



glyphs

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society

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June 2024



Next General Meeting:

June 17, 2024

7:00 pm (MST)

AAHS@Home (Zoom webinar)

aaahs1916.org

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President's Message

by Rich Lange, President

Thanks everyone for voting for the new and continuing officers and board members! Your old (as in existing, not because of age, of course!) officers and board members are still hard at work on wrapping some things up and moving ahead on things that will continue into the next year with the new officers and board members. Thanks to those of you who are retiring, thanks to those who are returning in their same or new positions, and a big welcome to all the new members of the administration in their roles as officers! We are looking forward to completing some things we started and meeting new challenges with the accumulated expertise and experiences of the AAHS board members, new and old. Several ex-officers and board members continue to serve AAHS with their historical memories and enthusiasm – you know who you are! Thanks!



Many AAHS committees are hard at work, searching for a new *KIVA* editor (Publications), preparing the annual audit and evaluating our investments (Treasurer and Finances), reviewing and updating our bylaws and operations manual (Bylaws and Ops Man), reviewing nominees and applicants for various awards and grants (Awards and Research & Travel). Thanks to all of those committee chairs and members that are working on these important aspects of AAHS!

The AAHS Oral History Project is also moving along. More and more videos are being made of individuals with important connections to anthropological, archaeological, and historical legacies studying and describing people and places in the diverse and intriguing areas of the U.S. Southwest and Northern Mexico. You can find links to those videos on the AAHS website: aahs1916.org.

Finally, the Young Professionals Committee has promoted many good things in their inaugural year: increased promotion of the

research and travel grants among their colleagues, participation in national forums in which the professional and avocational communities come together for common goals, and initiation of a Winter Party that was one more step of getting us all out of “pandemic mode” and back out to experiencing and sharing opportunities with each other.

The next several months will be busy. There are lectures in June and July, although those will only be remote (Zoom) lectures. You will get reminders about those over social media. There is no lecture in August, because we hope you might join in the fun and learning at the Pecos Conference (this year in the Chino Valley/Prescott area). Then we’ll be back to hybrid lectures in September.

Have a safe start to the summer! We wish you much success in your projects and travels and will look forward to hearing about all of them when we get together at the Pecos Conference or at other opportunities as school starts back up and we get into the Fall!



AAHS Lecture Series

Lectures are offered in a hybrid format, presented in-person at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Building ENR2, Agnese Nelms Haury Lecture Hall, Room 107, and simultaneously through Zoom.

NOTE: The June, July, and December 2024 lectures will be via Zoom only.

- June 17, 2024: Linda Gregonis, *What's In a Symbol? A Look at Hohokam Art and Imagery* (Zoom only; no in-person lecture)
- July 15, 2024: Kellam J. Throgmorton, *TBD* (Zoom only; no in-person lecture)
- Aug. 2024: No lecture (Pecos Conference)
- Sept. 16, 2024: Suzanne Eckert, *TBD*
- Oct. 21, 2024: Richard Ahlstrom, *TBD*
- Nov. 18, 2024: Brooks Jeffery and Backy Orozco, *Camp Naco*
- Dec. 16, 2024: Chuck Adams, *TBD* (Zoom only; no in-person lecture)

June 17: Topic of the General Meeting

What's in a Symbol? A Look at Hohokam Art and Imagery

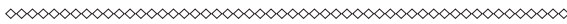
Linda Gregonis

All cultures use symbols to convey ideas. In archaeological contexts, those symbols have become ways to define and differentiate archaeological cultures. But what did the symbols mean to the artisans who created them? The art that Hohokam craftspeople produced embodied the world (seen and unseen) as they understood it. They were influenced by weather, animals they encountered, plants they grew and used, pilgrimages they made, other people they met, and their ancestors. They translated their experiences into art, creating iconic motifs that were shared across a wide region. Using objects, design elements, and motifs that were made and used during the Preclassic period (circa AD 600–1150), Linda Gregonis will discuss how the Hohokam may have used symbols on different media including pottery, shell, stone, and rock art to define group identity and express their view of the world.



***This lecture is free, but for Zoom attendance, you must
pre-register at: https://bit.ly/2024JuneGregonis_REG***

Speaker Linda Gregonis is an independent researcher with a master's degree in anthropology from the University of Arizona. She has spent more than 40 years researching various aspects of Hohokam culture while working primarily as a ceramics analyst for various cultural resources management (CRM) companies in Tucson and Phoenix. Linda has published extensively in CRM literature, as well as other venues. She is interested in public education in archaeology and has taught for Elderhostel/Road Scholar and the archaeology program at the Cooper Environmental Center. She has also been the editor for Kiva and has prepared numerous indexes for archaeology, history, and environmental science books published by university presses. Linda is currently the editor of the University of Arizona Anthropological Papers.



UPCOMING AAHS FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are only available to current AAHS members and are limited to 20 people unless otherwise noted. For more information or to sign up, email aahs1916@gmail.com.

Flagstaff, Arizona June 8–9, 2024

Peter Pillis, forest archeologist for the Coconino National Forest, will lead a two-day trip to sites in the Flagstaff area. Day 1 will include Ridge Ruin, Turkey Hill, and Elden Pueblo. Day 2 will require a high clearance vehicle. AAHS can help organize car pooling for those who do not have a high-clearance vehicle.



Bear's Ear, September 2024 Perry Mesa, October 2024

Planning is in progress for tentative trips to Bear's Ears (September 2024) and Perry Mesa (October 2024).

POSITION OPEN
EDITOR FOR *KIVA* (VOLUMES 91–93)

The Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society seeks an editor for *Kiva: The Journal of Southwestern Anthropology and History*. *Kiva* is the premier Southwest journal and has published peer-reviewed articles about archaeology, anthropology, history, and linguistics since 1935. The journal has a print circulation to AAHS members and a regional, national, and international distribution, with digital access through Routledge (a subsidiary of Taylor & Francis Publishing) and JSTOR. The journal is indexed by SCOPUS and the Emerging Sources Citation Index. The editor is an independent contractor who accepts and solicits manuscripts for publication in four issues per year, maintains the journal's established high standards of professional quality, and works in coordination with a book review editor and Routledge editorial, production, and marketing team. Routledge provides some training to the editor for online article submission, tracking, and publishing. A graduate student internship to assist with journal promotion and editorial tasks is currently in development. The editor also has a working relationship with the Society's Publications Committee and Board of Directors through a contract covering three volume years with an option for renewal. Compensation is \$2,500 per issue (\$10,000 per year).

Please visit <https://aahs1916.org/> for more information.

January 2025 is the proposed start date. Please send a letter of interest and curriculum vitae by July 01, 2024, to: Sarah Herr, Ph.D., Chair, *Kiva* Acquisitions Editor Search Committee, sherr@desert.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.

Current Research

Investigating Post-Casas Grandes Cultural Change in Northwest, Chihuahua, Mexico

*Jaron T. Davidson
University of Oklahoma*

The overarching purpose of this research was to begin investigations into material remains left by the Native population present in the Casas Grandes Valley just before and at the time of European contact (Tardío period). This article describes the results of a two-week preliminary survey I conducted in the summer of 2023 in the Casas Grandes Valley, Chihuahua, Mexico. Due to the ephemeral nature of Tardío sites, the survey included a mix of site



Stone features at Arroyo de Los Monos.

revisits, pedestrian surface reconnaissance, and local resident collaboration. This diversity of methods led to mixed results, but archaeological data likely dating to the Tardío period was found and provides a path forward for post-Casas Grandes research.

The people who inhabited northwestern Chihuahua before the arrival of Europeans built

a major urban center called Paquimé and exerted influence across the Casas Grandes region (circa AD 1200–1450) (Pailes and Searcy 2022). Little is known about the fall of Paquimé and the descendants of Casas Grandes. No modern or historic population has conclusively

This work was partially supported by a 2023 Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society Research and Travel Grant.

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been identified as a descendant community. The first European to record entering the valley reported that the inhabitants of the valley at the time, the Suma, claimed Paquimé's people left the region after being attacked (Hammond and Rey 1928). This one claim led most subsequent researchers to dismiss ties between the preceding Casas Grandes people and the historic Suma and surrounding groups, opting instead for a narrative of replacement (Douglas and Brown 2023; Naylor 1969). The Spanish colonial record is also limited, as Colonial officials failed to keep records as detailed as those in Sonora, New Mexico, and other provinces. Nevertheless, Spaniards described the Suma and other groups in Chihuahua as generally nomadic foragers.

Given that Tardío period sites have gone unidentified by previous formal surveys, I took a few different approaches. The first involved visiting previously recorded sites that had indications of Colonial remains or otherwise appeared different from typical Casas Grandes sites. The second involved a systematic pedestrian survey on landscapes that had not



Stone features at La Escondida.



Thermal feature at San Antonio de Padua.



Plain ware ceramics at San Antonio de Padua.



Historical artifacts found by local rancher at La Escondida.



Projectile point found by local rancher at La Escondida.

been targeted by previous surveys. The third approach required finding landowners and/or collectors who could take me to sites of interest. For the latter two, I worked with local officials to recruit volunteers.

Of some six revisited sites, only two contain potential Tardio period data. The first is an Archaic Trincheras site, Boquilla de San Diego (Hard and Roney 2020). At the top, I found plain Casas Grandes buff ware mixed with

eighteenth to nineteenth century rancharo debris. The second was at the excavated San Antonio de Padua Mission site. Original maps from Di Peso (1974) show that not much was investigated on the east of the main church structure. Hard and Roney suspected little to be present except a low garden retaining wall. I identified an area where exposed features appear to be untouched small structures and middens.

I targeted two areas for formal pedestrian surveys, Arroyo de Los Monos and El Potro Arroyo, which are minor drainages within foothills to the south and northwest of Paquimé, respectively. Of the two, I encountered archaeological remains only in Arroyo de Los Monos. The pedestrian survey followed the lower arroyo and revealed eight separate ephemeral features made up mostly of aligned or stacked stones. Three sites potentially represent the Tardio period

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based on associated lithic scatters, shallow sediment deposits, and proximity to historic remains.

I was shown four Medio period mound sites through collaboration with local landowners. One rancher gave me a tour of La Escondida, an isolated mountain range on the eastern edge of the Casas Grandes Valley. Half a dozen rockshelters were recorded that, based on ceramics, date from the Archaic to the Medio period. I was also shown three separate stone feature sites near Spanish-style rock inscriptions and historic artifacts that suggest later site use typical of highly mobile groups.

This short, limited survey provides evidence that future research into post-Casas Grandes archaeology is feasible but requires a creative approach.

Thanks goes to the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society for funding this project. I also thank Matthew Pailes, Marc Levine, Michael Searcy, Adrian Perez, and Julian Hernandez for guiding and facilitating the fieldwork.

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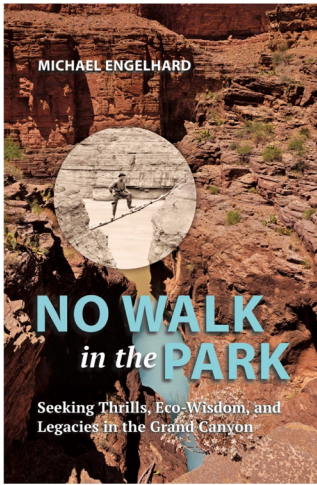
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NO WALK IN THE PARK

SEEKING THRILLS, ECO-WISDOM, AND LEGACIES IN THE GRAND CANYON

By Michael Engelhard

Nature / Travel / Grand Canyon

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A trained anthropologist, **MICHAEL ENGELHARD** worked for twenty-five years as an educator and wilderness guide in Alaska and on the Colorado Plateau. His recent books include the memoir *Arctic Traverse* and the Alaska essay collection *What the River Knows*.

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*Darlene Lizarraga, Director of Marketing
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ASM TO CLOSE AUGUST 1 FOR MAJOR MAINTENANCE



The plumbing situation in the first-floor bathrooms.

We are preparing for major infrastructure upgrades to our 100-year-old North Building to occur over the course of the next few years. Upgrades will focus on the electrical and plumbing systems, HVAC, fire alarms, smoke detectors, and sprinkler systems. To get things started, we will close the North Building to the public on August 1 for an initial round of asbestos and lead paint abatement. Beyond that, scheduling uncertainties abound.



The disruptions will, at different times, either impede or completely prevent our ability to provide access to the collections in the North Building (loan requests, research requests, tour requests). We welcome your inquiries and will happily consider each one on a case-by-case basis, but please be advised that we may not be as accessible as we would like to be. We apologize in advance for any denials we may have to issue.

Operations and Mandated Programs in the South Building will not be affected.

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. 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*
- \$35 **Student Kiva members** receive both *Kiva* and *Glyphs*
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Note: For memberships outside the U.S., please add \$20. AAHS does not release membership information to other organizations.

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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:

Deil Lundin, Acting Vice-President for Membership
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