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Newsletter

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**OLD-TIME RELIGION?
THE SALADO PHENOMENON IN THE U.S. SOUTHWEST**

Allen Dart

7:30 pm Tuesday, September 20, 2022
At Your Computer, Tablet, or Smart Phone

In the early 20th century, archaeologists in the southwestern U.S. viewed a constellation of distinctive cultural traits – multicolored pottery, houses arranged in walled compounds, and monumental architecture – as evidence of a cultural group they termed “Salado.” Subsequent discoveries cause us to question what the Salado traits really represent. This presentation will illustrate some of the so-called Salado culture attributes, review theories about Salado origins, and discuss how Salado relates to the Ancestral Pueblo, Mogollon, Hohokam, and Casa Grandes cultures of the U.S. Southwest and Mexico’s Northwest.

Archaeologist Allen Dart – who encourages people to call him “Al” – has worked in New Mexico and Arizona since 1975 for federal and state governments, private companies, and nonprofit organizations. After graduating from UNM in 1973 he worked for the Laboratory of Anthropology at the Museum of New Mexico (now the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture) and the Albuquerque office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs before he moved to Arizona to pursue his Master’s degree. He is now the executive director of Tucson’s nonprofit Old Pueblo Archaeology Center, which he founded in 1993 to provide educational and scientific programs in archaeology, history, and cultures. Al has received awards and honors from the National Park Service and other organizations for his efforts to bring archaeology and history to the public.

Although the Board had hoped to have an in-person meeting in September, this proved unworkable. So, for another time, a day or so prior to the meeting, an email message will be sent to members with the link for the Zoom meeting, which will open around 7 to allow for greetings among friends. Please mute your microphone and turn off your video during the presentation until the question-and-answer session.

MINUTES OF THE JULY 19, 2022 VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

President Evan Kay called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

MINUTES: As there were no additions or corrections to the minutes of the June 21, 2022 meeting, the minutes stand approved as published in the July newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tom Obenauf: There was no income for the month of June. Operating expenses were \$16.17 for the monthly Zoom license fee, \$27.79 for copying the newsletter, \$19.72 for mailing the newsletter, and \$232.00 for the annual post office box rental fee. There were no program expenses for the month. Checking account balance at the end of the month was \$5,699.81.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership – Mary Raje: There were no new members this month. The Membership Directory is complete, and will be sent out to the membership in the next few days.

Field Trips – Pat Harris: We had a wonderful field trip to the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe on June 21. Our docent for the tour of the collections was former member Dottie Noe. An SAR employee led us on the walking tour of the campus.

Pottery Southwest – Gretchen Obenauf: The Spring-Summer *PSW* should come out in the next month.

Rock Art – Carol Chamberland: Carol C. is working on a massive report. Carol Toffaleti is helping with two other reports. All will be submitted to the Bureau of Land Management Rio Puerco Field Office.

Newsletter – Helen Crotty: Several books dealing with contemporary Indigenous issues have been sent to us unsolicited by University of Arizona Press. If anyone is interested in reviewing this type of book for AAS Newsletter publication, please contact Helen at info@abqarchaeology for a list of available books. The reviewer gets to keep the book.

Vice-Presidents – Ann Braswell and Gretchen Obenauf: Nobody scheduled for September yet. We're waiting to see if we'll be back in the museum.

President – Evan Kay: As at the June meeting, Evan reminded us that we need nominations for President and Second Vice-President due to term limits. As ex-president, Evan will become a director-at-large. He will appoint a nominating committee at the September meeting.

SPEAKER

Vice President Ann Braswell introduced Scott G. Ortman, Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Colorado Boulder, research affiliate of the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, External Professor at the Santa Fe Institute, and Associate Editor for Anthropology and Archaeology at *Science Advances*. His presentation "K'uuyemugeh as a Center Place" discussed all of the ways in which the ancestral Pojoaque village of K'uuyemugeh was a center place for the people who lived there between the era of Tewa origins and the era of Spanish colonization. No synopsis is available, but see Ortman's publication *Winds from the North: Tewa Origins and Historical Anthropology* (University of Utah Press, 2012).

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY FOR 2022–2023 AVAILABLE

The 2022–2023 Membership Directory was recently distributed electronically to all members for whom we have email addresses. Members who do not have Internet service or a printer may contact Membership Chair Mary Raje at 505-980-0291 to request a print copy.

OCTOBER 15 FIELD TRIP IN JEMEZ RANGER DISTRICT OF SANTA FE FOREST

Pat Harris, Field Trip Chair, announces a field trip planned for October 15 to the Boletsakwa pueblo located north of the town of Ponderosa in the Jemez Ranger District of the Santa Fe National Forest. We will have a district archaeologist, an assistant district archaeologist, and a site steward accompany us to see: kiva, ruins wall, sherds, grinding slicks, artifacts, petroglyphs, midden.

This hike is for **12 members who are currently in good physical condition**. The length of trail is about a mile, mostly on a road, but the last quarter mile rises gradually until reaching a couple of steep sections for an elevation gain of 250 feet. There is a steep drop-off downslope. Walking sticks are recommended. Time: 2 to 3 hours visiting the pueblo.

There will be the usual AAS Trip fee of \$10 for this field trip. Limit: 12 members. To sign up, contact Pat at trips@abqarchaeology.org.

BOOK REVIEW

Western Ceramic Traditions: Prehistoric and Historic Native American Ceramics of the Western U.S., edited by Suzanne Griset. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press. 2022. xiv+161 pp., 61 figures, 46 tables, bibliography, contributor details. \$40.00 paperback (ISBN 9781647690427).

Reviewed by Thatcher A. Seltzer-Rogers

The publication of volumes with contributions reporting on analyses of Southwest ceramic artifacts, methods in how to conduct said analyses, or summaries of existing data are an annual affair for Southwestern archaeologists. The overwhelming majority of these, however, focus on the well-known categories of Cibola Whiteware, Rio Grande Glazeware, White Mountain Redware, Zuni Glazeware, Northern Rio Grande Whiteware, and occasionally Salado polychromes, Casas Grandes polychromes, and Mimbres Black-on-white. Such volumes fit well within a patterned, preferential attentiveness both by ceramic analysts and other archaeologists to the archaeological record of northeastern and east-central Arizona, northern and west-central New Mexico, and southwestern Colorado, with the occasional volume investigating mostly painted designs and their implications found on Mimbres, Casas Grandes, and Salado types. This book, on the other hand, edited by Suzanne Griset (Archaeologist and Ceramic Analyst, SWCA Environmental Consultants), investigates none of these well-documented and identifiable wares, but rather, contains investigations of Yuman (including Patayan) plain ware ceramics. In so doing, it strives to reinvigorate critical discourse of how archaeologists should identify, analyze, and interpret the presence of plain ware ceramics mainly in Southern California that have provoked extensive debate and limited consensus over the past century (e.g., Rogers 1945; Waters 1982a, 1982b).

The preface, by Griset, presents an overview of the volume's contributions, many of which originate from data produced during compliance projects (e.g., the All-American Canal lining project) and a map of the culture area geographic distributions and corresponding research locations discussed by individual chapters. The first chapter, by Jerry Schaefer, assesses a common phenomenon on the landscape—the 'pot drop'—and demonstrates that the spatial distribution of them in far southeastern California provides evidence for a trail route. Chapter 2, by Griset, discusses an analysis of nearly 90 ceramic vessels curated by Anza-Borrego Desert State Park in south-central California and provides an interesting systematic approach to working with mixed curated collections. Schaefer, in the third chapter, provides a brief investigation of a Hohokam ceramic scatter at a site in southeastern California. Chapter 4, by Helen Wells, reports on the results of field schools between 2007 and 2016 near China Lake in southeastern California with an emphasis on results suggesting long-distance exchange.

The fifth chapter by Jelmer Eerkens, Jeffrey Ferguson, and Carl Lipo investigates processes of cultural transmission by potters of the southern Owens Valley, California through a study of technological changes in their craft over time. Chapter 6, by Karen Harry and Sachiko Sakai, investigates the expansion of Numic speakers into the southern Great Basin by dating pottery from sites in northwestern Arizona. Chapter 7, by Brenna Wilkerson, Karen Harry, and Spencer Steinberg, assesses diet in Virgin Branch Ancestral Pueblo populations through residue

analysis of ceramics. The eighth chapter by Catherine Bailey investigates the undecorated pottery from Colonial period Chumash sites at Spanish missions along the Pacific Coast near Santa Barbara using both standard physical and petrographic analysis.

The ninth chapter, by Griset, in a good segue from the previous chapter, analyzes brownware pottery at a single Spanish mission, Mission San Gabriel Archángel, and provides a thorough discussion of the ceramic assemblage. Chapter 10, by Sarah Peelo, Christina Spellman, Chester Liwosz, Linda Hylkema, and Stella D'Oro, similarly investigates a Spanish mission ceramic assemblage, this time from Mission Santa Clara de Asís with a focus on the Indigenous *ranchería* component. The final chapter, Chapter 11, by Don Laylander, provides the necessary larger discussion of Yuman pottery and the issues that have and continue to hamper archaeologists' interpretation of it. Laylander advocates a potentially controversial method to contend with the longstanding debate over Patayan/Yuman typology – that archaeologists employ an attribute-based approach and ignore the otherwise mostly subjective typological issues (e.g., the difference between Tizon and Lower Colorado Buffware). Laylander concludes the volume by proposing that archaeologists test nearly all existing hypotheses and employ more modern technologies in the dissemination of knowledge and standardization of descriptions.

Western Ceramic Traditions is in many ways a throwback to early Anthropological Papers series publications, in that it contains a series of somewhat connected technical reports with relatively minimal theoretical exposition and restricted interpretations. In no way do I mean this as a negative, as the individual contributions provide fascinating glimpses into a wide range of topics of interest to Southwestern archaeologists: from identifying trail networks to Indigenous pottery production in mission contexts and several intriguing methodological approaches. However, I did feel at times that the volume as a whole could have been improved by incorporating a grander perspective on analysis and description, such as that only briefly touched on by Laylander. As is often the case for many compliance-based analyses, some images are from the field or of acceptable quality in technical reports, but are blurry, poorly shadowed, or have less-than-ideal backgrounds that slightly detract from their impact. Maps are also, at times, overly technical, meaning readers less familiar with the technical mapmaking practices in compliance reports may find them somewhat inaccessible or confusing. Finally, the title implies that the volume covers several ceramic traditions throughout the Western states; however, it is nearly entirely restricted to southern California. Thus, some Southwestern archaeologists, and especially avocationalists, may find it unappealing or irrelevant to their particular research interests.

Nevertheless, this volume provides two significant contributions: first, it makes accessible recent developments in the understanding of Yuman ceramic technology and chronology, and second, it offers a series of intriguing vignettes on ceramic analyses from an otherwise predominately forgotten area in Southwestern archaeology. Archaeologists interested in the Patayan culture and ceramic analysis of Spanish mission pottery and especially plain ware, as well as avocationalists interested in learning more about the archaeological record of southeastern California may find it of notable interest.

References Cited

Rogers, Malcolm J.

1945 An Outline of Yuman Prehistory. *Southwestern Journal of Anthropology* 1(2):167-198.

Waters, Michael R.

1982a The Lowland Patayan Ceramic Tradition. In *Hohokam and Patayan: Prehistory of Southwestern Arizona*, edited by Randall H. McGuire and Michael B. Schiffer, pp. 275-297. Academic Press, New York.

1982b The Lowland Patayan Ceramic Typology. In *Hohokam and Patayan: Prehistory of Southwestern Arizona*, edited by Randall H. McGuire and Michael B. Schiffer, pp. 537-570. Academic Press, New York.

NEWS AND NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

June Issue of *Kiva* (Vol. 88 No. 2) Features Tijeras Pueblo. *Kiva, The Journal of Southwestern Anthropology and History*, published by the Arizona Archaeological Society, devoted its June issue to "Tijeras Pueblo at the Crossroads: Archaeology, Cultural Heritage, and Public Education." The eight papers deal with past research and significance, ownership and management, the collections, the jewelry project, artiodactyl exploitation, resource distribution and health, white ware, and interpretation to the public at the site. Many of the authors are past or present members of Friends of Tijeras Pueblo and/or AAS, including Sandra Arazi-Coombs, Jeremy Kulisheck, Lou Schuyler, David Phillips, Karen Armstrong, Marc Thompson, and Judy Vredenburg (Apologies to anyone omitted.) Of particular interest to AAS members may be the paper "Rescuing Collections from Us: The Tijeras Pueblo Story" by David A. Phillips, Karen Armstrong, and Karen E. Price, which explains the origins, in 2003, of the yet-to-be-renamed "Archiving" Project organized and led by Karen Armstrong, whose continuing progress we hear reported at our meetings.

Information about Linda Cordell's excavations at Tijeras Pueblo may be found in the late Lou Schuyler's reports published as No. 34, Parts 1-6 in the Maxwell Museum's *Technical Series*, available free online. Another recent publication, *The Archaeology and History of Tijeras Canyon*, by AAS member Paul Secord discusses Tijeras Pueblo in its wider setting and is available through Amazon. It includes discussions of the Canyon's environment and resources and other sites in Tijeras Canyon by AAS member Hayward Franklin. All proceeds from the sale of the volume go the Friends of Tijeras Pueblo. For the *Kiva* issue, See Taylor and Francis Online (tandfonline.com).

CALENDAR CHECK

Conference

SOUTHWEST KILN CONFERENCE October 7-9, Western New Mexico University Museum, in Silver City, New Mexico. Registration at swkiln.com.

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

2022 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

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