

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 sixth.

How Emil Haury (Gradually) Broadened the Horizons of the AAHS

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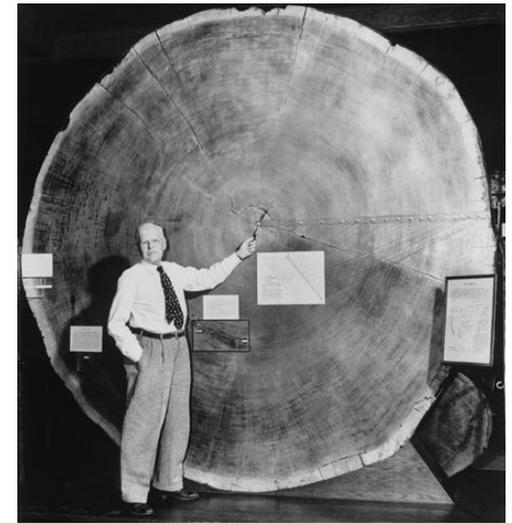
When Emil Haury arrived in Tucson in the fall of 1925 as a museum assistant to Byron Cummings, he saw immediately that the devotion to Cummings personally on the part of the AAHS membership was wonderful to behold, and it was openly manifest that through his personal charm and power of persuasion, he had imbued the museum with a soul unique unto itself (Haury 2004:135). Haury soon became an AAHS workhorse, its secretary for three and a half terms, and, in May 1937, when it was known he was to replace Cummings as head of the Department of Archaeology, he was elected to the AAHS Executive Committee (Hartmann and Urban 1991). But by then, Haury had become a “new archaeologist” (Wissler 1917) who was focused on the study of time relations and “cultural history.” He sought to learn about the past by classifying artifacts into types and arranging them in time using context (provenience), stratigraphy, and tree-ring dating. He was not an antiquarian, like Cummings, who believed “relics” should be “saved” by digging them up and putting them on display as art objects for the educational benefit of Arizona’s citizens (Wilcox 2005, 2016a; Wilcox and Fowler 2002).

In the fall of 1937, Haury signaled this difference by changing the name of the department to Anthropology, against the petition of many students and faculty (Wilcox 2005:394, 399), thereby embracing a strategic alliance with the American Anthropological Association (AAA) and the newly formed Society for American Archaeology (SAA), of which he soon became vice president (SAA, 1941–1942; AAA, 1947) and then president (SAA, 1943–1944; AAA, 1956)

(Thompson 1995). In 1939, he also entered into a strategic alliance with the Museum of Northern Arizona (MNA), becoming a long-time board member who agreed with then director Harold S. Colton’s promise that MNA exhibited “ideas not things” (Wilcox 2010). When Haury became director of ASM in July 1938, his first exhibit was about the ideas of his teacher A. E. Douglass’s tree-ring methods and results (Haury 2004:157–158).

These were radical changes that dismayed many of those who loved Dean Cummings (Tanner 1954; Troy 1998:130), or who even adored him (Thompson 2016:12). Haury knew he had to tread carefully – and he did. As Cummings had, Haury gave regular annual reports to AAHS about his research methods and results, and he warmly socialized with them (AAHS Archives; Wilcox 2016b). He even persuaded the Hohokam Museums Association (HMA) to support his tree-ring exhibit, which, of course, highlighted the work of one of their own (Emil W. Haury Papers, ASM Library). One of Haury’s principal assistants, Roy Lassetter Jr. (Wilcox 1993), served as AAHS Secretary, 1939–1940, and his Museum Assistant Carleton Wilder did the same for two and a half terms, 1941–1943 (Hartmann and Urban 1991).

In May 1942, Haury was elected AAHS President, and he helped to formalize the relationship of *The Kiva* to the Society (AAHS Archives). He again joined the Executive Committee in 1946–1947 and in 1950–1951 to 1953–1954 (Hartmann and Urban 1991). Underlying these moves was a set of processes that gradually shifted the understanding and commitments of the AAHS, strengthening its role



A. E. Douglass

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as a support group for ASM, and broadening its horizons about what modern anthropological archaeology – at that time – was about.

First, we should recognize that the HMA as an organization suspended many of its activities during World War II (*The Kiva* 1944, Vol. 9[4]:33), and declined when death took several of its key members or others moved away from Tucson (AHS Library, Cummings Papers, MS 200; Tanner 1954:10; Wilcox 2016b). Second, in 1946, Haury joined with his colleague Eric Reed to arrange the production of a festschrift honoring *Cummings the Man*, which was presented to him on his 90th birthday in 1950 as a book, *For the Dean*. Third, in 1951, during the inauguration of Haury's friend, Richard Harvill, as UA President, the million-dollar gift of the Gila Pueblo collections to ASM was celebrated as part of the proceedings, greatly increasing the prestige of both ASM and Emil Haury (Martin 1960).

Finally, in the 1948–1950 period, a conjunction of events shifted the management of the AAHS to new people: in 1948, the long-time Editor of *The Kiva*, Clara Lee Tanner, took a well-deserved sabbatical which, however, coincided with a financial crisis necessitating Volumes 14 and 15 of *The Kiva* to be issued as only a single number each (*The Kiva* 14(1-4):15). It also appears that a new membership drive in 1950–1951 and later was successful, drawing in many new members, including many of “Doc” Haury's students (AAHS Archives; Wilcox 2016b). In the fall of 1950, one of his students, Henry F. Dobyms, became editor of *The Kiva*, and in 1950–1951, another of them, Terah Smiley, became President of AAHS. From then on, the organization and the journal were largely administered by Haury students or associates, together with a number of “old hands” from the HMA days, such as Otis Chidester, who was President for two terms, 1952–1954 (Hartmann and Urban 1991). It thus seems that it can be said that the old interest in art was not replaced so much as it was contextualized within a scientific approach to archaeology and anthropology, thereby broadening the horizons of the AAHS.

Suggested Readings:

- Hartmann, Gayle Harrison, and Sharon F. Urban
1991 The Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society: Its First Seventy-Five Years. *Kiva* 56:329–357.

- Haury, Emil W.
2004 Reflections on the Arizona State Museum: 1925 and Ensuing Years. *Journal of the Southwest* 46(1):129–164.
- Martin, Douglas D.
1960 *Lamp of the Desert: The Story of the University of Arizona*. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.
- Tanner, Clara Lee
1954 Byron Cummings, 1860–1954. *The Kiva* 20(1):1–20.
- Thompson, Raymond Harris
1995 Emil W. Haury and the Definition of Southwestern Archeology. *American Antiquity* 60:640–660.
- 2005 Anthropology at the University of Arizona, 1893–2005. *Journal of the Southwest* 47:327–374.
- 2016 Arch and Hist Ancestors. *Glyphs* 66(11):2–14.
- Troy, Timothy
1998 Professor Bronislaw Malinowski's Visit to Tucson. *Journal of the Southwest* 40:129–186.
- Wilcox, David R.
1993 Pueblo Grande as Phoenix: Odd Halseth's Vision of a City Museum. In *Archaeology of the Pueblo Grande Platform Mound and Surrounding Features, Introduction to the Archival Project and History of Research*, edited by C. E. Downum and T. W. Bostwick, pp. 97–138. Anthropological Papers No. 1. Pueblo Grande Museum, Phoenix.
- 2005 Creating a Firm Foundation: The Early Years of the Arizona State Museum. *Journal of the Southwest* 47:375–410.
- 2010 Seizing the Moment: Cooperation and Collaboration in the Founding and Growth of the Museum of Northern Arizona, 1928–2008. *Journal of the Southwest* 52:435–537.
- 2016a Chronicling the Utah “Game Plan” Cummings Brought to Tucson in 1915. *Glyphs* 66:8–10.
- 2016b Data Tables and Related Information on the History of the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society, to 1956. Ms.on file, Arizona State Museum Library, University of Arizona, Tucson.
- Wilcox, David R., and Don D. Fowler
2002 The Beginnings of Anthropological Archaeology in the North American Southwest: From Thomas Jefferson to the Pecos Conference. *Journal of the Southwest* 44:121–234.
- Wissler, Clark
1917 The New Archaeology. *American Museum Journal* 17:100–101.