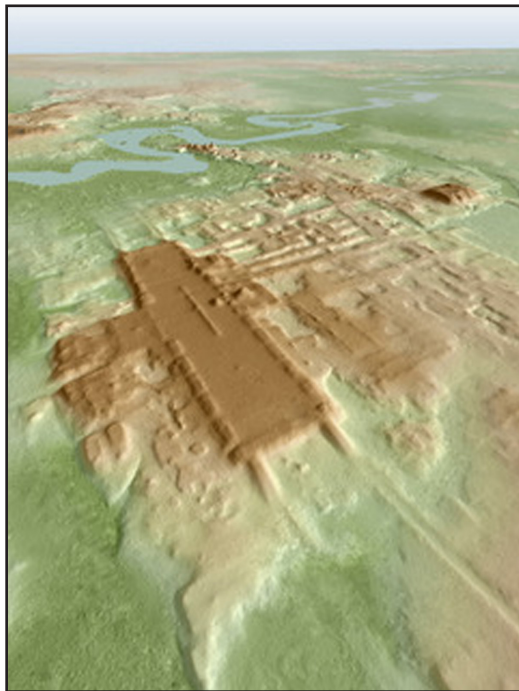


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The Monthly Newsletter of the
Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society

Vol. 72, No. 3

September 2021



Next General Meeting:
September 20, 2021
7:00 pm (MST)

AAHS@Home (Zoom webinar)
www.az-arch-and-hist.org

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President's Message

by John D. Hall

Dear AAHS Members,

This month's President's Message will continue with our AAHS Board of Director biographies! This month, I am pleased to introduce Erica LeClaire. Erica is a graduate student in the University of Arizona's College of Architecture, Planning, and Landscape Architecture, and she recently accepted a job as the lead preservationist with a historic preservation non-profit in North Carolina! Erica is the AAHS Communications Officer and Student Representative. Here is Erica's story, in her own words.

Since I was very young, my interests in life have been pretty well defined. Though I'm no longer figure skating, my passion for history, especially public history, has only grown. I would be the kid in the library reading biographies of Sojourner Truth or Annie Oakley or Benjamin Franklin. Even the fiction I would read and cartoons I watched included stories about the past. Because of this, it isn't a surprise that I received a Bachelor's degree in History. Through that, I was able to explore many different topics in history, but also the adjacent fields within anthropology, including archaeology. I assisted my classmates in their senior research for experimental prehistoric mining projects and even took a class in Pictish archaeology while I studied abroad in Scotland. These experiences have informed my understanding of how various fields in the social sciences are interconnected.

After completing my undergrad, I moved with my now husband to Rochester, Minnesota (home of the Mayo Clinic) to work at the local history center. Here, I managed the tours of the Mayowood Mansion, home of one of the founders of the Mayo Clinic.

It was a cool place and an interesting job, but I found out pretty quickly that I didn't want to be giving tours. Something that became really intriguing, though, was learning about the extensive restoration project that was completed just before I started working there. From



Interior of the Mayowood Mansion, with holiday decorations.

stopping the mansion from sliding down a hill to refinishing floors, I loved learning about the treasures hidden in the double walls and how the project came together. This project is what led me to Tucson and the University of Arizona.

I started looking at graduate programs while completing my bachelor's but wasn't able to find the right fit, especially because I wasn't sure exactly in which direction I should go. A family visit brought me to Tucson while I was researching what kinds of degrees are available to people who want to work with old buildings, places, and things. While I was visiting, I took the opportunity to meet with people who were involved in the heritage conservation program at the University of Arizona. This was a great meeting, and I was accepted as a student in the School of Architecture not too long after that meeting.

Through grad school, I've been able to continue exploring how complementary different fields are to each other, well-described by my involvement in the heritage conservation program. My degree is research based and focused on architecture, but I have learned how to make connections to research in archaeology, ethnography, chemistry, climate science, and digital landscapes, among many other fields.

I have helped plan and create exhibitions about women who contributed to the Bauhaus movement, as well as worked to develop

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a neighborhood preservation plan with a group.

I've only recently joined AAHS, so my background with the organization isn't long, but I've been able to learn so much about the region and gained greater insight for how culture, community, and places come together. It has added to my appreciation of how interdisciplinary understanding can be an integral part of working in any field.



Interior of the Mission San José de Tumacácori.



AAHS Lecture Series

AAHS will continue to bring you lectures through AAHS@Home and Zoom at least through November 2021. We are in the process of planning the transition to in-person lectures with livestream, providing the option for people to either attend in person or continue to participate virtually. More on this later!

- Sept. 20, 2021: Takeshi Inomata and Daniela Triadan, *Early Formal Ceremonial Complexes and Olmec-Maya Interaction*
- Oct. 18, 2021: Chris Loendorf, *Eastern Pueblo Immigrants on the Middle Gila River*
- Nov. 15, 2021: Traditional Technologies Speakers, 2019 AAHS *Traditional Technologies Seminar. Learning and Sharing in Oaxaca, Mexico: Cross-Cultural Exchanges among U.S. Puebloan Weavers, Southwestern Textile Scholars, and Oaxacan Weavers*

September 20: Topic of the General Meeting

Early Formal Ceremonial Complexes and Olmec-Maya Interaction

Takeshi Inomata and Daniela Triadan

The origins of Maya civilization and its relation with Olmec civilization have long been debated. To examine this question, we have been conducting archaeological investigations at Ceibal, Guatemala, and in the Middle Usumacinta region in southeastern Mexico. In Mexico, we identified the site of Aguada Fénix, with a rectangular artificial plateau measuring 1,400 m in length and dating to 1,050–750 BC. This is the largest and oldest monumental construction in the Maya area. This find encouraged us to expand our study of similar formal ceremonial complexes by analyzing lidar data. By examining low-resolution lidar obtained by the Mexican government, we covered an area of 85,000 km², including the Olmec region and the western Maya lowlands. The identifications of many complexes, most of which were unknown to archaeologists before our research, transform current understanding of the emergence of Mesoamerican civilizations.



Speaker Takeshi Inomata is a Professor in the School of Anthropology at the University of Arizona. He has been conducting archaeological investigations at Aguateca and Ceibal, Guatemala, and in the Middle Usumacinta region, Mexico, to examine social change in southern Mesoamerica. His publications include: Monumental Architecture at Aguada Fénix and the Rise of Maya Civilization (Nature 2020) and Early Ceremonial Constructions at Ceibal, Guatemala, and the Origins of Lowland Maya Civilization (Science 2013).

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Speaker Daniela Triadan is a Professor in the School of Anthropology at the University of Arizona. She has conducted extensive field and laboratory research in the American Southwest and Mesoamerica. Her projects in the Southwest include two large-scale studies on late prehistoric polychrome production and distribution, one centered on White Mountain Red Ware from east-central Arizona and the other on Chihuahua Polychrome from the Casas Grandes region in Chihuahua, Mexico. Her research in the Maya area includes work in Belize, and she co-directed the Aguateca Archaeological Project in Guatemala in the 1990s and early 2000s. Excavations of elite residential structures at the epicenter of this rapidly abandoned city revealed the richest in situ floor assemblages found to date at a Classic Maya site, providing a unique opportunity for reconstructing Classic Maya household organization. At the Guatemalan site of Ceibal and the Mexican site of Aguada Fénix, she and her colleagues are investigating the processes involved in the foundation of Maya civilization.



Suggested Readings:

- Inomata, Takeshi, Jessica MacLellan, Daniela Triadan, Jessica Munson, Melissa Burham, Kazuo Aoyama, Niroo Nasu, Flory Pinzon, and Hitoshi Yonenobu
2015 Development of Sedentary Communities in the Maya Lowlands: Coexisting Mobile Groups and Public Ceremonies at Ceibal, Guatemala. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 112:4268–4273.
- Inomata, Takeshi, Daniela Triadan, Kazuo Aoyama, Victor Castillo, and Hitoshi Yonenobu
2013 Early Ceremonial Constructions at Ceibal, Guatemala, and the Origins of Lowland Maya Civilization. *Science* 340:467–471.
- Inomata, Takeshi, Daniela Triadan, Verónica A. Vázquez López, Juan Carlos Fernandez-Díaz, Takayuki Omori, María Belén Méndez Bauer, Melina García Hernández, Timothy Beach, Clarissa Cagnato, Kazuo Aoyama, and Hiroo Nasu
2020 Monumental Architecture at Aguada Fenix and the Rise of Maya Civilization. *Nature* 582:530–533.

Registration for this lecture is open to the public, but you must pre-register at <http://bit.ly/InomataSept21REG>

Current Research

A Summary of Recent Survey Efforts on the Mesa Verde North Escarpment

*Kelsey M. Reese
University of Notre Dame*

The Mesa Verde North Escarpment (Escarpment) is a topographically defined space in the northern U.S. Southwest, directly abutting the 600-m-high cliff face of the Mesa Verde cuesta and sloping downhill to the north “into a series of alluvial fans that are dissected by numerous incised drainages” (Larmore and Helton-Croll 2006:3) that eventually grade into the relatively flat Montezuma Valley below (Figure 1). Despite abutting the northern boundary of the heavily investigated Mesa Verde National Park, archaeological investigations on the Escarpment have been limited to a sporadic series of surveys for various construction, mitigation, and research projects.

Previous survey and excavation projects on the Escarpment have resulted in the recording of 94 habitation or civic-ceremonial structures across 8.6 km² located primarily within two aggregated communities occupied throughout the Pueblo II (AD 890–1145) and Pueblo III (AD 1145–1300) periods. Several years of survey efforts by the author (Reese 2021) – including fieldwork supported by the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society – have resulted in a total of 14.6 km² of full coverage pedestrian survey and the recording of an additional 79 habitation or civic-ceremonial



Figure 1.

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structures. Continuous survey coverage of the Escarpment has thus far revealed four highly aggregated community centers equispaced and continuously occupied throughout the Pueblo II and Pueblo III periods.

These communities include, from east to west: the Hindmarsh Community, the Line-of-Sites Community, the Hidden Valley Community, and the Two Gray Hills Community. The Escarpment communities have common attributes and organizational schema that make their composition unique in the region. Each community contains a formalized reservoir in the center built next to a local peak and a civic-ceremonial structure built on top of the local peak that is intervisible with all other community structures. An example of this configuration is shown in Figure 2 from the Hidden Valley Community looking south across the reservoir from the structure atop the local peak.

The standardized central location of reservoirs within each community center on the Escarpment contrasts with the typical placement of these features across the central Mesa Verde region during their initial construction in the Pueblo II period. Residents



Figure 2.

of the Escarpment communities constructed local landscapes that centralized water collection and storage by repeatedly prioritizing reservoir placement. Parallel organization of each Escarpment community through time suggests an intentional reproduction of prevailing ideologies emphasizing the importance of collecting and storing water that transcended repeated periods of extreme drought, poor agricultural production, increased violence, emigration and immigration, and regional changes in social, political, economic, and ceremonial systems of practice. The intentional pairing of each reservoir with an adjacent local peak, in conjunction with construction of a civic-ceremonial structure on each of those peaks, suggests these artificially constructed bodies of water were integral to both the subsistence and ceremonial needs of each Escarpment community throughout the Pueblo II and Pueblo III periods.

Upcoming fieldwork efforts will complete a full coverage pedestrian survey across the base of the Escarpment and expand farther south into areas within Mesa Verde National Park. After completing this fieldwork, attention will be turned to the water collection and storage capacity of each reservoir and the degree to which these features could have supported their local populations during periods of extreme drought.

References Cited:

Larmore, Sean, and Kathleen Helton-Croll

- 2006 Cultural Resource Inventory of the Highline Phase 1 Fuel Management Project, Montezuma County, Colorado. Bureau of Land Management, Durango, Colorado.

Reese, Kelsey M.

- 2021 Resilient Communities of the Mesa Verde North Escarpment, AD 890–1300. Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana.

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.

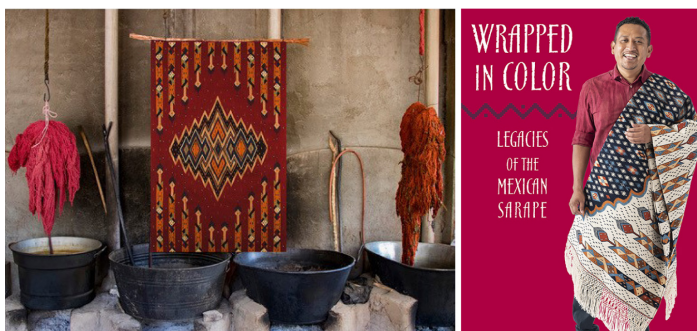
Cornerstone

*Darlene Lizarraga, Director of Marketing
Arizona State Museum*

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LEGACIES OF THE MEXICAN SARAPE



Fall 2021 Gallery Hours
Tuesday - Friday
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

This exhibit features the work of Zapotec textile artist Porfirio Gutiérrez.

Join us on Saturday, October 23, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.,
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weaving demonstrations by Porfirio Gutiérrez,
and hands-on activities. Free admission all day.

Check our website for more online and in-person
programs celebrating this exhibit:
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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. If you are joining as a household, please list all members of the household. Monthly meetings are free and open to the public. Society field trips require membership.

Membership Categories

- ☐ \$60 **Kiva members** receive four issues of the Society's quarterly journal *Kiva* and 12 issues of *Glyphs*
- ☐ \$45 **Glyphs members** receive *Glyphs*
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I wish to receive *Glyphs* by (circle your choice): Email Mail Both

I am interested in volunteering in AAHS activities: Yes Not at this time

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You can join online at www.az-arch-and-hist.org, or by mailing the form below to:

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