

FROM THE ARCHIVES

As part of our 100th Anniversary Celebration, David Wilcox is contributing several articles on the deep history of AAHS. Here is the third.

How the AAHS Helped Dean Cummings Realize His Game Plan, 1916–1921

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Beginning with a series of public lectures on “Prehistoric Arizona” in the spring of 1916, Byron Cummings attracted a group of 60 citizens who founded the Arizona Archaeological Society (later to become the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society [AAHS]), whose first formal meeting was on May 15, 1916 (AAHS Archives). A study of the archives and other sources has resulted in the compilation of data tables of all recorded members and programs from 1916 to 1956, with endnotes about who these people were as well as other contextual information. Some of this information was found using the website “Chronicling America” (Wilcox 2016). Copies of these files have been copyrighted and placed in the Arizona State Museum (ASM) Library.

Based on these data and other studies (for example, Bostwick 2006; Thompson 2005; Wilcox 2005), a fresh assessment can be made of how AAHS helped Dean Cummings achieve the game plan he brought to Tucson from Utah in 1915 (see February 2016 *Glyphs* [Vol. 66, No. 8]). Most fundamentally, we can see that Cummings appealed to a broad audience of civically engaged people whose membership and support for AAHS multiplied their influence in other groups. One of the most significant was the Federated Women’s Clubs of Arizona (FWCA).

In Utah, Cummings had been a Dean of Men and of Arts and Letters, as well as head of the Utah Board of Education and of the University’s medical school for awhile. His wife, Isabel McLaury Cummings, was highly active in the Utah women’s clubs and literary societies, and when she came to Arizona, she soon became president

of the Tucson Woman’s Club and was active statewide (*Arizona Republican* 1919a; *Bisbee Daily Review* 1916). The agenda of the FWCA was well stated in the *Arizona Republican* (1902:3), the year of their founding:

it therefore devolves upon us in large measure to see to it that science, history, literature, music, art and all the refinements of civilization be not neglected amid the stress of new environment. More than this, ... the preservation of our archaeological heritage of our Indian legends, and of our pioneer history, all await and greatly need the attention that it is our special province to bestow, and that as an organized body we have the power to give.

Clearly, these objectives perfectly matched those of Dean Cummings, who, at the University of Arizona, again soon became a Dean of Men and of Arts, Letters and Sciences, a team player who was also named Acting President, 1920–1921, in the absence of President von KleinSmid, who was in Mexico and Latin America. Cummings also assumed other civic responsibilities, further broadening his social alliances (*Arizona Republican* 1919b; *Coconino Sun* 1920). It is little wonder that in June 1921, he was one of four distinguished Arizonans awarded a LL.D. degree by the University of Arizona.

On a more practical level, AAHS helped the Dean by purchasing for use on his expeditions, on credit, an “archaeological” Ford from AAHS member Monte Mansfield (Johnson 1966). They also purchased collections for ASM, most notably the Joshua Miller collection in 1917.

Preserving Tumacacori Mission became the primary project for AAHS, after arrangements were made to have the mission’s central 10 acres deeded to the federal government so that the newly established National Park Service could take charge of it. AAHS also eagerly listened to 5-minute student reports each October and the Dean’s longer exposition on their results, admired the displays of new artifacts, and acted as hostesses or hosts, serving light refreshments during the social hour after the talks, following the lead Cummings had initiated in Utah (*Salt Lake City Herald-Republican* 1909), and

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that was followed at Arizona women's club meetings (*Arizona Republican* 1909).

The Dean's expeditions were well covered by many Arizona newspapers. Phoenix's *Arizona Republican* (1916b), for example, not only announced the AAHS meeting during which a local boy, Karl Ruppert, was to speak, it (*Arizona Republican* 1916a) also printed a long, detailed report about Ruppert's first archaeological experience.

Another student, Edith Neuman, told her hometown newspaper (*Bisbee Daily Review* 1920) about her amazement that a Navajo chief near Navajo Mountain had offered Professor Cummings 30 ponies for her! Their 1920 excursion to Tayenda Mesa (now called Cummings Mesa) was described by the Dean in the *American Anthropologist* (Cummings 1922). The Dean had joined the American Anthropological Association in 1908, and remained a loyal member into his 90s.

Politically, AAHS also acted to further the Dean's game plan. In January 1917, a committee was formed that included AAHS president Cummings and nine other members who were prominent Arizona citizens: Tucson banker Charles P. Solomon, Tucson businessmen Thomas K. Marshall and John S. Bayless, University of Arizona President von Klein Smid, University of Arizona professors I. J. Butler and A. O. Neal, Phoenix Episcopal Bishop Julius Atwood, and northern Arizona businessmen E. C. Clark and George Babbitt. They wrote to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, respectfully suggesting he reserve all antiquities permits in Arizona to ASM and the Bureau of American Ethnology. If there was a reply, I have not yet seen it.



Isabel Cummings (left), standing with Byron Cummings in 1917 (*Arizona Historical Society CP29, F.21A*).

Cummings, however, had already expressed his state's rights values in the University of Arizona Catalog (*University of Arizona Record* 1916:30). He urged the people of Arizona to give any relics they might acquire to the ASM, because they "belong here in the environment in which they were produced and where they will be accessible to the students and people of the commonwealth." Among the many citizens endorsing these values was seven-time Arizona Governor George Wiley Peter Hunt, who not only became one of the early donors to ASM in 1916, but whom, by 1923, had become a lifetime member of AAHS.

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Tucson-Pima County 2016 Historic Preservation Awards: Call for Nominations

The Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission has opened nominations for its 2016 Historic Preservation Awards. These awards recognize individuals, firms, groups, and/or organizations that have demonstrated their interest or contribution to the preservation, conservation, or interpretation of local history, architecture, or historic preservation in Tucson or Pima County. We invite you to participate by submitting a nomination or nominations.

For more information, please refer to the 2016 Awards Program Description and Nomination Form, accessible at: www.tucsonaz.gov/home/announcement/historic-preservation-awards-call-nominations. *Nominations are due by noon on Friday, April 1, 2016.*

Cornerstone

Darlene Lizarraga, Director of Marketing
Arizona State Museum

Let's Have Fun on Arch and Hist's Hundredth Birthday

Raymond H. Thompson
April 1, 2016 (April Fool's Day)

April is upon us, which reminds us that on April 14, 1916, Byron Cummings and other visionary folk founded the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society (AAHS). I am proud to be a member of AAHS and look forward to celebrating the first 100 years of the best and most effectual organizations for vocational and professional archaeologists anywhere in the world—100 years of a productive partnership between the Arizona State Museum (ASM) and AAHS, 100 of memorable archaeological friendships. But please, do not call it a centennial. I have just about had it with “ennials” of any kind: Columbus, ASM, Civil War, World War I, University of Arizona (UA) Anthropology, Shakespeare First Folio, National Park Service, and coming soon, the 95 theses of Martin Luther.

We do not need lengthy celebrations with Latin names, pompous ceremonies, and pious proclamations. Rather, we need a down-to-earth, unpretentious, and joyful party of all kinds of archaeology buffs who want to brag about those 100-year-old friendships and memoirs. After all, archaeology is fun, and archaeologists have a fine sense of humor. They even play April Fools-type pranks on one another. Here are some examples from the career of Emil Haury, one of our illustrious, fun-loving ancestors.

When he was on his very first archaeological excavation as a student at Cuicuilco with Byron Cummings, Haury tried to convince Cummings that a broken piece of green glass was a green obsidian tool, but Cummings was not fooled.

When the Gila Pueblo Archaeological Foundation in Globe, Arizona, of which Haury was Assistant Director, was excavating

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at Snaketown in the 1930s, one of the members of the team was Harvard-trained Irwin Hayden (father of Tucson's legendary "desert rat archaeologist" Julian Hayden). Some of the younger team members, for example, Gladwin's son Tom and Hauray, thought that Hayden was a bit over bearing. Hayden was supervising the excavation of a ballcourt, which had stimulated a fair amount of speculation about possible Mesoamerican influences at Snaketown.

Hauray and young Gladwin planted a recently made Aztec-style ceramic figurine (of the kind made in Mexico for sale to tourists) in an unexcavated part of the ballcourt. When Hayden found the figurine, he was so excited to have found some evidence of those possible Mesoamerican influences, he failed to recognize not only that the figurine was a fake, but also of a style several hundred years later than Snaketown. The prank was soon exposed to the amusement of all except Hayden, who presented Hauray at the end of a work day a few days later with a cloth bag (of the kind used for sherds and artifacts) that contained a dead rattlesnake. Julian Hayden's son, Steve, still has the figurine Hauray used to upset his grandfather.

Several years later, Hauray himself was the victim of a carefully planned hoax at Gila Pueblo headquarters in Globe. By 1936, Ted Sayles and Ernst Antevs had discovered evidence of the preceramic Cochise culture in southeastern Arizona. Hauray gave a talk about these findings to the YMCA in nearby Miami. William Kelly, a third generation member of an old Arizona newspaper family and former editor of the *Tombstone Epitaph*, was also at Gila Pueblo at the time. Hauray had recently earned a Ph.D. at Harvard. Kelly, who would soon do the same, saw an opportunity he could not resist.

Two days after the lecture, Gladwin and Kelly came to Hauray's office and showed him a newspaper clipping with a headline that announced, "Ape-Man Found in Prehistoric Lake in Cochise County," and a report full of outrageously false information. Hauray was, of course, appalled and asked Gladwin for time off to track down the reporter and obtain a retraction. Gladwin calmed Hauray down and Kelly admitted he was the culprit. He rubbed in the success of the hoax by providing a notarized statement that the story was false and that the fake clipping had been destroyed.

During the third season (1948) of the UA Archaeological Field School at Point of Pines, Stephan Borhegyi, from Hungary, was a visiting scholar sponsored by the Viking Fund (later, the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropology). The Director of the Viking Fund, Paul Fejos, a Hungarian with old connections to the Borhegyi family, had managed to get Steve out of Communist Hungary and wanted him to gain experience in Americanist archaeology. Hauray was pleased to be able to comply, because the Viking Fund had provided critical early support for Point of Pines.

Steve had recently earned a Ph.D. in Hungary, with a dissertation on a collection of ancient Egyptian ivory carvings. This information came out as the students at Point of Pines got to know each other. Discussions arose over differences in American and European approaches to archaeology. Some of the UA graduate students whose work involved humble potsherds rather than fancy ivory carvings decided to play a prank on Steve, who had been assigned to dig a test trench below the muddy floor of an excavated room. He exposed a cluster of corrugated potsherds enclosing a white, ivory-like object. Steve was ecstatic and everyone was assembled to observe the uncovering, which included A.V. Kidder and a film crew from the Harmon Foundation.

Hauray and Kidder, with cameras rolling, examined the cluster of sherds and immediately noted that the sherds were clean and free of mud. To the amusement of all, the "ivory object" turned out to be a whitish plastic figurine of a pregnant woman with the words, "Kilroy Was Here" inscribed on the base. Steve got the point and was actually amused, but embarrassed that the prank directed at him had ensnared two distinguished senior colleagues. Neither of them was bothered, and Kidder help Steve obtain a position at the Guatemala National Museum after the field season. In Guatemala, Steve's Old World experience enabled him to make important new contributions to some of the museum's collections. The plastic figurine is in ASM's Hauray memorabilia collection.

There, you see, archaeology is fun and archaeologists do have fun. So, let's make sure, as we brag about the 100 years of Arch and Hist that we also have fun and that our celebrations be joyful and "splendennial"!!!