JANUARY PCAS SPEAKERS

Bernard M. Jones, Jr.
Dr. Christopher E. Drover

*Flower World Metaphor, Ideology, and Iconography of the Southern Colorado Plateau: The Puerco and Little Colorado River Watersheds*

Jane Hill notes a prehistoric linguistic relationship in Uto-Aztecan language among flowers, fertility, life, and death in a parallel chromatic universe, known as the “Flower World” (Hill 1992). These linguistic relationships were quickly recognized to be apparent in iconographic imagery in early Mesoamerican and later Southwestern agricultural societies by Kelley Hays-Gilpin and Karl Taube. Application of this concept has provided an interpretation of thirteenth and fourteenth century Puebloan rock art.  

(Continued on p. 4)

DINNER WITH THE SPEAKERS

Please join this month’s speakers, Bernard Jones and Dr. Christopher Drover, for dinner before the January 11 meeting, 6 pm, Mimi’s Café, 4030 Barranca Parkway, Irvine.
DECEMBER SPEAKER NOTES

Archaeology and Science at the Paisley Caves

By Megan Galway

At our Annual Holiday Potluck meeting, Dr. Jenkins presented the history and current status of research at the Paisley Caves. The complex is in southwest Oregon in an area once surrounded by Pleistocene lakes. During the time of the first human occupation, between 14,600 and 11,500 years BP, the Chewaucan River flowed past the cave complex into one of these lakes. The river later reversed course, and the lakes dried up over time. The area was heavily collected from early on with “Indian Baskets” being locally advertised in 1904, and most sites had been looted by 1928. Dr. Jenkins says all previously occupied caves in the area have been discovered.

Luther Cressman conducted excavations in the caves from 1938 to 1940. In Cave 3 (the caves are numbered from east to west), he reported finding a small house floor along with camel, horse, waterfowl, and fish bones. Unfortunately many of these artifacts were collected during his absence, and no mapping or photography was done, so there is no stratigraphic evidence or radiocarbon dating for these artifacts.

Dr. Jenkins has conducted the University of Oregon’s annual Northern Great Basin archaeological field school in the area for many years and has now identified human occupation at the site dating back 14,000 years. His initial excavations identified historic artifacts including beer cans and a Lucky Strike cigarette pack. Early stratigraphy was disturbed, likely by looters. When comparing early photographs to the site’s current state, it was noticed that a large boulder at the mouth of Cave 3 had not been there during Cressman’s time and had likely fallen during a more recent earthquake. A unit under this boulder was found to be well stratified. Cultural material—except for historic—was rather sparse back to about 5,400 BP. Human coprolites were found at 7,440 BP, and Mountain Manzanita ash at 7,600 BP. Dense cultural materials were found again at around 12,000 to 13,870 BP including a hearth deposit (12,520 BP), cut antelope bone (12,000 BP), and a rabbit bone (13,870 BP).

Cressman’s abandoned screens were found in Cave 2, and upper strata included 1 m of bat guano. Below this was a thick botanical lens and thick fibrous mass which was identified as the underbelly hair of a pronghorn antelope. The hairs appeared to have been cut from the hide with a sharp tool—likely obsidian—and associated antelope bone displayed butchering cut marks. These materials were dated to 12,200 BP. Additional artifacts in the botanical lens included a Western Stemmed point base, flaked knife, scraper, wooden peg, obsidian flake, and braided sagebrush rope. A lock of human hair was dated to 12,570 BP and looked modern. Microscopic examination of the hair revealed louse egg sacks. Dr. Jenkins noted poor hygiene in the caves likely led to the lice infestation, and this may have been why the hair was cut. Hookworms had previously only been found in Southeast populations, but they have now been identified in the Paisley Caves coprolites. Artifacts from the lowest level included a horse maxilla (13,625 BP) and butcher-cut rib (13,828 BP). Mammoth or mastodon protein was identified on a polished and battered handstone from this level.

As other researchers began to hear of the material being found at Paisley Caves, a little archaeological serendipity came into play. Last month we heard how Dr. Gasco had little interest in cacao until she began to see its importance to the people in her research area—this month Dr. Jenkins admitted he’d not paid much attention to coprolites until he was contacted by a researcher in England who asked to borrow some. This researcher was later given a post with a research laboratory in Denmark and has provided valuable insight into the cultural history of Paisley Caves. It was also noted that a majority of the project’s funding comes from Denmark. DNA may be easily contaminated, even just by people breathing in the area, so now when coprolites are found, they are left in situ.

(Continued on p. 3)
AN UNUSUAL SERPENTINE DONUT-LIKE ARTIFACT

Henry C. Koerper

A broken, probable fishnet weight displayed at the Point Vicente Interpretive Center (PVIC) is the subject of this article. The specimen drew the author’s attention for the fact that its material is serpentine. Furthermore, in plan outline and in profile, it clearly is a natural beach pebble. Only its central hole is manmade (Figures 1 and 2). It is impossible to know whether the 21 mm diameter perforation had a head start from piddock drilling (see Koerper 2017). The object might have been a local donation to the PVIC, as are other items on display at the facility.

The specimen weighs 159 g and has Mohs 3 hardness. It is mottled gray, with some smooth surfaces being light reflective.

A revealing note turns up in R. F. Van Valkenburg’s 1931 discussion of his work at the Malaga Cove site, CA-LAN-138. He wrote, “Serpentine … came from Serpentine Cave, about one mile southwest” of the Malaga Cove site. “From personal observations the serpentine occurs in a greenish clay formation, and the stones of serpentine wash down to the shore line in the rainy seasons.” Serpentine Cave no longer exists.

This short essay offers some food for thought. While the artifact’s hole probably functioned first to secure the donut-like sinker to a fishnet, it would also have allowed a means to better grasp the artifact, acting secondarily as a handle to pull in a net with its catch.

References Cited

Koerper, Henry C.

Van Valkenburg, Richard
1931 Notes on Malaga Cove Site. On file, Department of Archaeology, Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, Los Angeles.

December Speaker Notes

(Continued from p. 2)

... until a “poopologist” in protective gear is brought in to excavate and place them in a sealed container—to be opened only in Copenhagen. DNA from the early Paisley Caves coprolites has been identified to haplogroups A2 and B2 which are known to have been common in Pleistocene Siberia. Human and bison hair and DNA were found in one coprolite dated to 14,380 BP.

In the period between 12,960 BP and 13,110 BP, the only projectile points identified were Western Stemmed, indicating this tradition existed at the same time as the Clovis culture. At around 14,500 BP this area was populated by people who were related to Siberians, were broad-range foragers, and were well adapted to the environment.
January Speakers  (continued from p. 1)

We explore the breadth of icons associated with the meaning, function, and ritual use of Flower World imagery in the southern Colorado Plateau.

Bernie Jones is a retired arts educator. He worked in arts education for 40 years both as a teacher and administrator at all levels. He has a history of engaging in painting and drawing, and he is currently working in the area of printmaking. Mr. Jones has had a lifelong interest in Native American culture, talking to various Native peoples, reading ethnographies, and collecting cultural material from the time he was a boy. He has worked with archaeologists in various parts of the country helping with excavations and recording the rock art found near sites that were being studied. Forty-three years ago he attended a lecture on rock art at the Bowers Museum in Orange County, California. That encounter launched a fascination for this subject that has continued to grow. For the last 10 years, he has been tracking the crook form as it is found in rock art and attempting to understand its many uses as a symbol. For years he has studied, written about, and created art based on images drawn from rock art in various parts of the world. Like most of his fellow rock art researchers, he realizes that one lifetime is not enough to see all there is of this wonderful visual legacy.

Christopher Drover, Ph.D., RPA, is in his thirty-fourth year as a faculty member in the Anthropology Department at the University of California, Irvine. Professor Drover’s degrees are all in anthropology; he received his BA (1969) and MA (1970) from California State University, Fullerton, and in 1979 he was awarded a Ph.D. at the University of California, Riverside. He taught anthropology at Golden West College (38 years; retired 2011), and he also taught part-time at California State University, Fullerton (1971), Chapman College (1973), and the University of California, Riverside (1977). Dr. Drover has also been involved in CRM work since 1970, having served as Principal Investigator for the Museum of Northern Arizona and Director of Cultural Resources for Chambers Consultants and Planners, The Keith Companies, and TRW.


HOLIDAY DINNER

PCAS members and guests enjoyed the Annual Holiday Potluck Dinner on December 14th at the Irvine Ranch Water District Duck Club. It was our honor to have noted researcher Dr. Dennis L. Jenkins speak to us about his work at the Paisley Caves, which have produced Pre-Clovis dates. He told us about the history of the caves and the state of current research. He detailed the precautions taken to prevent any contamination in the gathering of samples for DNA analysis. Notably, much of his funding comes from partnerships with several European organizations.

We especially thank Joe Hodulik for personally purchasing Dr. Jenkins’s transportation from Oregon. Brian Steffensen was Dr. Jenkins’s volunteer “Uber” driver before and after the meeting. We also thank our set-up crew, who came early to decorate and prepare the Duck Club—Bob and Rene Brace, Gail Cochlin, Dorothy DeGennaro, Scott Findlay, and Megan Galway. Members and guests brought an assortment of delicious dishes. We thank everyone for making the evening most enjoyable!
DIG THIS ...

Exhibits


Lectures


Violence in Prehistoric Central California, by Dr. Mark W. Allen (Cal Poly Pomona), a lecture of the AIA, Orange County Chapter. DeNault Auditorium in Grimm Hall, Concordia University, January 14, 2–4 pm. Fee: $5; students and members free. Information: www.aia-oc.org.


Classes, Meetings, and Events (continued)

al Park Desert Institute. Fee for each class $70, members $60. Information and registration: www.joshuatree.org/desert-institute/field-classes.

The Annual Meeting of the Society for California Archaeology will be held March 8–11, 2018, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Mission Valley, San Diego. Information and registration: www.scahome.org.


Editor’s Note: Please confirm time and place of listing prior to the event. Submit items for Dig This to newsletter@pcas.org.

Visit www.pcas.org for all the latest news.

CURATION WORKDAYS

When: January 13, 2018, 1 pm
February 10, 2018, 1 pm

Where:: PCAS Curation Facility
Red Car Building

Everyone is welcome. No experience necessary! Please contact Mark Roeder (714-299-4150, curator@pcas.org) or Scott Findlay (714-342-2534, fieldtrips@pcas.org) for directions and to let us know you will be coming.
PCAS CODE OF ETHICS

The Pacific Coast Archaeological Society (PCAS) is a nonprofit group of professional and avocational people dedicated to proper management of our cultural resources, public education, and the protection and preservation of archaeological materials and collections.

The following principles have been adopted by the PCAS:

1. Professional methods and forms will be used on all archaeological field surveys, excavations, and laboratory sessions.

2. A complete record of field and laboratory work will be filed with the PCAS Curator and stored at a facility approved by the Society’s Board of Directors.

3. No archaeological materials will be removed without proper permits, landowner permission, and a field research design.

4. Unless otherwise legally stipulated before activity commences, all materials collected will be deposited for further research with the Curator at a facility approved by the Society's Board of Directors.

5. All generated reports will be the property of the Society and distributed as deemed appropriate.

6. All Society field activities will be performed only under the direction of a qualified field archaeologist (Principal Investigator) and the supervision of field or site directors.

7. The above principles will be observed on both Society approved projects and projects performed under the direction of an authorized institution or organization.

8. The Society and its members will strive to educate the public of the importance and proper management of our non-renewable cultural resources and to discourage the collection and commercial exploitation of archaeological materials.

9. PCAS members shall not benefit from the acquisition, purchase, sale, or trade of archaeological artifacts, materials, or specimens.

10. All members shall adhere to City, County, State, and Federal antiquities laws.

PCAS SPEAKER CALENDAR

February 8, 2018
Dennis Gallegos
First People—A Revised Chronology for San Diego County

March 8, 2018
John Rafter

April 19, 2018
Don Liponi
La Rumorosa Rock Art

May 10, 2018
Dr. James S. Kus
What’s New in Machu Picchu?

June 21, 2018
Dr. E. C. Krupp

Come to the January meeting!

Flower World Metaphor, Ideology, and Iconography of the Southern Colorado Plateau: The Puerco and Little Colorado River Watersheds
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