NOVEMBER PCAS SPEAKER

Dr. Michael J. Moratto

*Peopling of the Americas: Current Perspectives*

Until recently the story of America’s initial colonization seemed well understood. At the end of the Ice Age (Pleistocene), humans from Siberia crossed the Bering land bridge, made their way southward through an ice-free corridor separating the Cordilleran and Laurentian ice shields in Canada, and then spread gradually through North, Central, and South America, extinguishing animal species in their wake. Biologically, the founder... (Continued on p. 3)
OCTOBER SPEAKER NOTES

A Possible Shaman’s Cache from CA-SNI-240 on San Nicolas Island

By Olivia Batchelder

Helek [Sea Hawk] was the captain. He went to sea with Mut [Cormorant] and He’w [Pelican] to protect him [John P. Harrington notes].

San Nicolas Island, located about 75 miles west of Los Angeles, is the outermost and remotest of the eight California Channel Islands. The second smallest of the southern Channel Islands, it is about 9 miles long. The nearest land is Santa Barbara Island, about 28 miles to the northeast. The island has a flat central plateau, a northern terrace, a southern coastal terrace with cliffs, and extensive dune fields at the west end. Due to sea level rise following the Pleistocene, only one-third of the island existing at that time is now exposed. Its highest elevation is about 900 feet. Populated in the past by Gabriélino speaking people, 8,000 years of occupation have been recorded, with 550 archaeology sites. Today San Nicolas Island is administered by the US Navy.

The island’s inhabitants faced many environmental challenges—a semi-arid land and a harsh climate, frequently cold and damp, with no natural windbreaks. There were no edible plants, no game, and no good toolmaking stone. Despite the hardships, settlements were possible because of the availability of fresh water from many natural springs. Food from the sea was the main diet. Many large shell middens remain, and there were villages all around the island. However, almost no information exists about the islanders. The most famous inhabitant of San Nicolas Island was Juana Maria, the Lone Woman of San Nicolas Island, who died in Santa Barbara in 1853.

CA-SNI-240 is in close proximity to a ceremonial complex at CA-SNI-25, which dates from 5,000 years ago to the 1800s and was possibly the last occupied village on the island. SNI-240 is located in a dune environment on the northwest part of the island and includes what is most likely a canoe man’s cache, created for the protection of seafarers. Dr. Martz suggests the canoe man’s association because the items found here are not the kind usually found in a standard shaman’s tool kit. The cache consists of layers of carefully arranged objects—bones from cormorant and sea lion, plus whole shells and shell fragments. Different layers contained groups of objects that were either primarily left-sided or right-sided bones. An upper grouping of objects at the 40 cm level was capped with an inverted black abalone shell, while a grouping at 50 cm had a cap of red abalone shell. The cache contained right-sided bones of sea lion and cormorant in the black abalone group. The black abalone also contained an asphaltum cake and a fishhook fragment. The lower red abalone feature had left-sided bones of sea lion along with the left side of a sheephead maxilla. It also contained a fossil moon snail, an abraded steatite cobble, worked quartz, and a metavolcanic blade tool.

Martz’s theory hypothesizes a relationship between the artifacts’ placement and the naturally occurring depths where these species lived, e.g., black abalone shell was found higher in the cache than red abalone shell. In the natural environment, black abalone is abundant at shallow depths, while red abalone occurs in deeper zones.

The canoe men were sea traders who engaged in both interisland and trade with the mainland over the centuries. They island-hopped with loads of food and goods, including fish, plus sandstone mortars and bowls made from the island’s well-cemented sandstone. The sandstone items were heavy and dangerous to transport. This island has few good canoe-landing harbors, and sea travel involved frequent violent storms as well as ocean currents, both cold and warm. Sea travel was fraught with danger, and talismans were needed for supernatural help for safe travel. John P. Harrington’s notes recorded stories of many sea deaths.

The sea played an important part in the cosmology of these people. Power objects, beings, and locations were accessed by a ritual specialist, either for seeking balance in the universe or for personal power. With the many environmental challenges these islanders faced, they needed powerful shamans! It seems clear that SNI-240 cache was created by a specialized shaman as a magical charm to protect sea voyagers from harm.

Dr. Martz is retired from an outstanding career as Professor of Anthropology at California State University, Los Angeles. Her current interest is the legislative preservation of archaeological sites, of which she reports only about 10 percent now remain in California. She founded the California Cultural Resources Preservation Alliance (www.ccrpa.com), which strives to place cultural sites in open spaces instead of digging them up because “excavation is destruction.”
PREHISTORIC OC

The Cooper Center’s Prehistoric OC was an extremely successful event with 1,000 people attending. The PCAS outreach tables had a steady stream of interested adults and children. We presented artifact identification, Native toys, drilling shells for jewelry, and Native foods and preparation.

Our thanks to our volunteers: Bob and Rene Brace, Gail Cochlin, Dorothy DeGennaro, Jacqueline Diaz, Scott Findlay, Megan Galway, Hank Koerper, and Ron Fernandez.

November Speaker (continued from p. 1)

The population was uniformly Mongoloid; archaeologically, it was recognized by distinctive fluted (Clovis) spear points; and economically, the first Americans operated as small bands of big game hunters. The only problem with this tidy model is that it now appears to be completely wrong.

New discoveries in the last few decades have revolutionized our views. We now know that: people were living in both North and South America thousands of years before Clovis; early settlers arrived by boat and migrated along the Pacific coast and islands as well as overland; the Bering “land bridge” (Beringia) may have been a refugium for human populations from 25,000 until 15,000 years ago; and the Canadian ice-free corridor may have been occupied initially from south-to-north instead of vice-versa. Far from all being big-game hunters, early New World peoples were remarkably diverse in their adaptations, and at least some of them evidently lived in stable settlements. Moreover, Clovis seems to represent not a founder population colonizing North America but rather a technical tradition linked to an ideological movement that spread among existing societies from the circum-Caribbean region all the way to the Arctic. It is even possible that ancient mariners skirting North Atlantic ice may have found their way from Europe to what is now the eastern U.S. more than 200 centuries ago. These and other current views will be discussed in Dr. Moratto’s presentation.

Dr. Michael J. Moratto (RPA; Principal Archaeologist, Applied EarthWorks, Inc.) has directed hundreds of anthropological projects in the western US. Among his interests are peopling the New World, the American West, cultural ecology, California anthropology, and linguistic prehistory. A retired university professor, he is a Fellow of the California Academy of Sciences and past president of local, statewide, and national professional societies. He has also served on the State Historical Resources Commission. Of 200+ publications, Dr. Moratto’s California Archaeology (1984, 2004) is perhaps best known. He has received many honors and awards from professional societies, universities, governmental agencies, and civic organizations.

NOVEMBER CURATION WORKDAY

When: November 15, 2014, 1 pm
Where: Red Car Building

We will continue work on the CA-ORA-291 collection. Everyone is welcome. 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.
IN MEMORIAM: PAUL D. CAMPBELL

With sadness we report that Paul Campbell passed away September 25, 2014, at age 72. He was a strong supporter and member of PCAS. Paul’s passion for the past is well reflected in his five books: The Humboldt Celt, Astronomy and the Maya Calendar Correlation, Survival Skills of Native California, Earth Pigments and Paint of the California Indians, and The Universal Tool Kit: Out of Africa to Native California. He will be missed as much for his easy smile and sense of humor as for his wisdom, knowledge, and dedication to the science of archaeology. We extend our condolences to his family and many friends.

PCAS ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION

The 2014 PCAS Annual Meeting and Election will be held on November 13, 2014, 7:30 pm, at the Irvine Ranch Water District Community Room, 15500 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine.

A quorum of members is necessary for the election to take place. You must be physically present to vote. Our bylaws prohibit proxy voting. Please plan to attend!

PCAS members will elect three Directors to 3-year terms. The Nomination Committee has recruited three candidates to stand for election. The nominees are Stephen Dwyer, Hank Koerper, and Kathleen Shada. Their biographies were printed in the October PCAS Newsletter (available at www.pcas.org).

Before the election takes place, additional nominations may be made from the floor by any member present with the prior consent of the nominee. If there are more than three nominees, Directors will be elected by secret ballot. Ballots will be distributed as members arrive. Please be aware that additional names may be placed in nomination. Voting will not take place until after floor nominations are closed.

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

President Megan Galway called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm at the Old Courthouse, Santa Ana. PCAS Board Members present: Rene Brace, Gail Cochlin, Scott Findlay, Megan Galway, Jane Gothold, and Steve O’Neil. Members present: Bob Brace, Hank Koerper, and Kathleen Shada.

Approval of the September 2014 minutes was deferred in the absence of the secretary. The treasurer’s report with all expenditures was approved.

Prehistoric OC was very successful with approximately 1,000 attendees. The San Diego Rock Art Symposium will be November 1, and PCAS will have a Quarterly sales and information table. The Board agreed that the Holiday Dinner will follow last year’s format with “finger food.” No food will be heated.

The Board formed an Election Committee in preparation for the November election. Steve O’Neil reported on the SCA Southern Data Sharing Meeting. In particular he discussed a plan to survey California coastal areas for archaeological sites that may be at risk from coastal storm surge and sea level rise. PCAS members may have volunteer opportunities after an Orange County organization is established.

Joe Hodulik’s Donation-Award table earned $125 at the October meeting for the PCAS Scholarship fund! The meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.
PCAS Holiday Dinner

Thursday, December 11, 2014
6:30 PM
IRWD Duck Club*

5th Annual Potluck

Dr. Brian Fagan will speak on
The Intimate Bond: How Animals Changed History

Lecture at 7:30 pm – free and open to the public

1. This year’s dinner will be at the Duck Club* in Irvine.
2. Bring finger food (appetizer or dessert) to serve 6 people.
3. Bring a dish that doesn’t require heating.
4. No alcoholic beverages are allowed.

Sign up at the November meeting or by contacting Megan Galway, President@PCAS.org or 714-539-6354, and let us know what you are bringing.

*Directions to the Duck Club are available at www.pcas.org (click on Latest News on left menu).

The Irvine Ranch Water District neither supports nor endorses the causes or activities of organizations that use the District’s meeting rooms which are made available for public use.
Lectures (continued)

Cradle Boards, by Justin Farmer, sponsored by Native Peoples Arts and Culture. Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 1145 W. Valencia Mesa Dr., Fullerton, November 21, 6:30 pm. Fee: $5 donation. Information: www.ocnai.org or 714-879-1337.

China’s Lost Civilization: The Mystery Of Sanxingdui, by Suzanne Cahill, Ph.D. (UCSD and curator of Bowers’ exhibition), a lecture of the AIA, Orange County Chapter. DeNault Auditorium in Grimm Hall, Concordia University, November 23, 2–4 pm. Fee: $5; students and members free. Information: www.aia-oc.org

Classes, Meetings, and Events

American Indian Arts Marketplace, will present the works of 200 artists, food, demonstrations, and talks. The Autry in Griffith Park, November 8–9, 10 am–5 pm. www.theautry.org.

Ridgecrest Petroglyph and Heritage Festival will include an intertribal powwow, street fair, and a lecture by Dr. James Holloway at the newly dedicated Petroglyph Park (November 15, 12:30-2 pm). Ridgecrest, November 15-16. Free (fee for some activities). Information and tickets: www.rpfestival.com.

The Cultural Landscape of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, by Dr. Joan Schneider. Two classes of the Anza-Borrego Foundation: 1. An Introduction to the Cahuilla, December 12 (6–8 pm) and December 13 (9 am–5 pm) and 2. An Introduction to the Kumeyaay, January 16 (6–8 pm) and January 17 (8 am–5 pm). Fee: $85 ($75 members) for one class; $160 ($140 members) for both classes. Information and registration: www.theabf.org.

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

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

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>December 11, 2014</td>
<td><strong>(Holiday Potluck)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Brian Fagan</td>
<td><em>The Intimate Bond: How Animals Changed History</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>January 8, 2015</td>
<td>Dr. Nancy Anastasia Wiley, Destiny Colocho, and Andrew Garrison</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Lithics Demonstration</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>February 12, 2015</td>
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<td>March 12, 2015</td>
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Come to the November 13 meeting to hear Dr. Michael J. Moratto on *Peopling of the Americas: Current Perspectives.*

Photo by John Lytle.
2014 PCAS BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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