



New Mexico Archaeology

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF ARCHAEOLOGY

May 2014

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Eric Blinman PhD, OAS Director

OAS and Conservation staffs have had a chance to experience what the modern world of digital x-ray imaging can do for our respective research and work interests. In addition to enhancing the non-destructive observations we can make during our osteological studies, the digital x-ray allowed us to see structural details within carbonized baskets, to see through corrosion on metal artifacts, and to see forming details within pottery vessels. Conservation applied the demonstration to an immediate problem: revealing the complex fabrication decisions of the artist in making a huge folk art giraffe (not a pretty picture).

In a few days (before the Newsletter comes out), the two Department of Cultural Affairs divisions will also have the opportunity for intensive training in the use of portable x-ray fluorescence equipment. This equipment is designed for rapid and non-destructive elemental analyses, and depending on the precision and sensitivity of the hand-held version, the equipment may help us in both our characterization and sourcing studies of a variety of raw materials for stone tools, pottery paints, rock art pigments, and historic artifacts.

As exciting and invigorating as these possibilities are (all made possible by Don Pierce's bequest to OAS and Conservation), during the x-ray demonstration I was struck by the importance of the human element. OAS staff members are really talented people, and the new analytic equipment is just an extension of their knowledge, skill, and research imaginations. High-tech data gathering and analysis requires thoughtful and scientifically valid research designs and the experience to define problems whose answers are both achievable and relevant. Adding this equipment to the research program at CNMA is an accomplishment, but putting it into the hands of the right people will open not just doors but vistas for future research.

--Eric

REVISITING THE LA 3333 PROJECT

By R.N. Wiseman

Volunteer Project Manager and OAS Research Associate

Back in 1956 and again from 1990 to 1991 the Museum of New Mexico excavated (and re-excavated) a strip through LA 3333 for the highway department. Unfortunately, neither project produced final reports. Now, however, an effort is under way to rectify the situation. LA 3333 is an early Coalition period site (inhabited between A.D. 1200 and 1225/30) located along US 285 in the Galisteo Basin.

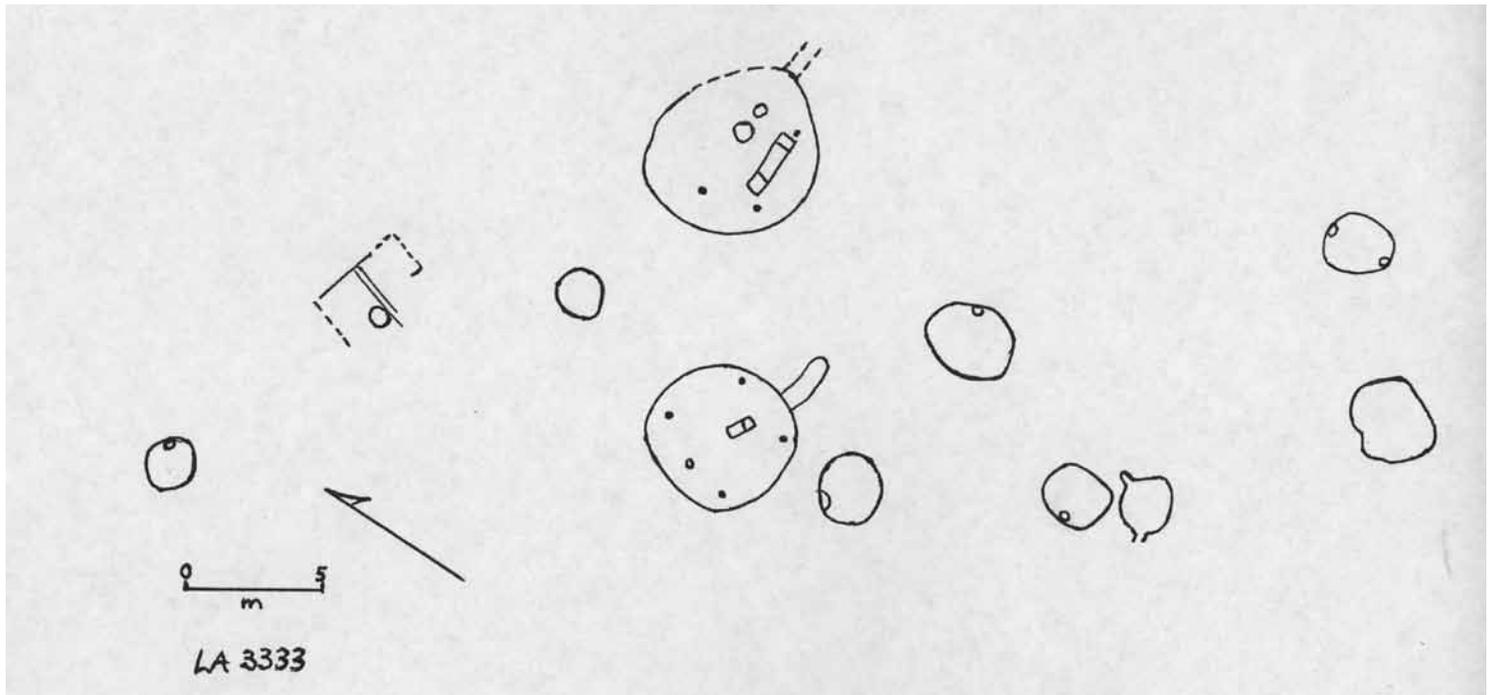
Not only is it highly desirable for all excavation projects to be fully written up, but LA 3333 is a special case. Just for starters, the primary structures uncovered at the site are pithouses. Since everyone familiar with Rio Grande prehistory knows that the residential structures of the Coalition period should be small- to medium-size pueblos, LA 3333 gained immediate attention from the archaeological community.

Initial studies of artifact collections including fauna and human burials began this past fall. Initial analysis of human burials from LA 3333 by Nancy Akins has revealed that inhabitants, appear to have different physical characteristics from the people who inhabited other Coalition period sites. That is, they were not typical prehistoric Rio Grande Ancestral Puebloan ("Anasazi") farmers. While researchers have been gradually realizing that prehistoric farmers inhabited the upper side drainages of the Middle Rio Grande rather late in time (the Rio Chama and Galisteo Basin, for instance), LA 3333 is an early example of just such a farming village but with the potential for an unexpected twist.

Most importantly, the inhabitants of LA 3333 appear to have been mobile peoples (i.e., hunter-gatherers) who settled down on the periphery of farming territory to try the farming way of life. There, they were in contact with peoples experienced in farming and pottery-making, and from whom they could have learned farming skills and acquire Santa Fe Black-on-white pottery. It is quite a shift from a mobile life-style of seasonally following game and travelling over wide areas to gather wild plant foods, to one of a relatively settled existence

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REVISITING THE LA 3333 PROJECT (CONT'D)



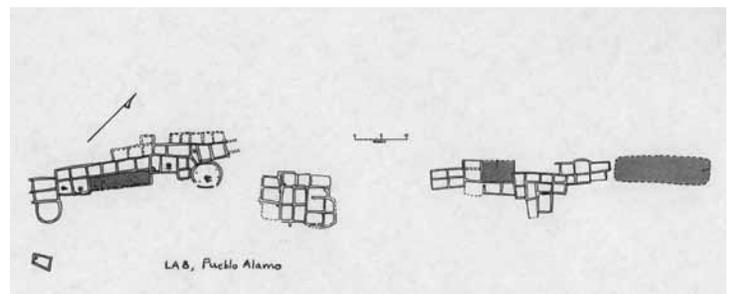
LA 3333 Site Map

continued from page 1

and groveling in the ground (as some Apaches saw it!) to grow your food.

The fauna assemblage from LA 3333 contains an especially large percentage of antelope remains, a fact that differs significantly from all other excavated Coalition period sites to date. Why would this be the case? Does a heavier reliance on antelope indicate that inhabitants of LA 3333 had greater access to antelope herds living on the plains east of the basin? Or, did the upper Galisteo Basin support local herds of antelope that were then depleted or scared-off by the arrival of large numbers of people who farmed and then stayed year-round? If the inhabitants of LA 3333 were former hunter-gatherers who had settled down to try the farming way of life, as one scenario suggests from the physical skeletal data, then one or even both scenarios regarding the antelope could be true.

Another fortunate development for the LA 3333 project is the authorization by the highway department to include analyses of collections from nearby Pueblo Alamo, LA 8, in the report for LA 3333. Pueblo Alamo, excavated for the highway department in 1970, consisted of 4 to 5 blocks of pueblo-style rooms, three of which were excavated by the Museum of New Mexico. Pueblo Alamo (hachured areas excavated by Nels C. Nelson in 1915) was occupied by Coalition period peoples sometime in the middle A.D. 1200s, or one or so human generations after the abandonment of LA 3333. Conceivably, descen-



Pueblo Alamo room blocks

dants from LA 3333 could have been among the LA 8 population. We need to know. Specifically, we want to learn to what degree the animal assemblage resembles that of LA 3333. The contrast may provide information about potential shifts in subsistence which result from resource availability as (we postulate) the population became more sedentary. Because transition to agriculture and resulting sedentism is reflected in physical characters, analysis of human burials from the site should shed light on whether or not the humans have similar physical traits as those from LA 3333. What were/are the relationship between the two populations, if any, and what do they mean? This opportunity to look into questions of population origins and relationships is both fascinating and timely with regard to the most current trends in Southwestern archaeological research.

So, “stay tuned” to see if these impressions are borne out by the analyses now in progress. I hope to have the completed manuscript pulled together before the end of 2014. ❖

ARCHAEOLOGY AT FORT STANTON HISTORIC SITE

by Anne Stodder PhD, OAS Project Director

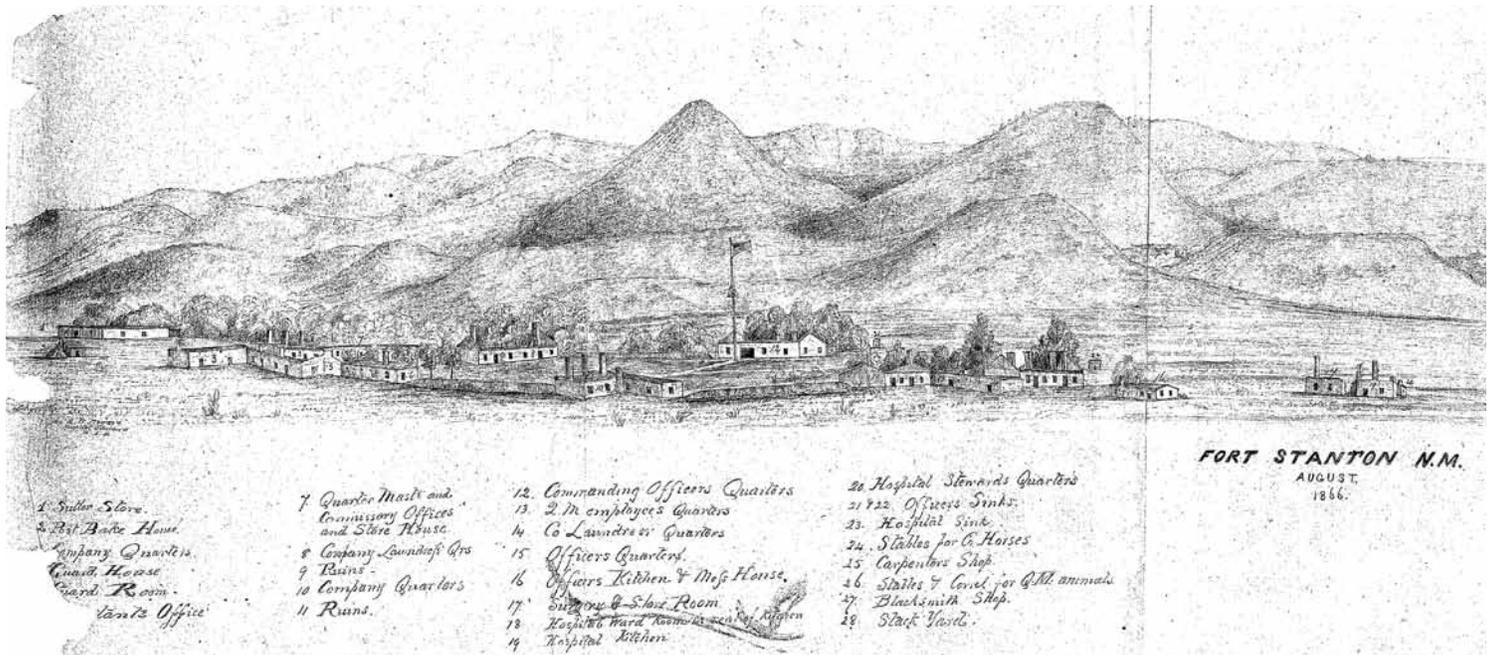


Image courtesy of Ft. Stanton Historic Monument

OAS has been working with NM State Monuments on the initial stages of developing a public archaeology program at Fort Stanton. Fort Stanton has had a long and intriguing history. The fort was established in 1855 by the U.S. Military, but it was later used, as a TB sanitarium from 1889 to 1953, a German internment camp during WWII, and later as a state hospital and women's prison. Fort Stanton became a New Mexico State Monument in 2007, and the new manager Larry Pope is very enthusiastic about involving the local community in an archaeology program, in conjunction with his painstaking restoration programs for the barracks and other buildings at the Fort that will increasingly make this another destination for visitors to the Lincoln – Capitan area.

The initial focus of our project is on finding the remains of the first store at the post. This was a "sutler's" store run by civilians but catering to the Fort residents. The original small u-shaped adobe built in 1865 or '66, was expanded several times, eventually including rooms for boarding and the offices of the Indian Agency in the 1870s. The roots of the Lincoln County War can be found in the legal dispute over an insurance policy held by Emil Fritz who partnered with L.G. Murphy in the early days of the Fort Stanton store. Following Fritz's early death, his attorney Alexander McSween joined forces with Murphy's commercial rival, John Tunstall in the deadly competition for contracts provisioning the Fort that controlled much of the local economy.

The store appears on several of the maps made of Fort Stanton – in 1866 and 1890, but seems to have lasted only until around 1893, shortly before the Fort was abandoned and turned over to the Department of the Interior. A photograph from the 1800s shows a long single story building with a portal front, carriages and wagons drawn up in front, soldiers and others leaning against the columns. Today, one can see some fragments of window glass and what might have been roof beams, maybe wall plaster, but no large structural foundations remain at the location northwest of the main fort complex.

As part of initial reconnaissance, OAS recently surveyed a section of the terrace above the Rio Bonito that was under agricultural use for many decades until about the mid 1960s and has been plowed and mowed many many times. Surface survey in the area of the store revealed cartridge shell types that date to 1873 and slightly later, a shoulder scale fragment from a military uniform dating to 1855-1896, and many fragments of beer, wine, medicine and water bottles, as well as ironstone and porcelain plate and cup fragments from the 1850s and beyond.

We hope that test excavations later this year will help identify the nature and extent of the surviving architectural features of the "sutler's store", provide materials for the exhibits at the Fort Stanton Museum, and comprise the first in a series of field sessions that will allow the public to engage with the history of this remarkable place. ❖

RECENT MONITORING AT THE DRURY HOTEL

by James L. Moore, OAS Project Director



Photo by OAS Staff

Work recently resumed at the Drury Hotel at the corner of Palace and Paseo de Peralta, as blading began in the west parking lot to provide better drainage. As many people will remember, this building was formerly named the La Villa Rivera building and, in addition to several other state agencies, it was the home of the OAS for over twenty years. Since the blading involved a cut that was up to a meter deep on the east side of the parking lot near the old power plant, monitoring was needed to record any evidence of the several buildings known to have once existed in this part of the property.

The monitoring was part of a long-term project that began in 2008 with a testing phase, and continued in 2011 with data recovery excavations that examined an Early Spanish Colonial period midden and pavement, a lime slaking pit that was probably associated with construction of the second parroquia in 1717, a nineteenth century sheet trash deposit and a coal room associated with a contemporary sanatorium-hospital complex. Blading in the west parking lot had the potential to encounter the foundations of buildings constructed by the Sisters of Charity in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These included a two-story brick orphanage, an adobe dormitory/class room, and a vegetable cellar. During testing in 2008, we hit the orphanage foundations in several backhoe trenches, and the dormitory foundations in one trench, so we knew that they still existed. The vegetable cellar is shown on several Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, but we were uncertain whether it still existed or not.

It was the vegetable cellar that was found first, as preliminary work using a backhoe hit the upper courses of its stone masonry walls. Further mechanical excavation showed that the cellar was filled with debris generated during demolition of the adjacent orphanage and other buildings in the mid-1950s, as the property was prepared for the construction of St. Vincent Hospital--the main building that still stands and is currently being remodeled into a hotel. Since the top of the cellar wall was above grade, the upper courses were removed as the cellar itself was backfilled. Because of the nature of the fill in the cellar, it was completely excavated, mostly with a backhoe, mapped, photographed, and recorded.

Further blading uncovered the foundations of the east wing and east half of the north wing of the orphanage building, which were also mapped, photographed, and recorded. These foundations were substantial, consisting of multiple courses of roughly dressed limestone blocks, the tops of which show in several contemporary photographs of the building. Since these foundations were at or above grade in much of the area being bladed, they were removed after the archaeological study was finished.

A surprise find was a concrete foundation for a small brick-walled structure that was apparently built sometime between 1921 and 1930, as shown by studying the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps. Unfortunately, this building is unlabeled on the maps, so its exact purpose is uncertain. However, the presence of several 4-inch drain pipes along the south wall suggests that it may have served as an outdoor bathroom facility. It can be seen in one contemporary photograph, which shows it at one edge of the playground associated with the orphanage.

Completion of the blading was delayed because of rain. Modifications to make the area drain better certainly worked, since the section of parking lot that was being worked on at the time flooded, creating a small temporary pond. Further delays were caused by equipment problems, so the monitoring was not completed by the time this was written, but was scheduled for completion in the next couple of weeks. While we don't expect to encounter any more surprises, only time will tell! ❖

CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS EXPEDITION; A FOUR-DAY TRIP SEPTEMBER 12-16, 2014



Photo by HJPD [CC-BY-SA-3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, comprises 183,000 acres of diverse geography, history and culture in the southwest corner of Colorado. The canyon contains the “highest known density of archaeological sites in the Nation,” most of which have not been excavated and many of which remain unmapped. This September Friends of Archaeology will explore this fascinating archaeological landscape under the leadership of OAS Director Dr. Eric Blinman. Trip participants will spend four days exploring and hiking in the multiple canyons and mesas of the area, visiting both developed and undeveloped sites, along with a tour of the Anasazi Heritage Center exhibitions and collections.

A probable itinerary will include Yucca House, Lowry, Yellow Jacket, and Goodman Point; sites in lower Sand Canyon and the McElmo Creek area; the spectacular architecture of Hovenweep’s Little Ruin Canyon (with a special trek to the petroglyph panel) and two outliers. Most sites date to the Pueblo III period (13th century), but a tour to undeveloped sites on Ute Mountain tribal lands will include an extensive Pueblo I village. Evening talks have been arranged with local experts Sally Cole, Dr. Laurie Webster, and Kristin Kuckelman.

Sally Cole is a consulting archaeologist and researcher with the Utah Museum of Natural History in Salt Lake City. She is author of *Legacy on Stone: Rock Art of the Colorado Plateau and Four Corners Region*. Cole has spent more than 25 years systematically documenting thousands of rock-art images at sites in the Four Corners region.

Dr. Webster is an anthropologist who specializes in Southwestern perishable material culture. She is a visiting scholar in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Arizona and a research associate at the American Museum of Natural History and the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center. Her publications include the edited volume *Beyond Cloth and Cordage: Archaeological Textile Research in the Americas* and the book *Collecting the Weaver’s Art: The William Clafin Collection of Southwestern Textiles*, as well as numerous journal articles about archaeological perishables.

Kristin Kuckelman was director of the first phase of the Goodman Point Archaeological Project conducted by Crow Canyon from 2005 through 2010 in partnership with the Southeast Utah Group of the National Park Service. She is currently a Senior Research Archaeologist at Crow Canyon Archaeological Center.

Trip Rating:

varies from Easy to Strenuous.

Most sites will have no facilities.

Lunches will be included for four days. A group rate for lodging is available at the Cortez Holiday Inn Express.

Cost is \$370 per person (\$100 of which is a tax deductible contribution to the Friends of Archaeology). Reserve beginning Tuesday, May 13 by calling (505) 982-7799, ext. 5

FOA 2014 Trips

YUCATÁN, LA RUTA MAYA AND CHIAPAS OCTOBER 21-NOVEMBER 4, 2014

Come and experience Mexico with the Friends of Archaeology. Join Tim Maxwell, OAS Director Emeritus and Rosa Ramirez Carlson, of Journeys International, Inc. in this special fundraising tour to some of Mexico's most remote and beautiful lands.

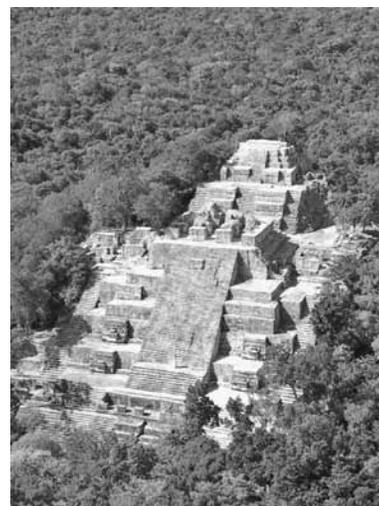
From Mérida to San Cristóbal de las Casas, this exciting tour will take us to some of the most interesting sites of the Mayan world. We start with Uxmal and Kabah, two of the three archeological sites in the Puuc Route. We continue to remote Calakmul located within the rich Calakmul Biosphere Reserve. We cross the land of the Lacandon people to marvel at the murals of Bonampak, reachable only by air until a few years ago. We navigate down one the largest rivers in the world (7th), the Usumacinta, to the site of Yaxchilán. This river constitutes the border between Mexico and Guatemala. We will explore Palenque, one of the most extensively studied archaeological sites in the Americas. The discovery of the Tomb of King Pakal in 1952, with its prolific inscriptions, helped determine an early dynasty of Palenque rulers. We continue to Toniná and San Cristóbal de las Casas, the crown jewel of the Chiapas central highlands and the center of one of Mexico's most authentically indigenous regions. From here we will visit the surrounding villages of Chamula, Tenejapa and Zinacantán to observe some of the celebrations for the Day of the Dead. Finally, we will take a day to travel down the Grijalba River through the Sumidero Canyon with vertical walls as high as 1,000 meters.

Our tour director is Rosa Carlson, owner of Journeys International and a well-known leader of Museum of New Mexico Foundation tours

COST: \$4,350.00 per person double occupancy/ \$950.00 single supplement. (Price includes airfare and a \$300 tax-deductible contribution to the Friends of Archaeology)

More details can be found at: www.museumfoundation.org/friends-archaeology.

To reserve, please call 505-310-1863 or send an email to carlsonrosa@hotmail.com. If you are calling after May 1, 2014, please call the Friends of Archaeology Hotline at 505-992-2715 x8 to leave your message. Your call will be returned within 48 hours.



Calakmul

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS Special visits to some of the most famous and significant Mayan sites

Uxmal – a UNESCO World Heritage Site, considered the best example of the Maya Puuc style of architecture

Calakmul – the leading city in the Kingdom of the Serpent's Head; in a constant power struggle with Tikal

Palenque – the most celebrated of all the Maya sites. Unmatched for its innovations and high-quality craftsmanship in stucco, jewelry, ceramics and mosaics

Bonampak – deep in Maya country where the best preserved Mayan ruins have been found

Yaxchilán – a city dominated by the dynasty of the Jaguar cult over 1500 years ago

Toniná – a city that was a military competitor with Palenque for control of the Rio Usumacinta region

Accommodations and visits in historic Mexican cities & Maya villages

Mérida – a truly colonial city with Mayan, French, British and to a lesser extent Dutch, influences

Hacienda Ochil – an old henequen hacienda with a beautiful setting of tropical gardens

Calakmul Biosphere Reserve – largest tropical forest reserve in Mexico

Tenejapa – has the famous church of San Ildefonso and a renowned weaving cooperative

Sumidero Canyon – where native warriors resisted the Spanish by hurling themselves into the canyon

San Cristóbal de las Casas – home to several indigenous groups descended from the Maya

Chamula and Zinacantán – famous for their celebration of the Day of the Dead, which we will witness

RECOGNIZING REGGIE WISEMAN

by OAS Staff

OAS would like to recognize Reggie Wiseman for his work and contributions on a new volume published by the Archaeological Society of New Mexico titled *Since Mera: The Original Eleven Bulletins With Essays and Opinions Derived from Recent Research*. Reggie, along with Emily Brown and Rory Gauthier served as editors for this volume. This volume also includes an introduction by Hayward Franklin and a biography on Mera and associated archaeologists by Theodore Frisby that together provide an excellent summary and perspective of Mera's extremely productive career as curator of archaeology at the Laboratory of Anthropology.

Of the eleven bulletins presented, nine were authored by Mera, one by Stallings and one by Jennings. Together, these bulletins provided the basis for the characterizations and definition of a wide range of ceramic types examined as part of Mera's extensive survey of sites along huge stretches of the Rio Grande in New Mexico and its drainages, occupied by Pueblo groups-- as well as mountainous and desert regions of central and eastern New Mexico. These studies still provide much of the basis for our understanding of the nature of population trends and movements of different ceramic producing groups in the eastern half of New Mexico.

An essay that provides context and discussion precedes each of the original bulletins. Seven of these introductions are presented by Reggie, while other contributors include Dean, Wilson, Candace Lewis, Cynthia Herhahn, Rory Gauthier, Sarah Herr and Emily Brown. Together the introductions and original bulletins provide an extremely useful and much needed reference for Southwestern archaeologists and other interested scholars. It is also hoped that this volume will provide inspiration and a model for further volumes presenting and integrating earlier studies that form the basis for our understanding of southwestern prehistory. Well done Reggie, Emily and Rory! ❖



Office of Archaeological Studies

The Office of Archaeological Studies (OAS) was the first museum program of its kind in the United States. Its staff conducts international field and laboratory research, offers educational opportunities for school groups and civic organizations and works to preserve, protect and interpret New Mexico's prehistoric and historic sites.

If you would like to know more about OAS, please see our Weblink:
www.nmarchaeology.org

Friends of Archaeology

The Friends of Archaeology is a support group of the Museum of New Mexico Foundation for the Museum of New Mexico, Office of Archaeological Studies.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Friends of Archaeology is to support the Office of Archaeological Studies in the achievement of its archaeological services mandate from the state of New Mexico by participation in and funding of research and education.

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San Cristóbal Pueblo and Rock Art



San Cristóbal Pueblo is one of the largest of the eight Galisteo Pueblos. Scattered small communities gathered into a single village around AD 1400. Eventually more than 1600 rooms were constructed in the 20 room blocks that are organized to form more than a dozen plazas. The San Cristóbal Ranch has graciously permitted the Friends of Archaeology to return to San Cristóbal Pueblo for our 2014 Chiles and Sherds event. On Sunday, June 1, we will hold a day of tours of the pueblo and rock art, organized around a lunch, in the beautiful setting of the eastern Galisteo Basin.



CHILES AND SHERDS JUNE 1, 2014

Price is \$95.00, with \$70.00 as a tax-deductible donation.

Reserve your ticket by calling 505-982-7799 ext 7. Please check nmarchaeology.org and museumfoundation.org/friends-archaeology for updates.