REEVALUATING THE ORIGINS OF THE FIRST AMERICANS:
THE NORTHWEST COASTAL MIGRATION HYPOTHESIS

E. James Dixon, Ph.D.

Hosted by the Albuquerque Archaeological Society
Tuesday, January 20, 2008 at 7:30 PM
At the Albuquerque Museum
2000 Mountain Road NW

Opinion regarding the timing of the first colonization of the Americas range between 150,000 – 200,000 to as late as 14,000 – 11,500 radiocarbon years ago. The growing body of archeological evidence suggests that humans were widespread throughout the Americas prior to 11,000 – 11,500 radiocarbon years ago (12,550 - 13,100 calendar years ago). Evaluating the evidence for human colonization rests on dating geological events, human remains, artifacts and paleoecological evidence. Increasing evidence supports the hypothesis that the earliest human migration to North America may have occurred with the use of watercraft along the southern margin of the Bering Land Bridge and then southward along the northwest coast of North America. To evaluate this hypothesis and establish the probable time and geographic origin for the first human entry to the Americas, it is necessary to evaluate the North American archeological evidence in the context of world and regional archeology and paleoecology.

E. James Dixon is the author of Bones, Boats & Bison: Archeology and the First Colonization of Western North America and Quest for the Origins of the First Americans (University of New Mexico Press, 1999, 1993). These pioneering works provide an overview of the early archeology of western North America focusing on early human colonization of the Americas near the end of the last Ice Age. He received his B.A. and M.A. from the University of Alaska and his Ph.D. from Brown University 1979. He was a professor at the University of Alaska until 1993, when he became curator of archeology at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Dr. Dixon served Graduate Director of Museum and Field Studies and Professor of Anthropology at the University of Colorado Museum between 2001-07. He has extensive experience in North American archeology, particularly focusing on human colonization, high altitude and high latitude adaptations, and early cultural development of the Americas. He has published extensively, developed museum exhibits, and advised and participated in educational programs for the History Channel, NOVA and other public programs. He has been an invited lecturer in the United States, Canada, Australia, Japan, Russia, Norway, Switzerland, and Brazil. He is active in archeological field research in western North America and Alaska and moved to New Mexico in 2007 to serve as Director of the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology and Professor of Anthropology at UNM.

Note: Newly increased dues for 2009 are now payable. See membership renewal form on page 4. If you have recently renewed, please disregard an 08 date following you name on the mailing label.
MINUTES OF THE ALBUQUERQUE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
December 16, 2008

Gretchen Obenauf, presiding, introduced guests: Dave Berwell, Bernadette Blacker, Yasinin and Rana, Pam Harris and Bob Shepperson. New members include Cindy Carson, John Guth, Matt Rosset, Bruce Lindsay and Roger Cook.

The signup list for next year's refreshments was passed around. This evening's refreshments were provided by the members, with setup and drinks by Jacqueline Johnson and Libby Ratliff.

The November minutes will be amended to state that Carol Chamberland, not Carol Condie, will be doing the review of the Loendorf book.

Members were reminded to use the latest (November) version of the Membership Directory, which they can request from info@abqarchaeology.org.

Gretchen thanked the society's volunteers for their contributions during the year, including Jack and Janet Geohegan, Tom Obenauf, Deborah Swain, Karen Armstrong, Phyl Davis, Craig and Gina, Fredrickson, Carol Chamberland, Maynard Merck, and members of the Board.

A field trip visited Bradley Bowman's Museum of Archeology and Material Culture in Cedar Crest on Nov. 22. Trips are also planned to Panko, the Tijeras Pueblo's new interpretive center, and a solstice marker at Petroglyph National Monument.

Nominees for 2009 board positions were elected by acclamation: President, Gretchen Obenauf; Vice-President, Joan Mathien; Secretary, Arlette Miller; Treasurer, Jermaine Foslien; Past President, Helen Crotty, and Directors-at-large, Libby Ratliff and Sally McLaughlin.

Bradley introduced the speakers.

Gwen Poe spoke of her visit to China, which has only one time zone and where the government owns all the land. She went to Beijing, where she saw several of the Olympic venues; the Great Wall, the Three Gorges project, Shanghai, Xian, and other cities. She also visited Tibet.

Dionisia Roth tried to visit petroglyphs in Sinaloa, Mexico, near El Fuerte, but the sites were closed. However, she showed a CD she had purchased that has pictures of the petroglyphs, which are only some of about 200 sites in Sinaloa. Pottery from the area dates to AD 900-1200, but no pueblos have been found. Authorities are concentrating on recording and preserving the petroglyphs, so interpretation has not begun.

Helen Crotty and Joan Wilkes saw Adena and Hopewell sites in southern Ohio on an Archeological Conservancy tour. In spite of the effects of Hurricane Ike in the area, they were able to visit Serpent Mound, Fort Ancient, Flint Ridge and Sunwatch Village among other sites.

Respectfully Submitted,

--- Arlette Miller, Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

FREE PUBLIC LECTURES

Regge N. Wiseman: "Sitoia Creston and the Prehistory of Northeastern New Mexico and Southeastern Colorado" Tuesday, January 13 at 7 p.m., Tijeras Ranger Station. Friends of Tijeras Pueblo regular meeting.


CONFERENCES

State of New Mexico SiteWatch Site Stewards February 20 - 22 at UNM Hibben Center. Friday afternoon and Sunday field trips, Saturday classroom presentations. Co-sponsored by NM Department of Cultural Affairs, Historic Preservation Division, the Maxwell Museum, and Steward Foundation. Details and downloadable registration form are available on the AAS website abqarchaeology.org.
BOOK REVIEW


Loendorf’s background as a dirt archeologist has shaped his approach to the study of rock art. He believes that “rock art sites are first and foremost archeological sites” and bases his studies on artifacts, geological features, and ethnographic sources as much as the petroglyphs themselves.

With this publication, Loendorf describes his extensive study of rock art in southeastern Colorado and northeastern New Mexico, an area not renowned for its rocky geology. This is High Plains country, home to violent thunderstorms, fierce winds and hailstorms followed by raging flash floods. It is the author’s premise that the prominence of lightning and thunder played a significant role in the placement and subject matter of the rock art found here. Massive herds of thundering buffalo were another important component of life on these plains and are referenced in the book’s title as well as the subject matter of the local rock imagery.

In prehistoric times it would have been difficult for a hunter on foot to capture the free-ranging elk, pronghorn, mule deer and buffalo. In this vast open space the startled animals could simply run away. Early hunters understood the usefulness of broken ground, where arroyos and ravines, volcanic dikes and canyons could be advantageous. It is here where evidence of hunting activities, if not habitations, abounds.

Loendorf uses multiple methods to date the archeological sites and associated rock art to develop theories regarding the peoples and cultures who passed through the region over the ages. Proceeding chronologically, the author describes many sites in Colorado’s Purgatoire River area with examples from Archaic, Pecked I and Pecked II periods. Petroglyphs are shown to coincide with specific hunting locations, where animals could have easily been driven and trapped with nets, then speared. Loendorf speculates that this rock art may have served as educational tools for young hunters or ritualistic symbols for hunting magic. In any case, they are clearly “about” the hunting of wild game. The Apishapa peoples and their ancestors were likely creators of this rock art and the general consensus is that they were Caddoan speakers whose descendants became the Pawnee and Wichita.

The chapter on pictographs of the High Plains relates an interesting example of how the geographical extent of a site can be misunderstood without proper archeology. Originally defined as multiple small sites, the Game Drive Site was redefined as one integral hunting site based on archeological and geological evidence connecting the two rockshelters and eight pictograph panels.

The concluding sections cover Proto-Historic and Historic Rock Art of the region. Proto-history is defined as that time before a culture has developed writing but other cultures have noted their presence. It is this period when Navajos and Apaches arrived from the north, though there are disputing theories regarding which route they traveled.

---Reviewed by Carol Chamberland

NANODIAMONDS POINT TO MASSIVE COMET EXPLOSION AROUND 12,900 BC

[From CNN via NMAC -L]

Tiny diamonds found in the soil are "strong evidence" a comet exploded on or above North America nearly 13,000 years ago, leading to the extinction of dozens of mammal species, according to a study.

Diamonds found in North American soil suggest a comet led to the extinction of dozens of mammal species.

The scientific report also suggests the cataclysm also reduced the population of the earliest people to inhabit the region and triggered a 1,300-year-long cold spell that stretched around the world.

The heat generated by the extraterrestrial impact likely melted much of a glacier that once covered the Great Lakes region, sending a massive flood down the Mississippi River, the study said.

According to the report, the cold waves of glacial runoff into the Gulf of Mexico shifted Atlantic Ocean currents, changing climate patterns throughout the world in a cooling period known as the Younger Dryas.

"A rare swarm" of comets rained over North America about 12,900 years ago, sparking fires that produced choking, leading "to the extinction of a large range of animals, including
mammoths, across North America," the report said.

The study was conducted by a group of eight archaeologists and geologists from the universities of Oregon and California, Northern Arizona University, Oklahoma University and DePaul University. Their findings were published Friday [1/2/09] in the journal Science.

The prehistoric humans known to have inhabited the continent at the time of the event -- hunters and gatherers dubbed the Clovis culture -- suffered a major decline in population in the aftermath, the scientists said.

The scientists studied layers of sediment dated to 12,900 years ago at six North American locations, including one directly on top of a Clovis site in Murray Springs, Arizona. Each layer was rich in nanodiamonds, which are produced under high temperature, high-pressure conditions created by cosmic impacts, the report said.

"The nanodiamonds that we found at all six locations exist only in sediments associated with the Younger Dryas Boundary layers, not above it or below it," said University of Oregon archaeologist Douglas Kennett. "These discoveries provide strong evidence for a cosmic impact event at approximately 12,900 years ago that would have had enormous environmental consequences for plants, animals and humans across North America."

The other sites studied were in Bull Creek, Oklahoma; Gaines, Michigan and Topper, South Carolina, as well as Lake Hind, Manitoba; and Chobot, in the Canadian province of Alberta.

[Ed. note: This controversial theory was discussed in two special sessions at the 2008 Pecos Conference and is also briefly discussed in a recent issue of Scientific American. See http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=did-a-comet-hit-earth-12900-years-ago.]

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ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY 2009 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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Newsletter by first class mail: Basic $25.00 Sustaining $35.00+

Membership category: Individual Family (no difference in dues)

Institutions/Libraries: $10.00 (newsletter sent by first class mail)

No charge (electronic newsletter)

Please bring this form and your membership dues check (payable to the Albuquerque Archaeological Society) to a monthly meeting, or mail them to: Albuquerque Archaeological Society, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 4029, Albuquerque NM 87196

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EARLY PALEOINDIANS IN THE MIDDLE RIO GRANDE VALLEY

Bruce B. Huckell

Hosted by the Albuquerque Archaeological Society
Tuesday, February 17, 2008 at 7:30 PM
At the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History
2000 Mountain Road NW

The earliest undoubted residents of what is today central New Mexico were the hunter-gatherers of the Clovis and Folsom cultural complexes. Their sites, artifacts, and lifeways are explored, using research conducted over the past 45 years but particularly what has been learned in the last 10 years from the investigation of two Folsom sites on the Llano de Albuquerque ("West Mesa") and the Mockingbird Gap Clovis site southeast of Socorro. Bison hunting appears to have been central to both Clovis and Folsom groups in the area. At a broader level, this research shows a pattern of land use centered on the northwestern quarter of New Mexico and featuring high levels of mobility. It also suggests that these groups had limited interactions with those inhabiting the southern Plains east of the Rio Grande and the central mountains.

Dr. Huckell has been active in archaeology in the U.S. Southwest since he was a student at the University of Arizona in the 1970s. He worked on early sites such as the Murray Springs Clovis Project and Lehner Ranch Clovis Project with C. Vance Haynes. His research interests have focused on the subsistence-settlement systems of hunting-gathering societies in arid and semiarid environments, particularly in the North American Southwest and portions of North America. During most of the 1980s and 1990s he investigated Archaic period hunter-gatherers in this region, in particular, the cultural and ecological impacts associated with the addition of maize agriculture to wild resource foraging economies in the Southwest. Since 1998 he has returned to his long-standing interest in the earliest occupants of North America, which includes excavation of the two Folsom sites on the Llano de Albuquerque and the Clovis site at Mockingbird Gap. His other research interests include the study and interpretation of lithic artifacts, particularly those of Paleoindians; the reconstruction of past environments through the study of alluvial deposits and environmental indicators such as fossils and pollen preserved therein; geoarchaeology, or the application of geological methodology and techniques to the study of archaeological sites; the analysis and interpretation of animal bones from archaeological sites; and the organization of traditional farming systems in the New World. Dr. Huckell received his Ph.D. in 1990 from the University of Arizona. He is currently the Senior Research Coordinator for the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology and Research Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of New Mexico.

Note: Field Trip to Blackwater Draw scheduled for Saturday, February 28, see page 3 for details
MINUTES OF THE ALBUQUERQUE
ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
January 20, 2009


Appreciation was expressed to Janet Geohagan for her past assistance with the sound and lights. Donna Rospo will be performing these functions, and Tom Obenauf will run the projector.

The new board was introduced: Gretchen Obenauf, president; Joan Mathien, Vice-President; Arlette Miller, Secretary; Jermaine Foslien, Treasurer; Helen Crotty, Past President and Newsletter editor; and Directors-at-large Sally McLanighlin and Libby Ratliff.

Refreshments were provided by Libby Ratliff.

The minutes of the December meeting were approved as published.

The treasurer’s report will be presented next month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Library: Gretchen gave a condensed report prepared by Karen Armstrong concerning the library and its upcoming donation of books to the Friends of the Tijeras Pueblo as well as the evaluation and sale of some books.

Lab: The ongoing volunteer work at the Hibben Center is changing to Thursday mornings instead of Wednesdays. Compliments were extended to those who worked on AS-4, but some reports are missing. If you know anything about the reports on Cochiti lithics from the 1970’s, please inform Karen.

Greetings: We need someone to take over from Deborah Sweatt doing name tags at the meetings.

Rock Art: Milford Fletcher said the next rock art project will probably be on the private Diamond Tail ranch, 65,000 acres north of Placitas. There will be a half-day of training before work can start. There will also be training preceding recording on BLM land west of Los Lunas, led by Carol Chamberland and Dick Yecck. The recording will take place on Tuesdays and sessions will be all day because of the remoteness and ruggedness of the terrain.

Programs: Vice President Joan Mathien, said she is attempting to coordinate lectures and field trips as well as to bring in archeologists and anthropologists that the society is not yet familiar with. A field trip is planned to Blackwater Draw, probably on Feb. 28.

SiteWatch: Mark Rosenblum, webmaster and Sitewatch coordinator, announced that New Mexico SiteWatch has received federal recognition as a Preserve America Steward, one of only eleven in the country.

Bice Award: Bradley Bowman is receiving nominations for the Richard A. Bice Award for Archaeological Achievement until the end of January. The award will be presented at the ASNM Annual Meeting May 1-3 in Taos.

SPEAKER:

Joan introduced the speaker, Dr. James Dixon, Director of the Maxwell Museum, who began by encouraging membership in the museum, which conducts free programs and has free admission. Kelly Monteleone brought membership forms.

Dr. Dixon then presented his program on the settling of the Americas, including research he conducted under the auspices of the National Science Foundation, National Geographic Society, U.S. Forest Service, and See Alaska Heritage Foundation, which includes Tlingit and Haida support.

The last Glacial Maximum saw the peopling of the Americas via routes that possibly included trans-oceanic (both Pacific and Atlantic), the Beringian land bridge, and the northwest coast migration.

Fifteen thousand years ago the Bering land bridge connected the continents, but the seas were rising and by 12,000 years ago the continents were no longer joined. A theory arose that an ice-free corridor connected Alaska and the rest of North America, rather than there being a cul-de-sac of clear land ending in vast ice fields. Radiocarbon dating indicates that the first peopling of the Americas occurred 11,000 radiocarbon years ago (RCYA), so no earlier sites should exist. But they do, and that is the source of controversy.

There are criteria to evaluate pre-11,000 RCYA sites: 1) Are there artifacts of human manufacture? 2) Is recovered material within a clear stratigraphic context? 3) Are there reliable and stratigraphically consistent radiocarbon dates from these deposits? 4) Are paleoenvironmental studies consistent with the ages assigned to the site? 5) Are there human remains that are reliably dated older than 11,500 RCYA?

(continued on page 3)
FIELD TRIP TO BLACKWATER DRAW
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Blackwater Draw, Locality #1, is the actual location of the Clovis type site, where early Paleoindian tools were found in association with the remains of Pleistocene animals.

The town of Clovis (and the nearby Eastern New Mexico University and the Blackwater Draw Museum and Site) is about 220 miles from Albuquerque, or roughly a four-hour drive. This will require an early departure from Albuquerque and lunch somewhere on the way. A meeting place for possible carpooling will be discussed. Our group is to meet George Crawford, the site archaeologist, at ENMU University at 1:30 PM and visit the campus museum in Lee Hall first, and then drive up to Blackwater Draw for a guided tour. The museum usually is closed in winter so this is a special treat.

Lou Schuyler will pass a sign-up sheet at the February 17 meeting and will keep the lists of those interested in making the trip. If you can't attend the meeting but would like to go, contact her at Lou.Schuyler@comcast.net or 856-7090.

ROCK ART RECORDING PROJECTS FOR 2009

The regular Wednesday morning recording project sponsored by AAS will be working on a heavy concentration of petroglyphs on private land east of Placitas. Contact Maynard Merkt at mmurkt@comcast.net if you are interested in working on this project. (There is a chance that the project will not be on Wednesdays this year, so contact Maynard even if you aren't available Wednesdays.) Rock art recording training for this project is planned for late February or early March.

This year a second team of rock art recorders will be working at various sites on BLM land in the vicinity of Albuquerque. The team will be limited to 8 hardy individuals who meet the following requirements: 1) become BLM volunteers and take the First Aid and safety training provided by BLM; 2) be available on Tuesdays for the whole day; 3) be able to hike into remote sites (perhaps a few miles) and then record; 4) take the rock art recording training to be provided by the project.

The BLM team is forming now and a few positions remain open. Training begins soon. If you are interested, contact Carol Chamberland at pictografix@comcast.net ASAP.

UPCOMING LECTURES AND EVENTS

FREE PUBLIC LECTURES

Todd Brown: "Best Turquoise Mine in New Mexico: The Little Chalkhillit in the Cerrillos Mining District," Tuesday, February 10 at 7 p.m., Tijeras Ranger Station. Friends of Tijeras Pueblo regular meeting.


CONFERENCES

State of New Mexico SiteWatch Site Stewards February 20 – 22 at UNM Hibben Center. Friday afternoon and Sunday field trips, Saturday classroom presentations. Co-sponsored by NM Department of Cultural Affairs, Historic Preservation Division, the Maxwell Museum, and Steward Foundation. Details and downloadable registration form are available on the AAS website www.abqrarchaeology.org.

Archaeological Society of New Mexico Annual Meeting May 1-3, Taos. Online registration, information on lodging, program, field trips, etc., at Taos Archaeological Society website www.taosarch.org.


REEVALUATING THE ORIGINS OF THE FIRST AMERICANS (continued)

In New Mexico, Sandia Cave and Pendjede Cave meet all the criteria except that of human remains. Only a few sites in the U.S. meet all the criteria, and most are in the western U.S. (This is probably a preservation issue.) Reconstruction of some remains shows a handsome people with high cheekbones.

The coastal migration theory hypothesizes that people in boats moved down the west coast (continued on page 4)
of the continents from Northeast Asia, then moved up rivers to different environments and then on into the interiors. While it was once thought that glaciers blocked the land, it had deglaciated quickly 18,000 years ago, and caves containing the bones of caribou, fish and mammals demonstrated that the land could support these animals—and humans.

Dr. Dixon surveyed Southeast Alaska on Prince of Wales Island, specifically 49-PET-408 Cave (which earned the nickname On Your Knees Cave). Twelve thousand years ago the sea level was similar to what it is today, and Prince Edward Island was already an island. The cave is well stratified with evidence of cultural occupation, and researchers uncovered a bone tool dated to 12,070 BP. The 10,300 BP occupation frame shows bifacial tools and microflakes, including some made of obsidian and quartz, both of which required water crossings to obtain.

Scattered male human bones were radiocarbon dated contemporaneous with the projectile points, and his remains provided evidence of a marine diet. Tools were found that predated him.

Dr. Dixon says that evidence indicates that: 1) 14,000 RCYA people colonized the Americas; 2) no ice-free corridor existed—they came along the coast; 3) the paleo tradition spread north from the Great Plains, suggesting that people were south of continental ice prior to deglaciation; 4) regional cultural adaptations were underway in North America by 11,500 – 11,000 RCYA (13,460 – 13,100 BP), and at least four cultural traditions already existed.

Respectfully submitted,

--- Arlette Miller, Secretary

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Please bring this form and your membership dues check (payable to the Albuquerque Archaeological Society) to a monthly meeting, or mail them to: Albuquerque Archaeological Society, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 4029, Albuquerque NM 87196

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THUNDER AND HERDS ON THE HIGH PLAINS

Lawrence L. Loendorf

Hosted by the Albuquerque Archaeological Society
Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at 7:30 PM
At the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History
2000 Mountain Road NW

Lawrence Loendorf is an anthropologist and archaeologist with BA and MA degrees from the University of Montana and a PhD from the University of Missouri, Columbia. He research focuses on the North American intermountain west, ethnography, traditional cultural properties, and rock art. He taught and completed research at the University of North Dakota for 20 years, and at New Mexico State University for 10 years. He currently directs a project to document the petroglyph sites on the hogback at the Frijon Canyon Maneuver Site in southeastern Colorado. Recent books on rock art include: Ancient Visions: Petroglyphs and Pictographs of the Wind River and Bighorn Country, Wyoming and Montana, University of Utah Press (with Julie Francis); Discovering North American Rock Art, University of Arizona Press (edited with Christopher Chippindale and David Whitley); and Thunder and Herds: Rock Art of the High Plains, Left Coast Press. He has also published extensively on the Indians of Yellowstone National Park.

Dr. Loendorf will begin his talk with discussion about the Archaic-age petroglyphs on the High Plains. In recent research, he has assigned different types of figures to the Early Archaic, the Middle Archaic and the Late Archaic. Using this information, it is possible to search for sites where Archaic petroglyphs are superimposed on older petroglyphs, which by their superimposition are possibly Paleo-Indian in age. Several panels with these ancient petroglyphs have been found on the High Plains. Somewhat surprisingly, the oldest petroglyphs are finely incised abstract designs rather than the big game animals expected by many researchers.

Scenes of animals being driven into nets, and animals caught in nets are from post Archaic times on the High Plains. Significantly, a number of the pictograph and petroglyph sites are associated with rock drive lines and surround sites. Excavations at these sites have revealed heavily processed antelope and deer bones that we believe to be the remains of the animals taken in these communal hunting sites.

Note to print subscribers: If “09” does not follow your name on the mailing address label, we have not received (or not yet credited) your dues for 2009. Please fill out the enclosed form and mail it with your check to Treasurer, Albuquerque Archaeological Society, P.O. Box 4029, Albuquerque NM 87196. The April newsletter will be the last for members who have not paid 2009 dues.
MINUTES OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
February 17, 2009

Gretchen Obenauf presided. Guests included Owen Severance, John Hall and Joanne Migueldes. Refreshments were provided by Jacqueline Johnson.

The minutes of the January meeting were approved as published.

Treasurer Jermaine Foslien announced several new members including Bob Ayre, Bob Julian, Kurt Anschutz, and Dr. James Dixon.

Gretchen said she lost a lot of emails and information in a computer crash, and anyone who has tried to contact her by email should resend the message.

We still need a greeter to handle name tags at the meetings.

Jermaine is working with former Treasurer Libby Ratliff to produce a budget to be presented to the Board. John Karon and Jack and Janet Geohagan will do the annual audit in March.

Gretchen’s cousin Andrea Ellis, daughter of Florence Hawley Ellis, was killed recently in an automobile accident. A wake is being planned for Feb. 20.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Pottery Southwest: Arlette Miller announced that the fall/winter edition of Pottery Southwest, which pays tribute to the late Dick Bice, is now available on psw@unm.edu.

Lab: Karen Armstrong said TACA, landlord of the property in which the lab is located, is installing a furnace in the building.

The Pottery Mound archiving at the Hibben is going well. Volunteers are welcome to help out on Thursday mornings.

Karen further reported Linda Cordell has donated to the AAS library an Encyclopedia of American Archaeology. It will go to the Friends of Tijeras Pueblo along with other books from the AAS library.

Rock Art: Milford Fletcher said plans are continuing for future work on the Diamond Tail ranch as well as on Carol Chamberland’s project on BLM land. Carol has room for two crew and some alternates.

Field Trips: Joan Mathien outlined plans for the trip to Blackwater Draw on Feb. 28.

SiteWatch: Mark Rosenblum announced the SiteWatch state conference Feb. 20-22 in Albuquerque plus a training session on Feb. 28.

SPEAKER:

Joan introduced the speaker, Dr. Bruce Huckell, professor of anthropology at UNM and a research professor at the Maxwell, who spoke on Early Paleoindians in the Middle Rio Grande Valley.

These early Paleolithic peoples produced first Clovis points, which are found all over the U.S. and as far south as Panama, and then the smaller Folsom points. In the 1960s James Judge surveyed the West Mesa, which is covered with Paleoindian sites, including not only Clovis and Folsom but also Belen, Cody, and other styles. Judge thought that water was an important reason for settling in the area, which has many playas, streams and springs. Folsom sites, for example, are found near playas most of the time.

In 1965 Jerry Dawson, then working with Frank Hibben, discovered the first major Folsom site in the area, in Río Rancho. In excavating the site, which was close to the surface on a ridge crest, he discovered Folsom, Cody, Archaic and Ancestral Pueblo artifacts—and livery nickels. (AS-2, the Society’s second project, was done in coordination with Dr. Dawson’s work.) Most of the parts found are basal fragments with lots of distal ends as well, so the site is probably a campsite.

Mockingbird Gap, a Clovis site in the middle of the northern Jornada del Muerto, is located in a grassland area by Chupadero wash. It is one of several loci of Clovis points in that area, and it looks like it was occupied once and never again. Most of the material found is in the top third of Pleistocene soil.

The site was collected and mapped by Bob Weber, who found many bases as well as some small Clovis points that may be a transition to Folsom. Scrapers and gravers were also present. Corings of the wash by Vance Holliday indicate the area was a wet marsh at the time of its occupation.

Folsom sites are also found in Sandia Cave and Lubbock, among other locations. One spot was found with the help of Huckell’s dog Chuska in 1998 near where schools are being constructed on the West Mesa. Dating to 12,500 BP, the shallow site had basal fragments, tips like those usually left in carcasses, preforms, scrapers, and gravers. The evidence indicates a short occupation and conservative use of stone.

(continued on page 4)
IN MEMORIAM

Jack Dennis Francis 6/19/1936—2/17/09

The illness and death of Jack Francis was a major loss to the Albuquerque archaeological community and a deep personal loss to those of us who worked with him on AAS projects. Jack died February 17 at age 72 after a long and valiant battle with cancer. Jack and Anne, his wife of 35 years, joined AAS soon after moving to Albuquerque following Jack’s retirement after 37 years with General Motors in 1996. They were already volunteering at Petroglyph National Monument, near their home on the West Mesa during the time the Petroglyph Inventory Project was in the planning stages. Jack’s managerial skills and easy way with people were quickly recognized, and he was soon recruited to lead the project. With Anne’s help, and much extra time put in by both of them, he directed the all-volunteer crews at their weekly recording sessions for seven long years (1997-2004) until the 13-mile escarpment was completely and accurately documented and digitized with the most up-to-date computer and GPS technology. Their work was recognized in 1998 with the Heritage Preservation Award of the New Mexico Cultural Properties Review Committee, and in 2002 with the Archaeological Achievement Award of the Archaeological Society of New Mexico. Besides the directing the work at Petroglyph Monument, they assisted in rock art recording in the Galisteo Basin and received ASN 1 certification as Provisional Rock Art Recorders (an understatement of their real qualifications). They also participated in several digs available to AAS members. Both Jack and Anne served terms as AAS President, and have maintained their membership. Anne was Secretary of the Board of Trustees of ASN when the Francises decided in 2007 to return to Kansas to be near their families following the Jack’s negative medical prognosis.

Many of us did not know about Jack’s other interests and accomplishments. He played softball for 50 years and was a team member of senior softball in Kansas City and Albuquerque and played in the Senior Olympics in Kansas, Missouri and New Mexico. Jack ran two marathons and hiked the Grand Canyon four times including rim-to-rim-to-rim. He traveled to all 50 states and 27 foreign countries. He owned and restored a 1941 Chevrolet business coupe and participated in car shows with the West Side Cruisers of Rio Rancho.

Memorial donations in Jack’s memory may be made to the charity of your choice. Messages of condolence can be sent to Anne at 9839 Nieman Place, Overland Park, KS 66214 or posted on the Internet obituary site (Google “Jack Dennis Francis” to find the site).

--- Helen Crotty, Editor

UPCOMING LECTURES AND EVENTS

FREE PUBLIC LECTURES

Robert Dello-Russo: “Did Paleoindians occupy Lemitar Rockshelter? The Chronology and Geoaerchaeology of a Deeply Stratified Site in Socorro County,” Tuesday, March 10 at 7 p.m., Tijeras Ranger Station. Friends of Tijeras Pueblo regular meeting.

Joseph Sanchez “The Mystery of the Lady in Blue: María de Ágreda and the Jumanos in 17th Century New Mexico,” Friday March 20, 7 p.m. Shaffer Hotel Conference Room, 103 Main Street, Mountainair. Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument Centennial Celebration Lecture Series. RSVP 505-847-2585 x 20 requested but not required:

Shawn Kelly and William Penner: “Historical Investigations from the Abo Canyon Second Track Project,” Friday, March 27, 7 p.m. Shaffer Hotel Conference Room. See information above.

Jean Sept: “What’s Cooking? The Meat and Potatoes of Human Evolution,” Thursday, April 9, 2009 7:00p.m. in the James A. Little Theatre, Santa Fe. School of Advanced Research Special Lecture.

Helen K. Crotty: “Three Rivers Petroglyph Site,” Tuesday, April 14 at 7 p.m., Tijeras Ranger Station. Friends of Tijeras Pueblo regular meeting.

CONFERENCES

Archaeological Society of New Mexico Annual Meeting May 1-3, Taos. Online registration, information on lodging, program, field trips, etc., at Taos Archaeological Society website www.taosarch.org.


SPEAKER: EARLY PALEOINDIANS  
(continued from page 2)

One thing the sites have in common is an interest in bison antiquus, the animal that was butchered at the Folsom type site in northeastern New Mexico. Blackwater Draw near Clovis contains mammoth kills using Clovis points.

The lithics in New Mexico reveal a large area from which materials originated, from the Chuskas to the Zuni mountains, Jemez obsidian and Pedernal chert.

If you are among the people who worked at AS-2, Dr. Huckell would like to hear from you.

Respectfully submitted,

---- Arlette Miller, Secretary

SAN JUAN COLLEGE FIELD SCHOOL
FOR UNDERGRADUATE CREDIT
June 8-July 17, 2009

For anyone interested in participating in a field excavation, San Juan College in association with the B-Square Ranch, offers 9 hours of undergraduate credit for the six-week field school in the Farmington area. The class is limited to 12 persons, and the total cost is $470 for all tuition and fees. Room and board will be the responsibility of the student. For further information, see http://www.sjc.cc.nm.us/pages/2035.asp or contact Linda Wheelarger, San Juan College Cultural Resources Management Program, 4601 College Blvd., Farmington, NM 87402, (505) 366-3344.

AAS LIBRARY NOTES

Karen Armstrong reports that a complete set of AAS newsletters dating back to Vol. 1, No. 1 of January 1966 was recently discovered in the library at the lab. It will be archived at the Hibben Center. The closet where the AAS library was stored has now become the furnace room for the historic gas station, and the remaining books and those sorted for the upcoming sale were moved to another part of the building.

COMET IMPACT THEORY DISPROVED?

In the continuing controversy concerning the theory that an exploding comet caused the extinction of many Pleistocene animal species, new data apparently disproves the suggestion that a large comet exploded over North America 12,900 years ago, causing a shock wave that traveled at hundreds of kilometres per hour and triggering continent-wide wildfires as reported in the January AAS Newsletter.

Dr. Sandy Harrison from the University of Bristol and colleagues tested the theory by examining charcoal and pollen records to assess how fire regimes in North America changed between 15 and 10,000 years ago, a time of large and rapid climate changes.

Their results provide no evidence for continental-scale fires, but support the fact that the increase in large-scale wildfires in all regions of the world during the past decade is related to an increase in global warming.

Dr. Harrison said, "Fire is the most ubiquitous form of landscape disturbance and has important effects on climate through the global carbon cycle and changing atmospheric chemistry. This has triggered an interest in knowing how fire has changed in the past, and particularly how fire regimes respond to periods of major warming."

"The end of the Younger Dryas, about 11,700 years ago, was an interval when the temperature of Greenland warmed by over 5°C in less than a few decades. We used 35 records of charcoal accumulation in lake sediments from sites across North America to see whether fire regimes across the continent showed any response to such rapid warming."

The team found clear changes in biomass burning and fire frequency wherever climate changed abruptly, and most particularly when temperatures increased at the end of the Younger Dryas cold phase. The results are published in the January 26 issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science.
WILL-O’-THE-WISP: STUDYING THE ARCHAIC PERIOD IN NEW MEXICO

Patrick Hogan

Hosted by the Albuquerque Archaeological Society
Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at 7:30 PM
At the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History
2000 Mountain Road NW

The Archaic spans the 8000 years before the emergence of Puebloan culture in the Southwest. This talk provides a brief overview of the Archaic period, highlighting what we know, what we don’t know, and what we thought we knew that was wrong. Drawing largely on his own research, Dr. Hogan shows how the methods used by archaeologists to study the Archaic are slowly yielding a more complete picture of how these ancient hunter-gatherers adapted to the different environments in what is now the State of New Mexico.

Since coming to New Mexico in 1980, Dr. Hogan has worked for the University of New Mexico’s Office of Contract Archaeology and is currently its Associate Director. He received his B.S. and M.A. in Anthropology from the University of Utah and his Ph. D. from Washington State University. His early work in the Great Basin and Intermountain West kindled an interest in prehistoric hunter-gatherers and evolutionary ecology that he has pursued in the course of the numerous cultural resource management projects that he has directed throughout New Mexico.

LAST CALL FOR 2009 DUES: Members who have not paid their 2009 dues will become former members after the end of April. Members in arrears who wish to continue to receive the newsletter by mail or electronically should fill out the enclosed form and bring it to the April 21 meeting or mail it to Treasurer, Albuquerque Archaeological Society, P.O. Box 4029, Albuquerque NM 87196.
MINUTES OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
March 17, 2009

The meeting called to order at 7:40 PM by President Gretchen Obernauf. Patricia Courtney, a UNM student, was a guest. Member and former AAS President Anne Francis, who was visiting from Kansas, attended the meeting. Refreshments were provided by Jacqueline Johnson and Lou Schuyler.

The minutes were approved as published.

Treasurers report: Jermaine Foklen announced that dues are due by the end of April. Members may pay their dues to Jermaine tonight or mail them to the AAS post office box. Membership renewal forms were passed out. Copies of the proposed budget were distributed to the members, and after discussion Fred Trussell moved to accept the budget, seconded by Helen Crotty.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Lab: Karen Armstrong reported the session is canceled Thursday the 19th as it is spring break, but work will continue on the remaining boxes of the Hibben collection on Thursday mornings at the Hibben Center. All are welcome to come help and parking is free.

Library: Karen Armstrong announced that the library sorting is completed. All books are in boxes for transfer to Friends of Tijeras Pueblo, or for sale. Fred Trussell moved to give organizations that have donated publications to the library a chance to go through the sale books and take what they would like to complete their libraries before the general sale. Motion seconded by Karen Armstrong, and passed by the membership. The organizations will be contacted by Karen as to when this will happen. The general sale will occur at the lab located at the historic gas station on Walter Street the day of the April AAS meeting and the following Saturday. Notification will be on the AAS website.

[Note: The book sale will be delayed because of Karen Armstrong's knee surgery.]

Membership: Libby Ratliff had no report.

Rock Art: Jerry Brody reported for Maynard Merkt. The training session for the Placitas-Diamond Tail project will be the first weekend in April. Please call Maynard for details and instructions at 771-0815. Jerry states the trainers are a great group of rock art recorders who know what they are doing. A second rock art group will be recording various sites on BLM land. Carol Chamberlain reports that this group’s First Aid training is complete and that rock art training will be Tuesday March 24. See Carol for details.

SiteWatch: Gretchen reported that Mark Rosenblum is ill tonight. She noted that Mark was awarded the Dave Matthews Award at the recent annual SiteWatch Conference. SiteWatch is an excellent opportunity to help protect archaeological sites around the state.

Field Trip: Joan Mathien reported on the February 28 trip to Blackwater Draw, the Clovis type site. The tour was led by George Crawford of Eastern New Mexico University who showed the group the first Clovis point ever discovered. They also saw the excavation, which is now protected by a building. Slides of the point and the excavation were shown and are awesome! Maybe we can do it again sometime.

Pottery Southwest: No report, as Arlette Miller recently had hip surgery. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Newsletter: Helen Crotty noted that since the training sessions for the Placitas/Diamond Tail rock art project are scheduled before the next newsletter comes out, notice of them should be emailed to the membership. Gretchen will contact Mark about this.

Webmaster: Gretchen reminded members to contact info@abarchaeology.org if their email address changes.

NEW BUSINESS

Gretchen read the obituary and tribute to former AAS President Jack Francis regarding his work in organizing and directing the Petroglyph Monument rock art recording and his participation in the Creston project and other AAS activities. His and Anne’s contributions were recognized by the 1998 Heritage Preservation Award of the New Mexico Cultural Properties Review Committee and the 2002 Archaeological Achievement Award of the Archaeological Society of New Mexico, and they received ASNM certification as rock art recorders. Gretchen noted that Anne Francis was at the meeting and that she had mentioned the AAS rock art projects for possible donation in Jack’s name. Several such donations have been received.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ted Oppelt has a new pottery book out and order blanks are available.

The Antiquarian Book Fair is April 3rd and 4th.

San Juan College will be conducting their Archaeology Field School this summer from June 8 to July 5 and will be excavating on the Bocack Ranch in Farmington. Further information is posted on the website.

The Center for Desert Archaeology is recruiting new members.

Literature for all the above will be on the table in the social area.

Respectfully submitted,
-----Sally McLaughlin, Acting Secretary

SPEAKER

Larry Leendorf was introduced by Vice-President Joan Mathien. The title of his talk, “Thunder and Herds on the High Plains,” was the same as that of his recent book on rock art in that area. His talk was based primarily on his work in southeast Colorado and northeast New Mexico. Much of this work has
been on private land, with the Pinaon Canyon Maneuver Site being the only non-private land included in the study. The rock art discussed was recorded on exposed sandstone and on volcanic dikes.

Loendorf spoke first about Early Archaic rock art from Glorieta Mesa near Santa Fe which has been dated to before 4490 BP. Found on horizontal surfaces, it is unexpectedly not all abstract—concentric circles, wheel figures, snakes, tracks and many other representations have been recorded. Another hallmark of Early Archaic rock art is that the designs are independent; they are not crowded or superimposed.

A Middle Archaic rock art site near Lamar, Colorado has a date of 1900 BP from an adjacent hearth. Here, in contrast, the designs are abstract, crowded, and superimposed. Middle Archaic rock art tends to be more deeply pecked than Late Archaic rock art.

Late Archaic sites also have abstract, crowded, and superimposed designs. But in addition, the first quadrupeds and stick-like anthropomorphs appear.

Loendorf next talked about his search for Early Archaic and Paleoindian rock art. He reasoned that during the Alithermal (the hot, dry period that equates to the Early Archaic), when populations were located up high in the Colorado Front Range, Early Archaic rock art should be found up high or along rivers. He looked for uncrowded, independent designs in such locations, and at 11,000 feet on James Peak found an independent sun design.

He wondered if abstract designs thought to be Early Archaic superimposed on top of incised abstract designs on a basalt dike, both totally repatinated, indicate that the earlier rock art might be Paleoindian. The oldest dated Paleoindian art is found at the Gault Clovis Site in Texas, and consists of incised abstract designs on bone and on stone tablets. At Long Lake in Oregon, abstract incised designs were covered with Mt. Mazama ash dating to the 7600 BP eruption. So we should at least consider the possibility of Paleoindian when we find repatinated incised designs.

The Apishapa Phase in southeastern Colorado (900 to 500 BP) is marked by ceramics and the bow and arrow. Through time in the study area abstract designs decrease and representations of quadrupeds increase. One panel, dubbed the "zookeeper" has 50 animals and one anthropomorph. The ladder-like petroglyph is instead a net. On the Cross Ranch of the Pinoon Canyon Maneuver Site, there is a panel of lots of animals, humans with arms out chasing them, and another net. In this case, there is a rock drive line on the ridge above the rock art! Portable x-ray fluorescence showed that the entire panel may have been smeared with red ochre. At another site, there is rock art with lots of quadrupeds on 17 boulders which have rolled down from a dike. There are depictions of nets on the farthest out boulders. At a site in New Mexico is a panel showing humans driving animals toward a net, and a net with animals stuck in it. At another, there is an incised net, a quadruped, and then the net incised on top of the animal. He showed quadrupeds with strike marks from (possibly) a thrusting spear.

At one site, a location where the prehistoric people could drive game into a natural break in the dike, they found rock art showing nets, animals, and drovers. When they dug nearby, they found heavily processed antelope bone and Scallon points. Animals could have been driven using nets, brush, or even wooden fences.

Loendorf wonders if some of these depictions of nets are mnemonic devices to remind future hunters of a successful location of a game drive, or perhaps to mark a place where nets were stored.

---Reported by Gretchen Olenosaf

BOOK REVIEW


Lavishly illustrated and written from the perspective of someone personally acquainted with many of the people portrayed, this is an entertaining history of one of the last of the privately-funded great archaeological expeditions to the Southwest. Hester Davis, now a respected archaeologist in her own right (former State Archaeologist with the Arkansas Archeological Survey and professor of anthropology at the University of Arkansas), was nine years old when her older brother Mott and sister Penrose "Penny" joined the Awatovi Expedition in 1939. Hester did not visit the site until 1991, but she is able to draw on the copious notes, memoirs, and photographs of the participants preserved in the Harvard Peabody Museum archives as well as personal interviews and correspondence with several others to bring the field camp experience of the Expedition personnel to life. The list of participants in—and visitors to—the Awatovi field camp reads like a Who's Who in Southwestern archaeology of the early and mid twentieth century, and we can see their pictures as well as those of the Hopi crew on site. Most of the photos were taken by Hattie Cosgrove, who was "in charge of the pottery tent," in the words of John Olis "Jo" Brew, the Expedition's Director.

Perhaps the most interesting revelation of the book is the role of the very young Jo Brew (born in 1906, he was still in his twenties when named Director) in organizing and managing the field camps and staffing them with compatible and competent
personnel, most of them personal friends or acquaintances—or experts in the diverse fields that he wanted represented in the reports of the Expedition. Brew had impressed Peabody Museum Director Douglas Scott and William H. Chaffin, Jr., a curator at the museum and a major donor to its various Southwestern expeditions, with his direction of the Peabody’s Alkali Ridge excavations while still a graduate student. Brew began setting up the Awatovi operation in 1931 and hired key staff members Al Lancaster as field foreman and assistant director; Alden Stevens, surveyor and cartographer; and Lin Thompson, cook. Davis speaks again and again of the importance of the fabulous meals—the reports some of the menus—prepared by Thompson in maintaining the comfort and good cheer of the participants. Other key personnel, who joined the project in 1936, were Cornelius “Burt” and Hattie Cosgrove and Watson Smith. Tragically, Burt Cosgrove was taken suddenly ill in late October of that first year and died in the hospital at Keams Canyon, but Hattie gamely returned for each of the remaining three years.

The cover of the paperback edition hints at the pleasures of the text. It is a montage of pictures of Expedition people and events, featuring a 1938 shot of a high-kicking chorus line consisting of John Hack, then a graduate student in geology who was later to write definitive works on contemporary Hopi farming and precontact coal mining; Evelyn Nimmo, a Peabody secretary who was to become Jo Brew’s bride at their field camp wedding the following year (photo on the back cover); Helen “Ha’yeh” Claflin, daughter of the Expedition’s chief financial benefactor, who helped Hattie Cosgrove in the pottery tent or Richard Woodbury drawing stone and bone artifacts or Watson Smith with the kiva murals; and Carlos Garcia-Robiou, a professor of archaeology at the University of Havana who visited the camp while traveling on a Guggenheim fellowship and was invited to stay on by Jo Brew when he learned of Garcia-Robiou’s photography and cartography skills. He was also a talented pianist who could play any type of music, and Brew thoughtfully bought a second-hand piano for $15 in Winslow so that he could entertain the staff in the evenings. This is just a sample of the vivid descriptions of camp life of a bygone era peopled by charming and high-spirited personalities, many of whom went on to distinguished careers in their respective fields.

This meticulously researched and well-written book is not only a joy to read, but it also shows the reader a side of archaeological investigations that is rarely described in the literature, namely the business part of the operation, the budgeting, planning, and logistics and the attention to the needs and comforts of the participants that Jo Brew managed so well. Highly recommended for Southwesternists, professionals and avocations alike.

----Reviewed by Helen K. Crotty

UPCOMING LECTURES AND EVENTS

FREE PUBLIC LECTURES

Bill Dunniire: "Native People of North America: What They Grew & Gathered," Tues. April 18, 2:00 pm, Petroglyph National Monument Visitor Center, Unser Boulevard NW at Western Trail. New Mexico Humanities Council Chautauqua Lecture. Audience limited to 25. Call Susan Villanueva, 899-0205 ext. 332 to reserve your seat.

John Henderson: "The Early History of Chocolate" Thurs. May 14, 7:00 pm in the James A. Little Theatre, Santa Fe. SAR lecture series.

CONFERENCE:

Archaeological Society of New Mexico Annual Meeting May 1-3, Taos. Online registration, information on lodging, program, field trips, etc., at www.taosarch.org.


ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 4029, Albuquerque, NM 87109 or info@abarchaeology.org
Website: www.abarchaeology.org

Annual Dues:
E-mailed Newsletter: Student $10, Basic $20, Sustaining $30+
Print Newsletter by first class mail: Basic $25, Sustaining $35+
Institutions/Libraries $40 for print Newsletter by first class mail, e-mailed at no charge.

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BASKETS, SMALL SEEDS, AND THE TRANSITION TO THE ARCHAIC ON THE COLORADO PLATEAU

Edward A. Jolie

Hosted by the Albuquerque Archaeological Society
Tuesday, May 19, 2009 at 7:30 PM
At the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History
2000 Mountain Road NW

Stimuli behind technological change and dramatic shifts in subsistence economy are central questions in archaeology whose explanations often appear linked. One example, the shift away from more specialized subsistence economies to those exploiting more diverse food resources, has been identified through changes in floral and faunal assemblages and increases in the numbers of storage facilities and grinding tools around 8,000 – 10,000 years ago. Owing to a dearth of stratified sites and radiocarbon dates, we know little about the nature and timing of this transition on the Colorado Plateau. In this presentation I discuss results from collaborative research with Phil R. Geib to refine the timing of intensive use of small seed resources by foragers and its relationship to developments in basketry technology.

Edward A. Jolie is an Oglala Lakota/Hodulgee Muscogee Indian Ph.D. candidate in anthropology at the University of New Mexico. He received his B.A. in anthropology from Mercyhurst College in 2001 and an M.A. in anthropology from the University of Nevada, Reno, in 2004. His research interests lie in the prehistory of the Americas, perishable technologies, anthropological ethics, and Native American-anthropologist relations. He has worked on a number of collections of perishable artifacts from the United States, Mexico, Peru, and Jordan. For his dissertation research he is using basketry to examine social variation in the Chaco regional system (A.D. 850-1140) in the Four Corners region of the U.S. Southwest.
MINUTES OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
April 21, 2009

Gretchen Obenauf presided. Refreshments were provided by Jacqueline Johnson and Arlette Miller, and Libby Ratliff and Donna Rospopo served as greeters. Guests included Jim Bodley and Jermaine Foslien’s friend Judy Lafluer.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved as published.

Treasurer’s Report: The audit is being rescheduled. Members who haven’t sent their 2009 dues to Jermaine by the end of April will be dropped from the newsletter mailing lists.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Library: Karen Armstrong reports that all books that are not being donated to the Friends of Tijeras Pueblo have been sorted and priced and will be sold soon. Members will be notified of the sale date.

Lab: the volunteers at the Hibben Center are nearly finished with the Pottery Mound collection, but anyone showing up to help on Thursday mornings will have plenty to do from that or other collections.

Rock Art: Carol Chamberland’s crew is making progress on the BLM land site, although the rattlesnakes are making themselves obvious. Milford Fletcher and Maynard Merkt are beginning work on the Diamond Tail Ranch.

Pottery Southwest: See ps@unm.edu for the spring issue.

Web: Mark Rosenblum could use rock art pictures and news to update the site: abqarchaeology.org.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Archaeological Society of New Mexico, of which AAS is an affiliate, is holding its Annual Meeting in Taos May 1-3.

Cindy Carson brought photos of two Amazon tribal leaders.

SPEAKER

Vice President Joan Mathien introduced Dr. Patrick Hogan, Associate Director of the Office of Contract Archeology, who spoke on “WILL-O’-THE-WISP: STUDYING THE ARCHAIC PERIOD IN NEW MEXICO,” which has proved to be an elusive subject that is slowly yielding its secrets to research.

One view of the Archaic had been as an adaptation (hunters and gatherers) or as a time period (when the gap between Paleoindians and Basketmakers was recognized) between 3000 and 1500 BP.

Later, projectile points were used to date sequences of different Archaic traditions, such as the Oshara tradition, Cochise culture, Chihuahuan tradition, and Plains tradition.

The 1970s saw the emergence of processual archeology, studying larger and more integrated areas, and working under the effects of the cultural resources management act. However, there were problems: conceptual, in that cultural continuity within a region had been assumed, and both environmental change and hunter/gatherer mobility had been discounted, and substantive, where inconsistencies in the sequence became known.

As a result, there is an ongoing conceptual debate in which the concept of the Archaic is no longer useful. Instead, technical traditions are being redefined and artifacts are being used to track movements over time. As for substantive actions, sequencing is still useful as a regional projectile point chronology, refining the dating of individual types. Direct dating of sites is relied upon.

In the long run, though, the conceptual debate shows promising developments in cultural transmission theory but requires better dates for individual styles. Progress is also needed in defining regional chronologies, since fewer than half the sites have definitive dates and, in fact, few sites have projectile points.

The effects of erosion on stratigraphy is one of the reasons that more is not known about the Early and Late Archaic.

Subsistence strategies have been proposed to explain settlement patterns. Hunters and gatherers, for example, use the resources in an area and move the consumers to the resource, utilizing residential mobility. Collectors move the resource to the consumer, demonstrating logistical mobility. The site types can define the mobility strategy of a population.

Another theory uses biological models. The optimal foraging theory, for example, studies the caloric yield of each resource and then sees how much time it takes to obtain it. Thus a deer has more value than a squirrel.

In New Mexico, the Navajo Mine area of the San Juan Basin has some lithic scatters and some deep, possibly storage, pits. This was the basic site type of the area, indicating that resources were collected in the warm season.
Lithic material came from the Jemez and Chuska mountains.

In the Albuquerque Basin the artefacts indicate that hunting was a major activity in the Middle Archaic. Raw materials were from the Valles Caldera plus chalcedony from the West Mesa.

The Rio Puerco valley shows repeated seasonal camps, usually with storage and middens, so it was similar to the San Juan region, only larger.

A roasting pit and hearth are among the sites on Albuquerque's West Mesa. The occupants used local chalcedony and not imported material.

Maize worked its way up from Mexico, reaching Arizona 3700-3600 BP and New Mexico 3700-3000 BP. The intensity of its use varied widely.

Respectfully submitted,

--- Arlette Miller, Secretary

KAREN ARMSTRONG AND JOHN AND JANET GEOHEGAN HONORED AT ASNM ANNUAL MEETING IN TAOS

Richard A. Bice Awards for Archaeological Achievement were presented to Karen Armstrong “in recognition of her outstanding service to science in the preservation of archaeological materials and years of service as a member of the Archaeological Society of New Mexico Board of Trustees, the Friends of Tijeras Pueblo, and as a past president of the Albuquerque Archaeological Society.”

John and Janet Geohegan were recognized for their “involvement with rock art recording projects sponsored by the Archaeological Society of New Mexico and for their years of service to Albuquerque Archaeological Society.”

BOOK SALE POSTPONED TO JUNE

Because of scheduling conflicts in May, the sale of surplus books from the AAS library has been postponed to a Saturday in June, date to be determined. Books about New Mexico archaeology will go to the Friends of Tijeras Pueblo. The remaining books have now been priced, and the sale will be announced to AAS members and the local archaeological community.

UPCOMING LECTURES AND EVENTS

FREE PUBLIC LECTURES

John Henderson: "The Early History of Chocolate" Thurs. May 14, 7:00 pm in the James A. Little Theatre, Santa Fe. SAR lecture series.

CONFERENCES


ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 4029, Albuquerque, NM 87196 or info@abarchaeology.org
Website: www.abarchaeology.org

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In 1794 a small group of Santa Feans were rewarded with a large land grant along the Pecos River south of the dying Pueblo of Pecos. This movement was the initial thrust of a 100-year Hispanic expansion from the Rio Grande Valley eastward onto the plains of New Mexico and beyond. The villages of San Jose and San Miguel (three miles downstream), were the first to be settled. They became the focal points of exchange and conflict with Plains Indian tribes for the next half century and also the beginnings of commerce and conflict with the Anglo-American westward expansion. Much as been written about San Miguel de Vado, primarily due to its contact with the Santa Fe Trail traffic starting in 1821. There is little written history, however, of San Jose.

While there has been scant notice of the history of the eastern third of northern New Mexico, events and activities taking place along the Upper Pecos River rival any of the better-known chapters of New Mexican history for the 1800s in other areas. This presentation supplements the written history of the settlement of the two villages with an independent study of dendrochronology and architectural wood use sampled from the earliest remaining village and church buildings.

Thomas C. Windes is a retired National Park Service archaeologist who spent most of his career working on the Chaco Project. During those years he became a leading expert in dating techniques, especially archaeometry, dendrochronology, and ceramics. He has spent many years sampling tree-rings from sites throughout the Southwest and is a recognized leader in tree-ring research. Currently he is a Research Associate with the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology at the University of New Mexico and still volunteers with the NPS Chaco Culture NHP Museum Collections.
MINUTES OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
May 19, 2009

Gretchen Obenauf, presiding, welcomed several guests. Refreshments were provided by Jacqueline Johnson and Ann Carson.

The Minutes of the April meeting were approved as published.

Treasurer: Anyone wishing to join AAS should send their dues to Jermaine Foslien or give them to her after the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Lab: Karen Armstrong reported that there are only 52 boxes of material left from Pottery Mound to be processed—unless more are found in storage. Volunteers are welcome every Thursday morning at the Hibben Center.

Library: Karen announced that the books from the AAS Library not needed for the Tijeras Pueblo Interpretive Center will be sold June 6 from 9 to 3 at the lab, which is located in the old Horne gas station at Walter and Coal.

Rock Art: Gretchen reported she had attended the Archaeological Society of New Mexico Rock Art council meeting in Taos. Bylaws have been written. The council will meet again soon and elect officers. Carol Chamberland reported on the BLM site recording. She can use volunteers now that some regular crew members are going on their vacations.

Pottery Southwest: Hayward Franklin reports that the latest edition is now online, with one article authored by him and another written by Don Schiffer.

Website: Mark Rosenblum has some pictures of rock art teams that he will put on the site. He would welcome archeological pictures as well.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

The ASNM Annual Meeting was held in Taos May 1-3. Recipients of the Richard A. Bice Archaeological Achievement Award were AAS’s Karen Armstrong and Jane and John Geohegan. As the Geohegans had not attended the Taos meeting, Gretchen presented them with the award plaque. The annual volume honoree was Paul Williams of the Taos BLM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Valles Caldera Preserve is hosting a flintknapping and atlatl demonstration on May 23.

San Juan College’s field school still has openings.

Meli Duran, who with her husband David Kirkpatrick edited the ASNM annual volumes for many years, died May 11 after a long illness. Although in failing health, Meli had attended the Taos meeting. For those wishing to make a memorial gift, the family suggests a donation to the ASNM Scholarship Fund, P. O. Box 3485, Albuquerque, NM 87190.

SPEAKER:

Ed Jolie of the UNM Department of Anthropology and himself a Native American, spoke on “Baskets, Small Seeds and the Transition to the Archaic on the Colorado Plateau.”

His interest was piqued by his great-great grandmother Uncle’s gambling basket. Similar small baskets were used by many Native American women for gambling with bone or seed dice, but little was known in modern times about such basketry.

Hunters and gatherers used baskets such as the hats, baskets, bowls and trays found in a western Nevada cave. In what is probably a shrine north of Grants NM, were found both ordinary baskets and double-coiled baskets stored with corn guardians.

Early Archaic basketry yields considerable information on human behavior. Technology is usually conservative and complex, so the sudden appearance of a new technology can suggest correlating changes in behavior.

Early people subsisted on large game. When most large game disappeared (around 10,000 BP), small seeds that could be collected in large amounts became the main source of food. Ground stone tools and storage pits appeared. A
parching tray from Utah, dating to 8800 BP, confirms adaptation to increased use of small seeds. Such trays reveal heavy use, burnt areas, and mending.

At Danger Cave in northwestern Utah archeologists looked at coprolites, basketry and stratigraphy to determine when seed gathering had become intensive. They found a peak in use of small seeds from 9000 calendar years ago. A twined (not coiled) parching tray was dated to 9200 calendar years ago.

Looters at Cowboy Cave and adjacent Walters Cave, also in Utah, had overlooked a basket which was later dated to 9000 BP. This was a gambling basket, not a parching tray; so basketry techniques were used for items other than parching trays. Jolie showed a slide of basketry handles for needles thought to have been used for tattooing.

Some of the artifacts have been reanalyzed, and the caves continue to be studied. It is possible, for example, that the development of coil basketry is akin to the development of pottery, not always utilitarian at first. Recent excavations in the Grand Escalante area have yielded evidence of grinding stone use 10,000 years ago, but it is unclear whether they were used for small seeds. By 9700 calendar years ago the area was drying up and resources began to change.

Respectfully submitted,

--- Arlette Miller, Secretary

NEW PBS SERIES “TIME TEAM AMERICA” TO DEBUT JULY 8

PBS publicists have been contacting archaeological groups to announce the debut of their new series based on a popular British series—"part extreme adventure, part science, and part reality show." “Utilizing the hottest high-tech tools, decades of experience, plenty of sweat and their own sharp wits, our team of top archaeologists has just three days to solve the great mysteries of America’s past” at sites in North and South Carolina, Illinois, Utah, and South Dakota. If working with those speedy high-tech tools for a “real” archaeological adventure sound irresistible, check local listings.

REPORT FROM THE BLM ROCK ART SWAT TEAM

By Carol Chamberland

In the tradition of the Crottys and Brodys, Carol Chamberland and Dick Yeck have teamed up to create a Rock Art SWAT Team, dedicated to recording rock art on BLM land in the Rio Puerco/Albuquerque district. Working on Tuesdays, the group is limited to 8 volunteers by the capacity of Moby Dick, the BLM’s great white Suburban that shuttles the team to remote field sites. Under the auspices of ASNMB and AAS, the group follows generally accepted guidelines to create a detailed record of endangered rock art sites on public land.

All crew members sign on as official BLM volunteers and must be willing and able to hike a few miles if necessary, as some of the sites are inaccessible by automobile. Due to vacations and other absences, new and alternate members are welcome to join the crew. Training sessions were held earlier this year but ongoing "on the job" training is provided for new team members.

Currently working in a small sandstone canyon northwest of Albuquerque, the crew is approaching halfway completion of their first project and there are many more sites awaiting their attention. The advantages of this type of volunteering are many: great rock art, beautiful locations, preserving cultural treasures, good exercise and the camaraderie of a fun-loving crew. For more information, contact Carol at pictografix@comcast.net.

NEW DATING TECHNIQUE FOR FIRED CERAMIC OBJECTS ANNOUNCED

A team from The University of Manchester and The University of Edinburgh has discovered a new technique which they call “rehydroxylation dating” that can be used on fired clay ceramics like bricks, tile and pottery, using fire and water to unlock their “internal clocks.” The simple method promises to be as significant a technique for dating ceramic materials as radiocarbon dating has become for organic materials such as bone or wood. See http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/05/ 90519214945.htm. [Report from the Center for Desert Archaeology]
SOUTHWEST'S EARLIEST IRRIGATION FEATURES DISCOVERED AT LAS CAPAS, ARIZONA

Archaeologists preparing for the expansion of a Tucson wastewater treatment facility have discovered the remains of the earliest known irrigation system in the Southwest, a farming community that dates to at least 1200 BC. That predates the well-known and much more sophisticated Hohokam tribe's canal system, which crisscrossed what is now Phoenix, by 1,200 years. The find suggests that the people who inhabited the region began with relatively simple irrigation systems and built up to more complex projects as the climate became hotter and drier. See http://www.cdarc.org/page/kpd0 - Los Angeles Times [Report from the Center for Desert Archaeology]

NEW MEXICO HISTORY MUSEUM OPENS IN SANTA FE

The 96,000-square-foot facility, 20 years in the making at a cost of $44 million, exhibits diaries, letters, maps, eyewitness accounts, oral histories and artifacts to present the perspectives of Native Americans, Mexicans, Spaniards, Easterners, outlaws, scientists, artists, railroad workers and others who contributed to the unique culture of New Mexico. Museum Director Frances Levine and her team conducted more than 30 town hall meetings to learn from residents which stories and artifacts they deemed important.

The interactive experience includes petroglyph hand prints; you place your hand on one and it triggers audio vignettes about the Hopi emergence, the San Juan Cloud Dance or the Navajo Bird and Sheep Songs. As you walk through history, you are accompanied by Depression-era tunes, mid-19th century banjo and piano music, sound clips about J. Robert Oppenheimer and Enrico Fermi at Los Alamos, video and audio clips about the New Mexico National Guard and the Bataan Death March in the Philippines, the observations of the late Taos artist Helen Blumenschein and the stories of ranchers and miners.

For more low-tech, hands-on experiences, you can flip through albums with images culled from the 800,000 photographs in the archives.

Besides the core exhibit, a temporary show called "Fashioning New Mexico" will run for 11 months. It's all about the clothes that people wore to go to war, seduce the opposite sex, attend baptisms, proms or native ceremonies. The exhibit includes items from underwear to flapper dresses and is enhanced by furniture, portraits, weaponry and other props that correspond to the sartorial era depicted. More information at www.nmhistorymuseum.org. [Adapted from travel.latimes.com/articles/la-trw-nmhistory24-2009may24]

UPCOMING EVENTS


Jornada Mogollon Archaeology Conference October 2-3, El Paso, Texas. Call for papers, abstracts due by August 25. For more information, contact Marilyn Guida at: GuidaMR@elpasotexas.gov.

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4
RADIOCARBON DATING OF ROCK ART

by Marvin Rowe

Hosted by the Albuquerque Archaeological Society
Tuesday, July 21, 2009, 7:30 PM
at the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History
2000 Mountain Road NW

Pictographs -- images painted on boulders and cave and rock shelter walls -- provide us with spectacular evidence of prehistoric cultures. But without a means to place the images in time, archaeologists in North America had mostly ignored these wonderful insights into thought processes of past human cultures. Over the past two decades, our research group at Texas A&M University developed a method that allows radiocarbon dates to be obtained on organic matter extracted from ancient pictograph paints. Thus, association with a cultural or occupational group at an archaeological site can now be determined. Being able to assign painted images to a particular prehistoric culture allows archaeologists and other researchers to gain information on artistic, cultural, and religious aspects of a people. Comparisons of our dates with age ranges based on archaeological inference was used to establish the viability of the method. Known age materials, e.g., TIRI wood and previously dated charcoal samples, also demonstrate the accuracy of this technique.

Marvin Rowe, Chemistry Professor, Texas A&M University (TAMU) and TAMU-Qatar received a B.S. in Petroleum Engineering at New Mexico Tech, Socorro. He won a Nininger Award on work performed at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. He received a Ph.D. in Chemistry, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, again winning a Nininger Award for his dissertation research there. He was selected as a Miller Institute in Basic Research Post-doctoral Fellow a University of California, Berkeley, in Physics. He joined Texas A&M University in 1969. His more recent research, developing a method for dating rock paintings, received the Castleton Award from the American Association of Rock Art Research in 1998. In 2003, he was named as a speaker in the Texas A&M University Distinguished Lecture Series. In 2009, he presented The Chevron Lecture, First Year Chemistry Program of Texas A&M, and the keynote addresses at the Coloradoan Rock Art Association annual meeting and the International Congress for Dating Rupestrian Art in Barcelona, Spain. He has published over 300 scientific papers, of which over 60 are in archaeological chemistry.

REMINDER: NO AUGUST MEETING OR NEWSLETTER
MINUTES OF THE ALBUQUERQUE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
June 16, 2009

Gretchen Obenauf presided. After introduction of guests, the Minutes of the May meeting were approved as published. Refreshments were provided by Donna Rospopo and Jacqueline Johnson.

Treasurer: If your dues have not been received by Jermaine Foslien, you will not be listed in the membership directory.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audiovisual: The Museum has designated that only Donna Rospopo and Tom Obenauf can operate the lights and sound systems in the auditorium.

Lab: Karen Armstrong reminds members that volunteers are always welcome at the Hibben to sort and bag collections.

Library: Karen reported on the book sale, which was held on June 6 with the assistance of Craig and Gina Frederickson. Proceeds were just shy of $1200. Disposal of the remaining sale books will be discussed by the Board. All pertinent volumes are being donated to the Friends of Tijeras Pueblo.

Rock Art: Carol Chamberland’s crew has room for volunteers. Ray Shortridge says that Maynard Merk’s and Milford Fletcher’s crews have nearly finished the Placitas dike work.

Field Trips: July’s lecture will be on rock art, so possibly a relevant field trip will be scheduled for around that time. If you have a field trip in mind that you would like to lead, please contact Joan Mathien or Gretchen.

Pottery Southwest: The spring edition is available online at <www.unm.edu/~psw>, or just google Pottery Southwest.

Newsletter: Helen Crotty reported that Jacqueline will attach return address labels and Forever stamps to regular envelopes for a considerable savings over the cost of the Postal Service printed prepaid envelopes.

Website: Mark Rosenberg requests that members send their email address changes to info@abqarchaeology.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There will be no AAS meeting in August.

Sally McLaughlin reported that there will be a Chaco Summer Solstice celebration on June 19 to 21.

Carol Condie urged membership to join the Archeological Conservancy. Members receive a quarterly magazine American Archaeology.

SPEAKER:

Joan Mathien introduced AAS member Tom Windes, former Park Service archaeologist and current research associate at the Maxwell Museum.

Several years ago when the National Park Service became involved in the Pecos survey, Tom was asked to apply his dendrochronology expertise to some wood samples from the pueblo and church. Finding material on nearby villages to be vague, Tom decided to explore further. The church in San Miguel had just been stripped of its plaster, exposing old beams. Little had been written about the old villages like San Miguel and San Marcos, and a lot of the old houses were being destroyed.

The towns dated from land grants in the late 1700’s (San Miguel was once the sixth largest town in New Mexico) but once land dealers moved in and fences were erected, tensions arose and Hispanic resistance fomented.

Indian raids by Apache, Arapaho, Pawnee, Comanche and others were also a threat in later years, so a presidio was built near San Marcos. The town, which was also the county seat, declined after the county seat was moved to Las Vegas which had a railroad switching yard.

Dendrochronology studies of vigas beam ends helps document patterns in a community and reflects the tools available as well as trade patterns. Before the Santa Fe Trail existed, metal axes came by wagon from Mexico City. But later, especially after the arrival of the railroad, metal tools were increasingly common, and sawmills were founded. Thus lumber was milled, replacing the round vigas. The beam ends also indicate the energy expended in their production, axes being hard to use and sawmills being more efficient.

The local buildings, among them the churches, also demonstrate the varying techniques of the families that constructed them. Techniques tended to be handed down in families, and a communal project like a church showed the variations in technique as well as an
increase in the level of work involved, such as a greater amount of decoration.

In San Jose, Tom was able to sample most of the town. A majority of pieces were vigas, but some were posts, lintels, and other forms. Bonding beams especially are very useful for dendro-dating.

San Marcos’s dates begin in 1795, at a time when it and San Jose were being built as fortified plazas in the face of Indian raids. After 1820 there was an increase in the slave trade and Indian raids, and more buildings clustered around the plaza. San Marcos was the center of slaving expeditions. Since Indian/Hispanic mixed bloods were among the founders of the village, they had probably not been terribly interested in an enclosed plaza as protection against Indians before then.

State Road 3 goes through the San Marcos plaza and most of the old wall cannot be found, but the plaza is still hinted at by the buildings that outline it. The church in San Marcos dates to 1790 on the site of an old mission. Hidden under recent improvements is the massive defensive architecture of three-foot thick adobe walls, thirty feet high. Some of the beams date to 1860 and are clearly reused—probably recycled from another church. The church also had large bells, one of which was apparently stolen.

Respectfully submitted,

---Arlette Miller, Secretary

RIO PUERCO BLM ROCK ART RECORDING

We recently completed our first recording project and will be scouting the general area to be sure we’ve not missed any other nearby sites. This provenance has a water source and we speculate that people have been passing through here for a long time. We encountered many petroglyphs ranging from archaic to the Spanish era, plus more recent names and dates and the odd arrowhead or two. Some large, old panels proved difficult as they were high on the cliffs but Dick Yeck and crew creatively scaled the rocks, with the aid of an aluminum ladder, and recorded the glyphs. We still wonder how (and why) the original artist(s) worked so high on the cliffs. A very large, memorable horse petroglyph was found, as well as unusual masks, numerous concentric circles and spirals, a Navajo star ceiling and several white painted handprints. We have several more BLM sites waiting in line for our attention.

Representatives of our crew were on hand this week for the first-ever ASNM sponsored Rock Art Council meeting, where recorders from all over the state met to hammer out details of the recording process. The goal is to standardize the methodology so that future researchers will find cohesive data. It’s a big job but we’ve made a start!

---Carol Chamberland

BOOK REVIEW


Reviewed by David M. Brugge

This book is an important contribution to our understanding of captives and slavery in native societies with special emphasis on how slavery might be recognized in archaeological contexts. Cameron has assembled an excellent collection of papers covering the subject on all inhabited continents except Australia. Her introductory chapter is an extensive summary of previous work which is essential reading for anyone wanting to investigate the subject in greater depth.

The writers of the chapters on the New World have in general done most to advance the role of archaeology in this regard, both in terms of methods and theory. Most writers have, however, relied to a greater or lesser extent on post-contact descriptions and ethnographies. Considered individually, it is apparent that there is some disagreement among the contributors, but that there is still little progress in identifying slavery on the basis of archaeological data alone.

Chapter 2 is entitled “The Slave Trade as Practice and Memory: What Are the Issues for Archaeologists?” by Ann Brower Stahl. She is concerned with the trade in slaves from the west coast of Africa who were carried to the New World colonies of European nations and whether this was based on the practices of slavery among
the African peoples. She cites extensive ethno-
historic and ethnographic sources indicating that
slavery did exist during the last five centuries or
so. There is no use of Arabic sources based on
the spread of Islam in the preceding half
millennium, but there are hints of the native
practice of slavery in the archaeological record.
Stahl, on the basis of these, suggested two
major strategies of delineating the "genealogies"
of technologies from much more detailed
analyses of artifacts and architecture to search
for evidence of introduced methods of local
production and of taking a broader view of
societies' interactions with each other.

The most significant contribution of Chapter 3,
"African Slavery: Archaeology and Decen-
tralized Societies" by Peter Robertsaw and
William L. Duncan, elucidates the role of Islam
in the slave trade beginning in the first
millennium CE and suggest that, even as early as
the days of the Egyptian state-level societies, the
peoples of Sub-Saharan African may have been
victimized by the slave-taking of more complex
cultures of the Mediterranean and Mideastern
regions.

Noel Lenski's "Captivity, Slavery and Cultural
Exchange between Rome and the Germans from
the First to the Seventh Century CE," Chapter 4,
extends the geographic range and time depth of
the effects of a state society on a tribal people
into Western Europe, again relying largely on
historical sources.

In Chapter 5, "The Impact of Captured Women
on Cultural Transmission in Contact Period
Philippine Slave-Raiding Chiefdoms" by Laura
Lee Junker is also largely dependent on
documentary sources. The fact that during the
time period covered the Philippines were
influenced by literate peoples in more complex
societies including China, reveals that again,
historical data are usually essential to distinguish
the effects of slavery in archaeological evidence
that can be interpreted in varying ways. The
ambiguity of the practice of slavery becomes all
the more apparent, emphasizing this as a factor
that cannot be easily discounted in fully
prehistoric contexts.

"Slavery, Household Production, and Demo-
graphy on the Southern Northwest Coast:
Cables, Tacking, and Ropewalks," Chapter 6, by
Kenneth M. Ames, introduces us to one of the
few—perhaps the only—region in the world
where nonagricultural societies developed high-
ly stratified social systems based primarily on a
very productive fishing economy. It should be
noted that perhaps these peoples were not far
from true plant domestication, however (see
Deur and Truner, 2005). On the basis of the
earliest written descriptions it seems that slavery
was already well integrated in these cultures in
fully precontact times. The archaeological data
utilized are estimates of labor requirements of
houses at three sites, the available storage space,
labor invested in various sorts of production to
meet local needs as well as what was needed for
trade relative to estimated population numbers.
As with most other authors in the book, he
concludes that his archaeological data alone
does not prove aboriginal slavery but only
corroborates the historical record. Even so, he
feels that the overall outcome of the combined
papers requires us to consider slavery in fully
prehistoric societies.

Debra L. Martin in Chapter 7, "Ripped Flesh
and Torn Souls: Skeletal Evidence for Captivity
and Slavery from the LaPlata Valley, New
Mexico, AD 1100-1300," presents one of the
most convincing cases for slavery in a fully
precontact society on the basis of archaeological
data alone. Here she expands on earlier work on
the LaPlata remains to learn more about the
quality of life of the captive women whose
skeletons reveal physical evidence of trauma and
hard labor with depressing results indicated by
her title. The LaPlata sample, despite its small
size, is the only really firm evidence of a slave
status in a prehistoric population that is free of
competing interpretations and greatly strength-
tens the inferences presented by the other
authors. In addition, whatever mitigating cir-
cumstances might be advanced, this chapter is a
stark revelation of the human costs of slavery.

Judith A. Habicht-Mauche makes clear in
Chapter 8, "Captive Wives? The Role and Status
of Nonlocal Women on the Protohistoric
Southern High Plains," the degree of ambiguity
that can exist in archaeological data in accounts
of early contacts with peoples of vastly different
life ways. At the same time she demonstrates a
type of analysis of ceramics that seems to
indicate movement of women potters from their
natal society to another. Her interpretation of
her petrographic evidence has been challenged,
however, (Boyd 1997: 475) and the status of
nonlocal women is far from certain, as is the
manner by which they become separated from kin to live among non-kin.

“Unwilling Immigrants: Culture Change, and the ‘Other’ in Mississippian Societies,” Chapter 9, by Susan M. Alt, presents convincing evidence of the taking of captives and of the sacrifice of foreign women. The implication of slavery as well seems stronger here than in some other prehistoric cases if not quite certain proof. Isotopic data from skeletons helped differentiate local and non-local individuals. Both Mississippian and Fort Ancient peoples were identified and differed in burial methods, but in this case, the difference was in the contrast in customary mortuary practices of the two cultures which might be indicative of a cohesive group of willing immigrants who, while they may have had a low rank in the social structure of the community, still could not be regarded as slaves.

Peter N. Peregrine’s “Social Death and Resurrection in the Western Great Lakes,” Chapter 10, describes the treatment of captives as recorded historically, but concludes that except for finding differences in studies of DNA or in stable isotopes in bone, there is little in the archaeological remains of the region that might identify slavery. Due to tribal objections, these kinds of studies are very unlikely to be done; so that how far, if at all, the documentary data might be traced into prehistory is still an unanswered question.

In Chapter 11, “Wrenched Bodies,” Warren R. DeBoer attempts to identify women married into communities from distant sources through an analysis of sex ratios of the burials of adults in order to identify societies losing or gaining members by means of capture. It seems to me that there are two confounding factors in this approach. First and most obvious is the problem of sample size. Even in fairly large burial assemblages the numbers in which both sex and age can be determined with some assurance is often quite low. The second is the highly variable cultural practices of different cultures, particularly in methods of disposal of the dead. It is still an approach that holds promise in some sites, but one that needs more testing.

Chapter 12, “Captives in Amazonia: Becoming Kin in a Predatory Landscape,” by Brenda J. Bowser, analyzes the historic and ethnographic data with emphasis on continuum of social acceptance or rejection of captives from incorporation through servitude to disposal to another society, sacrifice, or execution as witches. Bowser concludes that methods suggested in previous chapters could identify foreign individuals in sites studies archaeologically, but does not deal with slavery as a clearly defined category.

A final “Epilogue” by James F. Brooks, entitled “Captive, Concubine, Servant, Kin: A Historian Divines Experience in Archaeological Slavery,” is a brief but eloquent and insightful presentation of the importance and quandaries of the investigation of captivities, servitudes and statuses across the geography and past and present of our species, an essential read for contemplation on the papers in this volume and what they suggest regarding human nature.

References Cited


WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

A hearty “Welcome aboard!” to Cliff Evans of Albuquerque and Kristie Arrington of Aztec who have recently joined AAS.

ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS IMPLEMENT PROGRAM TO PRESERVE NAVAJO LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

When Brittany Arviso was old enough to take part in a Navajo coming-of-age ceremony, her family grappled with the preparations. Not knowing where to find some of the items for the ceremony, they turned to her grandparents for help. Her father and grandfather went up into the mountains to get some plants and other things for the four-day ceremony. But there was one thing that 12-year-old Brittany didn’t have and wished she had — knowing more of her native language so she could better understand the ceremony. "If I had been able to speak and understand a little language, it would have been easier and more helpful," she said. Her parents (continued on next page)
APS IMPLEMENTS NAVAJO PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

hope that a new Navajo language summer school offered by Albuquerque Public Schools this year will eventually help her learn more about her culture and language. Her 10-year-old brother, Lucas, is in the classes, and Brittany may be able to join next year if the program is expanded. http://www.scsnmnews.com/ci_12759662 [Southwest Archaeology Today]

DOES MAIZE FUEL THE RISE OF STATES?

Prehistoric communities in one part of Peru's Andes Mountains may have gone from maize to amazingly complex. Bioarchaeologist Brian Pinicane's analyses of human skeletons excavated in this region indicate that people living there 2,800 years ago regularly ate maize. This is the earliest evidence for maize as a staple food in the rugged terrain of highland Peru, he says. http://www.cdarc.org/page/6qn9 - Us News and World Report. [Southwest Archaeology Today]

IF CHACO HAS A MERIDIAN, DOES LOS ANGELES HAVE A VECTOR?

With respect to the article about the Chaco Meridian and the possibility that the Anasazi deliberately built their principal settlements on said line with only minor deviations, it certainly could be deliberately so. If it is so, however, then what are we to say about the fact that, also in the Southwest (Los Angeles to be exact) in more modern times, four major "temples of sport" - namely, the Rose Bowl, Dodger Stadium, The Forum and Hollywood Park - all lie on a straight line extending from the northeast to the southwest. One cannot help but wonder what archeologists of the next millennium will manage to make of the above fact! Bob Freedman (NY Times June 30). [Southwest Archaeology Today]

UPCOMING EVENTS

Pecos Conference 2009 August 6-9 Cortez and Dolores, Colorado. Early registration has been extended to July 15. The organizers promise an interesting conference: Friday morning features an overview of recent Basketmaker II research, Saturday morning, a mini-symposium on Collaborative Heritage Preservation. The Friday evening speaker is Craig Childs, who will probably comment on recent events in Utah. More information and registration at www.pecos.cortezculturalcenter.org.

Leupp Kiln Conference September 5-7 near Snowflake, Arizona. Register before August 16. The $25 registration fee includes dinner and T-shirt. Limited primitive camping on site. The conference is open to all: non-potters are welcome to watch demonstrations and/or help with firings. For detailed information see website www.leuppkilnconference.org.

Jornada Mogollon Archaeology Conference October 2-3, El Paso, Texas. Call for papers, abstracts due by August 25. Contact Marilyn Guida at: GuidaMR@elpasotexas.gov.

ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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DO CASAS GRANDES POTS SHOW INDIVIDUALS?

by David A. Phillips, Jr., Ph.D., RPA

Hosted by the Albuquerque Archaeological Society
Tuesday, September 15, 2009, 7:30 PM
at the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History
2000 Mountain Road NW

Most archaeologists avoid presenting unconventional ideas in public until late in their research, when they can support the ideas with reams of data. This helps them avoid looking like crackpots, but also obscures the importance of discovery and initial speculation in archaeology. Dave Phillips will discuss a new line of inquiry that, if it doesn’t work out, will undoubtedly damage his already limited reputation. Specifically, he’ll argue that individuals are shown on Casas Grandes polychrome pottery, and that individual pottery artists can be identified within that tradition. Warning: the presentation will include limited nudity—on the pots, that is. Dave will be fully clothed.

Dave Phillips has been Curator of Archaeology at the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology and a research associate professor in the Department of Anthropology, University of New Mexico since 2003. Born and raised in Latin America, he has been involved in archaeology for 39 years. His 1979 dissertation on Postclassic Maya artifacts was based on fieldwork on the island of Cozumel. Most of his fieldwork has been done in New Mexico and Arizona but he has also worked elsewhere in the U.S. and in Chihuahua, Mexico. His current fieldwork focuses on the site of Pottery Mound. Dave’s web site can be found at www.unm.edu/~dap.
MINUTES OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
July 21, 2009

Gretchen Obenauf presided. After introduction of guests, the Minutes of the June meeting were corrected to read “San Miguel” where “San Marcos” is printed.

Refreshments were provided by Jacqueline Johnson, Dionisia Roth, and Donna Rospopo.

Treasurer: The audit by John Karon and the Geohegans found the books to balance exactly.

We have three new members, one each from Roswell and Aztec, and Cliff Evans of Albuquerque, who was in attendance.

Dave Brugge reviewed Invisible Citizens: Captives and Their Consequences by Catherine M. Cameron, in the June newsletter.

Audiovisual: Tom Obenauf and Donna Rospopo have been trained by the museum to use the audiovisual room, and are the only members allowed to use it.

Lab: Karen Armstrong reminds members that volunteers are welcome Thursday mornings to help with the Pottery Mound collection at the Hibben Center.

Library: Karen has scheduled a second book sale for members on Sunday, July 25 from 10 – 2 at the lab (the old gas station at Coal and Walter). The fate of any remaining books will be determined by the Board.

Rock Art: AAS members, including Dick Yeeck, Maynard Merkt, Carol Chamberland, and Gretchen attended the ASNM Rock Art Council meeting, which considered standardizing work by recording crews. Carol has completed her crew’s first project and is starting another, although weather is an issue. Volunteers who can do serious climbing are welcome to go out on Tuesdays. Milford Fletcher says the first two Diamond Tail projects are finished and work is starting on a third, with a fourth possible. They have recorded 430 petroglyphs so far, with some being quite distinctive. The ranch owner and employees are extremely cooperative.

Newsletter: Helen Crotty produced the June newsletter in spite of a broken pelvis, and she is now doing well.

Web Site: The webmaster is addressing the issue of emails bouncing back.

If you received an email purportedly from Polly Schaafsma that was labeled “tagged,” delete it. It is a scam designed to send emails to everyone in your address book.

There will be no meeting in August.

SPEAKER:

Joan Mathien introduced the speaker, Dr. Marvin Rowe, professor of chemistry at Texas A&M, whose topic was radiocarbon dating of rock art.

Radiocarbon begins by cosmic rays striking things in the atmosphere, which eventually produce radiocarbon, and which is picked up by plants as C14. The plants get eaten, and radiocarbon winds up in everything, only to decay on death. For dating it can be measured by sensitive and expensive mass spectrometers.

Rock paintings can be dated by organic pigments, commonly charcoal but also beeswax and random trapped organics; dating inorganic pigments, and dating oxalate/calcite coatings. These latter give only a date range. Pictographs of known age are required for verification of these methods. Inference is also useful, such as a picture of a horse, which would indicate a post-contact time frame.

Charcoal pretreatments, which require soaking alternately in acid and base, cause loss of two-thirds of the charcoal, which is often too destructive. Plasma techniques are much milder and not destructive. Dr. Rowe seeks to date rock art by using samples from damaged pieces, thus avoiding, for example, harming the intact supernova pictographs at
Chaco Canyon by removing any material from them.

When dating inorganic pigments, it is the paint found in the pigments that is actually dated. Most of this type of dating is done at the A&M lab, where several plasma chambers have been constructed from scoured parts.

Assumptions are made in dating inorganic paint layers: that organic matter was added in the manufacture of the paint, that enough survives for a radiocarbon measurement (it can be a nearly invisible amount), and that scientists can get organic carbon cleanly from larger amounts of carbonates or oxalates. The plasma technique, being non-destructive, means not having to worry about the carbonates/oxalates.

Oxalate dating gives minimum and maximum ages. It is a minimum age if the oxalate crust is over the painting, or a maximum age if the painting is on top of the crust. At the Toca de Bastiana shelter in Brazil, for example, the Brazilians believed the paintings to be more than 35,000 years old. However, Rowe and other scientists dated the coating on top of the paintings to 2490 BP and the paintings to 3730 BP.

Respectfully submitted,

----Arlette Miller, Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS

FREE PUBLIC LECTURE

Matt Schmader, “Archaeological Evidence for Coronado at Pueblo de Piedras Marcadas (Petroglyph National Monument)” with an introductory session by Scott Smith, manager of Coronado State Monument, Sunday, September 20, 2:00-3:30 p.m. Friends of Coronado State Monument.

EVENTS

Book Sale benefiting the Laboratory of Anthropology Library Friday September 11, at 5 to 8 p.m. (preview and sale admission $20) and Saturday September 12, at 10 a.m. Admission $5.00 Saturday until 2:30. See indianartsandculture.org/booksale.

Sun Mountain Gathering, Saturday, October 3, 9:30 to 4:30. To volunteer contact Melissa Powell, melissa.powell@state.nm.us or 505-476-1257 or Tony Thibodeau, anthony.thibodeau@state.nm.us or 505-476-1265.

CONFERENCES

The Southwest Traders Rendezvous Sept. 25-27, $45 per person. Friday: Museum Tour, Reception and Lecture (Mark Winters). Saturday: Storytelling, lectures and presentations, Navajo lunch. Sunday: Appraisals, rug auction. Dinner Saturday night is extra $15 per person. Contact: Cortez Cultural Center, 25 N Market St., Cortez, CO 81321 or phone (970) 565-1151.

Jornada Mogollon Archaeology Conference October 2-3, El Paso, Texas. Contact Marilyn Guida at: GuidaMR@elpasotexas.gov


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Webmaster Mark Rosenblum 866-0300
Tse’Biinaholts’a Yalti
(Curved Rock That Speaks)

by Richard W. Loose

Hosted by the Albuquerque Archaeological Society
Tuesday, October 20, 2009, 7:30 PM
at the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History
2000 Mountain Road NW

A large performance space attached to a natural amphitheater in a cliff face has been identified at the geometric center of the pre-Columbian architectural complex in Chaco Canyon, New Mexico. The Amphitheater is a semicircular arc of sandstone measuring about 167 m wide and 30 m high. Sound recordings of computer-generated tones and swept sine waves, classical flute, Native American flute, conch shell trumpet, and prerecorded music were made in the amphitheater. Recording equipment included an analog tape deck, digital minidisk, and direct digital recording to a laptop computer hard drive. The arc is in an overhanging cliff face and brings distant sounds to a line focus. Along this line there are unusual acoustic effects at conjugate foci. Time history analysis showed that a 60 dB reverberation decay lasted from 1.8 to 2 seconds, nearly ideal for the public performance of music. The acoustical properties of the Amphitheater are recognized by Navajo people (Diné). It has been given a special place name and is still used by Navajo ceremonial practitioners, utilizing shell trumpets, eagle bone whistles, and reed flutes.

Mr. Loose worked as an archeologist for 11 years in northwestern New Mexico, including excavations and remote sensing projects at Chaco Canyon. Following a career change in 1982, the author has worked with electro-optics and applications for high energy lasers, while continuing as a part-time archeological consultant and volunteer. One recent project included acoustical research at Chaco Canyon. Results of this work have been published by the University of Utah Press and in Time and Mind, a British journal of archeological research.

Mr. Loose makes and plays digeridoos, shell trumpets, and wooden flutes.
MINUTES OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

September 15, 2009

With Gretchen Obenauf presiding, guests were introduced and the minutes of the July meeting were approved as published. Refreshments were provided by Jacqueline Johnson, Joan Mathien, Donna Rosopo and Libby Ratliff.

Treasurer Jermaine Foslien can take dues of new or renewing members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audiovisual: Tom Obenauf and Donna Rosopo are manning the lights and Powerpoint.

Website: Mark Rosenblum says he has corrected the website in regards to incorrect information provided to him on the Friends of Coronado talk at the Sandoval County Historical Society.

Newsletter: Helen Crotty, despite additional surgery, got the newsletter out and is present at the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Katharine Pomoni brought fliers advertising a talk that she will give on the Greek heritage in Albuquerque. The talk will be Oct. 3 at 1:30 p.m. at Botts Hall at the genealogical library, Edith and Central.

Dave Phillips announced the NMAC conference on the Northern and Middle Rio Grande, scheduled Nov. 14-15 at the Hibben Center. Eric Blinnman will speak on Thursday evening, November 12, and Hayward Franklin will give a ceramics presentation on Sunday.

There will be a fund-raising tour and lunch at the Wells Preserve on Oct. 25 from 9:30 to 2:30. Cost is $125 per person. The theme is Five Hours and 24 Kokopellis. The preserve is known for its outstanding rock art.

Karen Armstrong made an in absentia report that the library book sale made $1500; that the remaining artifacts at the lab will go to the Hibben Center; and a PITT project is in progress at Sapawe.

NEW BUSINESS

Carol Condie brought copies of American Archaeology, which is published by the Archeological Conservancy, of which she is a board member. The conservancy’s 30th anniversary will be on Jan 1, 2010, and the organization has preserved more than 300 sites.

SPEAKER

Dave Phillips, Curator of Archaeology at the Maxwell Museum, was introduced by Joan Mathien, and spoke on a topic that he is developing in collaboration with Christine VanPoo: that Casas Grandes pottery depicts individuals, and the work of individual artists can be determined.

Mostly he looked at Ramos and Barbicora polychromes from the Medio period, about 1200-1450 AD, when Paquime was at its peak. Among the human faces depicted were those on hooded jars (ollas with the face stretched up from the lip), seated males, smoking seated males, seated females with their legs out, and diadem wearers.

“King White Circle” is one of the hooded effigies now at the Indian Arts Museum. He sports a diadem, which explains the designation “King” — contemporary pictures of Aztec kings show them wearing cloth diadems.

“King Step Check,” a hooded pot, also sports a diadem, and “King Elvis” is a molded pot with a diadem painted above his head. His “sideburns” may simply be cloud terraces on his cheeks, similar to a petroglyph at Three Rivers. So the “king” idea could be a dead end. Most of the “Elvises” are male but one is a female.

One pot that may portray an individual, either supernatural or human, is “Feather Face,” possibly indicating a form of ancestor worship where ancestors are deified. Two pots exist showing “Feather Face” with alternating light and dark squares, with dots in the light squares, all topped with a red stripe.

Many of the figures have peg teeth, which may indicate a person who has died and gone to the underworld. Several have snakes on their heads.

The Red Sandal Strap Artist is the individual who is believed to have created a number of the pots. His (or her) work is distinctive in the portrayal of shin markings, sandals, ears, eyes and brows, and nose. Check decorations are identical in two pots, both named “Red V Male,” so they probably show the same person, painted by the same artist. This master craftsman was also copied by artists of lesser talent and by artists who put a twist from their own local tradition on their copies.

Odalisque Artist is another master, one who did figures of reclining females.

An article on this subject will be prepared for Pottery Southwest.

Respectfully submitted,

----Arlette Miller. Secretary
UPCOMING EVENTS

Free Public Lectures

John Kantner: “Chaco Canyon: From the Outside Looking In” Wednesday, October 14, 6 p.m., Albuquerque Museum. Archaeological Conservancy Lecture Series.


Eric Blinman: “Archaeological Myths: New/Old Perspectives on Puebloan Migrations” Thursday, November 12, 7 p.m., Hibben 105, UNM campus.

Conferences

"Beneath the City Different: The Archaeology of Santa Fe” November 7, 1:00 to 5:30 p.m. New Mexico History Museum, 113 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe. For tickets ($10), call 505-954-7200. Seating limited to 200. More information on arch.santafe.sarweb.org.


POSSIBLE NATIVE AMERICAN CITY LIES BENEATH MODERN ST. LOUIS

The Archaeology of St. Louis featured on the Archaeology Channel: "Ancient history" didn't happen just in famous places like Rome, Tikal and Angkor Wat. It happened also in the heart of North America. Modern St. Louis residents may not realize that their city once hosted a complex Native American culture, represented by a cluster of mounds, possibly an actual city rivaling Cahokia across the Mississippi River. A small army of scientists, while uncovering thousands of prehistoric Native American archaeological sites around this fertile convergence of rivers, has some fascinating questions about what took place here. See www.archaeologychannel.org/. [from Southwest Archaeology Today, a service of the Center for Desert Archaeology]

UNDISTURBED VILLAGE SITES MAY HOLD CLUES TO MAYAN CULTURE

Undisturbed late classic Mayan villages might provide Insights on the transition to the post classic. Ringing two abandoned pyramids are nine palaces "frozen in time" that may help unravel the mystery of the ancient Maya, reports an archaeological team. Hidden in the hilly jungle, the ancient site of Kiuic (KIE-yuk) was one of dozens of ancient Maya centers abandoned in the Puuc region of Mexico’s Yucatan about 10 centuries ago. The latest discoveries from the site may capture the moment of departure.

See www.cdarc.org/page/c4hw- USA Today [from Southwest Archaeology Today].

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CHACO IN 1896: THE GOLDEN GATE TO ELDORADO

By Stephen Plog, Ph.D.

Hosted by the Albuquerque Archaeological Society
Tuesday, November 17, 2009, 7:30 PM
at the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History
2000 Mountain Road NW

Through the efforts of the Chaco Digital Initiative, we have been able to assemble a considerable amount of material relating to the Hyde Exploring Expedition excavations in Chaco Canyon in 1896. Dr. Plog will discuss the digital initiative, the 1896 excavations, and the individuals involved (primarily George Pepper and Richard Wetherill), and conclude by reexamining the set of rooms in Pueblo Bonito (28, 32, and 33) that contained perhaps the most remarkable assemblage of materials ever recovered in the Southwest.

A native of Roswell, New Mexico, Steve Plog grew up in the Southwest. After obtaining his BA, MA, and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Michigan, he taught at Southern Illinois University for three years before joining the faculty at the University of Virginia where he was awarded a Commonwealth Chair in 2001 and the David A. Harrison III Chair in 2006. His synthesis of Southwestern prehistory, Ancient Peoples of the American Southwest, was awarded the Society for American Archaeology Book Award in 1998. In 2007, he was elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Plog says that his exposure to archaeological fieldwork began during the summer of 1969 when he was a dishwasher in Paul Martin’s field camp. Over the last four decades, he has conducted fieldwork in the Chevelon Canyon region of east-central Arizona, northern Black Mesa in northeastern Arizona, the Zuni region of west-central New Mexico, Chaco Canyon in northwestern New Mexico, and the Valley of Oaxaca in Mexico. His research has focused on the Southwest and includes aspects of social organization, demography, ritual and cosmology. Currently he is examining variation in mortuary behavior to better understand demographic patterns, social differentiation, and the function of Chaco great houses.
MINUTES OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
October 20, 2009

With Gretchen Obenauf presiding, the minutes of the September meeting were approved as published.

Refreshments were provided by Helen Crotty with the assistance of Libby Ratliff. A get-well card was passed around for Jacqueline Johnson, who was absent.

Treasurer’s Report: Jermaine Foslien is moving back to Minneapolis soon. The AAS board nominated former Treasurer Libby Ratliff to finish Jermaine’s term, and the membership present voted its approval unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Lab: Karen Armstrong reported on the continuing efforts to move the lab materials to the Hibben Center. Some field equipment will probably remain at the lab in case it is needed for an emergency excavation situation. Karen also presented details on the Forest Service’s Passport in Time program.

Library: Discussion was held on the donation of the library to the Friends of Tijeras Pueblo. Basing their decision on legal advice, the Board had voted to change from donation status to permanent loan. However, some members expressed concerns about the implications of such a change, and they were invited to attend a Board meeting for further consideration of the subject.

Rock Art: Recording continues both at Diamond Tail and on the BLM lands.

Newsletter: Helen Crotty says members are welcome to submit contributions to the newsletter.

Website: Mark Rosenblum, webmaster, asked members to let him know about upcoming events and what types of events members want to see listed on the website.

Nominating Committee: Carol Condie and Dave Brugge, who make up the nominating committee, are approaching potential candidates for office. Members are reminded that they are always welcome to volunteer to fill positions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Margaret Bice has donated Dick Bice’s archaeological materials to the Maxwell Museum. The Board has approved funds to pay for storage boxes.

Dick Chapman needs to unite the recovered bones with the rest of the collection from the excavation near the Basket Shop in Old Town, but he does not know where the collection is. Inquiries will be made. He is also still planning a field trip to Paako in November.

NMAC’s Annual Conference begins with a talk by Eric Blinman, which is open to the public, on Nov. 12. Hayward Franklin is doing a ceramic workshop on Saturday for conference participants.

SPEAKER

Joan Mathien introduced Rich Loose, who worked with her and Gretchen in the Chaco Center remote sensing division several years ago. His later work with PNM led to cutting edge scholarship on Chaco.

More recently, he has, in a joint project with the Park Service and the Navajo Nation, addressed a long unnoted feature: Pre-Columbian acoustic amphitheaters.
SPEAKER (continued)

Among the amphitheaters is one found at Chaco Canyon between Pueblo Bonito and Chetro Ketl. First photographed by Charles Lindbergh, it was initially believed to be a field, and corn pollen was found on the site. Navajo legend calls it a playing field for a game. But then it was subjected to archeoacoustic studies, which look at the use of sound in the past as related to architecture, petroglyph panels, caves and musical instruments, and it joined Chichen Itza, Kuilkulcan, Stonehenge, and English barrows as places with unusual effects.

Good acoustics have little echo, uniform sound, and short reverberations. It is possible that at Chaco the performers were the primary audience as well. The amphitheater is 500 feet across and 100 feet high. Part of it has been quarried as a “backstage.” The cliff face has three holes, not of natural origin, with the left-hand hole featuring a tunnel that functions as a resonator—or maybe as part of a roof support system.

The cliff face is curved vertically and horizontally, forming a toric shape that brings sound to a line focus. There are also places between Pueblo Bonito and Chetro Ketl where people a long way apart can hear each other, yet people standing between them cannot hear them.

Loose experimented with sound and found reverberations between 1.5 and 2 seconds, which is ideal. The impression is of sound coming from inside the cliff face. Additional effects are flutter (fast) echoes, a whisper gallery along the focal line, and the discovery that speech projected from a mound across the wash becomes garbled, like hearing voices inside your head. The mound, which may be artificial, is on the line axis between Pueblo Alto and Tsin Kletzin—a line that passes through the center of the amphitheater’s curve.

The reconstructed great kiva at Aztec was also originally built to produce remarkable acoustic effects. The floors, which contain floor vaults, pick up conch shell trumpet blasts and vibrate. Stone seating disks made of Colorado limestone were found below the floor and on top of a layer of lignite, and then topped with roller logs and masonry. These columns may have reached to the ceiling and, because they are not structurally useful, might have allowed the roof to vibrate.

These two locations are far from alone, even in New Mexico. Casamero has three arches at its back which provide excellent echo effects, and legend has it that Acoma’s site was chosen as being the place that produced the best echoes. Pinedale has an enormous amphitheater, and San Felipe’s dances are enhanced by the reverberations from nearby cliffs.

Respectfully submitted,

----Arlette Miller; Secretary

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Carol Condie, Nominating Committee Chair, reports the following slate to be voted at the December meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the November meeting.

President: Ann Carson
Vice President: Joan Mathien
Secretary: Arlette Miller
Treasurer: Gretchen Obenauf
Directors at Large: Helen Crotty, Sally McLaughlin, and Jerry Williams.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Free Lecture

Eric Blumner: "Archaeological Myths: New/Old Perspectives on Puebloan Migrations" Thursday, November 12, 7 p.m., Hibben 105, UNM campus.

Conferences


ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

BLM Withdraws Land Near Chaco Canyon from Oil and Gas Lease Sale

On September 29, the Bureau of Land Management withdrew eight parcels of land covering over 10,000 acres from an oil and gas lease sale scheduled to take place in Santa Fe on October 21. All of these parcels are located within a few miles of northwest New Mexico’s Chaco Canyon, one of only twenty World Heritage Sites in the United States. Some of the parcels also bordered proposed wilderness areas in this unique desert landscape. BLM chose to withdraw the parcels after receiving a formal protest letter from the Hopi Tribe. [From a NMAC-L posting.]

Researchers Report on Major Clovis Discovery in Sonora

Scientists have discovered a site containing the most extensive evidence seen so far in Mexico for the Clovis culture. The find extends the range of America’s oldest identifiable culture, which roamed North America about 13,000 years ago. The bed of artifacts in the state of Sonora in northwest Mexico also includes the bones of an extinct cousin of the mastodon called a "gomphotherium". The beast was probably hunted and killed by the Clovis people, who mysteriously disappeared within about 500 years of leaving their first archeological traces. See http://www.nature.com/news/2009/091021/full/news.2009.1034.html?s=news_rss [from Archaeology Today, a service of the Center for Desert Archaeology.]

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ANNUAL HOLIDAY MEETING AND POTLUCK

Tuesday, December 15, 2009
6:30 P.M.
at the Albuquerque Museum
2000 Mountain Road NW

Please bring your favorite appetizers or dessert; setup starts at 6:00 p.m. Beverages, utensils and plates are provided. After appetizers, we will move into the auditorium for the business meeting and talks. Desserts will follow the meeting.

Milford Fletcher—Petroglyph recording in the Hagan Valley

Since the summer of 2009, AAS volunteers have recorded nearly 1000 petroglyphs east of Placitas. The data have been entered into a computer program, and several tours and presentations have been given as a result. Although most of the glyphs appear to date from 1050 to 1500, several are probably Archaic. Large shields and animals are present as well as numerous clan symbols.

Dr. Milford Fletcher is a retired animal ecologist and occasional contributor to the rock art literature. Maynard Merkt coordinates the Diamond Tail project.

Carol Chamberland—Rio Puerco BLM Rock Art Recording Team

This new rock art team records petroglyphs and pictographs on public lands within the Rio Puerco BLM District. Sites range from very large to very small, and can be easy to find or a real aerobic slog over hills and through canyons. This presentation will introduce the new team and show some of the rock art they've encountered as well as the beautiful landscape settings of the sites.

Carol Chamberland is an artist and photographer and an avid backcountry hiker. Before moving to New Mexico, she explored rock art sites around the world and determined to get involved in local efforts for site preservation. She and Gretchen Obenauf, BLM Archaeologist, worked out an arrangement for a BLM-sponsored team to record sites endangered by public access. Veteran recorder Dick Yeck was recruited to serve as co-leader.

Karen Armstrong—Snapshots from the Pottery Mound Collection

A loyal and dedicated crew of volunteers led by Karen has been archiving past collections with and for Dr. David Phillips at the Maxwell Museum's Hibben Center. Tijeras Pueblo was the first project, and Pottery Mound has been the focus of their recent work, which was completed—or so they thought—in November. Then Dr. Phillips received a dozen more boxes of material. As the crew sorted through and recorded the Pottery Mound artifacts, they photographed those that they found particularly interesting. These snapshots will be shown, hopefully accompanied by Christmas guitar music by Hayward Franklin.

Karen Armstrong has an M.A. in Cultural Anthropology and a great deal of classroom and fieldwork experience in archaeology, particularly with PIT (Passports in Time) projects. She is a past President of AAS and a Trustee of the Archaeological Society of New Mexico, as well as a member of the Friends of Tijeras Pueblo.

Note: Dues for 2009 are now payable. Please fill out the form printed on page 5 of this newsletter and mail it with your check, or bring both to the December meeting.
MINUTES OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
November 17, 2009

Gretchen Obenauf presided as an overflow crowd packed the museum’s auditorium in response to an article in the Albuquerque Journal reporting that Stephen Plog would be speaking about Chaco Canyon archaeology.

Refreshments were provided by Jacqueline Johnson and Nancy Woodworth, and the minutes of the October meeting were approved as published.

It is possible that some new members are not getting the newsletter. Please contact Libby Ratliff or Gretchen if this applies to you.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Lab: Phyl Davis has turned Dick Bice’s collection over to the Hibben Center, and she is going through his library for any additional material that might be there. Karen Armstrong says the Pottery Mound work is finished. She will later reveal what project will begin after the holidays.

Rock Art: Milford Fletcher and Maynard Merkt have recorded five sites and more than 1000 images on the Diamond Tail property, including half a dozen depictions of arrow swallowers. Work will resume in March. Carol Chamberland’s projects, which are on BLM lands, are active year around.

Field Trips: We’ll visit the Tijeras Pueblo interpretive center when it’s finished, and Paako in late January or early February.

Website: Our website can be reached by Googling the Albuquerque Archaeological Society.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

The nominating committee’s slate for 2010 officers is:

President: Ann Carson
Vice president: Joan Mathien
Treasurer: Gretchen Obenauf
Secretary: Arlette Miller
Directors-at-large: Helen Crotty, Sally McLaughlin, and Jerry Williams.

There were no nominations from the floor. The election will take place at the December meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The December meeting will be a potluck. It begins at 6:30, then moves on to the voting and slide shows (including Diamond Tail and BLM petroglyphs), and finishes with the potluck desserts.

Joan Mathien announced the passing of Richard Holmes’s mother, Gladys Holmes, at age 86. Richard is a former AAS member who now lives in Massachusetts. Gladys was an AAS member when she lived in New Mexico.

SPEAKER

Joan Mathien introduced Dr. Stephen Plog, whose research has added a new dimension to the characters who explored Chaco Canyon in the late 19th century.

Nine years ago when he received a fellowship to study Chaco, he noticed that the research that he was reading often used the same collections and publications that had existed in the mid-20th century. Early on, the focus was on the material found in Chaco, not the architecture. Later the focus reversed. But Dr. Plog, feeling that both should be considered, began to collect data from all over the country and to put
architecture and the contents of the buildings in a common context. Joan Mathien and Chip Wills both worked on the project.

The Hyde Expedition of 1896-1901 was the first systematic exploration of Chaco. Richard Wetherill was a key figure in the Expedition, but so too was Fred Ward Putnam of the Peabody Museum, who was a founding father of archaeology in America. He was in charge of the anthropology exhibits at the Chicago World’s Fair, and he established standards of excavation that had not previously existed. The Hyde brothers wanted academic credibility for their collections, and Putnam gave it. He became head of the Expedition.

There was an old assumption that Wetherill encouraged the formation of the Expedition, but Dr. Plog cited a letter in which he indicates that he wanted to go to Canyon de Chelle (Chelly). However, Chaco was chosen, probably by Putnam, who brought in George Pepper to run the project.

Pepper is often depicted as an incompetent Eastern rube, but Dr. Plog showed the opposite – Pepper was competent and it was Wetherill who contributed little of value. Pepper represented the American Museum and had excavation experience on Staten Island. Wetherill met him at Mancos in May of 1896 and escorted him to Chaco Canyon, where he found Navajo farmers proudly showing off their melons. The expedition began looking for burials, but found few. Each mound they found was divided into grids, which was a new method at the time. They mapped the location of each object found.

In 1897 they moved on to Pueblo Bonito and found rooms, some with ceilings intact and rich with artifacts. There were baskets, pots and cylinder vessels (in which traces of chocolate have recently been detected). In another room they found stratified deposits, including the burial of vertebrae and a pelvis, wands, burn sticks, a quiver and more, each of which was drawn on a map.

Another room had an assembly of flutes plus more than 50,000 pieces of turquoise in the form of pendants, heads, inlay and other objects. Initially there was criticism that a skull was not mentioned, but there was no skull to find. Most burials in Chaco were incomplete or not articulated.

The location of objects in the rooms shows they were not randomly distributed. Room 33 is small, about six feet on a side, but it was packed with material plus fifteen burials. Dr. Plog found no evidence to show that flood water had disturbed the room, contrary to previous belief.

Pepper found SK14 (Skeleton 14) lying on a layer of wood ashes spread on a leveled floor of yellow sand. SK14 was accompanied by a large amount of turquoise, a shell trumpet, and a turquoise-inlaid basket. After SK13 and SK14 were buried, a plank floor was installed, and on top of that rested most of the rest of the skeletons and artifacts. SK13 and 14 were radiocarbon dated to AD 821 and 817, which counters the theory that turquoise came late to Chaco.

Dr. Plog argues that these are secondary burials; that these people died and decayed elsewhere and were brought to Room 33, which was not a traditional burial area (that would have been a trash mound) but was instead for elites and contained cosmologically important material. These rooms are unique ritual assemblages and the burials are of people who were important in their use. The room is a microcosm of the Chaco worldview and cosmos, with ancestors acting as a tie to the underworld.

Pepper’s documents can be downloaded from www.chacoarchive.org, which contains 7000 photos from the expedition. The site is continually being updated.

Respectfully submitted,

----Arlette Miller, Secretary
BOOK REVIEW
By David M. Brugge


Lekson tackles big questions in this book, but does so with an engaging style of writing that can hold the reader’s interest. The end notes provide data that some readers will want to see, but which those not so deeply committed can omit and still follow his reasoning.

I found myself in agreement with most of his ideas, but there are those who disagree, so I must mention his methods briefly. He states three principles that guided his thinking (pp. 8-9):

Everyone knew everything.

No coincidences.

Distances can be dealt with.

I believe the first overstates the probabilities and would suggest that everywhere some individuals knew a lot, but often did not have full understanding of what they perceived. This allows for our very human tendency to see things in terms of our own culture.

Lekson is primarily concerned with the influence of Mesoamerican civilizations on the peoples of the Southwest. There were very complex societies to the south for millennia. It seems reasonable to conclude that over time they did affect developments over a wide area. Lekson made this conclusion well before the discovery of chocolate at Chaco, which, added to corn, squash, beans, pottery, roadways, copper bells and macaws should demonstrate a steady increase in influence over a long period. Add to this the architectural evidence noted by Ferdon (1955) more than a half century ago and it is difficult to dismiss this conclusion. Lekson fills in many of the gaps with a wealth of data and analysis.

There is, of course, still work to be done. Our wavering from one extreme to the opposite for so long may be over. That debate will continue is inevitable, but it needs to find a better focus.

The book has eight chapters, each divided into two parts, "Archaeologies" which discuss the history or research, and "Histories", which present Lekson’s view of what took place in prehistory, beginning in the first chapter with "Time Immemorial to 1500 BC" and ending in the last with "Post - Ends and Beginnings."

There are 97 pages of notes in small type, 77 pages of references (about 43% date after 1999) and 10 1/2 pages of index detailing what is considered. The favorite subjects of some were omitted, a necessary act of restraint on Lekson’s part.

The promises of the New Archaeology and post-processualism having fallen so far short of the discipline’s goals, Lekson gives us another way to look at our data, one that I can best characterize as humanistic anthropology which is intended to guide us between the extremes of scientism and romanticism which have generated so much intellectual turmoil in recent decades.

He has already aroused strong criticism by those with wounded oxen, a few of which were indeed gored. I can sympathize with those whose oxen were merely speared and am glad that mine was spared, perhaps only by neglect. Even so, I highly recommend the book to those with open minds and an appreciation of some characteristic Lekson humor.

Reference Cited

Ferdon, Edwin N., Jr.
1955 A Trial Survey of Mexican-Southwestern Parallels. Monographs of the School of American Research, No. 21, Santa Fe, NM.
REEVALUATING THE ORIGINS OF THE FIRST AMERICANS:
THE NORTHWEST COASTAL MIGRATION HYPOTHESIS

E. James Dixon, Ph.D.

Hosted by the Albuquerque Archaeological Society
Tuesday, January 20, 2008 at 7:30 PM
At the Albuquerque Museum
2000 Mountain Road NW

Opinion regarding the timing of the first colonization of the Americas range between 150,000 – 200,000 to as late as 14,000 – 11,500 radiocarbon years ago. The growing body of archeological evidence suggests that humans were widespread throughout the Americas prior to 11,000 – 11,500 radiocarbon years ago (12,550 - 13,100 calendar years ago). Evaluating the evidence for human colonization rests on dating geological events, human remains, artifacts and paleoecological evidence. Increasing evidence supports the hypothesis that the earliest human migration to North America may have occurred with the use of watercraft along the southern margin of the Bering Land Bridge and then southward along the northwest coast of North America. To evaluate this hypothesis and establish the probable time and geographic origin for the first human entry to the Americas, it is necessary to evaluate the North American archeological evidence in the context of world and regional archeology and paleoecology.

E. James Dixon is the author of Bones, Boats & Bison: Archeology and the First Colonization of Western North America and Quest for the Origins of the First Americans (University of New Mexico Press, 1999, 1993). These pioneering works provide an overview of the early archeology of western North America focusing on early human colonization of the Americas near the end of the last Ice Age. He received his B.A. and M.A. from the University of Alaska and his Ph.D. from Brown University 1979. He was a professor at the University of Alaska until 1993, when he became curator of archeology at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Dr. Dixon served Graduate Director of Museum and Field Studies and Professor of Anthropology at the University of Colorado Museum between 2001-07. He has extensive experience in North American archeology, particularly focusing on human colonization, high altitude and high latitude adaptations, and early cultural development of the Americas. He has published extensively, developed museum exhibits, and advised and participated in educational programs for the History Channel, NOVA and other public programs. He has been an invited lecturer in the United States, Canada, Australia, Japan, Russia, Norway, Switzerland, and Brazil. He is active in archeological field research in western North America and Alaska and moved to New Mexico in 2007 to serve as Director of the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology and Professor of Anthropology at UNM.

Note: Newly increased dues for 2009 are now payable. See membership renewal form on page 4. If you have recently renewed, please disregard an 08 date following your name on the mailing label.
MINUTES OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
December 16, 2008

Gretchen Obenauf, presiding, introduced guests: Dave Berwell, Bernadette Blacker, Yasmin and Rana, Pam Harris and Bob Shepperson. New members include Cindy Carson, John Guth, Matt Rosset, Bruce Lindsay and Roger Cook.

The signup list for next year’s refreshments was passed around. This evening’s refreshments were provided by the members, with setup and drinks by Jacqueline Johnson and Libby Ratliff.

The November minutes will be amended to state that Carol Chamberland, not Carol Condie, will be doing the review of the Loendorf book.

Members were reminded to use the latest (November) version of the Membership Directory, which they can request from info@abqarchaeology.org.

Gretchen thanked the society’s volunteers for their contributions during the year, including Jack and Janet Geohegan, Tom Obenauf, Deborah Sweat, Karen Armstrong, P lofty Davis, Craig and Gina Fredrickson, Carol Chamberland, Maynard Merckt, and members of the Board.

A field trip visited Bradley Bowman’s Museum of Archeology and Material Culture in Cedar Crest on Nov. 22. Trips are also planned to Paako, the Tijeras Pueblo’s new interpretive center, and a solstice marker at Petroglyph National Monument.

Nominees for 2009 board positions were elected by acclamation: President, Gretchen Obenauf; Vice-President, Joan Mathien; Secretary, Arlette Miller; Treasurer, Jermaine Foslien; Past President, Helen Crotty, and Directors-at-large, Libby Ratliff and Sally McLanghlin.

Bradley introduced the speakers.

Gwen Poe spoke of her visit to China, which has only one time zone and where the government owns all the land. She went to Beijing, where she saw several of the Olympic venues; the Great Wall, the Three Gorges project, Shanghai, Xian, and other cities. She also visited Tibet.

Dionisia Roth tried to visit petroglyphs in Sinaloa, Mexico, near El Fuerte, but the sites were closed. However, she showed a CD she had purchased that has pictures of the petroglyphs, which are only some of about 200 sites in Sinaloa. Pottery from the area dates to AD 900-1200, but no pueblos have been found. Authorities are concentrating on recording and preserving the petroglyphs, so interpretation has not begun.

Helen Crotty and Joan Wilkes saw Adena and Hopewell sites in southern Ohio on an Archeological Conservancy tour. In spite of the effects of Hurricane Ike in the area, they were able to visit Serpent Mound, Fort Ancient, Flint Ridge and Sunwatch Village among other sites.

Respectfully Submitted,
-----Arlette Miller, Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

FREE PUBLIC LECTURES

Regge N. Wiseman: “Sinio Creston and the Prehistory of Northeastern New Mexico and Southeastern Colorado” Tuesday, January 13 at 7 p.m., Tijeras Ranger Station. Friends of Tijeras Pueblo regular meeting.


CONFERENCES

State of New Mexico SiteWatch Site Stewards February 20 – 22 at UNM Hibben Center. Friday afternoon and Sunday field trips, Saturday classroom presentations. Co-sponsored by NM Department of Cultural Affairs, Historic Preservation Division, the Maxwell Museum, and Steward Foundation. Details and downloadable registration form are available on the AAS website abqarchaeology.org.
BOOK REVIEW
Thunder & Herds: Rock Art of the High Plains.

Loendorf’s background as a dirt archeologist has shaped his approach to the study of rock art. He believes that “rock art sites are first and foremost archeological sites” and bases his studies on artifacts, geological features, and ethnographic sources as much as the petroglyphs themselves.

With this publication, Loendorf describes his extensive study of rock art in southeastern Colorado and northeastern New Mexico, an area not renowned for its rocky geology. This is High Plains country, home to violent thunderstorms, fierce winds and hailstorms followed by raging flash floods. It is the author’s premise that the prominence of lightning and thunder played a significant role in the placement and subject matter of the rock art found here. Massive herds of thundering buffalo were another important component of life on these plains and are referenced in the book’s title as well as the subject matter of the local rock imagery.

In prehistoric times it would have been difficult for a hunter on foot to capture the free ranging elk, pronghorn, mule deer and buffalo. In this vast open space the startled animals could simply run away. Early hunters understood the usefulness of broken ground, where arroyos and ravines, volcanic dikes and canyons could be advantageous. It is here where evidence of hunting activities, if not habitations, abounds.

Loendorf uses multiple methods to date the archeological sites and associated rock art to develop theories regarding the peoples and cultures who passed through the region over the ages. Proceeding chronologically, the author describes many sites in Colorado’s Purgatoire River area with examples from Archaic, Pecked I and Pecked II periods. Petroglyphs are shown to coincide with specific hunting locations, where animals could have easily been driven and trapped with nets, then speared. Loendorf speculates that this rock art may have served as educational tools for young hunters or ritualistic symbols for hunting magic. In any case, they are clearly “about” the hunting of wild game. The Apishapa peoples and their ancestors were the likely creators of this rock art and the general consensus is that they were Caddoan speakers whose descendants became the Pawnee and Wichita.

The chapter on pictographs of the High Plains relates an interesting example of how the geographical extent of a site can be misunderstood without proper archeology. Originally defined as multiple small sites, the Game Drive Site was redefined as one integral hunting site based on archeological and geological evidence connecting the two rockshelters and eight pictograph panels.

The concluding sections cover Proto-Historic and Historic Rock Art of the region. Proto-history is defined as that time before a culture has developed writing but other cultures have noted their presence. It is this period when Navajos and Apaches arrived from the north, though there are disputing theories regarding which route they traveled.

--Reviewed by Carol Chamberland

NANODIAMONDS POINT TO MASSIVE COMET EXPLOSION AROUND 12,900 BC
[From CNN via NMAC-L]

Tiny diamonds found in the soil are "strong evidence" a comet exploded on or above North America nearly 13,000 years ago, leading to the extinction of dozens of mammal species, according to a study.

Diamonds found in North American soil suggest a comet led to the extinction of dozens of mammal species.

The scientific report also suggests the cataclysm also reduced the population of the earliest people to inhabit the region and triggered a 1,300-year-long cold spell that stretched around the world.

The heat generated by the extraterrestrial impact likely melted much of a glacier that once covered the Great Lakes region, sending a massive flood down the Mississippi River, the study said.

According to the report, the cold waves of glacial runoff into the Gulf of Mexico shifted Atlantic Ocean currents, changing climate patterns throughout the world in a cooling period known as the Younger Dryas.

"A rare swarm" of comets rained over North America about 12,900 years ago, sparking fires that produced choking, leading "to the extinction of a large range of animals, including
mammoths, across North America," the report said.

The study was conducted by a group of eight archaeologists and geologists from the universities of Oregon and California, Northern Arizona University, Oklahoma University and DePaul University. Their findings were published Friday [1/2/09] in the journal Science.

The prehistoric humans known to have inhabited the continent at the time of the event -- hunters and gatherers dubbed the Clovis culture -- suffered a major decline in population in the aftermath, the scientists said.

The scientists studied layers of sediment dated to 12,900 years ago at six North American locations, including one directly on top of a Clovis site in Murray Springs, Arizona. Each layer was rich in nanodiamonds, which are produced under high-temperature, high-pressure conditions created by cosmic impacts, the report said.

"The nanodiamonds that we found at all six locations exist only in sediments associated with the Younger Dryas Boundary layers, not above it or below it," said University of Oregon archaeologist Douglas Kennett. "These discoveries provide strong evidence for a cosmic impact event at approximately 12,900 years ago that would have had enormous environmental consequences for plants, animals and humans across North America."

The other sites studied were in Bull Creek, Oklahoma; Gainey, Michigan and Topper, South Carolina, as well as Lake Hind, Manitoba; and Chobut, in the Canadian province of Alberta.

[Ed. note: This controversial theory was discussed in two special sessions at the 2008 Pecos Conference and is also briefly discussed in a recent issue of Scientific American. See http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=did-a-comet-hit-earth-12900-years-ago.]

ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 4029, Albuquerque, NM 87196 or info@abqarchaeology.org
Website: www.abqarchaeology.org

Annual Dues:
E-mailed Newsletter: Basic $20, Sustaining $30+. Print Newsletter by first class mail: Basic $25, Sustaining $35+. Institutions/Libraries $10 for print Newsletter by first class mail, e-mailed at no charge.

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ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY 2009 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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Electronic newsletter: Basic $20.00 Sustaining $30.00+

Newsletter by first class mail: Basic $25.00 Sustaining $35.00+

Membership category: Individual Family (no difference in dues)

Institutions/Libraries: $10.00 (newsletter sent by first class mail)

No charge (electronic newsletter)

Please bring this form and your membership dues check (payable to the Albuquerque Archaeological Society) to a monthly meeting, or mail them to: Albuquerque Archaeological Society, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 4029, Albuquerque NM 87196

☐ Please check this box if you do not wish your contact information to be printed in our annual directory. (Federal law prohibits disclosing members' contact information to anyone outside of the organization.)
LA2: EXCAVATIONS AT A LARGE COALITION–CLASSIC PUEBLO ON THE SANTA FE RIVER

By Glenda Deyloff

Hosted by the Albuquerque Archaeological Society
Tuesday, February 16, 2010 at 7:30 PM
at the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History
2000 Mountain Road NW

For the last three years, Southwest Archaeological Consultants, Inc. has conducted investigations at LA2, the Agua Fria School House site, as part of a Santa Fe County Public Works road and utility improvement project. Agua Fria Road runs through the north edge of this large Coalition–Classic pueblo in the Village of Agua Fria. Southwest conducted testing across the Agua Fria Road right-of-way and intensive excavations under the road’s north lane as it passes through LA2. We completed excavations in November 2009. Southwest recorded 99 features including 2 pit structures, 3 extramural activity surfaces, 2 middens, and dozens of pits. We currently are processing the artifact assemblage, which numbers over 100,000 artifacts. We hope our research at this site, and comparisons with similar pueblos like Pindi, Santa Fe, and Arroyo Hondo, will provide insights into community formation in the Coalition Period.

Glenda Deyloff holds a B.A. in Archaeology from Rutgers University at New Brunswick, New Jersey, and an M.A. in Southwest History from New Mexico Highlands University. She is currently a project director for Southwest Archaeological Consultants in Santa Fe where she has worked for over 20 years. Glenda’s primary interests are in historical research and historical site excavations but she has worked within all cultural-temporal periods: Archaic, Pueblo and historic Native American and Euro-American. Current projects include excavations at LA2 (the Agua Fria School House site), a multidisciplinary study of a late nineteenth and early twentieth century sheepherding landscape southeast of Chaco Canyon, and maintenance of a GIS database for El Segundo Mine’s archaeological sites.

Note: Dues for 2010 are now payable. If you have already paid, thank you. If not, please fill out the enclosed form and mail it with your check, or bring both to the February meeting.

Thanks, your dues are current.
MINUTES OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
January 19, 2009

Ann Carson presided. After introduction of guests, the minutes of the December meeting were approved as published. Refreshments were provided by Cindy Carson and Mark Rosenblum.

Treasurer Gretchen Oertenauf reminded members that dues are due.

Hibben Center Archiving: Karen Armstrong reported that the Hibben Center projects are on hiatus, but after the Mandell site work is done, a "humdinger" will get under way. Stay tuned for details.

Rock Art: Carol Chamberland's rock art crews are still working.

Announcements:

Mark Rosenblum said that SiteWatch training will be held Jan. 30 in Elephant Butte, and the annual meeting will be next month in Santa Fe. See our website for further information.

Joan Mathen brought brochures with the schedule of the Friends of Archaeology lectures and field trips for the year.

Speaker:

Dr. Patricia Crown, professor of anthropology at UNM, spoke on "Chaco Chocolate: The Recovery of Cacao at Pueblo Bonito."

For the last five years Dr. Crown has been studying cylinder jars or vessels, which are typically about ten inches high by four inches wide, often adorned with small lug handles. The 157 pieces that she has examined at the American Museum of Natural History and at the Smithsonian are mostly Black-on-white, with some all-white examples and a few that are red.

Previous suggestions about their purpose include use for holding luxury items, serving as ceramic drums, ritual purposes, and as pressure cookers for macaws. (Yes, that is a joke. So was the slide that went with it.)

With these in mind, Dr. Crown looked at various data such as context, use wear, how similar vessels were used elsewhere, and residues.

Where do such vessels occur? In the U.S., there are fewer than 200 examples, and all but six are from Chaco. Most of the Chaco jars are from Pueblo Bonito, and most of those were in a cache in Room 28 on the north side of the plaza. The Hyde expedition in the 1890s excavated the room, and Judd's work in the 1920s found a few vessels in other rooms. They were probably used in a ritual manner by the community to which they belonged and were "terminated," or buried, with the rest of the room after their last use. There was very little use wear on the inside of the jars, but some was evident on the outside. Cut marks were sometimes present near the lugs, maybe because something was removed.

Plaster found on some examples may have had bright pigments at one time. Available colors for the jars themselves were limited to black, white, red and yellow, so a post-firing pigment such as green or blue would have been added to a plaster covering. Then after the vessel was used the pigment and plaster were scrubbed off, the vessel was stored away, and then re-decorated for the next ritual.

Wondering if Maya vessels also had plaster and pigment, Dr. Crown contacted Dorie Reeney-Budet, Maya scholar, and was told that not only were they plastered and pigmented, but they were also used for cacao. How did she know? The inscriptions said so.

Dr. Crown then contacted Jeff Hurst, senior scientist at the Hershey Foods Technical Center in Pennsylvania, for further analysis. He had been to Albuquerque and Chaco, and was pleased to test the residue in the vessels. Vessel fragments culled from Judd's old trenches were used instead of whole
jars because the testing was destructive. Some of the surface was burned off to clean the fragments. Then the inside was ground into a paste and mixed with hot water. A high performance liquid chromatograph mass spectrometer confirmed that the organic compounds found in the sherds contained theobromine and caffeine - it was cacao.

Now, the closest cacao trees are 1200 miles away in Central America. So why were they imported from so far away? Possibly because cacao is high in fat and carbs, with protein, vitamins and iron, all hard to come by at Chaco, plus it causes the brain to produce natural opiates. It was probably a luxury food, restricted in access, hard to obtain. It required complex knowledge to make into a drink, so it was linked to special people or places and was reserved for special occasions. Mesoamericans had been using cacao since 1500 BC in a similar manner in rituals and rites of passage that continue today. It was even a form of currency, as well as counterfeited - among the Aztecs. And then, as now, frothing was an important part of its preparation.

Macaws come from the same places that cacao trees grow, so they may have been imported together up the coasts, then overland to Chaco. Macaws found at Pueblo Bonito were mostly about 12 months old. A macaw is born in the spring and weaned at six months of age, so if they were 12 months old when they were sacrificed, the trip to Chaco took about six months. They may also have passed through the Mimbres area, where some pots show baby macaws with their fat bodies and short tails.

Dr. Crown will eventually expand her research to look for cacao in Mesa Verde, Hohokam, Mimbres and Paquime.

Respectfully submitted,

--- Arlette Miller, Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS

Free Public Lectures

Frances Levine: "In Her Own Voice: Doña Teresa Aguilera y Roche and Intrigue in the Palace of the Governors" Saturday, February 20 2-3:30 p.m., New Mexico History Museum Auditorium, 113 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe. Santa Fe 400th Anniversary Lecture Series. Free with museum admission.


Conferences

New Mexico SiteWatch Stewards Conference: 10:15 am - 4:30 pm Sunday February 21 New Mexico History Museum, Santa Fe. See www.sitestewardfoundation.org. To insure adequate seating is available, please confirm your attendance by emailing gnewgent@sitestewardfoundation.org.

Conference on Archaeoastronomy of the American Southwest Technical Workshop: March 11-12, Pueblo Grande, Phoenix, AZ. See caasw.org


Southwestern Federation of Archaeological Societies Symposium: April 9-11, Hobbs, NM. The deadline for abstracts (500 word maximum) and a short biography of the presenter is March 12. Send abstracts and biographies to Calvin Smith, Western Heritage Museum Complex, 5317 Lovington Highway, Hobbs, NM 88240, or e-mail to: cmsmith@nmjc.edu.

Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting: April 14-18, St. Louis, MO. See saa.org.

Archaeological Society of New Mexico Annual Meeting: April 30-May 2, Santa Fe. See ASNM website newmexico-archaeology.org for details and registration information.
UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Paako Field Trip Postponed. The planned trip to the ruins of Paako, which was occupied during early Pueblo IV and again in historic times, has been postponed once more due to continued snows and cold temperatures in the East Mountains. The tentative date is now March 20 or 21, and a vote will be taken at the February meeting to determine whether the day should be Saturday or Sunday. The trip will be led by Richard C. Chapman, Director of UNM’s Office of Contract Archaeology.

All Day Trip Planned to the Glorieta Frontier and Gateway for the Santa Fe Trail. Jerry Williams, our newest Board member and Field Trip Chair, is planning an early start for an event-packed tour to the north, with stops at the La Bajada Rest Area, Glorieta Pass, Pecos Pueblo, San Miguel del Bado, Villanueva, Fort Union, Watrous, La Castenada, and Las Vegas, returning to Albuquerque in the evening. A date will be set and more details will be announced at the February meeting.

NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

The Maxwell Museum announces a new report by our member Hayward Franklin is now available free online. It can be found at the following URL: http://www.unm.edu/~maxwell/technical_series.html.


Southwestern Cave Providing Detailed Ancient Climatic Data: University of Arizona researchers report that the Southwest's climate had rapid shifts between wet and dry periods 11,000 to 55,000 years ago. Ice Age climate records from an Arizona stalagmite link the Southwest's winter precipitation to temperatures in the North Atlantic, according to new University of Arizona research. See http://uanews.org/node/29591 [From Archaeology Today, a service of the Center for Desert Archaeology].

Black Mesa Residents Win Appeal Against Peabody Coal: Peabody Western Coal Company's Black Mesa Coal Complex has suffered a major setback as an administrative law judge for the U.S. Department of the Interior vacated a permit for the massive coal-mining complex. The judge vacated the permit in response to one of several appeals filed by Navajo and Hopi residents as well as a diverse coalition of tribal and environmental groups. The permit, issued by Interior's Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement, allowed Peabody to operate and expand the Black Mesa mine and the Kayenta mine under a single permit. See http://tinyurl.com/yeo7hng - Center for Biological Diversity. [From Archaeology Today.]

ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 4029, Albuquerque, NM 87196 or info@abquarchaeology.org Website: www.abquarchaeology.org

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2009 Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officers</th>
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<tr>
<td>President: Ann Carson 242-1143</td>
<td>Newsletter: Helen Crofts 281-2136</td>
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<td>Vice President: Joan Mathieu 275-1144</td>
<td>Mailer: Jacqueline Johnson 881-9861</td>
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<td>Secretary: Arlette Miller 897-3169</td>
<td>Rock Art Recording: Maynard Morris 771-0815</td>
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<th>Directors at Large:</th>
<th>Membership: Libby Ratliff 994-1423</th>
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<tr>
<td>Helen Crofts 281-2136</td>
<td>Potter Southwest: Editor: Patricia Lee</td>
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<td>Sally McLauglin 897-9083</td>
<td>Local contact: Arlette Miller 897-3169</td>
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<td>Jerry Williams 266-7134</td>
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Field Trips:
Planning: Jerry Williams
Reservations: Lou Schuyler 856-7090
Refreshments: Jacqueline Johnson 881-9861
Webmaster: Mark Rosenblum 866-0300
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH AT LA 835, THE POJOAQUE GRANT SITE

By Steven A. Lakatos

Hosted by the Albuquerque Archaeological Society
Tuesday, March 16, 2010 at 7:30 PM
at the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History
2000 Mountain Road NW

LA 835, the Pojoaque Grant Site, initially excavated during the summer of 1953 by Stanley A. Stubbs, is arguably the most popularized late Developmental site in the northern Rio Grande region. Lending to its notoriety is the presence of non-local decorated black-on-white ceramic types along with a large architectural feature interpreted as a great kiva. However, due to Stubbs’s death in 1959, those investigations remain under-reported. Hence, most of what is known about LA 835 is derived from a short El Palacio article by Stubbs, areal summaries, brief pottery descriptions, and tree-ring data. While these studies have all contributed to a growing body of knowledge, not until now has their combined strength been used to inform on the settlement, occupation history, and pottery production at this important site.

Steven A. Lakatos is a Project Director at the Office of Archaeological Studies in Santa Fe. He has worked in the American Southwest for over 20 years, participating in numerous survey, excavation, and public outreach projects. His field experience includes investigations of Paleo-Indian and Archaic manifestations in southeast New Mexico, Basketmaker and ethnohistoric Navajo occupations in the southern Chuska Valley, and Coalition-Classic Period sites on the Pajarito Plateau. Currently, his research interests are focused on the archaeology of the Northern Rio Grande Valley, particularly Developmental Period (A.D. 600-1200), exploring demographic trends and community formation as populations grew and expanded in the northern Rio Grande Valley during this and subsequent periods.

AAS Field Trips Scheduled March 20 and April 24. See Pages 3 for Details
MINUTES OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
February 16, 2010

Ann Carson presided. Guests were welcomed and interested parties were invited to join AAS.

The minutes of the January meeting were approved as published.

Refreshments were provided by Libby Ratliff and Arlette Miller with the assistance of Helen Crotty. Jacqueline Johnson hopes to return soon.

ROCK ART: The Rio Puerco BLM group has been to the San Antonio area, where Piro and Spanish art is to be found. Milford Fletcher said work at Diamond Tail will resume in March.

LIBRARY: Karen Armstrong reported that Craig Fredrickson has been working on the archive, now at the interpretive center at the Sandia Ranger Station. Nancy Woodworth is having bookplates printed.

HIBBEN CENTER ARCHIVING: Karen announced that the next project would be AS-7, followed by a major project, the nature of which will be announced later.

POTTERY SOUTHWEST: Arlette Miller read Patricia Lee’s email reporting that the fall issue “has gone live.” It will be dedicated to the late Paul Kay. The winter issue will include an article by Hayward Franklin.

SITETRACK: Mark Rosenblum, who will be attending the state SiteWatch meeting Feb. 19-21, said training has been completed in Taos and Elephant Butte.

ASNM: Nancy Woodworth is recruiting board members for the Archaeological Society of New Mexico, of which AAS is an affiliate. There are four openings on the Board. Terms begin with the Annual Meeting in Santa Fe in May, and additional Board meetings are held in May, September, and February.

FIELD TRIPS: Jerry Williams proposes an all-day trip April 24 with stops on I-25 and then on Highway 3 to the Villanueva area for lunch and on to Las Vegas for dinner (optional). Later trips might include the Zuni highlands and Pottery Mound (which currently has access issues). Gretchen Obenauf announced a day trip to Pa’ako led by Richard Chapman of OCA on the weekend of March 20-21. A straw vote by members present indicated that a Saturday date was preferred. Final arrangements will be announced.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ann mentioned the Albuquerque Museum’s exhibit of photos of Isleta Pueblo by Charles Lummis.

The Antiquarian Book Sale will be at UNM on April 2 and 3.

New Mexico History Museum Director Frances Levine will tell the tale of Doña Teresa Aguilera y Roche, wife of the Governor and a target of the Inquisition for allegedly practicing secret Jewish rituals in the mid-1660s, at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 20, in the Museum auditorium. Free with museum admission.

Karen Armstrong is looking for photos of Tonque Pueblo, which was excavated by AAS members. An exhibit on that pueblo was held at the Albuquerque Museum in 1968. Please contact her if you have any information about the exhibit or photos from the Tonque dig.

SPEAKER:

Joan Mathien introduced Glenda Deyloff, who has been working on LA 2, the Agua Fria Schoolhouse site in Santa Fe. Field work was completed last November, and most of the artifacts have not been washed yet, but there is plenty to report.
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 16 MEETING (continued)

Mera first recorded the site in the early 1900s, and it is related to LA-1 (Pindi Pueblo) which is on the other side of the Santa Fe River. The site is cut by Agua Fria Road at the San Ysidro crossing. Kidder, who trenched near standing walls in 1911, thought it dated from the 1400s, but tree-ring studies push the date back to the 1300s.

Ms. Dylof's project found a Spanish colonial house, whose family still lives nearby. She also located an earlier Coalition segment. Some boundaries of the site remain speculative, but local residents continue to find artifacts when they dig in their yards.

Santa Fe County was planning work on the roadway; so it arranged to have the right of way tested on both the east and west sides of the road. Many room blocks as well as pit structures were found on the east side. Rainy weather caused many problems, but the excavators still found a large trash midden, lots of ceramics, and some corn cobs.

On the west side were found pit structures, an activity surface, a ground stone cache, and a roasting pit full of ash and charcoal. Feature 55 was a large, complicated area of overlapping pits with evidence of corn cobs, husks, charcoal and trash. Feature 58 had a plastered floor and linear impressions of subfloor channels that radiated from the hearth. There was a possible foot drum and post holes that may indicate a screen for the drum.

Water, phone and an abandoned gas line run through the site, adding to the difficulties of the dig, which has since been filled in by the County. In all, more than 125,000 artifacts were recovered, 110,000 of which are ceramics, 9,000 lithics, plus groundstone and animal bones.

Analysis will focus on community formation and dynamics with Pindi, Arroyo Hondo, and other pueblos. The lithics will be studied to relate them to their sources.

Respectfully submitted,

---- Arlette Miller, Secretary

AAS FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULED

Pa'alo Field Trip March 20. A short field trip to the ruins of Paako, which was occupied during early Pueblo IV and again in the Historic Period, has been scheduled for Saturday, March 20, 10 a.m. to about noon. The trip will be led by Richard C. Chapman, Director of UNM's Office of Contract Archaeology. Participants will meet at the site, which is on the west side of Highway 14 about 8 1/4 miles north of the Cedar Crest/Tijeras exit from I-40 and between the two entrances to the Paa-ko subdivision (If you get to the Paa-ko golf course entrance, you've gone too far). There will be a signup sheet at the March meeting, or you can contact Lou Schuyler by email (Lou.Schuyler@comcast.net) or phone (856-7090). Fallback date for the trip in the event of inclement weather will be March 27.

All Day Trip April 24 to the Glorieta Frontier and Gateway for the Santa Fe Trail. Jerry Williams, our newest Board member and Field Trip Chair, is planning an early start (7:00 a.m.) for an event-packed tour to the north, with stops at the La Bajada Rest Area, Glorieta Pass, Pecos Pueblo, San Miguel del Bado; Villanueva (lunch), Fort Union, Watrous, La Castenada, and Las Vegas, returning to Albuquerque in the evening. There will be a signup sheet at the March and April meetings, or you can contact Lou Schuyler by email (Lou.Schuyler@comcast.net) or phone (856-7090)
NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

Arizona Unprepared to Secure Closed Archaeological Parks. With the first wave of state park closures that began February 22, officials were still struggling with basic questions on how to secure the vast properties. Homolovi Ruins near Winslow and Lyman Lake near St. Johns were the first to be closed as a result of steep budget cuts to the parks system. Parks officials posted signs telling visitors about the closures, and for the time being, a ranger was expected to be on hand to answer questions. More than a month after the shutdown announcement, officials remained uncertain about how to secure the park perimeters and protect their assets. - Arizona Republic 3/8/2010 [From Archaeology Today, a service of the Center for Desert Archaeology.

Utah Legislature Seeks to Limit Federal Law Enforcement. Kane County Sheriff Lamont Smith said the federal encroachment has been so broad that federal rangers have taken to writing tickets for everything from expired registrations to broken tail lights to violators stopped on U.S. 89 near Lake Powell. As an example of what they say is "encroachment," Noel and the sheriffs pointed to events like last spring's Federal raid that led to more than two dozen arrests of people accused of stealing or possessing Native American artifacts and a May showdown between BLM agents and off-road enthusiasts at the Paria River corridor. http://tinyurl.com/ ygddzt3 - Deseret News [From Archaeology Today.]

Utah Politicians Express Outrage over Potential Cedar Mesa National Monument Designation. A leaked memo from the U.S. Department of the Interior has raised the prospect that the Cedar Mesa area in San Juan County could be designated as a national monument. The monument could be designated without Congressional approval or public input through the Antiquities Act. The same course was used near San Juan County, Utah in the 1996 designation of the Grand Staircase - Escalante National Monument in adjacent Garfield and Kane counties and in the 1999 designation of the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument in adjacent Montezuma and Dolores counties in Colorado. While federal officials downplayed the document and stated that it is just a "draft memo", the response was strong among Congressional, state and local officials.

www.sjnews.com/pages/full_story/content_instance_id=6450758 [From Archaeology Today.]

UPCOMING EVENTS

Free Public Lectures

Thomas E. Chávez, "Juan Martinez de Montoya and the Establishment of Santa Fe," Saturday, March 13, 2 p.m., New Mexico History Museum Auditorium. Free with museum admission.


Robin Farwell Gavin, "The Journey of Mayólica," Saturday, April 17, 2 p.m., New Mexico History Museum Auditorium. Free with museum admission.
Benefit Public Lectures


Donald D. Fowler and Catherine Fowler, "Great Basin: The Other Laboratory for Anthropology," Monday, March 22, 6 p.m., $12. Hotel Santa Fe, 1501 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe. Southwest Seminars, benefiting The Archaeological Conservancy.

Mark Alkeldenfer, "4000 Years of Andean Gold," Monday, March 29, 6 p.m., $12. Hotel Santa Fe, 1501 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe. Southwest Seminars, benefiting The Archaeological Conservancy.

John Ware, "Eastern Pueblo Historical Disjunction: Fact, Fallacy, or Something In-Between," Monday, April 5, 6 p.m., $12. Hotel Santa Fe, 1501 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe. Southwest Seminars, benefiting The Archaeological Conservancy.

Conferences


Southwestern Federation of Archaeological Societies Symposium: April 9-11, Hobbs, Western Heritage Museum Complex, 5317 Lovington Highway, Hobbs, NM 88240, Contact csmith@nmjc.edu.

Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting: April 14-18, St. Louis, MO. See-san.org.

Archaeological Society of New Mexico Annual Meeting: April 30-May 2, Santa Fe. See ASNM website newmexico-archaeology.org for details and registration information.

Tularosa Basin 2010 Conference May 14 and 15, with tours on May 16. Tays Center at NMSU-Alamogordo. More information from dgreenwald@tularosa.net.


ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Mail: Jacqueline Johnson 881-9861
Rock Art Recording:
Maynard Meek 771-0815
Carol Chamberland 341-1027
Membership: Libby Ratliff 994-1423
Pottery Southwest:
Editor Patricia Lee
Local contact: Arletta Miller 897-3169

Field Trips:
Planning: Jerry Williams
Reservations: Leo Schuyler 856-7090
Refreshments: Jacqueline Johnson 881-9861
Webmaster: Mark Rosenblum 866-0000
"Gimme That Old Time Religion:" Establishing the Timeline for the Native American Indian Peyote Ritual

by Marvin Rowe, Ph.D.

Hosted by the Albuquerque Archaeological Society
Tuesday, April 20, 2010 at 7:30 PM
at the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History
2000 Mountain Road NW

Direct radiocarbon dates were obtained on rock paintings from the Lower Pecos River region of southwest Texas. Direct dates have also been obtained on archaeological peyote excavated from two shelters, one in Texas and one in Mexico. These dates, combined with the observations that peyote symbolism occurs in three styles of the rock art in the Lower Pecos River region, permits us to discuss the antiquity of the Native American Indian peyote religion and to compare its longevity with major world religions extant in the 21st Century.

Marvin Rowe, Chemistry Professor, Texas A&M University (TAMU) and TAMU-Qatar received a B.S. in Petroleum Engineering at New Mexico Tech, Socorro. He won a Nininger Award on work performed at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. He received a Ph.D. in Chemistry, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, again winning a Nininger Award for his dissertation research there. He was selected as a Miller Institute in Basic Research Post-doctoral Fellow a University of California, Berkeley, in Physics. He joined Texas A&M University in 1969. His more recent research, developing a method for dating rock paintings, received the Castleton Award from the American Association of Rock Art Research in 1998. In 2003, he was named as a speaker in the Texas A&M University Distinguished Lecture Series. In 2009, he presented The Chevron Lecture, First Year Chemistry Program of Texas A&M, and the keynote addresses at the Colorado Rock Art Association annual meeting and the International Congress for Dating Rupestrian Art in Barcelona, Spain. He has published over 300 scientific papers, of which over 60 are in archaeological chemistry.
Presiding was Ann Carson, who managed to be audible despite the disappearance of the society's microphone from the auditorium.

Lou Schuyler provided refreshments. After guests were introduced and the minutes of the February meeting were approved as published and committee reports were presented.

**ROCK ART:** Snow is preventing work at Diamond Tail, but the BLM crews have flexibility as to sites and can record year around.

**LAB:** Karen Armstrong welcomes volunteers for work at the Hibben Center, which is about to resume on Thursday mornings.

**POTTERY SOUTHWEST:** Hayward Franklin, after thanking Karen for her assistance on Pottery Mound, reviewed the fall and winter volumes, which are now available at [http://www.unm.edu/~psw/](http://www.unm.edu/~psw/).

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Field Trip: Gretchen Obenauf outlined a field trip planned for Saturday at Pa'ako (since delayed to March 27) led by Dick Chapman. Jerry Williams will lead a day trip to the Glorieta area on April 24.

**ASNM Annual Meeting:** The Archaeological Society of New Mexico's annual meeting will be on April 30 through May 2 in Santa Fe.

**SPEAKER:** Joan Mathien introduced Steven Lakatos, a project director at the Office of Archaeological Studies in Santa Fe.

**LA 835, the Pojoaque Grant Site,** was excavated in the early 1950s by Stanley Stubbs, but it remains an underreported site. At first, sites 833, 834 and 835 were considered separate, but later they were realized to be parts of a single entity. Stubbs had trouble fitting the Red Mesa pottery found in the area into sequence with other types in northern New Mexico.

At Structure A he found pit structures, contiguous rooms, but not a lot of masonry. The surface rooms also had pit structures. Structure B had shallow surface rooms with subterranean structures as well as a corner bin. The presence of sipapus and ash pits led to the belief that these were kivas. Structure C also had shallow features. The mixture of configurations was confusing; the above-ground structures were earlier than expected.

A large pit was believed to be a great kiva of post and adobe as well as masonry construction. It had a central hearth, but lacked a bench and floor vaults. An arroyo had cut through it, possibly obscuring definitive details.

Stubbs found black on white pottery that varied by slip and temper, but most pottery present was grayware. The frequency of types varied and at the time violated the accepted sequence of development in the northern Rio Grande area. Stubbs died in 1959, before his ideas could gain much purchase.

Over the next 30 years more room blocks were found, including a rectangular structure with a central hearth, two metate rests and ground stone fragments with other cultural material such as beads. Another structure was constructed similarly to Stubbs's "great kiva," where a hole was dug, posts were placed around the perimeter, and the walls were done in wattle and daub—an above ground structure type constructed below the ground. Efforts to obtain dendro dates have not been successful.
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 16 MEETING (continued)

Excavators from OAS kept finding dogs of both sexes and all ages and turkeys, all deliberately buried and covered with rocks, with a midden atop. The deflector rock is near the bodies. The fill area contains shell and turquoise beads, projectile points, and animals, but the concentration of such objects is toward to bottom of the feature.

They also found a curving subfloor trench that stretches into the ventilator and leads in the other direction to a pot in the wall. The trench was lined with small sticks and roofed with vigas and mud.

Upon digging under the floor they found a middle Archaic layer with storage features.

Regge Wiseman and Bart Olinger are now consolidating and comparing Stubbs's and Mera's work on the site by analyzing pottery types such as Red Mesa and Kwahe'e black on white. Wiseman has determined from wood studies that the structures are of different ages.

Lakatos has selected representational pieces of sherds for XRF study, establishing a baseline to determine which were imported and which were locally produced: Kwahe'e was local, Red Mesa was not. Combining the pottery and tree ring data revealed that Kwahe'e began around 1000 AD, earlier than expected, and local clays were used early on. So the potters were probably using Red Mesa designs with local clays.

The site was occupied from 900-1200 AD. No Coalition occupancy is evident until one crosses Hwy. 285 to Cuyamungue.

Lakatos plans to refine the occupancy sequence, study population movements and pottery production, expand the resource base, and continue collaboration with other researchers.

Respectfully submitted,

----- Arlette Miller, Secretary

AAS FIELD TRIP SATURDAY APRIL 24

Jerry Williams plans an early start (7:00 a.m.) for an event-packed tour to the north, with stops at the La Bajada Rest Area, Glorieta Pass, Pecos Pueblo, San Miguel del Bado, Villanueva (lunch), Fort Union, Watrous, La Castenada, and Las Vegas, returning to Albuquerque in the evening. There will be a signup sheet with further details at the April meeting, or you can contact Lou Schuyler by email (Lou.Schuyler@comcast.net) or phone (856-7090).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO MEETS IN SANTA FE APRIL 30-MAY 2

The fee for early—before April 23—registration for the ASNM 2010 Annual Meeting April 30-May 2 is $22 per person. Late registration after April 23 is $40. The banquet is $28 per person. Host facility is the Courtyard Marriott, 3347 Cerrillos Road, Santa Fe. The special room rate for the meeting of $89.00, plus taxes, is available through April 16, provided the Archaeological Society of New Mexico is mentioned when making reservations at (505) 473-2800. A full weekend of activities is planned, including a Friday night reception, Saturday paper presentations and posters, Saturday night awards banquet and Bandelier Lecture, and Sunday field trips to petroglyph sites and pueblo and historic ruins in the Santa Fe area. A registration form for the Annual Meeting can be downloaded from the ASNM website newmexico-archaeology.org, where additional program and field trip information is also available.
NEWS AND NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

Change to NAGPRA Regulations Ensures Museums Repatriate Culturally Unidentifiable Human Remains. A change in the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act may force the University of Michigan's Museum of Anthropology (as well as museums across the country) to redistribute their collections of Native American human remains. On Monday, a NAGPRA committee approved a change in the act that will force museums to inform Native American tribes that "culturally unidentifiable" remains found in their tribal regions may potentially be returned to them. [from Archaeology Today, A Service of the Center for Desert Archaeology].


UPCOMING EVENTS

Free Public Lecture

Robin Farwell Gavin, "The Journey of Mayólica," Saturday, April 17, 2 p.m., New Mexico History Museum Auditorium. Free with museum admission.

Conferences

Archaeological Society of New Mexico Annual Meeting: April 30-May 2, Santa Fe. See ASNM website newmexico-archaeology.org for details and registration information.


Pecos Conference 2010: August 12-15, Silverton Colorado. No official website yet, but meanwhile, look for 2010 Pecos Conference on Facebook and/or Twitter.

Mogollon Archaeology Conference (16th Biennial): October 14-16, NMSU Las Cruces. See lonjul.net/mog2010/Conference.

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Reservations: Loa Schayler 855-7000
Refreshments: Jacqueline Johnson 881-9861
Webmaster: Maureen Schayler 855-0000

Pottery Southwest:
Editor: Patricia Lee
Local contact: Arlette Miller 897-3169
HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY IN SANTA FE

by Cordelia T. Snow

Hosted by the Albuquerque Archaeological Society
Tuesday, May 18, 2010 at 7:30 PM
at the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History
2000 Mountain Road NW

Spanish Colonial Santa Fe has been a topic for research for many decades. During that time a number of excavations in the downtown area have taken place. This presentation will review where they were located, what was found, and what inferences can be made from the results. An explanation for why colonial architecture and materials have never been recovered in certain areas around the plaza will be provided.

Cordelia T. Snow began her career in historical archaeology working with E. Boyd on Santa Fe River sites in the mid-1960s. In 1974-75 she was principal investigator for the Laboratory of Anthropology project and conducted excavations in the west end of the Palace of the Governors. This experience had a profound effect on her subsequent career, which also focused on evaluation of historic materials from many sites along the Rio Grande, including those excavated and recorded by the Cochiti Dam Project. For the past 14 years Dedie has been employed at ARMS; thus she has come full cycle back to the place where she began her career four decades ago.

AAS Field Trip Hike to Ojito Seismosaurus Discovery Site Petroglyphs
Scheduled for Saturday, May 22. See Page 3 for Details
MINUTES OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
April 20, 2010

Ann Carson presided and introduced guests and new members. The minutes of the March meeting were approved as published.

Jacqueline Johnson was welcomed back after a hiatus as refreshments coordinator, and her daughter Michelle provided cookies.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Rock Art: Milford Fletcher said work will resume soon at the Diamond Tail Ranch. If you want to volunteer, contact him or Maynard Merkt. Gretchen Obenauf presented the report for the BLM crews, who have a new site in the Socorro area along with plans to scout the Ojito Wilderness.

Field Trips: Jerry Williams will lead a trip on April 24 to the Glorieta Pass and Santa Fe Trail area.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The Archaeological Society of New Mexico will hold its annual meeting in Santa Fe April 30 to May 2.

Carol Condie brought copies of American Archeology magazine, published by the Archeological Conservancy, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary.

SPEAKER:

Joan Mathien introduced Dr. Marvin Rowe, a chemist who has studied the makeup of peyote and its origins in time. He acknowledged the expertise of Santa Fe’s Peter Furst on the peyote religion, and its use has spread widely in the Native American Church (it is otherwise illegal). One of its famous users was the Comanche Quanah Parker.

Peyote is believed by its users to have therapeutic uses in childbirth, treating tuberculosis and other diseases, and to enable a person to overcome fatigue, pain, the sex drive, appetite, and thirst. It has been shown to have antimicrobial properties.

Peyote’s ingredient mescaline produces hallucinations, confusion, increased body temperature, nausea, vomiting, nightmares, euphoria, fear of death, and so on.

Peyote grows in limestone substrates from southern Texas into Mexico. Its pre-Conquest use was found far beyond its native habitat. Spaniards in Mexico held Inquisition hearings – mostly against fellow Spaniards—regarding its use.

In order to trace its use back in time, radiocarbon dating via an accelerator mass spectrometer was done at Lawrence Livermore Labs. CM-79, a site in Mexico where peyote buttons were found at a burial site strung like deer meat, provided a date from 850 years ago.

A site on the Lower Pecos in Texas, which was associated with red monochrome pictographs, yielded a single sample with a date from 1250 years past. Red linear style rock art provided two samples, which also dated to 1250 years ago. Carolyn Boyd has interpreted some of the rock art as depicting a peyote ritual pilgrimage. The buttons are depicted on much of the rock art: being shot with arrows, on the times of deer antlers, abstracted as dots. Shamanistic figures are often life-size.
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 16 MEETING (continued)

Further dates from rock art along the Pecos push peyote use back from 2500 to 4500 years ago, older than all modern religions except Hinduism.

And at the Shumla Caves in Texas, where a peyote fetish made of peyote and wood was found, peyote has been dated as far back as 7000 years.

Respectfully submitted,

----- Arlette Miller, Secretary

FIELD TRIP TO SEISMOSAURUS DISCOVERY SITE PETROGLYPHS

Carol Chamberland, leader of the Rio Puerco BLM Rock Art Recording Team announces a hiking field trip on Saturday, May 22 to view the petroglyphs in Ojito Wilderness at the Seismosaurus discovery site. This will be a 3-mile round trip walk including additional stops at a Navajo hogan site and prehistoric shelter. There will be minimal elevation gain but the area is exposed and sunny with very little shade. Views are spectacular.

Boots or sturdy walking shoes and a hat are mandatory. Bring lunch, plenty of liquids and a walking stick (if you like). Carol anticipates a return to town by early afternoon, but this will be dictated by the pace of the group.

Participants will meet at the north end of Lowe's parking lot (I-25 and Paseo del Norte) at 9 a.m. to form carpools. Those who live on the west side can meet us at the Rio Rancho Home Depot parking lot on 550 (west end by the sheds) at 9:30, if they notify the leader ahead of time.

Drive distance is 50 miles one way, with the last 10 miles on a decent dirt road. No high clearance or 4WD is necessary. Foul weather will postpone the hike to another day.

Sign up at the meeting or contact Lou Schuyler at lou.schuyler@comcast.net or (505) 856-7090.

NEWS AND NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

Giant Sequoias Yield Longest Fire History from Tree Rings. A 3,000-year record from 52 of the world’s oldest trees shows that California’s western Sierra Nevada was droughty and often fiery from 800 to 1300, according to new research. It’s the longest tree-ring fire history in the world, and it’s from this amazing place with these amazing trees,” said lead author Thomas W. Swetnam of the University of Arizona in Tucson. "This is an epic collection of tree rings http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/03/100318093300.htm. [From Southwest Archaeology Today, A Service of the Center for Desert Archaeology].

Charges Upheld In Four Corners Looting Case. A federal judge has denied a request to dismiss 14 felony counts against a Utah man charged after a two-year federal investigation into illegal trafficking of American Indian artifacts. Joseph M. Smith of Blending pleaded not guilty last year to 28 counts related to the alleged theft and sale of jewelry, sandals and other ancient artifacts from public and tribal lands. Smith was one of 26 people charged as part of the Four Corners investigation. www.nevadaappeal.com/article/20100412/NEWS/100419903/1958/rss [Southwest Archaeology Today]
NEWS AND NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE (continued)

Three More Guilty Pleas in 4-Corners Looting Case. Three southern Utah men who admitted selling ancient artifacts taken from public land are the latest to plead guilty after a lengthy federal crackdown on theft and trafficking of American Indian relics in the Four Corners area. At a hearing in Moab on Friday, Nick Laws and Dale Lyman each pleaded guilty to one count of violating federal laws aimed at protecting artifacts on public and tribal lands. Aubry Patterson pleaded guilty to trafficking in stolen artifacts and theft of government property.
[Southwest Archaeology Today.]

UPCOMING EVENTS

Free Public Lecture

David H. Snow, "Ur-Serpents of the Southwest: On the Horns (and Feathers) of a Dilemma," Tuesday, May 11th, 7:00 PM, Friends of Tijeras Pueblo, Sandia Ranger Station.

Conferences


Mogollon Archaeology Conference (16th Biennial): October 14-16, NMSU Las Cruces. See lonjul.net/mog2010/Conference.

Museum Exhibition

Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs: July 1, 2010 to January 2, 2011, Denver Art Museum. Tickets go on sale to the general public May 14, and can be purchased online by visiting www.tutdenver.com after that date. Adult and Seniors $25 weekdays, $30 weekends.

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INDIANS, ARMOR, AND ALLIES: WHO CAME TO THE PASS?

by Marc Thompson

Hosted by the Albuquerque Archaeological Society
Tuesday, June 15, 2010 at 7:30 PM
at the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History
2000 Mountain Road NW

In addition to his numerous titles (Governor, Captain General, adelantado), Juan de Oñate y Salazar was a caudillo (a strong military and political leader) and an agent of cultural change in 16th century Nuevo México. Don Juan differed from previous European invaders because his expedition was one primarily of settlement as well as conquest and exploration. Here I examine Oñate’s ethnicity, that of his family, accompanying settlers, and Indian allies. Additionally, other data are reviewed to illustrate how Mexican Indian, Southwestern Indian, and Hispanic contact cultures produced hybrid peoples, places, policies, and practices as part of the ongoing process of mestizaje.

Marc Thompson was born in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, and raised in Rochester, Minnesota. He was graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and received an M.A. 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 Becán, Campeche, México. He was awarded a Ph.D. 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 imagery in Classic Mimbres Black-on-white bowls.

Dr. Thompson 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 México, Canada, and the U.S. After more than a decade, he recently retired as Director of the El Paso Museum of Archaeology and Adjunct Professor of Anthropology, the University of Texas at El Paso.
MINUTES OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

May 20, 2010

Ann Carson presided over a meeting that included a ceremony honoring Mari and Dudley King for their long service to archaeology in New Mexico. The Kings were awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Archaeological Society of New Mexico at its Annual Meeting last month in Santa Fe, and because they were not in attendance at that meeting, the plaque embodying the award was presented at AAS by Joan Mathien, Jerry and Jean Brody, and Karen Armstrong, each of whom described their work and friendship with the Kings.

Refreshments were provided by Jacqueline Johnson and Libby Ratliff. The minutes of the April meeting await publication.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Newsletter: Helen Crotty apologized to members who receive the newsletter electronically for neglecting to send the newsletter copy to Mark Rosenblum for distribution prior to leaving town for a vacation in California. Recipients of the print newsletters received their copies on time, thanks to Jacqueline Johnson, who mailed them. Mark sent the electronic copy on the day of the meeting.

Hibben Center Project: Karen Armstrong reported that the volunteers will be working next on the Jack H. Esslinger Collection of Pre-Columbian Pottery.

Pottery Southwest: Hayward Franklin said that Pottery Southwest welcomes submissions for articles. The current edition is available, and the CDs are for sale through AAS.

Rock Art: Carol Chamberland's rock art crews continue exploring when weather permits. A hike to the Ojito wilderness petroglyphs near the Seismosaurus site is planned for May 22. Maynard Merkt said work will resume soon at the Diamond Tail Ranch.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gretchen Obenauf reported that a New Mexico Jewish Historical Society conference is planned in Las Vegas, NM in October.

Ann Carson described the Archaeological Society of New Mexico's Annual Meeting and mentioned that Bradley Bowman was injured in an automobile accident on his way home from it. A get-well card was available for members to sign.

Dolores Sundt, recipient this year of a Richard A. Bice Archaeological Achievement Award at the ASNM annual meeting, outlined the benefits of joining ASNM, which is the umbrella society for AAS.

SPEAKER

Vice President Joan Mathien introduced Cordelia (Dodie) Snow, whose topic was historic archaeology in Santa Fe. She began with a slide of the Urrutia map of the city circa 1767, depicting the city that the Spaniards founded on the site of an abandoned pueblo. Prominently visible are springs and ponds, which made the location difficult to inhabit—there was too much water.

The city was founded around 1605-1608 by Juan Martinez de Montoya, who was governor after Juan de Oñate. Traces of the earliest settlement elude discovery, but Santa Fe chose to celebrate 2010 as its 400th anniversary.
MINUTES OF MAY 20, 2010 MEETING (continued)

The cienega, a huge presence outside the city as photographed in 1870, slowly disappeared, but portions of it remain visible today.

Seeking to improve the economy, the city saw its first train in 1880. Not much happened; so in 1883 the city fathers decided to celebrate Santa Fe’s 333rd anniversary. Instead of drawing tourists the “Tertio Millenia” drew sneers. It was one of many ways the city sought to find identity through “invented traditions.”

Downtown archaeology also had its ups and downs. Burials found under the Palace of the Governors in the 1880s were sent to Topeka, Kansas, where they were eventually lost. Jesse Nusbaum located pre-Revolt and Revolt artifacts in 1916 but they, too, have been lost.

Excavations in the 1950s turned up 17th and 18th century sites, and digs have continued ever since.

Archaeologists learned that adobe was used in construction unless rock or sandstone was available. Foundations of about 50 cm width indicated a single story structure, while those of a meter plus were indicative of multiple stories. Dedie found 18th century foundations and pre-Revolt artifacts under Room 7 of the Palace of the Governors, so a dig intended to run for two weeks went on for two years.

The brick floor patterns that were often found were the same in both New Spain and New Mexico.

“Urban Removal”—Dedie’s term for urban renewal done in the 1950s—destroyed many buildings without the benefit of archaeological study. And the results of a severe flood and subsequent rerouting of the Santa Fe River scoured away so much material that no one knows what was lost.

The river ran permanently until the early 20th century when upstream dams dried it up—along with the acequias in this once too-wet town.

Respectfully submitted,

----- Arlene Miller, Secretary

NEWS AND NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

New Publication Summarizes Clovis Technologies. A new book on the stone and bone tool technologies of Clovis culture of 13,500 years ago, published by faculty at Texas State University, is the first complete examination of the tools themselves and how the Clovis culture used them and transmitted their production. The book, "Clovis Technology" (International Monographs in Prehistory, Archaeological Series 17), covers the Clovis culture’s making and use of stone blades, bi-faces and small tools as well as artifacts such as projectile points, rods, daggers, awls, needles, handles, hooks, and ornaments made from bone, ivory, antler and teeth. See http://tinyurl.com/clovis-tech - San Marcos Daily Record. [From Southwest Archaeology Today, a service of the Center for Desert Archaeology.]

Laser Scanning In Archaeology Featured in NY Times. In the dry spring season a year ago, the husband-and-wife team of Arlen F. Chase and Diane Z. Chase tried a new approach using airborne laser signals that penetrate the jungle cover and are reflected from the ground below. They yielded 3-D images of the site of ancient Caracol, in Belize, one of the great cities of the Maya lowlands. See http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/11/science/11maya.html [from Southwest Archaeology Today].
Bill Introduced to Transfer the Valles Caldera National Preserve to the National Park Service. Management of the Valles Caldera National Preserve would be transferred to the National Park Service under legislation by New Mexico's Senators Jeff Bingaman and Tom Udall, who introduced the measure May 27. According to a Government Accountability Office report, the northern New Mexico preserve is years behind schedule in developing a management control system, and a path to be financially self-sustained by 2015 will be a major challenge. See http://www.krgc.com/dpp/news/environment/valles-caldera-may-move-to-park-service  [from Southwest Archaeology Today].

UPCOMING EVENTS

Free Public Lecture

Jake Spidle, UNM History Professor: "Tuberculosis to Outer Space: The Saga of the Lovelace Medical Center and the two Doctors Lovelace," Saturday, June 19, 1 p.m. Lovelace Education Building, 6200 Gibson SE (easternmost building of the former Lovelace Hospital Complex, parking in the east lot). Presented by Albuquerque Historical Society.

Conferences


Mogollon Archaeology Conference (16th Biennial): October 14-16, NMSU Las Cruces. See lonjul.net/mog2010/Conference.


Museum Exhibition

Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs: July 1, 2010 to January 2, 2011, Denver Art Museum. Tickets go on sale to the general public May 14, and can be purchased online by visiting www.tutdenver.com after that Date. Adult and Seniors $25 weekdays, $30 weekends.

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BOW WAVE OF EMPIRE: THE VÁZQUEZ DE CORONADO ENTRADA AND THE SIXTEENTH-CENTURY FRONTIERS OF NEW SPAIN

by Clay Mathers, Ph. D.

Hosted by the Albuquerque Archaeological Society
Tuesday, July 20, 2010 at 7:30 PM
at the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History
2000 Mountain Road NW

The collision of Old World and New World communities on the northern frontier of New Spain in the late 1530s and early 1540s was the product of many earlier trends and traditions that would shape Native-European encounters throughout the sixteenth century. As the bow wave of Spain’s increasingly global empire advanced south to Panama, Columbia and Peru, west to Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico, and north into what is now the United States, interaction between these communities became more intense, often resulting in violence. By 1530, a wide range of social, political and economic relationships began to develop between Native and Europeans communities that would affect profoundly the history of the Southwest, the European exploration of North America, and ultimately the worldwide contest for empire. Some of these associations were benign and mutually beneficial, while others erupted into deadly, large-scale combat. By the early 1540s, violence and conflict in the borderlands of New Spain north of Mexico City had become serious problems, hindering the advance of mining, colonization and other economic pursuits. Major conflicts during this period mark a significant shift in Spanish-Native relations in the borderlands. These violent encounters include the Mixtón War in Nueva Galicia, the Tiguex War in the Middle Rio Grande Valley in New Mexico, and the beginning of nearly fifty years of conflict in the Gran Chichimeca of Nueva España, Nueva Galicia and Nueva Vizcaya. This lecture explores the background to, and the impacts of, one of the most significant sixteenth-century entradas in New Spain—i.e., the 1539-1542 expedition of Francisco Vázquez de Coronado.

Clay Mathers is currently the Executive Director of the Coronado Institute in Albuquerque, a non-profit corporation dedicated to an understanding of Old and New World interactions in the Southwestern U.S. and Southern Plains between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries. Dr. Mathers has been an archaeologist for more than thirty years, having undertaken fieldwork in Scotland, England, France, Spain, and Portugal, as well as in the eastern and western U.S. He has a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania, an M.Phil. in GIS and Remote Sensing from the University of Cambridge, U.K., and a Ph.D. on the Neolithic and Bronze Age in Southeast Spain from the University of Sheffield—also in the U.K. He has held teaching positions at universities in the U.K. and in the U.S., has published a number of books and articles, and has received doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships from organizations such as the Fulbright Commission, Getty Foundation and the National Academy of Sciences, among others. He is currently working with colleagues in the U.S., Latin America, and Europe on sixteenth-century sites and assemblages in the Southwestern borderlands—with a particular emphasis on the 1539-1542 expedition of Francisco Vázquez de Coronado.
MINUTES OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
June 15, 2010

President Ann Carson introduced guests. The minutes of the May meeting were approved as published. Jacqueline Johnson and Pat and Fred Trusell brought cookies.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Karen Armstrong said the Hibben Center volunteers have nearly finished the Mesoamerican pottery project.

Milford Fletcher and Carol Chamberland reported on rock art recording on the Diamond Tail Ranch and BLM lands. Carol’s crews took a break and visited El Malpais, and a report to Gretchen Obenauf at BLM that motorcyclists were riding over some glyphs resulted in prompt corrective action.

Gretchen reported on new members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Pecos Conference will be Augusts 12-15 in Silverton, CO.

The New Mexico Jewish Historical Society meeting will be Oct. 22-24 in Las Vegas, NM.

Alan Dart of Tucson will lecture on the Hohokam July 31 at 7 p.m. at the Petroglyph Monument visitor’s center.

The Maxwell Museum has an exhibit on Chiapas Mayan textiles.

SPEAKER:

Joan Mathien introduced Dr. Marc Thompson, retired Director of the El Paso Museum of Archaeology, whose topic was “Indians, Armor, and Allies: Who Came to the Pass?”

His interest in Don Juan de Oñate was piqued when a three-story statue of Oñate was commissioned and the resulting controversy obscured the man’s humanity and personal history. Critics even proposed utterly differing versions of the Ácoma incident, ignoring that the history of such actions could be traced back to Cortez and others.

Cortez started out in Cuba, moved on to Cozumel and then the Veracruz area, and then headed to Tenochtitlan accompanied by Indian allies as well as Malinche, who spoke Nahua as well as Maya. The conquest of the city took 75 days and the efforts of up to 200,000 people, of which only one percent were European. Horses were not always an advantage when attacking a city of causeways and canals, so Cortez had boats built and outfitted them with small cannons. (The myths that horses were divine and that Quetzalcoatl was bearded and light-skinned were post-Conquest creations.)

Mexica warriors carried lances trimmed with obsidian blades, used feathered shields and wore nose rings, ear plugs, and hats with peaked tops. Their concept of warfare was to take captives for sacrifice.

Oñate’s fraternal twin brother was named Cristóbal after their Basque father, who also had three other sons and two daughters. Basques, including their father, established Nueva Vizcaya, which now comprises Durango and Chihuahua. By the 16th century a caste system had been introduced into Latin America, whereby one’s ethnic identity was determined by social and geographic distance from Spain. So while their father was a peninsulare, or Spaniard, his children, despite marrying into the Basque community, were Creoles and had less status.
MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2010 AAS MEETING (continued)

Oñate’s own marriage was to a woman considered to be a Mestizo even though she was a descendant of both Cortez and Montezuma. The Oñate family established the town of Tequila and silver mines. Oñate was eventually exiled to Spain and died there.

Immigrants to Mexico discovered mountains covered with snow, large cities, strange fruits and odd animals, many of whose names evolved from Nahuatl to Spanish and later English (e.g., avocado, coyote). Oñate’s arrival in New Mexico was during one of the coldest and driest winters in history; so he and his fellow soldiers—many of whom were Mexican Indians—moved into a Tewa pueblo. European armor and weaponry were composed of swords, halberds, lances, guns, crossbows, pikes, and falconets (small cannon). Even the cross-shaped stirrups could be used as weapons. The climate forced them to discard metal armor in favor of quilted armor.

Dr. Thompson hypothesizes that the trade routes used at the time were prehistoric, including the one now known as the Camino Real that was followed by Oñate. He does not believe that there was massive trade from central Mexico to New Mexico, but instead that trade was mostly from west Mexico, and that it was marginal and episodic.

Respectfully submitted,

----- Arlette Miller, Secretary

IN MEMORIAM

Joseph Charles Winter, August 26, 1946 – June 23, 2010

Joseph Winter, 63, a resident of Regina, New Mexico and Castle Creek, New York since 2000, died June 23, 2010 in a hiking accident, doing what he loved. He is survived by his wife, Margaret (Greta) Wingate of Castle Creek, New York, two daughters, two brothers, and his mother. Joe retired in 2000 as a Professor and Director of the Office of Contract Archaeology with the University of New Mexico. Memorial services were held in Albuquerque July 1. AAS members may remember Dr. Winter as a speaker, and several members participated in a dig in downtown Albuquerque under his supervision in 1985 (see story below). Those who wish to express their condolences may do so at www.RememberTheirStory.com.

ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S 1985 DOWNTOWN DIG

In the fall of 1985, buildings on the south side of the 200 block of Central were subsiding due to a collapsing turn-of-the-century acequia. The structures were all demolished, and members of AAS under the direction of Dick Bice, Bill Suadt, and Phyllis Davis, had a brief time to excavate. They concentrated on the alley side of the property where rubbish had been burned and discovered areas that were probably filled-in pits from former out houses. Joseph Winter’s preliminary report on this project, “Digging Up Downtown: Urban Archaeology in Albuquerque” can be found in Secrets of a City: Papers on Albuquerque Area Archaeology in Honor of Dick Bice, The Archaeological Society of New Mexico Volume 13 (1987): pages 57-69. Crew members besides those already mentioned included Ann Carson, Laura Bernd, Joan Wilkes, Berry Garrett, Mary Belle Hockett, and Tracy Green.
NEWS AND NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

Melting Glacier Reveals Clovis Era Atlatl Dart. Global warming is turning out to be a savior for archaeologists like Craig Lee from the University of Colorado at Boulder, who are finding ancient relics in recently melted ice patches. Lee’s lucky strike is the oldest known atlatl dart, an early wooden spear-like hunting weapon, in the Rocky Mountains. See http://tinyurl.com/atlatl1 - Discovery News [from Southwest Archaeology Today, a service of Center for Desert Archaeology]

UPCOMING EVENTS

Free Public Lecture

Allen Dart, "Arts and Culture of Ancient Southern Arizona Hohokam Indians," Saturday July 31 7 p.m. Petroglyph National Monument Visitor Center on Western Trail.

Workshop

Flint Knapping, directed by Ron Fields, Saturday July 17, starting at 9:30 a.m., Tijeras Pueblo Interpretive Center, $15 fee. Novices as well as experienced flint knappers welcome. Sponsored by the Friends of Tijeras Pueblo and the USDA Forest Service Sandia Ranger District. Call Sandia Ranger Station, 281-3304 to reserve a place, or for further information, Judy at 286-7961.

Conferences


Mogollon Archaeology Conference (16th Biennial): October 14-16, NMSU Las Cruces. See lonzl.net/mog2010/Conference.


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In the Spring of 1886 Geronimo and Naiche attempted to surrender to General George Crook at Cañon de los Embudos in Sonora, Mexico, several months before the actual surrender at Skeleton Canyon in southern Arizona. This important event was witnessed by Tombstone photographer C. S. Fly, who photographically documented the place, the Apache people, and some of their material culture, while others left descriptive accounts of the occasion. These are the only photographs of the Apache in the field while still enemy combatants of the United States. Rumors led to the dispersal of Geronimo and his people before the surrender was consummated, delaying his final capitulation to General Nelson Miles until fall of the same year.

Scrutiny of the photographs and comparisons to on-the-ground evidence provide a clear view of archaeological Apache structure signatures and other forms of material culture from this period. Such evidence serves as a basis for confidently identifying Apache sites, providing an indisputable historical basis at a known place.

Cañón de los Embudos provides an example of how historic documents and photographs can be aligned with archaeological evidence to learn more and to gain confidence about the incredibly light footprint of these mobile people. At the same time, an explicitly archaeological focus shows how and in which ways documentary sources can be misleading.

Deni Seymour received her doctorate in Anthropology from the University of Arizona in 1990 and her Bachelor's degrees in both Anthropology and Environmental Studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz. She has taught and has worked for a number of state and federal agencies as well as several cultural resource management firms, including one she founded and ran for about a decade. Now she is a full-time research archaeologist affiliated with two academic institutions.

Dr. Seymour's research has focused on colonial period indigenous groups in the American Southwest. She has been studying the archaeology of the protohistoric and historic Apache and others throughout southern New Mexico, Arizona and Texas for more than a quarter century. One of her primary contributions has been the identification of the basic archaeological signatures of many previously unidentified or poorly understood groups, while providing the basis for a revised conceptualization of this regional period. Dr. Seymour's book on the Sobáipuri-O'odham will be published in 2011 by the University of Utah Press, while another book manuscript on the ancestral Apache is currently under review.
MINUTES OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

July 20, 2010

Ann Carson presided, and since July 21 is her birthday, her daughter Cindy brought a cake to serve along with the refreshments provided by Jean Brody and Jacqueline Johnson.

The minutes of the June meeting will be corrected (with thanks to Dave Brugge) to change “peninsulare” to “peninsular” and to change the masculine use of “mestizo” to the feminine “mestiza” as appropriate.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Maynard Merkt reported that it is too hot to record petroglyphs at Diamond Tail for now. Gretchen Obenauf says BLM crews will take August off, but are still working on public and private lands at present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ann says AAS material in the lab at the gas station has been cleaned out, and the remainder has been consolidated into such a small area that the rent will be reduced by half to $20 a month.

Gretchen Obenauf, our Treasurer, is accepting applications for membership. She reminded the audience of the King Tut exhibit in Denver.

Ann noted that following normal practice, there would be no meeting and no newsletter in August.

Joe Winter of the Office of Contract Archaeology, UNM professor and AAS speaker, has passed away. Please see our website for a complete obituary.

Also refer to the website for information on various conferences that are upcoming. Locally, Alan Dart will speak at Petroglyph National Monument on July 31 regarding the Hohokam; the Maxwell is featuring an exhibit on the Chiapas Maya, and the refurbished painted kiva at the Coronado monument has reopened.

Carol Condie says the Archaeological Conservancy is having a sale on the remaining openings on tours to Oaxaca, effigy mounds, and the Best of the Southwest.

Joan Mathien encouraged members to serve as officers next year. Nominations are due in September.

SPEAKER:

Joan then introduced the speaker, Dr. Clay Mathers, a specialist in the colonial history of New Mexico. Knowledge of this era is expanding as previously unrecognized artifacts of the Coronado expedition continue to be found and identified—El Morro, Piedras Marcadas, LA 54147, and Kyaki:ma can be added to such known sites as Hawikku, Santiago, Pecos, and Kichiba:wa.

Spain engendered the first world empire after the fall of Constantinople closed off trade to the Far East and other trade routes were thus sought to the west. Spaniards island-hopped west and built highly profitable sugar plantations, but the natives on the islands and mainland were a constant source of problems. Encomiendas and tribute systems spread, even into areas where tribute was a new and pernicious system.

The resulting conflicts featured experienced soldiers on both sides. The Spanish had not only thrown the Moors out of Spain, they had also gone on to fight in Italy, Hungary, and against the
MINUTES OF JULY 20, 2010 AAS MEETING (continued)

Ottoman Turks. The Mexica were also trained in war, but the number of native allies who supported the entredas in the early 16th century made for an overwhelming force.

Whether an area was invaded depended on many factors, including a large population, high value portable wealth, productive land, an established system of tribute, centralized power, and high value ore. Mexico and Peru, for example, had these, but New Mexico did not. The Spanish did not want to return with nothing to show for their efforts. Their terrestrial expeditions failed at first, so they turned to less costly maritime efforts. While the natives had a number of ways to thwart the invaders, the enemy forces were often 3000 strong, plus their animals, and the impact of such a large presence was huge.

Native-European conflict could ignite from a number of triggers, including religion conversion, slave raids, and excessive demands for tribute, labor and resources. The Mixton War, as an example, followed a hard winter where the Spanish stole from the Pueblos in order to survive.

Coronado faced a full revolt in the Tiguex War, and the European ferocity eventually led to his trial on charges of cruelty. Transcripts tell of burning native leaders, destruction of food stocks, damage to structures, and the depletion of resources by the presence of so many people and livestock. Over time, Spain was driven to change its dealings with the conquerors, who acted as if they were independent of the Crown and indicated that the Crown’s laws would interrupt trade and their way of life.

Evidence of Coronado’s adventures in New Mexico is scattered from Zuni to Albuquerque and beyond. The Spaniards were starving when they arrived at Hawikku, and after defeating the Zunis by cutting off chokepoints at the pueblo, they lingered for four months, leaving evidence of their presence in the form of crossbow bolts and cat-headed nails. Similar items speak of large-scale conflict at Piedras Marcadas in Albuquerque. This latter site also produced parts of a falconet (“munder”), a naval weapon resembling a large shotgun that used metal trash as ammunition. Combined with halberds, arquebusques, war dogs and cavalry, the Spanish forces and their allies had weaponry of overwhelming effectiveness.

Respectfully submitted,

----- Arlene Miller, Secretary

CHILES AND SHERDS VIII BENEFIT IN ALBUQUERQUE SEPTEMBER 26, 10-4

The annual Chiles and Sherds fundraiser sponsored by The Friends of Archaeology of the Museum of New Mexico Foundation, the support group of the Office of Archaeological Studies, will be held in Albuquerque this year at the Open Space Visitor Center just off Coors Boulevard. The Friends of Archaeology want to expand interest outside the immediate Santa Fe area. The Friends offer members reduced rates for several guided tours each year to archaeological sites, many of which are not normally open to the public, and an informative newsletter.

The September 26 event will include two lectures on the theme of “Contact and Conflict in the Middle Rio Grande Valley,” special guided tours of the site of a battle between Coronado’s men and a Tiguex Pueblo, demonstrations of basketry, pottery firing, stone tool production, hands-on arrow shooting and atlatl throwing, and a customized Spanish luncheon. Cost of the event is $95 per person, $75 of which is tax deductible, attendance limited to 250. Reservations at the Lensic Box office, 505-088-1234 or www.TicketsSantaFe.org.
IN MEMORIAM

Elizabeth "Bettie" Terry March 16, 1922 - July 31, 2010

Bettie was a long-time member of the Albuquerque Archaeological Society and the Archaeological Society of New Mexico and had maintained her membership in both organizations through the years although she no longer attended meetings. She was an active participant in the AAS digs and laboratory, with special responsibility for the analysis and archiving of artifacts from AS-6, the P III Pueblo and P II pithouse site near Quemado. She earned certification between 1978 and 1983 in all but two of the fields offered by ASNM, and she served as a crew chief at the Gallup field school from 1988 to 1993. Until this past year, she was a member of the team that mails out the ASNM annual volumes. She had also served as a docent and volunteer at the Albuquerque Museum and a volunteer at the Lovelace Hospital.

Bettie was born on in Baltimore, Maryland and was a dedicated Air Force wife. After retirement she and her late husband Jack loved to travel and participate in Elderhostel programs. Bettie is survived by three daughters, a son, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Memorial services were held August 5. Those who wish to express their condolences may do so at www.RememberTheirStory.com.

REPORT FROM THE 2010 PECOS CONFERENCE

The 2010 Pecos Conference in Silverton, Colorado drew 325 registered participants, down from recent years, perhaps because of the peripheral location and/or the economy. Only five AAS members, Tom Windes, Steve and Donna Rospopo, Joan Mathien, and Helen Crotty were spotted among the attendees (apologies if someone was missed), but the camaraderie, the papers and poster presentations, the book sales, and the field trips were as good as ever. Silverton lies in a beautiful high valley, and the town is replete with great restaurants and charming historic buildings. And it didn’t rain! Except, that is, inside the book tent, where condensation from the previous night’s frost rained from the roof in the warmth of the morning sun.

The Conference was organized by Chuck Riggs of Fort Lewis College, and he and his students did an excellent job of keeping the show on the road. One of the interesting mini-symposiums was a report on the Fort Lewis College—Mesa Verde Internship program, an idea, it seems, that could well be emulated elsewhere.

Dave Breternitz, as usual, presided at the business meeting, a highlight of which was the presentation of the Arizona Archaeological and Historic Society’s Victor R Stoner Awards to William Doelle of the Center for Desert Archaeology and to Jim Copeland at Farmington office of the Bureau of Land Management. The Byron Cummings Awards went to David Doyel and, to J. Jefferson Reid.

On a sobering note, we lost 34 colleagues during the year, a number strikingly up, as Dave noted, from the usual 6 or 7. Sharon Urban, who again served as secretary, kept the list of persons acknowledged and remembered for their service to archaeology, education, and preservation.

No invitation for the 2011 Conference was forthcoming at the meeting, but it has since been announced that it will be held at "Mile-And-A-Half Lake" Large Group Campsite, in the cool pines of the Kaibab National Forest of the Arizona Strip August 11-14. David Purcell is the 2011 Conference Chair. [Thanks to Brian W. Kenny for posting information used here—Ed.]
NEWS AND NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

New Discoveries at Rock Creek Shelter, Utah. Archaeologists from Brigham Young University have found that the North Creek Shelter Site is one of the oldest sites in Utah, going back to 9000 BC. The site was occupied by many cultures, ranging from the Paleoarchaic through the Fremont and Anasazi, to the Paiute of 100 years ago. The site reveals that the early inhabitants ground seeds of sagebrush and grasses into a flour for cooking. People hunted big game through the ages, including deer, elk and big horn sheep. Eventually they started making pottery and established agriculture. Corn appeared at the site 1000 years ago, and pottery sherds indicate a trading network to the east in the Four Corners region. The site also shows strong evidence of climate change about 10,000 years ago. The climate became drier, and the Douglas fir and aspen that had existed in the area before that date are no longer present. A report on the excavations conducted between 2003 and 2008 will be published this fall in the journal Kiva and perhaps in other journals, as well. See The Salt Lake City Tribune http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/home/50231620-76/site-janetski-rex-prehistoric.html.csp. A tiny URL: http://tinyurl.com/24efy46. [From Mike Ruggeri's The Ancient Southwest posting.]

Arizona Site Stewards Make Rare Find Near Flagstaff. Site Stewards Christine Stephenson, Rich Rogers, and Bern Carey were out monitoring sites with Dr. David Wilcox of the Museum of Northern Arizona in February of 2009 when Rogers noticed a small piece of pottery exposed at the bottom of a gully created in a slope of volcanic cinders. Upon closer examination it appeared that what was being exposed by erosion of the slope was a prehistoric pot. Later, an emergency excavation of the artifact revealed that this was a very significant find, as the pot was completely intact and quite large; approximately 2 feet high and 20 inches in diameter. Amazingly, a second pot of equal size was buried with the first one. One pot is Deadman's Fugitive Red, made by the Cohonina culture. The other is Sosi, made by the Kayenta. After determination that they were not associated with a burial, the pots are now on display in the Wupatki National Monument Visitor Center. See rsne.pot.http://azstateparks.com/volunteer/v_site_feature.html. [From Southwest Archaeology Today.]

New Linguistic Studies Support Migrations across Bering Sea Land Bridge. Research illuminating an ancient language connection between Asia and North America supports archaeological and genetic evidence that a Bering Strait land bridge once connected North America with Asia, and the discovery is being endorsed by a growing list of scholars in the field of linguistics and other sciences. The work of Western Washington University linguistics professor Edward Vajda with the isolated Ket people of Central Siberia is revealing more and more examples of an ancient language connection with the language family of Na-Dene, which includes Tlingit, Gwich'in, Dena'ina, Koyukon, Navajo, Carrier, Hupa, Apache and about 45 other languages. See http://tinyurl.com/2vq982e - Seattle Times [From Southwest Archaeology Today, a service of the Center for Desert Archaeology.]

Mitochondrial Genome Analysis Reveals North America's First Peoples More Genetically Diverse Than Thought. The initial peopling of North America from Asia occurred approximately 15,000-18,000 years ago. However, estimations of the genetic diversity of the first settlers have remained inaccurate. In a report published online in Genome Research, researchers have found that the diversity of the first Americans has been significantly underestimated, underscoring the importance of comprehensive sampling for accurate analysis of Mitochondrial DNA. See www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/06/100628170926.htm. [From Southwest Archaeology Today.]

Museum of Indian Arts and Culture Receives Grant to Survey Ceramics Collection. A $57,370 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services will let the New Mexico Museum
of Indian Arts and Culture in Santa Fe survey its collection of 5,300 whole and reconstructed archaeological ceramic vessels. The collection includes examples of some of the earliest known Mogollon and Ancestral Puebloan ceramics and others made during the 17th and 18th centuries. See http://www.indiancountrytoday.com/living/97174799.html. [From Southwest Archaeology Today.]

UPCOMING EVENTS

Free Public Lectures

Maxwell Museum of Anthropology Collections Tour, September 29, 1-3:00 p.m. free tour the archaeology, ethnology and photo archives with curators Dave Phillips, Kathryn Klein, and Catherine Baudoin. A UNM Homecoming event.

Patricia Greenfield “Weaving Generations Together: Evolving Creativity of the Maya of Chichapa” September 30, 7:00 p.m. Maxwell Museum of Anthropology, Hibben 105.

Benefit Event, Museum of New Mexico Friends of Archaeology

Chiles and Sherds VIII “Contact & Conflict in the Middle Rio Grande Valley” September 26, 10-4, Open Space Visitor Center, Albuquerque. $95 per person. Lensic Box Office 505-988-1234 or www.TicketsSantaFe.org

conferences

Mogollon Archaeology Conference (16th Biennial): October 14-16, NMSU Las Cruces. See lonjul.net/mog2010/Conference.


ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Website: www.abqarchaeology.org

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A TRAIL OF TWO CITIES: ADVOCACY AND ARCHAEOLOGY ON THE 1829 ARMijo ROUTE OF THE OLD SPANISH NATIONAL HISTORICAL TRAIL

Mark Henderson

Hosted by the Albuquerque Archaeological Society  
Tuesday, October 19, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.  
at the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History  
2000 Mountain Road NW

The Armijo Route of 1829 between Santa Fe and Los Angeles (the "two cities") is also a departure point for how we know what we know (epistemology) in archaeology and the development of "just so stories" as we revise history to try to give meaning to our personal experience and understanding of the world. The itinerary that Armijo provides for his 1829 trip between Abiquiu and Mission San Gabriel challenges archaeologists on the prime tenant that human activity leaves tangible physical evidence. The designation by the US Congress in 2002 of the Old Spanish National Historical Trail challenges historiographers to mesh documentary evidence with a legal fiction. The judicious (some say sparse) information that Comandante Armijo provided on the lifeways of native peoples and the merchant militia under his command is a challenge for advocates of historic trail preservation. How do we convince a skeptical and stressed public that the story and landscape of the Armijo Route is relevant to the demands of a democratic society with high unemployment, increasing demands for energy, and fear of environmental and terrorist catastrophes? Like a potion, Trail Stewardship will make you feel better, even if it doesn’t solve the world’s problems.

Mark Henderson (BA Anthropology UNM 1973) is a "pensioned" (recovering) US Civil Servant who served tours as an archaeologist on the Carson National Forest (New Mexico 1977), Ely District BLM (Nevada 1978-1980, 1990-2007), Socorro District BLM (1980-1983) Navajo Area Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs (Arizona, New Mexico and Utah 1983-1990). In these assignments Mark believed that public involvement in archaeological research was the most important part of his job at taxpayers’ expense. Mark currently serves as the Chair of the Stewardship Committee of the Old Spanish Trail Association. In 2007 Mark started his own archaeological consulting firm, Chupadero Archeological Resources, LLC, with a mission to encourage public participation in archaeological research, and a niche to try not to compete with people trying to make a living doing archaeology (the jobs too small for anyone else to want). Mark and his spouse Yolanda have been long-time members of the Albuquerque Archaeological Society and are happily resident in El Prado, part of the burgeoning rural sprawl of Taos County where everyone wants to be the last outlander in.
MINUTES OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

September 21, 2010

Ann Carson presided over a meeting that began 45 minutes late due to a scheduling mishap with the museum guards.

Refreshments were provided by Libby Ratliff and Nancy Woodworth. Several new AAS members and guests were introduced.

The minutes of the July meeting were approved as published.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Hibben Center Project: Karen Armstrong recruited assistance from her husband and John Hayden (among others) to retrieve the Vidal Site material from Gallup. The volunteers will be contacted when work on the material is ready to begin. This is usually done on Thursdays, and they will be repacking the items in containers approved by the Laboratory of Anthropology.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Volunteer before Ann volunteers you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Tom Obenauf obtained a new microphone for the Society.

The Mogollon Conference will be October 14-16 in Las Cruces. A Kit Carson re-enactment will be held on the Philmont Ranch October 15-17. A program celebrating Jews in New Mexico will be held in Las Vegas, New Mexico on October 22-24.

Jacqueline Johnson is staying with her son in Grants right now, so Helen Crotty needs someone to pick up the newsletter from the printer and mail the copies. Get well cards for Jacqueline can be mailed to the address listed in the membership roster.

SPEAKER:

Joan Mathien introduced Dr. Deni Seymour, who discussed "Geronimo's Wikiup: The Canon de Los Embudos Surrender Site," the study of which is helping to separate fact from fiction in the stories of the Apaches' eventual surrender.

The direct historic approach, which looks at modern ethnographic information and applies it back in time, assumes that no fundamental change occurs. But this is not always valid, and one needs to know what truly has ancient roots because things can fall away or change over time. Dr. Seymour argues in favor of putting archaeology and the documentary record on a par, and seriating the documentary record. Information from the 1540s is probably different from that in the 1880s.

For example, photos as well as Chiricahua elders indicate that residences were constructed on the base of slopes. However, the archaeology supports a shift in which fires were built either high up (for communication) or low down (to hide) as well as on the slopes.

The form of the houses also evolved over time. Tipis, which were latecomers, leave a different archaeological signature that wikiups. The tipis are used on flat land and, because of their greater visibility, can only be used in safer times. They make up a portable, reusable asset.

Photographers were an essential part of recording events. A photographer, for example, was present at the signing of the Cochise-Howard Treaty, and the location of the signing in the Dragoon Mountains.
has been confirmed by referring to the photos as well as texts from the time of the treaty signing. Likewise, a photographer was there when Geronimo finally surrendered.

He had previously surrendered at least two times, only to leave again. The Los Embudos surrender in 1886 followed relentless pursuit by Gen. Crook on both sides of the Mexican-American border. Gen. Miles focused on travel routes and watering holes, and eventually Geronimo was forced to yield. C. S. Fly, a photographer from Tombstone, got the Apaches together right after the surrender and took a picture that was later published in Harper’s.

The photo reveals detail of the men’s dress and construction of shelters. Ocotillo, yucca, agave and bark were all used to form the wickups, which were topped with blankets that were fastened with ocotillo spines. The terrain itself, such as rocks and branches, was used for storage or placement of materials. The ocotillo was bent, not cut, and the rocks used to anchor the blankets would leave a space where the plant was.

Fry’s photo shows that this single site had a conical tipi, a dome-shaped elongated wikuup, a squat conical tipi, and pup tent-like structures. Each has a different archaeological signature. A return to the site proved that the rocks in the photo are still there. The archaeology also shows that, contrary to some reports, the site had been used repeatedly in the past, so Geronimo chose it for comfort, safety, and familiarity.

Sleeping areas, which were sometimes just where rocks were removed from a small space, are also sites – as much as they may not look like anything.

Respectfully submitted,

---- Arlette Miller, Secretary

THE VIDAL SITE PROJECT

The Vidal Site, located in Heaton Canyon just east of Gallup, NM, and excavated by the Archaeological Society of New Mexico (ASNM) field schools from 1979 through 1993, consists of a great kiva, an earlier small house with kiva, and several pit structures. Several members of the Albuquerque Archaeological Society (Dick Bice, Phyllis Davis, Gordon Page, William Sundt, Bettie Terry, and Joan Wilkes) took part in this work as field crew supervisors. When the sessions ended in 1993, Dick Bice assumed the additional duties of coordinating the analyses, as well as writing the final report. With his passing two years ago, the ASNM Board realized it needed to complete this work. Because it is important that the records and collections be archived at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture/Laboratory of Anthropology (MIAC/LA) in Santa Fe after we prepare and publish the final report, Joan Mathien agreed to oversee coordination of the remaining efforts needed to achieve these goals.

Accomplishing these tasks is a group effort. In March, Phyllis Davis and Joan Mathien moved the records maintained in Gallup by Betty Kelley and Sheila Brewer to the Hibben Center of the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology. These have been removed from their three-ring binders and are now in archival quality folders and transfer boxes. On September 21, Karen and Bob Armstrong, John Hayden, and Joan Mathien made a trip to Gallup and, with the help of Sheila and Betty, loaded up 100+ boxes of artifacts and brought them to the Hibben Center, where they will be organized and boxed in accordance with MIAC/LA guidelines under the direction of Karen Armstrong and her volunteer crew members. This is a golden opportunity for members of the Albuquerque Archaeological Society to see what types of ceramics, lithics, and other artifacts are associated with a Chaco-
era site and to learn more about this fascinating corner of the Chaco World (A.D. 950-1150). So to anyone interested in joining in, please contact Karen Armstrong at (505) 294-8218.

In the meantime, Joan Mathien will be working through Dick Bice's computer files to ascertain how much of the report has been completed and just what remains to be done. We already know that several sets of data (e.g., pollen samples) still need to be analyzed, and we will be obtaining cost estimates for this work in the next several months. Stay tuned on the progress of our local AAS members, who are also part of ASNM. And don't be shy. We can use all kinds of help as we move through the various aspects of this long-term project.

-----JOAN MATHIEN, AAS VICE PRESIDENT

LABORATORY OF ANTHROPOLOGY LIBRARY BOOK SALE OCTOBER 23 AND 24

The 18th Annual Book Sale of the Laboratory of Anthropology Library will be held Saturday and Sunday October 23 and 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 708 Camino Lejo on Museum Hill in Santa Fe. Entrance fees are $20 on Saturday from 10:00 to 1:00 and $5 from 1:00 to 4:00; $2 on Sunday from 10:00 to 1:00 and free after 1:00. See indianartsandculture.org/booksale for more information.

The Laboratory of Anthropology Library has had an amazing number and variety of donors this year. Many collections and estates have been received from well-known or even renowned scholars, because people are moving and downsizing. Many of the books this year are in "Near Fine" to "As New" gift quality condition. The subject representation is extremely broad. Although there is particular strength in Southwestern materials, Native American (particularly Navajo), archaeology and anthropology and rock art, there is also a significant amount of Native American art, contemporary art, history, literature, biography, golf (!), opera, and much, much more.

Named collections people may recognize are: Bertha P. Dutton (remaining estate with many obscure or scarce volumes) Caroline Bower Olin estate (Navajo scholar), Nancy Fox (retired curator of the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture), Stewart Peckham (retired former Director of the Laboratory of Anthropology), George Ewing (retired former Director of the Laboratory of Anthropology and the Museum of New Mexico), and a contemporary Native American art collector from Albuquerque.

There are currently 230 boxes priced and sorted and another 782 books listed on the Laboratory of Anthropology Library's Abebooks.com store. These books will be included in the sale, subject to prior sale of course. An additional 50 boxes have been received in the just the past week.

Proceeds support the journal subscriptions in the library and the development of the anthropology collection. The 2010 book sale is not to be missed!

-----ALLISON GOLBONE, LIBRARY DIRECTOR, LABORATORY OF ANTHROPOLOGY

NEWS AND NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

Field School Students Excavate Folsom Site Near Albuquerque. Students in Anthropology 375/575 found evidence this summer of one of the first human groups known to have traveled through the middle Rio Grande Valley as they excavated a Folsom site on a mesa west of Albuquerque. It was named Deann's site after Deann Muller, the student who found it during a survey of the area in 2001. See http://tinyurl.com/3y9wywg --University of New Mexico [From Southwest Archaeology Today, a service of the Center for Desert Archaeology.]
UPCOMING EVENTS

Free Public Lecture

Stephen Lekson, "Chaco Meridian: The Prequel" Wednesday, October 13, 6:00 p.m. The Albuquerque Museum, 2000 Mountain Road. Archaeological Conservancy Lecture Series.

Book Sale

Laboratory of Anthropology Library, Saturday and Sunday October 23 and 24, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Entrance fees. See article, page 4.

Conferences

Mogollon Archaeology Conference (16th Biennial): October 14-16, NMSU Las Cruces. See lonjul.net/mog2010/Conference.


New Mexico Archaeological Council 2010 Fall Conference "Indigenous Mobile Groups of the Protohistoric and Historic Periods." Saturday, November 13, 9:00 to 4:00 Hibben Center. Registration required: $20 NMAC members, $45 nonmembers (includes one year membership) For more information, contact Dave Phillips at dap@umm.edu.

Benefit Event: Maxwell Museum of Anthropology and Navajo weavers

Navajo Rug Auction Saturday, November 20, 1:00 p.m. preview; the auction starts at 3:30. Prairie Star Restaurant on Highway 550 at Tamaya Road, Bernalillo, New Mexico. For more information, call 505-277-1400.

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PUEBLO BONITO AND THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY: REOPENING THE MOUND TRENCHES

Wirt H. Wills, Ph.D.

Hosted by the Albuquerque Archaeological Society
Tuesday, November 16, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.
at the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History
2000 Mountain Road NW

In the 1920s the National Geographic Society excavated extensive trenches at Pueblo Bonito revealing complex deposits and a long history of occupation. Between 2004 and 2007 the University of New Mexico reopened sections of trenches that cut through earthen mounds on the south side of Pueblo Bonito in order to examine deeply buried features, including water channels. This presentation describes that work and ongoing analyses.

Dr. Wirt H. (Chip) Wills is a Professor of Anthropology at UNM. He received his B.A. from the University of New Mexico in 1977 and his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 1985. His area of specialization is the US Southwest. During his career he has investigated numerous topics including the development of early agriculture in the Mogollon Highlands of New Mexico for his dissertation. His continuing interests include 1) the origins of agriculture during the Late Archaic period (ca. 4000 to 3000 B.C.), 2) the emergence of village communities during the Early Ceramic period (ca. A.D. 200 to 500), 3) the development of hierarchically complex corporate groups after A.D. 1000 in the Colorado Plateau, and 4) the formation of Hispanic irrigation communities during the eighteenth century in the northern Rio Grande Valley. His many publications cover a broad spectrum from an evaluation of the role of mobility and sedentism in the transition from hunting and gathering to food production and social organization in the Basketmaker III through Pueblo III periods. With his wife, Dr. Patricia L. Crown, he has spent the last several years conducting research in Chaco Canyon, initially re-excavating the trenches in the trash midden at Pueblo Bonito and currently examining the nearby area where Richard Wetherill had dug a well to supply his home and ranch with water in the late 1890s.

Above is a conventional biographical note gleaned from the Internet, but the following exceedingly modest note submitted by Dr. Wills better conveys his personality and the likely tenor of his talk. "Prof. Wills is a former obnoxious member of the Chaco Project whose current research is widely dismissed by anyone who has any basic experience in Chaco. He clings to his doctorate, obtained from the University of Michigan in 1985, in the belief that it will be revoked at any moment due to a consistent pattern of under achievement. He hopes to retire before he embarrasses his alma mater (UNM) any further."
MINUTES OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

October 19, 2010

Ann Carson, presided, introduced guests, and encouraged members to run for the Board in the upcoming AAS election in December.

Libby Ratliff provided juice for the refreshments.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved as published.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gretchen Obenauf reported that the Plateau Sciences Society in Gallup has passed the care of the Vidal Site lithics to Albuquerque, quoting Sheila Brewer: “so a large group of volunteers will handle it, and a small group will breathe a sigh of relief.” Karen Armstrong said that the volunteers at the Hibben Center will be repacking the Vidal collection into archival containers. She also mentioned that the bricks and boards from the old lab have been donated to the wild wolf sanctuary near Zuni.

Joan Mathieu has responded to an email from Mark Swinney about a collection that will be donated to AAS and passed on to the Maxwell Museum, which will then have ownership of the materials.

SPEAKER

Mark Henderson is chair of the Old Spanish Trail Association’s stewardship committee and founder of Chupadero Archeological Resources. He aims to get the trail into textbooks and entice tourists to visit it, and to teach outdoor and stewardship ethics. Millions of people go to recreational areas along the trail, such as Glen Canyon and Lake Mead, but they are unaware of the trail itself, which connected Santa Fe with the Los Angeles area.

The trail is something of a fiction in more than one way. Antonio Armijo left from Abiquiu in 1829, but instead of completing the journey in Los Angeles, he wound up in San Bernardino. Legally, the trail was considered an immigration and commercial trail, as opposed to the Camino Real, which was an administrative trail.

It is also an archeological fiction in that there are no obvious physical traces that can be tied to this period. Documentation is also sparse, but Armijo’s journal says he led 60 men from Abiquiu to California in search of a new route for trade. They took hundreds of mules, each laden with 300 pounds of weavings, which were traded for mules and wild horses. These animals were brought back to New Mexico for use on the ranches and farms.

Documents on trade are scarce from those times; it seems that the traders were not averse to avoiding taxes. And the vagueness of the accounts of the trail makes it difficult to trace it in order to accurately map it or interpret it. There are clues, however, such as logical sites for camps and for where mules can travel, as well as a recently discovered inscription on a rock at the Crossing of the Fathers that is dated 1776.

Respectfully submitted,

--- Arlette Miller, Secretary

NEWS AND NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

AAS member David M. Brugge’s Navajos in the Catholic Church Records of New Mexico 1694-1875 is now out in a third edition published in a print-on-demand basis. It is available for $20 from the publisher, the School for Advanced Research in Santa. It may be ordered by phone at 888-390-6070 or at www.sarpessarweb.org.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Free Public Lectures

_**JAR Distinguished Lecture** “Pathways to Animal Domestication” by Melinda A. Zeder of the National Museum of Natural History/Smithsonian Institution on Thursday, November 11, 7:30 p.m., Anthropology Room 163, UNM._

_Melinda A. Zeder “Current Thoughts on the Lead-up to Plant and Animal Domestication in the Eastern Fertile Crescent” Friday, November 12, 12:00 noon in the Anthropology Office, Room 248, UNM._

_Stephens Lekson “Chimney Rock & Chaco, Pinnacle Ruin & Mesa Verde, Black Mountain & Paquime: The Rhythm of Regional Interaction in the American Southwest” Friday Nov 19, 1 to 2 p.m., Hibben 105, UNM. The Anthropology Brownbag Series._

Conference

_New Mexico Archaeological Council 2010 Fall Conference “Indigenous Mobile Groups of the Protohistoric and Historic Periods.” Saturday, November 13, 9 to 4, Hibben Center, UNM. Registration required: $20 for NMAC members, $45 for nonmembers (includes one-year membership). For more information, contact Dave Phillips at dap@unm.edu._

_Benefit Event: Maxwell Museum of Anthropology and Navajo weavers_ 

_Navajo Rug Auction_ Saturday, November 20, 1:00 p.m. preview; the auction starts at 3:30, Prairie Star Restaurant on Highway 550 at Tamaya Road, Bernalillo, New Mexico. For more information, call 505-277-1400._

Workshop

_Holiday Gourd Ornament Workshop_ Saturday, December 4, 10-12 or 1-3 in the Coronado State Monument Video Room. Cost: $10 per person or $10 per family. Two buffalo gourds are issued to each participant to make one to ornament to trim the Monument’s Christmas tree on the portal and one to keep. Provided materials are prepared buffalo gourds, decorations, paints, feathers, and more. Reservations required, call Pat Harris at 822-8571.

ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 4029, Albuquerque, NM 87196 or

Website: www.abqarchaeology.org

Annual Dues: Enrolled Newsletter: Student with current ID, $10. Basic $20, Sustaining $30+. Print Newsletter by first class mail: Basic $25, Sustaining $35+. Institutions/ Libraries $10 for print Newsletter by first class mail, emailed at no charge.

2010 Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairs

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<th>Officers</th>
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<td>President: Ann Carson 242-1143</td>
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<td>Vice President: Joan Mathieu 275-1144</td>
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<td>Secretary: Arlette Miller 897-3169</td>
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<td>Treasurer: Gretchen Obernauf 821-9142</td>
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<td>Newsletter: Helen Croddy 281-2136</td>
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<td>Rock Art Recording: Maynard Merhi 771-0815</td>
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<td>Carol Chamberland 341-1027</td>
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<td>Membership: Pottery Southwest: Editor Patricia Lee 897-3169</td>
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<td>Local contact: Arlette Miller 897-3169</td>
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<td>Refreshments: Libby Ratiff 891-1423</td>
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| Webmaster: Mark Rosembum 866-0300 |
ANNUAL HOLIDAY MEETING AND POTLUCK
Tuesday, December 14, 2010
6:30 P.M.
at the Albuquerque Museum
2000 Mountain Road NW

Please bring your favorite appetizers or dessert; setup starts at 6:00 p.m. Beverages, utensils and plates are provided. After appetizers, we will move into the auditorium for the business meeting and program. Desserts will follow the meeting. The main item of business is the election of officers. The holiday program traditionally features talks by members about archaeological sites they visited in the past year.

Jean and Jerry Brody—Mayan Ruins of the Yucatan Peninsula
The Brodys spent last January traveling in the Yucatan visiting Mayan sites while escaping the cold winter at their East Mountain home. They visited both well-known and lesser-known sites and, of course, photographed them. Their presentation will be illustrated with slides of sites they visited.

Helen Crotty—L’Anse aux Meadows Viking Settlement Site in Newfoundland
Helen traveled with Joan Wilkes on an Elderhostel (now named Road Scholar) tour of Newfoundland, coast to coast. One highlight of the trip—and a main reason for signing up—was a visit to the ruins and nearby reconstructed buildings of the Viking settlement at L’Anse aux Meadows believed to date around A.D. 1000. The site was first excavated in 1961, and its Norse affiliation was confirmed with the discovery of a spindle whorl in 1964 during continued excavation. Slides will illustrate the talk.

Note: Dues for 2011 are now payable. Please fill out the form printed on page 4 of this newsletter and mail it with your check, or bring both to the December meeting.
MINUTES OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
November 16, 2010

With Ann Carson presiding, guests were introduced and the minutes of the October meeting were
approved as published.

Refreshments were provided by Libby Ratliff and Bill Winegar.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
The December meeting will be on 14th at 6:30 p.m. It is a potluck, with members snacking until
7:30, followed by the program, with dessert to follow. Let Joan Mathien know if you want to speak
about an archaeological site visited in the past year.

Officers will be elected at the December meeting. The proposed slate is for President, Ann Carson;
Vice-president’s office shared between Gretchen Obenauf and Carol Condie; Secretary, Danyelle
Dosumnu; Treasurer, Ray Shortridge, and member at large Sally McLaughlin. There were no
additional nominations from the floor.

An audit committee is needed, so please volunteer.

Upcoming events include a holiday gourd ornament workshop at Coronado State Monument on
Dec. 4.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:
Rock art: Carol Chamberland’s crew has finished field work at the ridge and now will do the data
entry. Milford Fletcher says work has wrapped up at the Diamond Tail sites except for the
paperwork and analysis. John Guth is now managing the project.

Treasurer: Gretchen Obenauf reminds guests and interested parties that membership dues are being
accepted for 2011.

SPEAKER

Joan Mathien introduced the speaker, Dr. Wirt (Chip) Wills, anthropology professor at UNM, who
engaged in a project to reopen the National Geographic Society’s trenches at Pueblo Bonito which
were dug in the 1920s. He wanted to explore two problems: why anyone would choose to live in
the Chaco area when the farming system was not diversified and the location was so inhospitable,
and what was the nature of the society there.

Wills and his wife, archaeologist and UNM Professor Patty Crown, decided to re-evaluate their
prior knowledge and data on the subject, and to obtain it nondestructively. Thus the decision to
reopen previously excavated areas. After all, the excavators of the 1890s and 1920s had no
radiocarbon dating methods, only stratigraphy. So applying modern technology to the material in
the trenches was expected to result in updated information.

Chip reopened two large earth mounds, east and west, that the National Geographic crews had
trenched on the south side of Pueblo Bonito. They had identified "channels," and Chip wanted to
determine if there had been a lake there, as had once been proposed.

The east trench, once the site of the Chaco campground, was very deep and wide with complex
stratigraphy. It extended from Pueblo Bonito’s south wall to the wash and contained what might
have been a water channel.
The west trench was examined for geological, geomagnetic, pollen, and macrobotanical remains. Specialists were hired to sample that area, which also contained evidence of repeated flooding. Radiocarbon dating of corn determined an occupation of 992-1043 AD in the channel and midden faces. The channel eats away at the midden in places, so they were contemporaneous. At one point a shearing flood leveled the area, which was then covered by more cultural material, demonstrating that the flood plain was high enough to top over the channel.

The east area also revealed evidence of repeated flooding when an area of masonry walls and slumped adobe (mud) was examined.

The channels were probably natural but had been modified, possibly for agricultural and flood control purposes.

A question remains whether the mounds were architecture or dumps. Ground penetrating radar has detected very large objects deep down.

Respectfully submitted,

--- Arlette Miller, Secretary

**NOMINEE FOR DIRECTOR AT LARGE**

The Nominating Committee announces that Laurie Dudasik, a new member, has agreed to run for the position on the Board as Director at Large formerly held by Jerry Williams. Laurie’s name will be added to the slate to be voted at the December meeting.

**NEWS AND NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE**

American Express Donates Ten Million Dollars to Support National Trust’s Partners in Preservation Program. American Express, in partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, will announce an additional $10 million in funding for the Partners in Preservation program. Launched in 2006, the program focuses on raising public awareness for preserving our nation’s cultural and historic sites by awarding preservation grants in cities across the country based on a competitive voting process involving members of the community. [From Southwestern Archaeology in the News - A Service of the Center for Desert Archaeology]

Archivist Discovers Photograph of Navajo War Chief Manuelito. An archivist for the Palace of the Governors photo archives was going through a collection of old photographs in the museum last summer when he recognized a face. “I said, ‘My God, that looks like Manuelito,’ ” said Daniel Kosharek. “I thought, ‘Well, that’s weird. I’ve never seen this before.’” Kosharek checked the files and, sure enough, the image was not there. [From Southwestern Archaeology in the News]

Chaco Digital Initiative Updated to Become the Chaco Digital Archive. Dr. Steve Plog writes – After many years of work, the Chaco Digital Initiative has created a completely redesigned website and has now officially transformed into the Chaco Research Archive. This new research portal offers users access to much more information, as well as the ability to download database searches and access over 1,500 digitized archival documents. The URL remains the same as before - www.chacoarchive.org. [From Southwestern Archaeology in the News]
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Refreshments: Libby Ratliff 994-1423
Webmaster: Mark Rosenbloom 866-0300

née

Please fill out the form below and bring it to the meeting with your check or mail both to: Treasurer, Albuquerque Archaeological Society, PO Box 4029, Albuquerque NM 87196.

ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY 2011 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Name(s): __________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________

Phone No.: ___________________________ Email address: __________________

Confirm email address: ____________________________________________

Electronic newsletter: Basic: $20.00 ______ Student with current ID: $10 ______ Sustaining: $30.00+_______

Newsletter by first class mail: Basic $25.00 ______ Sustaining: $35.00+_______

Membership category: Individual ______ Family ______ (no difference in dues)

Institutions/Libraries: $10.00 ______ (newsletter sent by first class mail)

No charge ______ (electronic newsletter)

☐ Please check this box if you do not wish your information to be printed in our annual directory. (Federal law prohibits disclosing members’ contact information to anyone outside of the organization.)

☐ I/We would be interested in working with the following committees:

☐ Greeters (name tags & guest signup at meetings); ☐ Membership (assist 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 work); ☐ Rock Art Recording; ☐ Other (describe below)