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The Monthly Newsletter of the
Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society

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February 2025



Next General Meeting:
Zoom Only
February 17, 2025
7:00 pm (MST)
AAHS@Home (Zoom webinar)
aahs1916.org

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President's Message

by Rich Lange, President

It's the time in our AAHS annual cycle when the Nominating Committee is being formed and they start beating the bushes to flush out possible candidates for our officers and board members. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please suggest the names to us! Your reward is not to be picked off by the dogs or hunters, but instead, to serve and lead a great organization into the future! Find out more about our history and our publications (*Kiva* and *Glyphs*) and programs at aahs1916.org.



In addition to lectures and field trips, AAHS manages and organizes several activities and interests. One of the important things AAHS does involves managing funds for grants that go primarily to students and young professionals in the fields of anthropology, archaeology, and history. The grants support research for degrees and theses, as well as for travel to conduct research and to collaborate and learn from others at regional and national meetings.

AAHS also supports acquisitions and projects in the Arizona State Museum Library and Archives. Funds raised through spring and fall book sales support this



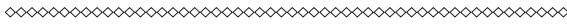
commitment, and the book sales are a great way to become involved with AAHS. Another sale will be held in early March 2025, and we can use help getting the sale organized and in selling books. The book sales usually occur on the lawn in front of the Arizona State Museum on the University of Arizona campus. If you would like to volunteer to help, please let us know!

Another AAHS activity involves filming and editing oral histories of important figures in regional anthropology, archaeology, and history. Many of these are available on YouTube and can be easily found through our website. Check them out!

We hope that in early January you were able to take advantage of our silent auction for very early Christmas shopping for 2025 and



to support the research and travel grants noted above. It was also a great opportunity to share an afternoon with other AAHS members and to learn about the history of southern Arizona, Tucson, Ft. Lowell, and the San Pedro Chapel. That dreaded month (April) is rapidly approaching with that dreaded tax deadline. We humbly suggest that planning via your estate or making a timely donation could be an impactful way to increase and support AAHS programs! Anything you can give or volunteer in time will be greatly appreciated throughout the organization! Thank you!



AAHS Lecture Series

NOTE: Lectures are all now via Zoom only.

- Feb. 17, 2025: Maren Hopkins and Kelsey Hanson, *Los Barros de Juan Quezada: Land Use and Composition*
- March 17, 2025: Anna Cohen, *Discussions about Seasonal Settlement Patterns in Tropical Regions, Orientation and in Non-Mayan Mesoamerica*
- April 21, 2025: R. E. Burrillo, *Below and Beyond Perry Mesa: The Archaeology of Greater West Verde*
- May 19, 2025: Angela Huster, *Aztec Conquest of the Toluca Valley*
- June 16, 2025: Marion Forest, *Recent Research on the Decline of Mesoamerican Teotihuacan: Reconfiguring a City from the Margins*
- July 21, 2025: Jakob Sedig, *Ancient DNA Work Done in Western and Northern Mexico*
- Aug. 2025: No lecture: Pecos Conference
- Sept. 15, 2025: Gary Huckleberry, *Decline of Hohokam Culture Based on Soil Desalinization*
- Oct. 21, 2025: Eric Cox, *TBD*
- Nov. 17, 2025: George Tinseth, *History of Aviation in Arizona*

February 17: Topic of the General Meeting

Los Barros de Juan Quezada: Land Use and Composition

Maren Hopkins and Kelsey Hanson



Juan Quezada is a well-known ceramicist from the village of Mata Ortiz, Chihuahua, Mexico, who spent his lifetime studying the rocks and minerals near his home. While Mr. Quezada's contribution to the internationally renowned Mata Ortiz pottery tradition is well established, his knowledge of the physical environment remains an understudied aspect of his life's work. In an effort to highlight this important component of Juan Quezada's legacy, we documented various clay sources near Mata Ortiz and studied them compositionally using techniques common in archaeology, including neutron activation analysis (NAA), x-ray fluorescence (XRF), x-ray diffraction (XRD), and petrography. As the project progressed, the story of Juan Quezada's clays evolved into a rich narrative of personal and shared experiences, history, land tenure, geology, toponomy, and more. Juan Quezada's story brought the land to life. The compositional component of the project led to a new understanding of identity through the materialization of unique geological signatures expressed in each clay in terms of elements, minerals, and particles that are inherently tied to Mata Ortiz pots found on people's shelves and mantles worldwide.

Speaker Maren P. Hopkins is a managing member of Anthropological Research, LLC. She has worked for 23 years as an archaeologist and ethnographer and has been part of numerous projects of all scopes and scales across the U.S Southwest and Mexico. She specializes in collaborative and place-based research to understand history, traditions, land use practices, and personal and community perspectives. Ms. Hopkins is also a Research Associate with the School of Anthropology at the University of Arizona, where she works on similar types of ethnographic research. Ms. Hopkins lived in Mata Ortiz during her youth and learned to make pottery from Juan Quezada. She has remained life-long friends with the Quezada family.

Speaker Kelsey E. Hanson is a Ph.D. candidate in the School of Anthropology at the University of Arizona, where she specializes in the archaeology of the U.S. Southwest. Her work operates at the intersections of anthropological archaeology, conservation science, and community-centered scholarship. Ms. Hanson's dissertation research is dedicated to reconstructing traditions of paint technology, communities of practice, and early governance in the Chaco World and has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the Smithsonian Institution, P.E.O. International, the Getty Foundation, and others.

Suggested Reading

- O'Connor, Richard D., and Walter P. Parks. 1994. *The Pottery and Potters of Mata Ortiz, Chihuahua. Kiva* 60(1).
- O'Connor, Richard D., and Walter P. Parks. 2023. *They Called It Pearson: The History of Mata Ortiz and the Casas Grandes Valley*. Parks O'Connor Publishing, San Diego and Riverside, California.
- Parks, Walter P. 1993. *The Miracle of Mata Ortiz: Juan Quezada and the Potters of Northern Chihuahua*. The Coulter Press, Riverside, California.

This free lecture is offered via Zoom only. However, you must pre-register at: <https://bit.ly/4h9lowB>.

AAHS Used Book Sales Book Donations Once Again Accepted

Another successful Used Book Sale is in the books with more than \$3,000 raised for the ASM library. Thanks to the generosity of Desert Archaeology, Inc., we now have a place to store our inventory of books and to process new book donations.

We plan to be on the lawn in front of ASM during the March 15–16 Festival of Books. These sales could not happen without an incredibly dedicated bunch of folks who endured the 100-degree heat to set up, tear down, and sell books! Thanks to Mary Graham, Chris Sugnet, Wally Sugnet, Harlow Sires, John Cerino, Stan Ponczek, Andy Christenson, Paul Minnis, Pat Gilman, Noah Place, Fran Maiuri, Caroline Kingsley, Bill Gillespie, Lynn Ratener, Elizabeth Burt, Jim Bender, Madelyn Cook, Dave Wallace, Molly Stohert-Mauer, and Rich Lange. If you are interested in donating books, please contact Katherine Cerino, kcerino@gmail.com.

Guasave, Mexico: A Point of Contention between Mesoamerica and the Greater Southwest

Jose R. Vivero-Miranda

Guasave, located in northwest Mexico, holds special significance for Mesoamerican and U.S. Southwest archaeology. Works conducted by Gordon Ekholm at the El Ombligo site in Guasave during the late 1930s revealed the presence of ceramics featuring seemingly Mesoamerican iconography and non-local goods, collectively defined as the Aztatlan Tradition. These materials coexisted with the local, and purportedly Southwestern, Huatabampo archaeological tradition between AD 1100 and 1450. The results of the excavations of the El Ombligo mortuary mound positioned the Guasave region as a borderland between Mesoamerica and the Greater Southwest and as a point of contention in northwest Mexico's archaeological thought. These discussions continue about whether Guasave served as a hub within the interaction sphere linking West Mexico and the U.S. Southwest, and they hinge on the scant information available from this inadequately known region.

Beyond discussions that place the Guasave region as a key player between West Mexico and the Greater Southwest, the presence of foreign symbols in Guasave by AD 1100 suggests profound cultural and social transformations among the Huatabampo people. These changes, viewed through the lens of ethnogenesis, reveal a diversification of practices, including the adoption of new ceramic decorations, the circulation of non-local goods within specific social echelons, and new ways to treat and remember the deceased. Such evidence points to shifts in worldviews and social institutions, yet many aspects of these transformations remain inadequately understood. Addressing these gaps can deepen current

I want to thank the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society for supporting the first stage of this research. Also, I owe special appreciation to Patricia Gilman, John Carpenter, and Matthew Pailes for all the guidance and support in this project.



SIN-GS15. Shell middens site, Macapule Island, Guasave coastal area.

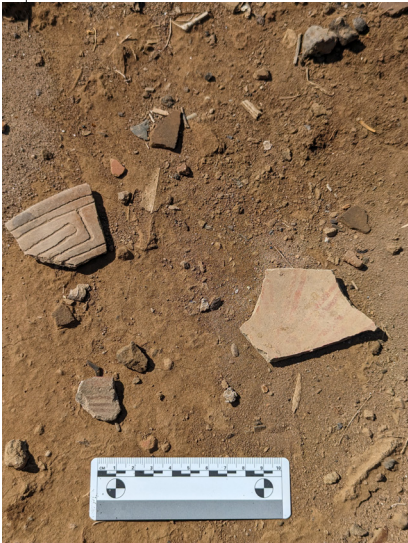
understanding about how Guasave became a borderland and can provide insights into how groups in ethnic and political shatter zones adapt and respond to external cultural influences.

To investigate these dynamics, an initial reconnaissance of the Lower Guasave River was conducted to document archaeological sites. This effort identified 15 previously unknown archaeological sites, offering new perspectives on interaction and integration at the intracommunity level. Surface findings, including Aztatlan and Huatabampo ceramics and Andara Tuberculosa shell species – available only in mangrove areas – suggest these sites were contemporaneously occupied and economically interconnected. However, the broad chronological range of local ceramic typologies, spanning approximately 600 years, makes these interpretations preliminary, and further analysis is essential to refine these inferences.

The recorded sites also provide insights into the emergence of social complexity in the region. For example, the SIN-GS15 site, a shell midden site spanning at least 10 km² in the coastal mangrove

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SIN-GS5. Surface Aztatlán Tradition ceramics: top left, Aguairuto Incised; mid-right, Guasave Red-on-buff.



SIN-GS15. Ceramic deposit.

zone, suggests the development of social complexity driven by hunter-gatherer-fisher economies. This challenges the long-held view that social complexity in Guasave emerged solely with the arrival of the Aztatlán tradition, instead pointing to a pre-existing dynamic and complex cultural landscape.

Preliminary settlement pattern analysis further indicates that the recorded sites were integrated within a broader politico-economic sphere. The widespread presence of *Andara tuberculosa* shells across all recorded sites suggests coastal groups controlled access to this resource, likely integrating neighboring

communities into shared social and economic dynamics. Such interactions may have played a role in shaping group identities and ethnicity. While speculative, these findings establish a baseline for future research, laying the ground work for a deeper understanding of how external influences and local

agency shaped the cultural trajectory of the Guasave region.

Future research will focus on exploring ethnogenesis among the Huatabampo groups through technological changes in domestic

red plainware ceramics. As it is still unknown what the Aztatlan tradition represented for the Huatabampo people, it is crucial to assess the extent and nature of these changes, particularly how they transformed aspects of Guasave social life, such as the practice of ceramic production. Additionally, provenance (source identification) studies will play a key role in understanding the presence of Aztatlan ceramics in Guasave – whether as imports or local emulations. Each possibility will present distinct implications for the region’s cultural dynamics and ultimately will aid in inferring what the Aztatlan tradition represented in Guasave.



SIN-GS15. Surface ceramics: Aztatlan Tradition ceramic, El Dorado Incised.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR AAHS BOARD MEMBERS

The success and vitality of AAHS is due to the dedicated volunteers who contribute their time and talent to make the Society the great organization it continues to be. Annual elections for AAHS officers and board members are in the spring, and we would like YOU to be involved! If you are interested in participating in the Society by serving on the board or know someone you think would be a good addition to the board, please email Sarah Herr (sherr@desert.com) by the end of February. Board positions are open to all members of the Society.

CALL FOR RESEARCH AND TRAVEL GRANT PROPOSALS

AAHS entertains proposals for Research and Travel Grant Awards each year between January 1 and February 15. Membership in AAHS is required and all members are eligible to apply.

Research and Travel Grants Awards

AAHS Research Grants up to \$1,400 are awarded annually. Travel grants are also available for up to \$700 to support or

present research. Research in archaeology, anthropology, history, or ethnology in the U.S. Southwest or Northern Mexico is considered.



F. Lewis Orrell, Jr.–Carryl B. Martin Research Grant

This annual \$5,000 grant honors two of AAHS's benefactors, F. Lewis Orrell, Jr. and Carryl B. Martin, whose bequests to the Society made this award possible.

A single award of \$5,000 is given annually to a high-quality archaeological or historical research project that focuses on significant questions in the archaeology or history of the southwestern U.S. or Northern Mexico. In the spirit of the donors, projects that provide opportunities for participation by avocational researchers or collaboration with affiliated descendant communities are prioritized.

*PLEASE SEE THE AAHS WEBSITE aahs1916.org for grant details:
<https://aahs1916.org/grants-awards/>.*

Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society Newsflash!

AAHS has a new web address.
Check out the newly designed site at [AAHS1916.org](https://aahs1916.org).

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.

Membership Categories

- \$60 **Kiva members** receive four issues of the Society's quarterly journal, *Kiva* and 12 issues of our newsletter, *Glyphs*
- \$45 **Glyphs members** receive *Glyphs*
- \$20 **Student Kiva members** receive both *Kiva* and *Glyphs*
- \$100 **Contributing members** receive both *Kiva* and *Glyphs*
- \$150 **Supporting members** receive both *Kiva* and *Glyphs*
- \$300 **Sponsoring members** receive both *Kiva* and *Glyphs*
- \$1,500 **Lifetime members** receive both *Kiva* and *Glyphs*

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

Emily Jonsson, Vice-President for Membership
Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society
Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ 85721-0026

I wish to receive *Glyphs* (circle your choice): Digital Only Print and Digital

I wish to receive *Kiva* (circle your choice): Digital Only Print and Digital

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

Name: _____ Phone : _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

The objectives of the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society (AAHS) are to: encourage scholarly pursuits into the history and anthropology of the southwest United States and northwest Mexico; encourage the preservation of archaeological sites and historical properties; encourage the scientific and legal gathering of cultural information and materials; publish the results of these investigations; aid in the functions of the Arizona State Museum; and provide educational opportunities through lectures, field trips, and other activities.

AAHS considers the following to be contrary to the Society's objectives and enjoins its members, as a condition of membership, to abstain from the following: the practice of collecting and dealing in archaeological materials for personal gain; the excavation of archaeological sites or historic properties without permit or permission; and the unlawful or unethical acquisition of archaeological or ethnographic materials.

For your records, any portion of your payment over the basic \$60.00 membership may be tax deductible.

Officers

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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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