

FROM THE ARCHIVES

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

Judging Byron and Isabelle Cummings by the Content of Their Character

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Looking back today at the founder of the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society (AAHS), Byron Cummings, and his stalwart partner, Isabelle Cummings, on what basis should they be judged? While acknowledging that “the Dean” was a pioneer archaeologist/anthropologist, who, by the way, helped his generation of Arizonans begin to see Indian people as human beings, professional archaeologists today do feel constrained to criticize the crudeness of his field methods and the fact that he did not write detailed field reports on his excavations (Bostwick 2006; Haury 1985:389).



Fair enough, although it should also be acknowledged that the collections he acquired made the Arizona State Museum (ASM) a preeminent anthropology teaching institution in its region. There is no question that Dean Cummings was a remarkable educator and a civic leader (Anonymous 1920; Bostwick 2006; Wilcox 2005). For example, four of his students became presidents of the American Anthropological Association (Neil Merton Judd [1968], Emil Walter Haury, Gordon Randolph Willey [1988], and Edward Holland Spicer) (Darnell and Gleach 2002).

There is, however, another basis for judgment that should be emphasized, which goes far to explain why both the Dean and his wife were so beloved and respected by those who knew them.

In 1918 and 1919, a pandemic flu infection swept the world, causing many deaths (Berry 2005). At the University of Arizona (UA), students and faculty were not immune, and two people stepped up to the challenge more than any others. The student newspaper, the *Arizona Wildcat*, passionately reported as follows:

When the dreadful Spanish influenza broke out in the University in October, 1918, and people were running hither and thither in wild confusion, some leaving for distant homes, some for the mountains, some for the deserts, and some for other cities, Dean Cummings stepped up and took charge of an entire floor of the sick boy[s]. And when it is said he took charge it means all that the word implies. He nursed them, cheered them up, fed them and remained on the job until they were well. When he was doing this, excitement was at its highest. There had been one death on the campus, one in the business of the college, and many other deaths reported. There had been so many deaths in other places visited by the Influenza and so many boys were falling sick every day that most people thought that practically that everyone who had it would succumb [sic]. No one had any idea just how Arizona would fare. But Dean Cummings did not hesitate. From the goodness of his heart, with nothing to gain but a good case of influenza, Dean Cummings took his place by the side of those stricken down by the epidemic.

It takes courage to step forth and take a place where Cummings stood. It takes courage to face the unseen and to offer your services to your stricken fellow-man.

Dean Cummings showed the courage of the twentieth century. He showed the spirit of the American hero. When the Spanish Influenza broke out anew in January, 1919, Dean Cummings opened up the hospital and again took charge of the sick boys.

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Therefore into the Hall of Fame at the University of Arizona allow us to subscribe the name of Dean Cummings (Anonymous 1919).

When Isabelle Cummings died a decade later, a faculty committee went on record with a letter of appreciation that stated in part: "Particularly do we recall the service she rendered night and day to the students and in the homes of Faculty during the influenza epidemic of 1919" (Frazier et al. 1929).

Service like that is long remembered. When Miss Allegra Frazier, a UA English Professor (and AAHS member), was profiled by the *Arizona Wildcat* in 1936, she described for them the by-gone days in the late nineteen teens:

It was a small campus then, and a very pretty, informal one. It was so lovely that every Sunday afternoon the townspeople would come out to see it, riding out in old style, horse-drawn victorias which were driven by Mexicans.... In those days, ... the cactus gardens were in front of Old Main, extending from where the fountain is now, to beyond the flag pole.... Sometimes, Dean Cummings gave night lectures on Indian customs.... When we had that terrible epidemic of influenza, the entire campus was quarantined and cards were issued as passes to the professors who lived off campus. Dean Cummings established a hospital in Herring hall, our only gym, and cared for some of the patients himself (Anonymous 1936).

In 1950, Cummings' friend and fellow Dean, A. E. Douglass (an AAHS vice-president) in *For the Dean*, declared that, "I have always felt that his help day and night in the campus hospital at that time [during the influenza epidemic] when nurses were scarce and students were dying, saved the lives of many students" (Douglass 1950:1-2).

These testimonials suggest that modern AAHS members, if they judge the founder of their organization and his wife on the content of their character, they can be unabashedly proud (see also Bostwick 2006:291-292; Thompson 2005).

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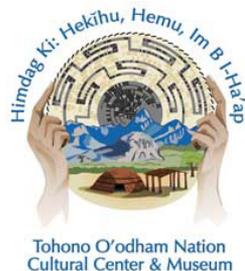


PAST ARIZONA ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE AWARENESS MONTH POSTERS!

The past posters of the Arizona Archaeology and Heritage Awareness Month are now available online for viewing electronically on the SHPO Archaeology Expo page at www.azstateparks.com/archy. They are listed by year—just click on the year to see the image. Unfortunately, we are missing a few. If anyone has one of the missing years (1983, 1985, 1986), please send us a good digital photo of the poster so we can add it to the website.

THE 2017 ARCHAEOLOGY EXPO

The 2017 Archaeology Expo will be held at the Himdag Ki Cultural Center and Museum on the Tohono O’odham Nation on Saturday March 4, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Topawa (south of Sells on BIA Route 19). This event is free and open to the public. For more information, see our website at www.azstateparks.com/archy. If you are interested in participating or want additional information, feel free to contact Kris Dobschuetz at kd2@azstateparks.gov or 602.542.7141.



Annual Julian D. Hayden Student Paper Competition

*Sponsored by Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society
and Arizona Archaeological Council*

The Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society and the Arizona Archaeological Council sponsor the annual Julian D. Hayden Student Paper Competition, named in honor of long-time southwestern scholar Julian Dodge Hayden. The winning entry will receive a cash prize of \$750 and publication of the paper in *Kiva, The Journal of Southwestern Anthropology and History*. The competition is open to any bona fide undergraduate and graduate students at any recognized college or university. Co-authored papers will be accepted if all authors are students. Subject matter may include the anthropology, archaeology, history, linguistics, and/or ethnology of the United States Southwest and northern Mexico, or any other topic appropriate for publication in *Kiva*.

Papers should be no more than 9,000 words (approximately 25 double-spaced, typewritten pages), including figures, tables, and references, and should conform to *Kiva* format. Please review the instructions for authors at: www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?journalCode=ykiv20&page=instructions.

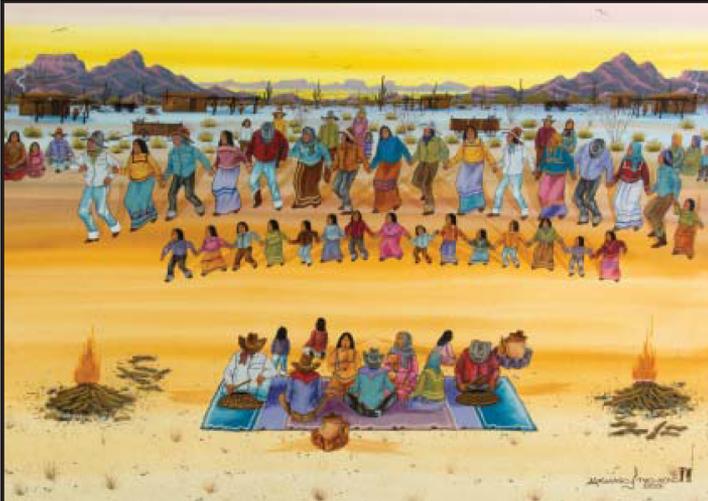
If the paper involves living human subjects, the author(s) should verify, in the paper or cover letter, that necessary permission to publish has been obtained. Previous entries will not be considered, and all decisions of the judges are final. If no publishable papers are received, no award will be given. Judging criteria include, but are not limited to, quality of writing, degree of original research and use of original data, appropriateness of subject matter, and length.

The Hayden Student Paper competition announcement and a link to past winners can also be found at: www.az-arch-and-hist.org/grants/annual-julian-d-hayden-student-paper-competition/

Deadline for receipt of submissions is **January 13, 2017**. Late entries will not be accepted. Your paper should be emailed to Lauren Jelinek (laurenejelinek@gmail.com) in PDF format. Should your paper exceed the file size accepted by Gmail, email Lauren, and she will set up a DropBox folder for your submission. You must also include a scanned copy of your current student ID as a separate PDF.

Cornerstone

Darlene Lizarraga, Director of Marketing
Arizona State Museum



**Thank you for your
friendship and support
in 2016, AAHS!**

**Happy Holidays
from all of us at**



Arizona State Museum
THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA.

The Friendship Dance by Michael Chiago, Sr., O'odham/Pee Posh, 2006.
Acrylic on paper. ASM #2015-509-1.

AAHS Membership Application

Membership is open to anyone interested in the prehistory and history of Arizona and the Southwest and who support the aims of the Society. Membership runs for a full year from the date of receipt, and covers all individuals living in the same household.

If you are joining as a household, please list all members of the household.

Monthly meetings are free and open to the public. Society field trips require membership. Members may 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

Note: For memberships outside the U.S., please add \$20. AAHS does not release membership information to other organizations.

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For institutional subscriptions to *Glyphs* (\$100), contact AAHS VP for Membership at the address below.

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

Michael Diehl, VP Membership
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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, historical, and ethnographic investigations; to aid in the functions and 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 membership and subscription requirements.

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