



THE
Albuquerque Archaeological Society
Newsletter

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**SOUTH BY SOUTHWEST: ARCHAEOLOGICAL
DICHOTOMIES, ORTHODOXIES, AND HETERODOXIES
IN THE MOGOLLON CULTURAL AREA, OR WERE
THOSE MIGRANTS PROPERLY DOCUMENTED?**

Marc Thompson

**7:30 PM, Tuesday July 18, 2017
Albuquerque Museum of Art and History
2000 Mountain Road NW**

Archaeologists attempt to answer tantalizing questions. Some questions, and proffered answers, separate the profession. It has been said that if one asks six archaeologists the same question, they will provide eight different answers. Questions concerning the presence, influence, and significance of Southwestern and Mesoamerican contact and interaction continue to divide opinions among archaeologists. Are *Tlaloc* (the Central Mexican Rain God) and *Quetzalcoatl* (the Feathered Serpent) represented in ancient Southwestern media and cosmology? Who *were* those masked men (*Katsinam*) and where did they come from? Was Paquimé the center of Casas Grandes Culture, an outpost of a West Mexican mercantile system (*Aztatlan*) originating in Cholula, Puebla? Was it settled by elite migrants from Chaco Canyon and Aztec Pueblo? Was it a trading, ceremonial, or pilgrimage center? If Mesoamerica shaped Southwestern cultures, where is this evident, and how may it be documented? Can exotic materials and similarities in artifacts, architecture, iconography, and languages be accounted for only by migration, diffusion, and trade? Answers to these and other questions will be illustrated and discussed by one archaeologist.

Marc Thompson was born in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, and was raised as a “Mayo Clinic brat” in Rochester, Minnesota. Following high school, he served as a Hospital Corpsman at Annapolis, Maryland, during the Vietnam era. Marc was graduated magna cum laude with a BA in anthropology from the University of Colorado, Boulder. He received an MA in anthropology from the Universidad de las Américas in Cholula, Puebla, México. His thesis documented the discovery and analysis of a stone ax manufacturing cottage industry at the Classic Maya site of Becan, Campeche, México. He was awarded a PhD from the Department of Archaeology, the University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. His dissertation, *Mimbres Iconology: Analysis and Interpretation of Figurative Motifs*, was a study of the significance of imagery in Mimbres Black-on-white bowls and comparative icons in other Precolumbian media. Marc has conducted field work and directed projects in México, Belize, Canada, New Mexico, Texas, Wyoming, Montana, and California. He has taught graduate, undergraduate, and continuing education courses in Mexico, Canada, and the U.S. He also led numerous university and Smithsonian Odyssey tours to Mexico, Central America, the southwest U.S., and western Canada. After more than a decade, Marc retired as Director of the El Paso Museum of Archaeology, and Adjunct Professor of Anthropology, the University of Texas at El Paso. Marc is past President of the Albuquerque Archaeological Society, serves on the Editorial Board of *Pottery Southwest*, and is Director of the Tijeras Pueblo Museum.

Reminder: No meeting and no Newsletter in August

MINUTES OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

June 20, 2017

President Carol Chamberland called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM with a welcome to all members, visitors and new members.

Refreshments: Karen Armstrong provided snacks and everyone was invited to mingle and enjoy after the meeting.

May 16 meeting minutes were approved and stand as distributed.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Gretchen Obenauf announced a full slate of speakers through November of this year. Those who would like to share a slide presentation of an archaeology-related trip at the annual Christmas party in December please see her.

TREASURER'S REPORT

John Guth noted that AAS has a balance of \$2265 in the checking account after making annual donations of \$2000. We gave \$500 to The Archaeological Society of New Mexico Scholarship fund, \$500 to the Laurie Webster's Cedar Mesa Perishables Project, and \$1000 to the Archaeological Conservancy protective fencing project for two Conservancy-owned New Mexico sites.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Newsletter/Second 25 Years Volume – Helen Crotty: Valerie Lindsey responded to the plea for more volunteers to help with the AAS Second 25 Years volume and Joanne Magalis and Mary Raje had previously volunteered. The work involves reading the newsletters from the past 25 years and writing up the information following the format of the earlier volume.

Membership – Mary Raje: Acknowledgements have been sent to five membership renewals received in April and May.

Archiving – Karen Armstrong: The lab group is “closed” for the summer.

Rock Art – John Richardson: The team went out last week, but not today due to the hot weather. In spite of the worst vandalism ever seen by the group, they were able to “pull out” and record pre-contact petroglyphs.

Field Trips: The field trip to Ku Pueblo was reported as “wonderful.” On July 8 there is a field trip to Jemez Historical Site. On August 19, Gretchen will lead a hike to AS-8 in the San Ysidro area. [ED: For more information on upcoming trips please see Field Trips section of this newsletter on page 3.]

Pottery Southwest: The summer issue is out. Please see it on the website: unm.edu/~psw.

Website – Evan Kay: The website is running fine. An online payment method for the next membership renewal and new memberships will be set up.

ASNM Conference: Yellow cards were set out on the registration table for members to list ideas for a theme for the conference and to volunteer for positions on various committees.

New Business: Evan Kay said he will be running for AAS president for 2018.

SiteWatch: Training for those who would like to volunteer to monitor archaeological sites will be held on July 8 at the Sandia Ranger Station in Tijeras. Contact Gretchen Obenauf regarding this opportunity to help.

Announcement: A memorial service will be held for Phyllis Davis on Saturday June 24 at 2:00 at La Vida Llena Retirement Center. Her obituary is in the *Albuquerque Journal* or online.

SPEAKER:

Gretchen Obenauf introduced Chris Turnbow, archaeologist with the New Mexico Gas Company, whose presentation was titled “In Search of the Seventh Parrot: A Tale of Looting, Archaeology, and a Missing Bird in

the Upper Forks of the Gila River, Southwestern New Mexico.” A synopsis of his talk was not available at press time.

Submitted by Ginger Foerster, Secretary.

UPCOMING AAS FIELD TRIPS

Field Trips Chair Pat Harris reports that Gretchen Obenauf will lead a field trip to Pueblo de las Milpas, also known as AS-8, on August 19 as a joint venture with the Torrance County Archaeological Society. This is a 46-room pueblo dating to the 13th century located on a mesa on BLM land between San Ysidro and the Ojito Wilderness. It was excavated beginning in 1975 by the Albuquerque Archaeological Society, culminating in a 1998 report. The road to the site is no longer passable, but we will drive to the base of the mesa and hike up. The hike is about a third of a mile long, with an elevation gain of about 200 feet. Sign up at the meeting or at trips@abqarchaeology.org.

For September, an overnight trip is planned to the Four Corners region with Linda Wheelbarger. The itinerary is still being worked out.

SAPAWA TOURS AVAILABLE THROUGH NEW MEXICO STATE LAND OFFICE

State Land Commissioner Aubrey Dunn has announced that the New Mexico State Land office is providing summer tours of the archaeological ruins of Sapawe Pueblo, a 700-year-old Native American settlement that is rarely seen by the public. It is located on State trust land near the northern New Mexico town of El Rito. The settlement was inhabited from roughly 1350 until as late as 1550 and contained 24 multi-room buildings that were arranged around several plazas. The layout of the buildings and a variety of artifacts are still visible. Limited reservations will be available through the State Land Office website starting June 24.

FIELDWORK OPPORTUNITIES AT SEVILLETA

Michael Bletzer has scheduled another work day at the Sevilleta site near Socorro for Sunday July 9. He is also planning a 9 to 10 day session wrapped around the last two weekends of October. Anyone interested in helping should contact him at michael.bletzer@gmail.com.

A short update: The first wall of the early glaze Area VIII mound was found in June, and Michael would like to continue tracing out that wall and maybe, just maybe, define the eastern plaza front. Current metal count is 208, with more than 100 armor fragments and dozens of early firearms munitions, quite a few of them fired. So, all was apparently not well at the pueblo, especially not around Kiva 2, judging by the cluster of military objects around it.

MINUTES OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY BOARD MEETING

May 31, 2017

North Domingo Baca Multi-Generational Center Room 3

Attendees: Carol Chamberland, Ethan Ortega, Ginger Foerster, John Guth, Marc Thompson, Evan Kay, Dick Harris, Pat Harris, and Helen Crotty. **Absent:** Gretchen Obenauf and Mary Raje.

President Carol Chamberland convened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

TREASURER'S REPORT

John Guth reported that the IRS form was filed and accepted, corporation and charitable registrations were completed and the registered agent was changed from Marc Thompson to John Guth as agreed at the last Board meeting.

Current assets are \$4517 in checking and \$13,000 in CDs. All bills are paid and expenses are on track, but membership dues are down from the historic high of 175 members. Planned donations are: 1) ASNM scholarship fund of \$500; 2) Laurie Webster's Cedar Mesa Perishables Project of \$500; 3) Archaeological Conservancy Holmes Site Fence of \$1000.

Financial Forecast: Checking will be reduced to \$1600 by November as expenses are paid. Helen reported that she will not need money for the 50th Anniversary Volume this year because of a lack of sufficient help to work on this task.

Other matters affecting the financial forecast were purchase of liability insurance for the board and field trips, and AAS hosting the ASNM 2018 annual meeting for contracts, deposits, early purchases, and cash flow needs.

Decisions were to fund \$2000 in donations, hold out \$4000 from a CD maturing in July to fund a cushion for the checking account in anticipation of the ASNM conference in May of 2018.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

Ethan reported that speakers have been scheduled and/or contacted with definite dates to come. He detailed speaker topics that appear to offer varied and interesting programs for this summer and fall and into the next year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: John said that Mary Raje, the new Membership Chair, was provided with assistance for computer mailings. Ideas were floated for attracting a younger demographic by planning field trips for those who are more mobile. We will also have a more rigorous reminder system for paying dues with an email reminder in January calling for all members to renew rather than waiting for the end of March.

Field trips: Pat Harris headed a discussion about liability insurance for the officers, members of the board and committee chairs and to include field trips. She strongly encouraged the Board to purchase a policy to "protect the organization." Dick Harris said that lawsuits against non-profit groups have increased exponentially over the past decade. Ethan suggested that the Board pursue this matter and John offered to build a knowledge base by checking with an insurance agent and an estate attorney regarding liability policy for non-profits. Evan will ask his wife, an attorney, if an individual's personal liability would cover that person's actions as a Board member.

Pat said that she has planned some field trips that are limited to the physically fit/experienced hiker and some that are easier in order to offer a range for members. Upcoming trips include Jemez Historic Site in July and a Four Corners overnight in September. She and her committee have been working on interesting trips for the next year.

Rock Art: Dick Harris said that the group is working in the Rio Puerco area at this time and it has inherited a site from the BLM Taos field office.

OTHER TOPICS

There was discussion of field projects for AAS members to do surveys and research in the field. Members will be encouraged to participate. Possible courses and seminars and venues were discussed including: pottery analysis instruction by Hayward Franklin, pottery/clay class by Steve Rospopo. As a result of this discussion Marc will ask about using Friends of Tijeras Pueblo Museum as a venue for some classes, Ethan will ask Hayward if he is willing to teach, and Pat will speak with Steve Rospopo.

ASNM 2018 Annual Meeting

Carol began by saying that the conference is a huge job but that this evening we will just start thinking about the entire conference but not make any decisions until we "put out a call" for theme ideas from the full membership.

Discussion included many aspects of planning: theme, venue, budget, committee chairs, speakers, posters, food, scheduling, registration, field trips, vendors, date, graphic design and publicity, and a kids' art show. Nancy Woodworth will be asked to research venues and vendors and present her findings to the group for a final decision.

The Board agreed that getting a venue is the first thing to be done. Many ideas were volleyed and the result was that chair positions for some of the aspects of the conference were volunteered, ideas for field trips within a reasonable distance from Albuquerque were suggested as were payment methods for registration.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM

Submitted by Ginger Foerster, Secretary

[Note: A few days after the Board meeting, Ethan Ortega and Nancy Woodworth volunteered to serve as co-chairs of the ASNM Annual Meeting.]

IN MEMORIAM

Phyllis Starkey Davis, 1921–2017

Phyllis Davis, who died May 20, 2017 at the age of 95, had an unusually interesting life that was detailed in the obituary published in the *Albuquerque Journal* and can be found online. In brief, she was born in Duluth, Minnesota, was adopted as a baby, and went to live with another family at a young age because of her adoptive mother's ill health. She came to Tucson, Arizona about age nine with her new family, attended high school in the East and college in New York and Tucson. After working as a secretary in New York, she returned to Arizona, where she earned a pilot's license in 1944 with the intention of serving in the Women Airforce Service Pilots, but as no more WASPs were then needed, she worked instead as a civilian at an Air Force Base. She became an airline stewardess for a time before taking a job with the U.S. Army at the Yokohama Engineer Depot in Japan for three years and later with G-4 Logistics for three years at its headquarters in Heidelberg, Germany. While there she did some modeling, and skied as often as possible.

She left Germany in 1957 to marry John Davis, an Army Lieutenant Colonel who died in 1984. They had moved to New Mexico in 1961, and Phyllis had soon studied and immersed herself in archaeology. She joined AAS and ASNM, both of which she served as Treasurer and Director. Her major contributions, however, were as a crew chief in the field and an able assistant to Richard Bice and William Sundt in the lab for both the ASNM field school and the AAS excavations. With them, she co-authored *The AS-8 Pueblo and the Cañada de las Milpas: A Pueblo III Complex in North-Central New Mexico* (1998) and *AS-5 Indian Mining of Lead for Use in Rio Grande Glaze Paint. Report of the AS-5 Bethsheba Project Near Cerrillos, New Mexico* (2003) as well as contributing to *The Vidal Great Kiva Near Gallup, New Mexico* (1990) and the upcoming ASNM publication on the Vidal site. An idea of her varied and important contributions can be gleaned from the preface to the AS-8 volume: "Phyllis Davis undertook much of the laboratory photography, supplied computer expertise for the artifact databases, directed the final analysis of the lithic artifacts, and edited the report for publication." She was the honoree of the appropriately titled ASNM Volume 27 *Following Through*, which indeed she did in multiple capacities. She is greatly missed.

A celebration of her life was held June 24 at La Vida Llena, where she had lived since 1995. Donations may be made in her memory to the Albuquerque Archaeological Society and/or to the Archaeological Society of New Mexico.



Phyllis Davis, in her early 90s, participated in the 2013 ASNM Annual Meeting field trip to pueblo AS-8 on BLM land. She used her walker to reach the pueblo from the vehicles, and then friends carried her into the room blocks. Phyl is pointing out the rooms she excavated with the AAS crew 1975–1983 and describing in amazing detail the layout of the floor features and artifacts found. She also noted where she camped during the excavations in the trees to the right in the photo. A truly impressive woman! – *Photo by John Guth.*

CALENDAR CHECK

Pecos Conference August 10–13, near Rowe, New Mexico. Go to www.pecosconference.org for online registration and for further details.

Biennial Jornada Mogollon Conference October 13-14 El Paso Museum of Archaeology. Call for papers: Contact George Maloof Maloofgo@elpasotexas.gov.

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.

2017 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

To contact officers or committee chairs, email info@abqarchaeology.org or consult Membership Directory. Current members can sign up for field trips at meetings or by emailing trips@abqarchaeology.org.

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