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Newsletter

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PLACING POTTERY MOUND

Cassandra Smith

7:30 PM, Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Albuquerque Museum of Art and History
2000 Mountain Road NW

Located in north-central New Mexico, Pottery Mound is a site of continuing significance in the Puebloan cultural landscape. It is one of several Ancestral Pueblo villages occupied during the Pueblo IV period (1300-1540 CE) and known to feature paintings upon the walls of ritually significant rooms identified as kivas. Like other places in the world that have been subject to various archaeological processes – places with deep histories, places no longer actively occupied – Pottery Mound is often described in academic literature in terms that situate it in the distant past, as a ruin. However, like all archaeological sites, Pottery Mound does not exist *singularly* as an object of scholarly inquiry. It exists otherwise as well. In this paper, I describe Pottery Mound as a place in the world – geographically, historically, culturally, archaeologically, and sensorially. I consider Pottery Mound expansively – as a place that lives and speaks and continues to act, powerfully, within Puebloan ontological and epistemological frameworks.

Cassandra Smith is a PhD candidate in the Department of Art History at the University of Illinois at Chicago and a Lecturer in the Department of Art History, Theory, and Criticism at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Cassandra's dissertation is "Kiva Murals at Pottery Mound: A Consideration of a Trans-temporal Performativity in a Puebloan Life World," and her research focuses broadly upon the intersection of Native American art, performance studies, and indigenous studies. Cassandra co-chaired a session on the intersectionality of indigeneity and performance and new media art at the 2015 Native American Art Studies Association Conference; she co-organized the 2017 "This Land/That Land Symposium: The Politics of Land Sovereignty and Environmental Racism" with Gallery 400 and the UIC Native American Support Program; and she organized "Belongings: A Critical Forum on Museum Studies" at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2019. Cassandra is the faculty advisor for the Indigenous@SAIC student group, and she served as a board member of the First Nations Film and Video Festival. She was a recipient of a 2016 UIC Provost's Award and holds a BFA in Studio Arts from the University of Tulsa, and a Certificate of Museum Studies, MFA in Studio Arts, and MA in Art History from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Reminder: The *June* AAS meeting will be held Tuesday, June 25, one week later than usual.

MINUTES OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

April 16, 2019

President Evan Kay began the meeting at 7:31 pm. No new members, and no visitors introduced themselves. The evening's treats were brought by Connie Flores.

Minutes of the March meeting were approved with the following correction: Earlene Shroyer's name was misspelled.

REPORTS

Vice President Gretchen Obenauf: She and Second Vice President Ann Braswell have speakers for the next several meetings, but they are looking for a speaker for July.

Treasurer – Tom Obenauf has filed the federal and state tax exemption certificates with the State Attorney General. He thanked John Guth for assisting.

Membership – Mary Raje: At the beginning of April, 149 members were enrolled in AAS. A total of 57 individuals have not renewed their membership, including 10 students, who actually remain members as long as they are in school. Assuming that these 10 members remain in school, our membership is 159. All students were sent an email at the end of March requesting that they report any changes in their mailing address and student status. One student replied, with no changes. Mary indicated that the next task will be to update the Membership Directory.

Rock Art – Carol Chamberland: Work continues on the large site that they have been working on for a couple of years. They are wary of snakes, but the more recent trouble has been with ants.

Field Trips – Pat Harris: There will be a field trip on Saturday May 4 to Las Ventanas/Candelaria Pueblo in El Malpais National Monument. Membership is a requirement to participate. It will be a two-part hike, the first part easy and the second moderately strenuous, and participants can sign up for one or both. A field trip to Nogales Canyon is scheduled for October, and a couple of other possibilities for trips were mentioned.

Seminars – Carol Chamberland: Mollie Toll will lead a seminar on indigenous plants June 22, with the signup at next month's meeting.

Pottery Southwest – Gretchen Obenauf: The latest issue was published a month ago and they are working on the next issue. She invited people to submit items of one or two paragraphs or longer.

Webmaster – Evan Kay is continuing to work on making it possible for people to pay membership online and is looking into assistance for nonprofits.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joan Mathien read a tribute to AAS member Homer Milford, who recently passed away.

Gretchen Obenauf reminded members that registration for the Archaeological Society of New Mexico annual meeting to be held April 26-28 is still open.

She also announced a lecture series occurring in Santa Fe, and that AAS member David Ryan has coauthored a new edition of *60 Hikes Within 60 Miles*. Flyers for the lecture series and copies of the book for purchase will be available in the foyer after the meeting.

SPEAKER

Gretchen introduced the evening's speaker, Karl Laumbach, an archaeologist with Human Systems Research in Las Cruces, who spoke about the results of the work on the Cañada Alamosa Project. Laumbach provided the following synopsis of his presentation.

Respectfully submitted by Susan King.

Cañada Alamosa 2019: What's Happening Now

By Karl Laumbach

Cañada Alamosa is located on the Rio Alamosa in extreme southwestern Socorro County. The Cañada Alamosa Project began in 1999, and 2011 was the last season of extensive excavation. Four sites were tested, and the data reflect a 4000-year sequence beginning with 4000-year-old corn and continuing through the pithouse to pueblo continuum and ending with the Apache occupation ca. AD 1450–1880. The project also conducted 21 oral histories from individuals with deep roots in the area's history.

The project was sponsored by Dennis and Trudy O'Toole, who purchased the ranch in 1998 and formed a non-profit corporation that teamed with Human Systems Research (also a non-profit). Funding has come from private sources and includes grants from the Earthwatch Institute, New Mexico Historic Preservation Division, and the New Mexico Archaeological Council. Field work was accomplished with volunteers from Earthwatch Institute and University of Colorado at Boulder students led by Dr. Steve Lekson.

The project yielded almost 500,000 artifacts and samples. Carefully cataloged, 330 of the 400 office boxes of material have been curated at the Hibben Center, University of New Mexico. Toni Laumbach is currently writing up the ceramic analysis after reviewing the 160,000 sherds.

Development of the four site maps for use on a Geographical Information System is now complete. The site maps shown displayed different types of data. Most of the maps dealt with distributions of specific faunal remains from the analysis of over 25,000 animal bones recovered. Examples included distribution of bison, antelope, jack rabbit and cottontail remains. The “suburbs” of the Victorio Site had noticeably few rabbit bones, perhaps signaling that the occupants joined the site during the Great Drought of the late 1200s.

The project is currently analyzing DNA of dog and turkey remains. The purpose is to determine if the migrants from the Four Corners who occupied Pinnacle Ruin brought new DNA strains of dogs and turkeys. A similar study comparing dog and turkey DNA from the Four Corners with remains from the Upper Rio Grande area met with some success, as the results supported an influx of people from the Four Corners into the Upper Rio Grande in the late 1200s. Just as the case in the Upper Rio Grande, there are only a few turkeys in the Canada Alamosa sites until Pinnacle is occupied in the mid-1200s.

Bison bone found on the Victorio Site were subjected to a strontium isotope analysis to determine their origin. Strontium is absorbed by plants that are then consumed by animals. Strontium levels vary from area to area and differences between two areas are significant at the 1000th percentile. It has long been thought that bison were native to the nearby Plains of San Agustin, but direct evidence had not previously been developed. An antelope skull from near the Very Large Array was obtained through the cooperation of the New Mexico Game and Fish Department. Additional bison remains were obtained from Techado Spring Pueblo located 100 miles away on the other side of the Plains of San Agustin and north of Quemado. Both bison assemblages and the antelope skull were analyzed by Dr. Ashley Sharpe of the Smithsonian Institution, and all three were found to have lived on the Plains of San Agustin, thereby supporting the hypothesis that the area once supported a herd of bison.

Apache artifacts were found when the Victorio site was metal-detected by Chris Adams, archaeologist of the Gila National Forest. Toni Laumbach analyzed the metal artifacts, including cartridges, buttons, gun parts, cut metal fragments and a variety of interesting home-made metal tools, including a butcher knife and an awl made from half of a pair of scissors. Although most artifacts attributed to the Apache are from the mid-late 1800s, one metal artifact was identified as a “hawk bell” of a style last made ca. 1630 that was brought to the New World by early Spanish explorers as a trade item. Karl believes that this hawk bell may have been the result of a 1626 interaction between the Apache leader Captain Sanaba

and Fray Alonzo Benavides at Senecu, the southernmost Piro pueblo. Other early artifacts attributed to the Apache are sherds of San Lazaro Polychrome and Matsaki Polychrome, as both types date to the early protohistoric period.

Another aspect is the search for the origins of San Marcial Black-on-white, a Basketmaker III/ Pueblo I whiteware that was found in quantity in Cañada Alamosa pithouses. Karl and Toni are working with Jeff Ferguson and Mary Ownby to obtain geological, elemental, and petrographic data that will help them pinpoint the production area for this little-understood but broadly-distributed ceramic type.

The project has acquired 64 radiocarbon dates. Myles Miller has conducted a “Bayesian” statistical analysis of these dates, using what is known about their stratigraphic and spatial contexts to inform the statistical process. The resulting data show an occupational gap (ca. AD 900–1000) between the Late Pithouse period and the Mimbres Phase and another occupational gap of perhaps 10–30 years between the Magdalena Phase occupation and the Glaze occupation on Pinnacle Ruin. More importantly the analysis strongly supports the contention that the Magdalena Phase (the Four Corners migrants) and the local Tularosa Phase were contemporary between AD 1250 and 1280.

The presentation concluded with a description of the work of Dr. Curtis Monger, soil scientist, who has developed a 4000-year sequence of prehistoric climate change from layers of soils exposed in a terrace cut. The terrace began to form at the end of the very dry Altithermal, ca. 4000 BP, and continued to form in fits and starts until ca. 1450 when the modern surface was stabilized by grass. Two other periods of stabilization, one ca. 3000–2500 years ago and then another ca. 2000–1800 years ago were documented. The intervening years were marked by episodes of drought and erosion that led to increased terrace building. Plants leave carbon isotopes in the soil and by sampling carbon isotopes from the terrace profile, Monger had been able to trace changes in plant cover from shrubs to grasses and back again to shrubs as the drought-stricken terrace eroded and then was stabilized with grass only to be again be subject to drought and more erosion which again increased the shrub community.

SEMINAR SERIES CONTINUES WITH ETHNOBOTANY WORKSHOP JUNE 22

Current AAS members may sign up at the May meeting for the next seminar in the series, which will be held 9 to 12 at the Hibben Center on the UNM campus. It will be led by ethnobotanist Mollie Toll, who provided the following abstract and biography.

We will review the special applicability of archaeobotanical data to research questions here in the Southwest, with particular attention to the nature and limitations of evidence. We will take a look at important useful plants, including the ones that occur over and over again in archaeological sites, and some of the curious oddballs. We’ll think about why some plants, documented securely in the ethnographic literature as pillars of the traditional plant repertoire, occur rarely in archaeological contexts. We’ll go over how plant remains are retrieved archaeologically, and how those methods have affected data collection over time. Botanical remains and artifacts will be available to examine up close. We will think about the development of New Mexico’s complex regional cuisine over twenty centuries, and how the taste of food has been influenced by domesticated plants arriving from Mexico 3000 years ago, and by a new array arriving from the Mediterranean by way of Mexico in the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries.

Mollie S. Toll brings a variety of different experiences to bear on these ideas, including anthropological and archaeological academic perspectives (BA University of Chicago, MA Loyola University) and plant ecology (MS University of New Mexico). Real archaeobotanical training took place as a collaborative experience with colleagues (Vorsila Bohrer, Karen Adams, Pam McBride) over several decades of examining and reporting on assemblages from Paleoindian to historic contexts. Special interests include

prehistoric farming and water control issues (experimental fields in Chaco Canyon and in several school gardens) and food history. A delight in communicating cross-disciplinary ideas has led to a decade in public schools, as a science coach and proponent of school gardens, and current stint as a museum educator.

AAS FIELD TRIP NEWS

Field Trip Chair/Coordinator Pat Harris reports that we have had four field trips so far in 2019, with the month of April off because of the Society for American Archaeology and Archaeological Society of New Mexico Annual Meetings. A trip to the Las Ventanas/Candelaria Pueblo area of El Malpais National Monument was held May 4.

Pat suggests that members consider a self-guided tour of the Jemez Historic Site, either for the grand opening of the new Visitor Center exhibit opening 11 to noon on May 18 or at some other time.

Meanwhile, Pat is working on a field trip idea of a cooler nature for the hot summer and has plans for the Mortendad Cavates in September and Nogales/Rattlesnake Canyon in October. A November field trip to the Cerro Indio rock art site is in the works, pending the granting of permission by the private landowners.

BOOK REVIEW

New Perspectives on Mimbres Archaeology: Three Millennia of Human Occupation in the North American Southwest, edited by Barbara J. Roth, Patricia A. Gilman, and Roger Anyon. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2018, 288 pp. \$65 hardcover (ISBN 980816538560) or Ebook (ISBN 989816539079).

Reviewed by Mathew J. Barbour

Most believe the archaeology of the Mimbres Region was largely destroyed by pot hunters in search of the iconic black-on-white pottery during the early twentieth century. This belief is not without merit. Most Mimbres archaeological sites have been looted. However, a great deal of academic research continues to be conducted in the area, and our knowledge of the region has expanded greatly since the turn of the twenty-first century.

New Perspectives on Mimbres Archaeology, explores the Mimbres Region from the Middle Archaic through Post Classic Periods (ca. 4000 BC to AD 1400). The book developed out of a symposium at the 2014 Society of American Archaeology Annual Meeting which celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Mimbres Foundation and its pioneering work in and around the Mimbres Valley. It consists of thirteen papers including: “First Farmers of the Mimbres Region” by Christopher A. Turnbow, John R. Roney, and Robert J. Hard; “Changing Perspectives on Pithouse Period Occupations in the Mimbres Region” by Roger Anyon and Barbara J. Roth; “Making the Transition: Using New Data to Reassess the Mimbres Pithouse-to-Pueblo Period” by Jakob W. Sedig, Stephen H. Lekson, and Barbara J. Roth; “Mimbres Classic Period Architecture, Ceramics, and Religion: Maintaining Social Cohesion in the Face of Social Diversity” by Patricia A. Gilman, Darrell Creel, and Thomas E. Gruber; “Small Pueblo Sites of the Mimbres Classic Period: New Views and Interpretations” by Robert J. Stokes, Aaron R. Woods, and Elizabeth Toney; “Mimbres Pottery: New Perspectives on Production and Distribution” by Darrell Creel and Robert J. Speakman; “Mimbres Pottery Designs in their Social Contexts” by Michelle Hegmon, James R. McGrath, F. Michael O’Hara III, and Will G. Russell; “Variability in Mimbres Food and Food Procurement” by Karen Gust Schollmeyer, Michael W. Diehl, and Jonathan A. Sandor; “Continuity and Change in the Eastern Mimbres Area After AD 1130” by Karen Gust Schollmeyer, Margaret C. Nelson,

and Michelle Hegmon; “Continuity and Change in the Early Postclassic (AD 1130 to 1300) in the Mimbres Valley” by Kathryn Putsavage and Matthew Taliaferro; “Connectivity of Social Change in Mimbres and Points South” by Ben A. Nelson and Paul E. Minnis; “The Mimbres Foundation in the History of Nonprofit Archaeology” by William H. Doelle; and “Thoughts on Mimbres Archaeology” by Steven A. LeBlanc.

The book begins with a rather substantial introduction by the editors. This section gives a broad overview of the culture history of the Mimbres Region, prominent research questions and themes associated with the area, and a discussion of how the contributed papers in the book reflect back upon these broader archaeological topics. The result of this linkage is that *New Perspectives on Mimbres Archaeology* becomes more than the sum of its parts. The book is transformed from a collection of papers to a comprehensive overview of Mimbres Archaeology with the individual papers advancing and challenging previously held beliefs about the region.

The individual contributions are spectacular. Personal favorites for the reviewer included “First Farmers of the Mimbres Region” and “Variability in Mimbres Food and Food Procurement.” However, these choices are the result of my own topic bias. For those interested in architecture and pottery, both topics are also presented in great detail.

For example, “Making the Transition” is an excellent look at the Mangas phase of Mimbres culture, examining the change from pithouse to roomblock architecture. As clearly demonstrated, by Jakob Sedig, Stephen H. Lekson, and Barbara J. Roth, the transition occurred in multiple areas with the various communities initially experimenting with their own construction methods for above-ground rooms. In time, these site-specific adaptations would be replaced with the more uniform Mimbres stone architecture style that would emerge out of the Upper Gila River Valley. This is an important discussion that highlights themes of cultural diversity and cohesion that are prevalent throughout the book.

One potential shortfall of the collection is the absence of a direct discussion of mobile hunter and gatherer groups that occupied the region before, during, and after the fall of Mimbres culture(s). Certainly, these groups had a profound effect on their agriculturally-focused neighbors, but this impact remains largely ignored in the narrative. Likely this oversight was intentional, as it allowed for the researchers to provide a more focused narrative, but it is still noticeable.

While the Mimbres region may be among the areas of the American Southwest most heavily impacted by pot hunters, quality academic research is ongoing. *New Perspectives on Mimbres Archaeology* compiles the research of many of the greatest archaeologists working in the Mimbres Region to create a fairly comprehensive overview. Thus, this book has value to both the novice archaeological enthusiast and the veteran academic researcher. It is a must read for those interested in the Southwest Archaeology.

NEWS AND NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

Mixed Ruling Has Implications for Protecting Greater Chaco. A federal appeals court has ruled that U.S. land managers should have done more to consider the effects on water resources before approving a handful of oil and gas drilling permits in northwestern New Mexico. The court, in a decision released May 7, said the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) could have foreseen the collective impact of thousands of wells in the region and now must do a sufficient environmental analysis on several wells.

Environmental groups called the decision vindicating, saying they have long known that federal officials with the BLM were skirting legal obligations for environmental analyses. The BLM “has been approving drilling and fracking permits for years without ever having considered the cumulative impacts to people and the environment,” Kyle Tisdell, energy program director and attorney with the Western Environmental Law Center, said in a news release on the decision. “This is a huge win for Chaco.” Tisdell was referring to the Chaco Culture National

Historical Park in northwestern New Mexico – designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site – and the Greater Chaco region, an area outside the park that contains sites that are culturally sensitive to Native American people.

The ruling comes in a long-running dispute over hundreds of permits that have been issued in the San Juan Basin. Environmental groups and some Native Americans have voiced concerns about the effects of increased development on the vulnerable region. The groups claimed in their initial complaint filed in 2015 that the BLM had violated environmental and preservation laws in approving the permits.

A panel of the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed the preservation claims but ruled that land managers needed to do another environmental review for six of the permits. The decision is the latest step in stronger environmental protection for the Greater Chaco region. Federal legislation that was recently introduced would protect a 10-mile radius around the park from mineral extraction. The New Mexico State Land Office also issued a moratorium on leasing minerals from state trust land in the region.

U.S. Rep. Deb Haaland, D-N.M., who was a sponsor of the recent federal proposal, applauded the appeals court's decision, saying she hopes the legislation will take the next step to "permanently protect our sacred landscapes from being drilled out of existence."

Robert McEntyre, a spokesman for the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association, downplayed the decision, saying in an email *toThe New Mexican*, "Based on our understanding of the appellate court's decision, only 5 of the more than 300 permits challenged are affected." He also blasted the environmental groups' lawsuit. "The sole focus of this suit is to disrupt and end the largest and most successful part of New Mexico's economy," McEntyre wrote in the email, "a strategy that only hurts our public schools, communities and workers who rely on a strong oil and gas economy." <http://bit.ly/2Vbzg8> – *Santa Fe New Mexican* [Via *Southwest Archaeology Today*, a service of Archaeology Southwest.]

Homer Ernest Milford
June 16, 1938–April 5, 2019

AAS member Homer Milford died April 5 at the age of 80 from complications stemming from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Born near Osseo, Wisconsin, his family relocated to La Puebla, New Mexico when he was very young. After graduating from New Mexico Military Institute he attended University of New Mexico where he earned a BS in Biology and a Master's degree from the University of Idaho. In 1966, he returned to New Mexico to begin teaching Biology at the University of Albuquerque where he taught for 20 years. Following the closing of the University, he was the Environmental Coordinator for the Abandoned Mine Land Bureau in the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division. When he retired in 2003 he and his wife Deborah Garvey-Milford traveled extensively until his health declined. He is survived by his wife and four children.

He served on numerous civic committees in the 1970s and 80s. In his second term as President of the New Mexico Zoological Society, he appointed a committee which was successful in getting funding for The Museum of Natural History. He was also President of the Bosque Society when the Rio Grande Nature Center was built and one of the founders of the New Mexico Chapter of the Nature Conservancy.

Homer was passionate about Early Spanish New World and the mining history of New Mexico. He was author or co-author on a number of technical reports, papers and books related to these subjects. He was also an avid collector of related documents. His collections have been donated to the University of New Mexico and to the Cerrillos Hills State Park, where they will be made available to future students of New Mexico history. Memorial services were held April 17.

CALENDAR CHECK

Exhibition Openings

Jemez Historic Site Visitor Center Core Exhibit Grand Opening 11 am to 12 pm, Saturday, May 18. Jemez Historic Site 18160 Hwy 4, Jemez Springs, NM. Call 575-829-3530 for more information.

Conferences

Tularosa Basin Conference May 17 and 18 at the Tularosa Community Center, Tularosa, NM. See the Jornada Research Institute website jornadaresearchinstitute.com for details and registration.

Southwest Kiln Conference October 4-6 at the Gila Pueblo, Besh Ba Gowah, and the Timber Camp recreation Area of the Tonto National Forest, Globe, Arizona. Further information and registration at the website swkiln.com.

21st Biennial Jornada Mogollon Conference October 11–12 at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology in El Paso, Texas. Abstracts are due by August 31, 2019. Contact George Maloof at MaloofGO@elpasotexas.gov.

ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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2019 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

To contact officers or committee chairs, or to change mailing or email address, 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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