting concluded with slide presentations by Ann Carson, whose title was “Never Say No in Thailand,” and Tom Windes, who spoke about “Beautiful Things, Hugs, and Soot.”

Respectfully submitted by Susan King, Secretary.

**HONORING FORMER AAS MEMBER “BETTY”**

by F. Joan Mathien

The Elizabeth M. Garrett Endowed Scholarship for Women in Science

Born in Australia in 1925, Betty Garrett emigrated to the United States after World War II and settled in Allegan, Michigan, where she lived with her husband and two children. During a visit with friends in Los Lunas there was a trip to nearby Pottery Mound. Here Betty became fascinated with the thousands of potsherds on the site. Not only did they sparkle in the sunlight and have intriguing designs painted on their surfaces, but the variety of styles suggested interactions with other groups living in the Southwest. What fun it would be to help figure out those relationships! After returning to Michigan, Betty mapped out a plan to obtain a degree and perhaps address the question. She realized she could combine her studies in geology with anthropology/archaeology through analysis of sherd tempers. The constituent minerals could indicate sources of the tempering materials and lead to inferences about trade or exchanges.

As an older student who began her career after her children were in school, Betty needed to work to pay expenses or obtain scholarships and grants to finance her education. By the time she returned to New Mexico in 1979, she
was enrolled in a PhD program at Western Michigan University and had a fellowship that allowed her to work with Dr. Fred Plog of Arizona State University to carry out a petrographic analysis of sherds from sites on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, where he had been conducting research. She also visited Pottery Mound during Linda Cordell’s fieldwork there during that summer. Betty decided that Albuquerque was the best place for her to live and write her dissertation. She could work as a contractor doing petrographic analyses for projects undertaken by various groups in the area and throughout the Southwest. She soon joined the Albuquerque Archaeological Society, and other organizations as well, and participated in meetings and conferences.

Betty's contributions to AAS were significant. In addition to giving several presentations (1981, 1985, and 1989), she served as Secretary in 1984, 1990 and 1991, and as President (the first woman to hold this position) in 1985 and 1986. Betty’s Australian accent and sense of humor brought a special zest to meetings when she had the floor. As immediate past president she served two terms as Director at Large in 1987 and 1988.

After Betty died in 1994, her daughter, Julie Hotchkiss, established a scholarship for women in science at Western Michigan University. Julie was very much aware of the time and energy Betty had invested to achieve her education while raising children, running the household, commuting one hour each way to the university, and earning her way. Julie wanted to honor her mother and help other women achieve their goals while making their lives a little easier. Thus, an endowment was set up at Betty’s alma mater, and many AAS members contributed. I have been a contact point between AAS and WMU, and this is the woman behind the scholarship I’ve been reporting on annually (until last year’s canceled meeting). Since my last report in 2018, two young women have been awarded support. They are Stacey Murphy (2018-19) and Kristin Foley (2019-20), each of whom received $1000. What a perfect way to remember an outgoing woman and scholar who made a friend of everyone she met!

ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
PO Box 4029, Albuquerque, NM 87196
www.abqarchaeology.org and www.facebook.com/abqarchsoc

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Mail the completed form and your membership dues check (payable to Albuquerque Archaeological Society or AAS) to:

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