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*Newsletter*

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**VIRTUAL MEETING MAY 26**

*For Members Only*

**THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF ROCK ART**

**Lawrence L. Loendorf**

**7:30 pm Tuesday, May 19, 2020**

*Via Zoom*

*At Your Computer or Smart Phone*

Rock art sites are more complex than the images on the rocks. Archaeologists have recognized the bedrock metates and mortar holes found at rock art sites, but they often overlook the stone shrines, the medicinal plants, and, importantly, the tools used to make the rock images that are frequently found on the surface near a rock art panel. The site setting is an especially significant component of a rock art site, with auditory, directional, and other traits that can be essential in understanding the images. Medicinal plants and local animals can also be important.

In a recent rock art site recording project in the Carlsbad, New Mexico region, Sacred Sites Research, Inc. worked with Versar, Inc. to record 22 rock art sites. The project – supported by the Permian Basin agreement between the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office, the Carlsbad Bureau of Land Management, and energy production companies – taught us the importance of recording the whole site and not just the rock art. The PowerPoint presentation, delivered via Zoom, will use examples from this project and other recent rock art recording projects at Fort Bliss, Texas, and New Mexico, as well as examples from sites recorded in the past decade. Thanks to Bureau of Land Management Archeologists Martin Stein and Elia Perez of the Carlsbad Office for recognizing the importance of rock art sites to the overall archaeological record.

Larry Loendorf is an archaeologist who received BA and MA degrees from the University of Montana and a PhD from the University of Missouri, Columbia. He taught anthropology and archaeology at the University of North Dakota for 21 years and then at New Mexico State University for 11 years before retiring from university teaching and research. He has done extensive rock art recording under contract with the US Army in Colorado and more recently at Fort Bliss, Texas and New Mexico. He currently directs Sacred Sites Research, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit company that he founded with his wife, Paula. A primary goal of the company is to protect rock art sites across the American West.

*A day or so prior to the meeting an email message will be sent to members with a URL for the Zoom site. The AAS Board has met via Zoom, and it was easy to access. There will also be a practice session from 7:30 to 8.00 on Sunday May 24, for those who have not tried Zoom yet or in any case to make sure everyone can connect. There will be no guest lecture at the practice meeting – it is a technical support meeting. A message with URL for this meeting will be sent on Saturday, May 23.*

## REPORTS

**Treasurer's Report – Tom Obenauf:** The Albuquerque Museum has notified us that they are sending us refunds for the March, April and May auditorium rentals, but the City is operating with limited staff so they're behind in processing those. The Board is considering a donation to The Archaeological Conservancy for assuming stewardship of the Treasure Hill site, a Classic Mimbres Phase site south of Silver City.

[Ed. note: For the past several years, the Board has donated funds from maturing CDs to worthy archaeological causes, and in particular to The Archaeological Conservancy for purchase of archaeological sites in New Mexico that become available. Treasure Hill is one such site. Following is the Conservancy description:]

Located just south of Silver City, Treasure Hill is the best preserved Classic Mimbres Phase site (ca A.D. 1000-1150) in southwestern New Mexico. The Mimbres, a subset of the Mogollon culture, are most well known for their striking black-on-white pottery with images of animals, people, and intricate geometric designs. Sadly, many of the sites in the region were destroyed over the last century due to heavy commercial looting.

In 1919 Burt and Hattie Cosgrove, early pioneers in Southwestern avocational archaeology, bought two acres of land that contained the heart of Treasure Hill because they were concerned about the widespread looting and site destruction taking place in Grant County. They excavated parts of the site meticulously – taking notes, taking pictures, and creating drawings of the bowls they uncovered. In 1962, the Cosgroves transferred the property to Dr. Laverne Herrington with the understanding that she would preserve and protect the site. She purchased an additional 13 acres to expand the preserve to 15 acres. Dr. Herrington approached the Conservancy to ask us to assume future stewardship of the site. (Letter to TAC members, March 20, 2020.)

**Membership – Mary Raje:** Two more members renewed, bringing our total to 162, counting all family members but not institutions (four libraries subscribe to our Newsletter).

The 2020 Membership Directory is now ready for distribution. It will be sent electronically to all members for whom we have email addresses. Those who are unable to print their own copy may contact Mary at 505-980-0291 or raje39@icloud.com and she will mail a copy.

## BOOK REVIEW

***Pruning the Jornada Branch Mogollon: Changing Perspectives on the Prehistory of Southeastern New Mexico*** by Regge N. Wiseman. Albuquerque: Second Books. 2019. Viii+157 pp., 9 tables, 21 figures, bibliography. \$21.50 paperback (ISBN 9781098931476).

Reviewed by Thatcher A. Rogers

Born and raised in Roswell, Regge N. Wiseman has worked, – or, more recently, volunteered – since 1971 for the Office of Archaeological Studies of the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs. During that time, he has surveyed, documented, and excavated or analyzed artifacts from more archaeological sites in eastern and southeastern New Mexico than most can claim. Wiseman's extensive experience in the region and research interests spanning from the Archaic through the Protohistoric periods form the basis for this volume. *Pruning the Jornada Branch Mogollon* is Wiseman's response for southeastern New Mexico to a dilemma found throughout the Southwest: what are archaeological cultures, how and where do we recognize differences within them, and when should archaeologists reevaluate received wisdom?

The book is organized differently than most volumes, with each chapter exploring a central topic as it pertains to the six study areas of the Jornada Mogollon (El Paso, Gran Quivira/Salinas, Sierra Blanca, Middle Pecos, Roswell Oasis, and the Eastern Trans-Pecos). Some of these study areas are further subdivided to better demonstrate the variability encountered within them. The first chapter is, in my opinion, the most important: a detailed discussion

of the culture history and research in each of the study areas. The fragmentary nature of cultural resource management archaeology means that few archaeologists are well-versed in regional nuances. This chapter provides crucial data – and references – to resolve that problem in an accessible format. The following three chapters synthesize architectural, ceramic, and subsistence data for the study areas. It is through these three chapters that the differences between study areas are identified explicitly. Of the three, the architectural chapter is the most surprising, due to Wiseman’s highlighting of how inhabitants in each of the study areas constructed their residential and communal structures in distinctive ways over time. The final chapter summarizes the key points identified in the chapter synopses and contextualizes what they suggest about the past inhabitants of southeastern New Mexico. Wiseman proposes pruning back what “Jornada Mogollon” means and suggests renaming each of the study areas based on the material variability he identifies within them. His proposed reclassification will likely stir debate among archaeologists.

*Pruning the Jornada Branch Mogollon* shares many attributes and objectives with an indispensable Jornada Mogollon volume, Jane Holden Kelley’s (1984) *Archaeology of the Sierra Blanca*. Neither volume was published until nearly two decades after it was written (Kelley wrote her dissertation in 1966; Wiseman started writing his volume in the early 2000s with minor edits up to 2016) with the result that many of their interpretations have been reinforced, or superseded, by recent research. Both were attempts to describe, define, and categorize archaeological data for a region in desperate need of a synthetic overview. While Wiseman does not dedicate many pages to some topics currently of interest to researchers (for example: rituality, movement of people, social complexity), he provides the necessary background to begin considering what roles these topics may have had in any of his study areas. This volume is a compact, yet detailed, overview of the Jornada Mogollon for archaeologists operating in south-central and southeastern New Mexico into west Texas, or for those just interested in what archaeology has been done there.

**ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
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To contact officers or committee chairs, or to change mailing or email address, email [info@abqarchaeology.org](mailto:info@abqarchaeology.org) or consult Membership Directory. Current members can sign up for field trips at meetings or by emailing [trips@abqarchaeology.org](mailto:trips@abqarchaeology.org).

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