



# GLYPHS

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society  
An Affiliate of the Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona  
Founded in 1916

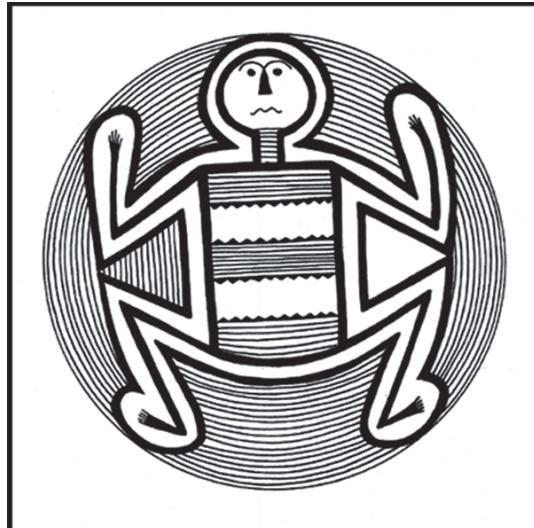
Vol. 64, No. 6

Tucson, Arizona

December 2013

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

President's Message .....	2
<i>Mimbres: Its Causes and Consequences</i> , Stephen H. Lekson .....	4
The Cornerstone .....	8



*Mimbres Style II Black-on-white bowl, Saige-McFarland site, upper Gila River, New Mexico*

Next General Meeting: December 16, 2013

**NOTE: TIME AND LOCATION CHANGE**  
**6:30 p.m.: Lecture at CESL Auditorium (next to ASM)**  
**7:30 p.m.: Holiday Party at ASM**

[www.az-arch-and-hist.org](http://www.az-arch-and-hist.org)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

 "Unemployed are requesting Christmas be postponed," read the headline. "Finally," I thought, "someone is challenging this chronology!" The story had nothing to do with December 25th, but the unemployed, sadly, and my thoughts go out to the many people who are struggling this holiday season.

About 93 percent of people in the U.S. celebrate Christmas, according to a 2010 Gallup poll, almost universally in secular ways, such as exchanging gifts with family and friends and putting up a tree (88 percent). Approximately 78 percent of people "take time to reflect on the birth of Christ." That may be true, but I've never heard anyone wonder aloud if they got the date correct.

Why we chose to celebrate Christmas on December 25th is a debate, but it probably goes back long before the birth of Christ. Last December, Andrew McGowan wrote a story about the origin of the date for *Bible History Daily*, a publication of the Biblical Archaeological Society. He explained that the Bible and early Christian writers do not have a lot to say about Jesus' birth date. Luke 2:8 says that an angel told some shepherds "living out in the fields" with their flocks at night about the birth of Jesus, which may indicate that it was not winter.

It was not until the mid-fourth century Roman almanac (the Philocalian Calendar) that December

25th is pinpointed as the birth date. Another widely observed date (in the eastern Roman Empire) was January 6th, or the Epiphany. The dominant theory is that these dates correspond to the winter solstice. The time between the dates is 12 days, or Christmastide.

Another strategy has been to calculate Jesus' birth date based on his recorded crucifixion, working under the premise that he was conceived and crucified on the same calendar date. The Gospel of John marks his conception as being equivalent to March 25th on the Hebrew calendar, whereas the Greek calendar puts it around April 6th, nine months before December 25th, and January 6th, respectively. Third century Christian groups thought he was born on various dates in the spring. In any event, it seems highly likely that we got Jesus' birthday wrong, and it would be nice if the 78 percent of people who reflect on the birth of Christ gave all the unemployed people jobs researching Jesus' birthday.

There is at least one group of people who have advocated that Christmas be moved, and that's the hundreds of thousands of children whose birthdays fall on Christmas day every year. Those kids may grow up with fewer toys, but they are in the minority. According to one 2009 report, Christmas day has the lowest number of births in the year, by nearly 50,000 babies. Seasonally, in the United States, birth rates peak in

the summer and fall, especially August and September, with February having the fewest births. This is partly to be expected, because long months have more births than short months. One thing I am certain about this year is that the annual AAHS Holiday Party is going to be terrific! We've accumulated a wonderful collection of items for our silent auction and door prizes at the ASM, and we're lucky to have Steve Lekson as our speaker that evening. One important component of the party where I hope we can attract more volunteers is the potluck, which is being coordinated

by Donna Yoder again this year. Proceeds will benefit scholarship and research.

Like Donna, Jeff Clark received an appreciation award from the Society this year. Jeff pointed out that the award is shared by the entire Haury Fund Committee/Finance Committee for the past decade, including Peter Boyle, George Harding, Todd Pitezel, and John Douglass. Others who played pivotal roles in the past include Alex Cook, Billy Graves, Jim Shea, Jim Ayres, Don Burgess, and Lex Lindsay.

—Jesse Ballenger

## DECEMBER 16 REGULAR MEETING TURNS WILDLY IRREGULAR!

We're starting an hour earlier than usual (6:30 p.m.), at a different place (CESL Auditorium and ASM)

The Remarkable Evening begins with a Lecture by Stephen H. Lekson,  
*Mimbres: Its Causes and Consequences*

Followed by a Gangbuster of a Holiday Party and an Extraordinary Silent Auction

AAHS Members will be treated to some of the best our Society has to offer. We're celebrating the Holidays, an excellent speaker, and a new logo. Suzanne Crawford has gathered a list of outstanding items for the auction to benefit the Research and Scholarship Fund. Among the items to bid on are items from Petroglyphs Gallery, Rustica, Bookman's, Barrio Brewery, and local restaurants. We have an Acoma Pot by Melissa Antonio from Dwight Riggs' collection and a replica Clovis point, as well as a type set of Early Agricultural period projectile points from Allen Denoyer. Come. Indulge yourself with an extraordinary object either for yourself or as a special holiday gift for the ones you love - and support the Research and Scholarship Fund at the same time.

We're buying the drinks. We're giving out door prizes. Please bring a dessert or snack to share. Donna Yoder, donnayoder@cox.net, is coordinating food for the event. Let her know what you will bring. *Let's have a Party!*

**AAHS HAPPENINGS**  
**TOPIC OF THE DECEMBER 16 GENERAL MEETING**  
**NOTE LOCATION CHANGE:**  
**CESL AUDITORIUM (NEXT TO ASM)**

***Mimbres: Its Causes and Consequences***

by Stephen H. Lekson

**M**imbres is often treated as some sort of backwoods idiot savant: an isolated society with regrettable architecture and astonishing artists. Mimbres was more than that. To begin with, Mimbres was anything but isolated, deeply engaged first with Hohokam, then with Chaco, and finally with Casas Grandes. Mimbres was roughly equidistant from the respective heartlands of those three ancient societies. Mimbres, Hohokam, and Chaco were contemporary; Casas came later.

Up to 900 CE, there are many more Hohokam "things" in Mimbres (palettes, cremations, cut shell, red-on-brown/buff figurative pottery, and so forth) than there were Hohokam things at Chaco. Subsequently (and conversely), when Hohokam waned and Chaco waxed, around 1000 CE, Mimbres shed its Hohokam interests and took on a Chacoan cast: indented corrugated jars, black on white pottery, stone masonry pueblos with "kivas." And ultimately, after 1150 CE, when Mimbres qua Mimbres ended, its history continued in devel-

opments culminating in Casas Grandes.

Mimbres was a player. Mimbres "art," however, was in a sense isolated – as much as we admire it today: very little Classic Mimbres pottery (and particularly the ideologically charged figurative pottery) went beyond Mimbres territory. Other ancient societies did not covet Mimbres bowls – which tells us something about Mimbres art! These points are illustrated by the University of Colorado's recent research in the Mimbres area.

**Suggested Readings:**

- Lekson, Stephen  
1993 Chaco, Hohokam, and Mimbres: The 11th and 12th Centuries in the American Southwest. *Expedition* 35(1).
- 2009 *A History of the Ancient Southwest*. SAR Press, Santa Fe.
- Nelson, Margaret, and Michelle Hegmon (editors)  
2010 *Mimbres Lives and Landscapes*. SAR Press, Santa Fe.
- Sedig, Jakob  
2013 Woodrow Ruin. *El Palacio* 118(3): 49–55.

... The Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society

Page 5

**Speaker Stephen H. Lekson** is Curator of Archaeology and Professor of Anthropology at the Museum of Natural History, University of Colorado, Boulder. He received his PhD from the University of New Mexico in 1988, and held research, curatorial, or administrative positions with the University of Tennessee, Eastern New Mexico University, the National Park Service, the Arizona State Museum, the Museum of New Mexico, and Crow Canyon Archaeological Center. Lekson has directed more than 20 archaeological projects throughout the Southwest. Recent projects include excavations at Pinnacle Ruin in central New Mexico (2000–2008), excavations at Chimney Rock in southern Colorado (2009), and excavations at Black Mountain and Woodrow ruins in southwestern New Mexico (2010–2013). He was Editor of the journal *Kiva* (2006–2011), and he is currently Contributing Editor for *Archaeology* magazine. Lekson's publications include a dozen books, many chapters in edited volumes, and articles in journals and magazines. Most recently: *A History of the Ancient Southwest* (2009), *Architecture of Chaco Canyon* (2007), *Archaeology of Chaco Canyon* (2006), and *Archaeology of the Mimbres Region* (2006). He curated many exhibits, most recently, "*A History of the Ancient Southwest*" (closes March 2014) at the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History.

**AAHS LECTURE SERIES**

Unless indicated otherwise, general meetings are held at the University Medical Center, Duval Auditorium  
Third Monday of the month, 7:30–9:00 p.m.

- Dec. 16, 2013: Stephen H. Lekson, *Mimbres: Its Causes and Consequences* and AAHS Annual Holiday Party (lecture will be held at **6:30 p.m. in the CESL Auditorium** [next to ASM] and the party will be held at ASM)
- Jan. 20, 2014: Daniela Triadan, *New Perspectives on the Origins of Maya Civilization: Archaeological Investigations at Ceibal, Guatemala*
- Feb. 17, 2014: Barbara Roth, *Households, Community, and Social Power at the Harris Site, Mimbres Valley, New Mexico*
- Mar. 17, 2014: Karen Gust Schollmeyer, *Hunting, Farming, and Human Impacts on the Prehistoric Southwestern Environment*
- Apr. 21, 2014: Gayle Harrison Hartmann and Peter Boyle, *New Perspectives on the Rock Art of Tumamoc Hill*

**GLYPHS:** *Glyphs* is getting a new look! Watch for a new layout, including the new logo, beginning with the January issue. Please note: New deadline for submission of information and articles to be included in *Glyphs* must be received by the 1st of each month for inclusion in the next month's issue. Contact me, Emilee Mead, at emilee@desert.com, or 520.881.2244.

## UPCOMING AAHS FIELD TRIPS

*AAHS membership is required to participate in field trips. Prospective members may attend one AAHS field trip prior to joining.*

### Tour of Murray Springs and Other Mammoth Kill Sites

December 7, 2013

#### TRIP FULL; WAITING LIST ONLY

Dr. Jesse Ballenger will lead this field trip starting at the Murray Springs site outside Sierra Vista. Murray Springs was recently designated a National Historic Landmark. Dr. Ballenger will guide us through the site, covering the history of investigations there from 1966 to the present, and describing the challenges faced by managers to preserve the site. After Murray Springs, we will continue to the Lehner Clovis site. This site witnessed the demise of approximately 13 mammoth, perhaps in a single event. The tour will end at the Turquoise Valley Golf and RV Park in Naco, Arizona, not far from where Emil Haury excavated a single mammoth kill in 1952. We may also make a quick visit to Camp Naco, a 1917 post erected as part of the Mexican Border Project.

Participants who do not want to participate in the full day may visit just the Murray Springs site. The Murray Springs interpretive trail is  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile, and it includes one deep arroyo crossing with footsteps. The Lehner, Palominas, and Naco area stops are each about  $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile walks, with minimal rough terrain.

We will meet at Houghton Road and I-10 at 9:00 a.m. to carpool and will be back around 4:00 p.m. We plan to picnic at the San Pedro House (which does sell cold drinks). The tour is limited to 20 people. To sign up, send an email to [kcerino@gmail.com](mailto:kcerino@gmail.com).

### Sutherland Wash Rock Art District

January 25, 2014

#### TRIP FULL; WAITING LIST ONLY

Tour the Sutherland Wash Rock Art District with Janine Hernbrode, the leader of a multiyear recording and analysis of this huge site on the west face of the Catalina Mountains. Much of the 5–6 mile round-trip walk is on unimproved trail with little elevation gain. It is necessary to occasionally scramble over boulders to access or view some of the panels. A 4-wheel drive road leads to the trailhead.

The group is limited to 20 people, dependent on the availability of 4-wheel drive vehicles. To register, contact David McLean at [mcleand43@gmail.com](mailto:mcleand43@gmail.com)

## Charlie Bell Well Site

February 22, 2014

A field trip to the Charlie Bell Well site will be led by Rick and Sandi Martynec. The site has more than 3,000 petroglyphs, many of which are Archaic in age. There are also artifacts, features, and trails in the canyon. The hike is approximately 1 mile, with an elevation change of 400 feet, considered a moderate hike. We will need to carpool, as we can only take 5–6 vehicles. Rick is obtaining permission with Cabeza Prieta Refuge for us to access the site.

It will be a long day, 7–8 hours, so bring water and lunch. You may want to plan to spend the night in Ajo. Time and meeting location to be determined. Contact person is Chris Lange at [clange3@msn.com](mailto:clange3@msn.com), or 520.904.5868.

## ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTHWEST'S ARCHAEOLOGY CAFÉ

Archaeology Southwest and Casa Vincente invite you to the Archaeology Café, a casual discussion forum dedicated to promoting community engagement with cultural and scientific research. Meetings are at 6:00 p.m. Casa Vicente is located at 375 S. Stone Avenue. The café is free and open to the community. The remainder of the 2013–2014 season includes:

- Dec. 3: T. J. Ferguson, *Collaboration with Descendant Communities*
- Jan. 14: Patrick Lyons and Suzanne Eckert, *Southwestern Potters and Gender: Implications for Understanding Craft Production*
- Feb. 4: Homer Thiel and Bill Doelle, *Rio Nuevo Archaeology*
- Mar. 4: Peggy Nelson, *The Lives of People and Houses: Mimbres and Beyond*
- Apr. 8: Arthur Vokes, *Exotic Exchanges*
- May 6: Lewis Borck, *Livin' on the Edge (of Salado): An Examination of Life, Community, and Resistance on the Frontier of an Expansive Ideology*

## ARTIFACT DOCUMENTATION / RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY

The AAHS seeks a small group of volunteers interested in documenting and analyzing a collection of artifacts from southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico, including a large number of projectile points, and assisting in preparation of a report. Volunteers will be provided access to the collection at the Arizona State Museum. Digital photography and/or illustration skills are welcomed. Please contact Jesse Ballenger, [jamb@email.arizona.edu](mailto:jamb@email.arizona.edu), for additional details.

## THE CORNERSTONE

### Rusty Nail Tells a Tale 2,000 Years Old

**A**SM object A-33244 is a rusty old nail. What a story this little object represents!

Hold that thought. First, a little background...

Arizona State Museum (ASM) is renowned for several reasons, one being its unparalleled collections related to the peoples and cultures of the U.S. Southwest and northern Mexico.

Those familiar with ASM and its focus on the Southwest may be surprised to learn that it has a rich collection of ancient Near Eastern, Egyptian, Greek, Etruscan, and Roman material. The vast majority of this collection was acquired in the early days of the museum's history from the 1890s to the 1930s, through exchange, donation, and, less commonly, by purchase.

Moreover, few may realize that ASM also holds impressive collections from all over the world, not just the Mediterranean, collected and held for comparative and teaching purposes, key components of the museum's multi-faceted mission, given its relationship to the University of Arizona.

This fall, ASM Deputy Director Dr. Irene Bald Romano and four UA graduate students—Christopher C. Baker (classics), Chantel N. Osborne (classics), Emilio Rodriguez-Alvarez (anthropology), and Jessica Sue Wiles (classics)—have been “digging in storage” at the museum, focusing their research attention on the Mediterranean collections—some 520 individually catalogued items, plus a large collection of type sherds.

“We find sometimes that the stories that are most compelling are not about the objects themselves, but about the people who collected them,” said Romano. “Sometimes what might be most compelling is the technology of the piece’s manufacture, and other times, perhaps, the history of a single, simple object can be very revealing.”

We return now to the aforementioned iron nail (ASM A-33244).

Romano explains:

*Our nail is from a fortress at Inchtuthil built around 82-83 CE by the Roman*



ASM A-33244. (Photo courtesy of Irene Bald Romano and Emilio Rodriguez-Alvarez)

... The Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society

Page 9

army in Scotland (near Perth) to keep in check the Caledonian tribes who were resisting the Roman invaders. When fortunes turned for the Romans only a few years later (86-87 CE) and troops were needed elsewhere (to fight the Dacians probably), the fortress was closed down. The Roman troops did not want to leave behind anything of use to the dreaded Caledonians, so they dismantled the fort, building by building, nail by nail, removing whatever they could of the ashlar masonry blocks, burning the wooden structures, and depositing all of the iron in a huge 12-foot pit, concealing it carefully so this valuable weapon-making material would never be discovered by the local tribes. The pit was discovered, however, in 1959 by Oxford archaeologist Sir Ian Richmond. He uncovered some 850,000 iron nails, spikes, and other iron objects—some 10 tons in all, handmade in a local forge, and representing a massive number of man hours. Richmond gave several thousand of these nails to donors who contributed funds for the excavation of the site and some to museums around the world. Ours was a 1969 donation from a Wesley E. Jenkins, a physicist from Miami, FL whose son (Edgar W. Jenkins, UA professor of physics from 1964-1995) was at Cambridge and knew Ian Richmond's collaborator. The mass of the fused iron was sent to the Dalzell Steel Works in Motherwell, Scotland where it was recycled.

And so our fragile little nail survives here at ASM, a snapshot of the history of Roman Britain.

Romano is quick to point out that existing museum collections are treasure troves for new discoveries and therefore new scholarship. “Once objects go into a research museum,” she explained, “they are not just put on a shelf never to be seen again. Rather, collections that are held by a research museum, especially one with such vibrant teaching and research programs as ASM’s, are



ASM Deputy Director Dr. Irene Romano is a classical archaeologist and specialist in Greek cult practices, Greek and Roman sculpture, terracotta figurines, and Hellenistic pottery, as well as the author/co-author of five books and numerous articles on those topics. Romano has conducted fieldwork in Spain, Italy, Greece, and Turkey. She currently serves as a senior archaeologist with the Mt. Lykaion Excavation and Survey Project in Greece. (Photo courtesy of Irene Bald Romano and Emilio Rodriguez-Alvarez)

(continued on page 10)

(continued from page 9)

accessed regularly by researchers, teachers, and students for a host of reasons." In this case, the reason is a graduate independent study course directed by Romano and Mike Jacobs, ASM curator of archaeological collections.

Indeed, fresh eyes, high technologies, advanced research techniques, and innovative questions can combine to look at existing museum collections in new ways, yielding interesting stories, revealing new insights, and discovering new details.

This is the first in a developing 4-part series on the results of Dr. Romano's independent study course and what she and her students have found "digging in storage." Find this and the other three stories at [http://www.statemuseum.arizona.edu/research/rusty\\_roman\\_nail.shtml](http://www.statemuseum.arizona.edu/research/rusty_roman_nail.shtml).

*The Cornerstone* is presented by:  
 Darlene F. Lizarraga, Director of Marketing  
 Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona  
 P.O. Box 210026, Tucson, AZ 85721-0026  
 Phone: 520.626.8381, FAX: 520.621.2976  
[www.statemuseum.arizona.edu](http://www.statemuseum.arizona.edu)  
[dfl@email.arizona.edu](mailto:dfl@email.arizona.edu)

## THE EYES AND EARS FOR CULTURAL PRESERVATION: THE ARIZONA SITE STEWARD PROGRAM

The Arizona Site Steward Program supports cultural resource preservation and education through the partnership of statewide volunteers and public land managers. Arizona Site Stewards are a corps of trained volunteers who monitor sites on state and federal lands. These volunteers receive classroom and fieldwork instruction on culture history, archaeological methods, and recording techniques. Annual conferences and events connect Site Stewards to a community of avocational archaeologists, professional archaeologists, and Tribal members committed to the protection and preservation of Arizona's cultural resources. Through site monitoring, recording, and stabilization efforts, Site Stewards reduce archaeological looting and vandalism in Arizona. Everyday Site Stewards make a critical contribution to safeguarding Arizona's heritage for future generations.



Please join us! The Program seeks passionate and committed volunteers to join the ranks of Arizona Site Stewards. Make a real difference in your community and contribute to the protection of archaeological sites today. Online applications are available on the Site Steward website: <http://www.azsitestewardprogram.com/>

Questions? Contact the Arizona Site Steward Program Coordinator, Sophie Kelly: [skelly@azstateparks.gov](mailto:skelly@azstateparks.gov).

## 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.

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.

### Institutional Subscriptions

For institutional subscriptions to *Kiva*, contact Maney Publishing at [subscriptions@maneypublishing.com](mailto:subscriptions@maneypublishing.com) or <http://maneypublishing.com/index.php/journals/kiv>.

For institutional subscriptions to *Glyphs* (\$50), contact AAHS VP for Membership at the address below.

You can join online at [www.az-arch-and-hist.org](http://www.az-arch-and-hist.org), or by mailing the form below to:  
 Michael Diehl, VP Membership  
 Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society  
 Arizona State Museum, The University of Arizona  
 Tucson, AZ 85721-0026

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone : \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Officers

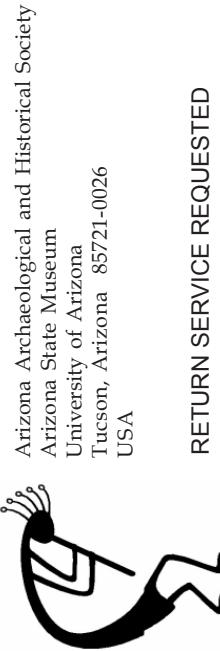
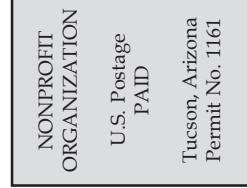
President: Jesse Bellenger | [jamb@email.arizona.edu](mailto:jamb@email.arizona.edu) | 520.271.7083  
 Vice President for Activities: Katherine Cerino | [kcerino@gmail.com](mailto:kcerino@gmail.com) | 520.907.0884  
 Vice President for Membership: Michael Diehl | [mdiehl@desert.com](mailto:mdiehl@desert.com) | 520.881.2244  
 Recording Secretary: Michael Boley | [mboley@williamsself.com](mailto:mboley@williamsself.com)  
 Communications Officer: Jon Boyd | [jonrboyd@aol.com](mailto:jonrboyd@aol.com)  
 Treasurer: George Harding | [actuary110@yahoo.com](mailto:actuary110@yahoo.com)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012-2013

Directors	Chance Copperstone Suzanne Crawford	John Douglass Ken Fleshman	Janine Hernbrode Todd Pitezel	Mary Prasciunas Brad Stone	Ben Curry (Student Rep) Melanie Deer (ASM Rep)
-----------	--	-------------------------------	----------------------------------	-------------------------------	---

### Editors of Society Publications

*Kiva*: James Snead, Acquisitions Editor | [james.snead@csun.edu](mailto:james.snead@csun.edu) | 818.677.3322  
*Glyphs*: Emilee Mead | [emilee@desert.com](mailto:emilee@desert.com) | 520.881.2244



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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.