GLYPHS
The Monthly Newsletter of the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society
An Affiliate of the Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona
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Ben Nelson

Next General Meeting: April 16, 2012
7:30 p.m., Duval Auditorium, University Medical Center
www.az-arch-and-hist.org
A bout 25 years ago, I spent a year in central Mexico, not far from Cuernavaca, digging small, Aztec-period sites with a half dozen other U.S. archaeologists and a few of our Mexican counterparts. We were working in the hinterland of a much larger Aztec-period site (Cuernavaca’s direct ancestor), inspired by the righteous idea that archaeologists needed to start paying attention to these unglamorous places where ordinary people once lived or we’d risk being deluded that Aztec life was all about pyramids and fancy sculpture.

The work did have its virtues, but just about every weekend two or three or four of us would make our way by bus or car to one or another well-known archaeological site to admire the pyramids and fancy sculpture. Maybe we could be forgiven, considering all those long, hot weekdays of poking through obsidian shrapnel and crumbling plain ware.

But even monument gazing gets old after a while, and I came to enjoy other parts of our weekend foray even more than the archaeology. First, not surprisingly, was the food, which was never reliably good but sometimes was so outrageously good that you would gladly eat mediocre meals several weekends in a row knowing that, soon enough, you would hit it big, often in an unanticipated place, like the front porch of an old lady’s house a short walk from the zona arqueológica (the official term), on a wobbly, enamel-topped card table, and off questionable plastic dishes. Once we had pork with green chile in such a place near Tula, Hidalgo, stepping onto the porch out of desperation, hoping the crude sign out front, COMEDOR, meant that food was available; simply available, never mind the quality. I can still taste that plate of pork today, and I mean that in the best way.

Second was the chance to buy, at absurdly low prices, books published by the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH). The INAH and its predecessors have been publishing archaeological and other monographs since the nineteenth century, and for the longest time, a wide range of these publications has been distributed for sale at zonas arqueológicas around the country, presumably as a public service because it seems unlikely that the INAH has ever made money at it, or even recouped a fraction of the cost of publication.

One problem has been the ever-declining value of the peso, which in the 1980s meant that a reasonable price marked on a book one year was usually a remarkably low price by the next year, and if a book sat on a shelf for five or ten or more years before a curious tourist finally picked it up, that reasonable price of years before had become a historical curiosity. We would often find, even in the INAH bookstores at busy tourist destinations like Teotihuacan, stupendous bargains on genuine classics of Mexican archaeology.

But the pickings were even more interesting off the beaten path, at zonas in small towns where you had to ask around to find the person who held the key to the little house next to the ruins where the books were kept. Usually, this was a building erected by the INAH when the site was first developed as an attraction, with the idea that it would be needed to shelter an employee as he collected admission and sold mementos. When the tourist traffic never materialized, the building was left locked and mostly unattended while the part-time ruin’s keeper pursued his actual livelihood. As long as you were not in a hurry, you could almost always find this man, or someone in his family who had the key, and then you were allowed to browse the dusty shelves unmolested. We found some incredible bargains on these trips, but there was always the danger of buying thoroughly obscure and mostly useless items just because the price was impossibly low.

On one trip we found several pristine copies of Ignacio Bernal’s gigantic Bibliografía de arqueología y etnografía: Mesoamérica y Norte de México, 1514–1960, no doubt a creditable work in its day but even by the 1980s little more than a lap-crushing dinosaur. At something like 10 cents U.S. per copy, we bought them all. Somewhere along the way, probably when I moved from one apartment to another in graduate school, I gave my copy away to some unwitting colleague.

—Scott O’Mack, President

NOMINATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE AAHS CUMMINGS AND STONER AWARDS

The Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society is once again accepting nominations for the Byron S. Cummings and Victor R. Stoner awards. The Cummings Award recognizes outstanding research and contributions to knowledge in Southwestern archaeology, anthropology, ethnology, or history. The Stoner Award celebrates the promotion of historic awareness and is given to someone who brings Southwestern anthropology, archaeology, ethnology, or history to the public over an extended period of time. These awards are presented annually at the Pecos Conference in August. Please forward nominations by April 15, to Patrick Lyons at 520.621.6276 or plyons@email.arizona.edu.
“Trade goods” found at impressive distances from their sources in today’s American Southwest and Mexico have inspired archaeologists to think of imperial reach, commercial exploitation, mercantilism, and explosive growth of power centers. Turquoise, copper, macaws, and pseudo-cloisonné ceramics, along with symbols such as butterflies and the horned serpent, have long been seen as evidence of sustained interaction. Recent discoveries apparently marking widespread consumption of cacao beverages in Southwest American sites add to the intrigue. Yet Mesoamerican-Southwestern interaction is typically assessed from the point of view of single goods, usually with the assumption that their value was commercial, or from or single sites, seen as trade centers.

New work assesses occurrences of multiple objects and symbols in a wide range of sites, focusing especially on the critical intervening area of Northern Mexico. The patterns seem inconsistent with expectations that come from existing ideas, leading to new interpretations. Rather than trade goods, the valued objects are better thought of as costly signals of trust between distant partners, including some in the supernatural realm. These relationships, in turn, served local leaders as practical and cosmological validation of their political power.

Suggested Reading:

Anderies, John M., Ben A. Nelson, and Ann P. Kinzig

Elliott, Michelle, Christopher T. Fisher, Ben A. Nelson, Roberto S. Molina Garza, Shawn K. Collins, and Deborah A. Pearsall
2010 Climate, Agriculture, and Cycles of Human Occupation Over the Last 4,000 Years in Southern Zacatecas, Mexico. Quaternary Research 74:26–35.

Nelson, Ben A.

are not typically exhibited. Thank you, David McLean, for arranging this for us! Participants can then spend the night in Flagstaff or journey onward to Winslow for the evening.

On Saturday, we will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Rock Art Ranch, located just southeast of Winslow and owned by Brantley Baird; it is also the location of the University of Arizona Field School for 2011-2013, which is being conducted by Rich Lange and Dr. Chuck Adams. We will go into Chevlon Canyon (depending on water level of Chevlon Creek) to look at the amazing petroglyphs left by the early populations of the area, dating from the Archaic period through the Ancestral Puebloan period. Our tour will be led by Darlene Brinkerhoff, one of the individuals who recorded the site several years ago. We will then travel around the ranch to view some of the other sites that are being investigated and recorded. This portion of the trip will take most of the day, so bring lunch, snacks, and water.

Sunday morning, we will meet at the visitor center at Homo’lovi State Park at 9:00 a.m., where we will join Rich Lange for a tour of some of the Homo’lovi pueblos. We should finish by noon for those folks who need to drive back to Tucson.

If you cannot meet us Friday for the MNA tour, you can still meet up with us Saturday morning in Winslow for the rest of the field trip. Once you have signed up for the trip, more detailed information will be furnished. Inclement weather will cancel the trip, as the road to the ranch is a dirt road. The contact for this trip is Chris Lange, clange3@msn.com or 520.792.1303.

University of Arizona’s Tree-Ring Lab
May 5, 2012
Established in 1937, the UA Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research is the world’s premier and largest center devoted to dendrochronology — the study of environments and cultures using tree rings. Beyond the use of dendrochronology in archaeology, with which AAHS members are most familiar, the lab also pursues multidisciplinary applications of dendrochronology in climatology, ecology, geology, hydrology, and other fields, which are equally fascinating. Join us on an exploration of this work, including a tour of the sub-stadium warehouses containing material from archaeological digs throughout the Southwest.

Tour limited to 20 people. Meet at 9:00 am for a three-hour tour. Registrants will be given location and parking directions. Contact Lynn Ratener at 520.299.3317 or lynnratener@cox.net.

AAHS Grant Recipients for 2012

The Society awarded $6,100 in research and travel grants this year.

**RESEARCH GRANTS:**

- **Michael Mathiowetz** (California State University, Dominguez Hills): $1,000 for documenting and analyzing a large collection of Aztatlán ceramics in Nayarit, Mexico.
- **Kristen Safi** (Washington State University): $1,000 for test excavations at the Largo Gap Chaco-style great house community in New Mexico.
- **Jakob Sedig** (University of Colorado): $1,000 for test excavations at Woodrow Ruin, a Mimbres Classic site in the Upper Gila region of New Mexico.
- **Andrew Richard** (University of Arizona): $1,000 for an experimental study on breakage patterns of Clovis and Folsom projectile points.

**TRAVEL GRANTS:**

- **Lewis Borck** (University of Arizona): $300 for travel to the 77th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Memphis. He is presenting a paper called “The Structural Setting of Migration: Network Organization and the Late 13th Century Depopulation of the Kayenta Area” in an invited symposium.
- **Audrey Pazmino** (University of Colorado): $300 for travel to the 77th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Memphis. She is presenting a poster on the results of obsidian sourcing at the Black Mountain site in New Mexico.
- **Kelsey Reese** (Washington State University): $300 for travel to the 77th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Memphis.
is participating in the forum: “Using Digital Archaeological Record (tDAR) for Management, Research, and Education” and presenting a poster on fieldwork done as part of the Mesa Verde National Park Community Center Survey.

**Susan Ryan** (University of Arizona): $300 for travel to the 77th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Memphis. She is presenting a poster on replication of Pueblo II period (AD 1050-1150) mineral paints.

**Melissa Spencer** (University of Arizona): $300 for travel to the 77th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Memphis. She is participating in the forum, “Using the Digital Archaeological Record (tDAR) for Management, Research, and Education.”

**Brenda Todd** (University of Colorado): $300 for travel to the 77th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Memphis. She co-organized a symposium, “Chaco and Cahokia: Histories, Landscapes, and Hinterlands,” and is presenting a paper in that symposium.

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**CHACO ROCK ART TOUR**

The Friends of Chaco Rock Art tour is scheduled for May 3–7, 2012. Activities begin Thursday evening with dinner and an orientation. The following day, the park archaeologist will lead an introductory tour of architectural structures. Participants will also visit the related rock art sites.

The following two days will be devoted to visiting rock art sites that are closed to the public.

The cost, $850 per person, is partially tax deductible, because the profits are being used to help preserve the resources. The tour is limited to nine (9) people. For detailed information, contact either Jane Kolber at 520.432.3402 or jkolber@theriver.com, or Donna Yoder at 520.882.4281 or donnayoder@cox.net.

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**RESEARCH AT WOODROW RUIN, JUNE 2011**

*Jakob Sedig, Ph.D. Candidate
University of Colorado Boulder
AAHS Research Grant Recipient*

Woodrow Ruin is the largest archaeological site in the upper Gila Valley, one of the largest sites in the Mimbres region, and it is perhaps the best-preserved site in southwestern New Mexico. Along with archaeologists from the University of Colorado, Arizona State University, and the Museum of New Mexico, I directed a week of research at the site during June 2011. This research was the most extensive conducted at the site to date.

Woodrow Ruin is located just north of Cliff, New Mexico. The site was privately owned until 1969, when it was purchased by the Museum of New Mexico. The museum had plans to nominate the site as a state monument, excavate it, and construct a visitor’s center. Although these plans never came to fruition, the museum did construct a fence around the site. The fence has protected Woodrow Ruin from the extensive looting that has disturbed or destroyed most Mimbres sites.

We started the project with three basic research questions: (1) How intense was the occupational history at Woodrow Ruin? (2) What was the chronological structure of occupational history at Woodrow Ruin? (3) What is the condition of the site? Excavation or test units are usually required to answer questions such as these. However, because Mimbres ceramics have been tightly dated and the site is in such good condition, we were able to address the questions without excavation. Our work focused on the abundant sherds (continued on page 10)
found on the surface of the site. In total, we examined 15,967 sherds within 70 “dog-leash” units (each unit was 10 m in diameter).

With the assistance of Michael Brack (Desert Archaeology, Inc.), we also created high-precision contour maps of the site. When combined with the ceramic data, these maps reveal where certain ceramic types are most dense, which can help us understand the occupation of the site through time.

Because ceramic types in the Mimbres region have been well dated, an analysis of the numerous ceramics found on the surface at Woodrow Ruin can help reveal how occupation shifted through time at the site. The highest densities of early Late Pithouse ceramics were found in the southwestern and north-central areas of the site. By the end of the Late Pithouse, the highest density had shifted to the northeastern corner. The northeastern region continued to have the highest density of ceramics into and through the Classic, although by the Late Classic, this had shifted somewhat to the southeastern and south-central portions of the site. The southern region of Woodrow Ruin appears to have the latest prehistoric occupation, as the only piece of Mimbres polychrome was found there.

Woodrow Ruin is a very large site, and many people lived there during its prehistoric occupation. It is difficult to determine how many pithouses exist at the site, because Classic period architecture was likely built on top of the pithouses. Geophysical mapping of the site will be conducted in the spring of 2012 to help identify subsurface architecture.

Researchers who had previously visited Woodrow Ruin had estimated that between 100-800 surface rooms were present. It was difficult to define surface architecture at Woodrow Ruin while we were there due to thick ground coverage. However, evidence of roomblocks was found throughout the site, particularly on the northern and southern ends. Most interesting is a roomblock located in the middle of the site, between two very large great kivas. This roomblock is one of the most prominent architectural features at the site.

The Grant County Archaeological Society excavated the roomblock in the late 1950s, but unfortunately, all records of this excavation have been lost. Future research at the site will examine how greatly the roomblock has been disturbed, and hopefully discover why this roomblock is so much more prominent than any other at the site. Another interesting feature at the site that needs to be more closely examined is a large, shallow depression located just north of the fence. Although some have postulated the depression was a plaza, or even a ballcourt, it is currently unclear what its function was.

Our research at Woodrow Ruin was very successful, and will help guide future work at the site. During the summer of 2012, I plan to focus on the Late Pithouse-Classic period transition at Woodrow Ruin. This research will not only help us understand the prehistoric occupation Woodrow Ruin, but will also provide valuable new data for Mimbres scholars from a large, well-preserved Mimbres site on the upper Gila.

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**2012 T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE ONLINE**

The new AAHS T-shirts, designed by Janine Hernbrode, featuring Ho-hokam burden carriers over a petroglyph design from Cerro Prieto, are now available through our online store at www.az-arch-and-hist.org. The T-shirts, which are available in both a traditional cut and a more tailored women’s cut, are $18.00 (including shipping). The system will create an online account for any purchaser for whom AAHS does not already have an email address. If you have difficulty making a purchase from our online store, contact Vice-President for Membership, Mike Diehl at mdiehl@desert.com.

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**GLYPHS**: Information and articles to be included in Glyphs must be received by the 10th of each month for inclusion in the next month’s issue. Contact me, Emilee Mead, at emilee@desert.com or 520.881.2244 (phone), 520.909.3662 (cell), 520.881.0325 (FAX).

**AAHS WEBSITE**: Glyphs is posted each month and can be found on the AAHS website at: www.az-arch-and-hist.org.
The Cornerstone

ASM’s Wonder Wonders Debut in Basketry Treasured

Over the past decade, we’ve been informing the world that Arizona State Museum (ASM) holds the world’s largest and most comprehensive collection of southwestern American Indian pottery. Some 20,000 whole vessels were collectively named an American Treasure in 2000.

This month, ASM debuts a new superlative with a sampling of the world’s largest collection of southwestern American Indian basketry. An intimate exhibit of 500 pieces will represent the staggering depth and breadth of the peerless collection and will anticipate the larger and more comprehensive debut of 25,000 woven objects. This collection, too, is designated an American Treasure.

Basketry Treasured runs April 28, 2012 – June 1, 2013.

Presented in honor of the state’s centennial, Basketry Treasured celebrates the ancient Arizona tradition of Native basketry. Examples of 2,000-year-old sandals, a rare coiled bifurcated burden basket, an Ancestral Pueblo twilled basket mirroring today’s Hopi ring baskets, and other examples of early basketry and cordage products, will demonstrate basketry’s deep roots in our region. O’odham, Apache, and Hopi voices will discuss materials, technologies, traditions, and the many functions basketry has served and continues to serve in Native communities.

Collectors’ stories remember the early 20th century Arizonans whose personal assemblages became the foundation of ASM’s vast collection. They include — appropriately for the centennial – Arizona’s first governor George W. P. Hunt, who donated more than 80 Western Apache and Pima baskets in 1917; Perry Merrell Williams, an early resident of Maricopa, who first loaned, and then donated, his collection of more than 300 Pima baskets in 1917; and Nelle Dermont of Williams, whose remarkable “Indian room” will be replicated, in part, within the exhibit using some of the hundreds of items and baskets received from her in 1919.

Basketry Treasured is also presented in the hope of inspiring friends to help with a challenge grant. With the award of $400,000 from the federal preservation initiative, Save America’s Treasures, ASM is in the midst of meeting the match in order to begin construction on a climate-controlled storeroom and interpretive space for the exhibit’s content are details about the risks this collection has faced and will continue to face until a new home is constructed. An upgraded “visible vault” for this collection will mitigate threats from light, temperature, humidity, insects, and abrasion. Not only will the upgrades provide the vital atmospheric controls, they will create a living exhibit and a dynamic educational venue through which the museum can share this incomparable collection with the public as never before.

Read more about ASM’s woven wonders of American heritage, the Save America’s Treasures grant, and how you can help at www.state museum.arizona.edu/preserv/woven_wonders/index.shtml

Learn more about the extent and importance of the collection and see more examples at www.state museum.arizona.edu/preserv/woven_wonders/faq.shtml.

This exhibit is made possible by grants from the Southwestern Foundation for Education and Historic Preservation, the Arizona Humanities Council, and through private donations.

Nationally recognized by Save America’s Treasures, Arizona State Museum’s collection of 25,000+ woven objects represents every southwestern culture group from the earliest times to the present day and includes examples of ancient, historic, and contemporary baskets and woven containers, innovative modern fiber art, and extremely rare fiber artifacts such as ancient sandals, matting, and cordage.

The museum’s largest example is this stunning Yavapai or Western Apache coiled olla that is almost 3.5 feet tall. It probably was made just after 1900 by an anonymous but extremely talented weaver who may have lived at San Carlos. (photo by Jannelle Weakly)
UPCOMING ARIZONA STATE MUSEUM EVENTS

Weaving in the Evening: Conversations about Basketry
Thursdays in May, 2012; 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Presented in conjunction with the Basketry Treasured exhibit, you are invited to learn more through this exciting five-part lecture series! ASM curators, guest scholars, and basketweavers are scheduled to present. Registration fees apply. Details posted soon at www.statemuseum.arizona.edu/public.

ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTHWEST’S
ARCHAEOLOGY CAFÉ

Archaeology Southwest and Casa Vincente invite you to the Archaeology Café, a casual discussion forum dedicated to promoting community engagement with cultural and scientific research. Meetings are the first Tuesday of each month from September to May, at 6:00 p.m. Casa Vicente is located at 375 S. Stone Avenue. The café is free and open to the community.

The remainder of the 2011–2012 season includes the following presentations:

Apr. 3:  Jeff Reid, Prehistory, Personality, and Place: Emil W. Haury and the Mogollon Community

May 1:  Natalia Martínez Tagüeña and Vance Holliday, El Fin del Mundo, Sonora, Mexico: Clovis Archaeology at the End of the World

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.

AAHS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership is open to all persons who are interested in the prehistory and history of Arizona and the Southwest and who support the aims of the Society. Each membership runs for a full year beginning July 1 and continuing through June 30, and covers all individuals living in the same household.

Monthly meetings are free and open to the public. Society field trips require membership. Members may also purchase an annual JSTOR subscription to Kiva back issues for $20 through the AAHS website.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- **$50**  Kiva members receive four issues of the Society’s quarterly journal Kiva and 12 issues of Glyphs
- **$40**  Glyphs members receive Glyphs
- **$35**  Student Kiva members receive both Kiva and Glyphs
- **$75**  Contributing members receive Kiva, Glyphs, and all current benefits
- **$120**  Supporting members receive Kiva, Glyphs, and all current benefits
- **$300**  Sponsoring members receive Kiva, Glyphs, and all current benefits
- **$1,000**  Lifetime members receive Kiva, Glyphs, and all current benefits

For memberships outside the U.S., please add $20.

For institutional membership, contact AltaMira Press at <www.altamirapress.com> or 800.273.2223.

You can join online at www.az-arch-and-hist.org, or by completing the form below and mailing it to:

Michael Diehl, VP Membership
Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society
Arizona State Museum, The University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ 85721-0026

**AAHS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name: ______________________________________________________ Phone :______________

Address: ____________________________________________________________________________

City: __________________________________     State: _____________     Zip: ________________E-mail: __________________________________

AAHS does not release membership information to other organizations

ERRATA — EDITOR’S APOLOGY

Please accept my apologies for several errors in the March 2012 issue of Glyphs: (1) Don Weaver was inadvertently identified as Don Webster; (2) Rock Art Ranch was misidentified as Rock Art Lodge; and, (3) Archaeology Southwest’s Archaeology Café was initially identified as Southwest Archaeology’s Archaeology Café.
The objectives of the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society are to encourage scholarly pursuits in areas of history and anthropology of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico; to encourage the preservation of archaeological and historical sites; to encourage the scientific and legal gathering of cultural information and materials; to publish the results of archaeological investigations; to aid in the furtherance of programs of the Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona; and to provide educational opportunities through lectures, field trips, and other activities. See inside back cover for information about the Society's programs and subscription requirements.