



THE
Albuquerque Archaeological Society
Newsletter

VOLUME 56 No. 11

US ISSN 0002 4953

December 2022

ANNUAL HOLIDAY MEETING AND POTLUCK

6:30 PM, Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Albuquerque Museum of Art and History
2000 Mountain Road NW

Note that the meeting time is one hour earlier than usual.

For the potluck, bring a ready-to-serve “finger food” appetizer or dessert for about 10. There are no tables for dining. The doors open and setup starts at 6:00 pm. Beverages, eating utensils, and plates are provided. The meeting will be in the Ventana Room off the main lobby, which has very limited kitchen facilities. Please bring your contribution ready to serve, including whatever serving utensils may be needed.

After appetizers, we will have our business meeting and program. The main item of business will be the election of Officers and Directors for the coming year. Nominated are: Ann Braswell, President; Gretchen Obenauf, First Vice President; Robert Hitchcock, Second Vice President; Susan King, Secretary; Tom Obenauf, Treasurer, Jo Lynne Fenger, Director; and Evan Kay Director. All are unopposed.

The program will feature short talks by AAS members about their archaeology-related travels and/or activities since the COVID-19 shutdown. Barbara am Ende will talk about Archaic petroglyphs that she saw on a Jornada Research Institute trip, and also show some slides from the AAS field trip to Quarai. Tom and Gretchen Obenauf and Pat and Dick Harris will show slides from the various AAS field trips during the pandemic. Bob Hitchcock will talk about Bronze Age dolmens in Spain. Steve Rospopo will show slides of photogenic artifacts from the Point Site on the Bolack Ranch near Farmington. And Dick Harris will reprise his “film” of some previous AAS field trips. Dessert will follow the presentations.

AAS DUES FOR 2023 ARE NOW PAYABLE

If you have not already done so, please fill out the enclosed membership renewal form and bring it to the meeting or mail it with your check to Treasurer, Albuquerque Archaeological Society, PO Box 4029, Albuquerque NM 87196. Don't be shy about showing interest in working with a committee or serving on the Board. New people are welcome and much needed!

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 15, 2022 VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

President Evan Kay called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

MINUTES: There were no additions or corrections to the meeting minutes published in the November newsletter, so the minutes stand as published.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tom Obenauf: Income for the month was \$230 from the two October field trips, Boletsakwa and Quarai/Mountainair. Operating expenses were \$15.74 for the monthly Zoom license fee, and \$352.50 for the Albuquerque Museum October security fee and the prepaid Ventana Room fee for the December holiday party. There were no program expenses. Checking account balance was \$6,421.77.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Maxwell Collections (Lab) – Karen Armstrong: The volunteer group will be working through nine boxes of Florence Ellis's Taos excavation. They will not work Thanksgiving week. Seven to 10 people are participating per session. Karen tests for Covid before every lab session.

Membership – Mary Raje: AAS is now in its membership renewal period. It's time to submit your membership check. In the past month, one student withdrew, and one student will be added. President Kay will place more brochures at UNM.

Newsletter – Helen Crotty: No newsletter report this month.

Rock Art – Carol Chamberland: The group is beginning a new project. Carol has been completing the administrative details to enable them to start (e.g., completing the permit application, getting drivers recertified, etc.). They are likely to get out into the field next month. The work will be conducted for the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Field Trips – Pat Harris: Trips in the winter are dependent on weather. Stay tuned.

Pottery Southwest – Hayward Franklin: The editors are working on the fall/winter issue. There will be a piece by Dean Wilson on an unusual bowl.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Board Elections

President Kay opened the floor for nominations to the vacant positions of President, Second Vice President, and one of the Director-at-Large positions. First Vice President Gretchen Obenauf nominated Ann Braswell to stand for President, and Ann accepted the nomination. Gretchen also nominated Robert Hitchcock for Second Vice President, and he accepted. President Kay will fill the Immediate Past-President/Director-at-Large position vacated by John Guth. There were no further nominations.

Treasurer Tom Obenauf, Director-at-Large JoLynne Fenger, and Secretary Susan King said that they were willing to stand for these positions for 2023.

Helen Crotty moved to close the nominations, and Mary Raje seconded the motion. Because there were no contested seats for the full slate of candidates. President Kay called for a vote for the following slate:

For President, Ann Braswell; for First Vice President, Gretchen Obenauf; for Second Vice President, Robert Hitchcock; for Secretary, Susan King; for Treasurer, Tom Obenauf, for Director-at-Large, Jo Lynne Fenger; for Director-at-Large Evan Kay.

Members voted to approve the nominations via a show of hands on Zoom or through the Chat feature. There were no Nays heard.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Refreshments: President Kay reminded the members that we are still looking for someone to step up to manage refreshments for the AAS monthly meetings, which Ann and Cindy Carson did for many years. He thanked them for their service.

Meeting Minutes: Secretary Susan King will be able to take the meeting minutes in December after all; it is possible that she may also be able to do so for January and February. A volunteer has stepped forward to take notes for these months, should she be unable to do so.

Adjournment: With the election successfully concluded, President Kay adjourned the business meeting at 7:59 pm.

SPEAKER

Bob Hitchcock introduced tonight's speaker, Dr. Alison Rautman, who recently retired from teaching anthropology, archaeology, and interdisciplinary social science at Michigan State University. She has worked in the Salinas area of New Mexico for over 30 years, studying the pithouse-to-pueblo transition and the development and organization of early pueblos. The title of her presentation was "Fight or Flight? Coping with Conflict in the Salinas Area of Central New Mexico During the Early Pueblo Period."

Susan King, Secretary

VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO CHAIR REFRESHMENTS COMMITTEE

No one has yet volunteered to take on the position of Refreshments Chair, following the retirement of Ann Carson, who has faithfully served as Refreshments Chair since September 2013, assisted in recent years by her daughter Cindy. The duties involve bringing tablecloth, cold drinks, plates, and napkins to each meeting and setting up the refreshments table. Cookies or other treats are brought by members recruited on a signup sheet each January, and who need to be reminded when their turn comes up. Ann and/or Cindy will be happy to further explain what's involved to anyone interested in taking over.

BOOK REVIEWS

Painted Reflections: Isomeric Design in Ancestral Pueblo Pottery, by Scott G. Ortman and Joseph Traugott. Santa Fe: Museum of New Mexico Press. 2018. 136 pp., 50 plates, 60 figures, further reading, index. \$37.50 hardcover (ISBN 9780890136379). Unfortunately, the catalog is now "permanently out of print," but the exhibition continues through March 12, 2023.

Reviewed by Thatcher A. Seltzer-Rogers

Painted Reflections supplies a fascinating "alternative" interpretation of tenth through thirteenth century Ancestral Puebloan painted pottery (e.g., Gallup, Reserve, and Mesa Verde Black-on-white and Puerco and St Johns Black-on-red) by emphasizing design and visual studies. For instance, the authors advocate an interpretation of the black-on-white designs as simultaneously composed of black ("positive") and white ("negative") designs. They define four types of isomeric designs present including painted-and-unpainted, tessellated, liminal-space, and incomplete-element isomers. For each of these types the authors supply many examples, descriptions, and figures depicting the stages of development. These figures demonstrate the underlying complexity present, and the forethought required by the painters. Their argument then expands into a more direct connection to earlier (and some concurrent) perishable technologies and designs, and they advocate that the relationship also influenced the expansion of corrugated pottery production throughout much of the northern American Southwest. They draw upon other lines of evidence such as kiva construction, mural designs, and spiral rock imagery operating as astronomical or calendrical markers. Ortman and Traugott close by tying together contemporary perspectives found among many Pueblos, such as the spirit world being a mirrored reflection of the physical world and

accessible through watery portals, with archaeological evidence such as the T (tau) shape found on Mesa Verde mugs, effigy vessels, and doorways. They suggest that isomeric designs operated similarly, became tied to ancestral spirits through their mirrored designs, and aided in the cohesion of non-kin groups during the tenth through thirteenth centuries – and that the termination of these fits well with larger shifts, including a transformation from restrictive control over access to ancestral spirits and power to more public displays (e.g., plaza-oriented *katsina* activities).

In all, *Painted Reflections* is an intriguing conceptual volume that builds upon existing design studies of Ancestral Pueblo pottery, most of which they cite, and combines them with contemporary Pueblo philosophy in a readily accessible scholarly work with gorgeous images and insightful schematic figures. Although I have doubts about the authors' larger interpretations and suggestions and posit that similar isomeric patterns existed well beyond the Ancestral Pueblo and American Southwest/Mexican Northwest region they emphasize and that such similarities may represent a greater shared heritage, I found the publication insightful, worthwhile, and intriguing. Finally, having visited the exhibit, which I highly recommend, Ortman and Traugott's volume maintains the inspiration of viewing the vessels on display while also expanding upon the significance of the exhibit in its entirety.

Grounded in Clay: The Spirit of Pueblo Pottery, by the Pueblo Pottery Collective, Elysia Poon, and Rick Kinsel. New York City: Merrell. 2022. 277 pp., 163 figures, contributor details, picture credits, index. \$70.00 hardcover (ISBN 9781858946924). Available at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture Gift Shop and online store. The exhibition continues through May 29, 2023.

Reviewed by Thatcher A. Seltzer-Rogers

Grounded in Clay: The Spirit of Pueblo Pottery is an intriguing entry as a museum exhibition catalog. The objective of the exhibition, in the words of a contribution by Joseph Aguilar, is to “document the historical memories of pottery held by individual Pueblo members and by communities, and then to reestablish these connections in contemporary collections.” It is demonstrably Indigenous and decentralized in voice by lacking any sole author or editors. Members of the Pueblo Pottery Collective selected vessels for inclusion in the *Grounded in Clay* exhibit from the collections of the School for Advanced Research and the Vilcek Foundation. A perspective, thought, interpretation, or biographical piece by a member of the Pueblo Pottery Collective accompanies each image of a vessel in the exhibition. For some pieces, the contributor provides personal insight into what drew them to a particular ceramic vessel over another in the collections or how they were emotionally moved. In others, a contributor provides a brief snapshot into the known artist's life and how they influenced modern Pueblo pottery.

At first glance, *Grounded in Clay* can be a touch underwhelming. It lacks any synthetic contribution, expansive perspective, or consistent tangible message. The vessels selected by members of the Pueblo Pottery Collective widely range temporally, spatially, and culturally. Yet, upon revisit, the intent of the Pueblo contributors to provide personal, varied perspectives that connect the heritages of the ancient (the archaeological pre-AD 1540) and recent pasts (ethnographic AD 1540-early 1900s) to the lived present shines through. Rather than a handful of formal scholarly pieces authored by art historians or anthropologists, *Grounded in Clay* seeks to fundamentally reorient modern Pueblo – and more broadly Indigenous – art displays towards a more personalized, connective experience. In many ways, it reflects the greater contemporary shift within Indigenous art, opening the future for Indigenous artists while also remaining connected to their diverse ancestral heritages.

CALENDAR CHECK

Exhibitions

Painted Reflections: Isomeric Design in Ancestral Pueblo Pottery continues at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, Santa Fe through March 12, 2023. See review of catalog and exhibit on pages 3-4.

Grounded in Clay: The Spirit of Pueblo Pottery continues at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, Santa Fe through March 12, 2023. See review of catalog and exhibit above.

Here, Now and Always, the permanent exhibit at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, Santa Fe reopened in July as a brand-new exhibition focusing on the voices, perspectives, and narratives of the Indigenous peoples of the American Southwest.

Conference

Southwest Symposium January 5–7, 2023 at La Fonda Hotel in Santa Fe, hosted by Maxine McBrinn and Judith Habicht-Mauche. Conference theme: “Attributes to Networks: Multi-scalar Perspectives on Understanding the Past in the Southwest US and Northwest Mexico.” For registration, visit southwestsymposium.org/registration. Registration at reduced fee of \$150 closes December 15, and reduced room rate at La Fonda ends December 19.

NEWS AND NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

U.S. Senate Passes the STOP Act. A federal law meant to help return stolen Native American artifacts to their rightful owners has cleared its final hurdle after unanimous approval in the U.S. Senate. The Safeguard Tribal Objects of Patrimony Act, also known as the STOP Act, passed the Senate on December 6 and was sent to President Joe Biden with the expectation it soon will be signed into law. “Having this finally on the books and headed to the president’s desk really feels quite good,” New Mexico Senator Martin Heinrich said in an interview. “This is going to give both individual tribes and law enforcement tools with which they can help leverage the return of cultural items.” Claudia L. Silva in the *Santa Fe New Mexican* [adapted from *Preservation Archaeology in the News* a service of Archaeology Southwest.]

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

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

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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Ann Braswell

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Susan King

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Refreshments:

Vacant

Publicity:

Evan Kay

Pottery Southwest

Editors: Hayward Franklin, Peter

McKenna, Gretchen Obenauf

Webmaster:

Evan Kay

Asst: Thatcher Seltzer-Rogers

2023

ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Renewal _____

New _____

Name(s): _____

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

- Greeters (name tags & guest signup at meetings);
- Membership (keep track of membership lists and send renewal notices);
- Assist Membership chair with display and signups at archaeological events;
- Field Trips (arrange for trip or assist chair with signups and follow up);
- Laboratory (assist with Hibben Center archival work);
- AAS *Newsletter* editorial assistant/trainee;
- AAS 50th Anniversary Volume Editor, assistant, researcher;
- Board of Directors (and position desired);
- Other (describe on back).

Mail the completed form and your membership dues check (payable to Albuquerque Archaeological Society or AAS) to:
Treasurer, Albuquerque Archaeological Society, P.O. Box 4029, Albuquerque, NM 87196-4029

Questions about Membership? (Address or email changes, current dues verification, etc.): Email info@abqarchaeology.org.

AAS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and your Sustaining contributions are tax deductible