

glyphs

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society

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May 2014



Building mural from southeastern Utah, showing the images of several jog-toed sandal designs on a partly collapsed jacal wall dating to the late thirteenth century. Most of the images were inscribed into the surface of the wall before the mortar dried, but at least one of the images was incised into the surface at a later date.

Next General Meeting: May 19, 2014
7:30 p.m., DuVal Auditorium,
University Medical Center
www.az-arch-and-hist.org

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President's Message

by Jesse Ballenger

The first officially reported bicycle accident supposedly occurred in 1842, when Kirkpatrick Macmillan crashed in Glasgow, Scotland. In January, I played my part in this historical development when I wrecked my bike in Tucson. There is a certain satisfaction that comes with being a part of something big, like the history of bicycle accidents. I am less excited about my role in the history of disk replacement surgery, which has only been available in the United States for about 10 years. I extend my thanks to all of you who sent cards and wishes.

I have been under doctor's orders to not "do" anything for the past two months, and I have been highly successful at that thanks to my aptitude for armchair archaeology. One object that has attracted my attention is the lowly Chiricahua projectile point. The Chiricahua point has been discounted, mislabeled, and criticized as a legitimate type since 1941, when it was mistakenly identified as being intrusive into Chiricahua stage deposits in southeastern Arizona. Steven Shackley points out that the type had yet to be formally defined nearly 50 years after Ted Sayles and Ernst Antevs described the Cochise culture, and Chip Wills and others do not consider it diagnostic of a particular time or culture. Cynthia Irwin-Williams was one of the last people to appreciate the significance of Chiricahua points, which she interpreted as marking a coherent southern tradition of hunter-gatherers. Many archaeologists have avoided the topic of Middle Archaic culture history since that time, describing instead, a widespread, broad-spectrum, and faceless collection of local hunter-gatherers.

It is unfortunate that we usually have little else but hunting tools (projectile points) to identify preceramic cultural traditions in the southern Southwest. Hunters travel, and through the lens of archaeology, their "identities" were subject to changes based on immediate functional requirements, breakage, or technological improvements.

Why are projectile point typologies in the Southwest so confused? One reason is that until recently there were few pictures of what a "Chiricahua point" looks like, because southwestern archaeologists never published a regional projectile point typology. The various Chiricahua stage projectile points featured in Sayles' 1983 synthesis of the Cochise culture are actually from Ventana Cave, and the Chiricahua-Amargosa II points featured in Emil Haury's synopsis of the Ventana Cave projectile point chronology do not include Chiricahua points. The niche has since been filled by several small publications and commercial type books, but those sometimes add to the confusion by illustrating local "best-fit" examples, or by inappropriately renaming previously established types.

Chiricahua points are important because the people who used them may have been the earliest local hunter-gathers to incorporate maize farming. The age of Chiricahua points is based on a small number of radiocarbon dates that indicate their use between about 3,500 B.C. and 1,300 B.C., immediately before the San Pedro phase. The largest Chiricahua points I have come across are a pair of identical points found at the San Juan site in Chihuahua, Mexico, and photographed by Jane Kelley. Although not professionally collected, the points are nearly 15 cm in length. The most interesting quality of the type is the frequent, extensive resharpening performed by its users. The accompanying figure compares one of the large San Juan points to a more typical Chiricahua point from Ventana Cave. The frequency and degree of maintenance seen on Chiricahua points does not occur again during the Archaic in the southern Southwest, and may represent the elusive technological change expected to accompany the introduction of maize and decreased residential mobility during the forager-to-farmer transition.



(continued on page 4)

In Society news, elections are underway and I welcome the new board members included on your recent ballot. The Nominations Committee included Don Burgess, Chuck Adams, John Douglass, Todd Pitezel and Katherine Cerino. We will lose some valued board and committee members this year, too. Todd Pitezel dedicated the best years of his life to the board and did a fabulous job overseeing previous annual book sales. Please attend and/or donate toward Ray's 90th! Finally, thanks goes out to Tony and Rene Donaldson, as well as Steven Shackley, for offering to support the obsidian provenance analysis of projectile points in the Finley and Sally Richards collection.

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

- Follow AAHS on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/pages/Tucson-AZ/
Arizona-Archaeological-and-Historical-Society](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Tucson-AZ/Arizona-Archaeological-and-Historical-Society)

AAHS membership is required to participate in field trips.

May 16, 2014; 10:00 a.m.

Space is limited. To register, contact Suzanne Crawford at suzanne2400@gmail.com.

glyphs: Information and articles to be included in *glyphs* must be received by the first of each month for inclusion in the next month's issue. Contact me, Emilee Mead, at emilee@desert.com, or 520.881.2244.

May 19: Topic of the General Meeting

The Ties that Bind: The Social and Religious Context of Building Murals in the Western Mesa Verde Region

by Benjamin A. Bellorado

In the western Mesa Verde region, ancestral Pueblo peoples used textiles as a powerful means of signaling their social and religious identities within and between communities. In the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, they also decorated their homes, pottery, and surrounding cliff walls with imagery of ornately woven yucca and cotton textiles such as sandals, blankets, and sashes, which were likely used in rituals.

In a very real way, these people clothed their homes and pottery with expressions of their social and religious identities. While the majority of the actual textiles have disappeared from the archaeological record due to the ravages of time and looting, a record of the presence of this industry remains painted and scratched into the cliff faces and building walls of archaeological sites in this area. This record indicates that people were actively manufacturing and using complex woven textile technologies and used worn textiles (and their images) as ways of signaling their participation in distinct social networks who shared cosmologies.

Tree-ring dating of intact wooden construction beams from well preserved kivas and habitation rooms with building murals showing textiles provides a means of reconstructing networks of shared styles of building murals and textiles through time and across space. Combined with data on pottery manufacture and circulation patterns, a cross-media approach is used to reconstruct the distributions of overlaying communities of weavers, potters, builders, and rock art and mural artists in the region that contributed to the complex ways peoples signaled their religious and social identities through time.

Suggested Readings:

Hays-Gilpin, Kelley Ann

1998 Prologue: The Anthropology of Dress. In *Prehistoric Sandals from Northeastern Arizona: The Earl H. Morris and Ann Axtell Morris Research*, edited by K. A. Hays-Gilpin, A. C. Deegan, and E. A. Morris, pp. 1-14. Anthropological Papers No. 62. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

Newsome, Elizabeth A.

2010 Mural Arts From Pueblo II to Pueblo IV. In *Painting the Cosmos: Metaphor and Worldview in Images from the Southwest Pueblos and Mexico*, edited by K. Hays-Gilpin and P. Schaafsma, pp. 61-71. Bulletin No. 67. Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff.

Ortman, Scott G.

2008 Architectural Metaphor and Chacoan Influence in the Northern San Juan. In *Archaeology Without Borders: Contact, Commerce, and Change in the U.S. Southwest and Northwestern Mexico*, edited by L. D. Webster and M. E. McBrinn, pp. 227-255. University Press of Colorado, Boulder.

Pauketat, Timothy R.

2001 Practice and History in Archaeology: An Emerging Paradigm. *Anthropological Theory* 1:73-98.

Speaker Ben Bellorado is a doctoral student at the University of Arizona and the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research. He was raised in Wyoming and Alaska before he moved to the Four Corners area to start a career in archaeology almost 15 years ago. Since then, Ben has devoted countless hours conducting archaeological research in both academic and contract settings. He received his B.A. in Anthropology from Fort Lewis College and his M.A. from Northern Arizona University, and he has worked extensively in the Four Corners region. His primary research goals are focused on understanding ancient social and religious networks in the northern Southwest through the use of tree-ring dating, as well as building mural and rock art imagery analysis. Ben is very interested in how peoples signaled their membership in societies at various scales through the manipulation of different kinds of media, particularly clothing, rock art, ceramics, and architecture. Currently, Ben is working with federal land managers in southeastern Utah to help inventory, assess, and preserve the rare and important building murals hidden within the deep sandstone canyons of the Cedar Mesa area in southeastern Utah.

2014 Research and Travel Grant Awards

Support of Research and Scholarship is one of the primary missions of AAHS. This year, we are happy to announce nine awards totaling \$6,090. The Research and Scholarship Committee was particularly pleased with the outstanding quality of the proposals. Information about applying for future AAHS awards is available on our website.

RESEARCH GRANTS

Tanya Chiykowski (graduate student, Binghamton University): \$890 to produce petrographic thin sections of sand samples collected from around Cerro de Trincheras and the in Altar Valley, Sonora, Mexico. This is part of her dissertation project and will help in the construction of petrofacies models for northern Sonora.

Sean Dolan (graduate student, University of Oklahoma): \$1,000 for X-ray fluorescence analysis of obsidian samples from two sites in New Mexico. This sourcing study will provide information for his dissertation and add to the expanding database on obsidian sourcing in the American Southwest.

Lori Barkwill-Love (graduate student, University of Texas at San Antonio): \$1,000 for travel to the University of Colorado to analyze ceramics from Woodrow Ruin. This work is part of her dissertation project examining cultural transmission and the evolution of Mimbres pottery.

Laurie Webster (University of Arizona): \$1,000 for the documentation of perishable artifacts collected in southeast Utah during the 1890s. This is part of an ongoing project to document collections from the area and the requested amount will be used to pay for travel to Brigham Young University and the Natural History Museum of Utah, where the collections are housed.

Doug Mitchell (Paleowest Archaeology): \$1,000 for survey and testing in two areas around Puerto Penasco, Mexico. The project aims to investigate the paleoenvironmental history of the area and changing use of marine resources by the prehistoric inhabitants.

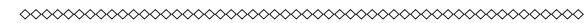
TRAVEL GRANTS

Michelle Turner (graduate student, Binghamton University): \$300 for travel to the 79th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Austin. She is presenting a paper titled "Frontiers Reconsidered at Chimney Rock."

Sharlot Hart (graduate student, University of Arizona): \$300 for travel to the 79th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Austin. She is presenting a poster titled "Archaeology, Traditional Knowledge, and Native American Peoples."

Kelsey Reese (graduate student, Washington State University): \$300 for travel to the 79th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Austin. She is co-chairing a symposium titled *Coupled Regions, Coupled Systems: Dynamics of Prehispanic Farming Societies in the Northern San Juan and the Northern Rio Grande*. She is presenting a paper titled “Letting the Data Define the Terms: Mapping Community Size and Expanse in Mesa Verde Proper.” She is the junior author on a paper titled “Prolegomenon: VEP II, Almost in Retrospect.”

Stefani Crabtree (graduate student, Washington State University): \$300 for travel to the 79th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Austin. She is the lead author on a paper titled "The Development of Social Groups, Leadership and Inequality in the Central Mesa Verde," and junior author on a poster.



New AAHS T-Shirts Available

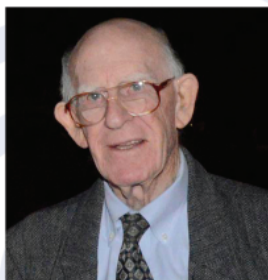
Black T-shirts sporting the new AAHS logo are now available in both a traditional cut and a slightly more tailored women's version (shown in photo). They can be ordered through the store on the AAHS website, or by sending a check made out to AAHS for \$18.00 (which includes postage) to Katherine Cerino, 8451 E. Tourmaline Drive, Tucson, AZ 85750 (kcerino@gmail.com). Specify style and size.

Cornerstone

Darlene Lizarraga, Director of Marketing
Arizona State Museum

GOSH ALMIGHTY, RAY IS NINETY!

You are cordially invited to join us to
celebrate Dr. Raymond H. Thompson's 90th birthday!



Saturday, May 10, 2014
6:00-6:45 p.m. Cocktails
6:45 - 8:00 p.m. Dinner and Program
Lodge on the Desert | Palm Room

In lieu of gifts, a \$90-per-person contribution to the
**Raymond H. & Molly K. Thompson
Fellowship Endowment**
is encouraged.

RSVP to Darlene Lizarraga dfli@email.arizona.edu
or 520-626-8381. Space is limited to 100 guests!



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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA.

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 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, 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: _____

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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.

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