



JUNE/JULY 2014

PCAS NEWSLETTER

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PACIFIC COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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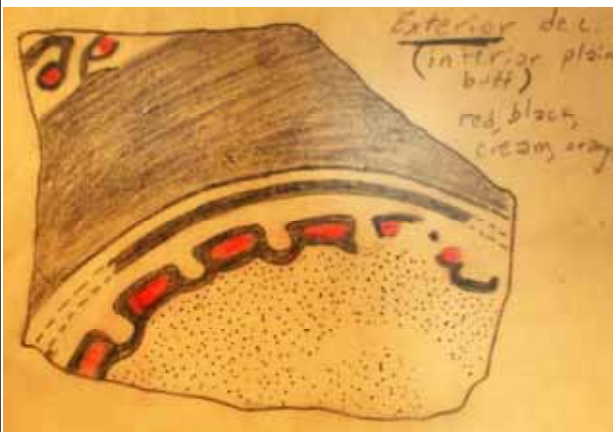
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JUNE PCAS SPEAKER

Dr. Matthew A. Boxt

*Postclassic La Venta,
Tabasco, Mexico*

The Mesoamerican Postclassic has long been considered the time after the decline of Classic period centers like Tikal, Copan, and Yaxchilan, and the florescence of Chichen Itza and Tula. It ended with the Spanish conquest of 1518–1524. The Postclassic period is well represented by Tulum and Mayapan in the Maya region; by Mitla and Tilontongo in the Valley of Oaxaca; by Tzintzuntzan and other sites within the vast Tarascan Empire in West Mexico; by the Totonac city of Cempoala in Veracruz; (Continued on p. 3)



Postclassic polychrome sherd from the Torres site, La Venta, Tabasco, Mexico. Unpublished drawing by Robert J. Squier ca. 1955. Photograph courtesy of L. Mark Raab and the University of Kansas Natural History Museum.

DINNER WITH THE SPEAKER

Please join this month's speaker, Dr. Matthew Boxt, and PCAS members for dinner before the June 12th General Meeting. We will meet at 6 pm at Mimi's Café, 4030 Barranca Parkway, Irvine.

PCAS MEETINGS CALENDAR

GENERAL MEETING

Free and Open to the Public

June 12 - 7:30 pm

Speaker: *Dr. Matthew A. Boxt*

Topic: *Postclassic La Venta, Tabasco, Mexico*

Location: IRWD Community Room
15500 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine

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.

BOARD MEETING

All Members Welcome

June 19 - 7:00 pm

Location: Old Orange County Courthouse
PCAS Library, Ground Floor
211 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana

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This is the combined June/July Newsletter. There are no General Meetings in July and August. The August/September Newsletter will announce the September speaker.

MAY SPEAKER NOTES

Ritual Symbols in Rock Art: Cupules and Incised Grooves in the Lower Pecos Canyonlands, Texas

Submitted by Megan Galway

Cara Ratner presented data from her MA thesis based on research in the Lower Pecos Canyonlands of Texas. She believes cupules and groove marks—elements of pit and groove style petroglyphs—may be ritual fertility symbols. Her conclusions are based in part on ethnographies from various areas.

Hunter-gatherer populations of the study area date from 14,500 years BP. Ecofacts such as bison bones and artifacts such as Folsom points have been found in rock shelters. Pictographs also occur in rock shelters. The earliest pictographs are known as the Pecos River style. Cultural progression in the area is defined as:

- Early Archaic (8500–6000 BP): Painted pebbles are noted artifacts from this period.
- Middle Archaic (6000–3000 BP): The population increased during this time.
- Late Archaic (3000–1300 BP): Bison population increased due to more available grass followed by more arid conditions. Rock art is known as Red Linear and consists of very tiny elements.
- Late Prehistoric (1300–500 BP): The bow and arrow was introduced. The majority of rock art from this period depicts red-painted anthropomorphs ranging from 10 cm to 8 m.

Petroglyphs that are both pecked and incised are found but are very rare.

Both cupules and grooves have previously been assigned utilitarian purposes—cupules for grinding medicines or paint and grooves for sharpening blades. Ms. Ratner believes their associations with women's activity sites indicates ritual purposes. The Pomo of northern California tell of "baby rock" which is crushed and painted on the abdomen to increase fertility. The Shasta describe a "rain rock" and the Zuni a "mother rock." Southern Paiute identify a canyon with a name that translates to "Vagina Canyon." All these stories describe a process of grinding out rock in a



PCAS Program Co-Chair Joe Hodulik with May speaker, Cara Ratner.

way which would create the typical cupule or create a symbolic vagina.

Ten sites with cupules and groove marks were studied in detail along with their associated artifacts. More sites had grooves than cupules—one had only cupules, one had both, and nine had only grooves. Only two sites had associated petroglyphs, but all had pictographs, and all but two of these included the early Pecos River style. Most of the sites had at least two pictograph styles indicating occupation extending at least into the Late Archaic. Seven sites had bedrock mortars or milling stations and middens indicating a strong association between pit and groove symbols and habitation. The grooves were found in unusual places, such as on the underside of boulders, not readily accessible surfaces where blades or bone awls might have been sharpened.

Attempts were made to replicate the grooves on limestone slabs. New chert flakes created V-shaped grooves, most like those at the study sites. Sharpening bone fragments on the surface left no marks, and sharpening them in the grooves modified the groove to a polished U-shape not seen in the study. Ms. Ratner concluded that although the grooves were found in association with women's activity sites, they were not used for any kind of production and were in "inefficient" locations, suggesting symbolic activity. Based on ethnographic studies from other areas, the cupules are suggested to be locations where rock was ground into powder to be used in fertility ceremonies. The only rock art depictions considered to have a fertility connection were two Red Linear elements appearing to depict pregnant women.

MAY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

Submitted by Brian Steffensen

Vice President **Scott Findlay** called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm at the Old Courthouse in Santa Ana. PCAS Board Members present: **Rene Brace, Gail Cochlin, Jane Gothold, Sherri Gust, Steve O'Neil, and Brian Steffensen.** Members present: **Bob Brace, Hank Koerper, Rachael Mohan, and Kathleen Shada.**

The May minutes were approved with corrections. The treasurer's report was approved with all expenditures.

Old Business

Scott Findlay reported that he and PCAS members visited the Garfield Community Center where our outreach program will be held June 16. The facility will nicely accommodate our activities in air-conditioned comfort. PCAS will have coffee and donuts for volunteers.

New Business

After discussion and with the recommendation of the PCAS Scholarship Committee, the Board voted unanimously to grant the Gloria Bogdan Memorial Scholarship to **Olimpia Vazquez Ojeda** (UC Santa Cruz) and the Myrtle Soderberg Scholarship to **Glafira E. Carr** (transferring from El Camino College to UC Riverside).

The Annual PCAS picnic will be at Irvine Regional Park, July 10, 6 pm. **Bob Brace** will again provide hamburgers and trimmings to those attending. Flyers will be emailed to members in late June. Curation work is continuing on CA-ORA-291. **Joe Hodulik's** Donation-Award table earned \$93 at the May meeting for the PCAS Scholarship fund! **Scott Findlay** reported that there are planned field trips to the Mojave National Preserve on May 23 and to San Juan Capistrano on June 28.

Brian Steffensen stated that speakers have been booked through 2014 and for April 2015. *PCAS Quarterly* 49(3&4) was prepared for mailing before the Board meeting. The Publications Committee is working on the next double issue. **Jane Gothold** reported that the PCAS Library will be receiving two surplus bookshelves from OC Parks.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

May Speaker (continued from p. 1)

and of course by the great cities of Cholula and Tenochtitlan in the Basin of Mexico. The goal of this presentation is to focus discussions of the Mesoamerican Postclassic on western Tabasco. Was the great Preclassic site of La Venta abandoned and its once vibrant support area depopulated during this latest pre-Hispanic time period? Or, did a shadowy Postclassic civilization overlie the famous and much more ancient Olmec deposits, overlooked by most early archaeologists? By marshaling archaeological and historic evidence, we explore what is known about the Postclassic period at La Venta and at neighboring sites. Future prospects for productive Postclassic archaeological research in western Tabasco are also discussed.

Matthew A. Boxt received his Ph.D. (1993) and MA (1979) from the University of California, Los Angeles, and BA from UC Berkeley (1976). A Fulbright Fellow and Independent Researcher, Boxt has conducted archaeological fieldwork in Belize, Guatemala, Mexico, and 15 counties in the State of California. He is interested in a broad range of topics and geographical areas. In recent years Boxt has served as "Guest Editor" to the *Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly*, contributing original research articles about Alta and Baja California.

June Field Trip

Where: San Juan Capistrano—Blas Aguilar Adobe Museum and Los Rios Historic District

When: June 28, 2014

We plan to meet David Belardes, Chief of the Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation, at the Blas Aguilar Adobe Museum. We also intend to visit the Los Rios Historic District. Some field trip participants plan to take Metrolink from stations in central Orange County to the San Juan Capistrano station. There are several morning departure and afternoon return times.

Contact Scott Findlay (fieldtrips@pcas.org or 714-342-2534) for additional information and to sign up for this field trip.

TWO ADDITIONAL INTERESTING PHOTOGRAPHIC FINDS

Henry C. Koerper

The April 2014 *PCAS Newsletter* carried an article that featured a vintage photograph with interesting archaeological content, a serendipitous find on the occasion of a recent visit by the author to a Long Beach Coin and Collectible Show (LBCCS). Showcased here are two ca. 1863–1873 *cartes-de-visite*, also serendipitous finds, but stemming from a different visit to the three-time-a-year Long Beach venue. These photographs were chosen for illustration and brief discussion on the assumption that *Newsletter* readers might enjoy new or renewed acquaintance with certain little known historical notes regarding 19th century reactions surrounding promulgation of the theory of organic evolution as expounded by Charles Darwin (Figure 1) in *The Origin of Species* (1859 [short title]).

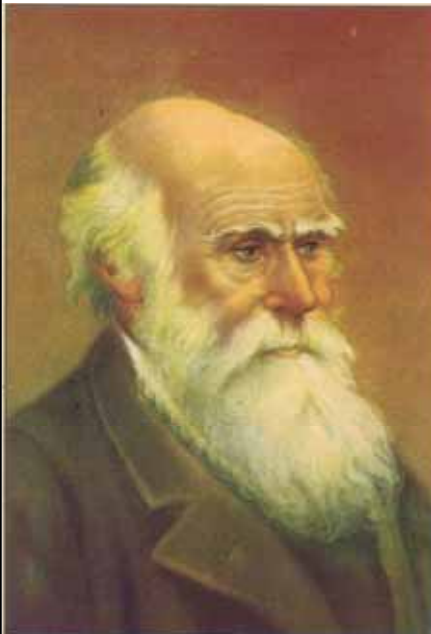


Figure 1. Charles Darwin (1809–1882). Portrait on a 1930s Belgian cigarette card (author's collection).

Generally known is that Darwin's science precipitated vigorous controversy, much of it acrimonious; some detractors ignorantly or dishonestly claimed the British naturalist had posited monkey ancestry for humankind. While Darwin was loathe to enter the fray, he had high profile supporters who were not so shy, among them Alfred Wallace (1823–1913), whose independent discovery of natural selection was coincident with Darwin's discovery, and Thomas Henry Huxley, who was a surgeon before becoming an acclaimed zoologist and geologist (Figure 2). Indeed, Huxley was such a scrapper in the controversy that he earned the

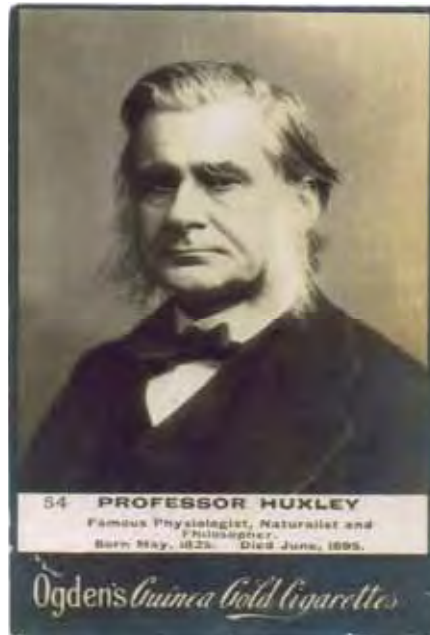


Figure 2. Professor Thomas Henry Huxley (1825–1895). Photographic portrait on an early 20th century British cigarette card (author's collection).

sobriquet, "Darwin's bulldog." Parenthetically, it was Huxley who coined the words "biogenesis" and "agnostic."

Some amount of irony attends the information presented below on both gentlemen seen in the two *cartes-de-visite*. Swiss born Louis Agassiz (Figure 3) landed on American shores in 1846, and by 1848 he had secured a geology/zoology appointment at Harvard College. In time, Professor Agassiz established a zoological laboratory on an island along the Massachusetts coast. Critical of Darwinian evolution, he maintained that species were fixed, that is, new species did not arise from earlier species.

Inspired by this contrarian position, or maybe not, now unremembered wags at Leland Stanford Jr. University



Figure 3. Professor Louis Agassiz (1807–1873).

opined in 1906 that while Agassiz was good in the abstract, he wasn't so good in the concrete. The humorous ignominy followed on the occasion of a statue of the scientist tumbling from its pedestal high up on the school's Zoology Building and falling headlong into the pavement below (Figure 4)—a victim of the same earthquake that damaged much of San Francisco.

Henry Ward Beecher, pictured in Figure 5, a graduate of Amherst and subsequently of Lane Seminary, was a well-known author, editor, lecturer, and minister (first a Presbyterian and then a Congregationalist). Like his more famous sibling, Harriet Beecher Stowe (Figure 5), author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, he was an ardent abolitionist. In 1885 Beecher published *Evolution and Religion*, an effort to reconcile the Bible and the theory of organic evolution.

Yes, you read it right. The famous scientist rejected the Darwinian thesis, but the theologian was willing to accommodate the revolutionary theory and accept speciation as fact.



Figure 4. Fallen statue of Louis Agassiz. Photograph taken in 1906 at Stanford.



Figure 5. Henry Ward Beecher (1813–1887) and Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811–1896).

2014 Scholarship Report

The PCAS Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the following undergraduate scholarship awards for 2014:

Olimpia Ojeda is a student at the University of California, Santa Cruz, expecting to graduate in fall 2014. She has a desire to further the study of archaeology in Baja California and has developed a geographic information systems thesis project focused on an analysis of the environmental factors impacting the distribution of prehistoric settlements across El Vallecito of northern Baja. She has worked as an on-site intern for the National Institute of Anthropology and History in Baja California. After graduation she hopes to work as a research assistant in an academic institution or CRM company to gain practical experience before applying to a graduate program. Olimpia will receive the \$1,000 Gloria Bogdan Memorial Scholarship.

Glafira Carr is transferring this summer from El Camino College to the University of California, Riverside. Her participation in the Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Research Scholar Association program at Loyola Marymount University led to an interest in the concept of antiquity ownership. She has built on this interest working in the El Camino College Anthropology Museum learning how to handle artifacts and how to maintain the associated paperwork. She hopes to specialize in Mesoamerican archaeology with a focus on Maya iconography and is transferring to UC Riverside with this in mind. Glafira will receive the \$1,000 Myrtle Soderberg Memorial Scholarship.

The PCAS Scholarship and Grant program is fully supported by donations. The Myrtle Soderberg Memorial Scholarship is named for a founding member and funded by our monthly Donation-Award table—coordinated by Joe Hodulik—and by other donations from our members. The Gloria Bogdan Memorial Scholarship is fully funded by her husband, Tom, a Life Member. Our society is extremely fortunate to have members so dedicated to furthering the archaeological discipline.

JUNE CURATION WORKDAY

When: June 14, 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.

DIG THIS...



Exhibits

Pompeii: The Exhibition displays 150 objects from the Naples National Archaeological Museum. The California Science Center, through January 4, 2015. Timed tickets required and available online. Information: www.californiasciencecenter.org or 213-744-2019.

Lectures

Animals in Pharaonic Egypt, by Dr. Yekaterina Barbash (Brooklyn Museum), June 14; **Restoring Early Christian Church Art**, by Dr. Elizabeth Bolman (Temple University), July 19; **Contending with Illness in Ancient Egypt: A Textual and Osteological Study of Health Care at Deir el-Medina**, by Anne Austin (UCLA), August 9. ARCE lectures, Bowers Museum, 1:30 pm. Free. Information: www.bowers.org.

Water and Life, by Michael J. Moratto, will discuss late prehistoric settlements on the Indio shoreline of Ancient Lake Cahuilla. A Coachella Valley Archaeological Society lecture, Portola Community Center, 45-480 Portola Ave., Palm Desert, June 19, 6:30 pm. Free. Information: www.cvarch.org.

Paleopathology, by Dr. Tori Randall. A San Diego County Archaeological Society lecture, Los Peñasquitos Ranch House, June 28, 8 pm. Free. Information: www.sandiegoarchaeologicalsociety.com.

Classes, Meetings, and Events

The San Diego Archaeological Center Annual BBQ will be held June 7, 11:30 am–4 pm. Special workshop, **How to Get Hired in Archaeology**, 10–11 am. Fee for food: \$10 adults; \$5 children. Information and tickets: www.sandiegoarchaeology.org.

San Diego Rock Art Association Annual Nostalgia Night with presentations of early images of sites. Kumeyaay-Ipai Interpretive Center, Poway, June 1. Potluck 4 pm; presentations 5 pm. Fee:

Classes, Meetings, and Events (continued)

Donation \$5; members free. Presenters contact Elaine Moore, elanierockart@yahoo.com. Information: www.sandiegorockart.org.

The 24th California Indian Basketweavers Association Annual Gathering, Morongo Community Center, 13000 Malki Road, Banning, June 27–29. Information: www.ciba.org

The Native American Arts Festival of the Idyllwild Summer Program will be held June 29–July 5; performances and lectures will be open to the public. Fee. Information: 951-659-2171. Online catalog and registration for workshops: www.idyllwildarts.org (click on summer programs).

The 2014 Pecos Conference will be held at the Blue Mountain Scout Camp on the Manti-La Sal National Forest north of Blanding, Utah. Information: www.swanet.org/2014_pecos_conference.

The 34th Great Basin Anthropological Conference will be held at the Riverside Hotel, Boise, Idaho, October 15–18. Information and registration: www.gbac.whsites.net.

Websites

San Diego County Archaeological Society: www.sandiegoarchaeologicalsociety.com.

Coachella Valley Archaeological Society (CVAS): www.cvarch.org.

Ventura County Archaeological Society (VCAS): www.vcas.homestead.com.

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 ANNUAL PICNIC

Save the Date!

July 10, 2014

The PCAS Annual Picnic will be Thursday, July 10, 6 pm, at Irvine Regional Park. Hamburgers will be provided, and everyone is asked to bring a side dish to share. A flyer will be sent out in late June with directions and additional information.



PCAS SPEAKER CALENDAR

No meetings in July and August

September 11, 2014

Dr. Alan Garfinkel Gold

Talking Stone—The Story of Coso Rock Art (video)

October 9, 2014

Dr. Patricia Martz

A Possible Shaman's Cache on San Nicolas Island

November 13, 2014

Dr. Michael Moratto

The Peopling of the Americas: Current Perspectives

December 11, 2014

Dr. Brian Fagan

The Intimate Bond: How Animals Changed History

2014 PCAS BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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Website	Rene Brace	info@pcas.org	714-544-6282

*PCAS Board Member

PACIFIC COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2014 Calendar Year Membership and Subscription Form

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Newsletters will be sent by email unless a mailed copy is requested.

I have read and agree to abide by the PCAS Code of Ethics _____

Signature

Membership (Includes Quarterly/Newsletter)

- Active Member - \$45
- Family Membership - \$50
- Supporting Member* - \$55
- Donor Member* - \$75
- Lifetime Member* - \$1000

* May be individual or family membership

Subscription Only

- Quarterly* - \$37
- Newsletter* - \$18
- Student Associate - \$10 (email Newsletter only)

Scholarship Fund

- Donation \$ _____

Return form with payment to:

PCAS Membership
PO Box 10926
Costa Mesa, CA 92627-0926

www.pcas.org