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Newsletter

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**RE-IMAGINING THE INTERNAL FRONTIER MODEL: IMPLICATIONS
FOR THE MOGOLLON RIM REGION, EAST-CENTRAL ARIZONA**

Barbara J. Mills

7:30 PM, Tuesday, May 16, 2023
Albuquerque Museum of Art and History
2000 Mountain Road NW
(Also available online)

My presentation will discuss archaeological research conducted in the Mogollon Rim region of east-central Arizona by the Silver Creek Archaeological Research Project (SCARP) at the University of Arizona and the collaborative Southwest Social Networks Project. Physiographically, demographically, and socially transitional, the Mogollon Rim region provides a well-documented case study for looking at “edge region” or frontier dynamics. I describe ways in which the Southwest’s internal frontier was constructed and changed from the eleventh through fourteenth centuries, from its circular-great-kiva-focused communities to the Pueblo IV plaza-oriented villages associated with two different symbolic systems – the Kachina and Salado religions. Distinctive elements of the Rim region’s internal frontier include the importance of recognizing frontier-frontier rather than center-periphery migration; acknowledging frontiers as socially heterogeneous, dynamic zones of innovation; showing how frontier social networks operated differently than those in more demographically dense areas; and the ways in which frontiers can be more susceptible to climatic and social crises because of factionalism and low population densities.

Dr. Barbara J. Mills (PhD, University of New Mexico) is a Regents Professor in the School of Anthropology, University of Arizona. She is an archaeological anthropologist whose research involves using material culture (especially pottery and architecture) to study migration, social change, and interaction at multiple scales, from households to macro-regions. Her work employs a variety of approaches, including pottery technology, social network analysis, and demography. While most of her research has been conducted in the North American Southwest, she also has archaeological experience in Guatemala, Turkey, and Kazakhstan. Following her work as Director of the Silver Creek Archaeological Project in east-central Arizona, which included collaborations with several tribes, she began the Southwest Social Networks Project to synthesize ceramic data from across the region for social network and GIS analyses. Funded by the National Science Foundation, this project has now been incorporated into cyberSW, a cyberinfrastructure that makes the data from her and others’ projects available along with an analytical toolbox. Professor Mills is the recipient of the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) Award for Excellence in Archaeological Analysis – Ceramics (2015), an SAA Presidential Recognition Award (2017), the Patty Jo Watson Distinguished Lecturer for the Archaeology Division (AD) of the American Anthropological Association (AAA) (2011), and the Gordon Willey Prize (AD, AAA) for the best archaeology article in *American Anthropologist* (2006). She is the author or editor of nine books and has published over 90 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. She is the co-editor of *The Oxford Handbook of Southwest Archaeology* (2017) and the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook of Archaeological Networks Research* (2023).

This program will be presented via Zoom at the regular members meeting in the Albuquerque Museum Auditorium as well as available on members’ computers, tablets, or smartphones. 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 pm to allow for greetings among friends. Please keep your microphone muted during the presentation until the question-and-answer session.

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 18, 2023 MEETING OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

President Ann Braswell called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. There were no new members or students present.

MINUTES: There was one minor correction to the minutes published in the April 2023 newsletter: Gretchen Obenauf introduced the night's speaker, not Bob Hitchcock. The minutes were then accepted as corrected.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tom Obenauf: Income for the month was \$265 in membership renewals and donations, and \$120 in field trip fees. Operating expenses for the month were \$16.79 for the monthly Zoom license fee, \$50.00 for DNS hosting at LoboNet, \$48.15 for office supplies, \$12.22 for newsletter copying, and \$57.93 for speakers' dinners for the first quarter. There were no program expenses for the month. The checking account balance is \$8,250.09. IRS form 990M was filed with the IRS.

VICE PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

Gretchen Obenauf announced that Barbara Mills, a UNM graduate and now a Regents Professor at University of Arizona, was recruited by former Vice President Ann Braswell to present a program at the AAS May meeting. Dr. Mills will be speaking via Zoom only, but the membership is encouraged to gather at the Museum. Dr. Mills is highly regarded as a speaker, and it generally takes about six months in advance to schedule her, so this should be a real treat.

Bob Hitchcock announced that Klara Kelley will be our June speaker; she works for the Navajo Nation and is also a UNM graduate.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership – Mary Raje: A volunteer is needed to set up the AAS booth with brochures, etc., at the ASNM Annual Meeting in Ruidoso May 5-7. Evan Kay will be at the meeting and will be responsible for it. Registration forms for the ASNM meeting are available this evening on the table outside and on our website.

Rock Art – Carol Chamberland: Work is moving along nicely.

Maxwell Collections (Lab) – Karen Armstrong: The Wednesday morning volunteers will be working on recent Pottery Mound collections.

Pottery Southwest – Gretchen Obenauf: The fall-winter edition is in final editing.

Field Trips – Pat Harris: The field trips have been listed on the AAS website by Dick Harris. The Caja del Rio Plateau field trip planned for April 29 is very popular and has a full signup. A visit to Piro Pueblo of Sevilleta is scheduled for May 13. Other potential field trips were discussed.

Webmaster – Dick Harris: The webpage has been updated.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

President Braswell made two announcements:

On April 24 at 7 p.m., in the Anthropology Lecture Hall at UNM, Dr. S. James Anaya of the University of Colorado will present the keynote address for the Hitchcock-Kelly Fund for Human Rights inaugural event, and all are invited to attend.

Congratulations to AAS Director-at-Large Jo Lynne, who has been awarded the Cheryl L. Wase Memorial Scholarship for her UNM archaeology studies. The scholarship covers the cost of tuition/course fees and books for all classroom and field-based courses and is renewable for up to five years.

REFRESHMENTS

Thanks to Savannah Holm for bringing refreshments for the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

President Braswell adjourned the business meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Susan King, Secretary

SPEAKER

Bob Hitchcock introduced John Roney, who, prior to his retirement, served for many years as District and Field Office archaeologist for the Bureau of Land Management in Albuquerque. His presentation “Early Agriculture and Collective Action in the Southern Southwestern United States and Northwestern Mexico” was coauthored with Robert J. Hard of the University of Texas at San Antonio. The talk, in the words of the abstract, “discussed the authors’ findings in a regional context, emphasizing precocious, interrelated Early Agricultural Period developments in northwestern Chihuahua, northern Sonora, and southeastern Arizona. In each of these areas people developed intensive forms of agriculture at a very early date (ca. 1300 BC), and for a time their accomplishments may have rivaled those of contemporary peoples in Mesoamerica. Between 1300 BC and AD 200 they built large fortified hilltop settlements and constructed extensive irrigation systems in riverine settings. . . . These developments are not limited to northwestern Chihuahua, but occurred in parallel fashion in similar environmental settings at La Playa in northern Sonora, in the Tucson Basin of southern Arizona, and along the Gila River near the Arizona-New Mexico state line.”

FIELD TRIP NEWS FROM PAT HARRIS, COORDINATOR/CHAIR

The Sevilleta Pueblo field trip is filled for May 13. Due to not meeting our number allowed (20), I invited six members from TCAS. This has been an opportunity to meet people from “over the mountain” and they have expressed their pleasure at being invited to see sites with knowledgeable leaders.

June field trip: Still working on it.

July field trip: Steps have been made to organize a return visit to the Maxwell Museum collections.

Dick Harris captured our visit to Caja del Rio Plateau and Pueblo Aguajes with a short 4-minute video from photos taken by Mary Raje and Dick. We will be seeing the video at the meeting on May 16 in the social half-hour section before the start of the meeting.

BOOK REVIEW

Birds of the Sun: Macaws and People in the U.S. Southwest and Mexican Northwest, edited by Christopher W. Schwartz, Stephen Plog, and Patricia A. Gilman. Tucson: University of Arizona Press. 2022. xii+359 pp., 26 figures, 20 tables, 8 plates, bibliography, index. \$70.00 hardcover (ISBN 9780816544745), \$70.00 eBook (ISBN 9780816545360).

Reviewed by Thatcher A. Seltzer-Rogers

Over fifty years ago, Lyndon Hargrave published his seminal work *Mexican Macaws: Comparative Osteology and Survey of Remains from the Southwest*. That volume provided a summary of macaw remains as known at the time and presented new methods to investigate and distinguish age and species. Since then, and particularly over the past decade, there have been major developments in methods to identify species, criticisms of Hargrave’s process to determine age, and new ideas regarding the importance of non-local tropical birds in an arid environment (see Crown 2016). This volume, *Birds of the Sun: Macaws and People in the U.S. Southwest and Mexican Northwest*, developed out of an Amerind Foundation seminar in 2019 with the objective to assess, update, and expand upon both Hargrave’s 1970 text and existing narratives regarding the roles of macaws in American Southwest/Mexican Northwest.

The first chapter, by Stephen Plog, Christopher Schwartz, and Patricia Gilman, establishes the significance of macaws and parrots to the ancestral Indigenous peoples of the American Southwest/Mexican Northwest region. They accomplish this by presenting a summary of existing research on archaeological macaw and parrot remains and artifacts from the area and their associated cultural values as proposed by ethnographers, archaeologists, and Indigenous tribal members. The second chapter, by Peter Whiteley, investigates the significance of macaws and parrots in Pueblo oral histories, Spanish ethnographic documents describing Pueblo groups, and Pueblo spiritual practices and associated beings (such as *katsinas*). The third chapter, by Octavius Seowtewa, presents a very brief emic view on the roles of macaws in Zuni society.

The fourth chapter, by Ben Nelson, José Luis Punzo Díaz, and Christopher Schwartz, is the sole contribution to the volume focusing primarily on the ethnohistoric and archaeological record of macaws and parrots in their natural habitat throughout Mesoamerica. Christine Szuter, in the fifth chapter, provides a summary of macaw remains from Ancestral O’Odham sites in southern Arizona and as documented in Spanish ethnohistoric accounts. The sixth chapter, by Stephen Plog, Katelyn Bishop, Douglas Kennett, Samantha Fladd, and Thomas Harper, evaluates macaw remains and objects in Chaco Canyon and, building upon Katelyn Bishop’s 2019 dissertation, discusses their sociopolitical and ritual significance. They also argue for changes in the current understanding of when Chaco inhabitants acquired macaws. Similar to the fifth chapter, Patricia Gilman in the seventh chapter presents the record of macaws in the Mimbres region and compares it to the Hohokam and Chaco Canyon records.

Chapter 8, by Christopher Schwartz, offers insight into the peculiar concentration of macaw remains at Wupatki in the Flagstaff area of north central Arizona. Patrick Lyons and Patricia Crown in Chapter 9 similarly assess the distribution and significance of macaws at four large late prehispanic villages in east central Arizona. In a shift from summarizing the regional distribution of macaws to targeted inquiries, Michael Whalen in Chapter 10 advocates for a more critical assessment of several widely accepted statements. These include that Charles Di Peso identified more than 500 macaws during excavations at Paquimé; that the Paquimé macaws primarily age older than at other sites and there are few nestlings; that the adobe-walled boxes and stone rings were nesting boxes; and that macaw eggshells occurred in association with the nesting boxes. Chapter 11, by Polly Schaafsma, focuses on depictions of macaws in rock imagery and other media and ties them into her perspective on the integration of Mesoamerican icons and cosmology into the religious ideology of Southwest Indigenous groups.

Chapter 12, by Randee Fladeboe and Kelley Taylor, investigates macaw health and treatment prior to their interment. The thirteenth chapter, by Christopher Schwartz, Kelley Taylor, and Michelle Hegmon, applies Hegmon’s focus on the human experience in the archaeological record to understand the experience of acquiring, transporting, raising, and living with and caring for macaws. The final chapter, by Christopher Schwartz, Stephen Plog, and Patricia Gilman, draws upon the conclusions and arguments of the other contributions to develop a current synthesis on macaw remains and importance in the past.

Birds of the Sun is a marvelous contribution to the archaeological literature and presents a long-overdue, multifaceted investigation of macaws in their entirety, building upon many of the conclusions presented by Crown (2016). Some of the chapters (4, 6, 8, 10, 12) stand out for their innovative approaches (12), conclusions (8, 10), or importance in reframing how archaeologists understand macaws in the past and larger narratives regarding Mesoamerica-Southwest relations (4, 6). Whereas some of the research presented by Fladeboe and Taylor is preliminary and ongoing and will be more fully published in Fladeboe’s dissertation, the theoretical and methodological approaches employed provide fascinating insights into the life of macaws in Chaco Canyon and the Mimbres and Flagstaff areas. In short, *Birds of the Sun* is a delightful contribution, challenging received wisdom, presenting new interpretations and updates, and advocating innovative methods. Throughout the volume the guidance of Christopher Schwartz’s emphasis on Indigenous collaboration and voices is readily apparent, and I greatly applaud the inclusion of two chapters heavily integrating either the systematic investigation of macaws in Pueblo culture (Whiteley) or being the voice of a contemporary Pueblo community (Zuni, Seowtewa). Although some areas of the Southwest/Northwest are notably absent (e.g., northeast Sonora, southeast Arizona, south-central and southeast New Mexico), Southwest and Mesoamerica archaeologists, zooarchaeologists, anthropologists, and avocationalists intrigued by the roles and lives of vibrant, tropical birds in past Indigenous Southwestern communities will find much to offer.

References Cited

Crown, Patricia L.

2016 Just Macaws: A Review for the U.S. Southwest/Mexican Northwest. *Kiva* 82(4):331-363.

Hargrave, Lyndon L.

1970 *Mexican Macaws: Comparative Osteology and Survey of Remains from the Southwest*. Anthropological Papers No. 20. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

CALENDAR CHECK

Conference

Pecos Conference August 10–13, 2023 in Flagstaff, Arizona area. Details will be available when registration opens May 13. See <pecosconference.org>.

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.

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