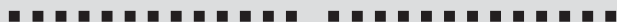




GLYPHS

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



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April 2009

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

President's Message	2
<i>Hopi Summer: Letters from First Mesa</i> , by Carolyn O'Bagy Davis	4
The Cornerstone	8



Walpi village on First Mesa, 1927 (photo by Carey Melville).

Next General Meeting: April 20, 2009

<<http://www.statemuseum.arizona.edu/aaahs/aaahs.shtml>>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We often think of spring as a time of renewal.

As I mentioned in a previous President's message, spring is a time of renewal in the sense that this is the time of year we elect officers of the Society, as well as new members of the Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee has developed an excellent slate of candidates that will be proposed to the membership. I am personally excited about the recommended slate because it is a great mix of new and experienced people, providing both fresh perspectives and needed continuity. Election ballots will be sent to all members in late March; please review the candidates and return your ballot as soon as you can.

Spring is also the time of year we ask our members to renew their membership in AAHS. Our membership year corresponds to the *Kiva* publication cycle, which runs from July to June. In recent years, renewal letters have been sent to members in late March, but we have decided to change that and send renewal letters in May so that they more closely correspond with the actual membership year. Membership dues and contributions are the most important component of funding for AAHS, so I hope you will continue to support the Society and

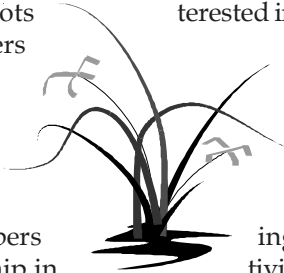
renew your membership when you receive your membership letter in May.

This year we will include a very brief questionnaire with the election ballots in order to gauge the interest of members in two areas. The first is to determine the level of interest in several types of programs we are considering, such as fieldwork opportunities, classes, and symposia. We hope to expand our programs beyond those currently offered but need your help in defining the best areas to pursue.

The second purpose of the questionnaire is to identify members interested in supporting the Society by volunteering to help organize and conduct programs or events. This work is done by a number of committees focused on things ranging from publications to activities to book sales to awards, among others. We never have enough volunteers to do all the things we would like to do. So I would ask you to take a minute, look at the questionnaire, and consider if there is a way you can help the Society.

I promise the questionnaire will be very short and, as in the past, the ballot will be brief and straightforward. Please help the Society shape its future by responding to both.

— Peter Boyle, President



AAHS LECTURE SERIES

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

- Apr. 20, 2009: Carolyn O'Bagy Davis, *Hopi Summer: Letters from First Mesa*
 May 18, 2009: Mark Elson, *Human Adaptation to Catastrophic Events: Lessons from the 11th Century A.D. Eruption of Sunset Crater*
 June 15, 2009: Jeffery Clark, *Mounds and Migrants: New Perspectives on the Hohokam Collapse*
 July 20, 2009: William Graves, *History, Households, and Power in the Ancient Hohokam World*
 Sept. 21, 2009: Bettina Lyons, *Zeckendorfs and Steinfelds: Merchant Princes of the Southwest*

NOMINATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE AAHS CUMMINGS AND STONER AWARDS



The Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society is once again accepting nominations for the Byron S. Cummings and Victor R. Stoner awards. The Cummings Award recognizes outstanding research and contributions to knowledge in Southwestern archaeology, anthropology, ethnology, or history. The Stoner Award celebrates the promotion of historic awareness and is given to someone who brings Southwestern anthropology, archaeology, ethnology, or history to the public over an extended period of time. These award are presented annually at the Pecos Conference in August. Please forward nominations by **April 15, 2009**, to Patrick Lyons at <plyons@email.arizona.edu> or 520.621.6276.

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS FOR GLYPHS: If you have research or a field project that would be interesting to *Glyphs* readers, please consider contributing an article. Requirements are a maximum of 1,000 words, or 750 words and one illustration, or 500 words and two illustrations. Please send electronic submissions to <jadams@desert.com>, or by mail to Jenny Adams, Desert Archaeology, Inc., 3975 N. Tucson Blvd., Tucson, Arizona 85716.

AAHS HAPPENINGS

TOPIC OF THE APRIL 20 GENERAL MEETING

Hopi Summer: Letters from First Mesa

by Carolyn O'Bagy Davis

In the spring of 1927, Maud and Carey Melville, along with their three children, embarked on a cross-country driving trip in their Model-T Ford. In June, they arrived at the Hopi Indian Reservation and camped at Polacca below the base of First Mesa. When Maud Melville, a well-to-do New England professor's wife, met Ethel Muchvo, a potter from First Mesa, an instant friendship was born, resulting in years of correspondence and exchange between the two women of vastly different backgrounds.

Some eight decades later, the true story of their cross-cultural friendship unfolded with the aid of Maud's diaries, Ethel's letters, vintage photographs, and interviews with contemporary Hopi people. Two years were spent researching the people and images in Carey Melville's black-and-white photographs. Villages and sites in the photographs were identified, descendants were interviewed, and dozens of photographs were shared with Hopi families.

The story that is told in the letters and in the photographs is a tale that provides insight into Hopi life before change came to the traditional, mesa-top villages through government intrusion, increasing tourism, and

twentieth-century technology. This is the story of an enduring friendship as both Maud and Ethel lived through, and shared, happy and sorrowful times.

Epidemics raged through the Hopi villages, killing scores of children and elders. Ethel's husband suffered from tuberculosis, an unstoppable disease at that time. When Ethel's children were born, they were strong and healthy, but she always kept an eye on them for symptoms of the "red disease." It was with much sorrow, she wrote, that Minerva, and then Clifford, and the others, would show the signs of their father's illness. One after another, Ethel's children weakened and died.

Ethel's letters provide a unique record of life on the Hopi Mesas through the hard years of the Depression. They tell of bitter cold winters in the tiny stone houses, they tell of scarce crops, and they also reveal the hunger that her family and neighbors suffered through. One October, when there had been no corn to harvest, Ethel matter-of-factly wrote, "We will be hungry."

And always, there were the pressures from missionaries and the United States government to become Christian and to give up the tradi-

tional Hopi way of life. Ethel's story provides a rare glimpse of day-to-day life in an ancient, Native American community before anthropologists, missionaries, and legions of tourists descended upon them, and greatly altered Hopi life, and of one family's struggle to survive in a harsh landscape.

Suggested Reading:

- Davis, Carolyn O'Bagy
1997 *Hopi Quilting: Stitched Traditions from an Ancient Community*. Sanpete Publications, Tucson.
- 2007 *Hopi Summer: Letters from Ethel to Maud*. Rio Nuevo Publishing, Tucson.
- James, Harry C.
1974 *Pages from Hopi History*. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

Speaker Carolyn O'Bagy Davis, a fourth-generation descendant of Utah pioneers, has written numerous books and articles on the history of archaeology, quilting, and western history. She has curated museum exhibits on southwestern archaeology, Hopi quilting, and other topics related to the West. A member of the Society of Women Geographers, Carolyn has served on the boards of the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society, Old Pueblo Archaeology Center, and the Treasure Hill Foundation. Her current books, to be released in 2009, are The Fourth Wife, the story of Julia Call, 1885-1937, wife of the Mormon bishop of Colonia Dublan in Chihuahua, Mexico, and The Hopi People, a photographic history of the Hopis, co-authored with Stewart Koyiyumtewa, Hopi tribal archivist, and the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office.

UPCOMING AAHS FIELD TRIPS

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

April 4, 2009

Safford Basin Trip to Marijilda Site and the Mills Collection at Eastern Arizona College

The visit to the Marijilda site, a unique and well-preserved masonry pueblo with evidence that it once housed Ancestral Puebloan immigrants, will be led by Coronado Forest Archaeologist, Bill Gillespie. In the afternoon, we will have a private tour of the Mills Collection of Salado pottery and artifacts at Eastern Arizona College in Thatcher. This is a long day trip. We will meet at the northwest corner of I-10 and Houghton Road at 7:00 a.m. Access to the Marijilda site will involve some walking and you are advised to wear long sleeves and trousers! Bring lunch and water. High-clearance vehicles desirable. To sign up, contact David McLean at <mclean43@gmail.com>.

CENTER FOR DESERT ARCHAEOLOGY'S ARCHAEOLOGY CAFÉ

The Center for Desert Archaeology 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 the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.; presentations begin at 6:15 p.m.

The forum opens with a brief, informal presentation on a timely or perhaps controversial topic, following by a question-and-answer period and a short break. Moderator Doug Gann then begins a focused discussion.

Casa Vicente is located at 375 S. Stone Avenue. The café is free and open to the community.

Upcoming topics include:

- April 7: Demion Clinco, *Historic Preservation along Miracle Mile and in Mid-century Tucson Neighborhoods*
- May 5: Panel Discussion, *Rio Nuevo: A Panel Discussion on Interpreting Tucson's Historic and Ancient Past through New Museums and Cultural Attractions*

OLD PUEBLO ARCHAEOLOGY

TUSD Ajo Service Center, 2201 W. 44th Street, Tucson, AZ
520.798.1201, <info@oldpueblo.org>

Arts and Culture of Ancient Southern Arizona Hohokam Indians

Agua Caliente Park, 12325 E. Roger Rd.

April 5, 2009; 1:00–2:30 p.m.

Allen Dart illustrates artifacts, architecture, and other material culture of the ancient Hohokam Indians, and discusses archaeological interpretations of how these people tamed southern Arizona's Sonoran desert for centuries before their culture mysteriously disappeared. Funding for program provided by the Arizona Humanities Council. [Free; no reservations needed]

Set in Stone but Not in Meaning: Southwestern Indian Rock Art

Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, Coolidge

April 19, 2009; 2:00–3:00 p.m.

Allen Dart illustrates pictographs (rock paintings) and petroglyphs (symbols carved or pecked on rocks), and discusses how even the same rock art symbol may be interpreted differently from popular, scientific, and modern Native American perspectives. Funding provided by the Arizona Humanities Council. [Free; no reservations needed]

WORKSHOP: ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROSPECTION TECHNIQUES

The National Park Service's 2009 workshop on archaeological prospection techniques, entitled *Current Archaeological Prospection Advances for Non-Destructive Investigations in the 21st Century*, will be held May 18–22, 2009, at the National Park Service's National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, Natchitoches, Louisiana. Field exercises will take place at the Los Adaes State Historical site, a Spanish presidio and capital of the Spanish province of Texas between 1719 and 1772. Co-sponsors for the workshop include the National Park Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Adaes State Historic Site, Northwestern State University of Louisiana, and the Louisiana Division of Archaeology. This is the nineteenth year of the workshop dedicated to the use of geophysical, aerial photography, and other remote sensing methods as they apply to the identification, evaluation, conservation, and protection of archaeological resources across the country. The workshop will present lectures on the theory of operation, methodology, processing, and interpretation, with hands-on use of the equipment in the field. Lodging will be at the Ramada Inn. There is a \$475 registration fee.

Application forms are available on the Midwest Archeological Center's website at <<http://www.nps.gov/history/mwac/>>. For further information, please contact Steven L. DeVore, Archeologist, National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center, Federal Building, Room 474, 100 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, NE 68508-3873, or 402.437.5392, ext. 141, or <steve_de_vore@nps.gov>.

UPCOMING ARIZONA STATE MUSEUM EVENTS

Care of Baskets Lecture and Workshop

April 4, 2009

To complement the *Circle of Life* exhibition currently on view at ASM, museum conservators will share information about how to care for, store, and display baskets in your own collection in a two-part program: (1) an illustrated lecture at 11:00 a.m. will discuss how different plant materials and technologies impact the durability and care of basketry (free; limited to 40); and (2) a 1:00 p.m. hands-on workshop will expand on that information and demonstrate methods to clean basketry surfaces, support them while on display, and provide protecting during storage (\$20/person; limited to 20). Attendees are encouraged to bring a basket from their personal collection. Registration required for both parts of the program, 520.626.8381.

THE CORNERSTONE

Museum Documenting Jesuit Contact with American Indians

A project headed up by the Arizona State Museum's ethnohistorical research office and the UA German studies department is their first joint attempt to transcribe and translate German text into English.

—By La Monica Everett-Haynes, University Communications, University of Arizona.

A small file box in the Arizona State Museum's Office of Ethnohistorical Research contains copies of personal letters written by Philipp Segesser, a German-speaking Swiss Jesuit priest said to be one of the missionaries who have spent the longest term in the region.

From the 1720s to the 1760s, Segesser — served at San Ignacio and San Xavier del Bac, among other locations — wrote numerous letters in Spanish and German to his family in Switzerland and his supervisors before and while doing missionary work in southern Arizona and northern Mexico.

Those letters remained in his family home in Lucerne until Raymond Thompson, a former Arizona State Museum director, was able to acquire microfilm copies of them in the 1980s.

"Those are very interesting letters," Thompson said. "Mixed in are lots of stories about the natural history of the area and also information about the people and the problems they had."

The University of Arizona office is now collaborating with the German studies department to translate

the letters into English — making it the first formal translation and interpretation project the ethnohistorical office has led that is not in Spanish.

"These letters add depth to the ethnohistorical record of northern New Spain during the 18th century, providing details about the ways in which native communities interacted with the missionaries," said Diana Hadley, who directs the Office of Ethnohistorical Research.

"These letters also provide details about the personal experience of a lonely missionary on a very distant frontier — even his personal religious experience," she said.

"He recognized the skill and intelligence of the people," said Hadley, who is also the museum's associate curator of ethnohistory. "He was impressed by their knowledge and was sympathetic toward the native people."

New Grant-funded Research

Hadley recently received a grant totaling nearly \$20,000 from the Southwest Foundation for Education and Historical Preservation to translate the Segesser letters and for other research projects.

To translate the Segesser letters, Hadley enlisted support from UA German studies professor Albrecht Classen, a University Distinguished Professor, and his students.

Classen said that while Segesser's letters are certainly not the only source available that details contact between American Indians and Jesuit priests, "this is just one more and a very important addition, but it is a very personal body of text, that will be important to people in religion, anthropology, geology, history, art, and also to climatologists and economic historians."

The transcription and translation process is arduous and time consuming. Segesser often wrote in fragmented and convoluted sentences and tended to intermix indigenous, Spanish, and German words. He also wrote from one border of the paper to the next — front and back — in ink that has often bled through the paper, making his writing difficult to read.

"It's been a real challenge," said Ivan Grubisic, a biochemistry student working on the project. Grubisic, who is also majoring in engineering mathematics and German studies, said it takes him more than one hour to translate about 40 lines of text.

For this project, students must first do a rough translation of all the letters, which often requires consulting older dictionaries, specialists, and museum resources.

Then come numerous rounds of revisions, double-checking, background investigations, and other types of research to ensure accuracy.

"We're doing primary research, and the students are instrumental in carrying out this research," Classen said. For that, Christopher Floess is grateful. Floess, a German studies major, said he values working on the project and realizes it will be of help to a range of people, including historians and community members who are interested in what happened to American Indians in the region.

"Working with Professor Classen has been a great experience," Floess said. "He has given us all an opportunity to do real academic work that will be of use to historians, religious studies majors, perhaps geographers, people interested in Native American studies, and more."

'Unique Project' Yields Interesting Results

Grubisic, like the other students working on the project, got involved after taking a course with Classen. Today, the group meets weekly to work on the project. "It's a very unique project, and it's not one very many people get to work on," Grubisic said. "So for that, we're all relatively excited."

The letters detail the everyday life of Segesser, who wrote often about the situation at the missions and about missing his homeland. He never returned to Switzerland.

"Along the way, Segesser is interacting with this new culture and trying to figure out ways to solve problems," Grubisic said.

(continued on page 10)

(continued from page 9)

Unlike the formal letters Segesser drafted to secular and papal officials, the letters home "contain information concerning the native peoples at each of the missions that does not appear in the writings of other missionaries or government officials from this period," the grant proposal noted.

In some instances, Segesser asked that his family and friends send him certain books, "scented water," scythes for field work, a butter churn, plum seeds, chocolate, and even his mother's marzipan recipe.

Segesser wrote about the popular foods of the time, the ways in which people traveled, marriage rituals practiced by different indigenous groups, and also ways he and others handled illnesses, Grubisic said.

He also wrote about the ways that the Europeans attempted to control and indoctrinate the American Indian tribes. He mentioned the Pima Revolt that occurred in 1751, and also detailed instances of attacks by Apache members against the mis-

sions.

"At one point in a letter that I was translating, Segesser was in hiding with some other people because of these uprisings," Floess said

"The Indians were burning everything and Segesser was quite distraught about all the decades of work—I believe he said 80 years—of the missionaries being destroyed," he said.

Such details, and many others, are important to understanding the region and the time, Classen said.

"The question is fundamentally, 'Why did they want to come here and live for decades in total isolation with people they didn't really understand?' We found out already there is a mystical missionary experience, they had," Classen said. "They had visions and felt a calling."

The Cornerstone is presented by:
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AAHS WEBSITE: *Glyphs* is posted each month and can be found on the ASM/AAHS website at: <<http://www.statemuseum.arizona.edu/aahs/aahs.shtml>>, and it can also be found at: <<http://www.swanet.org/zarchives/aahs/>>.

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All members receive discounts on Society field trips and classes.

Monthly meetings are free and open to the public.

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Visitors are welcome at all of the Society's regular monthly meetings but are encouraged to become members to receive the Society's publications and to participate in its activities at discount rates.

Memberships and subscriptions run for one year beginning on July 1 and ending June 30. Membership provides one volume (four issues) of *Kiva*, the Journal of Southwestern Anthropology and History, and 12 issues of the monthly newsletter *Glyphs*.

For a brochure, information, or membership/subscription application forms, contact:

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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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