

Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc. Newsletter

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May/June - 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 7- 18, 2018 - Ancient Pueblos and Rock Art of New Mexico Tour July 21, 2018, Saturday, 12:00 – 5:00 pm – Eclectic Archeological Exchange, "Ancient Pueblos and Rock Art of New Mexico Tour Focus" and "South Africa – Human Origins and Rock Art", at McGregor's home

Scholarship Award

Awarding scholarships to students of anthropology and archaeology is a major directive of Sacramento Archeological Society. Applications for 2018 scholarships are due April 30 and scholarships will be awarded in May. The number of recipients selected will depend upon the quality of the applications and the funds available. Scholarships are made possible from generous contributions from members and supporters. We thank all donors for their contributions.

Ancient Pueblos and Rock Art of New Mexico Tour

The Ancient Pueblos and Rock Art of New Mexico Tour from Monday, **May 7, 2018 through Friday**, **May 18, 2018** is the major SAS event for May. It is fully booked. Those attending will enjoy focus on the tour at our July Eclectic Archeological Exchange. For those not participating come to the July Eclectic event to learn about the New Mexico adventure.

Eclectic Archeological Exchange Saturday, July 21, 2018

12:00 – 5:00 p.m. at Carolyn & Gordon McGregor's 1334 Mission Ave. Carmichael, CA 95608

"Ancient Pueblos and Rock Art of New Mexico Tour Focus" by Lydia Peake and "South Africa – Origins and Rock Art" by SAS Members: Paul K. Davis, Jan Johansen, and Tom Johansen,

Lydia will highlight aspects from SAS' Ancient Pueblos and Rock Art Tour of New Mexico.

Last November six SAS members and four individuals from the Renaissance Society journeyed to South Africa. The focus of the trip was archaeology—origins of man and rock art. Several from this group will share incites gleaned from the trip.

Carolyn McGregor will cater the event with a delicious picnic lunch of cold oven-fried chicken, potato, fruit and green salads, and strawberry short cake dessert. Mark the date on your calendar.

PAST ARCHEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

"New Evidence—*Humans* in North America >15,000 years ago"

On **Saturday, March 24, 2018** a group of more than 80 were honored to hear presentations on the latest discoveries relative to Humans in the Americas. At UCD Extension in Sacramento attendees heard presentations from three renowned archaeologists. They shared latest evidence which "nails the coffin" on Clovis First, supports the seafaring theory of migration, and pushes back the probable dates for the peopling of North America to at least 15,000 years ago.

"Children of Neptune? Human Evolution Aquatic Adaptations and Marine Dispersals" by Dr. Jon Erlandson, archaeologist and professor at University of Oregon. Dr. Erlandson focused on the Coastal Migration Theory of peopling of the Americas by discussing the paradigm shifts in Anthropology: 1. Hominin ancestors evolved adjacent to aquatic habitats—rather than dry African savannas—and that aquatic foods were crucial to the evolution of larger brains 2. *Homo sapiens* evolved relatively recently (~300,000 years) in Africa, followed by a rapid spread around the world after ~70-100,000 years ago, 3. Rejection of 20^{th} century theories that seafaring, fishing, and coastal adaptations developed only in the last 10,000 years or so, and 4. Collapse of the Clovis First model for the peopling of the Americas and a transformation of the Coastal Migration Theory from marginal to mainstream. Dr. Erlandson used findings from 40 years of excavating California's Channel Islands to support the early presence of *H. sapiens* in America. For example, Daisy Cave shows heavy use of kelp forest resources between ~11,600 and 8600 years ago and from a deep sounding inside Daisy Cave a bone bead and 2 chert flakes from charcoal-rich strata which dated to ~18,600-19,400 cal BP. As archaeologists continue their search for knowledge of the past Dr. Erlandson suggested that "Drowned Coastlines and Landscapes of the World" are their last frontier.

"2011 – 2017 Excavations at Rimrock Draw Rock Shelter" by Dr. Pat O'Grady, archaeologist at University of Oregon who led a tour in 2017 for SAS members at the Rimrock Draw Rockshelter site in Oregon. Dr. O'Grady discussed recent finds at this site. Evidence suggests human presence at Rimrock Draw older than 15,000 years ago. A deeply buried concentration of boulders and cobbles from an ancient collapse of the rock shelter wall was finally breached exposing sediments yielding artifacts and ecofacts consistent with those found five meters to the east, where a 15,000 year old tephra, camelid tooth enamel fragments, and an orange agate stone tool were recovered. The new finds are near the same depth and in the same stratum as the others, suggesting that the most ancient deposits at the site may have been well protected over the last 15 millennia. Excavations of this site will continue this summer.

"First People in the Western Hemisphere by **Dr. Michael B. Collins,** archaeologist and Research Associate Professor at Texas State University. Dr. Collins debunked Clovis First by reviewing older than Clovis sites in North and South America At least 60 sites in the Western Hemisphere are contemporary with, but distinct from Clovis or pre date Clovis. The highlighted sites included Milespoint, Parson's Island, Cactus Hill, Borax Lake, Tulare Lake, On Your Knees Cave, Gault, Friedkin and Wilson Leonard. Each of these offered older than Clovis finds. Dr. Collins warned that one should be careful when you try to identify Clovis technology. It is involves very specialized criteria including how fluting is terminated, length of stem, and details of overshooting.

We thank Carolyn McGregor for providing refreshments.

"Witt Site Visit"

On March 22 several SAS members were pleased to be led to the Witt Site, a potential Paleolithic site in Southern San Joaquin Valley. Based on its geology and landscape (dry Tulare Lake) and the multitude of surface finds by amateur collectors, this "as yet to be fully investigated site" is of special interest. Surface collections included Western Fluted points, scrapers, charm stones, crescents, blades, cores, and a multitude of flakes. During our survey at the Witt Site a crescent was found.

"Ancient Pottery"

On Sunday, April 22 Jennifer Black, a graduate student at U. C. Berkeley and a 2017 scholarship recipient discussed her research in the **Palatine East Potter Project** (PEPP). PEPP is a long-term research program that involves the study and publication of Roman-period pottery assemblage recovered in the American Academy in Rome's Palatine East excavations, which were carried out in downtown Rome during the 1990's. Jennifer has taken on the responsibility for the study and publication of the family of fine-bodied tableware manufactured in the Rome region. She has been involved in the analysis of this pottery at PEPP for five summers. Her analysis sheds light on the consumption at Rome of locally-manufactured craft goods for the imperial period (ca. 50=-CE). She provided an excellent insight into archaeologist's challenges to fully identify "throw away" tableware.

In addition to gaining insight into Roman pottery we viewed a video, "Native American Pottery Maker of San Ildelfonso, Maria Martinez". Maria is a renowned potter who in this video demonstrates the traditional Native American ways of making of pottery. It provided an insight into Native American traditions for making Southwest pottery.

Diane Sangster continued the focus on Southwest pottery with a presentation of her pueblo pottery. Her extensive travel in the Southwest has provided ample opportunity to acquire a range of pots including ones from Santa Clara Pueblo and Acoma Sky City.

Following the presentations and video all participants of the Ancient Pueblos and Rock Art of New Mexico Tour were given an orientation session during which waivers were signed and questions related to the tour were answered.

Thanks to Carolyn McGregor for catering a delicious lunch.

MEMBER'S CORNER Welcome New Members

We welcome the following new members: Lynette Blumhardt Emily Frame (student) Hannah Haas William Haas for Randy Haas and family Dawn Johnson Cynthia Van Horne

We thank Judith Blum for the donation to student scholarship fund in behalf of the deceased Robert Orlins. Robert enjoyed attending the Scholar Symposiums.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REFERENCES

"America peopled in a single wave, ancient genome reveals" DNA from Alaskan infant suggests a long arctic sojourn

A full genome from an 11,500-year-old infant found in 2013 at the site of Upward Sun River in central Alaska's Tanana River Basin, a part of Beringia was sequenced by a team led by geneticist Easke Willerslev of the University of Copenhagen and University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom. They isolated DNA from bone powder taken from the infant's skull and compared the virtually complete copy of the genome to modern Native Americans as well as to other ancient and living people across Eurasia and the Americas. By looking at genetic similarities and estimating how long it would take for key mutations to arise, the researchers assembled a family tree with rough dates. The infant's group was most closely related to modern Native Americans—but it wasn't a direct ancestor. Instead, it and modern Native Americans shared common ancestor who must have entered Beringia some 25,000 years ago. Perhaps 21,000 years ago those ancient settlers branched into at least two groups: some settlers in Beringia stayed there while another group went south and formed the population from which all living Native Americans descend. (Michael Price, *Science*, V. 359, 2018-1-5, p. 14)

"When did modern humans leave Africa?"

A ~180,000-year-old fossil from Israel provides evidence for early forays of *Homo sapiens* into western Asia"

"Misliya Cave lies on Mount Carmel, Israel and has been excavated over the last century. It shows successive periods of hominin occupation with Lower and Middle Paleolithic tools, the use of fire, and the exploitation of a diverse fauna. Given Misliya's position at a crucial crossroads between African and Eurasia, the latest discoveries have enormous potential for understanding early populations of H. sapiens in western Asia. The newly excavated material is represented by a partial upper jaw (Misliya-1) which includes some of the bone surrounding the tooth socket, part of the cheekbone a, the roof of the mouth, the bottom of the basal cavity, and the complete upper left dentition. The size and shape of the specimen fall within the known range of variation of later *H. sapiens* fossils. Stone tools excavated from the same stratigraphic layer as that of Misliya-1show the use of Levallois technology, a complex tool preparation method involving a prepared core. The technology has also been identified in ~190,000- to 260,000-year-old artifacts from nearby Tabun Cave, but the material at Misliva represents the earliest known association of this industry with modern human fossils in the region. Levallois tools associated with putative early H sapiens fossils have also been found at Jebel Irhoud (Morocco) Hershkovitz et al. dated the fossil and archaeological specimens from Misliva using multiple methods: uranium-thorium, combined uranium series and electron spin resonance techniques and thermo luminescence. Collectively, the results of these dating methods provide an estimated age of ~177,000 to 194,000 years for Misliya-1 and its associated artifacts. (Chris Stringer and Julia Galway-Witham, Science, V. 359, 2018-1-26, pp. 389-390)

"Extinct Caribbeans have living descendants"

Ancient DNA from Taino woman show kinship to modern genomes

"A new genetic study of a 100-year-old skeleton from the Bahamas shows that at least one modern Caribbean population is related to the region's pre-contact indigenous people, offering direct molecular evidence against the idea of Taino 'extinction'... She was most closely related to speakers of Arawakan languages in northern South America. Early Caribbean ceramics and tools are strikingly similar to ones found in excavations there. Two lines of evidence suggest that about 2500 years ago the woman's ancestors migrated from the northern coast of South America into the Caribbean. Since her genome doesn't contain long repetitive sequences characteristic of inbred populations, her community,

therefore, was likely spread out across many islands." (Lizzie Wade, Science, V. 359, 2018-2-23, p. 858)

"Ablaze in Pleistocene Italy"

"As engravers know, boxwood is dense and hard. Neandertals knew this too. Nevertheless, wooden artifacts are vulnerable to decay, and as such finds are rare and exciting. During excavations for a spa in central Italy, Aranguren *et al*, found remains of elephants, together with remnants of more than 50 burnt wooden sticks dating from around 170,000 years ago. Back then, this area consisted of patches of hot-spring wetlands surrounded by grass and box shrub (*Buxus semperviresn*), through which elephant and deer roamed. The Neandertals apparently selected boxwood for its hardness and charred it to make shaping of the tough wood with flint tools a little easier. The tools appear to be of multipurpose digging sticks with rounded handles and pointed tips. Tools of similar dimensions and technology were, until recently, also part of the essential equipment of modern hunter-gathers." (*Science*, V. 359, 2018-3-2, p. 1005)

"Complex behavior arose at dawn of humans

Advanced stone tools, pigment, and extensive networks emerged as environment changed."

"A team led by paleoanthropologists Rick Potts of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History and Alison Brooks of the George Washington University gather artifacts from sediments spanning 1.2 million years at Olorgesailie basin in Kenya. Unfortunately, ancient erosion stripped away layers between 499,000 and 320,000 years ago, erasing the time when the MSA was probably invented. But by looking at more than 20,000 animal fossils associated with tens of thousands of stone tools, and multiple clues to the ancient environment, the team provides a detailed picture of life before and after the transition to the MSA...

About 900,000 years ago a skull cap shows that the human ancestor *H. erectus* lived at Olorgesailie and used big Acheulean hand axes and scrapers to butcher meat. About 800,000 years ago, the climate began fluctuating more intensely from wet to dry, and the environment became more arid and grassy. At about 615,000 years ago early humans began to make smaller Acheulean tools they could carry farther, and to more carefully select basalt as raw material, perhaps shifting hunting tactics in a changing environment. The last hand ax at the site dates to 499,000 years ago, before the gap.

By the time the archaeological record restarted at 320,000 years ago, the Acheulean tools were gone and the basin had changed dramatically. The wet-dry cycle was even more extreme. More than 80% of mammal species had vanished and new kinds of elephants, pigs, foxes, and springboks gathered at tree-lined streams. MSA tools—relatively sophisticated blades and points that would have been hafted onto spears were plentiful. The site yielded no human fossils in this key time frame, so researchers can't be sure who the new toolmakers were. But discoveries elsewhere offer a strong hint. Last year, fossils resembling *H. sapiens* were found near MSA tools and dated to nearly 300, 000 years ago at Jebel Irhoud in Morocco timing that fits the Olorgesailie chronology" (Ann Gibbens, *Science*, V. 359, 2018-3-16, pp. 1200-1)

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