

## BOOK REVIEW



*Archaeology Without Borders: Contact, Commerce, and Change in the U.S. Southwest and Northwestern New Mexico*, edited by Laurie D. Webster and Maxine E. McBrinn; with Mexican editor Eduardo Gamboa Carrera. 420 pp., 53 figures, 15 tables, Index, List of Contributors. University Press of Colorado and CONACULTA/INAH, 2008. \$65.00 (Cloth). ISBN 978-0-87081-889-9.

Reviewed by Todd Pitezal, University of Arizona, Tucson.



This edited volume mostly contains revised papers presented at the Ninth Southwest Symposium held in Chihuahua City, Chihuahua, Mexico, in January, 2004. Along with a synthetic and insightful volume introduction by editors Maxine E. McBrinn and Laurie D. Webster, twenty contributing papers are divided into three topical sections, each with an introductory chapter. Papers originally prepared in Spanish were translated into English, at the decision of the Southwest Symposium Board of Directors. The symposium and proceedings *Archaeology Without Borders* were multinational affairs *across* borders that could not have been easy tasks to accomplish. The symposium organizers, proceedings editors, and participants should be commended for their efforts.

The first section on early agricultural adaptations consists of six chapters, the first being a well-written and informed introduction penned by Gayle J. Fritz. Themes consist of the setting and tempo of agricultural adaptation and the method of introduction in northwest Mexico and the southwest United States. Work by A. C. MacWilliams, Robert J. Hard, Roney, Karen R. Adams, and William L. Merrill in southwest Chihuahua and Bradley J. Vierra in northern New Mexico shows that there is regional variation in the timing of adoption and dependence on agriculture. Moreover, MacWilliams and his collaborators suggest that there was a predisposition for farming given the investment of constructions at some pre-agricultural sites. Among other important considerations, Jonathan B. Mabry and William E. Doolittle discuss farming characteristics, niche filling, and cultural processes to model the intersecting and various ways in which agriculture was adopted and managed. Amber L. Johnson uses data from Mexico in an attempt to predict the duration of the transition to agriculture under different ecological settings. One finding of Johnson's work is that short transition periods might indicate a population intrusion into an area. Finally, Steven A. LeBlanc (in a post-conference addition) writes that evidence from genetics, linguistics, and

material culture supports the idea of a Uto-Aztec migration from central Mexico into the Southwest, and with that migration came corn farming.

The second section of the volume, "Converging Identities: Exploring Social Identity through Multiple Data Classes," is thoughtfully introduced by Linda S. Cordell. Each chapter, as the section heading indicates, uses multiple lines of evidence to either model or interpret identities and, as a whole, these chapters remind us that identity is dynamic and situational, that trait clustering in relation to identity or ethnicity should be evaluated case-by-case, and that scale is important to consider in the selection of data classes. The data used in the case studies are projectile points, atlats, kiva architecture, kiva murals, pottery imagery and design, basketry, sandals, cordage, settlement composition, language, and rituals.

The first case study in this section by Mabry, John P. Carpenter, and Arturo Guevara Sanchez is relevant to the first section on agricultural origins and is a counter-comparison to LeBlanc's conclusion. Mabry and his coauthors employ hidden and visible artifact styles and other data vis-à-vis linguistic models to argue that through time both migration and diffusion account for the spread of agriculture into the Arizona-Sonora borderlands. Using similar perspectives of style, McBrinn concludes that different scales of networking operated among four Late Archaic period sites in southern New Mexico. In an equally similar approach to identity, Suzanne L. Eckert studied two sites in the Lower Rio Puerco region and found that groups negotiated and maintained their individual histories while participating in an overarching ritual system focused on social integration. Puebloan social histories, particularly women's lives and community identity, are revealed in Kelley Hays-Gilpin's work using metaphor analysis. Scott G. Ortman, also by means of metaphor analysis, concludes that local San Juan Basin (A.D. 1020 to 1280) cultural-architectural concepts persisted amid apparent non-local Chacoan architectural influences. Patrick D. Lyons and Jeffrey J. Clark use the Arizona Tewa as a case to illustrate the value of using the concept of "social distance" to gauge ethnic identities. Their approach recognizes both structure and agency.

The third section of the volume, "New Research from Northern Mexico: Borders, Contacts, Landscapes, and History," results from symposia organized by Mexican archaeologists and is introduced by Eduardo Gamboa Carrera in an original Spanish version and English translation. Most of this section highlights the interchanges between and legacies of groups in Mexico and the southwest United States. For example, Patricia Carot and Marie-Areti Hers trace cultural developments from Michoacán, Mexico, into the northern southwest United States in order to suggest intertwined histories across that space and to posit contributions from the Southwest to northern Mesoamerica. Also, Phil C. Weigand argues that by A.D. 1000 a systematized trade network for turquoise was in operation between the southwest United States and Mesoamerica, and he examines the role of the mineral in the economies of both regions. Using rock art Guevara also

tracks trade, finding routes in Durango to the Sea of Cortez and to Chihuahua. While reading those pertinent chapters, it is well to consider Francisco Mendiola Galván's chapter in which he challenges us to conceptualize and study northern Mexico not in terms of a Mesoamerican baseline but rather in terms of its own trajectories.

Landscapes are explored by Gamboa and Federico J. Mancera-Valencia who conclude that distant cliff dwellings in the Sierra Madres are related to the Casas Grandes culture, and by Moisés Valadez Moreno who finds site differentiation in Nuevo Leon based on rock art images and cave paintings. Finally, Leticia González Arratia evaluates Walter W. Taylor's contributions to the archaeology of Coahuila, and Martha Monzón Flores reviews proposed and enacted Spanish policies for managing northern New Spain in the 1500s.

Each chapter of this volume contributes to the symposium goal of sharing knowledge and increasing dialogue between archaeologists in northwest Mexico and the southwest United States. Moreover, many chapters challenge long-standing perspectives of cultural interactions and development while presenting new ways of appreciating the dynamics within, between, and beyond these regions. *Archaeology without Borders* is a welcome addition to the literature of northern Mexico and the southwest United States, and to the tradition of this symposium's publication record.