Next General Meeting:
January 20, 2020; 7:00 p.m.
Environmental and Natural Resources 2 Building, Room S107
1064 E. Lowell Street
Tucson, Arizona
www.az-arch-and-hist.org

In This Issue
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10 The Cornerstone
The Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society (AAHS) is entering its 104th year! For most of this time, AAHS has published *Kiva: the Journal of Southwestern Anthropology and History* (aka *Kiva*, or *The Kiva* until 1988). In December, the fourth issue of *Kiva* Volume 85 arrived in your mailbox (or available online if you follow this link: https://www.az-arch-and-hist.org/publications/on-line-kiva-access/).

I am awestruck that *Kiva* has published its 85th volume! The first issue of *Kiva* was published in May 1935. Ironically, this was two months before the first issue of *American Antiquity*, the flagship publication of the Society for American Archaeology, which debuted in July 1935. Who knew these two important journals in American archaeology would be launched so close in time and endure for so many decades. Of course, other archaeology journals such as the *American Journal of Archaeology*, published by the Archaeological Institute of America, has a much longer history with a first printing in 1897. This also pales in comparison to the British journal *Archaeologia*, first published in 1770!

The first issue of *Kiva* starts, appropriately, with an article by Byron Cummings, first director of the Arizona State Museum (ASM) and founder of and first president of AAHS (Johnston 1966). In this first article, Cummings (1935) writes about how archaeologists in the Southwest are “ambitious to place his stamp on the development of the science, and to emphasize the fact that he has found something new.” Despite the inappropriate use of gender pronouns (i.e., two authors in this same inaugural issue of *Kiva* are Clara Lee Fraps [Tanner] and Dorothy Challis Mott), Cummings brings up an important issue that still exists in archaeology today. Too many investigations have not compared their findings with previous studies or have come up with new terms or labels that overlap existing designations. Of course, this struggle is part of the scientific process, but defining culture or human behavior has never been easy.

This is not to say “new discoveries” cannot be placed in their appropriate category, but as Cummings states, “The chief duty of the discoverer of new facts is to correlate them with those already known and assign them a place in the cabinet of truth that will lead to the easiest and clearest understanding of their significance.” Cummings goes on to present a condensed cultural chronology of the Southwest, correlated with the types of dwellings (for example, brush shelter, pithouse, and pueblo), which differs only marginally from our understanding of prehistory today. Cummings further illustrates that, “The family is the basis of all social organization, and hence the home is fundamentally in the development of any people.” This statement also echoes current research about domestic or “household” organization. Reading this article and recognizing some of the same issues in American archaeology 85 years later is remarkable!

The other articles in *Kiva*’s first issue are abstracts from the 1935 meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Abstracts include “Some Results of a Study of Plains Indian Law,” by John H. Provinse, “Primitive Man in America and Old Fort Lowell Park,” by Byron Cummings, “Tree Ring Dates from Spruce Tree House, Mesa Verde,” by H. T. Getty, “Some Unusual Textiles of the Prehistoric Southwest,” by Dorothy Challis Mott, and “Old World Archaeology as an Asset in Interpreting American Archaeology,” by Clara Lee Fraps. The issue concludes.

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Seventy-six years after this first issue, then editor of *Kiva*, Steve Lekson (University of Colorado Boulder), wrote that *Kiva*’s, “Early issues were more newsletters than journals, but somewhere along the line *Kiva* emerged as the leading peer-reviewed journal of Southwestern archaeology” (Lekson 2011). As Lekson points out, *Kiva* started small, but the topics were relevant and poignant for the time. The influence of Byron Cummings is clear. Cummings was enlightened and progressive in his analysis of the discipline of Southwestern Archaeology, which is evident in his role as a pioneering archaeologist in Arizona, first director of the ASM, founder of the University of Arizona’s Department of Archaeology (later Department of Anthropology) and President of the University of Arizona in 1927 (Tanner and Miller 1954).

The long-running history, quality, and importance of *Kiva* is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the AAHS Publications Committee, the invaluable support of our members, and the innumerous authors, editors, and contributors who have delivered thousands of quality compositions for publication. Sarah Herr (Desert Archaeology) deserves much praise for serving as Chair or Co-chair of the Publications Committee since 2003. Over the past six years, Deborah Martin (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) has served as the editor of *Kiva*, and Jerryll Moreno (SWCA Environmental Consultants) has served as book review editor since 2011. Other vital members include Linda Gregonis (ASM), who has taken the effort of maintaining a current index of *Kiva* since 2006. Deborah Martin has made great strides ensuring *Kiva* includes the best peer-reviewed scholarship on the archaeology of the U.S. Southwest and Northwest Mexico. Her tasks are greatly enhanced by *Kiva*’s current editorial board, consisting of James Brooks (University of Georgia), Jessica I. Cerezo-Román (University of Oklahoma), T. J. Ferguson (University of Arizona), Kelley Hays-Gilpin (Northern Arizona University), Sunday Eiselt (Southern Methodist University), and Ventura Pérez (University of Massachusetts). I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those involved in the publication of *Kiva*, one of the hallmarks of AAHS!

**Suggested Readings:**

Cummings, Byron

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**AAHS Lecture Series**

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Jan. 20, 2020: Ron Parker, *Chasing Centuries: The Search for Ancient Agave Cultivars across the Desert Southwest*

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January 20: Topic of the General Meeting

**Chasing Centuries: The Search for Ancient Agave Cultivars across the Desert Southwest**

Ron Parker

Chasing Centuries is a one-of-a-kind travel history presentation based on a recently published book of the same name that takes the reader on an exciting and little known adventure at the crossroads of archaeology and botany. Travel with me to explore the depth and duration of human/agave coevolution across the desert southwest, where we will discover unusual agaves apparently associated with archaeological sites long since abandoned by residents of extinct ancient cultures. These agaves appear to be anthropogenic cultivars; that is, living archaeological relics developed and planted by indigenous pre-Columbian Native Americans, and many are still growing exactly where they were planted and cultivated many hundreds of years ago. The pre-Columbian cultures associated with these agaves will be discussed, and the reasons for their development and cultivation will be examined. Finally, I will explore the recently described species themselves, considering their ultimate fate.

**Speaker Ron Parker** is an outdoorsman, xeric plant enthusiast, and amateur botanist who spends half his time gardening and the other half exploring natural habitats across Arizona and neighboring states, primarily chasing agaves and archaeological sites. He has been studying agave populations in Arizona for many years and has been in the field with renowned botanists and regional archaeologists. When not under the open sky, Ron maintains the well-known xeric plant discussion forum, Agaveville.org, an impressive online repository for information about agaves and other succulent plants.

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**Upcoming AAHS Field Trips**

Participation in field trips is limited to members of AAHS.
There is generally a 20-person limit on field trips, so sign up early.

**University Indian Ruins**

January 18, 2020; 10:00 am–12:00 pm

The University Indian Ruin Archaeological Research District is located in the eastern Tucson Basin at the confluence of the Tanque Verde and Pantano Washes where their combined flow forms the Rillito River. The 13-acre district is an archaeological preserve owned by the University of Arizona (UA) School of Anthropology. It includes a central portion of a large Hohokam Classic period village and an adjacent complex of archaeological research facilities constructed in the 1930s. The archaeological site was occupied primarily between AD 1150 and 1450. It was one of the largest settlements in the Tucson Basin during that interval, containing a large and a small platform mound as public architecture and a range of other adobe buildings. The presence of the only platform mounds in the eastern Tucson Basin indicates

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(continued on page 8)
leave Tucson on Saturday, February 8 at 8:00 am and return in the
early evening of Sunday, February 9. We will stay overnight at a hotel
in Magdalena with an opportunity to explore this wonderful Sonoran
town. Participants will share the total cost of transportation, which
will range from $100–120 per person depending on the final size of
the group. The exact amount will be determined in early January
and sent out with payment directions. Hotel and food will be the
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Some moderate hiking will be involved, and the site is not wheelchair
accessible. Valid passports are required to enter Mexico, although a
SENTRI or Global Access card can also be used to return to the United
States at the Nogales Port of Entry.

Please respond to Chris Sugnet (sugnetc@yahoo.com) if interested!

University Indian Ruin served as a focal point for regional civic and
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Our tour leaders, archaeologists Suzy Fish, Paul Fish, Mark Elson,
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field schools built on the work of earlier investigations by Byron
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Northern Sonora: Cerro de Trincheras, La Playa, and Magdalena
February 8–9, 2020

AAHS is offering a unique opportunity to visit and learn about the
cultural sequence of human occupation in northern Sonora, from
Paleoindian to Padre Kino. Making our way across the international
border, we will visit the mission of San Ignacio before exploring the
central plaza in Magdalena de Kino and see the final resting place
of Father Eusebio Kino. After spending a night in Magdalena, we
will visit the archaeological landscape of La
Playa, which contains several thousand years
of human use beginning around 13,000 years
ago and includes one of the largest Early
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Dr. James Watson, Associate Director of the Arizona State Museum,
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is also designed to attract elected leadership and staff of our 21 Native
American tribes who have a special relationship to Arizona’s heritage. In
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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.

Membership Categories
- **$60** Kiva members receive four issues of the Society’s quarterly journal *Kiva* and 12 issues of *Glyphs*
- **$45** Glyphs members receive *Glyphs*
- **$35** Student Kiva members receive *Kiva* and *Glyphs*
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Note: For memberships outside the U.S., please add $20. AAHS does not release membership information to other organizations.

I wish to receive *Glyphs* by (circle your choice): Email Mail Both

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Institutional Subscriptions

University libraries, public libraries, museums, and other institutions that wish to subscribe to *Kiva* must do so through the publisher, Taylor & Francis at tandfonline.com. 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:
Barbara Montgomery, VP Membership
Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society
Arizona State Museum, The University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ 85721-0026

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Darlene Lizarraga, Director of Marketing
Arizona State Museum
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