



THE
Albuquerque Archaeological Society
Newsletter

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**DROUGHT, DUST AND DISPARITY: ARCHAEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES
ON SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL CHANGE IN THE SOUTHWEST, THE
SOUTHERN HIGH PLAINS, AND SOUTHERN AFRICA**

Alan J. Osborn and Robert K. Hitchcock

7:30 PM, Tuesday, March 17, 2020

**Albuquerque Museum of Art and History
2000 Mountain Road NW**

Single- to multiple-year drought episodes, especially megadroughts – those lasting 10 years or more – have posed significant challenges for agrarian communities across the Southwest, southern High Plains, and southern Africa in the past two millennia. Particular problems were faced during the Medieval Climatic Anomaly, AD 900–1400. Dry periods are correlated with high levels of atmospheric dust, which contribute to a lowering of rainfall and to human health and economic problems. Archaeological evidence indicates that social disparities expanded between better-off and poorer segments of the populations living in the Southwest, southern High Plains, and the Kalahari Desert region of Southern Africa during these megadrought periods. Excavations of sites occupied between AD 900 and 1400 in all three areas reveal the presence of large numbers of shell beads that apparently were used as social status indicators, identity markers, and symbols that conveyed social information. These beads were circulated over large areas in elaborate exchange systems. Exchange partners were able to take advantage of social alliances they had established through these systems and move to areas that were not as affected by drought. Livelihoods and human well-being were thus correlated, at least in part, with drought, aridity, dust storms, lowered food availability, and higher rates of migration.

Alan J. Osborn is an Associate Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Nebraska Omaha. He is also the Curator of Anthropology at the Nebraska State Museum at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, and he is the Director of the Nebraska Archaeological Survey. He obtained his PhD from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque in 1977. His archaeological field work has been conducted in Arizona, Colorado, Ecuador, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Peru, South Dakota, and Texas. He has overseen archaeological projects in Canyonlands and Capital Reef National Monument for the Midwest Archaeological Center and in Amistad Reservoir in the Texas-Mexico borderlands. Dr. Osborn has published extensively on Paleoindians in North America and has been part of the debates about the effects of climate change on Paleoindian adaptations and on poison hunting of mammoths, mastodons, and elephants. He is the co-editor, with Marcel Kornfeld, of *Islands in the Plains: Ecological, Social, and Ritual Use of Landscapes* (University of Utah Press, 2003). He is currently working on two projects, one examining the impacts of drought, rodents, and ritual burning in the Iron Age of southeastern Africa and the other on bean-cooking in corrugated ware pots in the Southwest. (*Continued, next page*)

AAS DUES FOR 2020 ARE NOW PAYABLE

If you have already paid your dues, thank you. If not, your membership expires March 31 and this is your last Newsletter. To stay enrolled, 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.

Robert K. Hitchcock is a professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of New Mexico and a Board Member of the Kalahari Peoples Fund, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that provides funding for education, development, and capacity building training for indigenous and minority peoples in southern Africa. He was a member of the Remote Sensing Division of the Chaco Project of the National Park Service at the University of New Mexico in the early 1970s. He has done archaeological fieldwork in Arizona, Botswana, British Columbia, California, Colorado, Greece, Hawaii, Michigan, Namibia, Nebraska, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Saudi Arabia, and Zimbabwe. He has done applied work on the impacts of large dams, agricultural projects, protected areas, conservation, and refugee resettlement in ten African countries, Afghanistan, Canada, Guatemala, Peru, and the United States. His current grant-funded projects are in Botswana (National Geographic Society) and Namibia (U.S. Department of State). His most recent book is *People, Parks, and Power: The Ethics of Conservation-related Resettlement of Indigenous People* (with Maria Sapignoli, Springer, 2020).

MINUTES OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

February 18, 2020

Vice-President Gretchen Obenauf, substituting for President Evan Kay, began the meeting at 7:33 pm. Alex Kurota and Elsa Delgado-Kurota introduced themselves as new members. Doug Lutz (owner of the Hibben House) and Dennis Lutz were among the visitors. Tonight Jo Lynne Fenger brought the cookies. Ann and Cindy Carson bring the juice drinks each month.

Minutes: As there were no additions or corrections, the minutes of the January meeting stand approved as published.

REPORTS

Vice Presidents – Gretchen Obenauf had nothing new to report except that next month’s speaker, Robert Hitchcock, was in the audience.

Treasurer – Tom Obenauf presented the proposed budget for 2020, which had been published in the February Newsletter. Helen Crotty moved to approve the budget and Jo Lynne Fenger seconded. The budget was unanimously approved by the membership.

Laboratory – Karen Armstrong: The laboratory crew is now working on a UNM Office of Contract Archaeology collection from 1978. They work at the Hibben Center on Wednesday mornings. While there is a regular crew, new volunteers are always welcome.

Rock Art – Carol Chamberland: The crew is working on one of its winter sites. Several trips have been cancelled due to weather, but they went out today to monitor the condition of a previous site.

Field Trips – Pat Harris has a lot of trips planned for this next year. The second field trip of the year will be a tour of a petroglyph panel and Mesa Pueblo at Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge, Saturday, March 14; sign up in the lobby tonight. [For a summary of upcoming field trip news, see the article on page 4.]

Pottery Southwest: Hayward Franklin announced that the Winter 2020 issue should be ready by the end of the month. You can find the free online publication at potterysouthwest.unm.edu or search “Pottery Southwest Journal”.

Seminars – Carol Chamberland: The seminars are on hold. The Yucca Sandal workshop with Mary Weahkee will be rescheduled.

Membership – Mary Raje: Those who have not renewed their membership are in a grace period (January–March). Thanks to members who have already renewed. Membership forms are available on the welcome table or on the website. Membership forms can be given to the Treasurer at the meeting or mailed to the address on the form. Although students don’t pay dues, they need to submit a form annually with a picture of their current student ID or class schedule to info@abquarchaeology.org.

Mary also presented the finished version of our new tri-fold brochure to the membership. A copy was projected and paper copies were passed around. The membership thanked Mary for all her hard work on the brochure.

NEW BUSINESS

Carol Chamberland, Saturday Seminars chair, announced that Dr. Carla Sinopoli, Director of the Maxwell Museum and our host for the Saturday seminars at the Hibben Center, has asked if AAS might be interested in sponsoring a scholarship or scholarships for the Maxwell's summer anthropology-archaeology camp. The board voted in its January meeting to sponsor three scholarships, and to "pass the hat" at a meeting to collect towards an additional scholarship. [The collection raised enough to sponsor another scholarship and a half!]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ann Braswell announced that there would be an Anthropology Day lecture hosted by the Maxwell Museum at the Hibben Center by Suzanne Oakdale on February 20. The lecture, "Objects of Attraction: Understanding Material Goods in Indigenous Amazonian Cosmologies," supports "Heartbreak: A Love Letter to the Lost National Museum of Brazil" exhibition opening March 6 at the Maxwell.

Helen Crotty announced that the Friends of Coronado will sponsor an art auction at the Prairie Star Restaurant in Bernalillo on March 21. Consignments and donations of New-Mexico-made art objects from all cultures are being accepted. Pat Harris added that buyers are also needed!

SPEAKER

Gretchen Obenauf introduced Bruce B. Huckell, faculty member at the University of New Mexico, who spoke about the Allen technocomplex, a distinctive late Paleoindian projectile point type found in scattered New Mexico sites and recently at White Sands National Park in association with the remains of bison teeth. Dr. Huckell provided the following synopsis of his presentation.

Respectfully submitted by Gretchen Obenauf, Acting Secretary

A NEW ANGLE ON THE LATE PALEOINDIAN: THE ALLEN COMPLEX IN NEW MEXICO

By Bruce B. Huckell

Over the past decade it has become clear that New Mexico was home to the Late Paleoindian Allen technocomplex. Initially recognized in the late 1920s–1930s as one variety of "Yuma" point, further work in the 1950s applied the names "Jimmy Allen" and "Angostura" to this distinctive point. In the 1960s, the "Frederick" type was defined at the Hell Gap site in Wyoming. All of these share a distinctive pattern of flake scars that were removed at an oblique angle relative to the long axis to the point. Both stratigraphic and radiocarbon dating suggest that they date to approximately the 8000–9000 radiocarbon years BP time frame. At the Hell Gap site, they were recovered from a stratigraphic level above the Cody complex, placing these parallel oblique points at the end of a long sequence of Paleoindian technocomplexes, each marked by a distinctive type of projectile point. I prefer to use the term "Allen" to distinguish these points.

Prior to 2010, little notice was taken of Allen points in New Mexico; it was generally believed that the Cody complex represented the last Paleoindian group in the state prior to the appearance of the Oshara Tradition and other Archaic complexes. However, in the past ten years a concerted effort to find them has resulted in the recording of over a dozen Allen points (including preforms that were never completed). Most of them come from counties along the Rio Grande Rift Valley, and have been recovered from environments ranging from the Chihuahuan desert scrub to high elevation grasslands and forests in the Jemez Mountains.

Detailed examination of these points has shown that all exhibit the same basic manufacturing approach. This includes the sequential removal of flakes at an oblique angle, with each flake detached at a regular spacing interval from the previous one. The result is a pattern of scars at an oblique angle that runs from low on the left side of the point to high on the right side. Typically flakes are removed in a base-to-tip sequence on the left side and a tip-to-base sequence on the right. Such consistency probably reflects a technological practice that was widely shared over a large geographic area as well as being passed down to novices over time.

In addition to the isolated points, an Allen site was discovered in White Sands National Park in 2012. This small (50 m by 50 m) site was positioned in an interdunal trough bordered by longitudinal dunes on the north and south. At the request of the National Park Service we conducted surface mapping and collection in March and May of 2016, along with the excavation of a few small (.50 m by .50 m) test pits. These investigations produced three Allen points, one whole and two fragmentary, along with five flake tools, 40 waste flakes, and 100 pieces of tooth enamel. The tooth enamel fragments closely match enamel fragments from weathered modern bison teeth; their quantities suggest that probably no more than one bison is represented. The three projectile points are also consistent with this scenario. The absence of bone is likely due to the repeated wetting and dissolution of gypsum, which in turn precipitates within the bone as it dries, promoting repeated fracturing over millennia.

Trying to reconstruct the lifeways of the people who made and used Allen points is challenging from such a small sample. However, by linking the find locations of points with the locations of the lithic material sources from which those points were made, some estimate of the scale of their movements across central New Mexico can be made. One material source, the so-called Socorro jasper, has shown up 220 km north of the source in the Valles Caldera and 150 km to the southeast of the source in White Sands National Park. Similarly, obsidian from the Cerro del Medio source in the Caldera was represented by a pair of Allen bases found in the Estancia Basin 180 km to the southeast. Such distances suggest that Allen hunter-gatherers were as highly mobile as their other Paleoindian predecessors.

Finally, this research also seems to support a scenario proposed by Cynthia Irwin-Williams and C. Vance Haynes in 1970. This scenario hypothesizes the gradual withdrawal of late Paleoindian (“Plains-based Paleo-Indian cultures” in their terms) groups eastward toward the Southern Plains of eastern Colorado, Texas, and Oklahoma as other groups practicing a broad-spectrum foraging strategy exploiting plant seeds and small-medium game advanced into New Mexico from the west. It is likely that early Holocene environmental warming and drying drove this process, and as more arid conditions took hold, Allen groups may have followed bison eastward as their numbers in central New Mexico declined.

APRIL 25 FIELD TRIP TO SAN ILDEFONSO PUEBLO

The field trip for April will be a visit to San Ildefonso Pueblo with Brad Vierra as a follow-up to his presentation at the April 21 AAS meeting. Details are still being developed. Signup and payment of the \$10 fee will begin at the March meeting.

The March 14 field trip to the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge is full. Members who have not previously visited the site are welcome to put their names on the wait list. Contact field trips@abqarchaeology.org.

BOOK REVIEW

The Continuous Path: Pueblo Movement and the Archaeology of Becoming, edited by Samuel Duwe and Robert W. Preucel. Tucson: University of Arizona Press. 2019. Xiv+279 pp., 3 tables, 38 figures, 8 plates, bibliography, index. \$60.00 hardcover (ISBN 9780816539284), \$60.00 eBook (ISBN 9780816539925).

Reviewed by Thatcher A. Rogers

Movement, in the form of migration, represents a central research theme for the past half century of archaeological research in the prehispanic Southwest. At the Society for American Archaeology 82nd Annual Meeting in 2017, Samuel Duwe (Assistant Professor at the Department of Anthropology, University of Oklahoma) and Robert Preucel (Director of Heffner Museum of Anthropology and James Manning Professor of Anthropology at Brown University) sought to reframe the understanding and application of movement to interpretations of the prehispanic Puebloan Southwest. Specifically, they sought to introduce Pueblo historical and philosophical perspectives into Southwestern archaeological interpretations through extensive integration of Pueblo perspectives, authors, and discussants. This volume developed out of that session and during a follow-up Amerind Seminar workshop. Its individual papers span many Pueblo communities, with primary emphases on Western

Pueblo and Northern Rio Grande groups, and range across time from the prehispanic through contemporary historic.

The first part, entitled “On Becoming,” introduces the themes for the volume and includes six papers. “Introduction: Engaging with Pueblo Movement” by Robert W. Preucel and Samuel Duwe explores historical research trends in movement and collaborative research, and lays out the objectives of the volume. Introductory chapters often primarily exist as a list of summaries for succeeding chapters; however, this chapter is an excellent synthesis of relevant archaeological theory and application in the Southwest. “Movement as an Acoma Way of Life” by Damian Garcia and Kurt F. Anschuetz discusses the cultural significance and central role that movement holds in Acoma life. This chapter, while not archaeological, presents movement through both oral historical and ethnographic cases. “Movement Encased in Tradition and Stone: Hemish Migration, Land Use, and Identity” by Paul Tosa, Matthew J. Liebmann, T. J. Ferguson, and John R. Welch is divisible into two sections. The first half is the retelling of Jemez oral traditions regarding population movement, settlement, and exchange patterning up until the depopulation of Pecos Pueblo in 1838. The second half is an archaeological case study of obsidian sourcing as it relates to Jemez access to the Valles Caldera. “Anshe K’yan’a and Zuni Traditions of Movement” by Maren P. Hopkins, Octavius Seowtewa, Graydon Lennis Berlin, Jacob Campbell, Chip Colwell, and T. J. Ferguson focuses on the relationship between Zuni tribal members and Bear Springs, an area within Fort Wingate Depot Activity in northwestern New Mexico. This chapter explores Zuni use of that landscape through exploration of trails, shrine complexes, and oral traditions and emphasizes the continued importance of the location to Zuni cultural traditions even with restricted physical access. “Tewa Origins and Middle Places” by Samuel Duwe and Patrick J. Cruz and “To and From Hopi: Negotiating Identity Through Migration, Coalescence, and Closure at the Homol’ovi Settlement Cluster” by Samantha G. Fladd, Claire S. Barker, E. Charles Adams, Dwight C. Honyouti, and Saul L. Hedquist are the most archaeological case studies in the volume. Duwe and Cruz investigate the development of Tewa identity and language in the Northern Rio Grande by first explaining the different models proposed by archaeologists, proposing their alternative, and providing a descriptive summary of Posi’owingeh as representing the location where the Summer and Winter People of Tewa oral tradition came together. Fladd and colleagues synthesize nearly twenty years of University of Arizona research at the Homol’ovi Settlement Cluster, employing proxies such as ash-filled and burned contexts, corrugated pottery, and architectural remodeling to identify movement both to and within the cluster over time.

The second part, entitled “Always Becoming,” includes five papers. “Seeking Strength and Protection: Tewa Mobility During the Pueblo Revolt Period” by Joseph Aguilar and Robert W. Preucel discusses the Pueblo Revolt and Diego de Vargas’ reconquest of New Mexico, with a focus on communities atop Tunyo, the north sacred mesa of San Ildefonso Pueblo. Aguilar and Preucel begin by correcting the narrative of a “peaceful reconquest,” before describing Tewa resistance to the Spanish by Tewa groups moving to Tunyo and erecting defensive structures. The authors rephrase this narrative by emphasizing the social, in addition to the geologic, reasons for why Tewa communities moved atop Tunyo; namely, the spiritual, ancestral relationships Tewa individuals felt to that landscape. As a result, Aguilar and Preucel demonstrate the need for archaeologists to incorporate multiple approaches and perspectives in understanding movement. “Apache, Tiwa, and Back Again: Ethnic Shifting in the American Southwest” by Severin Fowles and B. Sunday Eiselt explores the relationship between inhabitants of Taos and Picuris Pueblos and the semi-mobile Jicarilla Apache and argues that ethnic identity between these groups commonly was flexible, with Pueblo individuals becoming Apache and vice versa. “Moving Ideas, Staying at Home: Change and Continuity in Mid-Eighteenth-Century Tewa Pottery” by Bruce Bernstein, Erik Fender, and Russell Sanchez focuses on the introduction and adoption of wheat by Tewa communities during times when movement was restricted by Spanish and Mexican governance. “Toward the Center: Movement and Becoming at the Pueblo of Pojoaque” by Samuel Villarreal Catanach and Mark R. Agostini attempts to understand the emergence of a new, primarily Hispanic civic-based identity termed *vecino* at the Pueblo of Pojoaque. “Getting Accustomed to the Light” by Joseph H. Suina engages with the issues that historically have confronted and continue to confront Pueblo communities through an autobiographical narrative for the introduction of electricity to Cochiti Pueblo. Many modern edited volumes contain discussion pieces that simply summarize contributed papers; however, the commentary piece by Paul Tosa and Octavius Seowtewa, entitled “Pueblo Perspectives on Movement and Becoming”, provides substantive, critical comments on the volume and Southwestern archaeology as a whole.

The papers in *The Continuous Path* meander in geographic focus and methodology, sharing a theoretical emphasis on movement of people in the past and philosophical movement. Chapters are, as in many edited volumes, disjointed and are of differing quality and value to archaeologists as such. Nevertheless, several key chapters, notably pieces by Garcia and Anscheutz, Duwe and Cruz, Aguilar and Preucel, and Suina demonstrate the intellectual value of this volume and its objectives to a variety of readerships. *The Continuous Path* represents more than the sum of its parts and its publication coincides with a resurgent interest in the Northern Rio Grande region and meaningful and comprehensive integration of Indigenous perspectives, practices, and people in research agendas in the Southwest. This volume enhances our understanding of the prehispanic and historical processes visible in the archaeological record. Southwestern anthropologists and historians will find this volume insightful, interesting, and applicable to their research agendas. Lastly, Indigenous communities likely will identify commonalities with the experiences, persistence, and cultural significances of movement presented in this volume as well as the contribution of telling Pueblo history with Pueblo perspectives.

ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTHWEST OPPOSES FED'S PREFERRED PLAN FOR CHACO-AREA OIL-GAS LEASING THAT ELIMINATES 10-MILE PROTECTION ZONE

Preservation Archaeologist and Chaco Scholar Paul F. Reed issued the following statement March 2 on behalf of Archaeology Southwest: "We are very disappointed in the BLM and BIA's Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement, released in draft form today. The All Pueblo Council of Governors, Archaeology Southwest, and many other groups have strongly encouraged the Agencies to protect Chaco Culture National Historical Park by not allowing additional oil-gas leasing within the 10-mile Chaco Protection Zone. Instead, the Trump Administration's preferred alternative in this plan envisions *opening the entire Chaco Protection Zone to leasing*, including lands that directly border the National Park. Even where protections are proposed for Chaco, they will do little to protect the Park, other nearby Chacoan cultural resources, and the Native people who live on the landscape surrounding the Park.

"For example, the Administration suggests that it might close Federal lands within 4 miles of the Park to leasing, but there are few Federal lands in this area, as the vast majority of Federal lands within Chaco Protection Zone are located between 5 and 10 miles out. It is this zone specifically – roughly 5 to 10 miles from the Park – that oil companies are currently targeting for intensive drilling."

FRIENDS OF CORONADO HISTORIC SITE TO HOLD ART AUCTION MARCH 21

Quality New Mexico art – old and new, all cultures and genres – will be auctioned March 21 at the Prairie Star Restaurant in Bernalillo, New Mexico at the third annual fundraiser art auction sponsored by the Friends of Coronado Historic Site. AAS members thinking of downsizing might consider consigning or donating paintings, pottery, jewelry, or other art to the auction, with consigners paying a 15 percent fee if the object is sold. Owners and artists can bring articles to the Coronado Historic Site, Highway 550, Bernalillo from March 14 to 19 between 10 am and 4 pm. Buyers can preview the objects on offer at the Prairie Star Restaurant beginning at 10 am March 21. The auction begins at 1 pm. There is a 10 percent buyer's fee. Cards with this information will be at the welcome table in the lobby at the March AAS meeting.

CALENDAR CHECK

Lectures

"Pueblo Identity and the People of Kuaua Pueblo" by Matthew Barbour, 6:30 pm Tuesday, March 10 at Sandia Ranger Station, Tijeras. Friends of Tijeras Pueblo Lecture Series, \$5 donation requested from non-members.

“Ancient Sites and Ancient Stories 2020,” a 10-lecture series honoring The Archaeological Conservancy presented by Southwest Seminars on Monday nights March 16 through May 18 at Hotel Santa Fe and Santa Fe Women’s Club. Speakers include John Ware, Paul Reed, Wolky Toll, Joseph Suina, William Doell, Stephen Lekson, and Bruce Bernstein. \$15 at the door or \$120 for the series. For details, contact Southwest Seminars at 505-466-2775.

Events

New Mexico Art Auction at Prairie Star Restaurant, Highway 550 in Bernalillo on Saturday, March 21. Preview opens at 10 am, auction at 1 pm. Benefits Friends of Coronado Historic Site. [See details above.]

Archaeology Site Steward Training for Santa Fe Forest. Full- day training session Saturday, March 21 for eligible site steward applicants who wish to become a certified steward responsible for an assigned site within the Forest. Visit the “Become a Site Steward” page on the Santa Fe National Forest Site Stewards website (sfnsitestewards.org/becomeasteward.php) to complete an application and review the program’s criteria.

Conferences

Archeological Society of New Mexico Annual Meeting “Taos at the Crossroads of Trade” May 8–10 at the Sagebrush Inn, Taos. Visit the TAS website taosarch.org for full details or to register online or download a registration form. Reduced rates for registration or hotel rooms end April 15.

Pecos Conference 2020 August 6–9 in Mancos, Colorado. Registration opens in April.

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

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

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2020

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- ☐ Greeters (name tags & guest signup at meetings);
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☐ 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);
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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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