



Faculty Publications

2016

Excavations at Vista del Valle, a Viejo Period Site of the Casas Grandes Cultural Tradition in Chihuahua, Mexico

Michael T. Searcy Brigham Young University - Provo, msearcy@byu.edu

Todd Pitezel

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/facpub



Part of the Archaeological Anthropology Commons

Original Publication Citation

Searcy, Michael T., Todd Pitezel 2016 Excavations at Vista del Valle, a Viejo Period Site of the Casas Grandes Cultural Tradition in Chihuahua, Mexico. Paper presented at the 81st Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Orlando.

BYU Scholars Archive Citation

Searcy, Michael T. and Pitezel, Todd, "Excavations at Vista del Valle, a Viejo Period Site of the Casas Grandes Cultural Tradition in Chihuahua, Mexico" (2016). Faculty Publications. 6691. https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/facpub/6691

This Conference Paper is brought to you for free and open access by BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

Schwendler, Rebecca (PaleoWest Archaeology)

[170] Beers with Lawrence and Insights into Magdalenian Visual Display at El Mirón Cave

In 1996, Lawrence Guy Straus embarked on new adventures in fieldwork at El Mirón Cave in Cantabria, northern Spain. As a young University of New Mexico graduate student the author joined him there from 1997–2000. Excavating literally thousands of Magdalenian artifacts and features in the cave's corral area and visiting other Magdalenian caves on weekends made Lawrence's fact-filled and captivating classroom lectures come alive. The author's fascination with personal ornamentation and long-distance trade and exchange melded with Lawrence's suggestion of a grand synthesis of existing Magdalenian information. That combination set her on a long, challenging, but ultimately rewarding path of dissertation research that explored relationships among visual display, population density, and social mechanisms of colonization. As one of the very special, favored Magdalenian caves in Cantabria, El Mirón has continued to yield information that, when examined in the context of larger regional patterns, provides further insights into Magdalenian social behavior across space and time. El Mirón helped Lawrence's university career end with a flourish and will continue to provide fodder for years of professional contributions by Lawrence in retirement and by his students and colleagues.

Scott, Becki [79] see Vandam, Ralf

Scott, Ann (University of Texas at Austin/aci consulting)

[93] Cave 1 at the Site of at the Site of Chawak But'o'ob: An Interpretation of Subterranean Space in Northern Belize

During the 2013 season, a team from California State University, Los Angeles worked with the Rio Bravo Archaeological Survey directed by Stanley Walling to conduct a preliminary assessment of Cave 1 (RB-47-142-X) at the site of Chawak But'o'ob. Located within the heart of the site's public architecture, Cave 1 is surrounded by a ballcourt, a sweatbath and a sinkhole. Though our survey and excavation revealed utilization of the cave that differed from other areas of the Maya lowlands, its location within the heart of the site's public architecture is significant in that caves are associated with people's first emergence onto the earth's surface and thus forms the basis of the group's claim to the land. There is a great deal of freedom in the placement of architectural elements but natural elements, which are immovable, probably determined the elaboration of this space.

[93] Chair

Scott, Alyssa (University of California Berkeley)

[251] Memory and Life in Ninteenth-Century Sacramento

In 1979, a trunk of artifacts was discovered concealed within a Sacramento house. The artifacts, photographs, and documents pertain primarily to the life of May Woolsey, who died in 1879 at age 12. This paper seeks to investigate the assemblage and explore how interpretations involving memory can contribute towards an understanding of identity, childhood, and biography. The association of the artifacts in the assemblage, the curation of the artifacts, and the context of the trunk all have implications regarding the lives of the people who were connected to it. By considering themes of memory, this paper will examine identity, personhood, family, and biography in nineteenth-century California. This paper also contemplates different scales and types of memory which are useful for archaeological interpretation.

[251] Chair

Scott Cummings, Linda (PaleoResearch Institute, Inc.)

[125] Spatial Analysis of Domestic Structures

Cooking, food processing, and consumption all contribute anthropic activity markers traceable using archaeobotanic analyses and chemical signatures. Grid square sampling illuminates patterns for comparison with distribution of artifacts and architectural elements, revealing patterned activities that identify food storage in vessels, grinding, and cooking. Multiple lines of evidence, each providing only a portion of the record, contribute to better understanding economic activity and provide opportunity to assess human interactions within that space. Representing results of spatial analysis using Surfer depicts people going about their daily lives.

Scott Cummings, Linda [177] see Banks, Kimball

Scott-Ireton, Della (Florida Public Archaeology Network), Jeffrey Moates (Florida Public Archaeology Network) and Nicole Grinnan (Florida Public Archaeology Network)

[260] The Best Days at FPAN are Under Water: The SSEAS and HADS Programs for Sport Divers and Diving Leadership

FPAN's development of the Submerged Sites Education & Archaeological Stewardship (SSEAS) program targeted to sport divers and the Heritage Awareness Diving Seminar (HADS) targeted to diving leadership has led to gains in the appreciation and protection of the underwater cultural heritage, in Florida and elsewhere. In presenting these programs, FPAN staff have worked with divers ranging from newly certified to long-time educators, in the process learning as much as we teach. This paper describes these programs and how they are intended to encourage divers to become active in preserving underwater cultural heritage, monitoring historic wrecksites, and making their own discoveries, thereby producing information instead of simply consuming information.

Scudder, Kelley [142] see Pateman, Michael

Searcy, Michael [275] see King, Daniel

Searcy, Michael (Brigham Young University) and Todd Pitezel (University of Arizona, Arizona State Museum)

[289] Excavations at Vista del Valle, a Viejo Period Site of the Casas Grandes Cultural Tradition in Chihuahua, Mexico

In the summer of 2015 we conducted excavations at a site located along the Palanganas River, just south of the Casas Grandes River Valley in northwestern Chihuahua, Mexico. This represents the first excavation of a Viejo Period site (A.D. 700–1200) in this vicinity since the 1960s. We discovered

remnants of at least five structures, and fully excavated three. This paper reports our findings and compares them to previous work carried out in the region.

Searle, Jeremy [223] see Boivin, Nicole

Sebastian Dring, Katherine [61] see Silliman, Stephen

Seebach, John (Colorado Mesa University)

[40] Thirst for Knowledge: Teaching Typology and Social Organization through the Stylistic Attributes of Water Bottles

Residents of Grand Junction, Colorado must necessarily adapt to the arid, high-elevation climate of the northern Colorado Plateau. One highly visible adaptation to aridity is the personal transport of potable liquids in an array of vessels. Such vessels are ubiquitous among Colorado Mesa University students, staff and faculty, and they provide a readily accessible source of data with which to illustrate the uses of typology, style and the material correlates of social organization. In a multi-week project, introductory archaeology students are challenged to discern patterns in water bottle use among their classmates and professors. They first create a water bottle typology, and later document style through the presence of appliqués and other decorative features. Finally, students collect basic demographic data on bottle owners. With these data in hand, students are then tasked with finding correlations between certain bottle types and particular groups of people, whether certain decorative aspects correspond to sex/gender, and whether "exotic" bottles are somehow special. From a pedagogical perspective, highlighting items students themselves use and decorate makes it easier to explain concepts that might seem esoteric when using more traditional archaeological examples.

Seeman, Mark [285] see Hill, Mark

Segard, Jill [50] see Ambrosino, Gordon

Seibert, Michael (NPS- Southeast Archeological Center)

[229] Reinterpreting the Battle of Cowpens, 1781

In August 2015, the Southeast Archeological Center undertook a large-scale systematic survey of the core battlefield and surrounding environs of Cowpens National Battlefield. The survey covered over 50 acres using Federal and State archaeologists in conjunction with volunteers from throughout the southeastern United States. The project nearly doubled the footprint of the battle, in addition to uncovering several artifacts that are key to interpreting troop movements and actions across the landscape. The resounding success was due in large part to this collaboration of State, Federal, and Private organizations that came together with the singular focus of better understanding the events of January 17, 1781. These partnerships are being further developed to carry the momentum of the project by developing outreach, research design, and providing support to Revolutionary War sites throughout the southeast as part of the buildup for the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution the goal of which is to shed light on the importance of the Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution as a deciding factor in American Independence.

Seidemann, Ryan [6] see Halling, Christine

Seidemann, Ryan (Louisiana Department of Justice) and Christine Halling (Louisiana Department of Justice)

[187] Lessons Learned from the Courts: Forensic Archaeology and Anthropology in Recent United States Jurisprudence

Unlike many other aspects of archaeology, forensic archaeology and anthropology is, in part, only as effective as the courts believe it to be. While peer review is the gold standard for assessing the integrity and viability of the scientific aspects of forensic archaeology and anthropology, passing muster in a court of law can be a different—and sometimes counterintuitive—standard. Although some recent research in this area has examined the impact of court attempts to "police" the integrity of science in forensic anthropology expert testimony, this presentation casts its net wider. We examine broadly the treatment and discussion of forensic archaeology and anthropology in the jurisprudence not to divine expert standards, but rather to assess overall reception of these areas of inquiry by the courts. Through this presentation, we review several years-worth of jurisprudential commentary on forensic archaeology and anthropology with an eye towards providing guidance for practitioners to assist them in navigating potential pitfalls of operating within the legal system in the United States.

Seidensticker, Susanna [206] see Jackson, Brittany

Seidita, Max (University of Central Florida) and Lucas Martindale Johnson (University of Florida)

[236] Using pXRF to Test for the Market Exchange of Obsidian at Postclassic Santa Rita Corozal, Belize

This poster discusses the levels of access to various obsidian sources and source regions as a prerequisite to testing a market exchange model for the distribution of obsidian during the Postclassic period (A.D 1150–1530) at Santa Rita Corozal, Belize. A sample of 247 obsidian artifacts dating to the Postclassic period were assayed using portable X-ray fluorescence spectrometry (pXRF) to determine the obsidian sources being exploited. Five sources were identified in the assemblage, including obsidian from Otumba, Mexico which had not previously been found in the Chetumal Bay region. The proportion of sources and source regions being exploited was compared across the social statuses of 15 structures using ANOVA tests. It was determined that no one status had exclusive access to a single source or source region. Additionally, no statistical difference was found in the proportion of obsidian sources or source regions being consumed across statuses. These patterns indicate that access to obsidian sources were not being restricted at Santa Rita Corozal during this the Postclassic period. The research presented here better characterizes the nature of the regional and local economy by strongly suggesting that obsidian was being distributed via market exchange.