

FROM THE ARCHIVES

As part of our 100th Anniversary Celebration, David Wilcox is contributing several articles on the deep history of AAHS. Here is the fourth.

AAHS in 1930

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Looking back, we can see that the year 1930 was a pivotal year in the history of the AAHS and anthropology at the University of Arizona (UA). Bryon Cummings' beloved wife and civic partner, Isabel, died on 11 November 1929. In April 1930, Dr. Homer Leroy Shantz was inaugurated as the new UA President, replacing Cummings, and a new stadium was dedicated, into which ASM fatefully moved its collections that summer. In January, Cummings, still UA President, declined to have ASM acquire the famous lead crosses, "swords," and other artifacts found near Silverbell Road, north of Tucson, thus quietly backing away from his earlier support (together with AAHS vice president A. E. Douglass) of their authenticity (*AZ Wildcat* 1926a; Bostwick 2006:125-144; Burgess 2009; see also *AZ Wildcat* 1926b).

On 10 May 1930, H. S. Gladwin offered Cummings' student Emil Walter Haury a job as assistant director of the private research institute Gila Pueblo in Globe, Arizona (Haury 1995; Emil W. Haury Papers, H. S. Gladwin correspondence, ASM Library), and so, Haury resigned as secretary of the AAHS, a role he had assumed as an undergraduate in the fall of 1926 (Hartmann and Urban 1991). His colleague Clara Lee Fraps [Tanner] replaced him, beginning her long association with the AAHS (Thompson 2016).

By October (*AZ Wildcat* 1930a), the mistake of moving the ASM collections to a basement of the new stadium was all too clear: water seepage was causing terrible damage, including mildew on the mummies, leading Cummings to appeal to the UA building committee for new quarters, which he was successful in acquiring six

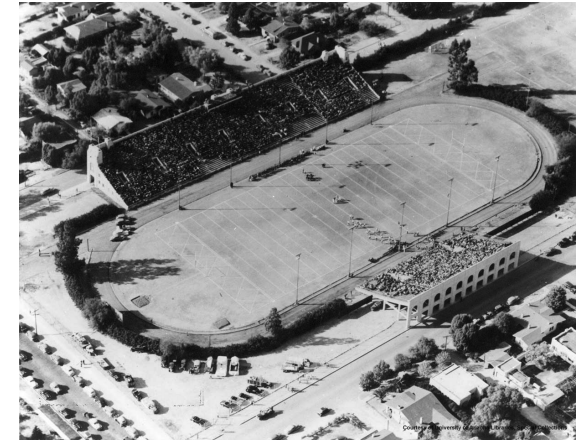
years later (*AZ Wildcat* 1935, 1936; Bostwick 2006; Thompson 2005).

The January 1930 AAHS program was devoted to a new project, old Fort Lowell; there were historical talks by members Dr. Ida Reid Leonard, Mose Drachman, and Clara Fish Roberts (the first UA alumna), while UA Spanish

professor Anita Calneh Post sang old Tucson songs, Cummings' student Marie Louise Gunst performed an interpretative dance, and Margarita Casteneda performed Mexican folk dances (AAHS Archives). A. E. Douglass spoke in February about tree-ring dating, and Bert Underwood spoke in March about a visit to the tomb of Tutankhamen, while Cummings talked about the people of ancient Egypt (see also Romano 2016). In April, an excursion to the Martinez Hill Ruins south of Tucson was arranged for the Southwest Division of the AAAS, and in May, they held a picnic at old Fort Lowell.

After the summer expedition to northern Arizona, as was customary, Cummings and some of his students (Clara Lee Fraps, Murel Hanna, and Walter B. Ormsby) reported on their work (see also *AZ Wildcat* 1930b, 1930c). In November, Florence Hawley [Ellis] spoke about her impressions of old Mexico, and Cummings' students William Sidney Stallings Jr. reported on the ruins of Chaco Canyon and John Carter McGregor on early pithouses near Flagstaff, Arizona. The December meeting was a party held in Herring Hall, where an old-fashioned ball was staged, and \$90.85 was raised to help build a fence around old Fort Lowell.

Later, in March 1932, the society paid Tucson City Engineer Glenton Sykes \$35.00 to map the Fort Lowell Park, including the old



Arizona Stadium, circa 1938.

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buildings and proposed roads. In the first issue of *The Kiva*, Byron Cummings (1935) reported that, in 1931, the State Land Board leased 40 acres of Old Fort Lowell to the University of Arizona, which was to maintain it as a park. The University and the Tucson Chamber of Commerce then bought out the leasehold. The AAHS, with the help of archaeology department students, “cleaned up the premises, filled in the holes under buildings that had been dug out by treasure hunters, deepened and cemented the well, put in a pump, had the land surveyed, and arranged with the county supervisors and Mr. Jordan to run the road along the northern side of the park and thus prevent people from using the numerous roads that had crossed the area in every direction.” A Civil Works Administration project was subsequently initiated, which managed to fence about half the central 20 acres with an adobe wall, but then funding ceased.

Suggested Readings:

Arizona Wildcat

- 1926a Dean Cummings back from trip East where he argued for authenticity of leaden crosses. Vol. XIV(30), p. 3. Tucson.
- 1926b Doubts authenticity of Silverbell finds; works of artifacts either done intentionally to deceive or is work of demented man is opinion of Dr. [Frank] Fowler [professor of classical languages, UA]. Vol. XIV(39), p. 5. Tucson.
- 1930a Museum needed by University, says Cummings; excessive dampness in present building destroying valuable relics; room too small; Archaeology Department Head suggests that new building be erected. Vol. XX(11), p. 1. Tucson.
- 1930b Archaeologists assemble work of primitive people; Pueblo civilization material is gathered by field expedition. Vol. XX(4), p. 1. Tucson.
- 1930c Dr. Cummings explores cave on summer trip. Vol. XX(4), p. 4. Tucson.
- 1935 Interior of Arizona State Museum. Vol. XXV(1), p. 1. Tucson.
- 1936 Museum moves into quarters in newly completed building. Vol. XXV(25), p. 1. Tucson.

Bostwick, Todd

2006 *Byron Cummings: Dean of Southwest Archaeology*. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

Burgess, Don

2009 Romans in Tucson?: The Story of an Archaeological Hoax. *Journal of the Southwest* 51(1):3–102.

Cummings, Byron

1935 Old Fort Lowell Park. *The Kiva* 1(1):4.

Hartmann, Gayle Harrison, Sharon F. Urban (Shurban)

1991 The Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society: Its First Seventy-Five Years. *Kiva* 56:329–357.

Haury, Emil Walter

1995 Wherefore a Harvard Ph.D.? *Journal of the Southwest* 37:710–733.

Romano, Irene Bald

2016 Old World Meets New World: Biography of a Museum Collection. *Journal of the Southwest* 58:189–236.

Thompson, Raymond Harris

2005 Anthropology at the University of Arizona, 1893–2005. *Journal of the Southwest* 47:327–374.

2016 Arch and Hist Ancestors. *Glyphs* 66(11):2–14.