



# GLYPHS

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
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An Affiliate of the Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona  
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*Albert Steinfeld & Company, 1906.*

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Next General Meeting: September 21, 2009

<<http://www.statemuseum.arizona.edu/aahs/aahs.shtml>>

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**B**ecause of the inclusion of the biographies of our Cummings and Stoner awards in this month's issue of *Glyphs*, my letter is short this month.

The Pecos Conference, with over 500 people registered, was held at the McPhee campground near Cortez, Colorado, on August 6–8, with tours on August 9. It was a very successful conference for the Society. We sold KIVAs, shirts, hats, and water bottles totaling \$970. I want to thank Katherine Cerino, Donna Yoder, Darlene Burgess, Sharon Urban, and Marie Lynn Hunken for making this year's Pecos

Conference so successful.

We presented our Cummings and Stoner awards at the business meeting on Saturday morning. Margaret Lyneis and Jim Griffith were unable to attend, so we will arrange to present them with their awards in the near future, perhaps at the September general meeting. The decision

was made last fiscal year to present both the 2008 and 2009 awards this year so that, in the future, they would be given for the year in which they were presented. Thanks to Lex Lindsay for orchestrating this year's awards presentations.

—Don Burgess, President



*Peter Pilles presenting the 2009 Byron Cummings award to Paul and Suzy Fish at the Pecos Conference.*

### AAHS LECTURE SERIES

All meetings are held at the University Medical Center, Duval Auditorium  
Third Monday of the month, 7:30–9:00 p.m.

- Sept. 21, 2009: Bettina Lyons, *Zeckendorfs and Steinfelds: Merchant Princes of the Southwest*
- Oct. 19, 2009: Eric Polingyouma, *Migration History of the Hopi*
- Nov. 16, 2009: Randall McGuire, *Cerros de Trinceras and Warfare in Sonora, Mexico*
- Dec. 21, 2009: TBA
- Jan. 18, 2010: John Kantner, *Facts and Fictions of Ancient Puebloan Cannibalism*

## UPCOMING AAHS FIELD TRIPS

*AAHS membership is required to participate in field trips. Prospective members may attend one AAHS field trip prior to joining.*

**September 28, 2009; 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.**

### Tohono O'odham Himdag Ki Cultural Center, Topawa

Bernard Siquieros, the Curator of Education at the Cultural Center, will give us a presentation and tour of the new facility. The museum visit will be followed by a catered lunch on the reservation. We are working to obtain permission to visit a great prehistoric site just west of Sells after lunch. Plan an all-day trip if we get permission for the site visit. We will carpool from Tucson (somewhere around Ajo and Mission) at 8:30 a.m. To reserve a space, contact Connie Allen-Bacon at <cbcanao@dakotacom.net> or 520.398.3911.

**October 24–25, 2009**

### Sinagua Rock Art Weekend

Join us for a tour of rock art sites in the Sedona/Beaver Creek Area, led by Ken Zoll, who has studied in this area for several years. On Saturday, we will visit Red Tank Draw and two sites at V Bar V that are normally closed to the public. On Sunday, we will visit Wu Ranch, also normally closed to the public, and the Loy Canyon pictographs. The trips involve boulder-hopping, as well as off-trail walking. Good hiking shoes, long pants, and sticks required. The Saturday tour starts at 9:30 a.m., so you may want to plan to arrive in the Sedona area on Friday night. To register for the trip, contact Judy Oyen at <lcoyen@aol.com>. More details on hotels, camping, etc., will be provided to those who register.

## AAHS USED BOOK SALE

**T**he Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society is pleased to announce its next used book sale. The book sale is made possible by many generous donations of books, journals, and other printed materials to the Society by members, the public, and scholars. The large collection for this sale represents a wide variety of topics and geographical interests, with a special emphasis on the anthropology, archaeology, and ethnohistory of the southwestern United States and Mexico. There are many hard-to-find anthropological titles in an individually, yet reasonably, priced section. General book prices start at \$2.00. Proceeds from the event help support and benefit the Arizona State Museum Library. Admission is free; Arizona State Museum South Building. Contact Todd Pitezal at 520.626.8162 for additional information.

**Saturday, October 17, 2009; 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. [AAHS members admitted at 8:00 a.m.]**

**AAHS HAPPENINGS**  
**TOPIC OF THE SEPTEMBER 21 GENERAL MEETING**

**Zeckendorfs and Steinfelds:  
Merchant Princes of  
the Southwest**

by Bettina O'Neil Lyons



*Louis Zeckendorf and Albert Steinfeld*

From their arrival in Santa Fe in 1853, with the earliest American occupation, to the close of Steinfeld's department store in downtown Tucson in the 1980s, the history of the Zeckendorf and Steinfeld families is intertwined with the economic development of the Southwest. This remarkable group of men and women laid the business foundations and set the social tone in Arizona and New Mexico for much of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

When I began my research, I had very little information about this family and their 130-year-old mercantile company. I started with the present and moved back in time, collecting history all the way back to Germany in the 1840s. I made many fascinating discoveries along the way. It occurred to me that researching family history is not unlike archaeology. Instead of digging in the earth to un-

cover layers of civilization, I dug in library archives, collected family letters and memorabilia, and hired a Germany genealogist.

**Suggested Reading:**

- Bret-Harte, John  
2001 *Tucson: Portrait of a Desert Pueblo*. American Historical Press, Sun Valley, California.
- Lyons, Bettina O'Neil  
2008 *Zeckendorfs & Steinfelds: Merchant Princes of the American Southwest*. Arizona Historical Society, Tucson.
- Henry, Bonnie  
1992 Another Tucson. *Arizona Daily Star*, Tucson.
- 2006 Tucson Memories. *Arizona Daily Star*, Tucson.
- Rochlin, Fred, and Harriet Rochlin  
2000 *Pioneer Jews: A New Life in the Far West*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Boston.

*Speaker Bettina O'Neil Lyons is the granddaughter of Albert and Bettina Steinfeld and the great-granddaughter of Lena Zeckendorf and Levi Steinfeld. She received a B.A. in the Arts from the University of Arizona. Born and raised in Connecticut and New York, Bettina currently lives in Tucson, Arizona, with her husband, Dan. Her articles have appeared in The Journal of Arizona History. Zeckendorfs & Steinfelds: Merchant Princes of the American Southwest will be available for purchase the night of the meeting for \$20.00, a special AAHS discount of 20 percent. Check or cash only.*

**ARIZONA ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2008 and 2009 AWARDS**

*The 2008 Byron S. Cummings Award for Outstanding  
Contributions in Archaeology, Anthropology, or Ethnology  
Presented to: Margaret Lyneis and William Robinson*

Dr. Margaret Lyneis received her bachelor's degree from the University of Washington in 1959, and her master's degree (1964) and Ph.D. (1968) from UCLA. She taught at Cal State University, Long Beach (1966-1975), at SUNY Binghamton (1974-1976), and at UNLV from 1976 until her retirement in 2001. She began doing archaeology at the University of Washington as a student and then as a field assistant at field schools along the middle reaches of the Columbia River. At UCLA, her dissertation dealt with a cultural ecological view of the prehistory of the Warner Valley in south-central Oregon.

Dr. Lyneis has greatly influenced the development of archaeology in southern Nevada and northern Arizona, particularly along the Arizona Strip. As a UCLA graduate student, she was the only woman scientist present at the 1963 Tule Springs excavations, headed by Vance Haynes. The results of those excavations were crucial to Nevada's and North America's prehistory, as the researchers demonstrated human presence at the site, approximately 11,000 years ago.

Well known for her ceramic studies of the Virgin Branch Anasazi, Margaret began her research by taking a ceramics workshop at SUNY Binghamton. Through observations, discussions, and experimentation, she developed techniques that went beyond mere typology to sourcing and petrographic analyses. Her identification of the Mt. Trumbull area as the source of Moapa Gray Ware and the Shivwits Plateau as the source of Shivwits types has spawned nu-

merous important studies. Through Margaret's ceramic studies and work on Moapa Valley sites, she has kept southern Nevada within the boundaries of the Anasazi culture area.

Before Margaret's contributions, southern Nevada was largely a blank spot on the map in Southwest and Great Basin archaeology. Her hypotheses regarding settlement, subsistence, and trade patterns are still the basis of research designs in southern Nevada, southwestern Utah, and northwestern Arizona. In 1978, she wrote a prehistoric context for the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office, in which she proposed research directions still valid today. Margaret has also contributed to Numic expansion theories. Her reputation for professionalism and her attention to detail in her research earned her the respect of researchers throughout the West.

Her influence goes beyond research, however. She has touched many people by sharing her knowledge through formal university classes, informal workshops, and simply by being willing to discuss important issues with anyone interested. She has been an inspiration to many students who are now professional archaeologists. Now *emeritus* from UNLV, Dr. Lyneis still finds time to share her experiences with many people.

One of Margaret's legacies is the number of professional archaeologists who cut their excavation teeth on the Saturday field classes at the Yamashita sites in Moapa

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Valley. Known as a tough, but fair, classroom teacher, a grade of "B" in one of her classes was a proud achievement.

In the field, Margaret demonstrates through example how keen observation and good scientific techniques can be fun. Her gentle prodding and inquiries get most people thinking in new and innovative ways. She always has found (and still finds) time to present talks and workshops to anyone interested in archaeology, especially avocational groups.

In "retirement," Margaret continues to probe essential research questions of Nevada and the Southwest. Her own research into pottery production in Moapa Valley is ongoing. She has taken on the daunting task of learning to make pottery and is actively pursuing the right clay, temper, paint, and techniques to replicate prehistoric pottery of the Moapa Valley. In experimental pottery-making sessions, she participates, encourages others' efforts, and continues to pose the questions that will push the research one step further.

Born in Erie, Pennsylvania, and having begun his post-secondary studies at Oberlin College, **Dr. William J. Robinson** went on to earn his bachelor's (1957, with distinction), master's (1959), and Ph.D. (1967) degrees in anthropology at the University of Arizona (UA). Bill's long-time association with the UA has resulted in many significant contributions to the archaeology of the U.S. Southwest.

Bill worked at Point of Pines in 1956 and 1957. His master's thesis, *Burial Customs at the Point of Pines Ruin*, synthesizes information about 568 burials at Point of Pines Ruin and adjacent sites and places them in regional context. As a result, Bill was able to document, both in his thesis and in a *Kiva* article, the practice of "killing" pottery vessels via rim-notching. This

practice and others link the people of Point of Pines with late prehispanic immigrants to Zuni.

In 1958, Bill, Bunny Fontana, and other UA graduate students excavated at San Xavier del Bac, revealing workshops related to the mission's construction. Their intention was to find deposits bearing on the question of continuity between ancient and modern indigenous groups in southern Arizona. Unable to locate robust evidence of occupation during the proper interval, Bill and his colleagues, between 1964 and 1966, turned their attention to Guevavi. With help from volunteers (AAHS members and UA anthropology students), the Convento at the site was excavated, although it failed to yield materials directly relevant to the question of continuity.

Nonetheless, the efforts at San Xavier and Guevavi both resulted in *Kiva* articles — touchstones of the small but critically important literature devoted to early historic period archaeology in the Pimería Alta. This research program also produced the fundamental text on Tohono O'odham traditional ceramics, *Papago Indian Pottery*, coauthored by Bunny, Bill, Charles Cormack, and Ernie Leavitt.

In 1963, Bill joined the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research as a Research Associate. He completed his doctoral dissertation, *Tree-Ring Materials as a Basis for Cultural Interpretations*, in 1967. Promoted to Assistant Professor in 1968, Bill later became Assistant Director and, from 1982 to 1986, Director, of the Tree-Ring Lab.

Between 1969 and 1978, Bill collaborated with Jeff Dean and Lex Lindsay on the Long House Valley project. This survey, which recorded more than 820 sites spanning the period from 2500 B.C. to the late 1970s, is widely regarded as one of the Southwest's most important research projects. It serves as one of the best examples of the outstanding potential of full-coverage survey, and the rich data it produced drive some of the most advanced applications of computerized, agent-based

modeling in Southwest archaeology.

Throughout his career, Bill's primary research interests have been dendrochronology and paleoclimatic reconstruction. These were applied at Walpi, Grasshopper Pueblo, Arroyo Hondo, Hubbell Trading Post, and Acoma Pueblo, among many other sites. Bill's many and varied service commitments have included the editorship of *The Kiva* (1963-1964, 1972-1975), AAHS Secretary (1964-1965), AAHS Board Member (1965-1966), and the editorship of the *Tree-Ring Bulletin* (1969-1983). Bill "retired" in 1993, and in 1995, he received the

Society's Victor Stoner Award. He now serves on the advisory board of the Center for Desert Archaeology and is currently updating and editing for publication, with Patrick Lyons and Gloria Fenner, Rex Gerald's unpublished 1958 manuscript on the excavation of the Davis Ranch site.

In recognition of all he has contributed to the archaeology of the Southwest and to honor all he continues to contribute, the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society is proud to present Dr. William J. Robinson with the 2008 Byron Cummings Award.

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***The 2009 Byron S. Cummings Award for Outstanding Contributions in Archaeology, Anthropology, or Ethnology Presented to: Paul Fish and Suzanne Fish***

**Dr. Paul R. Fish** earned his Ph.D. in anthropology at Arizona State University in 1976, while still a Senior Archaeologist at the Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff. He then taught for three years at the University of Georgia, and since 1979, has been a Curator of Archaeology at the Arizona State Museum. He has also been, since 1998, a Professor in the University of Arizona's (UA) Department (now School) of Anthropology and a member of the UA Latin American Area Studies Interdisciplinary Program faculty. Paul is currently Program Coordinator for the UA Southwest Land, Culture, and Society Program, as well as Co-Director of the ASM Borderlands Research Program and Laboratory.

A dedicated researcher and prolific author, Paul has devoted 30 years to the study of the prehistory of the U.S.-Mexico borderlands and has made numerous critical contributions to the archaeological study of this region, both in terms of applied theory and empirical data. Specifically, he has concentrated on documenting and explaining settlement patterns in the Hohokam region, increasing our understand-

ing of the agricultural practices of prehispanic desert peoples, modeling the social and political organizations of ancient groups in the borderlands, and exploring past human-environment interactions. His long-term projects have included the Northern Tucson Basin Survey, the aforementioned Borderlands Archaeology Program (including the Marana Platform Mound Excavations), trincheras studies, and Brazilian shell midden research.

Paul has collaborated internationally with archaeologists from the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia in Sonora, with colleagues from the Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia in Mexico City, and with colleagues from the Universidade de Sao Paulo, the Instituto Brasileiro Patrimônio Cultural, and the Universidade Federal Santa Catarina, all in Brazil. Through his international work, Arizona students have had the opportunity to work in Brazil and Mexico, and especially through his contacts in Mexico,

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Mexican students and scholars have come to the UA for research and study.

Paul has taught courses in Arid Lands and Anthropology, and has conducted much of his research in southern Arizona as archaeological field schools at the Marana Platform Mound community (an early Classic Hohokam settlement), University Indian Ruin (a late Classic Hohokam settlement), and Tumamoc Hill (a trincheras community dating to the Early Agricultural period). In the past 16 years, he has chaired 10 dissertation committees and 8 master's committees, and he has served on an additional 15 dissertation committees. His dedication to his students has left a legacy of future researchers spread across the western hemisphere to continue his involvement in diverse research perspectives on peoples and cultures of the past.

In 1996, the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) presented Paul with an award for distinguished service, and in 2005, he received an SAA presidential recognition award. The University of Arizona honored Paul with a Student Mentoring award in 1996. Paul has also served for more than 10 years on the steering committee for the Southwest Symposium. This is but a small sample of the breadth and depth of service Paul has given to his profession at the local, regional, and national level.

The 2008 book, *The Hohokam Millennium*, co-edited with Suzanne Fish, was listed as one of 12 outstanding books on the Southwest by the Pima County Library. In addition to this volume, Paul has published 8 other books and monographs, 41 book chapters, and 19 journal articles.

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**Dr. Suzanne K. Fish** is an incredibly productive scholar who has made substantive contributions to many aspects of U.S. Southwest and northwest Mexico archae-

ology, both on a theoretical level and in terms of data. Her research foci have included settlement pattern, subsistence, traditional agriculture, ethnobotany, and archaeological palynology.

Suzy earned her Ph.D. in Arid Lands Resource Sciences at the University of Arizona (UA) in 1993. In 1995, she became an Assistant Curator of Archaeology at the Arizona State Museum, a member of the Arid Lands Resource Science Interdisciplinary faculty, and an Assistant Professor in the Department (now School) of Anthropology. She was promoted to Associate Curator in 1999 and Curator in 2004. She now also holds the position of Professor of Anthropology and is a member of the Latin American Studies Interdisciplinary Program faculty. Dr. Fish's long-term research projects have included the Borderlands Archaeology Program (of which she is Co-Director), trincheras studies, Hohokam agave cultivation, and Brazilian shell middens.

Suzy has collaborated internationally with archaeologists from the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia in Sonora, with colleagues from the Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia in Mexico City, and with colleagues from the Universidade de Sao Paulo, the Instituto Brasileiro Patrimônio Cultural, and the Universidade Federal Santa Catarina, all in Brazil. Through her international work, Arizona students have had the opportunity to work in Brazil and Mexico, and especially through her contacts in Mexico, Mexican students and scholars have come to the UA for research and study.

Suzy has taught courses in Arid Lands and Anthropology, and has conducted much of her research in southern Arizona as archaeological field schools at the Marana Platform Mound community (an early Classic Hohokam settlement), University Indian Ruin (a late Classic settlement), and Tumamoc Hill (a trincheras community dating to the Early Agricultural period). In the past 14 years, she has chaired or co-

chaired seven dissertation and seven master's committees, and she has served on an additional 21 dissertation and 10 master's committees (equally in anthropology and arid lands). Her dedication to her students has left a legacy of future researchers spread across the western hemisphere to continue her involvement in diverse research perspectives on peoples and cultures of the past.

In 1996, the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) presented Suzy with an award for distinguished service, and in 2005, she received an SAA presidential recognition award. Suzy was program chair of the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual SAA meeting, was co-editor of *Latin American Antiquity* from 2002-2005, and served on the editorial board

of *American Anthropologist* from 2002-2007. She received the G. Gordon Willey Award for outstanding archaeology publication in *American Anthropologist* in 1998, along with Patricia Crown for the article, "Gender and Status in the Hohokam pre-Classic to Classic Transition." This is just a sampling of the tremendous service Suzy has given to her profession at the international, national, local, university, and museum level during her distinguished career.

The 2008 book, *The Hohokam Millennium*, co-edited with Paul Fish, was listed as one of 12 outstanding books on the Southwest by the Pima County Library. In addition to this volume, Suzy has published 6 other books and monographs, 65 book chapters, and 24 journal articles.

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### *The 2008 Victor R. Stoner Award for Outstanding Contributions to Public Archaeology or Historic Preservation Presented to: James Griffith and Winston Hurst*

Father Victor Stoner, in whose memory this award is bestowed by the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society (AAHS), would no doubt be pleased that **James S. Griffith** is its 2008 recipient. Like Victor Stoner, Jim has never been more than a somewhat remote student of archaeology, although in interesting ways, both lives were shaped by it.

It was a trip to Tonto Cliff Dwellings in 1920 that piqued Stoner's curiosity about archaeology and that ultimately brought him into contact with the likes of Dean Byron Cummings and Emil Haury. It was through such associations that Stoner, whose master's thesis at the University of Arizona (UA) was written about the Spanish missions of the Santa Cruz Valley, became willing to accept the job as the first editor of *The Kiva*, the Society's journal now about to enter its diamond jubilee year.

It was the recommendation of Harold Gladwin, a neighbor of the Griffith family

in Santa Barbara, that sent Jim on his way to the UA in 1955, where he enrolled as an undergraduate student in anthropology. One of his first roommates in Tucson was Frank Eddy, who became a Southwestern archaeologist. He chauffeured Dick Shutler to the so-called "Lost City" site in southern Nevada. He spent a summer digging at Point of Pines with students like Bill Lipe, Liz Morris, Bill Robinson, Martin Link, Don Morris, Jim Hester, and Lex Lindsay — pretty distinguished company. And further, he spent the better part of a day digging at the Lehner Mammoth site, however, nagged by a bad cold and feeling aches and pains, he decided he'd had enough. It occurred to him it was easier, and maybe even more fun, to talk to people than to dig them up.

The rest, as we know, is history. Jim got his Ph.D. in anthropology, with a ma-

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for in cultural anthropology and a minor in art history. He followed in the footsteps of Frances Gilmore and Byrd Granger in becoming the folklorist for the UA. Once, when asked how he described his work, he labeled it, "action antiquarianism."

Jim Griffith has devoted much of his adult life to promoting understanding among peoples of disparate cultures in southern Arizona and Sonora. Through such classic books as *Beliefs and Holy Places*, *Southern Arizona Folk Arts*, *A Shared Space*, *Hecho a Mano*, and *Folk Saints of the Borderlands*, as well as his classroom teaching, public lectures and tireless promotion of cross-cultural understanding and respect, Jim has certainly emulated the efforts of Father Victor Stoner. He is, in every way, eminently worthy to receive this award.

Anyone who is even casually aware of the archaeology of southeastern Utah has certainly heard of, and probably met, **Winston B. Hurst**. A life-long resident of the area, Winston has traipsed around more of southeastern Utah than most of us have ever seen, recorded more sites than we can imagine, and helped educate more schoolchildren and their parents about southeastern Utah archaeology than anyone in history.

Born in Monticello, Winston attended high school in Blanding, received his

bachelor's from Brigham Young University, and his master's from Eastern New Mexico University in Portales. He has worked as a professional archaeologist for government agencies, museums, universities, and private contractors for more than 30 years.

Winston's broad range of interests and research include many things Chaco—roads, settlement patterns, ceramics, architecture, and so on—as well as rock art studies, Navajo and Ute occupations of the area, and the history of pothunting in San Juan County. He has authored dozens of reports, chapters, and articles, and has given more than 50 presentations, including talks at the Pecos Conference, the Society for American Archaeology annual meetings, the Utah Historical Society, and the Utah Museum of Natural History, as well as lectures delivered to many, diverse local groups.

Winston has served on the board of the San Juan County Historical Commission, the Governor's Task Force on Archaeological Preservation, the Southwest Heritage Foundation, and as director of the White Mesa Institute for Cultural Studies. He has been a faculty member of the College of Eastern Utah, and a curator at the Utah Museum of Natural History, the Edge of the Cedars State Park, and the Anasazi Heritage Center.

Winston B. Hurst's tireless efforts advocating preservation of and education about the rich cultural heritage of southeastern Utah make him a very deserving candidate for the Victor R. Stoner Award.

***The 2009 Victor R. Stoner Award for Outstanding Contributions to Public Archaeology or Historic Preservation Presented to: James Griffith and Winston Hurst***

**María Elisa Villalpando Canchola** dedicated herself to the archaeology of Sonora while completing her studies at the Escuela

Nacional de Antropología e Historia and the Colegio de México. Her 30 years of prolific research spans the prehispanic through

post-contact occupations of that state, with major studies on the hunters, gatherers, and fishers of the coast, one of the earliest agricultural communities at La Playa, and the more complex Trincheras Tradition society that constructed the terraced hill town of Cerro de Trincheras. She is an expert on the manufacture of ornaments from Gulf of California marine shell and the exchange networks through which they circulated.

Elisa Villalpando's many research and rescue projects, as well as her generous support of Mexican and U.S. colleagues, have advanced knowledge of every archaeological culture in Sonora from Clovis to Colonial, and up to the twentieth century. She is a foremost scholar and preservationist of the Mexican Northwest, organizing conferences, writing, and editing in English, as well as in Spanish. Elisa has been a member of the influential Consejo or Board of Archaeology of INAH (the National Institute of Anthropology and History); directs the journal *Noroeste de México*; and serves on various editorial and advisory boards, including those of the journals *Arqueología* and *Kiva*, the Center for Desert Archaeology, and the Southwest Symposium.

As senior investigator at the INAH Center in Hermosillo, Elisa has worked tirelessly to foster appreciation and preservation of Sonora's rich archaeological heritage.

In a state with only a few resident professionals, she has recruited promising young Mexican scholars to Sonoran investigations and welcomed U.S. collaborators. She teaches Sonoran archaeology and history at the Universidad de Sonora and helps to train tourism guides. Exhibits on Sonoran archaeology at the INAH Center and the Universidad de Sonora in Hermosillo, the museum at Paquimé, and the Arizona State Museum bear her creative imprint. Elisa's many contributions to popular books and periodicals in both Spanish and English, along with news interviews in diverse media, bring further awareness to the broadest public. She is a major contributor to the beautifully illustrated volume *La Gran Chichimeca*, which uniquely synthesizes Mexico's Northwest. Her current development of the spectacular sites, Cerro de Trincheras and La Pintada, for visitation typifies her will and energy. Years of fundraising and local to national initiatives have produced protective enclosures, trails, and signage, with other visitor facilities nearing completion. The publics of Sonora, the Northwest, and all Mexico owe much to the vision of Elisa Villalpando.

The Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society is pleased to add one more recognition of her accomplishments with the 2009 Victor Stoner Award.

## UPCOMING ARIZONA STATE MUSEUM EVENTS

**Events Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Snaketown Excavations  
March 2010**

Brought to you jointly by AAHS and ASM. Keep an eye out!

**ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS FOR GLYPHS:** If you have research or a field project that would be interesting to *Glyphs* readers, please consider contributing an article. Requirements are a maximum of 1,000 words, or 750 words and one illustration, or 500 words and two illustrations. Please send electronic submissions to <jadams@desert.com>, or by mail to Jenny Adams, Desert Archaeology, Inc., 3975 N. Tucson Blvd., Tucson, Arizona 85716.

## THE CORNERSTONE

## Archaeologists Mark 75-year Anniversary of Seminal Hohokam Excavations

*The UA's Emil Haury and others defined the prehistoric desert culture largely through their work at Snaketown*

—By Jeff Harrison, University Communications, July 12, 2009 (reprinted with permission from UA News)

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the first excavations at Snaketown, the large ancient Hohokam settlement on the present-day Gila River Indian Community, near Chandler, Arizona.

For archaeologists, including those at the University of Arizona and the Arizona State Museum, Snaketown represents a significant key to understanding the Hohokam, who lived in the Southwest from as early as A.D. 500 until about A.D. 1450. It also began a sea of change in how archaeological sites are now excavated and interpreted. That includes illuminating the lives of those who lived in prehistoric communities in much greater detail than ever before.

In the 1930s, Snaketown became the focus of two key individuals who wanted to learn more about the Hohokam and their influence in the Southwest: Harold Gladwin and Emil Haury. Gladwin came to archaeology later in life. He had made a fortune as a stockbroker and sold his seat on the New York Stock Exchange in 1922.

"He sold it at the right time," said Raymond Thompson, the director emeritus of the Arizona State Mu-

seum, who, as a graduate student, had met Gladwin a number of times. Thompson said Gladwin made his way to Arizona and the ruins of Casa Grande around 1927, and was interested in the red-on-buff colored pottery sherds littering not only Casa Grande but much of the desert Southwest.

Gladwin established the Gila Pueblo Foundation in Globe, Arizona, and embarked on a survey to learn more about the Hohokam. He also enlisted Haury, a young archaeologist who had graduated from the UA in 1927, and earned his master's degree in 1928 here as well.

Haury was a student of two seminal figures in Arizona archaeology, Byron Cummings, the head of the UA archaeology department and director of the Arizona State Museum, and Andrew Douglass, the founder of the UA Laboratory of Tree Ring Research. Haury was already emerging as one of the central figures in southwestern archaeology by the time he finished his doctorate in 1934 at Harvard.

Gladwin made Haury the assistant director of the Gila Pueblo Foundation and put him in charge of field operations of Snaketown when the excavations began there in 1934.

"Gladwin was interesting but

very complex," Thompson said. "He came out of business and had a great intellect. He had ideas on how to take on big problems and solve them. And he was willing to put his money behind it all. But he was baffling to a lot of academics."

Thompson said Gladwin had a comic streak and loved to make fun of people. "He enjoyed dreaming up utterly preposterous explanations. . . just to annoy the hell out of his academic colleagues. And the more they got annoyed, the more fun it was for him," Thompson said.

One example was his 1947 book, *Men out of Asia*, Gladwin's explanation of how remnants of Alexander the Great's army in India, and others, migrated from the Old World to the Americas. The book was a huge bestseller with the public, but cost Gladwin some of his support in academia.

"You never knew how much of it was tongue-in-cheek, or if he was serious or just trying to get academics out of the stodgy ways of looking at things and trying something new," Thompson said.

To his credit, Thompson said, Gladwin was never afraid of revisiting his earlier theories and ideas. "For a man with no academic training (in archaeology), he was willing to reexamine things, and even back down on some of his ideas if he came up against a wall of facts or new evidence, and would move on to something different."

At Snaketown, Gladwin and Haury helped to define the Hohokam

as a society. The goal was finding a chronology that would link a classic signature of the Hohokam—the distinctive red-on-buff pottery—that appeared throughout central and southern Arizona, an area roughly the size of South Carolina.

Hohokam was essentially the northern edge of Mesoamerica, which included Mexico and Central America. They were one of the great irrigation societies in the world and built one of the largest canal systems anywhere in the Americas, according to Paul Fish, a curator of archaeology at the Arizona State Museum.

Irrigation in the Southwest predated the Hohokam by many centuries, but they developed the technology to coax water from the Gila, Salt, and other river systems to grow enough corn, beans, squash, and other crops to support as many as 50,000 people.

Estimates vary on how many people lived in Snaketown at any given time. Paul Fish said because the land was extremely productive under irrigation, it could have supported as many as 1,000 people. Engineering, digging, and maintaining an extensive system of canals would also have required an extensive labor force.

"The Hohokam also shared a lot of interaction with other cultures, particularly with western Mexico," Fish said. The Mexican iconography, or symbols, used in pottery and other designs were often shared with the

(continued on page 10)

(continued from page 9)

Hohokam. The eagle holding a snake in Mexico's national flag may have its origins here in the Southwest.

Snaketown provided the framework for much of what is now understood about Hohokam archaeology, said Arthur Vokes, a curator at ASM. "It essentially set the chronological sequence for the Hohokam."

Gladwin and Haury exposed a large swath of Snaketown, in part, using horse-drawn scrapers during the 1930s excavations. When he revisited the site from 1964 to 1965, Haury used backhoes and other heavy equipment.

Their techniques enabled them to answer questions not only about how the community was laid out, with its plazas and ballcourts, but also allowed later archaeologists to understand how individual households formed, shared courtyards with other houses, and were maintained across generations.

"Archaeology today feels more comfortable and goes further in reconstructing Hohokam society and the people who lived there," said

Suzanne Fish, also a curator of archaeology at ASM. "Earlier, there was a preoccupation with artifacts and classifying them into a system that made for a sensible chronology. Now, we look more on building on that foundation of looking at history and family traditions. It's much more alive," she said.

Snaketown has been closed to public access since 1965. No excavations of Hohokam settlements since have matched its scope.

Thompson said Snaketown opened the door to understanding the Hohokam culture.

"It's easy to look back 75 years and say, 'why didn't they do this,' or 'why didn't they interpret something that way?'" he said. "We can do that now because they opened the door so we could get on that road."

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